

## Sompop Jantraka to receive U-M Raoul Wallenberg Medal

Penny Schreiber, special to the WJN

University of Michigan Provost Teresa Sullivan will present Sompop Jantraka with the 17th Wallenberg Medal in Rackham Auditorium on Thursday March 13, at 7:30 p.m. After the medal presentation, Jantraka will deliver the 17th Wallenberg Lecture.

Sompop Jantraka has been risking his life since 1988 to save hundreds of young girls each year from lives of prostitution and drugs in Thailand's brothels. In 1989 he founded the Daughters Education Program (DEP), which in 1992 became part of a larger organization, the Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC). Through these organizations, Jantraka has provided a home and an education to these young people. He is proving that women can be far more valuable to Thailand as educated members of the work force than as sex slaves.

The sex trade remains disturbingly pervasive throughout Southeast Asia, where two-thirds of the world's extreme poor—790 million people—try to eke out a living on \$1 a day. The International Labor Organization believes that at least 1 million child prostitutes are in Southeast Asia, with the greatest



Sompop Jantraka

numbers in Thailand, India, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Brothel owners have networks of agents who comb villages and seek out troubled families. The Asian economic boom and its subsequent bust are fueling the problem,

according to a 2006 article in *TimeAsia*. The result has been a huge gap between rich and poor.

Jantraka's success at combating the sex trade has had little to do with bountiful resources. He and his network of volunteers identify children at risk and then plead, beg, or berate parents into allowing their children to attend his school. "Sompop is willing to go to any length," says American filmmaker Christopher Osborn, who once worked with Jantraka. "He will sacrifice his money, position, even his friends—to help children."

Sompop Jantraka grew up in the southern Thai city of Surat Thani, where he was the child of a broken home. A street urchin, Jantraka wandered the city's alleyways and hustled for change. No one observing him then would have pegged him as a future hero. But his life changed dramatically after he met American Peace Corps volunteer Rebecca Perham. She gave him two gifts: the chance to get an education and the notion that he could do something with his life.

In 1988, as a newly minted college graduate doing research on the causes of prostitu-

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## Refreshing experiences planned for community-wide women's event

Laura Berger, special to the WJN

In the dead of Michigan's winter, it's hard to imagine stepping out into anything but cold. However, the winter thaw will soon begin, and the advent of spring will bring beautiful new life.

The group of women who have spent months planning the second annual "Spa for the Body and Soul" hope those who attend will find warmth in the company of other women and renewing experiences at this event, Sunday, March 9, 2008 at the Four Points Sheraton.

Spa for the Body and Soul is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, in partnership with Hadassah, ORT, Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood, Beth Israel Congregation Women's League, Chabad of Ann Arbor and Jewish Family Services of Ann Arbor. "Last year's Spa for the Body and Soul was the first event of its kind in the Ann Arbor Jewish community, but it was so well-received and the attendees were so enthusiastic that our job was very easy this year. But we have done some fine-tuning anyway. There will be more sessions and a dynamic and inspiring keynote speaker in Geri Markel," said event chair Linda Benson. The event begins with breakfast and a boutique featuring local vendors at 9 a.m., and is followed by a choice of 10 different sessions led by local experts.

"I think the variety of programs we've come up with is wonderful," said Florence Gerber, a member of Hadassah and part of the event planning committee. "There's really something for women of all ages." Sessions are meant to engage participants physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, from 'Strength and Stretch' and 'Cardio Danc'e with Karen Silverman, to 'A Touch of Beaut' skin care and make-up consultation by Sephora, to 'Bringing Jewish Values into your Home' featuring advice from a mother of five, to 'Stir up your Seder!': a sampling of new twists on old Passover recipes from local chef Lori Shephard of Simply Scrumptious. While participants will have to choose two sessions from



Dr. Geri Markel

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## Israeli and Palestinian to speak on peace prospects

Aaron Ahuvia, special to the WJN

The leaders of the first joint Israeli-Palestinian think tank, Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), will share a first-hand assessment of the state of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in these uncertain times on Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. This forum is free and open to the public.

IPCRI co-CEOs, Israeli Gershon Baskin and Palestinian Hanna Siniora—both authors, activists, and educators—will be in Ann Arbor as part of a national 10-city tour, sponsored by the national organization Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, its Ann Arbor chapter, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Cultural Society, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, and with co-sponsorships from other local groups still being finalized.

Founded in January 1988, at the beginning of the first intifada, IPCRI served as a joint Israeli-Palestinian think-tank and "do-tank."

Its aim is to create and develop new concepts and ideas that enrich the political and public discourse in order to influence decision makers and to challenge the current political reality. IPCRI recognizes the rights of the Jewish people and the Palestinian people to fulfill their national interests within the framework of achieving national self-determination within their own states and by establishing peaceful relations between two democratic states living side-by-side.

"There has long been vigorous discussion within both Israeli and Palestinian societies, and between the two, about what shape a resolution should ultimately take," said Aaron Ahuvia, spokesperson for the Ann Arbor chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom. "Gershon Baskin and Hanna



Gershon Baskin



Hanna Siniora

Siniora are pioneers—together they have elevated and expanded this discourse despite tremendously difficult times. I hope they will similarly inspire and engage the American Jewish community to think and do."

Gershon Baskin, the Israeli co-director, co-founded IPCRI following years of field experience facilitating Jewish-Arab relations within

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## Community

### Letter to editor:

#### More on Tunesia

I was happy to read in the February, 2008, issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* about the current status of Jews in Tunisia. I lived and taught high school there in the 1970s and would like to qualify one of the statements made in the article. While I'm grateful that the current president, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, is such a strong supporter of education and public health, Tunisia's first president, Habib Bourguiba, set the high goals for literacy and health standards that are being continued today. When I was living there both girls and boys were encouraged to attend school through high school graduation. The government even allowed students to stay in school until age 25 to ensure as many graduates as possible and the school system was well-developed and available in all parts of the country. Also, the veil was forbidden by Bourguiba's government in order to allow women more independence and choice of career and lifestyle. I'm glad to read that these progressive policies are still in force in Tunisia. I enjoyed my time living and working there and always felt very welcomed by the local people.

Mimi Chapman, Ann Arbor

#### Sompop Jantraka, from page 1

tion in Thailand, he traveled to Mae Sai to interview girls destined for the sex trade. They begged him for help. Jantraka took the \$1,600 he had earned from his research job and paid the families of nineteen girls to keep them at home and send them to school.

Soon Jantraka was making both a huge impact and a lot of enemies. He realized quickly that it wasn't just brothel owners and pimps who had a vested interest in the sex trade. According to Jantraka, seemingly respectable people—wives of village leaders, teachers, police officers, and even parents—are often complicit in the sale of young girls into sexual slavery. The sex trade is profitable for everyone involved, except, of course, for the young women themselves.

DEPDC focuses on preventing child labor exploitation as well as continuing its efforts to end the trafficking of women and children into the sex industry. It operates an emergency shelter for abused or abandoned children, provides care for girls who have left prostitution, and offers education programs and human rights training for undocumented migrants and indigenous people.

Jantraka and his staff have been threatened with beatings and death and they have been warned that their school would be burned down. But if Jantraka becomes discouraged, he walks into his office and talks to Pensri Nubang, the program's business manager. Nubang was one of the first 19 girls that Jantraka saved. "He gave me a dream of a better life," Pensri says, "and the chance to achieve it."

Jantraka's efforts have earned him two Nobel Peace Prize nominations and in 2002 he was profiled as an Asia Hero in *Time* magazine. He objects to being called a hero, saying that the real heroes are the children who work at his school and teach the younger children the difference between right and wrong.

Early last year Jantraka resigned as the director of DEPDC in order to focus on anti-trafficking programs throughout the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. His Mekong Youth Net (MYN), which he started in 2003, will have 100 youth social workers this year spread throughout the Great Mekong Sub-Region to work on combating human trafficking. "This is a war," says Jantraka. "A war for our children."

The Waldenberg Medal honors Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews near the end of World War II. A 1935 graduate of the University of Michigan College of Architecture, Wallenberg worked in Budapest in the late 1930s. During that time he came into contact with many Jewish refugees from Europe; in 1944, at the request of Jewish organizations and the American War Refugee Board, the Swedish Foreign Ministry sent Wallenberg on a rescue mission to Budapest. Over the course of six months, Wallenberg issued thousands of protective passports. He confronted Hungarian and German guards to secure the release of Jews whom he claimed were under Swedish protection, placing some 15,000 Jews into 31 safe houses.

After reporting to Soviet headquarters in Budapest on January 17, 1945, Wallenberg vanished into the Soviet Gulag. Although the Russians say that Wallenberg died in 1947, the results of numerous investigations into his whereabouts remain inconclusive. The University of Michigan Raoul Wallenberg Endowment was established in 1985 to commemorate Wallenberg and to recognize those whose own courageous actions call to mind Wallenberg's extraordinary accomplishments and values. ■

For additional information, contact Wendy Ascione at 764-5536 or [wascione@umich.edu](mailto:wascione@umich.edu).

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## Community

### Tilson Thomas, San Francisco Symphony to perform at U-M

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

When Michael Tilson Thomas returns to Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium to conduct the San Francisco Symphony on Friday, March 14, he'll be bringing to the stage a world-class orchestra and his own decades long internationally acclaimed career as a conductor, pianist and composer. He will also be accompanied, albeit invisibly, by generations of Jewish musicians, cantors and performers from his own family tree. Tilson Thomas is the son of Ted Thomas, a well known Broadway stage manager, and the grandson of two of the greatest stars of the American Yiddish theater, Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, Boris Thomashefsky, who was born in a Ukrainian shtetl and emigrated to America as a 12 year old in 1881, claimed a lineage of cantors going back more than eight generations.

Thomashefsky is remembered for being not only one of the most famous and beloved actors of the Yiddish theater, but also for helping to create the American version of that genre. Though Yiddish theater was already thriving in Eastern Europe in the 1800s, Thomashefsky's New York performance in Avram Goldfaden's operetta, *The Witch*, in 1882, (he played a female part as a boy soprano) is considered to be the first American Yiddish theater performance. Five years later, still starring in female roles in road productions, he met then 14-year-old Bessie Baumfeld-Kaufman, who later became his wife and co-star. The two were superstars of the extremely popular Yiddish theater, playing hundreds of roles over the next few decades. Thirty thousand people attended his funeral in 1939.

Tilson Thomas, in addition to his role as music director of the San Francisco Symphony, is also artistic director of the New World Symphony, principal guest conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and artistic director of the Pacific Music Festival. His recordings with the San Francisco Symphony have received a number of Grammy awards and the orchestra gives performances at Carnegie Hall every year and tours internationally.

Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony are also deeply dedicated to music edu-

cation. (Their visit to Ann Arbor will include master classes at the University of Michigan's School of Music.) In 1988 MTT founded the New World Symphony, a training symphony for graduates of music conservatories. Along with the San Francisco Symphony, he's helped



Michael Tilson Thomas

to create Keeping Score, a multimedia project encompassing radio, television and Internet that introduces classical music to an ever-wider audience.

Though Michael Tilson Thomas has made his reputation in classical music, he has always recognized and acknowledged his roots. His heritage is audible in several of his own compositions, *Shówa/Shoáh*, created for the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, *From the Diary of Anne Frank*, and *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*, a musical memoir he composed and compiled to honor his grandparents and the history of the Yiddish theater in America. Indeed, his legacy is evident in all he that does in his life in music. Nahma Sandrow wrote about this at length in her article in Carnegie Hall's *Playbill*

for the 2005 debut of *The Thomashefskys*.

"As a boy in North Hollywood, Michael Tilson Thomas adored his grandmother's flamboyant yet down-to-earth personality, her generosity, and her youthful zest for life. Boris had already died, but Tilson Thomas heard many Yiddish theater songs and stories from Bessie and her friends, and from her son, the conductor's father, who was himself a considerable theatrical personage. Eventually, says Tilson Thomas, he understood so much more clearly what they were trying to do and discovered that 'it was the very essence of what I'm doing now.'

"Their attitudes toward new and innovative things, their openness toward exploring the avant-garde as well as making the classics more accessible to a new audience, are very important themes that have continued in my own life and career," he said.

Beyond this eclecticism, Tilson Thomas's grandparents showed him 'what a performance can be, where it can lead people.' In fact, he reflects, his concept of conducting is very much his grandparents' legacy. 'I try to create a subtext like an actor, to enter the persona of each composer,' he says. He goes on to remember how Bessie once struggled to explain how she created a role. 'All she could say was, 'I looked... saw... imagined,' recalls Michael Tilson Thomas. 'That's all she could say. Because with her, it was a colossal instinct—it was being in the creation. And for me, what I do means encouraging and guiding other people to be alive in the creation. 'Play it like you're improvising, like it was never written down,' I tell musicians. 'It's as much about you as about Tchaikovsky.'"

Ann Arbor is the third and final stop on the San Francisco Symphony's 2008 U.S. tour. The Symphony has appeared in Ann Arbor five times since 1980, the last three times with Tilson Thomas on the podium. The orchestra's 2008 tour begins with two performances in New York City's Carnegie Hall, moves on to New Brunswick, New Jersey and concludes in Ann Arbor. On the program for the Ann Arbor performance are two perennial favorites from the classical symphonic repertoire, *Sibelius's Symphony No. 7*, his final, and Beethoven's , the *Eroica*. ■

### AARH to present Shanghai's Jewish past on March 14

Joel Goldberg, special to the WJN

The lost world of Shanghai's Jews will be featured at the next Second Friday Discussion-and-Service, presented by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah on Friday, March 14, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. A computerized slide show will accompany the presentation.

For over 100 years, from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s, one of the most unlikely outposts of Judaism was located in Shanghai, China. Three successive waves of immigration brought Shanghai's thriving Jewish population to a peak of about 30,000, with leading Jewish families playing a vital role in China's commercial development.

During World War II, the Japanese occupiers ghettoized Shanghai's Jews at the behest of their German allies, and the post-war Communist triumph led to wide-

spread emigration of those who remained.

Today, little remains or is remembered of Shanghai's Jewish past. The population has almost entirely disappeared, the synagogues are closed, and the cemeteries have been destroyed, with the gravestones carted away or dumped into rivers.

Last Fall, Havurah members Sally and Joel Goldberg visited some of the Jewish community's remains with Dvir Bar Gal, an Israeli-born photojournalist now living in Shanghai, who is on a quest to create a permanent memorial documenting the story of Shanghai's Jews for future generations. In addition to talking about what they learned of Shanghai's Jewish history, they will show photos from their visit along with some of Bar Gal's own pictures.

No RSVP is needed. Free babysitting can be provided by calling Allison Stupka, 996-8570, by Wednesday, March 12. The discussion will be preceded by a brief Kiddush, and will conclude

with a couple of prayers. Chinese finger foods will be served, and a dinner will take place afterward at Great Lakes Chinese Seafood. For further information, call Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045, or email [auraahuvia@comcast.net](mailto:auraahuvia@comcast.net). ■



Sally and Joel Goldberg in China

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## JFS volunteers: enhance your life while helping others

Deborah Renner and Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

**L**ooking to live longer and help others? Volunteering with Jewish Family Services may be the way to accomplish both.

Based on discussions at the October Baby Boomer Summit, Jewish Family Services is expanding its volunteer program to provide new opportunities that engage community members to share their talents, skills and passions. While Jewish volunteering has always been an important part of the concept of tikkun olam (repairing the world), changes in the demographic and economic composition of communities means that both the need for volunteers and the potential for engaging volunteers in communities is greater than ever.

Interestingly, volunteering has also been found to provide health benefits to the volunteer. According to "The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research," on the website <http://www.nationalservice.org>, "Even when controlling for other factors—such as age, health, and gender—research has found that when individuals volunteer, they are more likely to live longer." In addition to raising life-expectancy rates, volunteering can help lower rates of depression and help people recover faster from illness.

Today's volunteers, particularly baby boomers, want a broad set of options that allow people to engage in different ways at different times. To accomplish this, Deborah Renner, JFS volunteer coordinator, will work closely with community members to find the right program or project to meet their needs. According to Renner, "volunteering should be a rewarding and enriching experience both for the volunteer and for the recipient of services".

An important part of the volunteer "matching" process is determining the volunteer's goals, as well as finding the best fit between their interests and schedule and community or organizational needs. JFS offers both specific volunteer positions, as well as working with community members who have volunteer ideas of their own, and can offer activity levels anywhere from one time "special events", on-call activities, weekly commitments, or even greater involvement.

Here are some of the volunteer positions available with JFS:

- **Caregiver "Navigators":** Individuals will help family caregivers who are looking at long term care options for their loved ones. Volunteers needed to visit assisted living facilities with families and provide an extra set of "eyes and ears" through this process.



**Steve Shiff volunteers his time at JFS helping out with the computers.**

- **Guest Presenters:** Speakers needed for either one time lectures or to be part of a series for either Baby Boomer and Older Adult programming at the Jewish Community Center.
- **Hobbyists:** Hobbyists and "crafters" needed for both Baby Boomer and Older Adult programming at the Jewish Community Center.
- **Friendly Visitors:** Meet with an isolated older adult once a week in their home. Friendly Visitors provide companionship or may help with shopping and errands.
- **Musicians:** Musicians are always in demand for older adult programming at the JCC as well as for outreach to area assisted living facilities.
- **Professional Skills:** Marketing and PR professionals, grant-writers, event planners, writers and editors, IT professionals and program assistants needed to work with JFS staff either from home or in the JFS office.
- **Pro Bono services:** Professionals in social work, mental health, law, medicine, dentistry, nursing, and similar fields are needed to provide services free of charge to one or more JFS clients per year. This program is particularly important given the financial crises many families and elderly community members face today.

- **Committee Members:** JFS has a number of active committees in which to get involved, including Strategic Planning, Youth and Family Services, Development, Special Events, Older Adult Services, and Volunteer Services. ■

Contact Deborah Renner of Jewish Family Services at 769-0209 or [Deborah@JFSannarbor.org](mailto:Deborah@JFSannarbor.org) if you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more.



**Continuing a long tradition of helping neighbors in the community, over 50 Jewish Family Services volunteers of all ages delivered Motor Meals on Christmas Day.**

## Pre-Purim Expo fun for the whole family

Devorah Goldstein, special to the WJN

You know Purim is coming when (a) those cans of poppyseed filling start flying off the grocery shelves; (b) you begin calculating how much gold glitter is required to cover three Queen Esther crowns; (c) Chabad of Ann Arbor announces its Pre-Purim Expo. Answer: All of the above. This year, Purim falls on Friday, March 21. The Sunday before, March 16, Chabad invites you to avoid the last-minute rush by attending their Pre-Purim Expo at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, from 2–4 p.m.



Get into the Purim spirit by creating *shaloch manot* (Purim gift baskets), designing *graggers* (noise makers) to drown out Haman's name, and noshing on all kinds of refreshments—yes, even poppyseed hamantaschen. Bring those goodies over to watch Ron the Bubble Man's amazing show, and enjoy all the great carnival games.

Come in costume and get a prize. Adults are also invited to dress up. Won't you feel relaxed the day before Purim, with your *graggers* gragging, your *shaloch manos* ready to be delivered, and your costumes ready? The admission is only \$4 per child—think how much gold glitter you'll still be able to buy. For more information, contact Shternie Zwiebel at 995-3276 or check [www.jewmich.com](http://www.jewmich.com).

## "Box Project" connects families in Israel and Ann Arbor

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor/Nahalal Community-to-Community committee announces the inauguration of the Box Project: a 3-D pen pal endeavor designed to connect families in Ann Arbor with families in Moshav Nahalal, a cooperative farming community in the Jezreel Valley. The Box Project task force, chaired by Viki Shayna, seeks 20 families representing all the community's schools of Jewish education, to be paired with 20 families from Nahalal. The paired families will exchange boxes with letters, photos, recipes, items used in holiday celebrations, etc. to learn about the similarities and differences of the Jewish communities in Ann Arbor and Nahalal.

The Community-to-Community effort, chaired by Eva Solomon and Cheryl Sugerman, is part of the Jewish Federation's long-term involvement with Partnership 2000, a Jewish Agency Program that pairs Diaspora and Israeli communities to develop mutually beneficial programming and relationships. In Michigan, the Partnership links the Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids Federations with the Central Galilee region comprised of the municipalities of Migdal Ha'Emek, Nazereth Illit, and the Jezreel Valley.

The Ann Arbor community developed a close relationship with Nahalal through its funding of the Jewish Family Education project and the subsequent connection between Hebrew Day School and the Nahalal Elementary School. By expanding the relationship to include families throughout Ann Arbor and focusing the efforts on building connections with community of Moshav Nahalal, it is hoped that both communities will develop a stronger sense of Jewish identity and understanding of Israel and its importance to the Jewish people.

"Personal interactions with Israelis during my first trip to Israel had a significant impact on my connection to the country and its people" Shayna says. "The Box Project is a unique and fun opportunity for Ann Arbor families to communicate directly with Israeli families as well as with one another."

The first meeting for the Box Project will take place Sunday, April 6. Families who are interested are asked to commit to participating for one year. For more information or to receive a registration form, contact Eileen Freed at the Jewish Federation at [eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org](mailto:eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org) or 677-0100.

## Hadassah to sponsor Bid'n Brew II on March 23

Barb Bergman, special to the WJN

Hadassah's Bid'n Brew II auction event, with more than 100 items and baskets up for bid, promises to be an afternoon for tantalizing the taste buds, entertainment and camaraderie. The auction will take place on Sunday, March 23, from 2–4 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.

During the auction, desserts and coffee will be provided, along with music. Auction items include tickets to theaters, jewelry, carpet cleaning, bowling, restaurant certificates, car servicing, beauty treatments, massages, electricians, plumbers, heating services, and much more.

The goal is to raise \$8,000 for the Hadassah Medical Organization and youth programs. The Hadassah auction held two years ago raised over \$5,000 for the Hadassah Medical Organization and the Arava Institute.

Auction registration begins at 2 p.m. and bidding ends at 3:30 p.m. Admission to Bid'n Brew II is \$10 for adults and \$5 for those 18 and younger. For more information, contact Barb Bergman at 668-6821 or [yoshka1942@aol.com](mailto:yoshka1942@aol.com) or contact Judy Williams at 665-1339 or [naugwarren@aol.com](mailto:naugwarren@aol.com). Reservations are encouraged.

## Israeli Dance Party at the JCC: fun for all ages 9 to 99

Laura Steiner, special to the WJN

Israeli dancing is back. The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is hosting an Israeli dance party on Sunday, March 16 from 7:30–10 p.m. Ann Arbor Israeli dance teacher Tom Starks will lead the dancing, joined by special guest teachers Cheryl Feit and Gordon Smith from the West Bloomfield JCC. They will be providing instruction for beginners from 7:30–8 p.m., although beginners are welcome to stay all evening. Open dancing will start at 8 p.m., when dancers can request their favorites and learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more.

The cost is \$6 per person, and refreshments will be served. Bring a pair of sneakers or other flat, comfortable shoes. To RSVP, contact Laura Steiner at [a2rikud@gmail.com](mailto:a2rikud@gmail.com) or the JCC front desk at 971-0990.

The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County  
thanks the **1366 donors** who helped raise  
**\$1,648,181** to date  
during 2007-2008 Annual Campaign



*Celebrate* **Jewish life**

*You give Jews all over the world and right here at home  
a reason to celebrate*

## Community unites to Celebrate Israel: 60 years of a Jewish homeland

Gilla Henya-Wiesel, special to the WJN

If you can't go to Israel this year, what would you think if Israel came to you?

This year, the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community will celebrate Israel with a variety of programming to bring Israel's culture, music, history, food, film, fashion and energy directly to you. Celebrate Israel @ 60 is an eight month celebration of Israel's 60th birthday. Programs will begin in March and culminate with a community trip to Israel in November 2008.

In May, three headline events will offer participants a taste of the latest in Israeli dance, the music of Israel's finest composers, and a Celebrate Israel festival. On Sunday, May 4, the fourth annual Celebrate Israel Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) festival will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The festival is a collaboration of over 15 Jewish agencies and organizations under the leadership of Celebrate Israel chairs, Leila Coverigaru and Bunky and Neal Elyakin. The planning committee is comprised of representatives from Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Beth Israel Congregation, Chabad of Ann Arbor, Hope for Peace, JCC, Jewish Cultural Society, Habonim Dror, Hadassah, Hebrew Day School, Keshet, ORT, Temple Beth Emeth and Young Judea.

Celebrate Israel will begin with a morning program including an Israeli breakfast, a lecture about Israeli culture today and a yoga class led by Rachel Portnoy. The celebration will continue with activities for the whole family including a *shuk* (market) with vendors offering Israeli made art, clothing and other merchandise; a variety of food choices; and children's activities run by local teens. "You will meet people of all backgrounds and history, Jewish and non-Jewish, all gathered to celebrate together the Israeli experience," says Neal Elyakin, one of the planning committee co-chairs.

Celebrate Israel will again welcome glass

artists Danny Katzir and Gail Kaplan, who will offer participants the opportunity to participate in a hands-on art project: the creation of a mosaic to commemorate Israel's 60th year of independence. The main stage will include local entertainment and a children's community chorus.

Celebrate Israel will bring the energy and rhythm of Israeli dance to Ann Arbor when Sheketak: Rhythm in Motion comes to the Power Center Monday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m.. Sheketak will offer a performance combining dance, movement, percussion and street energy similar to the popular act STOMP. Check out the Sheketak youtube video at [www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael](http://www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael). Tickets are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office or at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

Israeli music will come to Ann Arbor on Sunday, May 18 at 7 p.m. when the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra takes the Michigan Theater stage with Temple Beth Emeth's Kol Halev choir. This celebration of Israeli composers will be a wonderful opportunity for music lovers of all ages.

Additional community Celebrate Israel @ 60 programming includes lectures on a variety of topics, Israeli films as part of the JCC's 7th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival and the Beth Israel Israeli film series, a Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) commemoration and the Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) Caravan performance. Join other Michigan Jewish communities and Maccabi games athletes at the Michigan State Fair Grounds on August 21 for "A Fair to Remember," including rides, attractions and many Israel-related activities.

For more information about Celebrate Israel @ 60 activities, visit the Celebrate Israel website [www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael](http://www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael) or contact Gilla Henya-Wiese at 677- 0100 or [celebrateisrael@jewishannarbor.org](mailto:celebrateisrael@jewishannarbor.org). ■

### Celebrate Israel schedule of events

- **Israel at the Crossroads: How You Can Have a Real Impact**  
Lecture by Rafi Danziger, Ph.D., AIPAC National Director of Research and Information  
Tuesday, March 11, 8 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation
- **One Holy Land, Two Holy Peoples: Islamic & Jewish Regard for the Holy Land and Their Impact on the Current Conflict**  
Shabbaton with Rabbi Reuven Firestone, Professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles  
Friday and Saturday, March 14–15, Temple Beth Emeth
- **All Ensemble Concert** featuring Israeli Music  
Sunday, March 16, 4 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth
- **Israeli Deputy Consul General Andy David**  
Program details to be announced  
Tuesday, March 17
- **Havdallah, Israeli Chocolate Tasting & Film: Walk on Water**  
Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth
- **Celebrate Israel Festival**  
Sunday, May 4, 10 am–5p.m., Jewish Community Center
- **Sheketak: Rhythm in Motion**  
Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m., Power Center
- **Israeli Art, Craft & Jewellery**  
Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m., Home of Cindy & Scott Kellman
- **Yom Hazikaron** (Israel Memorial Day)  
Program and Service  
Wednesday, May 7, Beth Israel Synagogue
- **7th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival in Ann Arbor**  
May 11–15, Michigan Theater  
Celebrate Israel Featured Films  
May 12, Knowledge is the Beginning  
May 13, Someone To Run With  
May 14, Eye Witness: David Rubinger  
May 15, Six Days
- **Songs of Israel at her 60th**  
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and Temple Beth Emeth's Kol Halev Choir  
Sunday, May 18, 7 p.m., Michigan Theater
- **The Dead Sea Copper Scrolls**  
Lecture by Israeli archaeologist Oren Gutfeld, Ph.D.  
Sunday, June 1, 7:45 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation
- **Israeli Film Series**  
June 2008  
Beth Israel Congregation
- **Tzofim** (Israeli Scouts) Caravan  
Tuesday, July 15  
Jewish Community Center
- **A Fair to Remember at the Michigan State Fairgrounds**  
The largest gathering of the Michigan Jewish community in more than half a century with tons of fun including rides, attractions, and lots of Israel-related activities.  
August 21, 2008, Michigan State Fairgrounds
- **Community Mission to UJC General Assembly** in Jerusalem and Federation funded projects in Israel  
November 16–23

## Strategic planning for Jewish Older Adult Services enters new phase

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

In early 2006, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County convened a series of interviews that engaged the diverse Jewish constituencies in Washtenaw County to look at ways to build the strategic backbone of our community. One of the results of these intensive and collaborative community discussions was the formation of a strategic planning task force chaired by Harriet Bakalar, LCSW, that met during 2006 and 2007 around the topic of Older Adult Services.

The task force consisted of volunteer leaders from the Federation, Jewish agencies, and the community-at-large with an interest and expertise in services to older adults. In addition, the task force included professionals representing Federation-affiliated agencies currently providing services to older adults. The task force was charged with gathering, reviewing and analyzing information related to services for Jewish older adults. It was also charged with formulating recommendations to be presented to the Federation board of directors.

The Federation engaged United Jewish Communities (UJC) to provide consultation and facilitate the visioning, community needs assessment and priority setting process. The task force met six times over the course of eight

months to review existing services, identify additional information needed, establish criteria for prioritizing and ultimately recommend priority areas of focus that met their shared vision. The shared vision was defined this way:

Washtenaw County will be a community where the physical, psychosocial and spiritual needs of all Jewish older adults will be met in a positive, comprehensive and satisfying manner and where older adults are active and engaged in providing meaningful contributions to the community.

The task force ultimately focused on five areas of priority described below. These recommendations were determined by considering community strengths and gaps in service as well as the criteria established by the task force. These are presented as initial strategies to meet the current and future needs of Jewish older adults in Washtenaw County.

### 1) Jewish information and referral for older adult services

In order to help Jewish older adults and their families understand and access services offered by both the Jewish and non-Jewish community, the Older Adults Task Force recommends the establishment of a centralized formal system for

providing education, information and referral services on older adult services and programs. Goals of this system would be to:

- Ensure a comprehensive, accessible and responsive system to provide timely information about services for older adults and their families;
- Track inquiries to identify unmet needs and emerging trends;
- Conduct periodic follow up with individuals who inquire to ensure they are satisfied and received the needed information;
- Assist individuals in determining eligibility for existing government benefits.

### 2) Jewish outreach program

The task force felt it was important to conduct proactive outreach to older adults who reside in retirement housing, assisted living and nursing homes as well as those who participate in adult day care programs, receive in home support or who are homebound. Goals of these efforts would be to:

- Ensure older adults wherever they reside or participate are engaged and able to experience the customs and celebrations of Jewish life;
- Help to engender cultural sensitivity in staff and operators of facilities and programs in

which Jews reside or participate;

- Provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for the broader Jewish community.

### 3) Welcoming and engaging older adults

The task force felt it was important to ensure that older adults were not just seen as a population in need of services, but was also viewed as a key community asset to be further engaged. Goals of such an effort would be to:

- To create a warm and welcoming environment for older adults entering the community;
- To provide resources and support to those who are "coming of age" and assist in transitions;
- To foster community engagement through lifelong learning and volunteerism.

### 4) Community wide special needs fund

The Task Force identified the need for a special emergency fund for Jewish individuals as a priority area of focus. The fund would give priority to special Jewish needs and would seek to raise or allocate the needed funds.

- Ensure access to funding for emergency needs of a Jewish nature (e.g., burial, Jewish divorce, etc.);
- Provide a safety net for Jewish individuals who are not eligible for other community safety net programs.

*continues on next page*

## Seniors

### Older Adults: SPICE\* of Life

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

#### Tuesdays

**10 a.m. Fitness Fun** with Maria Farquhar, \$4, or 3 for \$10

**10 a.m.-noon—The Bible in its Time:** Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, Ph.D.

**11 a.m. The State of World Jewry.** Group discussion.

**Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet** \$3

**1 p.m. Games and Activities.** A variety of games and activities to enjoy, including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker. (Additional poker player needed.)

#### Thursdays

**10 a.m. Fitness Fun** with Maria Farquhar, \$4, or 3 for \$10

**11 a.m. Current Events** with Heather Dombey, A Jewish perspective on this week's news

**Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet** \$3

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

**2:15 p.m. Literary Group** with Sidney Warschawsky

#### Fridays

**1:30 p.m. March 7, 14, 21, and 28 and April 4, 11, 18 and 25, Yiddish Reading Group** at the home of Ray Juni, 761-2765.

#### Thursday special events and presentations

**March 6: 12:30 p.m.**

**Birthday celebration.** Special congratulations will go out to those who are 80 years old or better. Bring family members. Cake and ice cream.

**March 6: 1 p.m.**

Carol Finerman and Elise Weisbach will present "Preserving Jewish History." Carol Finerman, Kelsey Museum and Jewish Historical Society Archivist (and president of Beth Israel Congregation), will share historical information and interview records of the local Jewish community and bring us a "finding aid." Elise Weisbach of the Jewish Historical Society (dedicated to collecting and preserving oral histories, documents, photographs, and artifacts of local Jewish history) will also join. Following the talk by Finerman and Weisbach, there will be a concert by pianist Brian DiBlassio, assistant professor of music at the University of Michigan – Flint, in honor of International Women's Day. This worldwide tradition honors mothers, wives, friends and colleagues. DiBlassio will perform works from George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern and more

**March 13: 1 p.m.**

Ann Arbor District Library and WWII Library Outreach Coordinator, Ira Lax, presents a discussion and lecture on "The Homeland during WWII."



**Thursday, March**

**20: 1 p.m.**

**Yiddish Open House**

Yiddish Film *The Mame-Loshn* is a documentary film including popular figures such as comedian David Steinberg

talking about Yiddish being spoken in their households. 58 minutes. For more information, contact Lily Ladin at 662-6613.

**March 27: 1 p.m.**

**Cooking with Dark Green Vegetables**

Local expert Linda Diane Feldt talks about greens and herbs for common ills.

March 27: 7:30 p.m.

**Yiddish Open House**

with Annie Rose and Kol Halev (see below)



Linda Diane Feldt

#### Special Events



Sarah Cleveland



Annie Rose

**Wednesday, March**

**12: Matinee Musicale**

With special guest cellist, Sarah Cleveland, the soloist from *Don Quixote*.

1:30 p.m. dessert and socializing. 2 p.m. concert.

**Thursday, March 27:**

**Yiddish Open House**

**with Annie Rose and**

**Kol Halev**

7:30 p.m. Annie Rose and Kol Halev choir members. Special event for Yiddish Open House.

#### Continued from previous page

#### 5) Case management

The Task Force concluded that there was a need for a comprehensive case management program to serve a larger number of older adults and to ensure access to those with limited resources. Jewish Family Service currently provides some case management services and the demand for the service currently exceeds the ability of the staff to meet the needs in a comprehensive fashion. Goals in this area are to:

- Provide a more comprehensive case management program to older adults who are currently JFS clients;
- Expand services to enable those with limited resources to access these vital services.

As the community enters the implementation phase of the strategic plan for older adults, Dr. Ami Rosenthal, who served on the Older Adult Services Task Force is chairing another broad-based committee that will take the priorities and put them into action. The first meeting is tentatively set for February 27. ■

For a copy of the full Older Adult Services Task Force report visit [www.jewishannarbor.org](http://www.jewishannarbor.org) or contact Elisha Caplan ([elisha@jewishannarbor.org](mailto:elisha@jewishannarbor.org)) 677-0100.



**Jewish Family Services**  
of Washtenaw County

#### JFS Caregiver Conversations

Thursday, February 21, 2008

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center

A monthly drop-in group for adult children in caregiving roles for their aging parents

Supported by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County

**Sunday, March 30, 2008**



JFS holds its third DWF fundraising event offering community members the chance to dine at area homes and restaurants in support of JFS - family in the community.

Attend the After Glow Reception at the JCC at 8:00 pm.

Register early to guarantee your spot at your favorite meal!



**JFS Youth and Family Workshop**  
building support for youth in crisis

May 2, 2008

12:30 pm

Jewish Community Center

Join us for the second Youth & Family workshop which will explore resources available and resources needed to assist families with pre-teen and teenage children at risk of crisis behavior. **Lunch will be provided.**

Supported by the Benard L. Maas Foundation

Visit [www.jfsannarbor.org](http://www.jfsannarbor.org) or call (734) 769-0209

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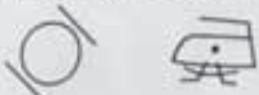
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## Congregations

### Jewish Cultural Society March events

Erika Hauff, special to the WJN

#### Annual Purim Party

Purim may not be the most important Jewish holiday, but everyone loves Purim precisely because it appeals to us all. It is a festive, boisterous day that is all about creativity (costumes and plays), community, Jewish identity, heroes and villains, righteous women, history and making history relevant, resistance to oppression, tasty treats and groggers and games, giving to others (*mishloach manot* or sending gifts to the poor), and just plain fun.

Join the fun at the Jewish Cultural Society's Purim Party on Sunday, March 16 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Jewish Community Center. The party will feature games and prizes; arts and crafts for children of all ages; hamentashen, pizza, and drinks; Purim *spiel* (play) and costume parade. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Admission is free and open to the public. Tickets for games and food will be on sale at the door, 25 cents a piece or five for \$1.

#### Pourin' for Purim

The Pourin' for Purim JCS Annual Benefit will be held Friday March 14, at 7 p.m. at the JCC. Childcare will be provided. Local businesses will take participants on a wine, beer, and cheese tasting adventure. Previous years included Matt Morgan of Morgan & York. This year, fine cheeses and gelato will be provided by Josh Miner, Gelato Specialist of Zingerman's Creamery. Tickets are \$45 per person or \$80 per couple. All proceeds directly support JCS programs, including the Secular Humanistic Adult Education Se-

ries; Sunday Schmoozes; the B'nai Mitzvah Program; Sunday School, including Hebrew classes; and monthly Rosh Hodesh and First Friday Shabbat gatherings.

#### Adult Education Series

"From Sumeria to Brooklyn, The Long, Strange Trip of the Jewish People" marks the first of an education series for Jewish adults, taught bi-weekly on Sunday mornings by Larry Kuperman. Larry Kuperman has been a JCS member and Sunday School teacher for many years.



Larry Kuperman

This program is perfect for those interested in learning about Jewish history, the origins of the Bible, the forms of Judaism today, including focus on Secular Humanistic values, and the implications for our modern identity. Presentations are held at the Jewish Community Center, from 10:15-11:45 a.m. Light snack and coffee will be provided. There is no charge. For more information, call 975-9872 or email [jcs@jccfed.org](mailto:jcs@jccfed.org)

The topic on Sunday March 2 will be "Judaism and Islam." How have these two major religions, with so much in common in terms of language and geographical origins, co-existed? What are the implications for today?

The topic on Sunday, March 30 will be

"The roots and consequences of the Holocaust." Was the Holocaust inevitable? How has it shaped our Jewish identity?

#### First Friday Shabbat

First Friday Shabbat will be held March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the JCC. The JCS runs two Shabbat observances concurrently; one for adult/young adult members and another one for young children. The First Friday Observance is designed for adult and young adult members who want to slow down and take time at the end of a busy week to relax and reflect on the week past and the week to come. Sometimes there is a speaker, sometimes the group discusses a topic of interest, and sometimes the group just hangs out and shares time with JCS family and friends.

Children participate in Family Shabbat with the *tzofim* (aides). Shabbat begins with a short and upbeat celebration, geared to young kids with lots of singing and jumping. Following Shabbat, all have dinner together, and then the kids read stories, work on a craft project, run around in the gym or play outside to burn off some of their extra energy. March's First Friday continues a culinary tour of the Jewish world. The destination for March is the Americas. Participants should bring a (vegetarian) South/Central American dish to pass, or bring a small contribution to cover the cost of ordering (\$8/person or \$20/family). ■

For more information or to RSVP for any JCS program, call 975-9872 or email [jcs@jccfed.org](mailto:jcs@jccfed.org).

### Rabbi Alan Lew to visit Ann Arbor

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Rabbi Alan Lew, a leader in the budding Jewish meditation movement, will be visiting Ann Arbor from April 4-6. All are invited to partake in this weekend of pre-Passover spiritual preparation. The weekend will include several talks, text study, and experiential components.

Erev Shabbat on April 4 will take place at Temple Beth Emeth with a Shabbat Dinner catered by Simply Scrumptious at 6 p.m., followed by Shabbat Services led by TBE clergy and a sermon by Rabbi Lew. Shabbat morning services on April 5 at University of Michigan Hillel will be based on a traditional model, according to Lew, but will include considerably less text, and considerably more chanting and silence. Saturday afternoon themes of discussion will be "The Four Cups of Freedom; Four Aspects of Spiritual Liberation," and "Leave-Taking; The Biblical Pre-Requisite to Spiritual Liberation." The afternoon program will conclude at Beth Israel Congregation with a *seudah sh'lisheet* (third meal).

Sunday morning April 6 will be devoted to a workshop based on Rabbi Lew's most recent book,



Rabbi Alan Lew

*Be Still and Get Going* and will take place at Beth Israel Congregation. "It will be an examination of *Yetziat Mitzraim* (the Exodus from Egypt)," says Lew, "the seminal moment of Biblical leave-taking, and the extraordinary Five-Step program for transformation that we find there."

Rabbi Alan Lew served many years as the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco, where he is currently the emeritus rabbi. He is also the founding director of Makor Or, a center for Jewish meditation adjacent to Beth Sholom. He has published several books, travels and lectures extensively, and has won numerous awards.

The cost for the whole weekend is \$36. Checks should be made out to Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah and mailed to P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48107. Be sure to indicate in the memo section that the check is for the Alan Lew event. Scholarships and student discounts for the weekend are available; for information, contact Devon Fitzig at [dfitzig@templebethemeth.org](mailto:dfitzig@templebethemeth.org) or 665-4744. ■

Rabbi Lew's visit is being co-sponsored by the Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Pardes Hannah, and University of Michigan Hillel. If you would like to help with the weekend or would like more information, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or [dfitzig@templebethemeth.org](mailto:dfitzig@templebethemeth.org).



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# Temple Beth Emeth programs

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

## Families with young children

For families with kids from birth to five years old. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as always. Non members are welcome at all events.

## TBE Megillah Reading & Purim Carnival with tot activities at the JCC

Thursday, March 20  
6 p.m. Megillah Reading, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Carnival. Pizza dinner will be available for purchase. All are welcome.

## Tot Pesach with Rabbi Levy at TBE

Sunday, April 6, 4–5 p.m.  
Enjoy Pesach-themed music, crafts and a story.

## Tot Shabbat every week

Join every week for Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and *Shira* (Song Fest & Service) at 6:45 p.m.. From 6–7:15 p.m. there is Tot dinner for \$4/person and Shabbat dinner catered by Simply Scrumptious for \$9/person. RSVP for dinner to 665-4744 or jhaines@templebethemeth.org.

PJ Library is a free book a month program for families that have children aged six months to seven years old.

## Twenties & Thirties

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. Visit the website at <http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt> for upcoming events, email at [tnt@templebethemeth.org](mailto:tnt@templebethemeth.org), or call 665-4744.

## Purim Party and Potluck at the Perry's

Saturday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Dara at [dara@detailsart.com](mailto:dara@detailsart.com) by March 10. TNT Planning Meeting Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.. Pizza dinner provided. RSVP by March 31.

## Break Passover at Pizza House

Sunday, April 27, 7 p.m. RSVP to Jessica at [jegoldbe@umich.edu](mailto:jegoldbe@umich.edu) by April 21.

## Movie Tuesdays

For people with flexible schedules. Monthly Film and Discussion series held on Tuesday afternoons from 1–3 p.m. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice. Movie Tuesdays usually occur on the third Tuesday of the month.

**Movie: *The Ritchie Boys***, Tuesday, March 18, 1–3 p.m.

*The Ritchie Boys* is the untold story of a group of young men who fled Nazi Germany and returned to Europe as soldiers in U.S.-uniforms. They knew the psychology and the language of the enemy better than anybody else. In Camp Ritchie, Maryland, they were trained in intelligence and psychological warfare. Not always courageous, but determined, bright, and inventive they fought their own kind of war. They saved lives. They were victors, not victims.



## Saturday morning Torah study

An exploration of the weekly Torah portion held in the TBE chapel. Saturdays at 8:50 a.m., followed by a lay-led chapel service at 9:30 a.m. (optional). Casual dress is fine.

## Women's Rosh Chodesh

Sunday, March 16, 6:30–7:30 p.m.  
Celebrate the new moon/month in a meaningful gathering of women. Co-sponsored by Caring Community and the TBE Sisterhood, each short service is followed by a discussion, study session, or special presentation. For more information, contact Abbie Eggherman at 975-0828 or [aje\\_2001@yahoo.com](mailto:aje_2001@yahoo.com). To subscribe to the Rosh Chodesh email list, contact Devon at [dfitzig@templebethemeth.org](mailto:dfitzig@templebethemeth.org). Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

## Jewish Hikers at Kensington Metropark

Sunday, March 9, 2 p.m.  
Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. All adult couples, singles and children are welcome. The hikes take place on a monthly basis on different trails in the local area. All skill levels are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. Each hike lasts approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. There will be a small parking fee. For further information or if you are interested in carpooling, contact Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645, or email [jewish.hikers@gmail.com](mailto:jewish.hikers@gmail.com). Web site: [http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish\\_hikers\\_of\\_michigan](http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan). The next hike will be on Sunday, April 13.

## Praying with our Feet: Jewish Views on Social Justice with Devon Fitzig

Why are Jews so overrepresented in social justice groups? Come hear about American Jewish Activism and explore Jewish texts.

4 weeks, Mondays, March 17 and 24; April 7 and 14, 7:30–9 p.m.

## Israel at 60 events

Shabbaton with Rabbi Reuven Firestone on "One Holy Land, Two Holy Peoples: Islamic and Jewish Regard for the "Holy Land" and their impact on the Current Conflict." March 14–15. Join for Shabbat dinner on Friday followed by a sermon by Rabbi Firestone. On Saturday, Shabbat Services at 10 am will be followed by lunch and two interactive talks. The cost of the dinner is \$9 per person. The cost for attending the Day of Learning on Saturday which begins after services is \$18, \$27 for Friday and Saturday. Scholarships are available. contact Devon, 665-4744 for more information or to register.

**Free All-Ensemble Concert** featuring Israeli Music at TBE on Sunday, March 16 from 4–5 p.m. ■

For more information on TBE programs, contact Devon Fitzig, [dfitzig@templebethemeth.org](mailto:dfitzig@templebethemeth.org), or 665-4744

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# March events at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

## Pirates of Purim star in Megilla reading

Boys and girls, men and women are invited to dress in costume and attend Beth Israel's Megilla reading combined with a sing along, inter-



active Purim Shpiel, "The Pirates of Purim," on Thursday night, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. A massive ship's steering wheel will take center stage on the bima as Beth Israel's Rabbi Dobrusin and staff portray a pirate crew and Jewish guests aboard a pirate ship plying the Persian Sea. Also during this time coffee/tea/hot chocolate and hamantashen will be available throughout the evening at Meeka's Mocha Hut. Everyone "young of heart" will receive a faux talent of silver, which represents First Mate Haman's bribe to Achasverosh, the Captain and Pirate King.

The Megilla reading is preceded at 7 p.m. by a fun, light-hearted (and blessedly short) Maariv service, which pays tribute to the Jewish tradition of never being afraid to laugh and have some fun in the performance of a mitzvah.

## Festivities on the day of Purim

On Friday morning, March 21, at 7:30 a.m., the Shacharit Service includes a Torah reading and the traditional Megilla reading, followed by breakfast. That evening, Beth Israel offers a family Persian Purim Seudah (Purim Meal) with "Purim Torah, Pranks, and Lots of Puns" at 6 p.m., followed by the Kabbalat Shabbat Service and desserts at 7:15 p.m. The Persian Meal includes Middle Eastern salads, grape leaves, humus, baklava and hamentashen. The cost is \$10 per adults and \$5 per child, and kids five and under are free. Payment confirms reservation.

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

## Activities for young families

The Beth Israel Spring Retreat for Young Families will be held May 23–24 at the Butzel Conference Center in Ortonville, Michigan. This is a weekend filled with fun for the whole family in a relaxing and beautiful wooded-lake setting. Participants will enjoy a spirited Shabbat with lots of singing, good food, exciting activities and friendly staff that makes sure that every child has a special experience. Activities will include crafts, sports, family games, hiking, boating, a camp-fire and more. The Butzel Conference Center offers comfortable resort-like facilities overlooking a private lake in a beautiful countryside setting. It is located on the grounds of Tamarack Camps, and is staffed by experienced counselors from their summer or other family camp programs. This Retreat is open to non-members, and there is a charge.

Tot Shabbats for preschoolers and their parents take place on Saturdays March 8 and

March 22, from 11 a.m.–noon and include songs, stories, prayers, and puppets. On Saturday, March 18, the Tot Shabbat is run by Peretz Hirshbein and on Saturday, March 22, Jennifer Levine will lead Tot Shabbat. There is no charge for this program. Also on Saturday, March 8, kids in kindergarten through second grades are invited to the Minyan Matok (M&M) led by Jessica Kander.

## Annual blood drive

Beth Israel's annual Red Cross blood drive will run on Sunday, March 16 from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. in the Beth Israel Social Hall. Giving blood is an easy way to save a life, and perform an important mitzvah. There is an on-line sign-up with the Red Cross. Donors should go to [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org), click Donate Blood Now and fill in their email address and birth date where indicated, and the sponsor code, which is: bic13. For more information or to volunteer for recruitment efforts, contact Ruth Kraut, blood drive coordinator, at 769-5680.

## Shabbat yoga

On March 15 at 9 a.m., Shabbat Yoga will be offered in room 15. The class is a gentle "yoga flow" class which is intended to help increase one's openness and awareness before joining the regular Shabbat service, inspired by the emerging practice of Jewish yoga. Participants are asked to arrive five minutes before the class and bring along some comfortable clothing. Yoga is practiced barefooted on yoga mats. The class is taught by Allison Stupka.



Rafi Danziger

and bring along some comfortable clothing. Yoga is practiced barefooted on yoga mats. The class is taught by Allison Stupka.

## Israel at the Crossroads

On Tuesday, March 11, at 8 pm, Rafi Danziger, Ph.D., AIPAC national director of research and information, will present "Israel at a Crossroads: How You Can Have a Real Impact." Dr. Danziger joined AIPAC in 1990 as Director of Research and Information, and also is the editor of AIPAC's biweekly newsletter, Near East Report. During the 1980s he was a foreign policy analyst at the American Jewish Congress. Previously, he taught modern Middle Eastern history at the University of Haifa in Israel, and at the University of Washington in Seattle. He also was a visiting fellow at Princeton University and a consultant on Middle Eastern affairs at the Hudson Institute.

Dr. Danziger holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton, an M.A. from the University of Washington, and a B.A. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published a book and many articles on the Middle East and North Africa, and his op-eds have appeared in the *New York Times* and other leading newspapers. He has lectured extensively on the Middle East, and he has been interviewed on the PBS *MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour* and other news programs.

## Non-movement seminary set to graduate its first rabbis

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—When Ruach Ami, a small, lay-led Conservative congregation in Santiago, Chile, began looking for a rabbi, it did not turn to the movement's Latin American seminary.

Formed last April after the disintegration of Santiago's only other egalitarian congregation, Ruach Ami members wanted to preserve the spiritual and progressive focus of its parent synagogue, says member Victor Grimblatt. They feared a rabbi from the Masorti seminary would take them in a different direction.

Then they heard about Hebrew College in Newton Centre, Mass., whose rabbinical school is set to graduate its first class of 11 transdenominational rabbis on June 1.

"When we found out it was not affiliated with any movement, we said, 'That's interesting,'" Grimblatt told JTA. "Our group of 20 families

answering a growing need. They are training to serve an American Jewish community where denominational lines are increasingly fluid, where independent, lay-led minyan are popping up from coast to coast, and where Hillel and birthright israel programs provide hundreds of thousands of Jewish college and post-college students a taste for pluralistic Jewish life.

America's growing number of new non-Orthodox rabbis Like their colleagues from the movement seminaries, many of these new rabbis are finding jobs outside the pulpit, often as chaplains, Hillel directors and Jewish educators. It's when they aim for pulpit positions in affiliated congregations that the walls go up, as they compete for jobs with movement rabbis on a playing field that is controlled by the denominations.

Despite the challenges, the number of students entering non-affiliated seminaries continues to grow, says Rabbi David Greenstein, the rosh yeshiva at the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York. The unaffiliated seminary he heads has ordained 114 rabbis since 1956, 39 of them—more than one-third—since 2000. The school currently has 60 rabbinical students.

"We've been growing exponentially," Greenstein says. "People are beginning to understand the denominations were not given at Sinai."

In fact, the denominations are barely more than a century old, the lines drawn according to levels of ritual observance that are no longer set in stone, says Rabbi Arthur Green, the rector of Hebrew College's rabbinical school.

Green says the program was created five years ago not just to serve a communal need but to provide a home for future rabbis who don't fit movement categories.

"We have people who are Reform theologically and Conservative in practice, or who consider themselves Conservadox," he says.

The seminary's curriculum reflects that pluralism, combining traditional text study with wide-ranging commentaries, including thinkers from Reform to Orthodox. The faculty also spans the denominational spectrum.

Additionally, the curriculum includes required training in community organizing and pastoral counseling.

"We think the wave of the future is the transdenominational congregation, or a multiplex congregation that welcomes many kinds of Jews and holds different styles of services," Green says. "We are preparing people to serve in those flexible, varied kinds of settings."

At 34, Koritzinsky is the youngest in his class. Most are in their 40s and 50s, and are entering the rabbinate as a second career. But he shares with his colleagues a similar eclectic background.

Koritzinsky was raised Reform in a family that was "more culturally Jewish than religious." His interest in Judaism bloomed during college. A Russian studies major, he worked with Hillel in the former Soviet Union, and helped run Jewish family camps with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in the late 1990s. He also studied at Pardes, an unaffiliated, co-educational yeshiva in Jerusalem. "Those were pivotal years, when I committed myself to international Jewish communal work," he says.

When Koritzinsky decided to pursue a rabbinical career, he chose Hebrew College because it offered the same pluralist vision.

"It's about serving the entire community, not one denomination," he says.

Rabbi Sharon Cohen-Anisfeld, the dean of the rabbinical school, says the 2008 graduating class has been flooded with job inquiries.

"We're at the beginning of the process," she says, "but it's wonderful to see the interest and need and range of possibilities out there."

**While they are applying for jobs, the non-movement rabbis must avoid antagonizing the movements.**

Many of those offers are for non-pulpit positions with Hillel or religious schools, or as chaplains.

Judy Ehrlich, 52, plans to take a job as chaplain at Hebrew Senior Life, an assisted and independent Jewish living facility in Boston.

Ehrlich grew up Orthodox in South Africa, but she and her husband have been members of a Conservative minyan in Newton for the past 17 years. The minyan's combination of traditional worship style with a diverse membership feels "comfortable," she says, adding that she "identifies with Conservative ideology" but maintains an observance level she describes as Modern Orthodox.

That eclecticism led her to Hebrew College. "No Orthodox community would accept me as a rabbi," she says.

Some Hebrew College students transferred from other seminaries, preferring a transdenominational approach.

Rogerio Cukierman, 36, a second-year student from Brazil, received his master's degree in Judaic studies from the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, but switched to Hebrew College for his rabbinical training.

"Rabbinical school is supposed to be a transformational experience," Cukierman says. "At a denominational seminary I have to decide the kind of rabbi I'll be without going through the

*Continued on next page*

**They are training to serve an American Jewish community where denominational lines are increasingly fluid.**

is partly Conservative and partly Progressive."

This summer, if all goes well, newly ordained Rabbi Chaim Koritzinsky will take that pulpit.

"I'm learning Spanish fast," Koritzinsky says from his Boston-area home.

The rabbis Hebrew College expects to ordain this year, and the 41 others coming up in four classes behind them, will join a fast-growing group of rabbis produced by a handful of seminaries not affiliated with the major Jewish streams.

These rabbis, and their teachers, say they are

## Leaders fret over growing divide between religious streams

By Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA)—The growing ideological gap between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox threatens the long-term unity of the Jewish people, several communal leaders said at a forum to address the matter.

At issue were the results of a survey conducted in November by the American Jewish Committee, which found widening differences between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox on a range of issues.

The January 31 forum convened by the AJC and the Orthodox Union also included leaders of the Reform movement.

The AJC's 2007 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion focused mainly on the political preferences and concerns of Jews leading into this election season.

It showed that while Jews across the religious spectrum have maintained their political party affiliation, on specific issues the Orthodox are becoming much more conservative than Jews who affiliate with the more liberal religious streams of Judaism.

This trend raises serious questions about whether the Jews are still capable of remaining a cohesive people, said the AJC's executive director, David Harris, who moderated the forum.

"We are all Jews. But do we share everything, including a common language?" Harris asked during the event at the AJC's Manhattan headquarters.

"A number of us have been asking this more and more frequently in part because of findings in the AJC's annual survey, which speaks to a divide. And the question is how significant is this divide, and what does this say about future conversations within the Jewish people, and to the extent that it is real, can it be bridged?"

The most significant differences in opinion between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox center on Israel and the Iraq war, according to the survey, which has been conducted annually since 1997.

According to the survey, 69 percent of Orthodox Jews said they feel "very close" to Israel, compared to 29 percent of Conservative Jews and 22 percent of Reform Jews. Only 4 percent of the Orthodox said they feel "fairly distant," as opposed to 14 percent of Conservatives and 25 percent of the Reform.

Fifty-seven percent of Orthodox Jews said the United States "did the right thing" when it invaded Iraq and support U.S. military action against Iran. Only 27 percent of Conservative Jews backed the Iraq war and 38 percent favored strikes against the Islamic Republic; among Reform Jews the totals were 22 percent and 32 percent.

Nathan Diament, the O.U.'s director of public policy, downplayed the differences in opinion, saying that Orthodox Jewish think-

ing on Iran, Israel and security issues are very close to the thinking of the leadership of the most influential Jewish organizations.

Other panelists, however, said the divide between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews on the street is dangerous.

"If one were to look at the American Jewish community, the type of unity that formerly marked us in regard to religious state issues—not just foreign policy questions—that type of unity has become attenuated," said Rabbi David Ellenson, the president of the Reform movement's seminary, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Sylvia Barack Fishman, a professor of contemporary Jewish life at Brandeis University, suggested that the gaps are explained in large part by a greater commitment among Orthodox Jews to the idea of Jewish peoplehood.

In the liberal religious communities, she said, the leaders may be thinking about the issue, but their followers are generally apathetic and Jewishly illiterate.

The divide is exacerbated by an Orthodox community that is becoming more and more right wing, due largely to the amount of time that young Orthodox Jews spend in Israel, according to Steven Bayme, the director of the AJC's Department of Contemporary Jewish Life.

It has become a rite of passage for Ortho-

dox Jewish day school and yeshiva students to spend a year or two years studying at yeshivas in Israel after high school and before college. Those yeshivas, Bayme said, are ideologically incompatible with mainstream American Jewish thought.

"The faculties at the institutions they attend tend to project attitudes that are far more to the conservative end of the spectrum on all the social political issues and are in many ways dissonant from the dominant attitudes of American Jews in general," said Bayme, who is Modern Orthodox.

The divide only stands to get worse as the Orthodox grow in importance, Bayme predicted.

Orthodox Jews now account for about 9 percent of Jews who affiliate with a synagogue, but they comprise 17 percent of the affiliated population aged 19-25. About 228,000 Orthodox Jews are younger than 18, compared to 155,000 Conservative and 190,000 Reform—Orthodox children, in other words, make up 38 percent of that younger cohort.

"If you are looking at the next generation of who will be Jewish leaders, in the year 2050," Bayme said, "if you are looking at who is going to be sufficiently concerned about Jewish community and Jewish peoplehood activities, one sociologist suggests that 50 percent of that universe of people concerned with Jewish life may be Orthodox." ■

## Rabbis, from previous page

experience. I might consider myself Reform now, but in five years I could see myself becoming a Conservative or nondenominational rabbi."

The biggest challenge for these rabbis is finding pulpit positions.

It's no trouble for non-affiliated congregations to hire them. The question isn't relevant among Orthodox congregations because no Orthodox congregation is likely to hire a pulpit rabbi from a non-Orthodox institution.

Synagogues affiliated with the Reform and Conservative movements present a challenge. They are bound by the regulations of their rabbinical associations.

Congregations affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism are given a list of approved candidates by the movement's Rabbinical Assembly. Rabbis that serve Reform congregations must be members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

While rabbis from the non-movement seminaries may apply for membership in these associations, their acceptance is decided on a case-by-case basis.

The CCAR may soon give accreditation to Hebrew College, so its graduates would immediately become eligible.

While they are applying for jobs, the non-movement rabbis must avoid antagonizing the movements or placing a congregation in an untenable position.

Some of the fifth-year rabbinical students at Hebrew College are interviewing at congregations affiliated with the movements, but none of those congregations except the one in Chile would speak to JTA.

Rabbi Mel Gottlieb, dean of the Academy of Jewish Religion California, accepts that rabbis from the movement seminaries "get first dibs" on affiliated pulpits.

"We are careful not to invade the boundaries of the denominations or threaten them in any way," he says. "But some congregations come to us when the lists don't fit their needs."

Rabbi Julie Schoenfeld, the director of rabbinic development for the Rabbinical Assembly, doesn't see that as problematic as long as the congregations go through the approved search process first.

Noting there is "plenty of work" to go around, Schoenfeld says she would not view the Academy for Jewish Religion or Hebrew College as "impinging on the opportunities for Conservative rabbis."

The situation is different in the Reform movement, says Rabbi Arnold Sher of the CCAR's rabbinic placement office. He says the three North American Reform seminaries have had "unusually large" graduating classes recently, ordaining 61 rabbis in 2007 and 56 more expected this year.

"There will be more rabbis ordained than there are openings," Sher says, "and that won't help Hebrew College." ■

## Megillat Esther: the courage to make a choice

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Over the past year, I have written a series of columns for the *Washtenaw Jewish News* on the haftarah readings, the readings from the prophets read on Shabbat morning following the Torah reading. Each of these texts comes from the books of the Prophets, the Neviim, the second section of the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible.

As Purim approaches, it seems appropriate to shift attention from the Neviim and focus instead on the Ketuvim, the Writings, which is the third section of the Bible. These books include the Megillot, the "scrolls," the most famous of which is the book of Esther.

The Ketuvim have great importance in the rabbinic tradition. They are often used as the basis of significant midrash, textual commentary, on the stories of the Torah. Classical Rabbinic midrash often began with a quotation from the Ketuvim which was then used to clarify or add meaning to a verse from the Torah. These books were considered to be particularly rich; and because the texts were beloved by the people, the commentaries based on these books were particularly compelling.

The five books known as the Megillot—Esther, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Lamentations—were each assigned by the rabbis to be read on a particular holiday. Among all of these, though, only the reading of the book of Esther was considered a "commandment." This is because in the book itself

we are told of the importance of telling the story in its entirety every year on the day of the festival of Purim. While the other books add meaning to our observance of the particular holiday, the reading of the entire book of Esther is an integral part to the halachic, Jewish legal, observance of the day.

But to the rabbis and to us today, reading the book of Esther is more than just the fulfillment of a ritual requirement. The book is rich in meaning and in lessons for our life.

One such lesson is to be found in the fact that the name of God is not mentioned in the book at all. This is a human story about individuals inspired by God, acting as human beings in a world which, while different than ours, inspires comparison to our world today.

Of all of the commentaries I have ever read on the book of Esther, the one I find most meaningful is based upon a verse in the first chapter. In this verse, we are told that King Ahasuerus has thrown a party for all of the dignitaries in his empire and he has told the servants that there should be "no restrictions" in what he wants. While this apparently is specifically referring to drink orders, the rabbis noted that this is a reflection of Ahasuerus' personality and, in fact, the tragic flaw that he shows through the entire book.

Imagine, says the Midrash, that two boats are in the sea, one whose sailors are hoping for an east wind and the other whose sailors are hop-

ing for a west wind. Even God could not see to it that they could both be satisfied. Even more so, say the rabbis, Ahasuerus cannot possibly hope to satisfy every guest's wish.

This is important because throughout the story, the king seeks to satisfy everyone by taking the advice of others without even once making an active choice as to which advice to take. He does not seem to understand that life is about making choices between conflicting courses of action based upon priorities, values and wise consideration of all of the facts involved.

So when Esther is approached by Mordecai to reveal Haman's plot, he implores her to realize how critical it is that she make a decision, take a stand, and have the courage to follow it through. This becomes one of the lessons of Megillat Esther: the importance of facing the choices we have in life and realizing that, in the end, we can not please everyone but must do what we think is right in any given situation.

For the rabbis and for us, the story of Esther is a timeless one. Yes, it has to do with the survival of our people and the need to stand up against those who would destroy us. But it is about more than that. It is also about the courage to act in a way that we feel is wise in a given situation, knowing we can not please everyone, and to see that our priorities and our values are reflected in our actions. ■

## Vayikra

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Torah reading for Shabbat March 15 is Vayikra. This is the first portion in the book of Leviticus. It discusses the various types of sacrifices the Jewish people were commanded to offer during the times of the Tabernacle and later the Holy Temple. In the description of the first few types of sacrifices, the wood used for the fire on the altar is mentioned numerous times.

The Talmud relates that when the Jews returned to Israel from the Babylonian exile, after the destruction of the First Holy Temple, they found no wood for the altar in the Temple's storehouses. Several families banded together and donated wood. Later, these families were given the permanent honor of supplying the wood for the altar. The Sages decreed that the days when the wood was donated should be celebrated as a minor festival by the families.

Interestingly, there is another instance in which celebrations are connected to wood. The Mishna states: "There were no other holidays as great to all of Israel as the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur." One of the reasons

for the joy on the 15th of Av was that this day marked the end of the harvest of trees whose wood would be used to burn the sacrifices.

What is so significant about the wood for the altar that its donation mandated an actual holiday, and its harvest brought such joy to the entire Jewish nation?

The wood was not merely fuel for the fire by which the offerings were burnt; it played a far deeper role in the spiritual function of the Holy Temple, and was an essential element of the sacrifices themselves.

But to grasp the importance of wood, we must first understand the significance of the sacrifices. According to Nachmanides, an individual bringing an offering was to have in mind that the animal being slaughtered was in his place. Only through God's good will did God accept an animal in exchange.

There were many different types of offerings, and the thoughts accompanying each of them varied. For example, when a person brought a sin offering, he was required to dwell on thoughts of repentance and make amends for his wrongdoing, whereas the

thanks-offerings aroused a deep love for God. Each offering was to be brought with its appropriate reflections and meditations.

But the most fundamental thought of all, no matter which offering was brought, was that of giving oneself totally over to God. This absolute self-sacrifice transcended any personal emotions or motivations. Only after this requirement was met could the individual go on to express the emotions demanded by the particular offering.

This self-sacrifice was expressed by the burning of the wood on the altar. The Torah likens man to a tree. The burning of the wood symbolized the willingness to sacrifice oneself without personal considerations. For, when bringing an offering, the donor might derive some degree of satisfaction, personal glory or benefit from the act. However, the burning wood reminded him that there should be no such ulterior motives. The celebrations surrounding the provision of wood for the altar therefore epitomized the purest and most lofty aim of the sacrifices themselves. ■



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## Youth

### Optional recess in the HDS computer lab

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The computer lab at HDS is bustling with activity, but it is not class time. It is recess time on Thursday, the day that students can opt to work on non-required computer projects. Computer teacher Carol Gannon is thrilled. "I wish all education could be like this—kids choosing to work on their own projects that they are excited about." Morah (Hebrew for teacher) Gannon opens up the computer lab during her own mid-day break from teaching. "The children's excitement motivates me," says Gannon.

I stop to talk to fourth grader Asaf Pollock. He tells me he is producing a movie called *The Code*. He wrote the story board about good guys who stop the bad guys from finding the code which, if found, could shrink the world to non-existence. Asaf tells me who in the computer lab is on his production team. "Mira (Kaufman) is my co-director," he shares pointing to her. "She is writing the script from the story board; four scenes are written, and there will probably be 10 all together. Kobi (Eichner) is working on special effects; Miriam (Siegel) is working on sound, and Jane (Mintz) will be an actor." I sit down next to Miriam, and she demonstrates how she is using the software GarageBand. "I'm writing the music for the introduction to the movie," she explains. She has made a mix with Sci Fi Texture, Secret



Miriam Siegel (left), Asaf Pollock (center), Jane Mintz (right)

Agent Guitar, and Techno Bass. Kobi shows me the special effects options he is considering (fairy dust, electricity, earthquake). He is learning how to use i-movie for editing the movie. There are 10 computers in the lab, and all are occupied.

But there are rules that the children need to follow. If they have a question about how to proceed, they must first read the manual that Morah Gannon has prepared for them. If they can't find the answer using the manual's table of contents, they can type in their question in the Help box on the computer. If that does not answer the question for them, they can then ask a computer mentor. The computer mentors are fifth graders who have also chosen to spend their recess in the computer lab. They have been trained by Morah Gannon. "Another rule," she explains, "is that students must commit to coming to computer lab at least once a week." Gannon teaches the children that following through on their extra-curricular projects is just as important as completing their regular classroom assignments. She is also pleased to point out how well the children of multiple ages are working together.

Arianna Seir, along with other second graders, is making a PowerPoint slide show of her school bird report. This is an enrichment project that goes beyond the regular classroom assignment. Arianna is trying to make a full sentence out of facts written on the paper copy of her report. She slowly and carefully types, "A little woodpecker is four inches. A big woodpecker is 12 inches." "What do you think?" she asks Sophia Eisenbeiser, a fifth grader mentor who sits patiently next to her. In true educator style, Sophia answers back, "Arianna, what do you think?"

When the mentors are not busy helping other children, they can work on editing their school research papers. Fifth grade mentor, Seth Stancroff, is writing about Charles Babbage, the inventor of the computer who lived during the 1800s. Seth takes the time to explain to me that Babbage wanted to build something that could mechanically calculate tables of logarithms. After a few failed attempts, he finally successfully created an analytic engine which was 15 feet tall, weighed 8 tons, and had 25,000 parts.

Recess time is almost over, and the kids need to get back to class. "Time to save and shut down," Morah Gannon calls out. The kids line up to leave the computer lab, busy chatting about what they will work on next. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or visit the school's website at [www.hdsaa.org](http://www.hdsaa.org).

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# Jewish Educators Council workshops attract 65 teachers

Cindy Saper, special to the WJN

Approximately 65 teachers from Ann Arbor's Jewish schools gathered at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County to learn together in the annual Jewish Educators Council Winter Workshops on January 16. The Jewish Educators Council is funded by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and is composed of the principals and directors of education from Jewish Cultural Society, Reconstructionist Havurah, Hebrew Day School, Early Childhood Center of the JCC, Keshet Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth, and Beth Israel Congregation. For this event, teachers chose to attend one of four workshops, each led by one or more talented local educators. The following workshops were offered: Active Learning in the Jewish Classroom; Bringing Jewish History to Life: Engaging Students in Learning the Tanach using a Multimedia and Multi-sensory Approach; Teaching T'fillah: Teaching the "Whys" as well as the "Hows;" and, Dialogue on Dialogue: Engaging Teens and Pre-teens in Relevant Jewish Discussion about Judaism.

Teachers began the evening by having dinner together. Many came from an entire day or afternoon of being in the classroom. It is always exciting to see so many teachers in a room together, and dinner was a time of socializing, and sharing. As one participant remarked, "I was able to brainstorm with other educators during dinner about Jewish concepts and presenting them to young children. We discussed different ideas that have worked in the past among my dining partners." Another teacher noted, "It was really nice to see some of the other Jewish educators in Ann Arbor."

When teachers broke into groups to attend the workshops, everyone was energized and ready to expand their repertoire of teaching ideas and resources. At Active Learning in the

Jewish Classroom, teachers explored how to integrate Jewish content with five ingredients of Active Learning: materials, manipulation, choice, child language, and adult scaffolding; Noreen DeYoung, director of the JCC Early Childhood Center, and Peretz Hirshbein, assistant director, led this session, which emphasized an open-ended approach which teachers appreciated. Michel Freund, a TBE preschool teacher noted, "During the workshop session we explored real and active materials. We scaffolded ideas not only of teaching holidays and concepts but... to bring the ideas to be a part of a Jewish identity and daily experience."

In contrast to the room of teachers exploring how to reach our youngest students, just down the hall teachers of older students explored Dialogue on Dialogue: Engaging Teens and Pre-teens in Relevant Jewish Discussion about Judaism with two popular and experienced teachers. Marjorie Rhodes, who has been teaching at TBE for eight years, and Abe Morrison, who teaches at TBE and also serves as youth director, b'nai mitzvah teacher, and song leader, led middle school and high school teachers in animated conversation and activities exploring the challenges and opportunities related to teaching teens and pre-teens. As Tani Shtull-Leber, sixth grade teacher at Beth Israel



Religious School noted, "The presentation and content of my workshop was very helpful, because it really did help me understand where my students are coming from. It was interesting to consider how teens are trying to push the boundaries and challenge authority... The way the teachers structured our discussion in the same way they might structure a class was a perfect way for teachers to see how the dynamics actually work." Moshe Kornfeld, TBE seventh grade teacher, added, "I feel that I gained some valuable tools that I am immediately incorporating into my lesson plans. In particular, I feel that I have some new resources for breaking down cliques and for dealing with classroom disruptions in a really productive and educational way."

Teachers who attended Karen Shill's session, Engaging Students in Learning the Tanach using a Multimedia and Multi-sensory Approach, entered through a tent-like opening into a room decorated all around with artistic representations of biblical stories. Shill, in her 20th year of

teaching at BIRS and her sixth year of teaching at TBE, engaged the teachers in an intense exploration of drama, movement, cooking, music, and arts and crafts. Naomi Goldberg, third grade TBE teacher, noted Shill's skill in "using tangible items to help trigger students' recollection of biblical stories," and Melanie Heitman, fourth grade TBE teacher commented, "Karen's workshop was great. She had so many different ways of getting the kids involved... she has SO many resources... puppets, instruments, costumes, books, etc... I definitely got some ideas from her."

Last but not least of the workshops was a dedicated group of teachers working with Aviva Panush in Teaching T'fillah: Teaching the "Whys" as well as the "Hows." Panush is currently the educational director for Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing and teaches for the Melton Adult Mini School of Metropolitan Detroit. She has worked in Jewish education for over 25 years as a school director, curriculum developer and teacher of adults and children of all ages.

With Panush, teachers explored methodologies of teaching children the mechanics as well as the meanings and language of prayer. Teachers discussed ways of helping students develop a personal connection to individual prayers and the prayer service. Teachers who commented on this workshop emphasized that the workshop was "outstanding" and that Panush is "an excellent, encouraging teacher" who presented them with innovative games and interactive ways to teach tefillah. Rachel Jacobson of BIRS noted, "I gained some very useful insight... and learned how to improve and incorporate new strategies into my teaching. I only wish I could have gone to one of the other workshops as well!" ■

## High/Scope and the JCC Early Childhood Center

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

Over the past few years, there has been a movement for change in the world of Jewish Early Childhood Education. A growing "community of practice" has emerged calling for practitioners to use early childhood approaches that provide children with the opportunity to actively engage in their own learning process, respecting children as powerful learners with the ability to derive meaning from their direct experiences. Predictably, this movement has its roots in the big Jewish communities of New York, Chicago, and Washington D.C. Less predictably, it also has its roots right here in Ann Arbor, at the JCC's Early Childhood Center, where the ECC is the first Jewish program to adopt the High/Scope approach to early childhood education.

The High/Scope Foundation is a leading educational research organization, located in Ypsilanti. Building on the groundbreaking research of its founder, David Weikart, High/Scope's research into high-quality early childhood education has had far reaching implications. High/Scope's first study, the Perry Preschool Project, showed for every dollar spend on preschool education based on Active Learning principles, society would reap a seven-fold benefit in measures such as earnings, economic status, educational performance, commitment to marriage, and social responsibility.

But what led the ECC to High/Scope? The

story involves a number of separate developments happening all at the same time.

Every summer, thousands of educators (including many from Ann Arbor) attend CAJE, the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, the nation's leading conference for Jewish educators. A few summers ago, at meetings of Jewish early childhood specialists at CAJE, an advocacy effort was initiated to push for a standard of practice in Jewish Early Childhood Education that would reflect the most recent thinking regarding child development and early education. Peretz Hirshbein, assistant director of the ECC remembers, "At my first CAJE, the early childhood sessions reflected a very teacher-directed, rigid approach to working with young children. But just a few years later, I participated in more policy-oriented sessions that sought to push our field forward."

While the Jewish early childhood community was pushing for practices that promote active learning, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation's leading child advocacy organization, was revising its standards for the accreditation of early childhood programs. Ann Arbor parents look for NAEYC accreditation when choosing an early childhood program for their children, as evidenced by the high proportion of accredited programs in Ann Arbor. The ECC has been accredited by the NAEYC since 1997, and has

been re-accredited several times since then.

NAEYC had long been a proponent of active learning: in a 1997 position paper, NAEYC stated that children are active learners, who draw on their experiences and their culture to develop their own understanding of the world around them. While NAEYC's revised standards reinforce this position, many of the new standards call for early childhood programs to choose a single curriculum model to use. Reviewing the new standards, ECC Director Noreen DeYoung said, "For a long time we used an eclectic approach to our program, taking the best features of a number of curricula. But I felt that the new standards were really pushing us to use just one approach."

Finally, the last piece of the puzzle fell into place in the fall of 2006. The High/Scope Foundation, which has long had an international focus, approached several local programs to talk about forming partnerships. The ECC was very interested. According to Hirshbein, "This was really exciting for me. I had gone through the High/Scope training program several years ago, but now they were offering to help us train our entire staff in the High/Scope approach."

High/Scope has been used in many different cultural settings, from Indonesia to Ireland, and from Singapore to South Africa. According to DeYoung, "High/Scope works well with so many cultures because it draws curriculum content from the family and

cultural traditions of the children in a given program. We thought it would work very well in a Jewish program because it places such a premium on social responsibility." In High/Scope programs, learning to solve interpersonal problems is just as important as figuring out how a complicated puzzle goes together. Cognitive skills are applied not only to literacy, math, and science, but also to social and emotional development.

Starting in January 2007, High/Scope and the ECC entered into a partnership with the goal of implementing the High/Scope approach to a level that would allow the ECC to serve as a demonstration site for those wishing to see the curriculum in action. High/Scope has provided extensive training for members of the ECC staff, helping to accelerate the process.

This summer, DeYoung and Hirshbein will again attend CAJE. This time, they have been invited by the CAJE program committee to present a series of workshops introducing High/Scope to the Jewish early childhood community. ■

For more information on the ECC go to [www.jccannarbor.org](http://www.jccannarbor.org). For more information on High/Scope visit [www.highscope.org](http://www.highscope.org).

# Jewish Camping

## Explore Tavor: a great introduction to overnight camping

Rachel Schreiber, special to the WJN

"Tavor is a great camp and I wish I could be a camper," says Caren Goldberg.

Last summer Goldberg's daughter Alexander (Allie) Forman, fifth grade student at Burns Park Elementary School, attended the inaugural season of Explore Tavor. Tavor's new program offers a shortened session for first-time overnight campers.

Allie's best memories of Camp Tavor are working in the gan (garden), being together with her friends and having fun at dinner, especially Shabbat dinner. Each night after dinner, they would sing, and her favorite song was "Eye of the Tiger." Her avodah (work) group recycled the paper products. Allie laughs, "It was fun jumping on the boxes to get them squashed."

Goldberg saw changes in her daughter when she returned home after her two and a half weeks at Tavor. "Allie came back happy and was conscious of wanting to be helpful," she says. Goldberg especially likes the way Tavor introduces the concept of community and emphasizes its importance. "It's also about social responsibility to the greater world," she comments.

Allie's friend, Maya Ben-Shahar also grew from her experience at Explore Tavor last summer. Maya enjoyed her avodah project. She chose pinat chai where she worked with the goats and the chickens, cleaning up after them, feeding them and gave them lots of petting. "The food was good," says Maya. Her favorite song was "Eye of the Tiger" too.

The gan is another special place for campers. "We made a salad out of the vegetables from the garden. We had green beans, onions and lettuce," says Maya.

Her mom, Sarah Ben-Shahar, felt Tavor was great and Maya was having a wonderful experience for her first time away from home. She felt good knowing while Maya was at camp she was well cared for.

Ron Sussman, the local Camp Tavor registrar, explains, "Camp Tavor initiated Explore Tavor last summer in response to the desire to offer our program to younger first-time campers. We know an overnight camping experience might be a concern for both campers and parents. Having the opportunity to explore a shorter session filled the needs of many families."

Going to camp with friends does make the transition easier from home to camp, but also having older siblings who love Tavor makes the younger ones hungry to try the experience.

Ben Pinsky, a fourth grade student at Wines Elementary School, has waved goodbye to his sisters, Alana and Alexa, 16 and 12 respectively, as they headed off to camp for the past three summers. Last year, thanks to Explore Tavor, Ben was able to join them for

part of the session. He didn't like camp; he "loved it."

"Technically, I loved the food, swimming, the everything," Ben says. "The first night I got there we got to go roller skating and I loved staying up late." He also worked in the gan where he helped plant, harvest and water the plants.

When Ben arrived at camp on Visitor's Day, the other kids in his cabin, who had already been there the past couple of weeks, welcomed him and he thought they were fun.

His mom, Renee Pinsky, says, "Ben's older sisters inspired me to send him to Explore Tavor." It was also the length of the program (one week) which enticed her. She continues, "Ben wasn't ready to attend the full session. This year he is ready to stay for three weeks (the full session)."

Esther Lara's first introduction to Camp Tavor was through the Jewish kids she knew from Ann Arbor. Lara says, "They are splendid, great kids. Well behaved and respectful teenagers." It seemed for her son, Noah Lunzlara, Camp Tavor was the right place and Explore Tavor was the right program where he could get a feel for overnight camping.

Noah, a fourth grade home schooled student, liked everything about camp. He felt there was a good balance between the activities and the rest time. Noah especially enjoyed Frisbee Ball, a game similar to soccer, but played with a frisbee.

For his avodah, Noah's group worked around the camp repairing and fixing things. One of his favorite times was when he and his work group were in woods and they swung on the vines.

Esther Lara reflects on Noah's departure for camp, "I knew Noah would be fine because I felt safe with these people. I knew I was going to miss him and I knew he wouldn't miss me. I did know I would be fine."

She made that leap of faith because she trusted the kids who had gone to Tavor and felt a camp like this with these kids would be a good match. She's glad she sent Noah to Camp Tavor. She explains, "Tavor is good moralistically, ethically, and spiritually. It's not just summer camp, but they get something deeper from the camp experience."

They must get something much deeper, if the parents yearn to be the campers. ■

*Camp Tavor, affiliated with the Habonim-Dror Youth Movement, welcomes all kids starting the summer after third grade. Camp Tavor is located in Three Rivers, Michigan, two hours west of Ann Arbor. For more information, call Ron Sussman, (313) 702-3116 or visit Camp Tavor's web site at [www.campfavor.org](http://www.campfavor.org).*

## JCC Camp Raanana unveils new programs for Summer 2008

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County has announced several changes planned this year for Camp Raanana, the JCC's summer day camp for children entering kindergarten through eighth grade. Camp Raanana is dedicated to providing a nurturing environment for children to explore new interests, learn important skills, gain self-confidence, interact with other Jewish youth, and have fun. Deborah Huerta has joined the JCC as its new youth, teen, and camp director, and Nate Bankirer is returning this summer as assistant camp director. They have been working together over the past several months to plan a variety of new programs for Camp Raanana.

For summer 2008, Camp Raanana will feature revamped programming for all age groups. Campers entering kindergarten through second grade will enjoy more instructional swim lessons each week and new activity choices. Campers entering third through fifth grade will be able to choose from two specialty options each week to enhance their camp experience. Their mornings will be devoted to specialties such as boating, martial arts, digital photography, model rocketry, Abrikadoodle art, silly science, soccer, drama, and dance. For those campers entering sixth through eighth grade, the Pioneer Travel Program will feature exciting new field trip destinations, opportunities to work on mitzvah projects, and more time to enjoy the lake at the camp site.

Other changes for this summer include lower prices for a.m. and p.m. extended care, new games and activities for the bus ride time, more overnight camping events over the course of the summer, and enhanced C.I.T. and Junior Counselor programs for high school students. The C.I.T. program is for teens entering ninth or tenth grade who can commit to a four-week program and are looking for a challenging, fun, and rewarding summer experience. Teens must fill out an application and meet with the camp director to receive approval to enter the C.I.T. program. The Junior Counselor position is a paid position for older teens with prior day camp experience; applicants should contact the camp director to request an application and set up an interview.

Camp Raanana is located on its own beautiful private beachfront at Independence Lake County Park. The facility includes a large covered pavilion, a swimming



continues on next page

## Celebrate Shabbat the Jewish summer camp way

Noreen DeYoung, special to the WJN

Bring back memories of summer camp Shabbats and create new ones. The ECC and Youth department invite you to join for a fun-filled Shabbat dinner, sing-along, and craft time on Friday, March 14 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age two years and older.

This Shabbat will be a chance for past JCC campers to get excited about camp this summer and for prospective families to learn about Camp Keshet (for ages three to five) and Camp Raanana (for kindergarten through eighth grade).

## JCC to participate in Maccabi Games in August

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County has announced that it will send a team to the JCC Maccabi Games taking place in Detroit from August 17–22. The JCC Maccabi Games are an Olympic-style athletic competition for Jewish teens age 13–16 from around the world. The Detroit games will include boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, boys baseball, girls softball, girls volleyball, boys in-line hockey, golf, tennis, bowling, dance, swimming, track and field and table tennis.

There will also be many special events taking place, beginning with the opening ceremonies at the Palace of Auburn Hills, an event at Ford Field and participation in the community-wide Celebrate Israel 60 at the Michigan State Fair Grounds. Participants will travel together by bus to the West Bloomfield JCC at the beginning of the week and all participants will stay with host families in the Detroit area so that they can have the complete Maccabi experience.

The cost will be \$650 per athlete. For more information or to participate in the Games, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org).

## JCC to host Webkinz themed Kids' Night Out

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

The JCC will host a Kids' Night Out program on Saturday, March 22, from 6:30–10 p.m. Participants are invited to bring their favorite Webkinz pet or stuffed animal to this special Kids' Night Out devoted to a celebration of toys. Students will have a chance to introduce their favorite toys to all their friends, invite other kids to be their friends in Webkinz World, and play games to earn fun prizes. After a yummy dinner, they will get to watch the movie Toy Story with all their new human and stuffed animal friends.

The Kids' Night Out program is open to both JCC members and non-members in kindergarten through fifth grades. The cost of the evening is \$20 for JCC members (\$18 additional siblings) and \$24 for non-members (\$22 additional siblings). Space is limited, so please register by Thursday, March 20. To register or for more information, contact JCC Youth Director Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org).

## HDS student Eva Rosenfeld wins national writing award

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Eva Rosenfeld, a fourth grader at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, created an award winning character whose name is Betsy Baker. Eva's one-page description of Betsy won a national award sponsored by *Storyworks Magazine*, a language arts magazine distributed to elementary school classrooms throughout the country by Scholastic, Inc. Read by 400,000 children, the magazine features original fiction by acclaimed authors, as well as high-interest narrative nonfiction, plays, poems, and grammar writing activities.

Eva's entry was one of nearly 7,000 submitted to the magazine's Create a Character Contest by third through sixth graders. Eva Rosenfeld was one of four finalists. Her character will appear in the April/May issue of *Storyworks*, along with her photo and her illustration of Betsy Baker.

The winning character descriptions were chosen by award-winning author Pam Munoz Ryan. The *Storyworks* editorial board pored



Eva Rosenfeld

over the thousands of entries and selected 20 finalists from which Ryan then selected a winner and four runner-ups. Eva's character Betsy Baker aspires to own a world-famous bakery. She enters into her home town's Bake-Off, only to find that her best friend and talented chef, Casey Cooke, has also entered the contest. The friends get very competitive and mad. Neither one wins. "It might have had something to do with the fact that they had thrown their dishes at each other," explains author Eva parenthetically in her description. But, in the end, Betsy does learn a lesson on how to "forgive and forget."

"Eva's entry definitely stood out," said Alexis

Burling, associate editor of *Storyworks*. "We loved how she incorporated friendship and healthy competition into her character idea. At *Storyworks* we strive to publish stories that focus on the positive aspects of life, and we especially appreciate when our authors write about how kids learn to cooperate, solve problems, and work with each other toward a common goal. Plus, Eva's delicious sounding baked treats (strawberry fudge cake and mashed-potato muffins) made our mouths water!" Burling continued.

Eva Rosenfeld was encouraged to enter the contest by her Hebrew Day School teacher, Eileen Nadler, who gave her *Storyworks Magazine* to read following Eva's completion of a classroom assignment. "This makes me want to try and get something else published," said Eva, who did not think she was going to win when she entered the contest. "Being an author sounds like a really cool job because it is real accomplishment when you finish something big." ■

## Three School's Out/JCC's In Days planned for March

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

The JCC will offer three School's Out/JCC's In days during the month of March for Ann Arbor Public School and Hebrew Day School students. The School's Out/JCC's In program is open to JCC members in kindergarten through fifth grade. The cost for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. is \$32 (\$30 for additional siblings). There is an additional charge of \$8 for extended care from 4–6 p.m.

On Monday, March 10, a School's Out/JCC's In day will be offered for Ann Arbor Public School students. Students will spend the day exploring the over 250 interactive exhibits at the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. They will have opportunities to climb the rock wall, play with giant bubbles, handle fossils, explore technology, and much more.

On Friday, March 14, a School's Out/JCC's In day will be offered for Hebrew Day School students. Students will enjoy a fun-filled morning of sporting games in the gym and will have a blast bowling at Colonial Lanes in the afternoon.

On Friday, March 21, a School's Out/JCC's In day will be offered for Ann Arbor Public School students. The day will be devoted to a celebration of the start of spring and the Purim holiday. Students will make hamantashen, decorate masks, enjoy Purim carnival games, and much more.

To register or for more information, contact JCC Youth Director Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org).



## Camp Gan Israel will host open house at Jump City

Devorah Goldstein, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor's Camp Gan Israel will host Izzy's Open House at Jump City, on Sunday, March 2 from 2:30–4:30 p.m. While the kids bounce around, find out more about Camp Gan Israel. As one parent commented, "Both of my daughters had a wonderful time at CGI. They came home full of smiles every day, and keep asking us when summer camp will start again!"

This will be a chance to meet Camp Director Shternie Zwiebel and camp parents, and to hear from friends and neighbors all about the activities, the counselors, the creativity and dedication that go into the CGI experi-

ence. "Come see why Camp Gan Israel innovative Jewish programming and an amazing summer of fun go together like, well, kids and bounce houses," says Zwiebel.

Early-registration discounts will be available to all families, and admission to the event is \$3 per child, for all the fun of Jump City, along with refreshments. For more information, contact Camp Gan Israel at 995-3276, extension 15, or check out the website at [www.mycampganisrael.com](http://www.mycampganisrael.com). Jump City is located at 2825 Boardwalk.

## Continued from previous page

beach, playground structures, and access to ball fields, volleyball courts, nature trails, a spray zone, and more. The camp programming includes activity sessions (such as arts and crafts, nature, sports, music, and Judaics), instructional swim lessons, general swim time, weekly special events or field trips, and Friday afternoon Shabbat celebrations. The JCC provides round trip school bus transportation from the JCC to Independence Lake, and also offers morning and afternoon extended care options.

The camp dates for summer 2008 are June 23–August 15. A ninth week field trip pro-

gram will also be offered from August 18–22. The registration deadline is June 9. Families that register and pay in full for all sessions by March 31 will receive an early bird discount of \$10 off per session.

On Sunday, March 16, Camp Raanana will host an early bird registration pizza lunch at the JCC from 12:30–2 p.m. Families are invited to enjoy a free pizza lunch, learn more about



Camp Raanana, and sign up before the early bird deadline. Plus, campers who bring a friend who registers for camp for the first time will receive \$10 off a session of Camp Raanana.

For more information about Camp Raanana or to RSVP for the March 16 event, contact Camp Director Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org). A downloadable brochure and registration form are also available at Camp Raanana's website, <http://home.comcast.net/~camp.raanana>. ■



## Pirates of Purim: A Sing-A-Long Purim Shipiel and full Megilla Reading

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## Youth

### JCC youth program highlights

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Over the past few months, students participating in the JCC's youth programs have enjoyed many unique events and activities. They have made olive oil in celebration of Chanukah, learned about geodesic domes at the Henry Ford Museum, emulated the work of famous artists through Abrakadoodle Art lessons, and reflected on the environment during Youth Social Action Day.

During a day off from school in November, students enrolled in the School's Out/JCC's In program had a wonderful time exploring the Henry Ford Museum. They sat in a 1940s diner, played with popular toys from previous generations, toured a dome-shaped "house of the future," saw hundreds of machines and automobiles, and tested paper airplane designs. It was a very fun and



Chanukah celebration

stimulating day for the students and staff alike.

Participants in Kids' Konnection, the JCC's after school program for students in grades K-5, were treated to a special visit in December from staff of Chabad's Chanukah Wonderland. The students had the opportunity to make oil using an olive press and then used that oil to light a beautiful menorah. They also learned about the story of Chanukah and the watched a video showing the great variety of *hanukiyot* (menorahs) used around the world.

During the JCC's Winter Break Fun Days, students participated in a variety of special activities and fieldtrips. Instructors from Abrakadoodle Art, the leading nationwide provider of youth art education programs, conducted several innovative art lessons with the students. Each day, the students learned about a particular artist or style and then created their own piece based on the day's lesson. Due to the great response to the program, the JCC is now offering Abrakadoodle Art enrichment classes and will include Abrakadoodle Art as a one-week specialty at Camp Raanana this summer.

On Martin Luther King Day, the JCC, Jewish Family Services, and the Benard L. Maas Foundation cosponsored a community-wide Youth Social Action Day at the JCC. Since the date corresponded with the start of Tu B'Shevat, the event focused on environmental justice this year. Students created planters using red buckets and a variety of other recycled materials from the Scrap Box. They also enjoyed a Leslie Science Center presentation on animal habitats, complete with a live rabbit and snake. The event concluded with a Tu B'Shevat seder which gave everyone a chance to enjoy some delicious fruits and reflect on the value of trees. ■

Many more great youth events are planned in the coming months. For information about any of the JCC's youth programs, contact Youth Director Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 971-0990.

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### Help your children enjoy nutritious foods

Noreen DeYoung, special to the WJN

**D**o your children refuse to eat nourishing food because they think it is boring and tasteless? Are you overwhelmed with food ads that tempt kids to eat junk? The JCC's Early Childhood Center will be holding a series of seminars to help encourage children to eat nutritiously. The four course series will be taught by Yael Dolev, and will take place Wednesdays, March 26, April 2, 9 and 16 from 7–8 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The cost is \$60 for all four weeks, or \$20 per session. Call 971-0990 to reserve a space.

These discussion groups will provide new insights on how to offer your children delicious and nutritious meals. Included will be tips on how to find time to eat breakfast, what to pack

for lunch, what snacks to offer to the kids and how to reduce their soft drink consumption. Most importantly, parents and kids will learn to enjoy nutritious foods.

Yael Dolev coaches people in how to sustain nourishing eating habits in a program called "Enjoy Eating and Never Diet Again." With a multidisciplinary background in agronomy, botany and ecology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dolev has hands-on experience as a researcher, a professional food industry magazine editor, a farmer, and many years of experience in training kids and adults. Dolev keeps a whole-



Yael Dolev

some Mediterranean diet as a second nature, and brings new insights to cooking and eating. For more information, visit [www.dolevfoodcoach.com](http://www.dolevfoodcoach.com). ■

### JCC Youth Enrichment Classes to begin March 3

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

The JCC offers a variety of fun and stimulating afternoon enrichment classes for students in grades K–5. The classes are open to both JCC members and non-members. The next session of classes will run for five weeks, beginning on March 3.

A Fit Kids class for students in grades 2–5 will be offered on Mondays, 4:15–5:15 p.m. Kim Braun will lead this innovative class to expose kids to the joys and importance of proper fitness and nutrition. Visiting experts on yoga, healthy eating, and other topics will enhance the experience.

An Abrakadoodle Art class will be offered for students in grades K–3 on Tuesdays from 4:15–5:15 p.m.. This unique class will be taught by instructors from Abrakadoodle, a leading nationwide provider of youth art education programs. Each week students will explore a particular artist, culture, and/or style, and then create their own creative piece based on the day's lesson.

The popular Swim with Kim class for students in grades K–5 will continue on Tuesday afternoons from 4–6:30 p.m. Kim Braun offers swimming lessons at High Point School for swimmers and non-swimmers of all levels. Transportation is available to and from High Point School in the JCC van or bus (call for details).

On Wednesdays, a Gym with Kim class will be offered from 4:15–5:15 p.m. for students in grades K–2. Now that warmer weather is around the corner, it's time to start practicing skills for summer sports. Kim Braun will

lead an entertaining and active class each week exploring a variety of sporting games and activities.

Martial Arts for Health and Fitness will continue on Thursdays from 4:15–5:15 p.m. for students in grades K–5. Taught by Rabbi Peter Gluck, this energetic class teaches kids how to take care of their body, achieve a healthy lifestyle, and treat themselves and others with respect. Classes will include



Ella Volk and Nicolas Bachman displaying their work from Abrakadoodle Art class

warm-ups, stretching, breathing exercises, and basic self-defense techniques.

The cost is \$60 for students enrolled in Kids' Konnection at least two days per week, \$65 for all other JCC members, and \$70 for non-members. Snack and supervision in the JCC's after school Kids' Konnection program until 4:15 are included for all kids enrolled in enrichment classes that day. After-class supervision in Kids' Konnection from 5:15–6 p.m. is available for a fee. For more information or to register, contact Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 971-0990.

### Open enrollment for the JCC Early Childhood Center

Noreen DeYoung, special to the WJN

The Early Childhood Center will be accepting applications for child care and pre-school programs for the 2008–2009 school year, beginning Monday, March 3, for children and siblings currently enrolled in the program. Applications for member families of the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County affiliate organizations (Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, Jewish Cultural Society, etc.) will begin Monday March 10, and enrollment for the general public begins Monday March 17.

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

The ECC offers a High/Scope curriculum, which is an active learning approach to education for young children. All of the programs integrate Jewish curriculum with the High/Scope curriculum. Children in the pre-school classes also participate in "An Ethical Start" program. This curriculum is specially designed to teach ethics to young children using a central Jewish text, Pirke Avot.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children can register for full or part time. A half day pre-school program is offered for children 3 to 5 years old. This program meets from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information about any of the programs or for an application contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or [ndeyoung@umich.edu](mailto:ndeyoung@umich.edu).

### Intergenerational, International Passover seder to be hosted by JCC's Early Childhood Center

Noreen DeYoung, special to the WJN

The JCC's Early Childhood Center and Older Adults Program will host an Intergenerational Passover Seder on Thursday, April 17 at 11 a.m. This year's theme will be "Passover Around the World." Children from the ECC will open their classrooms for guests to taste, see and feel how Passover is celebrated around the world. Children will also participate in an interactive telling of the Passover story. Each classroom will choose a country to study and learn about the culture, customs and foods of those countries. As part of this process, they will discover how each culture influenced the Jewish Celebration of Passover in that country.

Songs and dances from the holiday will enliven the celebration. A Passover style lunch will be served to all who attend. The event is open to everyone in the community.

To make reservations, call 971-0990 or stop by the JCC front desk.

## U.S. Jewish groups voice growing concern over immigration rhetoric

By Ben Harris

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish groups are expressing growing concern that cable TV news programs are providing a platform to radical anti-illegal immigration activists, including those who advocate that armed citizens patrol the U.S.-Mexico border.

Activists also have described the presence of Mexican flags in the United States as acts of war. In a letter to the heads of major cable news networks last week, the American Jewish Committee said it was "inappropriate and offensive for major television news programs to provide a microphone to individuals and organizations that promote hate, espouse vigilantism, white supremacy or even violence in the immigration debate."

"We know the history of what hate speech can cause," said Jeffrey Sinensky, the AJC's general counsel, who drafted and signed the letter. "It's really just a precursor to violence."

The Anti-Defamation League also has expressed concerns, and the issue is slated to be addressed at the upcoming plenum of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, a public-policy umbrella organization that brings together several prominent national Jewish groups, the major synagogue movements and scores of local communities.

Among those singled out in the AJC's letter were the founders of the Minuteman Project, an organization created to patrol the U.S.-Mexican border and intercept those crossing illegally. Minuteman-related groups have been accused by

Jewish organizations of promoting hate and were described as "vigilantes" by President Bush.

"As a Jewish American, I think it's unfortunate that the American Jewish Committee would side with individuals seeking to violate the rule of law in the United States of America," said Bryan Rudnick, national communications director for the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, an offshoot of the Minuteman Project. The group's leader, Chris Simcox, is frequently cited by the ADL and AJC for promoting hatred.

"Chris Simcox is a patriotic citizen who is seeking, like millions of other Americans, to have our government secure the borders and enforce the rule of law," Rudnick said. "I believe the Torah teaches us to abide by the laws of the country in which we live."

Jewish organizations have been increasingly vocal in recent months about what they perceive as the hostile and dehumanizing tone of the national conversation in the United States concerning illegal immigration. In addition to the AJC's recent letter to cable companies, the ADL issued a report last October saying that anti-immigrant groups were increasingly using language that dehumanized minorities, especially Hispanics. The ADL warned that such rhetoric was infecting mainstream discourse.

Both the AJC and the ADL have launched campaigns to promote awareness of America's immigrant roots in an effort to counter what they see

as growing hostility toward immigrants. In January, the ADL re-released "A Nation of Immigrants," an 1958 monograph by then-U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy, who originally wrote it at the behest of the ADL. The AJC has partnered with the National Council of La Raza, a Latino community group, on its We Can Stop the Hate Program.

Jim Gilchrist, another immigration activist frequently cited by Jewish groups, rejected the criticisms out of hand. Gilchrist, founder and president of the Minuteman Project, noted that immigrants are members of his group and of his immediate family, and he accused the ADL of being "amateur propagandists" and "hate-mongers" for spreading lies about him.

"I'm disappointed that groups like this keep targeting those that they disagree with with their wrath and their hate," Gilchrist told JTA. "I think it's part of a fund-raising campaign. They certainly can generate a lot of fund raising."

Jewish groups also have focused on CNN's Lou Dobbs, arguably the media personality most responsible for thrusting immigration into the country's consciousness. Dobbs, whose show features a mix of reporting and advocacy, frequently rails against liberal immigration laws on his program, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," and has given airtime to both Gilchrist and Simcox. The ADL has accused Dobbs of spreading "false propaganda."

"Lou Dobbs is the poster boy for going absolutely tremendously across the line in so

many ways," said the JCPA's Hadar Susskind. "He obviously is one of these people who has taken up this issue and decided he's going to build a name on it."

Dobbs fired back earlier this month, calling the ADL "a joke" in the course of a heated exchange on his program with a Latino civil rights activist. The activist, Janet Murguia of La Raza, had cited ADL research into anti-immigrant groups and called the league "a very well-respected voice."

"Not by me," Dobbs snapped. "They are a joke." Earlier in the program, which aired Feb. 4 on CNN, Dobbs characterized the ADL and the Southern Poverty Law Center as "absolute advocate groups for open borders and amnesty for illegal aliens."

Murguia countered that that was just an opinion. "No," Dobbs said, "It's a fact."

Neither the ADL nor Dobbs responded to JTA's requests for comment. But Keith Olbermann of MSNBC, one of the three networks contacted by the AJC, responded on his program, "Countdown." In a feature called the "Worst Person in the World," Olbermann quipped that Dobbs could launch a presidential campaign as the head of his own political party, the Pro-Defamation League.

For his part, Gilchrist said he accepts that the immigration debate has overheated and will take care to ensure his language doesn't stray into the inflammatory.

continues on page 30

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## Orion String Quartet

DAVID KRAKAUER clarinet



WED, MAR 5 | 8 PM  
Rackham Auditorium

### PROGRAM

Haydn String Quartet in C Major, Op. 74, No. 1 (1793)  
Del Tredici Magyar Madness (UMS co-commission) (2006)  
Golijov K'vakaraat for Clarinet and Strings (1994)  
Beethoven Quartet No. 9 in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3 (1800)

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# March

## Leila Haddad Gypsy Dances from Rajasthan to the Nile



WED, MAR 12 | 8 PM  
Power Center

Leila Haddad is recognized as one of the world's foremost oriental dancers, performing *Raqs el Sharqi*, commonly referred to as "belly dance." This performance is beautifully staged with exquisite handmade costumes, nuanced lighting, and sophisticated technical direction. In this new work, Haddad creates a dialogue between ancient dance traditions — the Ghawazee (Gypsy) dances of Upper Egypt and those of the Kabelyas of Rajasthan, India. She is joined onstage by the renowned Ghawazee musicians of Luxor, who play a variety of traditional instruments.

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

Media Partners **Michigan Radio**, **Between the Lines**, **Metro Times**, and **The Arab American News**.

## SFJAZZ Collective A Tribute to Wayne Shorter

JOE LOVANO artistic director and saxophones | DAVE DOUGLAS trumpet | STEFON HARRIS vibraphone and marimba | MIGUEL ZENÓN alto sax and flute  
ROBIN EUBANKS trombone | RENEE ROSNES piano | MATT PENMAN bass | ERIC HARLAND drums



THU MAR 13 | 8 PM  
Hill Auditorium

Heralded by the *Los Angeles Times* for its "sheer, out-of-the-box musicality," the SFJAZZ Collective explores the last 50 years of jazz repertoire. Led by Joe Lovano, the Collective's 2008 concert pays tribute to the genius of saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter, with performances of his works alongside new pieces by each of the Collective's members.

Sponsored by



Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM**, **WDET 101.9 FM**, and **Metro Times**.

## San Francisco Symphony

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS conductor



FRI, MAR 14 | 8 PM  
Hill Auditorium

Under the baton of one of today's most exciting conductors, the San Francisco Symphony will perform Jean Sibelius' last complete symphony alongside Beethoven's first fate-defying statement of musical revolution, the "Eroica" symphony.

### PROGRAM

Sibelius Symphony No. 7 (1924)  
Beethoven Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55 ("Eroica") (1805)

Sponsored by



Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.

## Urban Bush Women

JAWOLE WILLA JO ZOLLARS artistic director



## Compagnie Jant-Bi

GERMAINE ACOGNY artistic director

FRI, MAR 28 | 8 PM  
SAT, MAR 29 | 8 PM  
Power Center

Two trailblazing choreographers bring together an all-male company from Senegal and an all-female company from the U.S. to explore cultural differences and similarities, and history's impact on African and African American cultures in an extraordinary collaboration entitled *The Scales of Memory*.

Funded in part by **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts**.

Media Partners **Michigan Radio**, **Between the Lines**, **Metro Times**, **WEMU 89.1 FM**, and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page**.



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## Sallie Kochin Abelson donates archives to Jewish Heritage Collection

Emily Eisbruch, staff writer

Sallie Kochin Abelson, the University of Michigan Hillel's development director, is known for her warm and outgoing manner. Her great sense of organization and talent for motivating others are key to the vitality of the U-M Hillel. Among other achievements, Abelson coordinates the most successful fund-raising phone-a-thons of any Hillel in the country, in which students contact about 13,000 donors and potential donors on a twice-yearly basis.

Another side of Abelson has recently gained attention—a fascinating part of her history from her years living in Iowa. Abelson founded and ran a successful business in Gilbert, Iowa from 1977 to 1996, the very first product of which was a highly successful Jewish question and answer board game called "Aliyah." Over the years, Abelson expanded her business, called "Contemporary Designs," by selling Jewish-themed and general market greeting cards, and much more. Eventually the business grew to have 100 reps, 30 employees, and annual revenues of \$1.8 million, with various lines including 1,500 gift and novelty items, from t-shirts and sweatshirts, to pencils, to greeting cards, to jigsaw puzzles, to books.

Abelson has recently donated the archives of her company to the U-M's Jewish Heritage Collection in the Special Collections Library. Many of the most interesting items—including the Aliyah board game—can be seen at the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor, by contacting Peggy Daub, director of the Special Collections Library, at 764-9377.

For Abelson, owning her own business all started when she realized it would be great to have a board game to facilitate Jewish education. Born in Philadelphia, she came to Ann Arbor for undergraduate studies at

U-M, earned a master's in counseling from Penn State, and then ended up living here in Ann Arbor again with her husband from 1973–1976 while he earned a graduate degree and she worked at the Institute for the Study of Mental Retardation and Related

next day, for a group of boy scouts."

Abelson went on that final tour of the Parker Brothers factory back in 1977. She learned a lot, but she needed even more details on how to make a game. She eventually phoned Parker Brothers again and was fortunate enough to make contact with a Parker Brothers plant manager who was a Christian religious educator. He helped her learn more about the entire process and important resources, including where to get boards, dice, tokens, boxes, and much more.

Distribution of the new Aliyah board game was a challenge. Luckily, Abelson's cousin was in charge of the toy department at Macy's and she had other cousins who not only sold the game to stores in their area but also hosted her on a publicity tour in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Seattle. With help from the rabbi at her synagogue in Des Moines, and many others (including a distributor for the

Rubycube game—also hot at the time), the sales of the Aliyah game grew rapidly. Abelson got a loan and expanded her business into numerous other areas.

In 1997, after almost 20 years as CEO of Contemporary Designs in Iowa, Abelson decided to wind down the business and return to Ann Arbor. The development director job at the U-M Hillel turned out to be a perfect match for her. Abelson truly loves her career at the U-M Hillel, and of course, she is delighted when she chats with a student who remembers playing the Aliyah game in religious school.

In making the gift of her archives to the University of Michigan Special Collections Library, Abelson comments, "I am really proud that Contemporary Designs was one of the pioneers in the development of modern designs for Jewish materials, and I am glad that my archives for it have found a home in the Jewish Heritage Collection." ■



Disabilities (ISMRRD).

When Abelson's husband got a job at Iowa State in Ames, Iowa, they relocated there, and she had a part-time job teaching Sunday School to the fourth graders in the small (about 50 families strong) Jewish community in Ames. Abelson recalls "at that time, the materials for the Jewish classroom were the same ones I had used when I was in Hebrew School, and I thought that was terrible. So I decided to create my own materials."

According to Abelson, "I decided to make a game called Aliyah. But I didn't know how to make a game. I had absolutely no idea. So I called up the library and asked a librarian. She said she'd get back to me. She called back and said 'I can't find how to make a game—the process. But I can tell you that Parker Brothers is in Des Moines.' I thought, Parker Brothers certainly isn't going to want to tell me how to make a game. So I called them up and I asked about tours. They said they were discontinuing tours, and the last tour was the



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## Test your Purim knowledge

These Purim questions are part of the large library of Jewish knowledge from Sallie Kochin Abelson's Aliyah game.

**Q.** Who was Queen Esther's husband?  
**A:** King Ahasuerus.

**Q.** What is the traditional food of Purim?  
**A:** Hamantashen, three cornered pastries which supposedly represent Haman's hat.

**Q.** Who was the Purim villain?  
**A:** Haman

**Q.** What is the name of the Scroll of Esther?  
**A:** Megilat Esther (often referred to as "megilah")

**Q.** Where does the story of Purim take place?  
**A:** Shushan, Persia

**Q.** True or False: The Book of Esther is the only book of the Bible not to mention God's name.  
**A:** True

**Q.** What role did Haman have in the government?  
**A:** He was Prime Minister to King Ahasuerus

**Q.** The day before Purim is a) a harvest day b) fast day c) feast day  
**A:** Fast day. It is the Fast of Esther.

**Q.** What does "Purim" literally mean in English?  
**A:** Purim is the Hebrew word for "lots" and refers to Haman's casting of lots to choose the day on which all the Jews of Persia would be destroyed.

**Q.** When, on the 13th day of Adar, does the Fast of Esther begin?  
**A:** At sunrise.

**Q.** What is the literal meaning of the Yiddish word "hamantashen"?  
**A:** The pockets of Haman.

**Q.** Whom did Queen Esther replace?  
**A:** Vashti

**Q.** How many days did Esther tell the Jewish people to fast?  
**A:** Three

**Q.** What day were the Jews to be killed, according to Haman's plot?  
**A:** Thirteenth of Adar.

**Q.** What is added to the Amidah and the Grace after meals during Purim?  
**A:** "Al ha-Nissim" which means "For the miracles."

**Q.** Who were the two gatekeepers Mordecai overheard plotting to kill the King?  
**A:** Bigthan and Teresh

## Granted temporary stay, Africans struggle in Israel

By Dina Kraft

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A rank stench rises up from the basement shelter crammed with mattresses and blankets. There is only one bathroom for the 170 Africans who live here, and there is no shower. Most have not bathed in weeks.

Several shelters like these are scattered through the hard-luck streets of south Tel Aviv. Funded mostly by private donations and the city, they are filling up as the Israeli government grants hundreds of illegal African migrants temporary shelter in the country and, in some cases,

***Some 800 Africans currently live in the dank shelters of Tel Aviv... the majority are from the Ivory Coast and Eritrea.***

work permits because the situation in their own countries is so unstable.

Some 800 Africans currently live in the dank shelters of Tel Aviv. With the government releasing scores more currently being held in prison since illegally entering Israel from neighboring Egypt, the shelters may get even more crowded.

"Here it's better because you are free," said Filmon Jekleab, 22, an Eritrean who came to the shelter after three months at the Ketziot prison in Israel's Negev desert, where the Africans are housed in a makeshift tent encampment.

His friend Ibrahim Tesgai, 26, who deserted the Eritrean army, interjects as he pours watery coffee from a bowl into small plastic cups. "Here it's almost prison," he says.

There is no running water in the shelter. A volunteer organization delivers food, sometimes sporadically.

All those in the shelters are asylum seekers,

but the small office in Israel of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees cannot review all their cases. At the moment, the majority are from the Ivory Coast and Eritrea. The Eritreans have been granted work visas by Israel's Interior Ministry because of the instability in Eritrea, but those from the Ivory Coast face deportation because the UN has said it is safe to return to that country now that the war there is practically over.

Advocates for the Africans and Tel Aviv officials say they welcome the government's decision after months of lobbying to release many of the Africans who were imprisoned, but they say the government in Jerusalem is being irresponsible by not providing any assistance.

On an almost daily basis, about 50 Africans arrive in Tel Aviv with nowhere to go but these shelters. The Welfare Ministry rejects the notion that it should help them, saying the ministry has no budget — or orders — to do so.

"It's up to the cities to deal with it. We have neither the budget nor instructions to deal with them," Nachum Ido, a ministry spokesman, said in reference to the refugees. "I think the government will soon have to deal with this and find money."

Government officials have said they are sympathetic to the Africans' plight but are wary of Israel, a state the size of New Jersey with a population of some 7 million, being overwhelmed by a flood of African migrants. Many Israelis say the government first must deal with its own needy communities before helping disadvantaged foreigners.

"There is a feeling of crisis," said Tally Krietzman, a lawyer from the Tel Aviv University Refugee Rights program who is trying to find the Africans work. "The Ministry of Interior is letting them stay and the prisons are letting them out. But when they come out they don't

have a cent in pocket and no Hebrew, so these people are going to be dependent for a while."

The goal is for the Africans to stay at the shelters only until they find work and can move into their own apartments, said Elisheva Milikowsky, 25, a social work student at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev who has become one of the main organizers overseeing the Africans' needs.

Milikowsky's work is an extension of the volunteer work she began last summer in Beersheva, when hundreds of Sudanese refugees were being dropped off in the city after being picked up by army patrols that caught them after they crossed into Israel from Egypt by foot.

The refugees dubbed Milikowsky the "angel of the Sudanese" for her help finding them food and shelter.

Outside the shelter on Matalon Street, a 24-year-old man from Eritrea who is ill and has trouble walking approaches Milikowsky and asks for another appointment with a doctor.

She writes down his name on her yellow legal pad, which is full of names and requests for help. Another Eritrean man shows her his new work permit folded into a plastic cover and asks to be remembered if she finds jobs.

Later, Milikowsky hears the story of a man whose wife was caught by the Egyptian police as the couple tried to cross the border into Israel. He has not heard from her since, and now he is alone in Israel with their 6-month-old baby.

Back at the shelter, she again is asked about how long it will take for work permits to be processed. She reminds the men, who at this shelter are mostly from Eritrea, that they are relatively lucky the Israeli government has allowed them to stay at all.

A few blocks away, at a shelter where the men are mostly from the Ivory Coast, there are no such reassurances. The government has stopped distributing work permits to them, and

***The government has stopped distributing work permits to them, and Israel is encouraging them to return home.***

Israel is encouraging them to return home.

"Look, I have no slippers," says one, showing his two mismatched flip-flops. Next to him are ripped-open boxes of donated food and clothes dropped off for the refugees but first picked through by local Israelis, many of them indigent themselves. The Africans finger the expiration dates on a cereal box and ask if it is still okay to eat.

Laso Kosse, 39, arrived in Israel from the Ivory Coast after a long journey through Mali, Niger, Libya and Egypt. At home he had a clothing store but fled because of fighting.

"You cannot be without a work permit — look around at all these young men," he said, pointing at a small crowd gathered around. "They are hungry."

Yael Dayan, deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, said the city is overwhelmed and cannot handle this wave of homeless Africans. She urged the Israeli government to help.

"They cannot dump this on us; no municipality can handle this," she told JTA. "If they take them out of prison, then they have to make sure they at least will have a roof over their heads."

Some 800 Africans remain in Ketziot Prison. About 80 of them are women, some of whom are with children, including babies born there.

Human rights groups have petitioned Israel's Supreme Court for relief, but without success. The state told the court it is in the process of improving conditions for the Africans at the prison. ■

## Lab partners: Fund assists Israeli cancer researchers

By Dina Kraft

JERUSALEM (JTA) — If mapping the human genome was the seminal biological work of the 20th century, then learning how to "read" those genes will define this century, says one of Israel's top cancer researchers as he tinkers in his lab surrounded by tiny plastic tubes of DNA.

"What is really important is how genes are developed," says Howard Cedar, a U.S.-born scientist at the Hebrew University and Hadassah Medical School.

Cedar recently won the prestigious Wolf Prize in Medicine — Israel's equivalent of a Nobel Prize — for his work on how genes become active and inactive during the normal development of cells and how this process is compromised in cells that become cancerous.

He is among hundreds of Israeli scientists whose research has been supported by the Israel Cancer Research Fund, a charitable organization funded predominately by North American Jews that aims to keep Israeli researchers in the country performing cutting-edge research instead of losing them in a "brain drain" to institutions abroad with more money and resources.

Since its launch in 1975, the fund has awarded some \$35 million in research grants. Among its longtime grantees are Israel's 2004

Nobel Prize winners in chemistry, Dr. Aaron Ciechanover and Dr. Avram Hershko.

In Israel the issue of money is especially crucial because government funding for basic cancer research is more limited than in the United States, where many of Israel's leading scientists move.

Substantial U.S. government funding is one of the main reasons labs in the United States produce such strong research, says Dr. Yashar Hirshaut, the Israel Cancer Research Fund's chairman and a leading American oncologist.

Hirshaut says the fund's money can mean the difference between a promising Israeli post-doctoral researcher staying in America or returning to Israel.

"We choose with our limited funds the very best science," he said. "We are creating a marketplace for ideas."

Hirshaut argues that research dollars go further in Israel than in the United States because of lower overhead costs. That, he says, has helped make Israel a center for cancer research.

"For every dollar they give they get three times as much as in the United States," he said.

Another reason Israel is fertile ground for high-quality research, Hirshaut says, is the questioning and skepticism that is part of the culture.



Howard Cedar

Several important cancer drugs have emerged from Israel.

Doxil, a drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that is used in the treatment of a form of cancer related to AIDS, as well as breast and ovarian cancer, was developed by Dr. Alberto Gabizon of the

Oncology Institute of Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem.

Gleevac, which treats the myelogenous form of leukemia and a rare form of stomach cancer, was developed in Israel. So was Velcade, which treats multiple myeloma, a disorder of the plasma cells.

All were funded with grants from the Israel Cancer Research Fund.

Moshe Oren, a fund grantee from the Weizmann Institute of Science, discovered the location and revealed the nature of the gene p53, which halts tumors before they grow. A damaged p53 gene is involved in the formation of 60 percent of cancers. Oren's research is being used by more than 2,000 scientists around the world who are seeking clinical uses for his discovery, according to the Research Fund.

Oren says he has continued his research on the p53 gene at the Weizmann Institute after completing his post-doctoral work in the United States.

"Very little was known about p53, and most people did not appreciate its significance and the need to support research on it," he said. "The only agency to offer support was the ICRF." ■

## On Another Note

### Jewish comedy albums delight and amuse

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Here's something for Purim, a CD containing a re-release of a couple of Jewish comedy albums from the Sixties. ([www.jewishmusicgroup.com](http://www.jewishmusicgroup.com))

I'm fully aware that I'm stepping out of my area of so-called expertise here. You know, Sandor, the big shot music maven for the *Washtenaw Jewish News*. What do I know from comedy? Nuttin'. But, I've been listening to this CD for weeks in my car and I've had a hard time keeping the jalopy on the road. People pass me and probably wonder, "Why is this guy laughing so hard?"

So, granted I know nothing about comedy, or about Jewish humor for that matter, but I do know what's funny. And this is funny, funny stuff.

These were very popular albums when they were first released over 40 years ago. *You Don't Have to be Jewish* peaked at #9 on Billboard's Top LP's chart in the fall of 1965, and six months later *When You're in Love the Whole World is Jewish* made it to #22 on the same chart. This is in the years when the Beatles usually had a lock on the top 100 spots on the charts.

As Hal Lifson, "chronicler of all things retro," writes in the CDs liner notes, the two albums "were the brainchild of producer Bob Booker, who had produced a hugely successful pair of albums called, *The First Family* which lampooned the Kennedy clan." These albums too were "essential listening for the early '60s, but after JFK's assassination, were quickly antiquated."

Not having the heart to continue in a political vein, Booker teamed with writer George Foster to, as he later recalled, "try to do an album version of *Fiddler on the Roof*-type stories, like those great bits that were sprinkled throughout the musical." Booker added, "I'm not Jewish, but the point is that you really don't have to be Jewish to love these wonderful stories of Jewish folklore." He was right. Though you can hear the instantly identifiable New York Jewish accents and the stereotypical Jewish themes, these are universally accessible jokes and humorous stories.

The cast Booker assembled to create these recordings included familiar and new names; Lou Jacobi, already a familiar face from many sitcoms, Arlene Golonka, who later starred on *Mayberry, R.F.D.*, and who, along with Bob McFadden, the voice of many TV cartoon characters. Also, Valerie Harper, a then unknown dancer, who would go on to fame on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and its spin-

off, *Rhoda*. The albums proved to be so popular that the entire cast was invited to appear on the *Ed Sullivan Show*.



Forty plus years later, the comedy does not seem dated. Here is Hal Lifson again, writing about the humor on these albums. "It was clean and quaint, not biting and unsettling, like several of the 'hipper' '60's comics, like Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl." Indeed, I had had no reservations playing this CD for my 13-year-old daughter. (She finds it funny too.)

OK, so I can't resist a few tidbits. And you shouldn't worry. Just because I give away the punch lines won't make these jokes any less funny when you hear them. What makes them hilarious is as much the tone of voice and the superb comic timing, as it is the situations being described. Just to hear the name "Sheldon" pronounced the way it is here is enough send me off into helpless giggles.

A man talks of his daughter, "Jayne, with a y, who for a long time has been too particular, otherwise she'd be married by now."

Then there is the famous Plotnick Diamond, which comes with a curse (pronounced "couyse"). You guessed it. The "couyse" is Mr. Plotnick.

Or there's the jury foreman who announces, after numerous sidesplitting digressions, that the jury could not come to a verdict. "We the jury, after careful deliberation, have decided, we shouldn't mix in."

"Hello Sam. How is your wife?"

"Compared to whom?"

There are a few parodies. The hit song, *Big Bad John* here becomes, *Big Short, Fat Irving*, "with a Mogen David on his vest, the 142nd fastest gun in the West."

After 50 years of marriage, a woman is asking for a divorce. "Why?" asks the judge. "Why? Because. Enough is enough!"

The Jewish panhandler says, "Excuse me. Can you spare a dime for a glass of tea?"

A man is repeatedly wailing at a gravesite, "Why did you have to die?" Someone asks him who it is he's grieving. "My wife's first husband."

Unlike many Jews and non-Jews for that matter, I never heard these albums in the Sixties. My family had moved to the U.S. just a few years before, our language skills were rudimentary and our familiarity with popular American culture limited. We discovered Bill Cosby's comedy albums a few years later, fell in love with them, and I still enjoy quoting his shtiklech. But, I'm very glad to have finally discovered these albums now. I know the stories and jokes will take honored places in my repertoire of favorites. ■

## Arts & Culture

### Coen brothers set to bring Chabon's 'Sitka' to the screen

By Ben Harris

NEW YORK (JTA) — In some ways, it's a most natural *shidduch*.

There's Michael Chabon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist whose best-selling 2007 book, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, marked a turning point in the author's growing exploration of Jewish themes in his fiction.

And Joel and Ethan Coen, the maverick filmmakers whose Jewish sensibility has been evident in countless of their movies, but who have yet to fully actualize their Semitic humor in a full-blown Jewish film.

Until now.

Late last week, the Guardian revealed that the Coens had agreed to write and direct the film adaptation of *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*.

"Naturally, I am over the moon about this," Chabon wrote in an e-mail to JTA. "They are heroes of mine."

And to many others. The Coen brothers have developed a cult of fanatic followers that have sustained their unique brand of filmmaking despite generally modest returns at the box office. Their biggest success to date, last year's *No Country for Old Men*, which won four Oscars this year, including best film, but the brothers, sons of a pair of

Minnesota professors, have only rarely been embraced by mainstream audiences.

Just as *Munich* generated excitement over the coming together of a beloved Jewish filmmaker (Steven Spielberg) and a renowned Jewish writer (Tony Kushner) to make a film of Jewish interest, the Coen-Chabon collaboration is sure to stoke the imaginations of Yiddishists and Jewish film buffs alike. And also like *Munich*, it's sure to engender some controversy, too.

Set in Sitka, a fictional Yiddish semi-state in Alaska created to shelter Jewish refugees after Israel's lost war of independence, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* is a noirish crime novel in the tradition of Raymond Chandler. Sitka is a place filled with Yiddish pimps and prostitutes, drug addicts and degenerates. Where the Chasidic kingmakers are the scheming villains, and the hard-living detectives turn out to have hearts of gold.

The plot turns on the murder of the wayward son of a Chasidic rebbe, a drug-addled chess prodigy found dead in his room at a seedy hotel. Meyer Landsman, the hard-boiled homicide detective investigating the murder, gets more than he bargained for — as noir detectives always do — when he uncovers a plot by Jewish zealots to ignite a war

in the Middle East and retake Jerusalem.

Richly conceived and phenomenally detailed, Chabon's Sitka is home to just the sort of improbable characters that populate Coen brothers films. It is the Coen brothers, after all, who gave the world *The Dude*, the hero of their 1998 film *The Big Lebowski*, a blissed-out stoner and bowling devotee who finds himself negotiating the return of a bimbo wife from her supposed kidnappers.

And their love of genre films, particularly screwball comedies and film noir, seems perfectly suited to a novel that contains distinct elements of both.

*The Yiddish Policemen's Union* was released to critical acclaim in 2007. But among some Jewish writers, the book created a sense of unease, and even barely suppressed outrage, some of which is sure to resurface when the film is released.

Claiming Chabon was sending a clear anti-Zionist message, Ruth Wisse, a noted Yiddish scholar at Harvard University, demolished the novel in a withering essay in *Commentary* magazine, calling it a "sustained act of provocation," among other denigrations; *Commentary's* editor-in-waiting John Podhoretz and journalist Samuel Freedman offered similar criticisms of the novel. A de-

cidedly less scholarly view was expressed in a *New York Post* story, headlined "Novelist's Ugly View of Jews."

One can only imagine what these critics will have to say once the Coen brothers, with their Jewish fluency and twisted sense of humor, get their hands on Chabon's prose.

The upcoming film is being produced by Scott Rudin, who reportedly bought the rights to the book five years ago, before it was even completed, and the film is not expected before mid-2009. But industry skeptics are rightly wary. The film version of one of Chabon's earlier novels, the award-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, has been reported to be in the works for years, with direction by another famous Jewish filmmaker, Sydney Pollack.

But regardless of whether the film version of *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* ever sees the light of day, the news alone has been enough to set the blogosphere on fire with overheated speculation.

"This is the greatest fit ever," one Israel-based blogger heaved. "I can't picture any other director tackling this book and doing it right. What a great fit. Yiddish Noir!!!" ■

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## Kosher Cuisine

### At Purim, bake a gift of breakfast pastries

By Linda Morel, JTA

**M**arcy Goldman still recalls the kind gesture on a Purim in the mid-1980s.

Her first son had come into the world with newborn jaundice and had to stay in the hospital after Goldman, the author of *A Passion for Baking* (Oxmoor House, 2007), was discharged.

Reluctant to leave her baby—he's now 22 and healthy—Goldman spent some sleepless nights in the lounge nearby. Dismal, she calls those nights. "But early one morning, three Orthodox ladies came with hamantaschen, graggers [noisemakers] and small cakes," Goldman remembers. "They sprinkled pennies and pastries around me. Like three angels, they gave me that gladness of feeling, that very festive joy, which Purim is known for."

Each year when the Megillah of Esther is read, Jews revisit the story of Haman, the wicked vizier who plotted to annihilate the Jews of ancient Persia and instead was hung on the gallows he had built for his intended victims, thanks largely to the help of Queen Esther. Much relieved, her Uncle Mordecai asked the Jewish community to turn Purim into days of feasting and gladness. He implored Jews to send gifts to one another and donate money to the poor. Jews to this day give charity, or *tzedakah*, to worthwhile causes and convey gift baskets, or *mishloach manot*, of baked goods, wine and other delicacies to family and friends. They also send to the needy and those new to a community or whose spirits need bolstering.

As a recipient of this kind of compassion Goldman, a pastry chef and master baker, believes that everyone can sprinkle joy as easily as confectioners' sugar. One just needs an oven; she will help with the rest.

"At Purim more than at any other holiday, it's especially meaningful to bake," Goldman says. "Besides the fact that most pastries don't taste as good prepared outside of the home, Purim is a holiday about giving, and baking is about giving of the spirit."

Hamantaschen—homemade or otherwise—for centuries has been the heart of Purim presents among Ashkenazim. But with the advent of the Internet, many people buy professionally prepared gift packages revolving around themes, such as breakfast fare, healthy snacks or pita bread and Middle Eastern cuisine. Although Jewish law permits engaging an agent, such as a store or company, to distribute gift baskets, a business cannot duplicate the homemade flair or assemble gifts with feeling.

Since themes are popular and everyone appreciates the warmth of a cozy breakfast, make this Purim the year to bake muffins, scones or coffee cake for family and friends.

Although Goldman is an award-winning cookbook author, she remains a home baker at heart. She has plenty of advice for those who fear baking.

"Look for recipes where the batter is mixed in one bowl," she says of the fuss-free, time-saving technique. Many one-bowl recipes yield impressive results. Make an easy dough," Goldman says. "Prepare a lot of one thing. Instead of attempting to bake four different pastries, make four batches of one recipe."

Give limited amounts of the batches to each person or family on your list, she suggests, then add thoughtful extras that personalize each gift basket based on the recipient's interests or taste.

Some examples: For tea lovers, include an assortment of fragrant teas, a tea bag caddy and a tea infuser. Avid readers might enjoy a new novel, bookmarks or magazine subscriptions.

Goldman claims that on her Web site, Betterbaking.com, she receives more traffic on Purim than at any other holiday during the year, even though it is a mainstream site.

"People who don't bake find a way to rise to the occasion at Purim," she says.

Goldman also is full of ideas on presenting these breakfast treats with style. One is to use attractive tins, which can be ordered online at Cookietins.com. But with open containers, such as baskets, she suggests wrapping with yards of cellophane that can be purchased in a rainbow of colors at stores that sell gift wrap.

Loaf pans work well as containers, as do colorful mixing bowls, large Chinese take-out boxes (from Dollar stores, Sweet Celebrations and party stores), flower pots, platters or bowls (bought on sale or at thrift shops) or any offbeat vessel. People love to be surprised by unusual packaging. No two gifts have to be presented the same way, nor do they have to contain identical extras.

Here are some extras that complement breakfast pastries: jars of honey or jam, pancake mix, maple syrup, granola, a small breakfast cookbook, tea, coffee or mugs. The day's newspaper might be a nice touch, too.

Like the three women who one morning long ago showered Goldman with pastries and pennies, you can be the sunshine that brightens someone's day.

The recipes below are from *A Passion for Baking*.

### Lemon-yogurt poppy seed muffins

A traditional Purim ingredient, poppy seeds lend crunch to these muffins that stay fresh for days. You can make them extra large for a splashy presentation or in miniature for small mishloach manot containers.

#### Muffin Batter

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Zest of 1 lemon, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon pure lemon extract

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 2 1/4 to 2 1/2 all purpose flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 to 4 tablespoons poppy seeds

#### Lemon Syrup:

- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1 cup sugar

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Arrange oven rack to middle position. Line a large 12-cup muffin pan or a 24-cup mini muffin pan with appropriately sized paper liners and place pan on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet.

2. In a mixer bowl, cream butter until smooth and creamy. Blend in sugar and then eggs, vanilla, lemon juice, zest, lemon extract, and yogurt. Blend well; fold in flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and poppy seeds.
3. For large muffins, use a large ice cream scoop to scoop a generous amount of batter into prepared muffin cups. Make sure you load muffin cups full, but deposit one muffin first as a tester — batter should stay in place. If it topples over, add a bit more flour to the remaining batter. For mini muffins, use a mini ice cream scoop to fill muffin cups.
4. For large muffins, bake until nicely browned around the edges and muffins are set, about 28 to 32 minutes. For mini muffins, bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until muffins spring back when gently pressed with fingertips.
5. For Lemon Syrup, simmer water, lemon juice, extract, and sugar over low heat for 5 minutes. Cool well.
6. Brush baked poppy seed muffins 2 or 3 times with Lemon Syrup while they are still warm. Let cool 5 minutes before removing from pan.

*Yield: 12 large muffins or 24 mini muffins*



## Blueberries-and-cream mall muffins

No mixer is necessary for these gems with wonderful domed tops, just like you get at the mall, or for mini muffins, which fit nicely into small containers for mishloach manot gifts.

### Ingredients:

Nonstick cooking spray	5 cups, approximately, all purpose flour
2 1/4 cups sugar	1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 cup vegetable oil	1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted	1/2 teaspoon salt
4 large eggs	1 cup buttermilk
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract	1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 teaspoon each pure lemon and orange extract, optional	2 cups semi-frozen blueberries
	Finishing Touch: sugar for dusting

1. Preheat oven to 425°. Arrange oven rack to middle position, which is the upper third of most ovens.
2. Generously spray a 12-cup large or standard muffin pan or a 24-cup small muffin pan with nonstick cooking spray and then line with paper muffin liners. Place pan on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet.
3. In a small mixer bowl, blend sugar with oil and butter. Briskly add eggs, vanilla, and other extracts. Fold in 4 cups flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Blend somewhat before next blending in buttermilk and sour cream. Batter should be quite thick; if not, add a touch more flour. Gently fold in berries with a spatula, trying not to break them apart.
4. For big mall muffins, use a large ice cream scoop to scoop a very large amount of batter into prepared muffin cups, loading them as full as you can. You need almost a scoop and a half of batter per cup. For mini-muffins, use a mini ice cream scoop. Dust tops of muffins with a little sugar.
5. For big mall muffins, bake 15 minutes at 425; then reduce oven temperature to 350 and bake until muffins are golden brown and spring back when gently pressed with fingertips, about 12 to 16 more minutes. For mini muffins, bake at 375 until muffins spring back when gently pressed with fingers, about 22 to 25 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes before removing from pan.

*Yield: 12 large mall muffins or 24 mini muffins*

## Breakfast cafe cinnamon crumb cake

This fragrant spice cake is easy but delicious. It's a tender cake that can be divided into individual servings and sealed in plastic wrap for mishloach manot gifts.

Nonstick cooking spray	1 cup chopped walnuts
3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted	1 teaspoon baking powder
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar	1 large egg
1 cup white sugar	1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 cup buttermilk
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon	Confectioners' sugar for dusting
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg	

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Generously spray a 9- or 10-inch springform pan or a 13-by-9-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray. Place pan on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet.
2. In a mixer bowl, blend butter, flour, both sugars, salt, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and nutmeg. Remove 3/4 cup of this mixture and add chopped nuts and remaining 1 teaspoon cinnamon to it. Set aside to become crumb topping.
3. To batter remaining in mixer bowl, add baking powder, baking soda, egg, vanilla, and buttermilk. Using a hand whisk, blend well.
4. Spoon batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle on reserved crumb topping. Bake until cake tests done and springs back when gently pressed with fingertips, about 40 to 45 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Dust with confectioner's sugar.

*Yield: 10 to 12 servings*

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## Warsaw: The new Jewish destination

By Rabbi Brian Lurie, J. the Jewish News Weekly of Northern California

Many Jews hear the word "Poland" and are filled with visions of anti-Semitism. I understand that perspective.

In the late '70s, I traveled twice to Poland, both times with Jewish federation missions. Each trip revolved around visits to Auschwitz- Birkenau—experiences that are among the most emotional and up-setting times of my life. I felt confusion, anger and impotence. In this gray communist society, all Poles looked anti-Semitic to me. I wore a yarmulke throughout my time there to show that we had survived, and as a challenge to all around me. From Poland we went to Israel. The message was simple: from the Holocaust to rebirth, from almost unquenchable evil to light and hope.

I never thought I would go back to Poland. But I returned last month at the urging of Bay Area philanthropist Tad Taube and Jerzy Halbersztadt, the director of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. I went from Israel to Poland on El-Al. That the order of my trip was reversed was a harbinger of the whole experience.

Warsaw was its customary winter gray, but not as cold as I was warned it might be. My room at the Novotel Centrum Hotel was brighter and more user-friendly than the one I had just left in Herzliya Petuach. In discussions with many Poles, I found the attitude of the people and government much like what I

had experienced in Germany during the early '90s—the government was supportive of America and Israel, the people were hungry for democracy and capitalism.

I am not saying that anti-Semitism has vanished. One only has to read "Difficult Questions in Polish-Jewish Dialogue," co-published by the American Jewish Committee and the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations, to be disabused of that notion, but there is a dramatic difference from my trips in the '70s.

Most notably, today's Poland is democratic and more sympathetic to Israel and Jewry than most of Europe. Since the fall of communism in 1989, Poland is home to a phenomenal rebirth of Jewish life and culture that receives support from American donors, led by the San Francisco-based Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture, as well as the Polish government.

For a number of years, I have been concerned that the Holocaust will forever be the central point in Jewish history. Though the Holocaust is our nadir, the Jewish people should be committed to life as our central purpose, rather than death. Despite how

powerful the Holocaust mentality of victimization remains, it must not trump our commitment to living and improving this imperfect world.

The reason for my journey was to talk to the professional leadership of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and talk we did. I

was preconditioned to appreciate the museum's efforts, but my reaction to what the planners were doing thrilled me.

The professionals at the museum — especially

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, head of the international team that is producing the 40,000-square-foot core exhibit — have captured 900 years of Polish Jewish history in the most exciting and unusual ways. I do not have the space here to describe all the imaginative methods her team has used to present those 900 years.

Halbersztadt wrote about the project: "In sum, our museum will take its place internationally as a bold and innovative example of what a museum can be and do in the 21st century. It will provide a rich visitor experience with a unique learning environment that is informed by a progressive approach to informal educa-

tion, civic engagement and dialogue."

After my many meetings, Halbersztadt took me to the site. The museum will face the Rappaport Memorial, which depicts the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Standing there, I realized that this place and this museum will become one of the key destinations for the Jewish people. Already 40,000 Israeli youth visit Poland every year; it will become a major educational center for this young population.

Moreover, I believe that tens of thousands of American Jews will come to Warsaw to experience this place. This also will become a key educational center for Polish youth.

Yet one should not see the museum with a view only to the past, but as a place that offers insights for the present and future. For much of the 900 years depicted in the museum, Poland was the center of all Jewish creativity. Its lessons about pluralism, tolerance, multiculturalism and diversity ring true today. I see the symbol of this place as the phoenix — from ashes we are reborn anew, a strong and dynamic Jewish people.

P.S. The January day I left Warsaw, it was bright, warm and sunny. ■

*Rabbi Brian Lurie was formerly the executive director of the S.F.-based Jewish Community Federation and head of the United Jewish Appeal. He is currently a volunteer in the Bay Area and in Israel.*



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# Calendar

## March 2008

### Saturday 1

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

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

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

### Sunday 2

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

**“From Sumeria to Brooklyn: The Long, Strange Trip of the Jewish People:”** JCS. Education series for adults taught by Larry Kuperman. Learn about Jewish history, the origins of the Bible, forms of Judaism today including focus on Secular Humanistic values, and the implications for modern identity. Today’s topic is Judaism and Islam, covering how these two major religions have coexisted. Light snack and coffee provided. 10:15–11:45 a.m. For information, call 975-9872 or email jcs@jccfed.org.

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

**Depression Awareness:** A Community Conversation. JFS. Third annual event founded as a memorial to Toby Jacobowitz, who ended her life as a result of depression. 2–4:45 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Lisa Keefauver at 769-0209 or email lisa@jfsannarbor.org.

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

### Monday 3

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

**Rabbi’s Class:** TBE. “The Nature of Human Consciousness within Judaism.” Rabbi Rami Shapiro sometimes says that he wants to grow up to be the person his dog thinks he is. What does your dog think of you and what does it mean to be human, to be good, to be loving? These issues and others will be explored through Jewish eyes using a variety of sources including film, television and books including *He, She, It* by Marge Piercy and some great episodes of Star Trek. 7:30 p.m. For information, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or email dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

### Tuesday 4

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; Conversations on Current State of World Jewry, 11 a.m., \$3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and Activities including Mah Jongg, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

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

commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

### Wednesday 5

**Jewish Learning Institute (JLI):** Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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

**Concert Outing:** JFS. Complimentary tickets for low income seniors to the University Musical Society concert featuring the Orion String Quartet and David Krakauer, clarinet. Tickets provided through UMS Fanni ad Clifford Epstein Fund. 8 p.m. at U-M Hill Auditorium. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

### Thursday 6

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

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

**Birthdays and Carol Finerman:** JCC—Seniors. Special congratulations will go out to those who are 80 years old or better. Bring your family. Cake and ice cream provided. 12:30 p.m.

**“Preserving Jewish History:”** JCC—Seniors. Carol Finerman, Kelsey Museum and Jewish Historical Society (JHS) Archivist and President of Beth Israel Congregation, will share historical information and interview records of the local Jewish community and bring a “finding aid.” Elise Weisbach of the JHS will also participate. 1 p.m.

**International Women’s Day Celebration:** JFS. Event features lunch and concert by Ida Kogan in Russian to honor mothers, wives, friends and colleagues. Lunch at noon; concert at 1:30 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

**Be Happy It’s Adar:** HDS. Hebrew Day School’s Student Talent Show. 7 p.m. For information, call 971-4633.

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

### Friday 7

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

**First Friday Shabbat:** JCS. Two concurrent services, one for adults and young adults and another for young children. Recently rewritten observance is designed for adults and young adults who want to slow down and take time at the end of the week to relax and reflect,

with occasional speakers and discussions. Children’s observance, led by Tzofim (aides), begins with a short and upbeat celebration with lots of singing and jumping, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner for everyone. This month’s theme for the potluck is the Americas. Bring a vegetarian South/Central American dish to pass or bring a small contribution to cover cost of ordering. \$8/person or \$20/family. 6:30 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to RSVP, contact jcs@jccfed.org or call 975-9872.

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

### Saturday 8

**Book Sale:** TBE Brotherhood. Hundreds of books to browse and buy. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Minyan Matok (M&M):** BIC. A new special service for children in kindergarten through grade 2 with songs, stories and active learning. 11 a.m.

**Tot Shabbat Service:** BIC. For tots 3–5 years old and their parents followed by Tot Kiddush. 11:15 a.m.

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

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

**The State of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process:** Brit Tzedek v’Shalom. The leaders of the first joint Israeli-Palestinian think tank, the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), will share a first-hand assessment of the state of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in these uncertain times. Part of a ten-city tour with two authors - Israeli Gershon Baskin and Palestinian Hanna Siniora. 8 p.m. at the JCC. A gourmet donors’ dinner precedes the talk. Donation required for dinner. Co-sponsored by Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Cultural Society, and the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. For information, contact Mike Appel-Kraut at 769-5680 or email appelkraut@tds.net.

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

### Sunday 9

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

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

**Kensington Park Hike:** Jewish Hiker’s of Michigan. Hike at Kensington Metro Park. Small charge for parking. For information, or to carpool, call Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

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

#### Monday 10

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

**Rabbi’s Class:** TBE. “The Nature of Human Consciousness within Judaism.” Rabbi Rami

Shapiro sometimes says that he wants to grow up to be the person his dog thinks he is. What does your dog think of you and what does it mean to be human, to be good, to be loving? These issues and others will be explored through Jewish eyes using a variety of sources including film, television and books including *He, She, It* by Marge Piercy and some great episodes of Star Trek. 7:30 p.m. For information, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or email dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

### Tuesday 11

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; Conversations on Current State of World Jewry, 11 a.m., \$3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and Activities including Mah Jongg, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**“Israel at the Crossroads: How You Can Have a Real Impact:”** BIC. Presented by Rafi Danziger, PhD, AIPAC National Director of Research and Information. 8 p.m.

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

### Wednesday 12

**Jewish Learning Institute (JLI):** Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

**Matinee Musicale:** JCC—Seniors. With guest cellist Sarah Cleveland, soloist from Don Quixote. Dessert and socializing at 1:30 p.m. Concert at 2 p.m.

**Men’s Torah Study:** TBE. 7:30 p.m.

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

### Thursday 13

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

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

**Presentation:** JCC—Seniors. Library Outreach Coordinator, Ira Lax presents a discussion and lecture on “The Homeland During WWII.” 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 Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

### Friday 14

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.



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# Michal Porath

## Calendar

**"Israel at 60:"** TBE. Shabbaton Weekend with Rabbi Reuven Firestone. Dinner at 6 p.m. followed by Shabbat service with sermon by Rabbi Firestone. \$9/dinner. For information or to register, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or email [dfitzig@templebethemeth.org](mailto:dfitzig@templebethemeth.org). See also March 15.

**Celebrate Shabbat the Summer Camp Way:** JCC-ECC and JCC-Youth. Bring back memories of your summer camp Shabbats and create new ones. The Early Childhood Center and Youth Department invite you to join in a fun-filled Shabbat dinner, sing-along and craft time. Chance for past campers to get excited about camp this summer and for prospective families to learn about Camp Keshet for ages 3-5 and Camp Ranaana for grades K-8. \$10/adults; \$5/children 2 and older. 6-10 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or email [ndeyoung@umich.edu](mailto:ndeyoung@umich.edu).

**Pourin' for Purim:** JCS. Wine, beer and cheese tasting adventure, provided by Josh Miner, gelato specialist of Zingerman's Creamery. \$45/person; \$80/couple. 7 p.m. at the JCC. For information, see website at [www.jewish-cultural-society.org](http://www.jewish-cultural-society.org), call 975-9872 or email [jcs@jccfed.org](mailto:jcs@jccfed.org).

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

### Saturday 15

**Shabbat Yoga:** BIC. Gentle "yoga flow" class intended to help increase one's openness and awareness before joining regular Shabbat service, inspired by the emerging practice of

Jewish Yoga. Led by Allison Stupka. 9 a.m.

**"Israel at 60:"** TBE. Shabbaton Weekend continues from Friday. Service, discussions, lunch and interactive text study with Rabbi Reuven Firestone. \$18/Saturday registration; \$27/Friday and Saturday registration. For information or to register, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or email [dfitzig@templebethemeth.org](mailto:dfitzig@templebethemeth.org).

**Concert Outing:** JFS. Outing for older adults to hear the music of Rachel Patrick, violinist, at Britton Recital Hall. 2 p.m. \$6 for roundtrip transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at [nina@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:nina@jfsannarbor.org) or call 769-0209.

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

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

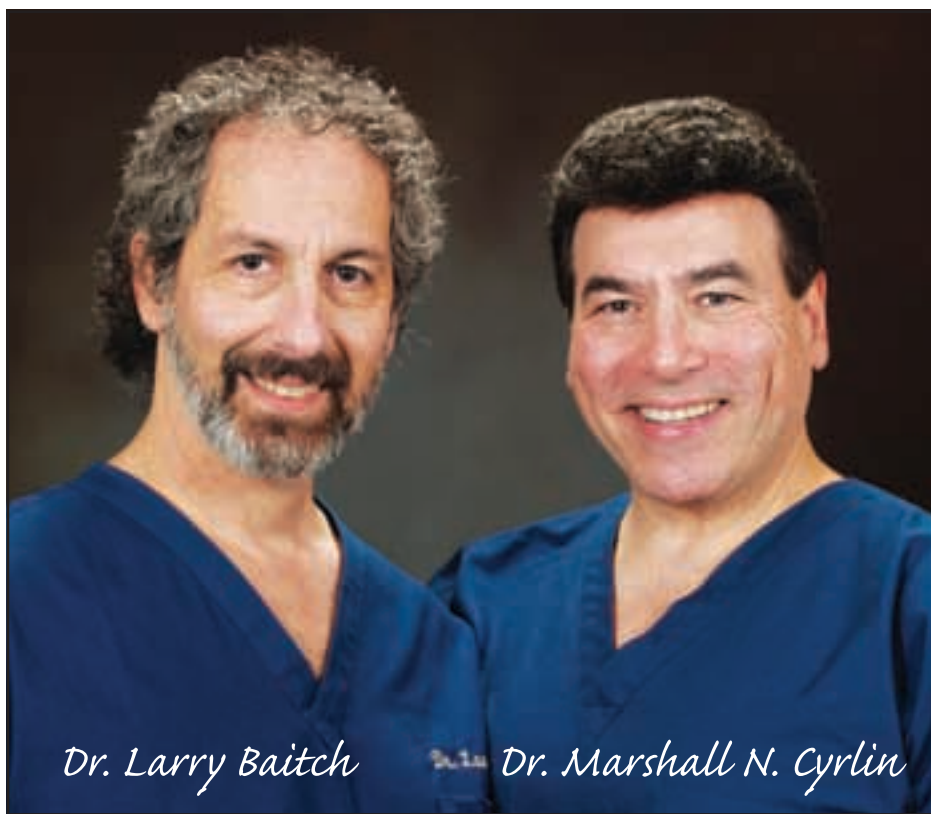
**Shabbat services:** See listing at the end of calendar.

### Sunday 16

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

**Blood Drive:** BIC. Red Cross Blood Drive from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Purim Basket Assembly and Delivery:** JFS. Volunteers needed to assemble and deliver baskets to area seniors. Meet at Jewish Family Services



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at 11 a.m. to put together baskets, with delivery to follow. Families and teen volunteers welcome. Lunch provided. For information or to register, contact JFS Volunteer Services Coordinator Deborah Renner at [deborah@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:deborah@jfsannarbor.org) or call 769-0209.

**Early Bird Camp Registration:** JCC-Youth. Learn about Camp Ranaana while participating in activities for new and returning campers and enjoying a free pizza lunch. 12:30–2 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org).

**Purim Party:** JCS. Games, prizes, arts and crafts, hamantaschen, pizza and drinks, Purim spiel and costume parade. Costumes encouraged, but not required. Game and food tickets at the door. \$1/5 tickets. 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC. For information, call 975-9872 or email [jcs@jccfed.org](mailto:jcs@jccfed.org).

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

**All Ensemble Concert:** TBE. Featuring Israeli music presented by 200 musicians. 4 p.m.

**Women’s Rosh Chodesh:** TBE. Monthly celebration of the Hebrew calendar’s new month/new moon and traditionally observed by women. Co-sponsored by Caring Community and the TBE Sisterhood, each short service is followed by a discussion, study session, or special presentation. Group meets monthly on Sundays. 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Abbie Egherman at [aje\\_2001@yahoo.com](mailto:aje_2001@yahoo.com).

**Israeli Dance Party:** JCC. Dance teacher Tom Starks will lead the dancing, joined by special guest teachers Cheryl Feit and Gordon Smith from the West Bloomfield JCC. Dancers can request their favorites and learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more. Bring a pair of sneakers or other flat, comfortable shoes. \$6/person. Refreshments provided. Instruction for beginners, 7:30–8 p.m.; Open dancing, 8–10 p.m. RSVP to Laura Steiner at [a2rikud@gmail.com](mailto:a2rikud@gmail.com) call the JCC at 971-0990.

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

## Monday 17

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [info@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:info@jfsannarbor.org). *Every Monday.*

**“Praying With Our Feet: Jewish Views on Social Justice:”** TBE. Four session class led by Devon Fitzig, Why are Jews so overrepresented in social justice groups? Come hear about American Jewish activism and explore Jewish texts. *Also March 24, April 7 and 14.*

## Tuesday 18

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; Conversations on Current State of World Jewry, 11 a.m., \$3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and Activities including Mah Jongg, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Movie Tuesday:** TBE. Showing of *The Ritchie Boys*. Coffee and noshes provided. 1–3 p.m.

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

## Wednesday 19

**Jewish Learning Institute (JLI):** Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on Jewish faith, reason, and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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

## Thursday 20

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

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

**YOH! Yiddish Open House:** JCC–Seniors. *The Mame-Loshn* is a documentary film including popular figures such as comedian David Steinberg talking about Yiddish being spoken in their households. 1 p.m. For information, contact Lily Ladin at 662-6613.

**Purim Carnival:** TBE. Megillah Reading by Rabbi Levy at 6 p.m. followed by carnival games and food until 8:30 p.m. \$1/4 game tickets. Special tot game area.

**Megillah Reading:** BIC. Reading of the Megillah, The Book of Esther, with the Pirates of Purim: A Sing-A-Long Purim Shpiel. 7:30 p.m.

**Megillah Reading:** AAOM. 7:40 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

**Purim Celebration:** Chabad. Megillah reading, gragars for everyone, hamantaschen eating, dancing, singing, door prizes, raffles, refreshments, and more. Come in costume. 8:15 p.m.

## Friday 21

**Megillah Reading:** BIC. 7:30 a.m.

**Megillah Reading:** Chabad. Morning services with Megillah reading. 7:30 a.m. Send *mishlo-ach manot* (Purim baskets) during the day.

**Shacharit and Megillah Reading:** AAOM. 9 a.m. at U-M Hillel

**School’s Out/JCC’s In:** JCC-Youth. For children in K–fifth grade. Spring has sprung and it is time to celebrate Purim. Make hamantaschen, decorate masks, enjoy Purim carnival games, and much more. Purim is the time to be silly and there will be plenty of opportunities for silliness during this School’s Out day. \$32/JCC members; \$30/siblings; \$8/extended care. For information or to register, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org).

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC–Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni for 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

**Purim Seuda:** BIC. With traditional “Purim Torah, Pranks and Puns” at 6:15 p.m. followed by Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Kiddush and desserts at 7:15 p.m.

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

## Saturday 22

**Tot Shabbat Service:** BIC. For tots 3–5 years old and their parents followed by Tot Kiddush. 11 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:**

Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

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

**Kids’ Night Out:** It’s a Webkinz World: JCC-Youth. Bring your favorite Webkinz pet or stuffed animal to this special night devoted to a celebration of toys. Introduce your favorite toy to your friends, invite other kids to be friends in Webkinz World, and play games to earn prizes. After dinner, watch the movie *Toy Story*. \$20/JCC members, \$18/additional siblings; \$24/non-members, \$22/additional siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. For information or to register by March 20, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org).

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

## Sunday 23

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

**Brunch:** BIC. Our Shul, Our School Brunch. 10–11 a.m.

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

**Bid’n Brew II:** Hadassah. Fundraising auction of a more than 100 items including theater tickets, jewelry, carpet cleaning, bowling, restaurant certificates, car servicing, beauty treatments, massages, electricians, plumbers, heating services, etc. Money raised will benefit Hadassah Medical Organization and Youth Programs. Admission includes entertainment and dessert buffet. Auction registration begins at 2 p.m. and bidding will end at 3:30 p.m. \$10/adults; \$5/18 years and younger. For information, contact Barb Bergman at 668-6821 or email [yoshka1942@aol.com](mailto:yoshka1942@aol.com) or Judy Williams at 665-1339 or email [naugwarren@aol.com](mailto:naugwarren@aol.com).

**Lilith Discussion Group:** TBE Sisterhood. 7:30 p.m.

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

## Monday 24

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [info@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:info@jfsannarbor.org). *Every Monday.*

**“Praying With Our Feet: Jewish Views on Social Justice:”** TBE. Second session of four session class led by Devon Fitzig, Why are Jews so overrepresented in social justice groups? Come hear about American Jewish activism and explore Jewish texts.

## Tuesday 25

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; Conversations on Current State of World Jewry, 11 a.m., \$3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and Activities including Mah Jongg, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

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

## Wednesday 26

**“Help Your Children Enjoy Nutritious Foods:”** JCC–ECC. Four-part series of seminars to give new insights on how to offer kids delicious, nutritious meals. Get tips on how to find time to eat breakfast, what to pack for lunch, what snacks to offer and how to reduce soft drink consumption. Learn simple and fun techniques, become better skilled and get tips. \$60 for 4 weeks or \$20 per session. 7–8 p.m. Contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or email [ndeyoung@umich.edu](mailto:ndeyoung@umich.edu). *Also April 2, 9 and 16.*

**Jewish Learning Institute (JLI):** Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

**Men’s Torah Study:** TBE. 7:30 p.m.

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

## Thursday 27

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

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

**Presentation:** JCC–Seniors. Local expert Linda Diane Feldt will present “Cooking with Dark Green Vegetables,” and discuss greens and herbs for common ills. 1 p.m.

**Grandparent University:** JFS and JCC. “Jewish Holidays: Traditions, Gatherings, and Meaningful Celebrations” and “Making and Sharing Family Rituals.” 1–3 p.m. at the JCC. \$5/drop-in cost.

**Caregiver Conversations:** JFS. Monthly drop-in support group for adult children caring for aging parents. Cosponsored with the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Jewish Cultural Society and the Jewish Community Center. Part of the JFS Caregiver Concierge program funded by the Jewish Federation. 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to register, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email [abbie@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:abbie@jfsannarbor.org).

**YOH! Yiddish Open House:** JCC–Seniors. Annie Rose and Kol Holev choir members will perform. 7:30 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 Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 28

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

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

Saturday 29

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

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

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

Sunday 30

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

**“From Sumeria to Brooklyn:** The Long, Strange Trip of the Jewish People:” JCS. Education series for adults taught by Larry Kuperman. Learn about Jewish history, the origins of the Bible, forms of Judaism today including focus on Secular Humanistic values, and the implications for modern identity. Today’s session will examine the roots and consequences of the Holocaust. Was it inevitable and how has it shaped Jewish identity? Light snack and coffee provided. 10:15–11:45 a.m. For information, call 975-9872 or email jcs@jccfed.org.

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

**Passover Sale:** TBE. Everything needed for Passover, but the matzah. Seder plates, matzah covers, Elijah’s and Miriam’s cups, haggadot and children’s items. 3:30–7:30 p.m.

**Dinner with the Family:** JFS. Fundraising event offering community members the chance to dine at 30 area homes and support an agency that serves your family in the community. For information, contact Carol Lessure at carol@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

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

**Monday 31**

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 6:05 p.m. on 3/1; 6:15 p.m. on 3/8; 7:25 p.m. on 3/15; 7:30 p.m. on 3/22; At U-M Hillel. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:30 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. (\$4/for Tot Shabbat dinner menu of fish sticks, macaroni and cheese, and salad.) For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid’s pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

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

Weekly Shabbat services and dasses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chabad House  
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel  
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

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

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

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

Jewish Federation  
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah  
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

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

U-M Hillel  
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

March 7	6:10 pm
March 14	6:18 pm
March 21	6:26 pm
March 28	6:34 pm

Peace prospects, from page 1

Israel, during which he worked for Interns for Peace, the Ministry of Education, and the Institute for Education for Jewish-Arab Coexistence. Baskin has published books and hundreds of articles in the Hebrew, English, and Arabic press on a range of topics related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. During the Premiership of the late Yitzhak Rabin, he served as an outside policy advisor of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Baskin was a member of the Jerusalem Experts Committee established by the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office during the Final Status Negotiations in 2000-2001.

Hanna Siniora, a member of the Palestinian National Council since 1990, has a long and distinguished history of public service. He was the first Palestinian to officially meet Secretary of State George Schultz as a representative of the occupied territories, facilitating President Reagan’s official recognition of the PLO. He served as a member of the Palestinian Jordanian delegation and advised the Palestinian delegation to Madrid in the early 90s. He is the founder and publisher of the Jerusalem Times, a weekly English-language Palestinian paper, and founder and co-chair of the Israeli-Palestinian radio station “All for Peace.” ■

*Brit Tzedek v’Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace, is a national grassroots oranization over 37,000 strong, that educates and mobilizes American Jews in support of a negotiated two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For more information, contact Mike Appel-Kraut at 769-5680 or appelkraut@tds.net.*

Immigration rhetoric, from page 19

“I’m not perfect,” Gilchrist said. “I’m very, very aware that some persons can take what I say as smacking of elitism and racism and things like that.”

Beyond the concern over tone, Jewish organizations have a deep, substantive disagreement with Dobbs and the immigration activists over U.S. immigration policy. The consensus Jewish position supports comprehensive immigration reform, including improved border security and a path toward citizenship for those who are here illegally, as well as “generous” policies on legal immigration.

The Minuteman groups want to see millions of illegal immigrants deported. Gilchrist says the issue isn’t immigration, but illegal immigration -- and, more pointedly, the failure of many immigrants to properly assimilate into American society.

“My intentions certainly never have been to create racial hatred,” Gilchrist said. “It’s to bring forward the fact that we have a lax concern for immigration enforcement. Multiculturalism and diversity are great concepts. But when they lack assimilation into the host country, they’re very destructive and they create things like racism and segregation.” ■

Spa for Body and Soul, from page 1

the many planned for the day, everyone will have the chance to hear from guest speaker Dr. Geri Markel, principal of Managing Your Mind Coaching & Seminars. Markel will speak about the types of distraction that negatively affect attention, memory, organization, and critical thinking. “Better management of distractions can reduce stress, as well as spur greater productivity and creativity. At a deeper level, defeating the ‘Demons of Distraction’ helps you stay true to your values and enjoy greater peace of mind” says Markel. It is with these goals in mind that all women in the Ann Arbor community are invited to enjoy this invigorating event. ■

*Spa for the Body and Soul will run from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets are \$36 each, and include a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and all of the day’s activities. For ticket information, visit www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Laura Berger at 677-0100 or laura@jewishannarbor.org.*

Session One

Enhancing our Inner Strength

This session will include basic philosophy of self-protection as well as energetic exercises and hands-on maneuvers for defending yourself humanely and peacefully.

Connecting Generations and Genetics: The Importance of Family Health History

Learn how knowing your family health history can help you and your family members. Recent advances in genetic testing and risk assessment for common diseases will be discussed.

Strength and Stretch

Strength training for your core, upper and lower body using rubber tubing (provided) followed by a relaxing full body stretch. .

Keep the Flame Burning: Bringing Jewish Values into your Home

The Torah says that children are our building blocks. How can we shore up the foundation of our heritage? Hear some creative ideas from a Jewish mother of five and discuss your unique approaches to bringing Judaism alive in your home.

A Touch of Beauty

Cosmetics authority Sephora will present a skin and make-up consultation with tips on how to maximize your natural beauty.

Session Two

Enhancing our Inner Strength

See Session One.

Connecting Generations and Genetics: The Importance of Family Health History

See Session One

Cardio Dance

Fast paced cardio workout featuring low impact basic to intermediate choreography. .

Stir up your Seder!

Local chef Lori Shephard of Simply Scrumptious Catering will present Passover recipes and a discussion on the importance of food in Jewish culture and ritual practice. Participants are invited to bring their favorite Jewish recipe to exchange.

Jewish traditions for the 21st century woman

Join this panel of women representing a range of Jewish affiliations as they present personal perspectives on balancing living Jewishly with being a modern woman in our time.

## Vitals

### Mazal tov

Kathy and Steve Rhodes on the birth of their granddaughter, Andrea Ryan Lerner, born on January 7. Andrea is the daughter of Sara (Rhodes) and Scott Lerner.

Sandra Berman and Marvin Berman on the birth of their grandson, Simon Felix Berman, born on January 24. Simon is the son of Dan and Lila Berman.

Elise and Jerry Herman on the birth of their granddaughter, Nava Chaya on February 1. Nava's parents are Jill (Herman) and Avi Goldfein.

Rachel Newman and husband Yosi Zekic on the birth of their daughter, Esther Maya Zekic, on February 1. Grandparents are Charles and Sharon Newman, great-grandmother is Dorothy Newman.

Richard and Eve Primus on the birth of their daughter, Jessica Ruth Primus, on January 11.

Rabbi Aharon and Esther Goldstein on the birth of their granddaughter born February 19. The parents are Rochel (Goldstein) and Levi Simon.

Terry Silver and Sarajane Winkelman on the engagement of their son, David Silver, to Angela Aquino.

Karen and Milton Shill on the engagement of their son, Jonathan (Yoni) Shill, to Leah Willis.

Anna Boonin and Matya Gilbert-Schachter on their wedding.

David Popovtzer on his bar mitzvah on March 1.

Daniel Rothchild on his bar mitzvah on March 8.

Jacob Schultz on his bar mitzvah on March 15.

Jeremy Simon on his bar mitzvah on March 29.

### Condolences

Marian Cohen on the death of her father, Harry Cohen, February 14.

Michael and Leo Gankin and their families on the death of their father, Boris Gankin, February 13.

Oren Gutfeld on the death of his mother, Ruth Gutfeld.

Natalia Malakh on the death of her mother, Izabella Romanenko.

Alan Mellow on the death of his father, Jules Mellow.

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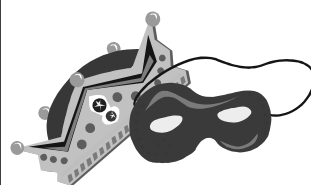
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will be sold at the door.

Costumes Encouraged!



Thursday, March 20, 2008  
6 to 8:30 pm

At the Jewish Community  
Center of Washtenaw County  
For more information, Call 665-4744.

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**NEW PROGRAMS!**

# CAMP RAANANA

THE JCC'S OUTDOOR DAY CAMP  
FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-8  
**June 23 - August 22, 2008**

- Experienced college age counselors
- Beautiful setting at Independence Lake park
- Judaic programming run by Israeli specialists
- Weekly special events and field trips
- C.I.T. and Junior Counselor programs
- Extended care options for a.m. and p.m

## **CAMP RAANANA FOR GRADES K-2**

Now featuring more instructional swim lessons, unique arts & crafts activities, structured sports time, nature exploration, and enhanced Judaic programs

## **NEW! CAMP RAANANA FOR GRADES 3-5**

All our classic activities, plus new specialty options such as Abrakadoodle Art, Photography, Model Rocketry, Soccer, Drama, Edible Art, Boating, and more

## **PIONEER TRAVEL PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-8**

An enriching summer filled with opportunities for personal growth through mitzvah projects, exciting field trips, and participation in special events and Shabbats at camp



## **DON'T MISS OUT ON GREAT EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS!**

Join us for a free pizza lunch at the JCC from 12:30-2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, to learn more about camp, meet the counselors, and sign up before the March 31st early bird deadline. Plus, campers who bring a friend that registers for camp for the first time will receive an extra \$10 off a session of camp. Please RSVP to Deborah at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or (734) 971-0990 if you plan to attend the lunch.

### **Keep an eye on your mailbox for this year's camp brochure!**

You can also visit [www.jccannarbor.org](http://www.jccannarbor.org) to download the brochure and registration forms.

Contact our new camp director, Deborah Huerta, at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 734-971-0990 for more information.