

Federation to honor Eileen and Gary Freed for years of service

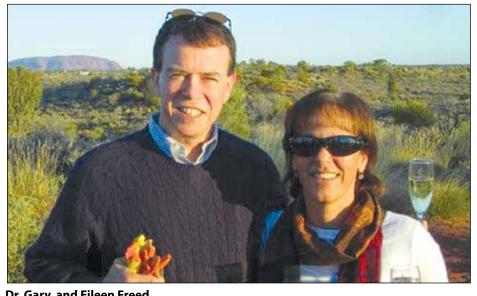
David Shtulman, special to the WJN

he Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will honor Eileen and Dr. Gary Freed at the Federation Annual Meeting on Wednesday evening, May 29, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The Freeds, who arrived in Ann Arbor in 1998 and immediately took on leadership positions in the Jewish community, will be moving to Melbourne, Australia this summer for a period of two to three years.

Dr. Freed is the director of General Pediatrics and the director of the Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit at the University of Michigan Health System. Eileen Freed is the director of Israel/Overseas and Community Relations for the Jewish Federation.

Both Freeds have long involvement in Jewish community life. Prior to moving to Ann Arbor, Eileen Freed served four years as president of the Jewish Community Day School of Durham/Chapel Hill and both were active in Beth El Synagogue of Durham. Upon arrival in Michigan, they immediately became involved with the Jewish Federation, Hebrew Day School and Beth Israel Congregation.

Eileen served on the board of all three organizations as a volunteer and worked professionally from 2002–2006 as the program director of the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership in the School of Social



Dr. Gary and Eileen Freed

Work at the University of Michigan. In 2006, she began working for the Jewish Federation as a program associate responsible for all Israel and Overseas programs and allocations. She served as the interim director of Federation from May 2007-May 2008 between Jeffrey Levin and David Shtulman, before returning to her current position. Among her many accomplishments at Federation, Freed initiated

the PJ Library program, the B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy program, the annual Celebrate Israel program and cultivated the Partnership 2000 relationship between Ann Arbor and Nahalal, Israel.

Dr. Freed currently serves on the Board of Hebrew Day School and was active in Federation as a board member for several years and as chair of the Annual Campaign in 2007

and 2008. He also serves as a board member of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem, where he chairs the Health Policy Research Committee. He will soon begin a new position as the director of the Australian Health Workforce Institute at the University of Melbourne.

The Freeds have three children, Ben, Michele and Ariel. Ben is currently a reporter for Ann Arbor.com, Michele is finishing her sophomore year at U-M, and Ariel is graduating from Huron High School. All three have been very involved Jewishly. Ben and Michele spent their gap year with Young Judaea in Israel and Ariel will leave for Israel this summer. In another of her volunteer roles, Eileen Freed was the Youth Commission Chair for the Central States Hadassah Regional Board (which sponsors Young Judaea) and Ann Arbor Chair of Young Judaea from 2005-2007. She still remains very active with the movement.

"It is hard to imagine a family that has left a bigger imprint on our Jewish community than Gary and Eileen," says Federation President Laurie Barnett. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to recognize them for all they have done at our annual meeting and hope that everyone whose lives have been touched by them will join us."

JHSM 54th Annual Meeting, May 7

WJN staff writers

he 54th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan will take place on Tuesday, May 7, at the Detroit Historical Museum. The activities will begin at 4:30 p.m. with JHSM docent-led tours of the newly renovated Detroit Historical Museum. There are dozens of interesting historic exhibits, anecdotes and artifacts directly linked to Detroit's Jewish communities, leaders and milestones. Working in collaboration with the Detroit Historical Society, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan has developed a Jewish-themed tour of the museum. At 5:30 p.m. a reception will take place in the Streets of Old Detroit (Light appetizers; dietary laws will be observed).

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include presentation of the 2013 Leonard N. Si-



JHSM keynote speaker Josh Linkner

mons History Award to Irwin S. Cohen, author, columnist and historian; and JHSM 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award to Marc Manson. Josh Linkner, CEO and managing partner of Detroit Venture Partners, will talk about "Rebuilding Detroit Through Entrepreneurial Fire."

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JCC Jewish Film Festival highlights

Karen Freedland, special to the WJN

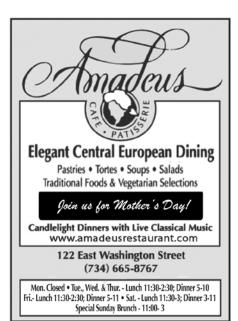
he Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, along with the Michigan Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, will present the 12th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival at the Michigan Theatre May 5-9. All seats are \$10, or a Film Festival pass to all of the Ann Arbor films is \$90 for JCC members or \$100 for non-members. Tickets and passes are available at the Michigan Theater Box office or at the JCC. The entire festival listing can be found on the JCC website.

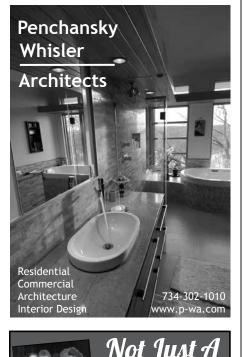
Opening night will honor sponsors with a reception at 6 p.m., catered by Zingerman's Catering and Events. The menu will feature an introduction to the Zingerman's new Jewish Sephardic foods. Following the reception, the entire community is invited to



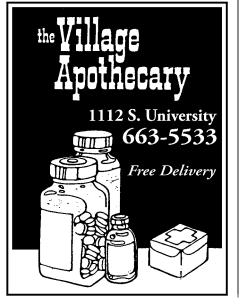
Scene from A Bottle in Gaza view the film Hava Nagila.

This year's festival will feature four guest speakers who will enhance the film-going experience. On Monday, May 6, Frances Trix will speak after the 2 p.m. film Besa: The









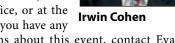
Community

TBE Brotherhood sponsors talk by Erwin Cohen

William Parkus, special to the WJN

Detroit native, author, and former Detroit Tiger front office employee, Irwin Cohen will speak about the history of Jewish Baseball players. Cohen is the author of the following books: Echoes of Detroit's Jewish Communities: A History; Jewish Detroit; Echoes of Detroit: A 300-Year History; Tiger Stadium; Tiger Stadium Comerica Park History & Memories; and his most recent book, Jewish History in the Time of Baseball's Jews. If you love baseball, please plan on attending this event at Temple Beth

Emeth on May 19, from 6:30-8 p.m. with a reception immediately after. The cost is \$5 per person which can be paid through the TBE website, the TBE office, or at the door. If you have any



etroit

questions about this event, contact Evan Mirsky at 355-2415.

children's clothes, toys, equipment and

furniture directly to each other. Through

Friday May 24, parents interested in

participating are welcome to rent a table

for the sale. On Sunday June 2 the entire

community will be invited to come out for

some great bargains and to support the

efforts of the JCC Early Childhood Center

Mom Sale, sellers or shoppers can contact

the planning committee at JCCmom2mom@

gmail.com. More information is also

at 2 p.m., following the film, Mendelsohn's

Michael Singer, will talk on subject matter relating to the movie The Other Son, on

The final guest speaker, psychologist Dr.

In celebration after the final film, The

Ballad of the Weeping Spring, sponsors are

invited to Sava's restaurant for an afterglow

party. Community members are still welcome

to become a sponsor and enjoy the festivals

perks. For more information, contact Karen

Freedland at 971-0990 or karenfreedland@

available at www.JCCmom2mom.com.

For more information about the Mom to

JCC Early Childhood Center PTO to host Mom to Mom Sale

PTO.

Incessant Vision.

jccfed.org. . 🔳

Wednesday, May 8, at 8 p.m.

Jennifer DelProposto, special to the WJN

The JCC Early Childhood Center PTO will host a Mom to Mom Sale from 11am to 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

More than 60 tables will be available for selling goods, with additional areas for large items such as furniture, strollers, swings, and more. Admission will be \$1 and strollers are welcome. To keep the entire family happy and well fed, there will be both concessions for sale and fun activities for children.

A Mom to Mom Sale is essentially an indoor yard sale, providing parents a terrific opportunity to buy and sell gently used

Film Festival highlights, continued from page 1

Promise. Trix is traveling from Washington D.C. where she is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. She will speak to the audience about Albanian culture and history in regards to the film Besa, and answer questions following the movie.

The following day, Tuesday, May 7, at 2 p.m., Larry Kuperman, cultural Jewish educator and lecturer on Jews in Rock and Roll, will speak at the A.K.A. Doc Pomus film. Jennifer Perlove Siegel, lecturer in Art History and Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Michigan Dearborn will lead a discussion on Wednesday, May 8,

JHSM meeting, continued from page 1

Many know Irwin Cohen as "Mr. Baseball." He has written several books on baseball and the Detroit Tigers. He is a baseball columnist, a former Detroit Tigers' employee and can often be seen around town, especially this time of year, wearing a suit and tie, his World Series ring and a navy blue Detroit Tigers baseball cap. Irwin rattles off stats like an eager teenager, but does so with the confidence of a teacher.

Less known about Cohen is the expertise he possesses on the history of Detroit, particularly Jewish history. He comfortably can wind his way through the streets of the city locating old shuls and temples, pointing out Jewish iconography and sharing the buildings' history. He frequently contributes articles to JHSM and is an invaluable resource not only to us but to other historical organizations, as well. Irwin is like a well-loved history book, soft and gentle on the outside but full of fascinating tales on the inside. .

Tickets for the event begin at \$30. Tickets can be ordered on the JHSM website, http://www. michjewishhistory.org. The Detroit Historical Museum is located at 5401 Woodward Avenue in Detroit.

EWISH NEWS

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Community

Ruth Messinger to address the JCLP graduation celebration

Karla Goldman, special to the WJN

Jewish World Service (AJWS), will be

addressing the graduation celebration for the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) on the afternoon of Friday, May 3, at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Members of the community are invited to attend as graduating M.S.W. students Molly Dehry, Alice Mishkin, Jess Alper, Rachel Freedman-Doan, and JCLP's two Shayna Goodmans receive Certificates in Jewish Communal Leadership from the School of Social Ruth Messinger Work and the Frankel Center

for Judaic Studies. SSW Dean Laura Lein, Frankel Center Director Deborah Dash Moore, and JCLP Director Karla Goldman will also offer brief remarks.

Messinger, became well known during her 12 years on the New York City Council and eight years as Manhattan borough president. She was the first woman to secure the Democratic Party's nomination for mayor in 1997. Since 1998, Messinger has built AJWS into a leading international development organization that supports human rights for marginalized people around the world. In addition to its grantmaking to over 375 grassroots organizations around the world, AJWS works within the American Jewish community to promote global citizenship and social justice through activism, volunteer service and education.

Messinger's presence offers an exciting culmination for JCLP students who have spent

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will premiere the works of Dr.

Sheldon Markel in an opening reception on Sunday, May 19, from 4–6 p.m. The exhibit will run in the Amster Gallery, May 19-June

Dr. Markel's works are clearly representational but not necessarily very

realistic. Acrylics are the predominant

media but he also uses gouache, graphite,

ink and charcoal sometimes in combination.

The subject matter has mostly been still life,

but recently he has concentrated more upon

figurative work and horses, particularly

Hadassah resale program

a donation receipt as well! The following items are needed:

• Clean, stain-free, current, name brand women's clothing (on hangers)

racehorses and polo ponies.

Judy Williams, special to the WJN

Karen Freedland, special to the WJN

18 during regular JCC business hours.

JCC exhibits the works of Dr. Sheldon Markel



uth Messinger, president of American the past academic year in discussion with local and national Jewish leaders thinking about

different models for Jewish community and activism. In the last few months, the graduating students completed an evaluation project for Jewish Family Services of Metropolitan Detroit on the question of what it means to be a "Jewish." They also presented a public Communal Conversation for members of the Ann Arbor Jewish on the question of "Serving Whom?" looking at how contemporary Jewish organizations navigate and

balance service to the Jewish community with a sense of responsibility, as Jews, for non-Jewish recipients and causes.

Messinger, who graduated from Radcliffe College and received a master's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma, also holds numerous honorary degrees. She will also be addressing the commencement exercises of the University of Michigan School of Social Work on Saturday, May 4.

The Jewish Communal Leadership Program Graduation Celebration wil take place on the Lower Level of the University of Michigan School of Social Work, 1080 S. University Ave., from 3-4:30 p.m. The School of Social Work Commencement will be held at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., at 1 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public. .

For more information or to RSVP to the

opening reception, contact Karen Freedland

at 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org.

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linens, polished metalware, electrical appliances (in working order-no telephones or electronic devices such as computers or printers). Hadassah appreciates your donations. To schedule your pick-up appointment, email Judy

Williams for clothing (naugwarren@aol.com) and call Cecy Copeland (487-4171) for household items.

Throughout the year, Hadassah collects women's clothing as well as household items. Volunteers

then bring them to re-sale consignment shops in order to raise money for worthwhile Hadassah programs. Hadassah will accept clothing for any season of the year. You can help Hadassah and get

• Clean, good quality household items (in liftable boxes) Wanted items include dishes, glassware,

Seniors

Charting a course of action for older adults

Diane Fenske, special to the WJN

etermining how, if, or when to intervene on behalf of an older adult can be challenging, not unlike trying to set sail and chart a course when the wind isn't cooperating. Living as independently as possible as an older adult often requires adjusting one's sails, in order to handle what's to come.

Life transitions aren't easy for the individual doing the transitioning, or for the family members and friends who question how to help. Life transitions can present themselves in many forms. The losses of good health and/or companionship are clearly enormous changes—but other situations can also erode the sense of wellbeing and independence for an older adult: • Loss of a spouse or partner

- Beginning or advancement of acute or chronic progressive diseases
- Feeling socially isolated or lonely
- Inability to live alone safely
- Not having adequate income for food, medications, utilities, etc.
- Becoming unable to drive (for a variety of reasons)
- Experiencing anxiety, depression or other behavioral health concerns
- Loved ones/family moving out of the vicinity
 Memory loss issues that can accompany the ag-
- ing process • Sensory changes (ex: macular degeneration,
- hearing loss)Mobility challenges (ex: use of cane, walker, etc.)
- Moving to a new residential setting

Older Adult Servicesl at Jewish Family Services has support services available to offer older adults. While all needs can't be met by any social service agency, there are opportunities for a variety of situations. The following programs are currently available:

- Caregiver Consultations—a personal one-toone consultation facilitated by an older adult social worker with extensive health care & discharge planning experience, to create a personalized plan of care.
- Partners in Care Concierge—a program of accompaniment that provides support and advocacy for the older adult attending health care appointments. This service also benefits family members who can't take time away from work to transport and attend appointments.
- Transportation Program—JFS wheelchair-accessible vans help maintain independence & self-sufficiency by providing rides to locations within Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Drivers provide service from door-to-door to promote safety and security for the older adult.
- Food Pantry—walk-in pantry days are typically held each week for those able to come to the agency. Deliveries are made to homebound older adults' on a case-by-case basis. The pan-

try contains specialty items that are Kosher, Halal, low sodium and gluten-free as well as standard items. This pantry is supported by Food Gatherers and donations from the community, and

- Crisis Intervention and Case Management Services—JFS partners with community agencies and providers to assist the OA with immediate needs, and make plans for future needs and activities of daily living.
- Friendly Visitor program volunteers visit with older adults in their residence 1-2 times per month to reduce social isolation, and give opportunity for conversation, card playing, watching movies, etc.
- GenChat—a new program funded by a Federation Community Impact Grant to decrease isolation by sending volunteers with iPads to facilitate electronic chats with long distance family members
- Healthy IDEAS—free mental health screenings designed to identify and address older adult depression (provided by a grant from AAA-1B) are available to any older adult. The result is implementation of healthy activities into daily life & education about resources available in the community.
- Counseling services—licensed & experienced social workers provide compassionate and effective counseling services for OAs and/or family members for needs such as grief, loss.
- Caregiver Conversations—a professionallyfacilitated support group for individuals who provide care to others. This group meets monthly on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center.
- ElderLink Program—ElderLink provides assisted living facilities and nursing homes the tools they need to meet the unique needs of Jewish residents, including Jewish religious and cultural training, education & programming.
- New Americans Community Club—social support as well as practical assistance is provided to foreign-born older adults. The assistance includes accessing community services, support, translation, resource advocacy and cultural programs.

Older adults often have the personal goal of aging in place, and maintaining as much independence as possible. Albert Einstein once said, "I have reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to." The vision of JFS is for older adults to be able to adjust their sails when necessary and stay on course—and go without socks whenever they want.

Diane Fenske LMSW is JFS Geriatric Services Coordinator.

For information about any of the above-mentioned services, contact Jewish Family Services at 769-0209; or visit www.jfsannarbor.org.

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11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey. A discussion of this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.

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(Call the JCC (971-0990) for details.)

Federation holds Women of the Wall solidarity gathering

Mimi B. Weisberg, special to the WJN

Community

ore than 40 people, including seven rabbis and many community leaders, took part in an educational program in solidarity with the Women of the Wall in Israel sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor on Friday, April 12, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. stands for—equality, diversity, tolerance and pluralism—are values that I also stand for."

Tilly Shames gave a compelling personal story as she discussed the current events surrounding this issue. "As a passionate, committed, Zionist Diaspora Jew," Shames said, "I still feel that same relationship with the Kotel, but I long for the spiritual experience



Atendees gathered for the Women of the Wall solidarity gathering on April 12,2013

The group listened to a panel that included featured speakers Rabbis Ilana Baden, Robert Dobrusin and Robert Levy; University of Michigan Hillel Executive Director Tilly Shames; U-M student Leah Sternberg; and Federation Overseas Director Eileen Freed. The group explored several perspectives on the background, history, halacha, and current happenings surrounding this important issue.

Leah Sternberg worked for six weeks last year with Anat Hoffman, an outspoken member of the Women of the Wall and executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center.Sternberg said, "I have been involved in many different social justice and philanthropic movements, but Anat Hoffman is the most passionate person I have ever met about her cause. Everything she and Women of the Wall that is not marred by these other realities that I've experienced since my first visit there. And I struggle. And I stand in solidarity with other women and men who care about women's rights and pluralistic Jewish rights in Israel."

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Federation President Laurie Barnett said, "As Jews who love Israel and consider it our own, we want to show our support of these brave women and of all people who believe that religious pluralism is vital to Israel's survival and its relationship with American Jewry."

The event concluded with a group photograph, which will be sent with a letter of support to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Knesset, and Women of the Wall. ■

Working with Women of the Wall chair Anat Hoffman

Leah Sternberg, special to the WJN

Last summer while I was working as a Jewish educator at URJ Camp George, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks with Anat Hoffman, Chair of Women of the Wall. At that point, the information I knew about the organization was that they went once a month to the Western Wall on Rosh Chodesh to pray. A few days later, I was facilitating a program about Jewish philanthropy with a group of 14 and 15 year olds in which they had an allotted amount of funds to choose an organization to donate to. She came in and told this group of teenagers that it was imperative that they choose to give their funds to Women of the Wall. I had no grounds of promoting this group to the campers, because I knew nothing about it. But, after two weeks of countless conversations with Anat and other members of faculty, rabbis, staff and campers, my perspective about the organization took a 180 degree turn and ever since, I have been an avid supporter.

I learned what Women of the Wall is all

about; what their mission is, and why it is necessary that they exist. I learned they not



Leah Sternberg at *Women of the Wall* solidarity gathering

only fight on behalf of women, but of gays and lesbians, immigrants from around the world, and people of different minority groups. The achievements of Women of the Wall and the Israel Religious Action Center exemplify how Israel has the potential to continue

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Questions? For Camp Raanana, contact Shannon Link at campdirector@jccfed.org. For Camp Keshet, contact Peretz Hirshbein at peretzhirshbein@jccfed.org.



JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER of greater ann arbor



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Rabbis' Corner

Remembering a childhood hero

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

don't mind at all when people refer to me as "Rabbi Dobrusin." While, in many situations, I prefer a bit less formality, I'm proud of the title. I worked hard to become a rabbi and I'm honored to be part of the Rabbinate.

But, I don't like it when people refer to me in the third person as "Rabbi," as in "Let's see what Rabbi thinks about this." My parents didn't



name me "Rabbi". In fact, I was Robert or Rob 27 years before I acquired the title. I didn't even think of becoming a rabbi until I was a senior in college. During the 20 years before that, I considered

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

many careers: second baseman, doctor, TV meteorologist, just to name a few. And, like most kids growing up, I had my heroes ... and none of them were rabbis.

I idolized the Mercury astronauts and some players on the Boston Red Sox, and I'm sure there were others; but, like many kids growing up in the 60's, my first hero was a television hero.

In those days, early morning television was local and every city had their kids' TV shows. In Boston, the weekend morning TV show of choice for kids my age was a show called "Boomtown" and the star of the show was a B-movie cowboy actor/singer named Rex Trailer.

Rex would ride into the TV studio on his beautiful palomino horse, Goldrush, and yell out: "Howdy Kids!" And the 100 or so kids

gathered in the studio (I was there once when I was 10) would yell: "Howdy Rex!" Then he would lead the theme song on his guitar, and for a couple of hours there would be cartoons and games and shtick involving the show's other characters. Rex would

such Western Rex Trailer with Goldrush talent, and everyone had a great time.

Through it all, Rex would teach in a very gentle and unassuming style. He would teach about kindness to animals by bringing in guests from the Humane Society. He would teach about the environment by reminding us with a cute song that we shouldn't be litterbugs. He always included kids with physical challenges on the show to teach us to respect all kids. He told us to drink our milk, tell the truth, honor

our parents and stay active. He taught us now important it was, even though he didn't use and probably didn't know the word, to be a mentsch.

demonstrate rope tricks and other

> And we would listen because, after all, he was Rex Trailer.

> Life is certainly different for kids today. Times were simpler then and TV was less about shock value or loud laughter. It was a gentler time and we had room for heroes on the small screen.

> Each week on "Boomtown," Rex would pick someone to play sheriff. He or she had a big role: to find the kid in the audience whose picture

was on the wanted poster wearing a mask. The entire audience was the "posse," filing by the Sheriff with one outlaw in the group.

When I was in the "Boomtown" audience, I wanted so badly to be sheriff. Someone else was chosen.

About 10 years ago, I found out that Rex Trailer had a website and I wrote an email requesting the video "Boomtown Memories." I told him that I was still disappointed that I wasn't chosen to be sheriff when I saw the show live. Remembering that the Sunday morning "Boomtown" show included a gently religious "Sunday school" segment (no one could get away with that today). I signed the note: "Rabbi Rob Dobrusin."

Rex wrote back to me that I shouldn't be too disappointed that I wasn't chosen to be sheriff as I "obviously had a higher calling."

To be honored in this way by a childhood hero was a thrill I have never forgotten. That day, I wore my title with a little extra pride.

Rex Trailer died in January and tens of thousands of baby boomers from Boston who still can sing the "Boomtown" theme song cried that day. I was certainly one of them.

It takes many role models to inspire a rabbi: parents, teachers, writers, and more. But when I think of the lessons I learned from watching "Boomtown," I would add TV cowboys to the list of role models.

Thank you Rex. Rest in peace.

First commandment

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

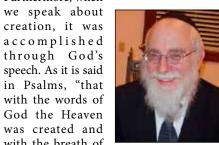
ecently, someone asked, "Why does the first commandment use as an example of God's greatness the Exodus out of Egypt? Isn't the Creation of the universe and Mankind a greater example of God's power?"

Tuesdaynight, May 14, we will celebrate the holiday of Shavuot. Shavuot commemorates the giving of the 10 commandments. Let's examine a little bit about the first one.

On Shavuot, God came down onto Mt. Sinai in front of all the Jewish people and gave us the Torah. The first commandment God gave us was "I am God your Lord that took you out of the land of Egypt." The Commentators ask why God made reference to His taking us out of Egypt when He could have referenced greater accomplishments such as His creating Heaven and Earth, or creating Mankind? These, and others, could be seen as far greater feats than taking us out of Egypt. The Exodus from Egypt seems to be concerned with a specific group of people at a specific time in history that witnessed some miraculous featswhereas the Creation is "creating something out of nothing" in every generation and at every moment throughout the history of the world—surely a far greater feat? Chassidic commentators explain that there is a certain advantage to "going out of Egypt" over the greatness of creating the world.

The creation of the world is creating "something from nothing". This is truly a great wonder that is far beyond our mortal ability to comprehend. But from God's perspective it's not such a great marvel. Since God is infinite and has no boundaries or

limitations, creating something from nothing is not as difficult to Him as it appears to us. Furthermore, when



with the breath of Rabbi Aharon Goldstein His mouth were all

it's inhabitants created." In Psalms they use the word "speech". Speech shows an external power from a person. It's something a person can do without much effort. Relating this to God, it was only the low-effort, external power of speech that was invested in the Creation. Like speech from a person is effortless and doesn't require the use of deep, inner powers, so too it was with God who didn't need to invest effort or inner powers to create the world. Now that we've established why the creation of the world did not require a particularly significant effort from God, let's examine why the Exodus from Egypt was significant enough to merit being the substance of the first commandment.

Taking an existing people out of Egypt is in a completely different category than creating something new. We can loosely use an analogy of building a new house versus renovating an existing house. It's much easier to build a new house because there are far fewer limits to the size, design, layout of

rooms, etc. In contrast, a renovation project requires far more effort because it is far more limited by the existing foundation, existing room layout, supporting walls, site orientation, etc. all of which have to be changed from the existing to the new - as opposed to simply creating it as new. So it was with God's taking the Jewish people out of Egypt. It required much more effort than "merely" creating something new. God had to "renovate" so to speak. He had to work with the existing realm of Nature to elicit the signs and wonders of the plagues, the splitting of the sea, etc. Though these were certainly miraculous, they used the existing parameters of the created world and thus, like the house construction analogy, it required more effort to go beyond the normal, existing state of nature to create a temporarily different condition of nature while simultaneously working with the existing laws of creation. As we say when we read the Haggadah, "Not through an Angel, not through a Seraph" (another type of Heavenly being) but God himself had to come down to take the Jewish people out of Egypt. The Haggadah further tells us it was revealed to the Jewish people that the King of all Kings, the Holy One, blessed be He-He is the one who took them out of Egypt.

So the power of God that was involved in taking the Jewish people out of Egypt was a much greater and much deeper one than the power required to create the world. God had to change the existing limitations of nature. In order to accomplish that, higher and deeper powers are required. Therefore,

when God wants to describe his greatness to us at the time of the giving of the Torah, He doesn't mention Creation but rather the Exodus from Egypt because this required a much greater power.

A lesson that we can learn from this is that also, within ourselves, we can find these two aspects. For example, it's relatively easy to create a new habit. We can choose a habit to pursue and we need not overcome any existing limitations to do so. Conversely, if a person has an existing habit that they want to change, it becomes a matter of overcoming the existing limitations and thus requires much higher and deeper powers to accomplish.

This is the reason God mentions the particular event of the Exodus from Egypt as the first commandment-to give the ability to every Jew to go out of their own individual limitations. At the time the Jewish people left Egypt, God gave the power to every Jew to break and go out of their limitations and to use this power to fulfill God's will in the best way and the most complete way without any limitations. This was embedded into the souls of the Jews at the giving of the first commandment at Mt. Sinai and resides in our souls to this day.

So let's use this power to overcome our negative habits and turn them into acts that God wants us to do, i.e. Mitzvahs. Your new Mitzvah might be the one that tips the scales and convinces God that we are now worthy to have Moshiach come and usher in the final Exodus, the Messianic era. May it be speedily in our days.

Congregations

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Families with Young Children (FYC): Shabbat Service times every Friday

Fridays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Tot (0-5 year olds) Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Annie Rose, 5:30 p.m.

Dinner for Tot Shabbat 6 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom (Shabbat service for

Elementary school students) with Rabbi Delson and Cantor Rose, 6:30 p.m.

Shira (Tot Song Session), 6:30 p.m.

Popsicle Oneg, 7 p.m.

Shabbat Service with special guest, Ruth Messinger, president of the American Jewish World Service May 3, 7:30 p.m.

The night before TBE's annual Mitzvah Day, Ruth Messinger the president of the American Jewish World Service will speak to the congregation. She will speak from her passion for pursuing social justice around the world and educating American Jews about the necessity to help those in the Global South. In addition, students from TBE who participated in TBE's first-ever Alternative Spring Break will speak about their experience and share with the congregation what they learned. The entire community is welcome to this special Shabbat service.

TBE's 16th Annual Mitzvah Day May 4, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

For the 16th year, TBE will hold its annual Mitzvah Day. This year, members of the TBE community will volunteer at ten different local aid organizations. Volunteers will clean the Back Door Food Pantry, sort food at Food Gatherers, work in the Avalon Housing community gardens, pick garlic weed with the Natural Area Preservation, pick up used furniture with Friends in Deed and many other

activities. This year, Mitzvah Day will have an advocacy component that is open to the public. Beginning at 1 p.m., a panel discussion will discuss the current climate in the gun control debate. Participants will have the opportunity to write letters and send them to their state and federal officials. Children will have a separate activity learning about how to handle situations where guns might be present.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study Session May 14, 7:30-9 p.m.

TBE's annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot study session for the holiday of Shavuot. Cheesecake will be served.

TNT: Trivia Night at Wolverine Tap Room May 20, 7–9 p.m.

TNT is heading to the Wolverine Tap Room (2019 W Stadium Blvd Ann Arbor, MI 48103) for a night of trivia. TNT will have a table so come early and order your own drinks. Bring friends; this event is open to everyone. RSVP to Rabbi Lisa Delson, ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

Joint St. Clare & TBE Adult Choir Concert May 29, 6–8 p.m.

Annual concert featuring St. Clare and Temple Beth Emeth adult choir members. Informal reception following the concert.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Weekly, May 11, 18, 25, 8:50-9:50 a.m. Each week, Rabbi Delson and Rabbi Levv lead a session discussing the weekly Torah portion. No experience is necessary, an open mind and questions are always welcome. If there is not bar or bat mitzvah the hour concludes by saying Kaddish for loved ones.

Women's Torah Study

Monthly, May 6 and 20, 7-8:30 p.m.

For centuries, women were not encouraged to

study Torah. Times have changed and women are encouraged and empowered to study Torah with the same vigor as men. Join in for a unique experience to study and discuss what the Torah has to say through the voices of women. For questions, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannieatgmail.com.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Levy

Fridays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Noon-1 p.m. Rabbi Levy will be discussing Illness and Healing in the Jewish tradition. All sessions are held in the Adult Lounge and are open to the community. Lunch is not provided, bring your own.

Spirituality Book Club

Tuesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, May 7, noon May's book: The History of Last Night's Dream: Discovering the Hidden Path to the Soul by Roger Kamenetz

Join Cantor Annie Rose for the fourth season of the spirituality book club! All are welcome to come to every meeting or on occasion for specific books of interest. Choose either the day time or evening session. Widely ranging topics highlight our list of books by: Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger, Sylvia Boorstein, Karen Armstrong, Harold Kushner, Rodger Kamenetz, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Leonard Felder, Brian Weiss, and Michael Krasny. This book club is for firm believers, non-believers, gentle skeptics, and interested seekers. For more information, please contact Cantor Rose, cantorannie@gmailcom.

Men's Torah Study

Wednesdays, May 8 and 22, 7:30-9 p.m. Temple Beth Emeth's Men's Torah study meets twice a month for an evening of learning. Refreshments served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman, rgstutesmanatsbcglobal.net.

Services with AARC

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Learner's service, May 4

The prophets whose voices we read in the Haftorah infuse our prayers with their sense of justice and urgency. Who were the people who spoke

truth to power in our past? Where do we find their voices in our siddur? The historical context of past prophets varied greatly depending on the era, the evolving



Aura Ahuvia

function of the prophets, and how they were regarded by their societies. Who might we nominate as a modern-day prophet? What kind of role might we play today, were we to seek to give voice to the same kinds of societal observations today?

These questions and more will be explored at the Learner's Service on May 4, offered by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

The AARC's Learner's Services run all year. The final Learner's Service will take place June 1.

Shabbat morning service, May 11

The AARC's Beit Sefer students will lead a special Shabbat service on May 11, from 10 a.m.-noon at the JCC. In doing so, they will demonstrate mastery of specific prayers that they studied all year long. They are also likely to offer a dramatic interpretation of a story relating to that morning's Parashah, Bemidbar. All members of the community are welcome.

Tof, Tekiah and Torah, May 14

A dynamic and experiential program in honor of Shavuot, led by Aron Kaufman, award-winning teacher at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, will take place Tuesday, May 14, 7:30-9 p.m., at the JCC. The two-part program will open with a family-friendly drumming activity to recreate the sound and spirit of Standing at Sinai, followed by a more adultoriented exploration and sharing of the commandments "received." All members of the community are welcome, and are invited to bring a drum/percussion instrument and/or a shofar if they have one. Dairy and vegan treats will be served.

For more information on all AARC services, contact Rabbinic Student Intern Aura Ahuvia, atAura613@gmail.com, or call 975-9045.



Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation

Washtenaw Jewish News 🌣 May 2013

Reconstructionists elect gay rabbi to lead Rabbinical Association Debbie Zivan, special to the WJN

he Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association recently elected Rabbi Jason Klein as its leader. This election marks the first time an openly gay Rabbi will lead a national rabbinic association of one of the major Jewish denominations in the United States. Rabbi Klein, the executive director of Hillel at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Council in 2002 and was a congregational Rabbi before becoming a Hillel director.

"Coming out and growing into my adult Jewish identity would not be the same were it not for affirming teachers, rabbis and other mentors along the way," Klein was quoted by Jewish Weekly after his election. "I am honored to be able to give back by supporting colleagues who are creating welcoming communities in hundreds of settings across North America and beyond."

The Jewish Reconstructionist Movement has been at the forefront of efforts to include and integrate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Jews into all aspects of Jewish communal and religious life. In 1984, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College voted



Rabbi Jason Klein

to accept and ordain rabbis without regard to their sexual orientation.

In 1993 a groundbreaking report, "Homosexuality and Judaism: The Reconstructionist Position," states that: "We regard the Jewish values that affirm the inherent dignity, integrity and equality of human beings as having primacy over historically conditioned attitudes... It is our duty to correct the misunderstandings and

resulting injustice of the past and to fulfill the Jewish obligation to seek justice."

Furthermore, the Reconstructionist movement has actively adopted social action platforms that support the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) persons to marry and adopt children and to use Jewish values towards the ending of inequity and discrimination against GLBT persons.

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) is in good company in our Jewish community being only one of a number of congregations welcoming of the lesbian and gay community. According to the Welcoming Synagogues Project Survey of 3000 congregations in the United States on diversity and LGBT Inclusion, this type of tacit acceptance is not always the case.

The election of Rabbi Klein to lead the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association comes after three decades of having the Reconstructionist Movement admit, ordain and promote openly gay and lesbian rabbinic leaders and using language inclusive of LGBT people in their policies.





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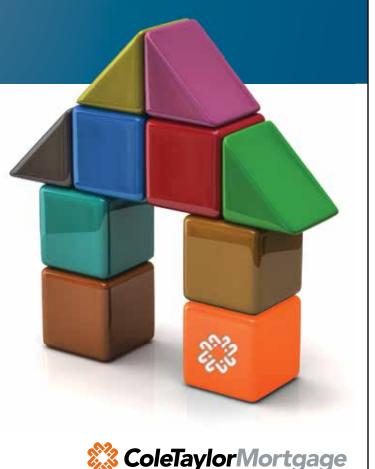
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Congregations

This month at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Shavuot Observances

Tuesday Evening, May 14–Thursday, May 16 The holiday of Shavuot, Tuesday evening May 14–Thursday May 16, will be celebrated at Beth Israel with special programming and services. The community is welcome to all events.

Shavuot is known as Z'man Matan Torataynu, the time of the giving of the Torah, and the festival traditionally begins with a "Tikkun Leil Shavuot," an evening of study recognizing the holiday marking the



giving of the Torah. Beth Israel's Tikkun for Shavuot 5773, to begin at 8:15 p.m. on May 14 will be entitled: "For All People: The Synagogue as a Place of Inclusion -Obligation, Opportunities and Challenges."

The evening will include traditional text study; a discussion concerning contemporary challenges including the inclusion of interfaith families in synagogue ritual life; and *hevruta*, small group Torah learning on texts emphasizing how the revelation at Sinai was a moment of unity and inclusion for the entire generation of the Exodus and for Jews today. In addition, a new height adjustable reader's table, donated by Doris Miller, will be dedicated as the congregation recognizes the importance of greater accessibility to synagogue life. The program will end with a traditional cheesecake oneg at midnight.

On Wednesday morning, the first day of Shavuot, Shaharit services will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will feature the reading of the giving of the Torah and the 10 commandments from the book of Exodus. At a Kiddush lunch, to begin at noon, a lunch and learn discussion will be facilitated by Helen Aminoff and Angela Kesselman. They will review the history of Beth Israel's involvement in the absorption and resettlement of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union during the 1970s and 1980s. Those years presented unique opportunities for the Ann Arbor Jewish community to open its doors to Jews in need.

On the second day of Shavuot, the 9:30 a.m. service will include readings from the book of Ruth and the Yizkor Memorial service.

Lunch and Learn

May 1, 8, 22, and 29, noon

The topic on May 1 and May 8 will be "Judaism and Civil Disobedience." The Jewish philosopher Erich Fromm once said, "Human history began with an act of disobedience, [that of Adam and Eve]... and it is not unlikely that it will be terminated by an act of obedience."

Jews have a well-documented history of participating in civil disobedience. From the Talmud to modern-day Israel and from the Soviet Jewry movement to Women of the Wall, non-violent protest has been an ongoing tradition of the Jewish people. Where does this legacy come from? How does it relate to the realities of contemporary Israel? These two sessions will be presented by Maya Lamm and Sophia Blumenthal, who recently attended a seminar in Israel that focused on the modern day opportunities and challenges of the Jewish state. The topics for May 22 and 29 will be announced.

These weekly events take place at the Garfunkel-Schteingart Activity Center at 2010 Washtenaw, led by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch; Beth Israel will provide the beverages and desserts.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturdays, May 11 and 25, 9, 10 a.m.

Shabbat learning opportunities will take place on these days and throughout the year. Held before Shabbat morning services, these sessions will offer lively discussion on Parashat HaShavua, the Torah portion of the week, facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin.

Mixology and Munchies

Sunday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Women's League and Men's Club are sponsoring this event, presented by fabulous foodies Marcie Greenfield and Mary Bilyeu. Participants will be able to sample an assortment of non-alcoholic mixed drinks, suitable for families, designated drivers, and special friends. These will be perfect for graduation parties, weddings, barbecues, and other summer events. Call the Beth Israel office for more information.

Men's Club Sponsors Trip to Toledo Mud Hens Game

Sunday, May 19

Participants will enjoy an afternoon of minor league baseball as the Toledo Mud Hens (Triple-A affiliate of the Detroit

Tigers) host the Syracuse Chiefs (Triple-A affiliate of the Washington N a t i o n a l s). Participants will cheer on the baseball stars of tomorrow while spending time with

amiable baseball fans. After the game all kids are invited onto the field to run the bases.

This family friendly event is a great way to spend a spring afternoon. Attendees can meet at noon at Beth Israel to caravan down to Toledo for the game or simply join the group at the ballpark.

Tickets for the game are \$8 each. Contact Haran Rashes at 660-9283 or haran@umich. edu for more information or to purchase your tickets. This event is sponsored by the Beth Israel Men's Club.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, May 11and 25, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning program for toddlers and preschoolers along with their families. Tot Shabbat features singing, dancing, stories, and prayers to celebrate Shabbat. The experienced leaders of Tot Shabbat are Peretz Hirshbein on the second Saturday and Jacob Kander on the fourth Saturday of the month. Peretz Hirshbein is the assistant director of the Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice president for education on the Beth Israel board of directors. Jacob Kander is Beth Israel's program director.

Tot Shabbat meets at Beth Israel downstairs in room 15. Following services child size tables are set out for Tot Shabbat kids and their families are always invited to stay to enjoy a Kiddush lunch with the rest of the congregation.

Mini Minyan

Saturday, May 11, 11:15 a.m.

Mini Minyan is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday each month for all kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Mini Minyan was designed in collaboration with many of the parents from Beth Israel and serves as a bridge for kids between Tot Shabbat and Kehillat Shabbat. It shares many of the favorite songs and stories from Tot Shabbat while beginning to teach prayers and incorporate activities similar to Kehillat Shabbat. The Mini Minyan service is led by program director Jacob Kander with special games and activities led by a team of parent volunteers. All parents are welcome to join in this service along with their children. Mini Minyan meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 16.

Kehillat Shabbat

Saturday, May 11, 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service for kids in 3rd-5th grade. The program is designed for kids to have a great Shabbat experience, including a kid friendly service along with games and other activities each month to help teach about holidays and Jewish values while building a stronger community for the kids in a fun way. Gabe Pachter, a senior at the University of Michigan, facilitates a service that is filled with student participation in the prayers, interactive discussions, and always ends with a special snack. Kehillat Shabbat is a great time once a month for elementary school students to celebrate Shabbat, to schmooze, and to learn together. Kehillat Shabbat meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 12.

All of Beth Israel's events, plus all educational offerings are open to the general community, often at no cost. For further information, call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org.





Community

Youth

Celebrating Israel's 65th with Noa

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

he Ann Arbor community celebrated Israel's birthday in style the evening of April 17 with an energetic concert headlined by Noa and presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. The Michigan Theater was decked out with Israeli flags her latest album, *The Israeli Songbook*, which features iconic songs from across the decades. Noa was accompanied by her musical director and long-time collaborator, Gil Dor; world-renowned percussionist, Gadi Seri; and the Yoed Nir String Quartet. Dor and Seri



Noa helped celebrate Israel's 65th birthday

and the nearly 600 concert-goers, including many from around the state, were treated to the

sounds of klezmer music performed in the lobby by the Hebrew Day School Klez Kids.

The concert opened with remarks from Federation President Laurie Barnett, Israel Ministry of Tourism representative Rony Stavkovsky and Consul General of the State of Israel Roey Gilad. Gilad spoke movingly of the importance of the connection between Israel and Jewish communities around the world. In particular, he said "Israelis derive energy and inspiration from



Noah was joined by (left to right) Hebrew Day School Klez Kids, collaborator and musical director, Gil Dor and (bottom) University of Michigan Hillel's a cappella group, Kol Ha'Kavod PHOTOS BY: SUSAN AYER

smaller communities like Ann Arbor who demonstrate their love and support for the Jewish state." He ended by reading a statement from President Shimon Peres to the Ann Arbor community. Emcee Henry Appelman recognized those members of the community who were sharing Israel's significant milestone this year and announced that a donation was made to the Ann Arbor Park in Nahalal to honor them.

University of Michigan Hillel's a cappella group, Kol Ha'Kavod, got things rolling with a set of songs in English and Hebrew. Of note was a beautifully arranged mash-up of Lu Yehi and Od Ach Echad, which they described as a juxtaposition of concern about violence faced in Israel with the sense of hope expressed by Lu Yehi.

Celebrate Israel's headliner, Noa, performed many of her most loved songs including *Boi Kala* and *Keren Or*, as well as selections from played an energetic duet for guitar and drums that highlighted their incredible talent. Later, Noa and Seri teamed up for an entertaining rendition of Sapari during which they used tin cans as drums to dramatic effect. Noa's encore, *Life is Beautiful That Way*, from the movie, *Life is Beautiful*, was dedicated to dear friends of hers who, in spite of their experiences in the Holocaust, shared a positive outlook about life and encouraged others to do the same.

"The evening was wonderful," said Prue Rosenthal, who introduced Noa. The sentiment was shared by everyone who was mesmerized by Noa's beautiful voice and percussion virtuosity. ■

A small number of The Israeli Songbook, autographed by Noa, are available for purchase at the Jewish Federation. Contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org.

ECC to hold annual Grandparents'/ Special Friend Shabbat Luncheon

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

n Friday, May 24, the JCC Early Childhood Center will celebrate its eleventh annual Grandparents/ Special Friend Shabbat. Each year one Shabbat is set aside and children are encouraged to invite their grandparents, or a special adult friend to attend. Guests are welcomed into the ECC to join the children as they prepare for and celebrate the arrival of Shabbat.

Grandparents and special friends are invited to join the ECC children in their classrooms at 11 a.m. as they prepare for the coming of Shabbat. At 11:30 a.m., the children and their guests will move to the Newman lounge, where ECC song leader Josh Grekin will lead the children in song while they sing everyone's Shabbat favorites. After the children greet Shabbat, the children



John and JoAnn DelProposto with their granddaughter Olivia

HDS fundraiser Chad Gadya

Barry Gross, special to the WJN

Private school finances are tricky in a difficult economy. High-quality education is expensive to provide, and the cost falls mostly on parents in the form of tuition. Many families want to give their children the strong Jewish and general educations that the Hebrew Day School offers, but find it difficult to afford the cost without the community's help. As a result, HDS is committed to raising funds that will keep the school both affordable and strong.

This year, HDS developed a fundraiser called Chad Gadya. Like the Passover song after which the fundraiser was named, the focus is on "just one kid." The goal was to find donors who would each give the cost of one child's tuition (\$13,000), but only if at least 7 donors could be found.

The fundraiser started in the fall of 2012. The first pledges came from the current and immediate past presidents of the Hebrew Day School and from Dr. Ora Pescovitz, the executive vice-president for Medical Affairs at the University of Michigan.

The school actively sought donors from outside Washtenaw County, and donors with no previous connection to the HDS. The next two donors fulfilled both criteria. Fred Wilpon and Al Glick are major philanthropists who have made significant donations to the University of Michigan. Chad Gadya marked their first pledges to the Hebrew Day School.

In each of two other cases, two donors came together to make a pledge. In the past



Paul and Leah Kileny with their granddaughter Rebecca



and their guests will dine together.

"Tot Shabbat" families will be included in the celebration, and all children are encouraged to bring grandparents or other "special friends" as their guests. The ECC looks forward

to celebrating Shabbat with the children, their parents, grandparents, and special friends as we rejoice in this year's many accomplishments. ■

For more information on how to be included, contact ECC Director Peretz Hirshbein at ecc@ jccfed.org or 971-0990.

2 months the school has received pledges of \$6500 from former stalwarts of the Ann Arbor Jewish community (Evie and Allen Lichter, and Carol and Irv Smokler), from a Detroit area couple with grandchildren at the HDS (Bela and Michael Chopp), and even from a non-Jewish radiologist who had trained in Ann Arbor! With these gifts, the Chad Gadya program realized its goal of raising the equivalent of seven full tuitions.

But reaching the goal is no reason to stop. Instead, HDS is using the success experienced thus far as encouragement to redouble its efforts toward securing the funding that is needed to maintain the school as the beacon of Jewish, Hebrew language, and secular learning that it has always been. Accordingly, the school continues to seek people who want to join the group of Chad Gadya donors. Already, another Detroitarea couple with Ann Arbor ties, Jeffrey and Emily Pitt (Emily grew up in Ann Arbor as Emily Lieberman), has agreed to donate the 8th tuition of the drive. This means that 7 of our 10 donors to date are from outside Washtenaw County, and half are first-time givers to the school.

Anyone interested in donating should contact the Hebrew Day School's Head of School, Hadar Dohn, at hdohn@hdsaa.org. To learn more about HDS or to schedule a tour, contact admissions@hdsaa.org. .

World Jewry

At last, Warsaw's Museum of the History of Polish Jews is dedicated

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

WARSAW, Poland (JTA)-Krzysztof Sliwinski, a longtime Catholic activist in Jewish-Polish relations, gazed wide-eyed at the swooping interior of this city's Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Nearly two decades in the making, the more than \$100 million institution officially opened to the public amid a month of high-profile, state-sponsored events marking the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

"It's incredible, incredible, incredible how things have changed," Sliwinski told JTA. "I remember commemorations of the ghetto uprising under communism when only a few people showed up. How good it was that we were optimistic."

Sliwinski organized Jewish cemetery cleanups and other pro-Jewish initiatives under communism, when Jewish practice and culture were suppressed by the regime.

In 1995, then-Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, an Auschwitz survivor, appointed him post-Communist Poland's first official ambassador to the Jewish Diaspora, part of the state's unprecedented outreach policy.

At the opening in April both Sliwinski, now 73, and Bartoszewski, 91, joined hundreds of local Jews and other VIPs as Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, unveiled a mezuzah at the museum's main entrance.

"This museum is in the heart of what was Jewish Warsaw," Schudrich told JTA. "It is in the heart of what was the Warsaw Ghetto. Now it will be in the heart of what will be the future of Polish Jewry. It is a bridge from the past to the future."

Reflecting this symbolism, the mezuzah was made from a brick from a building in Warsaw's prewar Jewish quarter, the area that the Nazis turned into the notorious ghetto and where the museum now stands.

A huge flattened cube with a shimmering facade-broken by a dramatic gap that symbolizes both the biblical parting of the Red Sea and the rupture caused by the Holocaust-faces the monument to the heroes of the ghetto uprising.

"I am one of the few here who witnessed the unveiling of the ghetto monument in 1948," Bartoszewski told guests following the mezuzah ceremony. "If anyone had told me then that this could be happening now, I would have said they were crazy."

Designed by the Finnish architect Rainer Mahlamaki, the striking building with undulating interior walls is in fact still largely empty. The museum will inaugurate its cultural and educational programs on Friday, but its core exhibition -- an interactive narration of 1,000 years of Polish Jewish life will not be installed until next year.

"The museum is a part of the history that it tells," Barbara Kirshenblatt Gimblett, the New York University professor who is overseeing the design of the core exhibition, told JTA. "It speaks to the renewal of Jewish life in Poland, to the enormous Jewish presence in Polish consciousness."

On the eve of World War II, Poland had the largest Jewish population in Europe, with 3.3 million Jews making up one-tenth of the country's population. More than 3 million Polish Jews were killed in the Holocaust; thousands more survivors left in the wake of postwar pogroms. Still more departed in the 1960s amid anti-Semitic campaigns by the Communist regime.

But with the fall of communism, there has been a revival of Jewish life in Poland and a movement by Jews and non-Jews to reclaim Jewish culture.

"Imagine, the idea for this museum arose in 1996, just a few years after the fall of communism," Kirshenblatt Gimblett said. "The many efforts of the last two decades to renew Jewish life, to recover the Jewish past, and to foster open debate and dialogue about the most difficult moments in the history of Poland and Polish Jews have created the momentum and support for this initiative."

The only permanent part of the exhibit installed to date is the dazzling reconstruction of the roof and painted ceiling of an 18th century wooden synagogue that once stood in Gwozdziec, now in Ukraine. So stunning that it has been compared to the Sistine Chapel, it features a wealth of brightly painted folk designs combined with Jewish symbolism: lions, griffins, Zodiac signs, birds, flowers, unicorns and much more.

Financed by the Polish state, the city of Warsaw and numerous Jewish and non-Jewish private donors, the development of the museum suffered setbacks and delays over the years due to political and organizational issues as well as funding shortfalls. The very idea of such a museum in Poland, which many Jews regard as a vast Jewish cemetery, was long a hard sell.

Over the past decade, however, Polishborn Jewish philanthropists such as Americans Sigmund Rolat and Tad Taube passionately took up the cause. Taube Philanthropies and the Koret Foundation collaborated to provide the largest private commitment to the core exhibition of the museum, a total of \$16 million since 2007.

"The Taube Foundation and the museum share a similar mission: to understand not only how European Jewry died in the Nazi genocide, but how European Jewry lived in Poland and created a prodigious civilization over many centuries," Taube told JTA. "This knowledge is not a betrayal of Holocaust memory. In fact, we honor Holocaust memory by reclaiming our rich, long and varied existence in Poland."

Taube and others say they are hopeful the museum and the story it tells can have a longterm impact: on local Jews, local non-Jews, and the Jews from the United States, Israel and elsewhere who are expected to visit.

"The idea of there being an authentic Jewish community in today's Poland is notoriously met with bewilderment and often sheer disbelief," said Katka Reszke, the author of "Return of the Jew," a new book about young Jews in Poland today. "The museum -its staff, its narrative and its programming -must be prepared to confront this skepticism and the often difficult questions coming from foreign Jewish visitors."

Swiss diplomat Simon Geissbuehler, a historian who has written several books on Jewish history, called the museum and its mission "an important step forward."

Still, he added, "We don't have to have illusions. It will not change everything immediately. There are those who don't want to recognize this part of their history. But I hope the museum will help." ■

Across Warsaw, remembering Warsaw Ghetto heroes with yellow daffodils

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

WARSAW, Poland (JTA)—In Warsaw, sirens wailed and church bells rang to mark the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, a valiant but failed revolt by Jewish fighters against the Nazi occupiers who already had deported hundreds of thousands of Jews to the Treblinka extermination camp.

An official commemoration, held last Friday in a plaza between the monument honoring the ghetto heroes and the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews, was attended by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk, as well as Israeli Education Minister Shai Piron. But a half-mile away, a small group gathered under leaden skies at the entrance to Warsaw's huge Jewish cemetery for an alternative memorial.

Carrying bunches of bright yellow daffodils, they walked down the main path and laid the flowers on the grave of Marek Edelman, the last surviving uprising commander, who died in 2009 in his early 90s. The group, most now in their 60s and 70s, has come together for decades to mark the anniversary of the uprising. Until his death, Edelman was usually with them, laying a bunch of daffodils at the towering, dark monument to ghetto heroes.

For years, Edelman had received yellow flowers, usually daffodils, from an anonymous person on the anniversary.

Eventually the flowers became a symbol of the remembrance. The group laying flowers on Edelman's grave this year included an Italian

who wrote a book about Edelman, several Polish Jews forced to leave the country during the communist anti-Semitic campaign of 1968, and former dissidents and Solidarity activists.

One of them, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, served as Poland's defense minister following the fall of communism. In 1983, he was arrested and jailed for four months by the communist regime for speaking at an anniversary ceremony organized by dissidents.

"We had all hoped that Marek Edelman would turn up and say a few words, but he couldn't because he was being held under house arrest in Lodz," Onyszkiewicz told JTA. "He only sent a letter that was read. I felt that everyone was waiting for something to happen, so I got up and delivered a speech, and as a result, I was arrested immediately."

He added, "What was rather funny is that

when the secret police agent arrested me, he was rather curious. He asked me, 'Why did you come here, you're not a Jew?' I replied that no, I'm not -- but so

what!"

Yellow daffodils were a memorial motif; a stylized daffodil was an official logo of this year's commemorations. People placed daffodils at the foot of the ghetto memorial and at the monument at Umschlagplatz, the site from which hundreds of thousands of Warsaw Jews were deported to Treblinka. Pots and vases of daffodils decorated the Museum of the History of Polish

Jews, where thousands of visitors flocked to see the striking new building, attend concerts and films, and buy souvenirs in the gift shop.

Throughout the city, young volunteers handed out paper daffodils for people to wear on their jackets or lapels. All over Warsaw, people could be seen sporting the symbol, which was reminiscent of the yellow Star of David the Nazis forced Jews to wear.

"I think one of the most moving things I've seen in all my years in Poland was watching volunteers all around the city giving out the daffodils and watching Warsavians walking around the city wearing them, evoking the Star of David," said Jonathan Ornstein, the executive director of the JCC Krakow, who was in Warsaw for the commemorations. "It really felt as if the city was commemorating something from Polish history, not only Jewish history, and it made me aware that Poles realize the shared heritage."

The anniversary proceedings attracted Jews with Polish roots from all over the world. Among them were Holocaust survivors and emigres—such as American philanthropists Tad Taube and Sigmund Rolat—and those who had fled during communism. Members of Poland's contemporary Jewish community also turned out in numbers.

For many, this made it an old home week of sorts, filled with emotional reunions. The high-profile presence of visiting Jews created one of the more unusual sightings. Late at night after the Friday ceremonies, the tower of the Marriott Hotel in the center of Warsaw bore a message spelled out in lights that moved around the top of the building: kosherfood.pl.

The website, it turns out, is for the Marriott's own kosher catering service.

World Jewry

Eastern European communities overwhelmed by costs of cemetery upkeep

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA)—Every month or so, a highly emotional email lands in the inbox of Martin Kornfeld, CEO of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia. The authors invariably are Western tourists appalled by the neglect they witnessed during visits to one of the hundreds of Jewish cemeteries scattered across the country. Often their emails concern the final resting place of their relatives amid overgrown grasses and overturned tombstones.

"They want us to fix it," Kornfeld told JTA. "But ours is a small and not wealthy community that prioritizes the living."

Across Eastern Europe, hundreds of Jewish cemeteries are disintegrating as the small communities entrusted with their care focus their limited resources on reestablishing a living presence after long years of communist suppression and the near annihilation of the Holocaust.

Following the fall of communism in the early 1990s, control of cemeteries in several countries of the former Eastern bloc reverted to the Jewish community. In Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic and elsewhere, this resulted in communities of a few thousand people suddenly becoming responsible for vast burial grounds that before the Holocaust had been administered by congregations dozens of times larger. Some 90,000 Jews lived in Slovakia before the war; today the community numbers about 3,000. "Out of 750 Jewish burial grounds in Slovakia, we can afford to take care of only 150—and even that is a major burden," Kornfeld said. "The cemeteries can drain tens of thousands of dollars from a budget stretched to cover the senior home, kindergarten, summer camps—the trappings of a living, breathing community."

In neighboring Poland, a Jewish community that once numbered 3.5 million has been reduced to about 40,000. Michael Schudrich, the country's chief rabbi, says fences are crucial to preventing the country's 1,400 Jewish cemeteries from turning into trash heaps, but the cost of erecting one has multiplied. Only about 100 of Poland's cemeteries are fenced, Schudrich said, and fencing the rest requires \$32 million. "It's a constant drain of money," said Piotr Kadlcik, president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland. "Without fences, the area quickly becomes a dumpster. Then the city fines the Jewish community."

Last year, the Council of Europe adopted a nonbinding resolution placing responsibility for the care of Jewish cemeteries on national governments. The resolution was based in part on a report by the special rapporteur for Jewish cemeteries, Piet de Bruyn, who wrote that Jewish cemeteries are "probably" more vulnerable because of the small size of the communities. The report also noted instances of cemeteries in Eastern Europe that have been turned into "residential areas, public gardens, leisure parks, army grounds and storage sites; some have been turned into lakes." Moshe Kantor, the president of the European Jewish Congress, says governments should cover the costs of preserving Jewish cemeteries as they would other aspects of their cultural heritage. He noted that Lithuania's Jewish community was declining to reassert control over its cemeteries because it fears the financial burden of upkeep.

In the 1950s, West Germany agreed that the preservation of "orphaned Jewish cemeteries" was the responsibility of local and federal authorities. But most European countries accept no such responsibility. Jewish leaders generally see the preservation of cemeteries as a communal obligation.

It is "first and foremost a challenge for the Jewish world," Schudrich said. "We, the communities, can provide the administration, but the Jewish world needs to provide the funds." In Slovakia, the community has launched an online campaign, SOS Cemeteries, which allows donors of \$650 or more to sponsor preservation work in a cemetery of their choosing. The program, which was set up to engage Western tourists, has yet to generate much income, but Kornfeld hopes revenues pick up once word gets out.

In Poland, prison authorities and the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland launched a program in 2010 in which prisoners help clean up several Jewish cemeteries. Local villagers also have become involved, often at the initiative of local governments. In New York, Michael Lozman, an orthodontist whose parents were born in Belarus, founded the Restoration of Eastern European Jewish Cemeteries Foundation, which has brought hundreds of American college students to restore cemeteries in Belarus and Lithuania with money raised from private donors. The students spend two weeks restoring one or more Jewish cemeteries along with non-Jewish local students.

"Working with locals to preserve cemeteries achieves much more than meets the eye," Lozman told JTA. "It educates young people about their country's Jewish heritage and the Holocaust, and creates in them a commitment to the Jewish cemetery and by extension the Jewish past. Ultimately, the long-term survivability of the cemetery depends largely on them."

Ultimately, however, such efforts are just a drop in the bucket. In Raslavice, in eastern Slovakia, money from SOS Cemeteries helped pay for a new fence at the cemetery there. But the cemetery is still overgrown, and visiting Jewish tourists are still lodging their complaints—and offers of help.

"May God bless you for this amazing job," Zvi Ziegler, an Israeli with ancestors buried in Raslavice, wrote to the community last year. "On the other hand, unfortunately, the grave sites were inaccessible due to the vegetation which covered and hid all the *matzevot* [headstones]. I understand that to maintain these holy sites costs money, and I'm willing to contribute toward this expense."

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Israel

In U.S. fight over visa waiver exemption for Israel, both sides cite discrimination

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—A legislative effort led by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to enable Israelis to enter the United States without visas may be stymied by the government – Israel's government.

The hitch is Israel's inability or unwillingness to fully reciprocate, something required for visa-free travel to the United States. Israel, citing security concerns, insists on the right to refuse entry to some U.S. citizens.

AIPAC is pushing for an exemption for Israel from this rule. But congressional staffers say Israel is unlikely to get such an exemption, which U.S. lawmakers view as an attempt to bar Arab Americans from freely entering Israel.

"It's stunning that you would give a green light to another country to violate the civil liberties of Americans traveling abroad," said a staffer for one leading pro-Israel lawmaker in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The exemption AIPAC is pushing for appears in the Senate version of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, one of the key issues for which AIPAC urged supporters to lobby after its policy conference last month.

The language in that bill, proposed by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), requires that the Homeland Security secretary grant Israel visa waiver status after certifying with the secretary of state that Israel "has made every reasonable effort, without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel, to ensure that reciprocal travel privileges are extended to all United States citizens."

House staffers say that lawmakers, pro-Israel leaders among them, have raised objections to the clause, "without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel," because it appears to validate what they see as Israel's tendency to turn away Arab Americans without giving a reason.

None of the other 37 countries currently in the visa-free program has such a caveat written into law.

Israel's government has made clear that it likely would not join the visa waiver program without such language in the law, JTA has learned. Israeli officials told JTA that U.S. citizens already are free to travel to Israel, and that there is no need for holders of American passports to obtain a tourist visa before traveling.

But there have been numerous reports in recent years that Israel routinely turns away or makes difficult the entry of Americans with Muslim and Arab names, often without explaining why. The State Department, in its Israel travel advisory, warns that "U.S. citizens whom Israeli authorities suspect of being of Arab, Middle Eastern, or Muslim origin" may be denied "entry or exit without explanation." James Zogby, the president of the Arab

American Institute, which has lobbied

against the Senate language, said passage of such a law would codify discriminatory treatment.

"It is ratifying Israel's position of creating two classes of citizen," said Zogby, who said he has been subject to long waits when entering Israel.

One recent case that made headlines was that of Nour Joudah, a Palestinian American who was teaching at the Friends School in Ramallah. Joudah, who had traveled to Jordan for Christmas, was denied reentry to Israel although she had a one-year multiple entry visa, and despite the fact that the Israeli Embassy in Washington had advocated for her reentry.

The Ramallah school receives U.S. funding, promotes non-violence and teaches about the Holocaust, noted a congressional staffer. "This is the model of coexistence," the staffer said.

Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, told Haaretz earlier this year that Joudah had not cooperated during security questioning. Joudah told Haaretz that she answered all questions.

Critics of Israel's entry practices say authorities appear to turn away Americans for political, not security reasons. Joudah told Haaretz that Israeli security officials had asked her about her published writings. While in Ramallah, she had blogged for Electronic Intifada, an anti-Zionist website.

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In one post, she sharply criticized Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for intimating that it was time to relinquish a Palestinian "right of return" to Israel.

Pro-Israel insiders said it's still too early to tell how this bill will fare in Congress.

The House version of the same bill, initiated by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) and Ted Deutch (D-Fla.), stops short of an exemption, asking only for reports from the secretary of state on what steps Israel has taken to comply with inclusion in the visa waiver program.

The exemption language in the Senate version is borrowed from a separate standalone House bill initiated by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), called the Visa Waiver for Israel Act.

It's not clear whether the Senate language or the House language will prevail as the bills progress through committees and then into conference. Spokespeople for Boxer and AIPAC declined to comment.

For years, top pro-Israel lawmakers in Congress have been stymied in efforts to add Israel to the visa waiver program, and not just by the reciprocity issue. Other reasons have been Israel's failure to stay under the maximum 3 percent threshold of denied visas, and concerns in Congress' Homeland Security and Intelligence Committees that *continues on page 26*

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Israel

Kotel compromise notwithstanding, Israel facing uphill battle over religious pluralism

about far-reaching reforms

lies outside the country—in

the form of the American

Jewish community.

By Ben Sales

JERUSALEM (JTA)-Natan Sharansky's proposal last month to expand the space for non-Orthodox prayer at the Western Wall could be historic. But for most Israelis, changes at the Western Wall are of only trivial interest. Far more pressing are state restrictions on marriage and conversion, Sabbath bans on public transit, and haredi Orthodox exemptions from Israel's mandatory draft.

The haredi draft exemption was a central issue in January's elections for the Knesset, and it has been a hot topic of debate for the last year or so. A comprehensive bill is now in the works to draft haredi men, providing financial incentives to those who enlist and penalizing those who don't.

A few political parties-notably the large, centrist Yesh Atid-have promised reforms on marriage, conversion and public transportation, too. But with the government's coalition agreement giving each party veto power over any change in the state's religious policy, sweeping changes on marriage and conversion are unlikely because the nationalist Jewish Home party is unlikely to approve such reforms.

The Orthodox-dominated Chief Rabbinate nearly has a monopoly over marriage and conversion in Israel. Non-Orthodox wedding ceremonies, interfaith marriages and same-sex marriages are not recognized in Israel unless such couples wed and obtain a valid marriage certificate overseas.

When it comes to conversion in Israel, there is only one kind: Orthodox. Non-Orthodox converts to Judaism from overseas may be granted citizenship under Israel's Law of Return, but the Rabbinate can

prevent them from marrying, divorcing The best chance for bringing or being buried as Jews once they are in Israel. Perhaps a milder issue by comparison,

many secular Israelis chafe against Sabbathday limitations on public transit and commerce.

While not entirely banned on Saturdays, they are subject to severely restrictive laws.

There have been some reforms in all three areas in recent years. In 2010, the Yisrael Beiteinu party, which draws from a secular Russian immigrant support base, led a push for civil marriage. In a compromise, the watereddown bill passed by the Knesset legalized civil unions only for couples with no religious faith, not for Jews or interfaith couples.

Yesh Atid hopes to use that law as a template for allowing civil unions for any Israeli.

"We plan to work together on these issues," Yesh Atid Knesset member Dov Lipman, an American-born rabbi, told JTA. "There's already been significant discussion with all of the religious bodies on compromising on these issues. I do believe we can make significant changes."

But Yesh Atid's coalition partner, Jewish Home, reportedly opposes expanding civil unions. Instead, Deputy Religious Services

Minister Eli Ben Dahan is proposing measures to streamline Orthodox the marriage processfor example, allowing couples to marry with the Orthodox rabbi of their choosing.

By some measures, the conversion issue

has been thornier. In 2010, a Yisrael Beiteinu Knesset member, David Rotem, proposed a bill meant to give would-be converts more leeway in choosing where and how to convert in Israel. But the bill also would have consolidated control over conversions under the office of the Rabbinate, further weakening Reform and Conservative conversions.

Following an outcry from Jewish leaders in the United States, the bill was shelved. Sharansky was tasked with finding a solution to the dispute, but nothing has materialized. In the meantime, Israel's Supreme Court was subject to a freeze on hearing any cases relating to conversion. The high court freeze expires at the end of April.

"Who is a Jew is an issue that will come

back," predicted Uri Regev, a Reform rabbi and chairman of Hiddush, an Israeli nonprofit that advocates for religious pluralism. "The courts making it a headline issue will happen within a few months."

Public transit may be the issue most conducive to compromise because it does not involve questions of Jewish identity or continuity. Public buses long have run on Shabbat in Haifa, Israel's third-largest city, and private shared taxis run in Tel Aviv on the Sabbath. Lipman said Yesh Atid backs running buses on Shabbat in non-Orthodox neighborhoods on a limited schedule.

The one wild card in Israel's religion and state debate is David Stav, a Modern Orthodox rabbi who will run for the position of chief rabbi in June. If he wins, supporters of the reformminded rabbi say he will put a friendlier face on the Rabbinate and help unite a divided society.

But in an interview last year with JTA, the reforms outlined by Stav were mostly procedural. For example, he supports the drive to allow couples to marry under a rabbi of their choice.

Regev says the best chance for bringing about far-reaching reforms lies outside the country-in the form of the American Jewish community.

"At this point it's all a question of applying sufficient pressure," Regev said. "This subject can't be pushed under the rug." ■

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African-Israeli personalities hoping to change community's image

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA)—When Yityish Aynaw immigrated from Ethiopia to Israel at age 12, she was thrust into an Israeli classroom. An orphan lacking Hebrew skills, Aynaw says she relied on other kids and her own sheer ambition to get through. Ten years later Aynaw, 22, is the first Ethiopian-Israeli to be crowned Miss Israel—a title she hopes to use to showcase Israel's diversity. "Israel really accepts everybody," she told JTA. "That I was chosen proves it."

Ethiopian and other African-Israelis have historically struggled with poverty and integration. But recently, several African-Israeli women have made a pop culture splash.

Along with Aynaw, Ethiopian-Israeli actress Ester Rada, 28, has just released her first solo rock record to positive reviews. And Ahtaliyah Pierce, a 17-year-old Black Hebrew Israeli, reached the semifinals on Israel's edition of "The Voice," a reality show in which emerging singers compete. Though their personal stories diverge, each woman has experienced challenges as an African immigrant and wants to use her fame to help other African immigrants better integrate into Israeli society.

"It's hard for Ethiopians to adapt, but they should be who they are, be the best that they can be," said Rada, who was born in Jerusalem to Ethiopian parents who spoke Amharic at home. "Don't let others keep you down or make you feel like we don't belong."

Rada's parents stayed close to their Ethiopian roots, eating traditional foods and listening to traditional music. But Rada rebelled. She refused to speak Amharic and failed to understand why she should feel tied to a country she had never seen and did not understand.

In recent years, the resistance has softened. Ethiopian culture "is a part of me and I can't run away from it," Rada said. "I decided to embrace it. And it's helped me define who I am, in my culture and in my music." Aynaw says it's important for Israelis to see the positive side of the Ethiopian community. She compares the effect of her winning Miss Israel to Barack Obama's election as president of the United States. The two met at the Israeli president's residence during Obama's recent trip to the region.

"There are wonderful things about the [Ethiopian] community, and it's important that [Israelis] see it," she told JTA. "Israel is a multicultural state. We're diverse and we come from different countries, so we need to show that outwardly."

Rada and Pierce report incidents of racism directed at them because of their skin color. A woman once accused Rada of coming to Israel only for the money. And Pierce says in her hometown of Dimona, she used to be called "kushi," a Hebrew pejorative used to describe blacks.

"There are many stigmas about the community, and unfortunate stories," said Hava

Tizazu, an Ethiopian-Israeli actress who works with at-risk African youth. "Now there are new personalities who are beautiful and positive. It helps to change the image, but it's just one step in a longer process."

Since she advanced to the semifinals on "The Voice," Pierce says the slurs have all but stopped. She was voted off the show in March, but like Rada she hopes to keep performing after her army service.

"I want to be on stage," Pierce said. "It doesn't matter if I'm modeling, singing or acting. I have to be on stage."

Aynaw also hopes to model and act, and to support youth arts clubs during her year as Miss Israel. She will represent Israel at the Miss World competition in September in Indonesia.

"I feel like a very important person," Aynaw said. "I don't usually get up and see myself on all of the TV channels. I'm definitely getting used to it." ■

Israeli biotech field blossoming but held back by slow approval process, experts say

By Rachel Marder/JNS.org

JERUSALEM—While Israel is fast becoming a leader in the biomedical and biotechnology fields, industry experts say the Israeli Health Ministry may be unduly hindering its growth.

Famously called a "start-up nation," a nickname coined by Dan Senor and Saul Singer in their 2009 book about the Jewish state's economic miracle, today Israel proudly parades that title, proving to be a fertile ground for thousands of tech start-ups. But Steve Rhodes, CEO and chairman of the Trendlines Group, a company that helps young Israeli companies developing medical devices, biotech and pharmaceutical products get off the ground, says the book overlooked certain industries. In the last 15-20 years, thousands of biotech and meditech companies have opened in Israel, and the country ranks fourth in the world for patents filed on medical devices, he says.

But all too often, says Rhodes, the Israeli Health Ministry takes an inordinate amount of time to approve companies for clinical trials. As a result, many companies travel to Eastern Europe or elsewhere to conduct this testing, losing Israel untold dollars.

"The system here is overly cautious," Rhodes says in an interview with JNS.org. "I'm in favor of being careful, but when the FDA and the Europeans give approval faster than we do here, it really means there's something not right in the process here. It's a lost opportunity for Israel in many respects."

While the Health Ministry says it takes an average of six months to approve a medical device for clinical trials, Rhodes and others say it takes much longer.

"I've seen devices where it took almost a year to get approval, where the only real risk to the patient would have been if it had fallen off the table and hit them in the foot," he says.

According to Dr. Mitko Shoshev, the head of Bulgarian Operations for Global Clinical Trials, it can take 60-90 days to get approval on drug treatment clinical trials in Eastern Europe, depending on the country. In 2009, he says, Russia approved 577 trials, Ukraine 340, and Poland 498. In Israel, both the medical institute's Helsinki Committee (the Israeli name for an institutional review board) and the Health Ministry must give approval for a trial. Drug and medical device companies invested NIS 367 million in Israeli hospitals for clinical trials financial help, the ability to perform clinical trials could bring in a lot of revenue for our health system. There are a lot of US companies that go to the U.S. to do clinical trials, and I'm



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Barack Obama seen during an exhibition of technological innovations, "Israel Technology for a Better World," at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem on March 21, 2013. While Israel, called the "start-up nation," is fast becoming a leader in the biomedical and biotechnology fields, industry experts say the Israeli Health Ministry may be unduly hindering its growth.

in 2012, an increase of 17 percent from 2011, according to a 2012 Health Ministry report.

In 2007, just over 300 FDA-regulated clinical trials were conducted in the U.S., and fewer than 100 were held in the Middle East, according to a 2010 study by the Tufts University Center for the Study of Drug Development.

Rhodes attributes Israel's approval pace to a fear of risk-taking, one which he says also costs Israeli hospitals business from companies abroad who would come to Israel for their trials if it were more feasible.

"Everyone is so afraid of liability and of taking risk and of accepting responsibility that the process takes a long time," Rhodes says.

"At a time when the health system needs

sure they would prefer to come to Israel [for the quality of the hospitals]."

Depending on the country in which the trial is conducted, the type of trial, the nature of the device, the number of patients, the follow-up time and other factors, the cost will vary. Eran Feldhay, the CEO of Misgav Venture Accelerator, estimates that costs of \$3,000-\$15,000 per patient will cover most trials, but says costs can be below or above that range in some cases.

How much it costs

Rhodes even suggests Israel could become a world center for clinical trials, which would bring in foreign capital, forge ties with those companies, and strengthen local hospitals. A Health Ministry spokeswoman counters that the approval process is reasonably cautious and always depends on the product. Whether it's for a drug, vaccine or device, the length of approval time varies, the spokeswoman tells JNS.org.

Trendlines operates some 60 companies, half of which are medical device companies and the other half agro-tech and clean tech, with "a smattering" of other technological fields, and starts about eight companies in Israel each year, according to Rhodes. Trendlines only invests in Israel, housing the young companies in its Gush Etzion or Misgav facilities.

Rhodes says his companies would prefer to stay local to conduct clinical trials, a necessity before receiving market approvals, because it's costly and inconvenient to go abroad.

"It's much better to do the clinical trials in your backyard so you don't have to be traveling and spending money on hotels," says Rhodes, who made aliyah from Chicago in 1985. If a problem arises, it's much easier to fix it if you're nearby, he says.

Andrew Schiffmiller, the CEO of BioHug Technologies, says he has found Israel's Office of the Chief Scientist in the Economy and Trade Ministry to be encouraging of innovation, and Israel's culture of informality to allow access to people and organizations that would not be possible in other countries. But he agrees with Rhodes that approval for clinical trials takes a longer time than he expected.

BioHug, which launched in 2007, has just begun selling its stress management vest targeting individuals on the Autism Spectrum Disorders, or people simply dealing with extra anxiety. The calming device worn over clothing gives the wearer comforting squeezes to reduce stress, and can either run on manual mode or automatic depending on the individual's needs.

BioHug received approval from the Israeli Health Ministry for clinical trials after nearly 10 months of waiting. Today it is selling in Israel and the United Kingdom directly through the company, but is waiting to be granted several patents and for FDA approval.

American Jewry

Gun control, mental health, and the Holocaust

By Robert Gluck/JNS.org

hile the gun control debate intensifies in the U.S., a bipartisan group of lawmakers is pointing to improved treatment of mental health issues, rather than stricter gun laws, as the proper preventive measure for high-profile shootings such as those in Newtown, Conn., and Aurora, Colorado.

Understanding the past may yield the solution to this modern problem, as some experts and advocates say contemporary mistreatment of mental health issues can be partially traced back to how the Nazis treated people with mental illnesses during the Holocaust.

Gun control is an often divisive debate dictated by party lines, but the *New York Times* reported April 12 that a bipartisan group of federal legislators is working on plans to improve the treatment of mental health issues, and incorporate such plans into a future gun bill, because they agree those issues are the primary cause of large-scale shootings.

"This is a place where people can come together," said U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), according to the *New York Times*. "As we've listened to people on all sides of the gun debate, they've all talked about the fact that we need to address mental health treatment."

"This is actually something we can and should do something about," U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said. "We need to make sure that the mentally ill are getting the help they need."

Not apparent from the statements and plans of senators, however, is the connection between the Holocaust and mental illness. According to Michael Burleigh, author of *Death and Deliverance: Euthanasia in Germany, c. 1900-1945, from 1939-1945* the Nazis systematically murdered 200,000 people with mental illness, whom they stigmatized. Burleigh's book was the first full-scale study in English of this complex and covert series of operations known as the "euthanasia" program. Dr. Patricia Heberer, author of *Children During the Holocaust*, a specialist on medical crimes and eugenics policies in Nazi Germany, and a historian in the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum—tells JNS.org that Burleigh's book "did a good job of looking at everyone involved, especially the victims."

The Holocaust museum houses Nazi propaganda films about victims, many who had mental illness. Heberer uses these films in presentations she gives to faculties at America's top medical schools. "I give a presentation of the sterilization and so-called euthanasia program and insert the films in the middle so people can see how propagandists portrayed the mentally ill at the time," Heberer says.

In the films, the Nazis showcase children with the worst manifestations of mental illness and physical disability they could find, in order to further the prejudice and stigma already associated with people suffering from mental illness.

"What the Nazis were trying to do with these propaganda films, especially those made in the mid 1930s, was to underpin public support for the sterilization policy which went into effect in 1934," Heberer says. "It allowed the German government to sterilize individuals who had schizophrenia, manic-depressive disorder, hereditary feeblemindedness—which was a very ambiguous diagnosis, hereditary epilepsy, Huntington's chorea, hereditary blindness or deafness, severe physical deformities and also chronic alcoholism. This measure was a public measure and it was distinctly unpopular. They were used in the same way eugenics (the idea of better breeding for humans) was used by the Nazis to give a medical and scientific stamp of approval on Nazi racial ideas."

According to Burleigh's book, Nazi Germany was not the first or only country to sterilize people considered "abnormal." Before Hitler, the U.S. led the world in forced sterilizations. Between 1907 and 1939, more than 30,000 people in 29 states were sterilized, many of them unknowingly or against their will, while they were incarcerated in prisons or institutions for the mentally ill. Advocates of sterilization policies in both Germany and the U.S. were influenced by eugenics. This sociobiological theory took Charles Darwin's principle of natural selection and applied it to society. Eugenicists believed the human race could be improved by controlled breeding.

From September 1939 to August 1941, physicians killed thousands of people who were "judged incurably sick, by critical medical examination" under the Nazis' euthanasia program, but the practice continued unofficially until the end of the Nazi regime in 1945, Heberer says.

Today, under the leadership of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, one of America's leading advocates for the rights of people with mental illness, the Carter Center's Mental Health Program works to promote awareness about mental health issues, inform public policy, achieve equity for mental health care comparable to other health care, and reduce stigma and discrimination against those with mental illnesses.

A sheet titled "Facts About Mental Illness and Violence," published by the Carter Center, addresses what it calls myths and misperceptions with the following bullet points: 1) The vast majority of people with mental illness are not violent; 2) The public is misinformed about the link between mental illness and violence; 3) Inaccurate beliefs about mental illness and violence— promoted by the entertainment and news media— lead to widespread stigma and discrimination.

Dr. Thomas Bornemann, director of the Carter Center's Mental Health Program, tells JNS.org that "a lot of the press has missed the boat" when it comes to mental illness. "The bigger story here is our fragmented and broken public mental health system in America," he says. "In the recent economic downturn in particular, state mental health authorities, which are generally the frontlines for people living with serious mental illness, have taken tremendous hits all over the country as the economy has done so poorly for such a prolonged period of time. As a result, a lot of the supportive services that are necessary to help people stay stable in their homes and communities, have either evaporated or have become so competitive it's hard to get into them. The larger story here is this. We know a lot about what to do. We have not consistently scaled it up and sustained the level of effort necessary."

Bornemann says that in a number of highprofile shootings in recent memory, most of the perpetrators were known to mental health programs and community support systems, but those programs and systems failed to respond to the perpetrators or their families' needs.

"That's the bigger issue here," Bornemann tells JNS.org. "How do we begin to reduce the fragmentation, increase the collaboration, and begin to channel these people into the right kind of care they need in a timely manner?" ■

In budget battles, Obama administration sees Jews as playing key role

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—In the battle to end the across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration, it's all hands on deck.

Increasingly for the Obama administration, which is deadlocked over the budget with the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, that means reaching out to Jews.

In conference calls and in appearances at Jewish events, administration officials are soliciting Jewish support in their bid to end the congressionally mandated budget cuts that kicked in March 1 and which critics warn could have a dramatic impact on vital government programs. In recent days, top administration officials have noted—and none-too-subtly—that programs dear to the organized Jewish community will face cuts should the sequester continue.

"Israel got a plus-up in the budget, I think, to \$3.1 billion total," Secretary of State John Kerry said in April 17 testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, referring to a hike in defense assistance that is part of a 10-year deal negotiated in 2007. "But that is subject to sequester, as is everything," Kerry said. "And we're not able to undo that. So there'll be a plus-up, but then there'll be a reduction from the plus-up. It's still a net plusup, but there is a sequester that will apply to everything, including Jordan, Egypt, Israel."

The full impact of the sequester, a package of wide-ranging budget cuts Congress adopted in

2011 as an inducement to compel policymakers to reach a budget deal by 2013, has yet to take effect. If it proceeds unchecked, it will result in cuts to defense assistance of about \$155 million, or 5 percent of the total assistance package, according to congressional and pro-Israel officials. Israeli officials speaking on condition of anonymity say that cuts also are expected to the \$200 million budgeted for missile defense cooperation, which is not included in the larger defense assistance package.

The pro-Israel community is pushing back against the cuts in their encounters with congressional Republicans. In an April 12 meeting between Jewish leaders and the congressional Republican leadership, Howard Kohr, the director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, argued forcefully for the overall foreign aid package, according to participants.

The Obama administration, in its April 10 presentation, allocated \$52 billion for foreign assistance, a number commensurate with figures datingback to the early years of the administration of George W. Bush, who significantly increased assistance to the developing world. Congressional Republicans, influenced in part by the rise of the party's conservative Tea Party wing, have called for slashing the foreign aid budget, in some cases to zero.

Jewish groups favor continuing foreign assistance, and not just to Israel. B'nai B'rith

International welcomed the \$52 billion allocation, calling it "a serious effort to address America's strategic interests abroad in an era of fiscal austerity."

In an appearance at the Reform movement's Consultation on Conscience last month, Gene Sperling, [who grew up in Ann Arbor] and is the chairman of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, opened by referencing his Jewish upbringing—something the onetime consultant to "The West Wing" TV show rarely has done. "I feel a bond not because it's a Jewish organization per se, but you're an organization that wakes up and asks yourself what you can do for those in our society who need the most justice," Sperling said. "For me those things are bonded. That's how my parents raised me. That's how they raised me about what it meant to be Jewish."

Sperling outlined the administration's economic goals—securing a middle class that lives in dignity and extending opportunity to all, not just those born to privilege, he said—and slammed what he described as Republicans' "slash everything" strategy. Tax cuts instituted during the Bush years, he said, needed redress.

"You can simply slash everything regardless of its impact on the economy or people [so] you can say you met your deficit target," he said. "You could meet that metric, but at the expense of your larger goals." Sperling nonetheless suggested that some spending cuts were inevitable.

"If you say all you care about is jobs and therefore we should just load things up with huge infrastructure projects and other issues and not worry about the long-term deficit," he said, "you don't at the same time give people confidence that we as a country are going to deal with those long term deficits."

Jewish groups have been alarmed by some of the proposed cuts in the Obama budget, particularly a plan to reduce Social Security spending by slowing the program's cost-ofliving increases and by cutting subsidies to pharmaceutical companies that service the Medicare program.

"We urge the President and Congress not to balance the budget on the backs of those among us who are most vulnerable with cuts to critical social services," the Jewish Federations of North America said in a statement earlier last month. The Jewish Federations also weighed in against the Obama administration's plan to reduce the charitable tax reduction from 35 to 28 percent. "Limiting the deductibility of charitable contributions will definitively result in less giving and therefore place a stumbling block in front of the ability of charities to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and heal the sick," it said. ■

Arts and Culture

Remembering Jackie Robinson's fight with black nationalists over anti-Semitism

By Ami Eden

NEW YORK (JTA) —Moviegoers who head this weekend to the AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9 for the opening of "42" will see the story of how Jackie Robinson displayed legendary courage, class and talent in the face of immense pressure and racial hatred as he broke down baseball's color barrier.

Less well known is Robinson's role in a

controversy that erupted just a few blocks away, at Harlem's most famous theater, and underscored his commitment to fighting all bigotry, including prejudice emanating from his own community.

It was 1962, a decade-and-a-half after Robinson first took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers

Brooklyn Dodgers **Jackie Robinson** and just a few years after he retired. Day after day, an angry crowd marched outside Harlem's legendary Apollo Theater protesting against its Jewish owner, Frank Schiffman, and his plan to open a low-cost restaurant with prices that potentially would threaten the business of a more expensive black-owned eatery.

The demonstrators carried anti-Semitic posters and hurled racial epithets, reportedly denouncing Schiffman as a Shylock who wanted to extract a pound of flesh from the black community.

Schiffman turned to several black leaders for help, but despite the increasingly hostile acts of anti-Semitism that were taking place, they all remained silent —except for Robinson.

"I was ashamed to see community leaders who were afraid to speak out when blacks were guilty of anti-Semitism," Robinson wrote in his 1972 autobiography, "I Never Had It Made. "How could we stand against anti-black prejudice if we were willing to practice or condone a similar intolerance?"

Never one to back down from a cause he believed in, Robinson used his syndicated newspaper column to condemn the protesters' blatant use of anti-Semitism and compared their actions to events that had occurred in Nazi Germany, drawing the ire of many black nationalists in the process.

The nationalists, who had adopted a separatist agenda, retaliated by protesting in front of a nearby Chock Full O' Nuts coffee shop — Robinson had worked for the chain after his 1957 retirement from baseball —and outside a dinner honoring Robinson's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In turn, several mainstream black leaders including Roy Wilkins, the longtime leader of the NAACP —quickly came to the defense of Robinson and Schiffman.

"In their fight for equal opportunity, Negroes cannot use the slimy tools of anti-Semitism or indulge in racism, the very tactics against which we cry out," Wilkins wrote in a telegram to Robinson. "We join you in your straight statement that this is a matter of principle from which there can be no retreat."

Other leaders, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Philadelphia Tribune publisher Dr. E. Washington Rhodes, also offered their support, according to Robinson. Major League Baseball's first black player also managed to pry a condemnation of anti-Semitism from Lewis Micheaux, the owner of Harlem's National Memorial African Book Store, though Micheaux had sympathized with the marchers and denounced Robinson's initial criticisms.

6

Soon after, the protests ceased.

Some Jewish communal officials have noted that Robinson's strong stance during the 1962 Apollo incident stood in stark contrast to the silence from black leaders during the 1995 protests outside Freddy's clothing store on 125th Street.

For months, large crowds gathered in front of the Harlem store to protest the efforts of its Jewish owner, Fred Harari, to expand into an adjacent storefront that was occupied by a black-owned business.

The condemnations came only after one protester, Roland Smith Jr., shot and killed seven store employees before burning down the building and taking his own life.

Robinson was always quick to criticize anti-Semitism in the black community, according to Stephen Norwood, a professor at the University of Oklahoma who co-wrote a scholarly article on Robinson's relationship with Jews.

In a 1997 interview timed to the 50th anniversary of Robinson's integration of baseball, Norwood pointed out that Robinson was the first to condemn and call for the removal of a Congress of Racial Equality official in 1966 after he shouted at a group of Jews, "Hitler made a mistake when he didn't kill enough of you."

While raising funds for the NAACP and bail money for imprisoned civil-rights marchers, Norwood said, Robinson witnessed the valuable contributions that Jews were making to the black community's struggle. When Robinson took part in the legendary march on Washington and stood by King in Birmingham, Ala., he saw that some Jews also were placing their bodies on the line for civil-rights causes.

According to Norwood, when black nationalism emerged as a powerful force during the 1960s, Robinson rejected its separatist agenda and continued to include Jews in his major efforts to economically empower the black community with the Freedom National Bank and the Jackie Robinson Construction Company.

Roger Kahn, whose "Boys of Summer" chronicled Robinson and his teammates' multiyear road to winning the World Series in 1955, would write later that Robinson's actions during the Apollo protests should not have come as a surprise.

"He hated anti-Semitism just as he hated prejudice against blacks," Kahn wrote. "Without qualification and from the gut." ■

This piece was adapted from an article that first appeared in The Jewish Exponent.



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BestReads

Francesca Segal's debut novel, The Innocents

Rachel Urist, staff writer

rancesca Segal's debut novel, *The Innocents* was inspired by Edith Wharton's 1920 novel, The Age of Innocence, which won the Pulitzer in 1921. Segal's novel follows Wharton's story chapter for chapter. The Innocents pays homage to Wharton while striking a subversive blow. Where Edith Wharton, avowedly Segal takes Wharton's waspy characters and transforms them into Jewish figures. Wharton's leading man, Newland Archer, becomes Adam Newman, a bright young lawyer whose fiancée, Rachel Gilbert, has been his sweetheart since they met on a teen trip to Israel. She is cute, bubbly, conventional, and reliable. In walks her



Francesca Segal

anti-Semitic, offered stiff portraits of 1870s New York high society—an insular, conservative, waspish community of modern-day aristocrats—Segal sets her story in modern, northwest London in a Jewish community that is as clannish and loyal to tradition as their New York prototypes. Wharton's opening chapter begins at the opera, with patrons in their finery. Segal's book opens in a synagogue on Yom Kippur, where the Jewish community is on display in its *yontif* best.

Segal turns Wharton's anti-Jewish bias on its ear. In Segal's work, Jews are not outsiders; they are the crux and context of the story, and Yiddishkeit is the life-blood. The result is a novel reminiscent of Jane Smiley's A Thousand Acres, which follows Shakespeare's King Lear scene by scene, but sets it in America's heartland, recasts the figures, and varies their dynamics. Segal, likewise, takes her source material into new realms, creating a marvelous concoction of characters, social commentaries and literary flourishes. A May, 2012 review in London's The Independent sums it up: "It takes chutzpah to appropriate such a wellloved classic, but Segal parallels the two convention-bound worlds with enviable assurance."

The Innocents won the 2012 Costa First Novel Award and the 2012 National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. It is long-listed for the 2013 Women's Prize For Fiction (The Orange Prize) and is one of five finalists for the Sami Rohr Literary Prize, awarded each year to an "emerging writer of Jewish literature." Born in London in 1980, Francesca Segal grew up in the U.K. and the U.S. and attended Harvard University and the University of Oxford. She is a journalist turned novelist, and the daughter of Erich Segal, author of Love Story. She is clearly steeped in Jewish tradition and incorporates Jewish terms and rituals into her work with ease. It is refreshing to find Jewish tradition spun seamlessly into the story, when so many other writers today, eager to vaunt their ethnic learning and loyalty, insert it with a heavy hand.

cousin, Ellie Schneider, a 6-foot-tall, 22-yearold blonde Jewish supermodel. She is Segal's version of Wharton's Countess Olenska, cunning and seductive. In The Innocents, she is newly returned from New York and walks into Kol Nidre services "wearing

a tuxedo jacket with nothing beneath it

1 t ... exposing skin from clavicle to navel." She completes her outfit with "black trousers trousers!

INNOCENTS FRANCESCA SEGAL

trousers! - that clung and shimmered as if she'd been dipped in crude oil." In London, no one had seen her for years, though word quickly spread that she

oil." In London, no one had seen her for years, though word quickly spread that she was kicked out of Columbia University's creative writing program for appearing in a porn film.

Both Rachel and Ellie are devoted to their 88-year-old grandmother, Ziva, who is a far cry from the grand matriarch of Wharton's New York clan. Ziva is a holocaust survivor transplanted from the camps to Palestine, then to London. She is both wise and irreverent, having learnt to recognize the inanity of specious custom. She watches as her granddaughters jockey for position in their respective but intersecting worlds. She watches her future grandson-in-law as he seems to lose his footing. Ellie's allure threatens. He is caught in a tug-of-war: fidelity versus adventure. I won't spoil the outcome.

Late in the book, Segal introduces a Bernie Madoff figure. He steps right out of contemporary tabloids, and his appearance feels a bit contrived – until one learns that this character, too, has his counterpart of Wharton's book. If you don't have time to read Wharton's classic novel, take a look at Martin Scorsese's 1993 film version of the novel. It stars Daniel Day Lewis and other fine luminaries. Ziva's waspy counterpart is played, ironically, by Miriam Margolyes, who is both British and Jewish.

All told, Segal's ability to take Wharton's classic and make it her own is impressive – as are the awards she has already won for this, her first novel. Her writing is compelling. It is also delicate, understated and elegant.

On Another Note

Laurel Federbush: professional harpist

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

aurel Federbush is an Ann Arbor native and a highly trained, very versatile musician who plays one of the most eye-catching instruments in an orchestra, the harp. We talked about her instrument and how she came to be a musician.

WJN: What got you started in music?

Federbush: There was always a lot of music on in our house when I was growing up. That was when people still had records (laughter) so we had opera playing a lot, classical music on the radio. My mom is a good jazz pianist, who plays improvisatory piano. She's definitely good enough to be a professional, even though she maybe doesn't think she is. Her brother, my uncle, actually was a professional jazz pianist. He's a doctor by profession but he also made money as a jazz pianist. My dad didn't play an instrument, except as a kid he played piano, but he really loved to listen to music and he would always take us to concerts. There are always a lot of concerts in a University area like Ann Arbor.

WJN: How did you get interested in the harp?

Federbush: I don't remember when it became my favorite instrument. It just always was, as long as I can remember. So when my parents thought, when I was seven, that I should play an instrument, and they asked me to pick what I wanted to play, I decided to play the harp. I used to watch the Friendly Giant, the kid show, and one of the little puppet characters played the harp and that was one of the earliest exposures I think I had. In our school music classes I think the teachers would bring in autoharps, which to me were a variety of a harp, so that also got me interested. And I seem to remember we went to some instrument museum and I saw some harps there too. One of my parents' friends had a daughter who played the harp as a teenager and she was able to give me lessons.

WJN: And you stayed with it.

Federbush: Yes. I wasn't really serious about it, however. That's one thing I remember, my parents sort of surprised me with a harp, it was a small harp, it wasn't as big as the harp I play now, but it was still bigger than I was, and I actually cried. Even though I wanted to play the harp, suddenly there was this harp there, and the cover was on, so you couldn't see the strings, it was just this looming shape, and it was big and sort of scary

for me. So at first I wasn't very diligent, my parents made me practice fifteen minutes a day, and even that seemed like a lot to me. I wasn't like a kid who was an immediate child prodigy. (Laughter) But then, when I was in eighth grade, I think, I decided that I wanted to be a professional musician, so that's when I started really practicing. And the harp, even before I became very serious about it, had become kind of part of my identity. It was something special I could do that other people couldn't do. So if I felt that kids were picking on me, or something, I would feel like, "Well, they can't play the harp!" (Laughter) That was my little area of superiority. (More laughter)

I went to Pioneer High. They have a good orchestra program there, and symphonic band, so I got to play there.

WJN: Where did you go to college?

Federbush: I got my Bachelor's degree at the University of Toronto and my Master's and Doctorate at the University of Michigan.

WJN: In harp Performance?

- Federbush: Yes. I was actually the first one at the University of Michigan to get a Doctorate in harp Performance. That was in 1994.
- WJN: When did you first start gigging with your harp?
- Federbush: When I was in high school I started working as a harpist. I didn't really have much of a professional mindset at the time. I remember once turning down a job because I just didn't feel like doing it that week, perhaps I felt overworked, or whatever it was. Now I am eager to take any job, no matter how stressed out I think I am. But at that time I didn't really have a concept of doing it to earn a living.

WJN: You also teach harp.

Federbush: Yes, I like teaching. Usually my students are little kids, or sometimes retired people, usually women, who now have the time to take up something they've always wanted to do. I always try to encourage people, if they have a kid, or anyone who wants to start taking up the harp, you often hear about people saying, "Oh, the harp is too expensive - don't do that." And I think that's really sad because you can start with a very affordable harp, for a couple hundred dollars you can get a little folk harp, and that's a good way to start playing the harp, and you



Laurel Federbush

can go up to one or two thousand dollars. You don't have to get the huge harps that you see in orchestras, unless you get to professional playing, which most people don't. You can play folk music or Christmas carols, any of the things that most people would be doing, they don't need the big fancy harps.

- WJN: What are the kinds of performance situations you work in?
- Federbush: I play in a number of Michigan area orchestras, usually in the orchestra, occasionally as a soloist, playing a concerto. The other common thing I do is play at weddings.

WJN: Weddings and harps, it's a natural fit.

Federbush: Yes it is. I also play at memorial services, Bar Mitzvah's... It's feast or famine a lot of the time, but I work almost every weekend of the year and I have some coffeehouse gigs where I play, like at the Grand Traverse Pie Company, downtown, and at Pistachio's in West Bloomfield. I enjoy those settings. I can play whatever I want and so I get to brush up on my repertoire, play some pop tunes and classical, some Celtic and some of my original compositions.

WJN: Do you usually work solo?

Federbush: Mostly solo, though I work with some flute players. Flute and harp is the next most common combination. Lisa Warren is the flautist I work with most, and sometimes we'll add violin, or just violin and harp, which is the next most common combination. WJN: You must also do a lot of your own ar-

- ranging. I'm guessing not a lot of pop songs are arranged for harp.
- Federbush: A few of them I do I read off sheet music, I tend to embellish them, but most of them I write out the melody and chord symbols and then take it from there. Most of what I listen to just for fun is popular music, rock stations, dance music; I listen to some classical and jazz too, and of course some songs lend themselves more to harp than others. Like if something is very much driven by a particular bass line, or built on some synthesizer riff, that's not likely to work as well, but the songs that do work out well, like the Beatles, are the ones that have nice melodies. I tend to like things that have interesting chords, unexpected chords, for me those are the ones I'm more likely to want to try. I have a CD called, "Walking Scandal" of some of my own harp compositions. Some of the music on it is somewhat humorous - it's not serious classical. It's a little more quirky. I also write poetry and accompany myself on the harp – I've done that since my student days, at poetry slams, and other settings
- WJN: You've been at this full time for almost twenty years. What do you see for yourself for the future? Are there areas you'd like to explore musically or in your career, that you've thought about but haven't yet had a chance to do?
- Federbush: A few years ago I started taking singing lessons. I don't have a good voice yet, but I enjoy singing, and I've done some songwriting and it'd be nice if eventually my voice got good enough that I could make that a real part of what I do.

I attend Beth Israel and I really like the svnagogue music. One of the projects that I'm working on is a CD of instrumental versions of some of this music, arranged for harp, and maybe for harp and flute.

To contact Laurel Federbush go to her website, laurelfedharp.webs.com.





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Kosher Cuisine

Recipes for Shavuot from historical sources

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

The Cookbook Library, by renowned author and cooking instructor Anne Willan with Mark Cherniavsky and Kyri Claflin, commemorates "Four Centuries of the Cooks, Writers, and Recipes That Made the Modern Cookbook." It is a beautiful, encyclopedic work that shares the development of recipes, the study of culture, and the often-ignored stories of life at home and behind the courtly scene. It offers forgotten techniques, some unfamiliar ingredients, and a look at the past that goes far beyond merely memorizing dates.

As Willan herself states, "Old cookbooks are captivating, and important too, leading us into the world beyond the hearth. Without them, we could not have tasted our way down the centuries to the dishes we embrace with such affection today."

And then she asks, "What (precisely) is a cookbook?" In response, Willan answers her own question: "First, it is a collection of recipes - blueprints for a cook to recreate a dish.... Early books with recipes covered far wider topics as well. Some sought to preserve the wisdom of the ancients, others offered advice on how to live a healthy life..." How could I not think of the Torah and of the Ten Commandments, the foundations of Judaism, which are vibrant and engaging still? What excellent inspiration for my Shavuot article!

The Cookbook Library demonstrates that

the study of history, and of cooking, can also be fascinating and relevant: "The roots of today's



Anne Willan

recipes begin in manuscript cookbooks and the medieval kitchen", after all. There is a section devoted to "Literacy in the Kitchen," noting the importance of distinguishing "between those who bought the books, those who read the books, those who cooked

the food described in the books, and those who were eating this food," and also one entitled "Everyone Loves a Secret," which states that "Food and drink were topics of great interest, and recipes were viewed as secrets and personal objects of curiosity to circulate among friends."

Women who authored early cookbooks are given some recognition, which is important since "only a tiny handful of books by women devoted to cooking made it into print on the continent before the 1700s." The evolution of

table settings is even described, as is the manner in which the style of recipes has changed - from "just a few lines, little throwaway ideas" to "The twoday procedure described... for

> kneading, raising, and proofing the rich dough for brioche." C h a r m i n g illustrations from centuries ago are featured, including a dinner menu from England's Newest Way in All Sorts of Cookery, Pastry, and All Pickles That Are

Fit to Be Used, from the 18th century. This work shows a drawing of a First Course of pease pottage, puddings, beans and bacon, Beef Royall, collops, and lambsbones (with the first "b" scribbled in above, after initially being left out of the handwritten piece) alongside a drawing of a Second Course plate offering trifles, pheasant, Sallamon Gundy, lobsters and crayfish, artichoke, and "butterd crabb"... clearly not a kosher feast!

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah, with its dictates "on how to live a healthy life," and is also a celebration of the first fruits, or produce that is just returning after a long, cold winter. It is customary to eat dairy meals at Shavuot, and anyone who knows me is aware that I try to expand beyond the standard cheesecake and blintzes: I like to infuse my holidays with a combination of tradition and novelty. Thus, I have respect for the milk products, but I don't serve the usual proverbial suspects. I strive to seek out different cultures, different time periods, different ingredients... something new and intriguing. And this year, I am not only honoring tradition with new dairy dishes, but I am delving into history while doing so.

The recipes I've selected from *The Cookbook Library* have survived from as early as the 15th century, and feature yogurt, cheese, cream, violets, strawberries, and mint to highlight both the dairy and the Spring-oriented aspects of the holiday. The one for "Mon Amy" (a fresh cheese mold) also includes honey, as the Torah's sweetness has been likened to "Honey and milk ... under your tongue" (Song of Songs 4:11).

The Cookbook Library invites readers to immerse themselves in "an enthralling journey back in time," while also showing that this history is still relevant today. What a lovely source, then, for new Shavuot recipes with which to celebrate the treasure and the timelessness of the Torah.

Mon Amy — My Good Friend

From *Boke of Cokery* (London, 1500; recipe from 1882 edition)

"The French title of this recipe is misleading, as this delicate curd pudding is a forerunner of such homey English desserts as curd tart, custard tart, and syllabub. It is a luxurious creation sweetened with honey, colored with saffron, and rich with butter and eggs. Fresh violets are the decoration, suggesting this is a dish for spring."

1 quart Greek-style yogurt

- ¹/₄ cup heavy cream
- ¹/₂ cup brown sugar
- ¹/₄ cup honey
- ¹/₄cup butter, cut into pieces, softened

large pinch of saffron threads 4 egg yolks

1 bunch violets, for decoration

Line a colander with cheesecloth, set it over a bowl, spoon in the yogurt, and leave to drain, at least 3 hours or overnight in the refrigerator. Bring the cream just to a boil in a saucepan and then leave it to cool.

Transfer the drained yogurt to the saucepan of cooled cream, and add the brown sugar, honey, butter, and saffron. Heat very gently, whisking until the sugar is melted and the mixture is smooth, 3 to 4 minutes, then remove from the heat. Do not let the mixture get above handwarm, or it will not thicken. In a small bowl, whisk the egg yolks until lightly thickened, then whisk them into the cream mixture. Leave the mixture to stand and thicken for about 1 hour. Line the colander with fresh cheesecloth, set it on a tray to catch drips, and transfer the honeysaffron mixture to it. Cover and leave to drain in the refrigerator so that it thickens, at least 4 hours or up to 12 hours. It will thicken enough to hold a shape.

To serve, spoon the firmed mixture into bowls and tuck a violet or two into each serving. *Serves 4 to 6.*

Pour Faire Tourtes Geneues Verdes — To Make Genoese Green Tarts

From Lancelot de Casteau's Ouverture de Cuisine (Liège, 1604)

Lancelot de Casteau's Ouverture de Cuisine was published in Liège in a part of Flanders that is now Belgium. At the time, Flanders was a crossroads of international commerce from all four corners of Europe, and he picks the already-popular Italian combination of greens with fresh cheese, a style he calls Genoese. In contemporary Italian prints, tarts are shown flat on a baking sheet.

- 8 ounces whole-milk ricotta cheese
- 1 pound spinach
- 1 large bunch mint
- ³/₄ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs 2 to 3 tablespoons olive oil, more for brushing
- ¹/₂ teaspoon pepper ¹/₂ teaspoon ground ginger
- salt
- dough for a 10" double-crusted pie

To make the filling: Line a strainer with cheesecloth, place over a bowl, add the ricotta, and leave to drain for 30 minutes. Bring a large pan of salted water to a boil. Remove and discard the tough stems from the spinach leaves. Strip the mint leaves from their stems and discard the stems. Add the spinach and mint leaves to the boiling water and boil until they are wilted, 3 to 5 minutes. Drain them in a colander until cool enough to handle, then squeeze out the water with your fists.

Chop the spinach mixture, place in a bowl, stir in the Parmesan cheese, and set aside. Beat the eggs in another bowl until mixed. Add the drained cheese, in pieces, to the eggs and beat until well mixed after each addition. Beat in a tablespoon of the olive oil, the pepper, the ginger, and the salt, adding more olive oil if needed. The mixture should fall easily from the spoon. Taste and adjust the seasoning.

To shape the tart: Cut the dough in half. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out one half to a 12-inch round. Fold the dough loosely around the rolling pin and transfer it to a buttered baking sheet. Spread the spinach mixture on top, leaving a 1-inch border uncovered around the edge. Using a spoon, drop spoonfulls of the cheese mixture on the spinach, keeping them at least 3 fingers' width apart. Brush the border with water. Roll out the remaining dough to a 12-inch round, and transfer it to cover the tart. Press the edges together and flute them with your fingers. Using your little finger or a chopstick, poke holes in the lid in a flower or geometric pattern. Brush the top of the tart with olive oil and chill the tart until firm, about 15 minutes. Heat the oven to 375°.

To bake the tart: Bake the tart until the pastry is crisp and very brown, 35 to 45 minutes. A metal skewer inserted in the center should be hot to the touch when withdrawn after 30 seconds. Let the tart cool for at least a few minutes, then transfer it to a board or platter and serve hot or at room temperature. *Serves 8.*

Per Fare Altr'Acqua di Fravole — To Make Another Strawberry Ice

From Antonio Latini's Lo Scalco alla Moderna Volume I (Naples, 1692)

Sorbets first came to Europe from Turkey. In his *Travels to the Middle East*, published in 1555, the French naturalist Pierre Belon remarked, "the ambassadors of France, Spain, Venice, Ragusa, Florence, Transylvania, and Hungary... do not wish to mix snow in their wine, so they immerse the wine in water chilled by snow".... A hundred years later, the creation of iced drinks and desserts had spread throughout the continent and was a high art at the court of Naples, where Antonio Latini was working."

- 1 lb. strawberries, hulled 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup pomegranate juice
- $^{1/2}$ cup mascarpone cheese $^{3/4}$ cup sugar, more to taste

In a large bowl, combine the strawberries and water and crush the berries with a fork or your fingers, pulling them apart to form a coarse purée. Stir in the pomegranate juice. In a small bowl, whisk the mascarpone with 2 to 3 tablespoons of the purée until smooth, then stir this mixture into the remaining purée with the sugar. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour until very cold.

Taste and adjust the flavor with pomegranate juice and sugar. Freeze the purée in an ice cream maker until firm. For the best texture, serve the ice within an hour. If freezing longer, transfer the ice to the refrigerator for an hour to soften before serving.

Makes 1 quart ices to serve 6 to 8.

Save the date: Beth Israel Congregation's Women's League and Men's Club welcome the community to join them for "Mixology and Munchies with Marcie Greenfield and Mary Bilyeu" on Sunday, June 9 at 7 p.m. Come taste an assortment of non-alcoholic mixed drinks suitable for families, designated drivers ... well, everyone! These will be perfect for graduation parties, weddings, barbecues, and other summer simchas.

Calendar

May 2013 Wednesday 1

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Thursday 2

- SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.
- Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Lunchtime book club session focusing on *The History of Last Night's Dream: Discovering the Hidden Path to the Soul*, by Rodger Kamenetz. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@ gmail.com. Noon–1 p.m.
- First Friday Shabbat: JCC. Monthly event to welcome Shabbat with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah. Followed by a short thematic program in which members of the congregation offer thoughts about the theme. After the service, enjoy a meal and schmoozing. Children are always welcome. Held in the lounges of the JCC. Dinner is \$10 per person or \$25 for a family of four. RSVP online at www. jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 p.m.
- Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday*.

Friday 3

- Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.
- Jewish Community Leadership Program Graduation: UM School of Social Work. 2013 graduates of JCLP Master's Degree program will receive certificates in Jewish Communal Leadership. Keynote remarks by Ruth Messinger, President of American Jewish World Service. Lower level of the School of Social Work Building, 1080 S University Ave. RSVP at ssw. umich.edu/events/jclp-2013-graduation. 3 p.m.
- Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.
- First Friday Shabbat: JCS. Once monthly Shabbat welcome with songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah, followed by a short thematic program, in which members of the congregation offer their thoughts about the theme. After the Shabbat service, share a meal and schmooze. Children are always welcome. Held in the lounges at the JCC. Dinner is \$10/person or \$25/ family of four. Contributions make it possible to continue the culinary themes. RSVP online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30–9 p.m.
- Friday evening services: See listing at the end of calendar.

Saturday 4

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m. Learner's Service: AARC. Monthly session led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia with interactive discussions on Jewish historical, geographical and political traditions. This month's session will explore the prophets both in ancient times and the modern day. Visit aarecon.org or phone 445-1910 for more information. At the JCC. 10 a.m.–noon. **Mitzvah Day Service: TBE**. Noon.

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

Sunday 5

- Pre-School Open House: JCS. At the JCC. 10–11 a.m. Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m.
- Jewish Film Festival: JCC. Films screened at the Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty. Individual tickets for \$10. Festival passes for all Ann Arbor films is \$90 for JCC members or \$100 for non-members. A full schedule including film descriptions, movie trailers, and information about guest speakers and receptions is available at www.jccannarbor.org. Tickets available at Michigan Theater Box Office. For information or to become a sponsor, contact karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Through May 9.*

Monday 6

- English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays– Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*
- Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@ templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. See May 5. Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail. com. 7–8 p.m.

Tuesday 7

Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah*. Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. See May 5.

- SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3, Noon. Mah-jongg, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.
- Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.
- Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.
- Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Evening session focusing on *The History of Last Night's Dream: Discovering the Hidden Path to the Soul*, by Rodger Kamenetz. For information, contact

Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 8

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. See May 5.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments provided. For information, contact Roger Stutesman by phone at 352-1170 or at rogerstutesman8707@ comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 9

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. See May 5.

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. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 10

- Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.
- Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 11

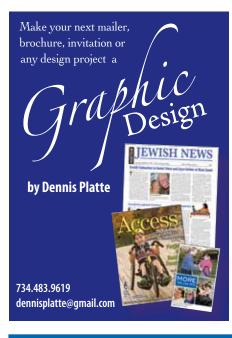
Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

- Shabbat Service: AARC. Interactive community service features music, singing, modern English readings alongside the traditional prayers and thought provoking Torah discussion led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. To get involved, contact aura613@gmail.com or visit www. aarecon.org for more information. At the JCC. 10 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.
- Shabbat Services: BIC. Shabbat Limmud at 9 a.m. Kehillat Shabbat for 3rd-5th Grade at 11 a.m. Mini Minyan for K-2nd Grade at 11:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat at 11:15 a.m.

Brotherhood Havdallah Service: TBE. 6 p.m. Shabbat services: See listing at the end of the calendar.

Sunday 12

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m.





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- Food inspired silent auction and raffle
- Fun for kids of all ages hosted by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, and relaxing massages from Body Wisdom Massage Therapy
- Cash beer and wine

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Tickets: \$50 /Adults and \$10/ Kids ages 3-13 (a portion of your ticket is tax-deductible)

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



foodgatherers.org

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Calendar

Monday 13

- English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays– Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. Ongoing.
- **Trop Class: TBE.** Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@ templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Tuesday 14

- Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah*. Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.
- SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3, Noon. Mah-jongg, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.
- Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 6:15–7:15 p.m.
- Shavuot Program: AARC. Hebrew Day School teacher Aron Kaufman will recreate the sound and spirit of *Standing at Sinai*, followed by an exploration and sharing of the commandments "received." All members of the community are welcome and invited to bring a drum/ percussion instrument and/or a shofar. Program followed by dessert reception. For more information, contact aura613@gmail. com or visit www.aarecon.org. At the JCC. 7:30–9 p.m.
- Celebration of Shavuot: Chabad. Evening services at 8:30 p.m., followed by festive meal and allnight learning.
- Tikkun Leil Shavuot: BIC. "for All People: The Synagogue as a Place of Inclusion: Obligation, Opportunities and Challenges." 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday 15

- Shavuot Services: BIC. Shaharit at 9:30 a.m.; Shavuot Lunch and Learn at Noon; Mincha at 7:30 p.m.
- Shavuot Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45a.m. Children are invited to come and hear the Ten Commandments. Ice cream party for children, followed by annual festive dairy meal for all. Afternoon and evening services at 8:30 p.m.

Thursday 16

Shavuot Services: BIC. Shaharit at 9:30 a.m.; Mincha at 7:30 p.m.

- Shavuot Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m., Yizkor Memorial Services at 11 a.m. Afternoon and evening services at 8:30 p.m.
- SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria

Farquhar, \$4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

- Shavuot Picnic: AAOM. Annual event. Convene at Burns Park following services at UM Hillel. 1:30 p.m.
- Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 17

- **Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE.** Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.
- Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Confirmation Shabbat Service with Kol Halev at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday evening services: See listing atend of calendar.

Saturday 18

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Service: TBE. 10 a.m. Shabbat services: See listing at the end of the calendar.

Sunday 19

- Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m.
- Bubbie and Zayde Zoo Trip: JCC. Grandparents invited to spend time with their grandchildren at the Toledo Zoo. Meet at the JCC and board a luxury motor coach, sit back and relax. Cost TBD.RSVP to noreendeyoung@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Baseball Game Trip: BIC. Attend Toledo Mud Hens game. Noon.
- Monthly Hike: JHOM. Join the Jewish Hikers of Michigan for a Walk for Israel. Cosponsored for Temple Beth Emeth._For further information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522, Rabbi Lisa Delson at 665-4744, or email at jewish.hikers@gmail.com. Also, see www.templebethemeth.org/section/hikers.
- Art Exhibit: JCC. The works of Dr. Sheldon Markel will be on display, with acrylics the predominant media, along with gouache, graphite, ink and charcoal. Representational, but not necessarily very realistic, the subject matter ranges from still life, figurative work and horses. Amster Art Gallery at the JCC. For more information, contact karenfreedland@ jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Through June 18.* Author Event: TBE Brotherhood. Jewish Baseball
- Author Event: TBE Brotherhood. Jewish Baseba with author Irwin Cohen. 6 p.m.

Monday 20

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays– Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. Ongoing. Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m. Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com. 7–8 p.m.

Tuesday 21

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- Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.
- Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 22

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon Fifth Grade Family BBQ: BIC. 6 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman at rogerstutesman8707@comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 23

- **SPICE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.
- **Presentation: JCC Seniors.** Ann Arbor local Laurel Federbush will play a selection of music on her harp. Laurel's repertoire includes classical, Celtic and contemporary. 1 p.m.
- Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 24

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

- Grandparents and Special Friend Shabbat Luncheon: JCC. Eleventh annual luncheon when children are encouraged to invite their grandparents or a special adult friend to attend. Guests welcomed into the ECC to join the children as they prepare for and celebrate the arrival of Shabbat. "Tot Shabbat" families also included in the celebration. \$18 for dults. For more information, contact ECC Director Peretz Hirshbein at ecc@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 11 a.m.
- Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.
- Fourth Friday Shabbat Service: AARC. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat services held at the JCC and open to all. Led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. Services followed by vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children before services from 6 p.m. Childcare provided during services from 6:15–7:30 p.m. Reservations preferred, especially for pizza and childcare. Contact Jennifer Cohen at www.aarecon. org/contact-us or phone 445-1910. 6–10 p.m.

Saturday 25

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. 10 a.m. Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Sunday 26

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m.

Monday 27

- English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays– Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. Ongoing.
- Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth. org. Noon–1 p.m.

Tuesday 28

- Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah*. Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3, Noon. Mah-jongg, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.
- Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.
- Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.
- Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study

the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 29

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon

Joint Concert: TBE. Join TBE's Kol Halev and St. Clare's Choir for a joint concert. 6 p.m.

Thursday 30

- SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, \$4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.
- Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday*.

Friday 31

- Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Birthday and Anniversary Shabbat Service and Adult Bar Mitzvah at 7:30 p.m.
- **Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE**. Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

June 3

Donor Dinner: The Ann Arbor Chapter of ORT America: Quarter Bistro restaurant. 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

- Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.
- Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@ comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.
- Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candlelighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

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

- Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Learners' Service held first or second Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Discussionbased format with changing topics, focusing on historical, geographical, and political traditions of different parts of traditional service each month. Regular morning service generally held on the second or third Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Traditionally-based, with music plus a lengthy Torah discussion. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.
- Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.
- Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.
- Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www. templebethemeth.org for service details.
- Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.
- Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

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

- Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM) 1429 Hill Street 994-5822
- Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
 - P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705
- Beth Israel Congregation (BIC) 2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897
- Chabad House
- 715 Hill Street 995-3276
- EMU Hillel
- 965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456 Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- 2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990
- Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) 2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872
- Jewish Family Services (JFS) 2245 South State Street 769-0209
- Jewish Federation 2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100
- Pardes Hannah 2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324
- Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
- 2309 Packard Road 665-4744
- UM Hillel 1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting		
May 3	7:14 p.m.	
May 10	7:22p.m.	
May 17	7:29 p.m.	
May 24	7:36 p.m.	
May 31	7:42 p.m.	

Women of the Wall, continued from page 4

to grow as a thriving modern democracy and not be bound by the racist, sexist, and traditional members of society dominating spaces such as the Western Wall. Instead of glorifying Israel's religious life, women of the wall is challenging the problems it faces head on, and showing them to the public in a way that I know I had never learned in an educational institute.

Hoffman stressed the fact that the progress Women of the Wall has made is strongly due to the Jewish Diaspora. Events such as what we are having now are crucial to showing Israeli leaders that this issue is significant even outside of Israel. The most important thing she said we can do is to continue to educate our Jewish community; to inspire them to explore the impact Diaspora Jews can have in the fight for equality in Israel.

I have been involved in many different social justice and philanthropic movements, but Anat Hoffman is the most passionate

person I have ever met about her cause. I noticed her and I are more alike than I thought after all... everything she and Women of the Wall stands for: equality, diversity, tolerance, and pluralism, are values that I also stand for. During her two weeks as a camp educator, she did everything she could to transfer her energy and enthusiasm about the Jewish values that embody Women of the Wall to everyone she came into contact with, especially young campers- the most important group of people to make an impression on. I realized when she was talking to the campers she did not tell them to donate to her organization with the intention to diminish any other philanthropic organization, but rather to make the point of how many different things Women of the Wall represents. It's an organization that is bringing progressive ideas and values into Jewish life, and reshaping the future of Judaism. 🔳

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Israel Biotech, continued from page 17

"Oh boy," Schiffmiller tells JNS.org, in response to a question on how long the approval process took for the BioHug. "In our experience it took a very long time."

Schiffmiller explains that even before the ministry gave its approval, BioHug also had to receive approval from the hospital in Nazareth where the trials were conducted. "We thought it would take less time because it wasn't invasive. It wasn't something you implant surgically or something that restrains you," he says.

On the other hand, IonMed, which is readying to launch its plasma-welding device for closing post-operative incisions in the next several months, conducted several successful clinical trials in Armenia, says Ronen Lam, co-founder and vice president of business development for the company. The regulatory process was much faster there, he says, than in his native Israel.

"Here in Israel when you apply to get an approval it can take you between six months to one year. In Armenia, maybe one month is enough," Lam tells JNS.org.

Lam and his brother Amnon, a co-founder and CEO of IonMed, aim to obtain their CE mark (mandatory for products sold in the European Economic Area) in the next few months and start the regulation process with the FDA by 2014. But they would prefer to stay in Israel for the clinical trials.

"We are going and spending millions of dollars outside of Israel and this is just because of bureaucracy and nothing else," Ronen Lam says. "I believe that most of the Israeli start ups would prefer to do them in Israel."

Ronen Lam says IonMed will be the only company on the medical market offering a product that uses cold plasma technology for wound closure, a procedure with improved aesthetic results compared to staples and stitching, which also reduces the risk of infection.

Dr. Michal Ben-Attar, the CEO of SciGen Israel, which produces the only third-generation vaccine for Hepatitis B, says the biotech field is blossoming in Israel, but that many young companies looking to undergo clinical studies need more support in producing their materials.

"In Israel there are about 100,000 companies in a bit more advanced phase that need support for the clinical phase," Ben-Attar tells JNS.org. SciGen built a facility to house five to six companies and provide them with support.

Ben-Attar says she wants to help those companies "reach a better place in Israel and not have to go outside."

SciGen conducted clinical trials in Israel, Singapore, Thailand, Poland, Hong-Kong and Vietnam on neonate, adults, healthy non-responders and the immune suppressed population, according to Ben-Attar. "From the end of research and development stage it took about seven years for getting the approval from the Ministry of Health in Israel," she says.

Israel visa waiver exemption, continued from page 15

granting visa-free access to Israel's Arab minority could pose a security risk to the United States.

Sherman and other advocates of granting Israel visa waiver status dismiss those concerns.

"There are far more Arab Frenchmen than there are Arab Israelis and there are far more Muslims in Brunei than there are in Israel," Sherman told JTA. Both countries are on the visa waiver list. "It is not our intention in the visa waiver program to discriminate on the basis of religion."

Sherman and other backers of the bill also noted that at least five nations that exceeded the 3 percent visa refusal threshold were allowed into the program in recent years, and those nations' refusal rates were higher

than Israel's 5.4 percent refusal rate.

Julie Fishman, an assistant legislative director at the American Jewish Committee, which backs both versions of the bill, said that Israel's relatively low visa refusal rate under current visa procedures - which include heavy screening-suggest that concerns about Israel's Arab minority were overblown.

Sherman said that adding Israel to the visa waiver program would end discrimination, not advance it. He described the opposition as part of the attempt to delegitimize Israel.

"There are thousands of people with Arab American backgrounds who visit Israel each year and they face far less hassle than Israeli Christians, Jews or Muslims trying to visit the United States," he said. ■



Vitals

Mazel tov

Emily Cohen and Jack Porte, on their b'nai mitzvah, May 11. Marina Dauer on her bat mitzvah, May 11. Lily Gechter and Adam Hau, on their b'nai mitzvah, May 18. Rachel Pacernick on her bat mitzvah, May 18. Natan Zekic and Emily Klemptner, on their b'nai mitzvah, May 25. Miriam Blair Freedman on her bat mitzvah, May 25. Becky Hankin, on her adult bat mitzvah, May 31.

Levana and Stephen Aronson on the birth of their granddaughter, Talia Lee, daughter of

Dana and Ronnie Schinasi.

Rivka Pratt-Schiel and Jim Schiel on the birth of their son, Oren Isreal Schiel, April 21. Marvin and Susan Wagner on the engagement of their son, Matthew Wagner to Katie Yamoty.

Jackie Moore on the engagement of her daughter, Rachel, to Timothy Bosak.

Condolences

Douglas Quint on the death of his mother, Bargara Gilder Quint, March 20. Ron Koenig on the death of his mother, Gloria Koenig, March 20. Kim Perlman on the death of her mother, Margaret Dupuis, March 20. Aliza Shevrin on the death of her sister, Marsha Dorman, March 22. Eva Taylor on the death of her sister, Thea Friedman, March 23. Mindy Soclof on the death of her husband, Dr. Avi Soclof, March 29. Sheryl L. Fagin and Gary Fagin on the death of their father, Jack Fagin, March 30. Gary Fagin on the death of her mother, Ruth Zitomer, March 30. Eileen Pritzker on the death of her mother, Goldie Karabell, April 8. Joel Goldberg on the death of her mother, Silter Goldberg, April 12. Deena Jones on the death of her husband, Jim Hansell, April 20. Charles Ellis on the death of his father, Sheldon Ellis, April 20. Judith Shapiro on the death of her father, Norman Shapiro.

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