

Ruth W. Messenger to speak in Ann Arbor March 31

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

On Tuesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. Ruth Messenger, president of American Jewish World Service and one of the most dynamic speakers in America today, will present “Jews as Global Citizens: Our Responsibility in the World.” Speaking of her own experiences in the developing world, Messenger will explain how American Jews, who enjoy greater affluence and influence than ever before, can do their part to alleviate poverty, hunger, violence, disease, and oppression. The entire community is invited at no charge.

Sharing the words of dedicated Jews from communities across the United States—college and rabbinical students, community leaders and skilled professionals—Messenger will detail the enormous transformative impact volunteering and advocacy can make in the modern era.

“By embracing our obligation to assist all people in need, regardless of race, religion, or nationality, we have the capacity to ensure social justice for coming generations. As Jews



Ruth Messenger

who take seriously our role as global citizens, we will contribute to *tikkun olam*, the fixing of the world.”

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS SHERMAN

The American Jewish World Service (AJWS), is an international development organization providing support to more than 400 grassroots social change projects throughout the world. Messenger assumed the presidency in 1998, following a 20-year career in public service in New York City. She is an active member of her synagogue and serves on the boards of several not-for-profit organizations. In honor of her tireless work to end the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, Messenger received an award from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs in 2006. She has been awarded honorary degrees from Hebrew Union College, Hebrew College, and Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and awards for her service from the Women's Funding Network and the American Jewish Committee. For seven consecutive years, Messenger was among *The Forward's* “50 most influential Jews of the year.” Messenger has three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. ■

JCC “Raise the Roof” Auction

Leslie Bash, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's 2009 Gala Auction will be held on Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the JCC. The event will raise funds to replace and better insulate the JCC's roof. There will be a raffle and both live and silent auctions at the event, as well as a “build your own dinner buffet” catered by Simply Scrumptious, and live musical entertainment.

The money raised will allow the JCC to replace its entire roof—some of which is more than 40 years old. Providing a new, heavily insulated roof will both improve the environment for JCC programs and increase the building's energy efficiency.

A large auction committee, led by Fran Martin and Pam Landau, has been working for months to acquire the many items that will



continues on page 2

“Mussar: Change Yourself, Change the World”: A weekend with Dr. Alan Morinis

Steve Merritt, special to WJN

A major proponent of the teachings and practices of Mussar, Dr. Alan Morinis, Ph.D., will visit Ann Arbor March 20–22 for a series of talks and a practical workshop in a community-wide program titled “Mussar: Change Yourself, Change the World.”

“As our world gets more and more difficult, it is easy to become overwhelmed, contracted and paralyzed,” Morinis says, “but from a Jewish perspective, that response is not an option.” Morinis goes on to note that Mussar is a way to “cultivate the inner resources to help us work with our difficult experiences in a constructive way that fosters growth and wholeness for the individual as well as the community.” Mussar is a centuries-old Jewish spiritual practice that uses contemplation, text study, journaling, and other exercises to cultivate character traits such as patience, humility, gratitude, and trust.

The Mussar weekend begins Friday at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth with dinner, services, and a sermon titled “What is Mussar and why should I care?” Saturday morning opens with Shabbat services at University of Michigan Hillel followed at 11:30 a.m. by a brief

talk on “The parsha through a Mussar lens.” The session following lunch is “Contemplative Mussar as a transformative practice.”

“The Torah and Jewish tradition set very high standards for what a human being should be,” says Morinis in speaking of this session, “truthful, kind, compassionate, generous, patient—ultimately packaging this set of virtues together in the injunction: ‘You shall be holy’” (Lev. 19:1).

“Over the centuries, the masters of the Mussar tradition have developed techniques,” he continues, aimed at this end, “so that little by little we become someone different from who we are today: We become holy.”

In the evening, activities will shift to Beth Israel Congregation. Morinis will speak over a light meal on the topic “Why you are how you are: a Jewish perspective.” This session examines the long-debated question of “nature vs. nurture.” His talk will build on the Jewish text *Orchot Tzaddikim* (The Ways of the Righteous), which addressed this question about 500 years ago. According to Morinis, the answer found there is highly relevant to us, touching on many issues and questions critical for living the best possible life.



Dr. Alan Morinis

Sunday morning will feature a workshop on “Integrating the practice of Mussar into your daily life.” It will start at 9 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.

Dr. Morinis is an anthropologist, filmmaker, writer, and student of spiritual traditions. Born and raised in a culturally Jewish but non-observant home, he studied anthropology on a Rhodes Scholarship at Ox-

ford University, where he earned his Ph.D. Morinis has written books, produced feature films, documentaries, and television dramas, and taught at several universities. For the past 11 years, Morinis' passion has been the nearly lost Jewish spiritual discipline of Mussar. His journey is detailed in *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* (Broadway 2002). His guide to Mussar practice, *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*, was published in 2007.

The cost for the weekend, including all materials and meals (vegetarian), is \$50; single-day registration is \$30. For a complete schedule, or to register, go to jewishannarbor.org and click on the “Mussar Weekend” link. For scholarships, student discounts, or other questions, email AnnArborMussarWeekend@gmail.com or call Merritt at 274-5185.

Morinis' visit is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Beth Israel Congregation, Hillel, the JCC, the Jewish Cultural Society, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Pardes Hannah, and TBE. ■

In this issue...



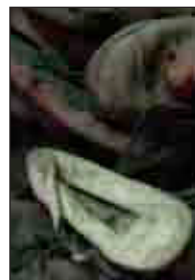
UMS
March
Madness

Page 6



Jewish
Culture
Immersion
Day

Page 13



Voices of
Youth

Page 14

Washtenaw Jewish News
c/o Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 85

**TAILOR
MADE SERVICE**

With Me You're Family

ILENE FRIEDLAND
REALTOR
734-358-7089
www.ilenefriedland.com
friedlandrealtors@gmail.com

Reinhart
734-769-3800

Amadeus
Elegant Central European Dining
Pastries • Soups • Salads • Sandwiches
Traditional Foods & Vegetarian Selections
Candlelight Dinners
with Live Classical Music
Wine • Beer • Liqueurs & Special Coffees
122 East Washington Street
(734) 665-8767
Open: T - Th 11:30 - 3, 5 - 10 • F 11:30 - 3, 5 - 11
Sat. 11:30 - 11 • Special Sunday Brunch 11 - 3

**gold bond
cleaners**

LB-FE 3001
Fabric: 100% Polyester
Professionally Dryclean
Short Cycle, No Steam
Warm Iron As Needed
Made in China
RN 24768

**Serving Ann Arbor
for over 30 years.**

**Quality
Dry Cleaning
& Shirt Service**

332 Maynard St.
across from the Nickels Arcade
668-6335 • 668-7017

Community

JCC "Raise the Roof Auction" from page 1

be raffled or sold in the live and silent auctions. The auction committee members are Sue Adler, Pat Binder, Judy Cohen, Eeta Gershow, Laurel Hern, Liz Kirschner, Elaine Margolis, Norman Miller, Lisa Molnar, Ruth Petit, and Lisa Weiss.

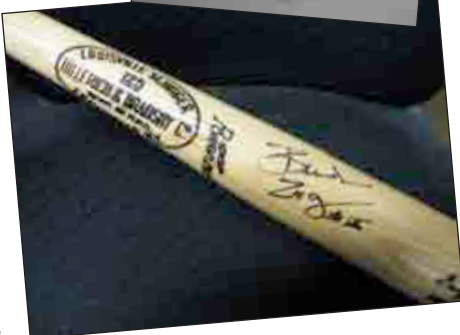
Auction items include a one-week stay in a three-bedroom condominium in Hilton Head; a one-week stay in a two-bedroom condo in Longboat Key; a one-week stay at a condo in Bonita Springs, FL; jewelry by Michal Negrin and Michal Golan; tickets to the Stratford, Ontario Shakespeare Festival; tickets to the Shaw Festival in Niagra on the Lake; a gift certificate for photography by John Shultz; a \$500 CD from Ann Arbor Commerce Bank; and a variety of other travel packages, sports memorabilia, restaurant gift certificates, books, jewelry, art, lessons, photographic sessions, Judaica items, tickets to cultural and entertainment events, clothing, home items, and gourmet foods.

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

The Gala Auction event will include a buffet dinner and musical entertainment by local musicians Debra Gombert and Brett Levy. The auctioneer will be Dr. David Magidson, of Jewish Film Festival fame.

Auction tickets are \$36 per person and include two free raffle tickets. In addition, there will be a Kids' Night Out Program at the JCC. Families using this program and attending the auction will receive an additional two free auction raffle tickets.

For further information about auction admission, sponsorships, Kids' Night Out, or to donate goods and services, contact Rachel Ricca or Rebekah Gamble at rachelricca@jccfed.org, rebekahgamble@jccfed.org, or 971-0990. ■



Zumba exercise classes are offered every day at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County with instructor Karen Silverman. Zumba is the new dance craze featuring Latin and international rhythms. For more information on classes and registration, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

In this issue...

Advertisers	35	Kosher Cuisine	27
Around Town	34	On Another Note	26
Arts & Culture	6	Rabbinic Commentary	10
Calendar	28	Seniors	4
Congregations	16	Youth	21
Film	25	Vitals	35
Israel	17	World News	12

JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
voice: 734/971-1800
fax: 734/971-1801
e-mail: wjn.editor@gmail.com
www.washtenawjewishnews.org

Editor and Publisher
Susan Kravitz Ayer

Copy Editor
David Erik Nelson

Calendar Editor
Claire Sandler

Advertising Manager
Gordon White

Design and Layout
Dennis Platte

Staff Writers
Judy Cohen, David Erik Nelson,
Sandor Slomovits

Contributing Writers
Aura Ahuvia, Roann Altman, Toby Axelrod, Leslie Bash, Laurie Barnett, Laura Berger, Sara Billman, William C. Daroff, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Eileen Freed, Julie Gales, Tina Gargotta, Terri Ginsburg, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Rabbi Altar Goldstein, Esther Goldstein, Jesse Gordon, Noa Gutterman, Ben Harris, Erika Hauff, Kelly Hartog, Peretz Hirshbein, Deborah Huerta, Michael J. Jordan, Ron Kampeas, Kim Reick Kunoff, Rabbi Robert Levy, Robin Little, Andrea Ludwig, Eszter Margit, Merrill Poliner, Cantor Annie Rose, Dina Shtull, David Shtulman, Clara Silver, Ronnie Simon, Elliot Sorkin, Bert Stratton, Hadar Susskind, Tamar Weaver

Mailing Committee
Ruth Ankiewicz, Beverly Bixler, Ruth Breslaw, Ethel Ellis, Steve Fishman, Esther Goldman, Fran Goldman, Betty Hammond, Jayne Harary, Evelyn Horwitz, Doris Jamron, Marilyn Krimm, Lily Ladin, Doris Miller, Bob and Sophie Mordis, Irwin Pollack, Lotte Rosenbaum, Esther Rubin, Sol Saginaw, Sarah Shoem, Nell Stern

Special thanks
To Ethel Ellis and Betty Hammond

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

Member of
American Jewish Press Association



©2009 by the Washtenaw Jewish News.
All rights reserved. No portion of the Washtenaw Jewish News may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

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

Circulation: 5,000
Subscriptions:
\$12 bulk rate inside Washtenaw County
\$18 first-class subscription

The deadline for the March issue of the Washtenaw Jewish News is Friday, March 6.

Publication date: Thursday, March 27.
Extra copies of the Washtenaw Jewish News are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Community

Chabad to host circus-themed Purim

Chana Kroll, special to the WJN

This March 10, Chabad of Ann Arbor will once again offer a unique way to celebrate Purim: Chabad is going to the circus, and they're inviting the entire Jewish community to come along. In the past, Chabad programs have taken participants on journeys to the Far East for Purim in China, back in time to taste the shtetl Purims of old, and back home to Israel for a sabara-style Purim. Shternie Zweibel, director of Camp Gan Israel, is hosting a program for the community this year that she hopes will make the *mitzvah* (commandment) to be joyous on Purim even easier for local Jews to keep.

This all-ages event begins at 5 p.m. with a reading of the Megillah (the story of the sinister plot against the Jews of ancient Persia and their miraculous salvation). Everyone is invited to come in costume. At 5:30 dinner will be served, followed by the evening carnival. In keeping with the evening's circus theme, even

dinner will focus on fun, with lots of kid-friendly foods. The carnival program will include games and other activities, as well as complimentary popcorn and cotton candy. The highlight is a performance by the local circus troupe Cirque Amongus. Cirque Amongus has received rave reviews statewide for their performances.

Said Zweibel, "We've gotten a lot of great feedback about our past programs, but we think this year's theme is going to top anything we've done in the past. What could be more fun than having a chance to run off with the circus, even if just for day?"

The event will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. Tickets are \$30 per family or \$12 per person (register before March 6 for discounted rates: \$25 per family and \$9 per person). ■

For more information or to register visit www.jewmich.com, or call 995-3276, ext. 15.

How do we study Jews? Conference makes conversation public

Kim Reick Kunoff, special to the WJN

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Jewish Forum of Detroit announce the first-ever "Day at the Institute," a conference highlighting some of the most groundbreaking topics in Judaic Studies today, to be held on Sunday, March 29. An impressive group of scholars are gathered as fellows under the leadership of Todd Endelman, the William Haber Professor of Modern Jewish History, who proposed this year's theme, "Studying Jews: New Topics, New Methods, New Directions."

According to Deborah Dash Moore, Frankel Center director and the Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History, the day promises to be an opportunity for great intellectual growth. "Just how do we study Jews these days? The question begets other questions as Jewish studies expands exponentially. This year," Dash Moore explains, "a dozen established and up-and-coming scholars in diverse fields are studying Jews and reflecting on how they study Jews—and Jewish culture, religion, history—at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies." Dash Moore sees an opportunity "for anyone who is interested to join the conversation. We are thrilled to be able to collaborate with the Jewish Forum in sponsoring a Day at

the Institute and grateful to our fellows at the Institute for sharing their insights."

Event organizer and Jewish Forum member Irv Goldfein agrees. He sees this as a perfect occasion to bring together the Jewish communities of Detroit, Ann Arbor, and the University of Michigan. "The Jewish Forum's *raison-d'être* as an independent organization is the creation of significant and substantive educational opportunities for Jewish adults—regardless of religious orientation. Partnering with the Frankel Institute for this one day event is in many ways ideal," he admits. "We meet our objectives by taking advantage of the brilliant Judaic scholars in our own backyard. The Jewish Forum is very grateful to the Frankel Institute, and its staff, for its willingness to invest so much effort in reaching out to the community." Goldfein concludes, "May this be the beginning of an ongoing, educationally rewarding relationship."

The event will be held at the University of Michigan in the Thayer Building (202 South Thayer Street). To register for this limited-space event, visit www.thejewishforum.org before March 13, 2009.

Federation creates Emergency Assistance Fund

WJN staff writers

The Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor approved the creation of a new Emergency Assistance Fund to help meet the demands of Jewish families in crisis as a result of the economic recession and job layoffs hitting our area. The initial fund consists of a pool of \$15,000 and the funds are being administered by Jewish Family Services, the primary agency dealing with emergency needs on behalf of the Jewish community.

This funding supplements the financial, counseling and referral assistance already being provided by Jewish Family Services to meet the growing needs of recent months. The Federation and JFS encourage community members who find themselves suddenly in need of financial or other forms of support to call JFS for assistance.

The Federation has also placed a new Emergency

Assistance box on its website, www.jewishannarbor.org. By clicking on this box, individuals who would like to help can make designated contributions in addition to their normal Annual Campaign pledges to the Federation Emergency Fund online that will be used exclusively to meet the emergency needs of the local community. The funds collected online will be made available to Federation beneficiary agencies to meet client needs according to guidelines being developed by the Federation.

"The key," says Federation Executive Director David Shtulman, "is that requests must be directly related to meeting special client needs due to the economic downturn and not part of the normal operating costs of agency life."

For more information about the Emergency Assistance Fund, go to the Federation website.

The Bobbie and Myron Levine JCC Cultural Arts Fund mounts "Peace Through Humor" exhibit

Julie Gales, special to the WJN

It is said that laughter is the shortest distance between two people. The upcoming art exhibit opening in the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Amster Gallery in March was developed with this meaningful message in mind. From the autumn of 1994 until the summer of 2004, Maureen Kushner—an innovative and creative teacher from New York—worked in Israel on a



project called "The Art and Soul of Peace Through Humor: Vision of Peace From the Hands of Children" at the invitation of the Israeli Ministry of Education. Maureen traveled all over Israel, from the Northern Galilee to the Southern Negev, working with Jewish, Arab, Bedouin and Druze children, as well as Ethiopian and Russian immigrants, to create murals and paintings on the theme of war and peace. The children overcame their fears of war to give us original and moving visions of peace. Many of the paintings are inspired by teachings from the Torah as well as Bedouin and Druze traditions.

Maureen used humor to break down barriers and build a trusting environment. The children learned to integrate the values of loving-kindness, compassion, enthusiasm, truth, respect, and gratitude into their art and education. In this way, the children were motivated to transcend their own fears and pain to create a vision of peace, tolerance, and hope.

"Peace through Humor" has been exhibited in 175 cities throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in the Knesset in Jerusalem. This inspiring exhibition represents the children's hope for peace, reaching far beyond the shadow of war. They dream that their vision of Peace Through Humor will open the hearts and uplift the spirits of everyone who sees it as it travel around the world creating friendship, compassion, and love. The Peace Through Humor exhibit is sponsored by the Bobbie and Myron Levine Jewish Community Center Cultural Arts Fund and will be hanging from March through May 2009. The JCC will be offering a variety of children's and youth programming during the exhibition.



What's In Your Closet?!

Item: Guild F-50 Guitar

Sold For: \$1680

761-6187

869B W. Eisenhower Pkwy, Ann Arbor (in the Colonnade Center)

Drop off books for Books by Chance, too!

Sculpture Show
3050 Packard
Ann Arbor 48108
March 28 6:30-9 pm
March 29 11-4 pm
Info: (734) 996 8570

Afternoon Delight

"It's Good For You . . . Anytime"

For over thirty years, one of Ann Arbor's favorite restaurants

Serving breakfast & lunch all day

Smoked or Fresh Baked Salmon Eggs Benedict

Homemade Potato Pancakes with Sour Cream & Applesauce

Seafood Omelettes • Create your own Omelette

Blueberry, Cherry, Peach, or Chocolate Chip Pancakes

Belgian Waffles • Homemade Quiche & Crepes

Voted best salad bar in Washtenaw County

Mon-Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. • Sun. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

251 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
 Corner of Fifth & Liberty

(734) 665-7513

www.afternoondelightcafe.com

Gift Cards now available

Seniors

JFS "Patient Partners" guide older adults through medical appointments

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

Would you feel more comfortable talking with the doctor if a trusted guide came with you? Would you have more confidence that you understood the doctor's instructions if someone provided with a full written account of what was discussed at your appointment? Jewish Family Services is now offering a new program, "Patient Partners," that provides trained volunteers to accompany older adults to medical appointments so that older adults will not have to face the medical establishment alone.

Prior to a medical appointment, a volunteer "Patient Partner" will meet with the older adult to review their health concerns and to list any questions the client wants to remember to ask the doctor. Patient Partner volunteers will also make sure that the older adult's list of medications is current and complete. In the medical appointment, the volunteer will facilitate communication between doctor and patient to ensure that seniors' health-related concerns are addressed and that doctors' instructions are understood. The volunteer Patient Partner records all follow-up instructions, medication changes, and answers to the patient's questions in a written summary that is then provided to the older adult, to keep or to share with family members who could not be present at the appointment due to work or other obligations.

In January, JFS trained a group of 10 volunteers to serve as Patient Partners, most of whom have extensive experience in health-care-related fields such as nursing, social work, and physical or occupational therapy. These volunteers spent an intense 12 hours learning about common medical conditions in older adults, medical lingo they may encounter at appointments, confidentiality, and medical-legal issues. They practiced active listening and used role-playing to hone their skills in facilitating communication between doctors and patients.

Jewish Family Services is one of only a handful of organizations in the nation to offer this important service, which has been identified as one of the top needs among older adults and their caregivers, particularly when family members live far away or are unable to take off time from work to accompany an older adult to medical appointments. The initial program is funded through a grant from the Anna Botsford Bach Fund for Seniors of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. ■

If you are interested in having a Patient Partner volunteer accompany you or your loved one to a medical appointment, call Jewish Family Services at 769-0209.

Literature at the JCC

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Do you love books—reading them, thinking about them and talking about them? Would you enjoy a book group with a more literary bent?

For more than 16 years, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's literary group has offered just such an experience. On Thursday afternoons from 2:15–3 p.m., the JCC hosts a literary group facilitated by longtime Ann Arbor resident Sidney Warschausky, University of Michigan-Dearborn emeritus professor of English language and literature.

Warschausky found his years of teaching literature at U-M Dearborn a pleasure,

but enjoys the literary group because he can share his love of literature without having to prepare lectures or grade papers.

The group members collaborate in choosing books for discussion. The titles discussed over the years have ranged from literary classics to current best sellers. The group will begin discussing *La Cousine Bette* by Honoré de Balzac at its weekly meeting on March 5.

Participation is free and open to the public. For more information, call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990.

March SPICE* of Life

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

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

10 a.m.: The Bible in its Time with Dr. Liz Fried, February 3–March 24.

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. \$4 per session, or 3 sessions for \$10

Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet. \$3 per person

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

1 p.m.: Special Tuesday Events

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

Thursdays

10 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. \$4 per session, or 3 sessions for \$10

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

Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet. \$3 per person

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

2:15 p.m.: Literary Group facilitated by Sidney Warschausky resumes on Thursday, March 5, with a discussion of *La Cousine Bette* by Honoré de Balzac

Fridays

1:30 p.m.: Yiddish Reading Group at the Jewish Community Center. March 6, 13, 20, and 27. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765

Tuesday special events

March 3

1 p.m.: Blood Pressure Clinic A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them, and address any questions. Free. (This event will be repeated on the first Tuesday of each month.)

Thursday special events and presentations

March 5

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

1 p.m.: Larry Hiss, longtime JCC community member, will discuss his experiences during and after the Holocaust.

March 12

1 p.m.: David Owens (one of the Happiness Boys) brings his Nostalgia Radio Show for some great old songs from the big band and pre-rock era.

March 19

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

1 p.m.: Maria Farquhar, certified in Qigong, Reiki, Energy Healing and Fitness, joins us for a demo session and a discussion of the rewards and benefits of regular exercise, no matter what your level of fitness.

March 26

1 p.m.: Peretz Hirsbein shares slides and memories of his recent trip to Israel.

Passover seder for older adults and their families on April 6

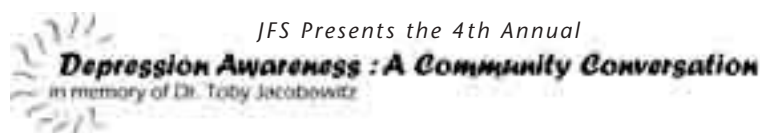
Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, special to the WJN

Following on the success of the past two years' seders, Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will again be holding a Passover seder for older adults and their families. This year the seder will take place on Monday, April 6 from 5–7 p.m. at the JCC. Older adults, adult children, and grandchildren are all welcome and encouraged to attend together.

Led by Rabbi Robert Levy and Cantor Annie Rose from Temple Beth Emeth, the seder

will include a catered Passover meal, music, and a thought-provoking discussion of the ways in which Passover themes are uniquely relevant to the lives of older adults. The cost for the seder is \$25.

Reservations are required by March 27. To make your reservation, call Jewish Family Services at 769-0209. Transportation can be arranged through the Jewish Family Services Transportation Service.



The Many Faces of Depression and Anxiety: Hiding in Plain Sight

We will explore how seemingly normal behaviors can mask underlying depression and/or anxiety.

Please join us on:

**Sunday March 22nd
2:00pm – 4:45pm**

Jewish Community Center
2935 Birch Hollow Dr., Ann Arbor

Please register by **March 19**,
www.jfsannarbor.org or by calling
(734) 769-0209.

\$5 suggested donation welcome
at the door.

Sponsored by

 **Jewish Family Services**
of Washtenaw County
JFS – Your Family in the Community



R.D. Kleinschmidt, Inc.
We Build Our Reputation Around Your Home



ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS

- Shingles & Flat Roofs
- Siding & Trim
- Seamless Aluminum Gutters
- Replacement Windows

19860 Sharon Valley Road • Manchester
Sharon Kleinschmidt and Richard Kennedy, owners

**313/428-8836
1-800-219-2100**
"Serving You Since 1972"

Campus

U-M professor wins 2008 National Jewish Book Award

Kim Reick Kunoff, special to the WJN

Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies faculty member Julian Levinson has been named recipient of the 2008 National Jewish Book Award. His book, *Exiles on Main Street: Jewish American Writers and American Literary Culture* (Indiana University Press), won the American Jewish Studies: Celebrate 350 Award.

Levinson, the Samuel Shetzer Professor of Jewish American Literature and an associate professor of English, accepted the news with gratitude. "This is really a terrific honor. The book comes out of a very personal need to think through the paradoxes of Jewish American identity. I adapted the title from the classic Rolling Stones album, which I suppose reflects the very same pattern that I discuss in the book. Jewish culture and Jewish books have always been created in dialogue with surrounding cultural forms. This award also recognizes that American Jewish literature isn't just written in English. One of the central chapters explores the ways Yiddish poets absorbed the powerful influence of the American bard Walt Whitman and created their own Yiddish American literary idiom."

Frankel Center Director and Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History Deborah Dash Moore writes, "this is a signal and exciting honor, a tribute to Julian Levinson's pioneering work in expanding our understanding of American Jewish literature. The award speaks to the intellectual excitement of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, especially its interdisciplinary character."



Julian Levinson

The winners of the 2008 National Jewish Book Awards will be honored on March 5, 2009 at an award ceremony to be held at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, located at 15 West 16th Street. The awards ceremony, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Eileen Pollack receives Edward Lewis Wallant Award

Kim Reick Kunoff, special to the WJN



Ellen Pollack

Associate Professor Eileen Pollack, Zell Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan and faculty member at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, has been named this year's recipient of the Edward Lewis

Wallant Award for her collection of short stories, *In the Mouth* (Four Way Books, 2008).

"Eileen Pollack has managed to take the lives of retired Jews and lift them out of the ordinary to reveal the strangeness and desperation of aging," writes Wallant Award committee member Mark Shechner, a professor in the Department of English at the State University of New York at Buffalo. "She does it with love and tenderness and an attention to lives that fiction usually passes by. In a voice that recalls that of the late Bernard Malamud, she writes of rueful human predicaments, the looming sense of mortality that hangs over us all, and the familiar world suddenly grown unfamiliar. Eileen Pollack is a marvelous writer with an eye for life's fine print and an ear for its modulated tones and subtle overtones."

The Edward Lewis Wallant Award is presented annually to an American writer whose published creative work of fiction is considered to have significance for American Jews. The award was established shortly after the untimely death in December 1962 of Edward Lewis Wallant, gifted author of *The Human Season* and *The Pawnbroker*. Among those who have received the award in past years are Chaim Potok, Cynthia Ozick, Thane Rosenbaum, Myla Goldberg, Jonathan Rosen, and Nicole Krauss.

"I'm thrilled," says Pollack. "Many of the stories in my collection were inspired by my father, who was a small-town Jewish dentist (hence the title). He lived just long enough

to learn that the book had been accepted for publication (and then, as he lay dying, hallucinated that I'd been given a two-million-dollar advance for the book!) It's dedicated to his memory. I wish he'd lived long enough to be able to hold the book in his hands, but he'd read all the stories as they came out in various journals, and he nodded when I read him the acceptance letter from the publisher."

Deborah Dash Moore, director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan and the Frederick Huetwell Professor of History, is equally enthusiastic: "It's so exciting when a creative writer and gifted teacher wins such recognition because it reminds us that Frankel Center faculty members not only study Jewish culture, they also produce it. Eileen Pollack joins an exceptionally distinguished list of winners of one of American Jews' premiere awards that has been given annually for over four decades."

Jewish Federation appoints nominating committee

David Shtulman, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, in compliance with its by-laws, announces the appointment of the 2009 Nominating Committee. The committee will be responsible for recommending to the current board of directors candidates to be placed before the annual meeting for election to the board. The Federation annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening, May 27, 2009.

The members of the nominating committee are: Malcolm Cohen, chairman; Susan Fisher, Federation president; community members Harlene Appelman, Stefanie Aronow, and Robin Axelrod; and board members Harriet Bakalar, Neal Elyakin, and Barry Nemon.

Community comments may be sent to the Jewish Federation care of David Shtulman at david@jewishannarbor.org or call 677-0100.

AS SEEN ON THE DOCTORS



THE DOCTORS

Trade
30 minutes
for softer,
smoother
skin.

THE DERMASOUND™ ELITE ultrasonic peel uses low-frequency sound waves to combat aging skin and restore your skin's youthful glow. It can:

- Minimize fine lines and increase hydration
- Lighten sun spots and brighten dull skin
- Manage active acne and Rosacea

And now through March 31, save \$25 on a DermaSound™ Elite treatment!
Regularly \$125, now just \$100!

The effects are immediate and long-lasting, but these savings aren't, so call for an appointment today. (Not valid with other discounts or offers).

Call for your savings today: 734 712-2323



CENTER FOR PLASTIC &
RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Paul Izenberg, MD
David Hing, MD
Richard Beil, MD
Daniel Sherick, MD



Board certified by the
American Board of Plastic Surgery

Reichert Health Center, Suites 5001 and 5008, Ann Arbor www.cprs-aa.com



Simply Scrumptious Catering
Personalized Catering for All Occasions

Hand Crafted Foods made from the finest ingredients

Spectacular Presentations and Professional Service

Creative, diverse and flexible culinary selections
custom tailored to your preferences and traditions

Ann Arbor's caterer of choice for Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Let us cater your life cycle celebrations, special events, and business functions. Bris, Bar Mitzvah, graduations, weddings, and memorial services, as well as holiday celebrations and business events.

Call today for availability and creative ideas!

Lori Shepard - Executive Chef 734-646-4586

KEN LUSSENDEN CONTRACTING

Remodeling
•
Painting
•
Repair & Restoration
Specialist



Photo by Susan Prater

◆ **Kitchen, Bathroom
& Basement Remodeling**

◆ **Interior & Exterior
Painting and Staining**

◆ **Interior & Exterior
Custom Carpentry**

◆ **Wood Floor Installation
& Refinishing**

◆ **Drywall & Plaster
Repairs & Restorations**

◆ **Wallpaper Stripping**

**Visit our website:
kenlussencontracting.com**

LICENSED & INSURED
734.995.0715

Arts and Culture

University Musical Society presents "March Madness"

Month begins with New York Philharmonic and culminates with Dan Zanes and Friends, with extraordinary performances in between

Jim Leija, special to the WJN

The University Musical Society (UMS) presents an arts and culture "March Madness" with 12 world-class performances over 22 days, beginning with two different programs by the New York Philharmonic under the baton of outgoing music director Lorin Maazel (March 7, 8 p.m.; March 8, 7 p.m.) at Hill Auditorium (825 N. University Ave.). Maazel, who has led more than 150 orchestras in more than 5,000 opera and concert performances, became music director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2002 after more than 100 performances as guest conductor. Saturday's program features works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Musorgsky, and Sunday's program features Berlioz, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky.

Just a few days later, jazz legend Wynton Marsalis returns to Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium with his Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (March 10, 8 p.m.). According to Down Beat, "[The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra] is not just a band on tour, but a religious congregation, spreading the word of jazz." This 15-member ensemble comprises the finest jazz players on the scene, led by the incomparable Wynton Marsalis. They perform a unique repertoire of big band arrangements of Thelonious Monk compositions; classic Blue Note Records selections by Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Jackie McLean, and Lee Morgan; and modern compositions and arrangements by current band members.

The following evening the Brentano String Quartet performs with pianist Peter Serkin and baritone Thomas Meglioranza in a program of mixed chamber music repertoire (March 11, 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St.) Named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved," the intended recipient of his famous love confession, the Brentano Quartet transcends Beethoven to explore music both very old and very new. Pianist Peter Serkin and baritone Thomas Meglioranza join the string quartet in offering a program that balances quartet standards with contemporary masterpieces.

Aswat (March 12, 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium) is a multi-media celebration of the Golden Age of Arab Music featuring four outstanding singers from the Arab world, the Aswat Orchestra, and music director Simon Shaheen. The period from the 1920s to the 1950s is considered the "golden age" of Egyptian cinema, but it was also a golden age of song in many parts of the Arab world, particularly Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria. Many of these countries' greatest singers and composers reached unprecedented heights of artistry and stardom during this period. One of today's leading Arab composers and instrumentalists, Simon Shaheen, is bringing this era back to life. Working with a traditional Arab orchestra and some of the leading singers in the Arab world today, Shaheen directs this evening of classic melodies, soul-stirring

voices, and lush orchestral arrangements, authentically recreating and interpreting the sights and sounds of this magical time. Shaheen's international search for the top Arab singers of today includes Tunisian, Lebanese, and Palestinian vocalists who will sing some of the most beloved songs by composers like Mohammad Abdel Wahhab, Farid Al-Atrash, and the Rahbani Brothers. The Aswat Orchestra includes virtuoso instrumentalists

admired in reviews.

At the end of the month, Zakir Hussain and Pandit Shivkumar Sharma unite for an exhilarating night of classical Indian sounds (March 22, 7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium). Hussain is a classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, a national treasure in his own country and abroad due to his consistently brilliant and exciting performances. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity.

Hussain is widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement with historic collaborations including Shakti (which he founded with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar in the 1970s), Sangam (with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland), and performances and recordings with artists as diverse as George Harrison, Van Morrison, Rennie Harris, and the Kodo Drummers of Japan. Hussain, who last appeared in Ann Arbor with Ali Akbar Khan in March 2000, is joined by Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, who single-handedly transformed

the santoor from an instrument of accompaniment to one that deserves center stage.

Rounding out the month, sons and grandsons of the great guitarist Pepe Romero perform a 50th anniversary concert as The Romeros (Thursday, March 26, 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium). The "Royal Family of Guitar" returns to Ann Arbor for the first time since 2000. A veritable institution in the world of classical music, the Romeros celebrate their 50th anniversary this season. Celedonio Romero, the founder and creator of the Romeros guitar dynasty, was a renowned soloist in Spain who began teaching his sons as they approached the age of two or three. Although Celedonio died in 1996, his sons and grandsons continue the Romero legacy. This unparalleled family ensemble has become the international emissary for guitar chamber music, their name synonymous with style, elegance, and technique.

Finally, at the end of the month, kid-rock revolutionaries Dan Zanes & Friends present two one-hour family performances (March 29, 1 and 4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium). As seen on Playhouse Disney and Sesame Street, these all-ages folk heroes create a unique and joyous 21st-century sound with a rich blend of traditional American folk songs, Latin and Caribbean rhythms, and soulful originals from their new Spanish album ¡Nueva York! and Grammy Award-winning CD, Catch That Train! Zanes and his band create a rollicking "Woodstock for Kids" that is filled with rootsy, whimsical songs brimming with warmth, wisdom, and wonderful music.

For tickets and additional information, contact the University Musical Society Ticket Office at 764-2538, or visit www.ums.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Michigan League Ticket Office (911 N. University Ave.). The UMS Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and closed Sunday. ■



The New York Philharmonic under the direction of Lorin Maazel

who deliver a rich musical experience for devotees and new fans alike. As a backdrop to the live performance, a projection screen flashes preserved images and film footage of the great singers of the Golden Age, creating a multimedia experience of historical depth and lasting emotional impact.

After last season's stunning solo recital, Yo-Yo Ma returns to UMS with two different programs featuring artists from the Silk Road Ensemble in an exploration of both Eastern and Western musical traditions in two different performances (March 13-14, 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium). Founded by Yo-Yo Ma in 1998, the Silk Road Project has been a catalyst for a new kind of conversation, opening avenues of inter-cultural communication and collaborative thinking. The collective is drawn from internationally renowned musicians interested in exploring the relationships between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West.

In mid-March the Altenberg Trio Vienna presents a program of Takemitsu, Haydn, and Dvořák (March 18, 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium). Since its "official" debut during the Salzburg Mozart Week in January 1994, the Altenberg Trio Vienna has earned a reputation as one of the most daring and consistent ensembles of its kind. When forming their ensemble, pianist Claus-Christian Schuster, violinist Amiram Ganz, and cellist Alexander Gebert chose as their namesake the revered Viennese writer and poet Peter Altenberg, a contemporary and compatriot of renowned Viennese artists at the turn of the 20th century (Schoenberg, Berg, Mahler, Schiele, Klimt, and others). Their choice illustrates perfectly the values captured in the Trio's music-making: love of beauty, venture toward life, precision of style, and a sense of humor. The trio members have impressive individual reputations in chamber music circles and take great pride in remaining faithful to the style and tradition of the "Viennese sound" so often

2009 Jewish Film Festival preview

Julie Gales, *Special to the WJN*

Lights! Camera! Action! The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater, will bring the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival to Ann Arbor for its eighth year. The festival will showcase 15 films over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty, from Sunday, May 3–Thursday, May 7. Nine of the films featured are foreign, including five from Israel.

Festival highlights include a pre-opening showing of *The Little Traitor* on Sunday, May 3, at 10 a.m. This film, which stars Alfred Molina in a retelling of Amos Oz's novel, *Panther in the Basement*, focuses on the unlikely friendship that develops between a British soldier and an 11-year-old Israeli militant fighting against the British occupation in 1947 Palestine. Just a few months before Israel becomes a state, their secret friendship is discovered, and the boy is reported to the town officials and brought to "trial" for being a traitor. Through the eyes of the boy we see what life was like during this period of Israel's history.

The festival opens with the award-winning Israeli film *Noodle*. This touching comic drama follows an El Al flight attendant's life-affirming adventure to reunite a Chinese boy with the mother that abandoned him in Tel Aviv. The film will be preceded by a Sponsor's Reception Chinese buffet, catered by Lori Shepard of Simply Scrumptious Catering.

Waltzing with Bashir was honored as the Best Foreign Film at the 2009 Golden Globe Awards and is also expected to win an Academy Award in the same category this year. This animated film has been called, "a potent and profound document of war and its aftermath," by *Rolling Stone* magazine. Director Ari Folman is a former Israeli soldier who served during the 1982 Israeli-Lebanese war, and repressed his memories of the invasion of Beirut—and specifically the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. The movie is his attempt to make sense of what he experienced.

Other award-winning films include the German-made movie *The Counterfeiters*, which won the 2008 Best Foreign Language Film Oscar. The movie presents a fictionalized account of Operation Bernhard, a secret Nazi plan to destabilize the United Kingdom during the

World War II by flooding Britain with forged currency.

Marwil Jewish Film Festival Director David Magidson selected a British film to be the Festival's Featured Attraction. *Sixty-Six* is a powerful and funny coming-of-age story set in 1966 England, with Helene Bonham Carter and Steven Rea. It tells the tale of Bernie Rubens, whose bar mitzvah coincides with the 1966 World Cup Soccer Final. Sadly, for the non-athletic Bernie, Britain makes it through the qualifying rounds and will play in the final, thus diminishing the importance of his big day even further. *Sixty-six* will close the Festival on May 7 at 8 p.m.

Two films have local ties. The first is *The Purple Gang*, chronicling the inner workings of Detroit's Jewish mob, which ran a ruthless liquor racket during Prohibition. Michigan filmmaker H.G. Manos and author Paul R. Kaveff have been invited to attend the showing and answer questions after the film. The other is *The Champagne Spy*. Wolfgang Lotz, a former captain in Rommel's Afrika Korps and supposedly a lieutenant colonel in Hitler's SS, becomes a wealthy German horse breeder who sends champagne to "important" friends, and turns out to be a spy for Israel. The *Champagne Spy* explores the unexpected turns in Lotz's life; his son, Ann Arborite Oded Gur Arie, will attend the screening and answer questions following the film.

Younger moviegoers will enjoy two films that are playing together at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6. *The Hope* is a film about singer-songwriter Rick Recht, who put Jewish rock on the map. It is an inspirational film about the impact Jewish rock music has had on American youth in creating relevance and meaning in contemporary Jewish life. *Soul Tripping* is a deeply moving, hopeful film that explores the American Jewish experience and the impact of a generation's encounter with Israel through the Taglit Birthright-Israel program.

Individual movie tickets are \$10 each, or a festival pass can be purchased for viewing all 15 movies. Festival passes cost \$65 for JCC member, or \$75 for non-members, and can be purchased at the Jewish Community Center. Look for more information about the Jewish Film Festival and the special festival programming at www.jccannarbor.org. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Julie Gales at juliegales@jccfed.org or call 971-0990. ■

Ann Arbor JCC to participate in Bookstock

Tina Gargotta, *special to the WJN*

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will serve as a donation site for Bookstock, Michigan's largest used book and media sale. All Bookstock proceeds benefit Metro-Detroit area literacy and education projects.

The Ann Arbor collection date for any used books or media will be March 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JCC. The JCC is also looking for volunteers to work at the spring sale, to be held in Livonia's Laurel Park Place (6 Mile Road, east of I-275). Volunteers' hours will be recorded and benefit the JCC. For more information about the drop-off, or to volunteer, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

A true book lover's paradise, Bookstock offers tens of thousands of donated used books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, magazines, and records for sale at bargain prices. Bookstock sales will be held from April 26–May 3,

noon–6 p.m. on Sundays, and 10 a.m.–9 p.m. on Mondays–Saturdays.

An annual event, Bookstock is presented by the Friends of Literacy, a group of area literacy and education organizations. More than 700 volunteers work together throughout the year to collect and sort donations, as well as organizing and staffing the weeklong spring Bookstock sale.

Bookstock is sponsored by the Detroit Jewish Coalition for Literacy, the Oakland Literacy Council, the Detroit Jewish News, CBL & Associates Properties, Inc., and a consortium of Jewish communal nonprofit organizations.

For more information about Bookstock, check out www.bookstock.info, or call (248) 645-7840, ext 365.

**The Frankel Institute for
Advanced Judaic Studies
&
The Jewish Forum
present
New Ways of
Studying Jews:
A Day at the
Frankel Institute
Sunday, March 29, 2009
9:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**Spend a day learning about our
Institute fellows' research. Become
part of the conversation on Jewish
history, culture, and religion.**

Visit www.thejewishforum.org for deals.

Or call Kim Kunoff at 734-615-8503.

First-time event fee only \$20/person.

Deadline for registration is March 12.



<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/>

Temple Beth Emeth to celebrate Rabbi Robert Levy's silver anniversary

Herb Pritzker, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth will pay tribute to Rabbi Robert Levy with a special program of social, community, and religious events in honor of his silver anniversary as the temple's spiritual leader. The celebration will take place over a three-week period beginning Saturday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m., with a gala evening of skits, songs, good times, and the sharing of memories at the Morris Lawrence building at Washtenaw Community College.

"It will be an evening of fun and camaraderie as we honor the rabbi's contributions to the temple and its families, and thank him for his guidance, leadership, wisdom, and friendship over the years" said Wendy Lawrence, president of the temple's board of trustees.

"The gala is only one way we will thank the rabbi for his contributions," she added. There also will be a tribute book in honor of the event, where temple members and others in the community can purchase ads to express their congratulations and appreciation to Rabbi Levy. Donations to the tribute book will go to the Melvin and Lois Levy Endowment Fund, established by the temple to honor the rabbi's parents.

Tickets for the April 25 event are \$50 each in advance, \$60 at the door, and can be purchased through the temple office at 2309 Packard Rd., or by calling 665-4744. Information on placing ads in the tribute book is also available through the temple office and on the temple's website at www.Templebethemeth.org

The following Saturday, May 2, temple members will donate their services to Alpha House, a shelter for homeless families, where they will spend a full day painting, cleaning, making repairs, and helping in other ways. This continues the temple's commitment of service to the community, an important value of Rabbi Levy.

The celebration continues on Sunday, May 9, with a "Day of Learning" at the temple. The topic will be "Day of the Whirlwind: Understanding the Book of Amos." The rabbi will lead both the Shabbat service and the Day of Learning.

On May 15 the celebration concludes with a special family-friendly Shabbat service in the

rabbi's honor using a prayer book created by AARTY, the temple youth group, and illustrated by the temple's Hebrew school students.

Temple Beth Emeth has grown dramatically since Rabbi Levy gave his first sermon on April 6, 1984. Temple membership has more than tripled, from about 220 families in 1984 to more than 700 today, according to Ronnie Simon, temple administrator.



Rabbi Robert Levy

That growth also is reflected in the temple's religious education program. The religious school now has 40 teachers, 41 high school teacher aides, and close to 400 students in grades pre-K-12, a significant increase since the rabbi first came aboard, according to temple records.

In addition to his work in the local religious community,

Rabbi Levy has been influential in leading the temple's outreach to Israel. The temple is associated with Kehilat Tzur Hadassah, a young, growing congregation affiliated with the Israeli movement for progressive Reform Judaism located in the Judean hills 12 miles southwest of Jerusalem. The rabbi includes visits to Tzur Hadassah on the temple trips he leads to Israel, and the two congregations remain in contact with each other.

Temple Beth Emeth also has an active music program under the direction and leadership of Cantor Annie Rose, with the full support and encouragement of the rabbi. Its 75-voice adult choir, Kol Halev, has gained an international reputation as the temple's ambassador of goodwill. In 2004 choir members traveled to Eastern Europe, and in 2007 they traveled to Argentina, re-energizing the Jewish communities they visited with liturgical music not heard in years. According to Cantor Rose, the choir is now planning a concert tour to the Ukraine.

In addition to the adult choir, there is the high school Shir Chadash band and choir, the middle school Shir Chadash band and choir, and the youth choir, all under the direction of the Cantor Rose. ■

For additional information contact, Wendy Lawrence at wwwlawrence1@yahoo.com or Herb Pritzker at hepatty@comcast.net.

Chief political correspondent for Jerusalem Post Gil Hoffman to speak April 22

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will present an evening with Gil Hoffman, chief political correspondent and analyst for the *Jerusalem Post*. Hoffman will speak at Temple Beth Emeth on April 22, at 7:30 p.m., exploring the impact of the new administrations in Washington and Jerusalem on Israel's future.

Hoffman, called the "most optimistic man in Israel" by Israel Television, has interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum and has been interviewed by top media on six continents. He is a regular analyst on CNN, *Al-Jazeera*, and other news outlets. Raised in Chicago, Hoffman graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern University's

School of Journalism and wrote for the *Miami Herald* and *Arizona Republic* before moving to Israel. A reserve soldier in the IDF's Spokesman's Unit, he has lectured in more than 30 states, Canada, England, and Australia.

For more information, visit www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Eileen Freed, eileen-freed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.



Gil Hoffman

Leading Hadassah scientist reveals stem cell breakthroughs

Marty Fischhoff, special to the WJN

In January one of the earliest pioneers in embryonic stem cell research, Dr. Benjamin Reubinoff, intrigued an audience of several hundred people at the University of Michigan with the latest advances his laboratory in Israel has made in turning the new medical technology into potential treatments for neurological diseases.

A professor at Hadassah Medical Center, Reubinoff was in Ann Arbor on January 28 to present the second annual A. Alfred Taubman Lecture. He was a guest of the Taubman Institute, as part of its Israel Initiative, which seeks to create collaborations between leading medical researchers at U-M and Israel. As part of this effort, Reubinoff met with the Taubman Institute director, Dr. Eva Feldman, to discuss joint research on ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, often called "Lou Gehrig's disease"). Also

President Mary Sue Coleman and Executive Vice-President for Medical Affairs Robert Kelch. The rest of the room was filled with scientists, researchers, and members of the public interested in stem cell research.

After his lecture, Reubinoff told the Ann Arbor News that the passage of Proposal 2, "is a very important step. I think it will really open new horizons for our collaboration with [the University of] Michigan."

The Israeli scientist was also guardedly optimistic about the new clinical trial on patients with spinal cord injuries, for which biotech firm Geron recently won FDA approval. It represents the first human trials of therapies derived from embryonic stem cells and, as such, has received much press attention. Reubinoff called the trial an important first step in translating stem cell science into



Local Hadassah members with Dr. Benamine Reubinoff

making the event special was a large contingent from the Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah, which came out in force to hear Reubinoff's lecture and to sponsor a luncheon with U-M leaders afterwards.

The director of the Human Embryonic Research Center at the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem, Reubinoff told the near-capacity crowd how he had been able to apply neurons derived from human embryonic stem cells in experiments with animal disease models. He injected these nerve cells into mice with multiple sclerosis or age-related macular degeneration, and was able to delay the onset or reverse the damage of the diseases.

He warned that human applications of this stem cell therapy could still be years in the future, but the results were encouraging. Alfred Taubman, in his closing remarks, said that Reubinoff's work "makes abundantly clear how critical stem cell research is to medical science." Taubman had been one of the major backers of Proposal 2 on the November ballot, which successfully lifted many of the restrictions on embryonic stem cell research in the state. The vote opens the door to increased research with stem cells at the University of Michigan, likely one of the reasons for such a large turnout at the lecture.

In the front row of the Biomedical Science Research Building auditorium were U-M

potential treatments.

"Benny is doing truly amazing work," said Dr. Feldman, a neurologist at U-M. "He is conducting some of the most important research in the medical world, and he is bringing us closer to the day we will be able to use stem cells to treat human disease. I look forward to working with him."

At the luncheon following his lecture, Reubinoff echoed those thoughts. "The connection and relationships we are building with the Taubman Institute is very important," he said. "We are very much in line with your desire to exploit the new science of stem cells in improving the health of people."

From the earliest days of embryonic stem cell research, only ten years ago, Israel and Hadassah have been at the forefront of this new field of inquiry.

"We are so proud of all that Dr. Reubinoff and Hadassah have accomplished," said Judi Schram, past president of Hadassah's Detroit Chapter, who helped organize the luncheon. Hadassah is an international organization of Jewish women formed in 1912 to improve health-care for all people in Israel.

"Putting Ben and Eva together, Hadassah and the Taubman Institute, really gives us the dream team of medical research," said Schram. "It's only a matter of time before stem cell therapy is part of every physician's tool kit." ■

130th UMS Season **2009** Winter | Spring
UMS

March Madness at UMS

A phenomenal month of great performances for everyone!

New York Philharmonic

Lorin Maazel music director

SAT, MAR 7 | 8 PM

SUN, MAR 8 | 7 PM [NOTE TIME]

Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM (SAT 3/7)

Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture (1826)
Schumann Symphony No. 4 in d minor, Op. 120 (1841)
Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition, arr. Ravel (1874/ arr. 1922)

PROGRAM (SUN 3/8)

Berlioz Roman Carnival Overture, Op. 9 (1843-44)
Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3 in G Major, Op. 55 (1884)
Stravinsky The Rite of Spring (1913)

The New York Philharmonic Weekend is sponsored by **Brian and Mary Campbell.**

The Saturday performance is sponsored by



The Saturday performance is hosted by **MainStreet Ventures.**

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **Detroit Jewish News, WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**



The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma

artistic director

FRI-SAT, MAR 13-14 | 8 PM

Hill Auditorium

The Friday performance is sponsored by **KeyBank**

The Friday performance is sponsored by the **Catherine S. Arcure and Herbert E. Sloan Endowment Fund.**

The Saturday performance is sponsored by **Robert and Pearson Macek.**

The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**

Media Sponsors **Ann Arbor's 107one, WGTE 91.3 FM,** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**



Altenberg Trio Vienna

WED, MAR 18 | 8 PM

Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Takemitsu Between Tides (1993)
Haydn Piano Trio in C Major, Hob. XV:21 ("Pastoral") (1794)
Dvořák Piano Trio in f minor, Op. 65 (1883)

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

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis

TUE, MAR 10 | 8 PM

Hill Auditorium

Sponsored by **Laurence and Beverly Price.**

Hosted by **Sesi Motors.**

Media Sponsors **WEMU 89.1 FM, Metro Times, Ann Arbor's 107one,** and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**



Brentano String Quartet

Peter Serkin piano

Thomas Meglitoranza baritone

WED, MAR 11 | 8 PM

Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Haydn String Quartet in d minor, Op. 76, No. 2 ("Quinten") (Hob. III:76) (1796-97)
Wuorinen New Piano Quintet (commissioned by the artists)
Schoenberg Ode to Napoleon, Op. 41 (for quartet, piano, and baritone) (1942)
Beethoven Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 (1825-26)

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

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



Aswat (Voices)

Simon Shaheen artistic director

Ibrahim Azzam | Sonia M'barek | Khalil Abonula

Rima Khcheich | the Aswat Orchestra

THU, MAR 12 | 8 PM

Hill Auditorium

The Performing Arts of the Arab World series is supported in part by **TAQA New World, Inc; National Endowment for the Arts; The Mosaic Foundation, Washington DC; Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan;** and **Bustan al-Funun Foundation for Arab Arts.**

Media Sponsors **The Arab American News** and **ArabDetroit.com.**



Zakir Hussain tabla Pandit Shivkumar Sharma santoor

SUN, MAR 22 | 7 PM [NOTE TIME]

Rackham Auditorium

Media Sponsor **WEMU 89.1 FM.**

50th Anniversary Concert

The Romeros

THU, MAR 26 | 8 PM

Rackham Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by **EDWARD SUROVELL REALTORS** **MC3**

Media Sponsor **Metro Times.**

Special One-Hour Family Performances!

Dan Zanes & Friends

SUN, MAR 29 | 1 PM & 4 PM

Rackham Auditorium

The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**

Sponsored by **Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein.**

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **Ann Arbor's 107one** and **Metro Times.**



Call or Click For Tickets!
734.764.2538 | www.ums.org



SUPPORT MICHIGAN MADE PRODUCTS AT HILLER'S
ANN ARBOR HILLER'S MARKET
Arborland Mall, 3615 Washtenaw Ave.

OUR OTHER LOCATIONS...

- **COMMERCE TWP.** Hiller's Market, 39950 14 Mile Rd. & Haggerty
- **PLYMOUTH** Hiller's Market, 15455 Haggerty Rd. & 5 Mile
- **WEST BLOOMFIELD** Hiller's Market, 6433 Orchard Lake Rd.
- **NORTHVILLE** Hiller's Market, 425 North Center Street
- **BERKLEY** Hiller's Shopping Center, 3052 West 12 Mile Rd.
- **UNION LAKE** Hiller's Market, 3010 Union Lake Rd.



WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD - Register online at
www.hillers.com to receive regular Email updates
and qualify for the gift card in our monthly drawing.
must be 18 or older to enter

PASSOVER
FOODS AT
ZINGERMAN'S



every Passover is wednesday, april 8th

CALL (734) 663-3400 to order. deli hours: 7am to 10pm everyday

none of our
Passover foods are
strictly kosher

We're proud to dress your holiday table with traditional foods including Roasted Lamb Shank, Mahogany Eggs, Gefilte fish, Charoset, Chocolate Orange Passover Torte, Matzo Mandelbrot, Macaroons, Askinosie Chocolate's NEW Davao Philippines dark chocolate bar and more...

To view the entire Passover menu, come by Zingerman's Deli or visit
www.zingermanscatering.com or www.zingermansdeli.com.

To ensure availability, please place your orders in advance.
 First pick up available Wednesday, April 8th.

complete seder meal for 4

Choose from roast beef brisket or whole-roasted free-range chicken, with golden mashed potatoes, four hand-made gefilte fish, potato kugel and Passover greens, Jewish chicken broth soup with matzo balls and a 6" chocolate orange Passover torte from Zingerman's Bakehouse.

\$85
 per meal

Rabbinic Commentary/Israel

Work for peace

Rabbi Robert Levy, special to the WJN

The easiest and least productive way to decide right and wrong in the Middle East is to believe in one side's righteousness. If you only look at the powerful ground assault of Israel in Gaza, it might appear to you (from let's say your European breakfast table) that Israel is out of control. But just go back a week or two or three or four and see the constant missile bombardment by Hamas forces against civilian centers and the Gazan invasion is so clearly justified. No country sits indefinitely while being constantly bombed.

But then, let's go back to the blockade of Gaza that brought its people such suffering. Let's go back further, to the clearly stated desires of those who control Gaza to wipe Israel off the map.

It seems that there will never be a place for compromise. And yet, anyone interested already knows what that undesired compromise would look like and has known it for years. The West Bank and Gaza become Palestine, with a slight shifting of land to allow Israel to keep what it has completely built up around Jerusalem. Some face-saving beard is created to allow for Palestinians to claim that their capital is also Jerusalem, and all forms of pan-Arab hostilities against Israel cease. I am sure that I am leaving something out, but the plan is simple, mostly fair, the best either side can expect if peace is to be found.

So why do people have to die and suffer and continue to die and suffer if the end is so obvious? The true and good answer is that process is needed to bring the plan to a place where all sides feel engaged in the solution, so that there is real acceptance.

I am sorry to be difficult, but what I just said was the true and good answer 30 years ago. Imagine our grandchildren inheriting basically the same grinding state of constant warfare. It matters little if one is Palestinian, or Israeli, or a passionate "cousin" from afar. Imagine a world in 30 years with new electronics, new communications (Newspapers? Maybe yes and maybe no), a bustling economy fueled by solar and such. We can not fully imagine what will shape and be shaped by the future, except to know it will be different, apart from the embattled State of Israel living along side increasingly distraught Palestinians.

Ridiculous. That future is neither desirable nor practical. The time is not right for peace, the time is past due. I am not smart enough to know how to get to the peaceful end of this struggle. But I do realize that the near future must hold the promise of peace, or the constant state of war may consume both us and our enemies. "Wait and see" will not serve our interests. Working for peace will. ■

Praying in Israel

Noa Gutterman, special to the WJN

In my last article, I wrote about my opinion on the war with Israel and Gaza, and my concerns about my then upcoming trip to Israel. Fortunately, my trip began successfully, and I have been living on Kibbutz Tzuba. Although I have been to Israel before, this experience is completely different than anything I could have ever imagined. This past weekend was our first Shabbat in Israel, and to celebrate, we visited the Western Wall. I had heard that the Western Wall was the best place on earth to pray. Prayer is supposed to come easy at the Western Wall. Communication with God works.

Being a firm believer in prayer, I expected to feel something incredible. After all, this was the one place in the world that I could effortlessly communicate with God. Prayer has always come easy to me. It has always been my personal way to express feelings in a Jewish manner. After all, I've been learning how to pray since I was in the womb.

As we entered the old city, the Shabbat bell began to toll and I prepared myself for what is supposed to be the holiest place for Jews on earth. The square was swarming with people, drawn by some invisible force towards the wall. I joined the throngs of woman, each clutching a sliver of paper, their personal message to God. As I approached the wall, my heart began to race. I reached the end of my journey and found myself close enough to touch the wall. I reached out my hand and pressed it up against the cool surface of the Jerusalem stone. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath and began my prayer ritual. And realized that I felt nothing. I stumbled backwards in surprise. Everyone around me seemed to be doing the right thing. Why



wasn't it working for me? I decided to try again, maybe I hadn't done the right thing. Maybe I wasn't trying hard enough. Nevertheless, when I tried to pray again, I got the same result. I didn't understand. I felt like I was stuck in an unsolvable algebra problem. I had all the parts on the left side of the equation; I knew what I wanted to pray for and I knew how to pray. Yet, I couldn't come up with my solution of successful and miraculous prayer. I felt no connection to the words

continued on next page

Dead Sea teaches lessons of giving

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

I love road signs. I am so fascinated by them that I am part of a group on the Internet which posts photographs of one specific type of sign: the “entering signs” which mark the entrance into towns and cities in Massachusetts. (Please contact me at rabbidobrusin@tds.net if you share that interest, or have a story about those signs.) But road signs of all kinds interest me, and Israel is a great place to look for interesting signs.

For those who visit Israel for the first time and remember their Bible stories, it is such a thrill to see a sign for Jaffa, the port from which Jonah left to escape God’s call to prophesy; Beersheva, the place where Abraham’s servants dug seven wells as described in the book of Genesis; Megiddo, site of the tel that was Michener’s inspiration for *The Source*; and of course Jerusalem, which will be the subject of a future article on travel to Israel.

But of all the road signs that I love in Israel, the one that I anticipate most eagerly is the one that reads, very simply: “p’nai hayam”—“sea level.” If you are in the Galilee, near the Kinneret, the Sea of Galilee, you see such a sign where you might not expect to see it—on a ridge above a valley below. And, of course, as you go east and then south from Jerusalem along the Dead Sea, the sign is much higher than you might expect as you

continue to descend to the lowest place on earth. These signs are clear reminders that you’re not in Michigan anymore.

The Dead Sea is a marvelous place to visit. First of all, it is a fascinating place to watch people, listen to the cacophony of languages and, between the mud baths and the sulfur and the mountains behind you, try to make sense of the entire scene.

Then, you have to stop watching and participate in the fun. I have been to Israel 12 times and it wasn’t until my last visit that I actually entered the Dead Sea. Any number of excuses had kept me out. So, I finally went in for a “float.” Frankly, I’m not sure I’ll do it again, but I’m glad I did it once. Once I finally was able to wash all the oily minerals off my skin, I realized that it was truly an astounding experience.

But there is a contemplative element to this place, as well, and different thoughts come to mind as one looks around. First, so much of what happens at the Dead Sea confronts us. It’s water, but it really isn’t water the way we know it. It’s hot and the sun beats

down, but I’m told you are much less likely to get a sunburn because of the heaviness of the air with the evaporating minerals. (I have never bought this and would still not suggest going without a lot of sun screen.) If you have been there before, you notice a difference, and are faced with the absolute inescapable truth that for so many reasons—and many of them brought about by the actions of human beings—the sea is retreating, much further from the road than it was the last time you visited. So it is a good place to consider our effect on the environment and to think of the world we will be leaving to our children and grandchildren.

But, it’s also a good place to work on our understanding of our faith. Judaism is a faith that, like most, is accustomed to thinking about “high places,” and it is good to challenge yourself by considering what about this low place can be meaningful on a spiritual level. Perhaps, by being further down, we recognize even more deeply the distance between ourselves and God. Perhaps we feel closer to the core of the earth, perhaps we just marvel at

the incredible variety of creation.

And then there is a wonderful parable the rabbis tell. The question is: Why is the Sea of Galilee, the Kinneret, so alive and the Dead Sea so dead? The answer is that the Kinneret is alive because the Jordan River flows through one side and out the other. It is alive because it takes in and gives out. The Dead Sea, the rabbis said, is dead because, in fact, the river does not flow out of it. In our lives, to be truly alive, we must not only take, we must give as well. That is a meaningful lesson to reflect on, and one that takes on added significance as we travel through the land, learning and benefiting in so many ways. We should consider as well what we can give to our brothers and sisters in Israel, and to the world in general, in return for what we receive.

The Dead Sea is a place of stark beauty, fascinating atmosphere, and some fun as well. Standing on this spot, the lowest on the earth, is a reminder of the uniqueness of the land of Israel and the lessons each of its areas can teach. ■

continued from previous page

I was saying and definitely no connection with God. I felt angry and frustrated, I had never heard of anyone being unsuccessful at the Western Wall. As my trip group left the old city, my peers described their experiences as remarkable and fantastic. I didn’t understand. If prayer should work for anyone, I felt that it should work for me. And then, later that night, it began to make sense. Why should prayer be more special at the Western Wall? Why should I only be able to connect with God while I stand in front of the remnants of the Second Temple? After all, my Judaism says that God is special in every place in the world. My prayers don’t have to be more special because I am in a holy place. I believe that I can pray just as well from Ann Arbor as I can from the center of Jerusalem. Moreover, my prayers don’t have to be said in a forced and formal situation. While this method of prayer and connection with God may work for many people, it did not work for me.

The attitude toward prayer in Israel is completely different from what I was used to in America. During my short time here I have discovered that it is not as simple as opening a prayer book and following a rabbi. Many people don’t pray at all, and furthermore, don’t lead a Jewish lifestyle. Others pray multiple times a day and find connections with God at the Western Wall. I believe that it all depends on an understanding of what Judaism means to you. For me, it means that I don’t need the glamour and excitement of the Western Wall to pray. I can pray anywhere, at anytime that I want. Prayer is personal. Prayer is easy, prayer is difficult, and the right time and place are elusive. ■

This year, come to Israel

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Every year I write a series of articles for the *Washtenaw Jewish News* on a different subject. This year, I chose to write on various places in Israel that a tourist would visit, and to share some thoughts on the meaning that those places have for me, as an American rabbi who has been privileged to visit Israel on 12 different occasions.

Part of the inspiration for this series of articles came from my excitement about an upcoming Beth Israel Congregation trip to Israel in June. Beyond that, I hoped that my articles would interest everyone who was planning a trip to Israel and encourage others to make the trip.

It may seem strange, and perhaps even

inappropriate, to think about tourism in Israel at a time when the state faces such major issues and the aftermath of the conflict in Gaza is still so deeply etched in our minds. But, in fact, it is at times like these that our love for Israel is most important, as we hope and pray for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict and for hope and security for Israel and peace for the entire region.

I hope that these articles will help all of us, no matter what our political or religious perspective, realize the deep meaning that Israel has for us. I know full well that the current economic situation has made travel impossible for many and nat-

urally there are essentials of life that must take precedence. But, for those who can make the trip but have delayed it far too long, I hope that you will be inspired by the articles I have written, and by what you have read elsewhere, to plan to make the trip that so many of our ancestors could only have dreamed.

I have traveled to Israel during difficult times, and I can guarantee you that Israelis are always very grateful to see tourists. It certainly helps the economy but, even more importantly, it helps them know that we, as Diaspora Jews, still care deeply.

I hope to see you in Jerusalem this summer!

Purim and Yom Kippur

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

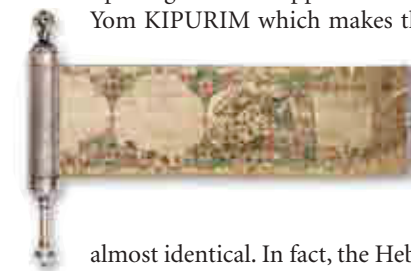
When you look at the Jewish calendar, you will notice two holidays that seem to be opposites: Yom Kippur and Purim.

Yom Kippur climaxes the High Holidays and is the holiest day of the Jewish year. We spend the day in the synagogue immersed in serious prayer and reflection. It is a time for fasting and restraining from earthly pleasures, and concentrating on spiritual matters. The mood is solemn.

Purim, on the other hand, is the exact opposite. We feast and celebrate, eat, drink and make merry. Everything is topsy turvy and we can hardly distinguish between Haman and Mordechai. Young and old sing, party and masquerade, in an outpouring of happiness and joy.

Yom Kippur and Purim are even on opposite sides of the annual calendar—fall and spring respectively.

Yet, the names of these two holidays closely resemble each other. The original Biblical spelling of Yom Kippur is actually Yom KIPURIM which makes them



almost identical. In fact, the Hebrew prefix “Ki” means “as,” denoting a similarity and comparison between the two.

How could such opposites as Yom Kippur and Purim be alike? Our most solemn and silliest levels of the whole year are somehow linked together!

The relating of Yom Kippur and Purim teaches us that, in Judaism, joy and gladness are just as important as serious meditation

and penitence. Just as God is served in the ways of the spirit, so too can He be served through our flesh and body. As an example, imagine a savory meal waiting on our table. We can view the food only as a means to pleasurably satisfy a basic desire. Or, we can view it as a pleasurable means to give us the strength to do good deeds and tikkun olam, as well as an opportunity to acknowledge and thank our creator for the bounty. This is how Judaism connects the physical into the spiritual.

We do not necessarily become closer to G-d by the rejection of the physical. Judaism teaches both feasting and fasting. Each can serve a Divine purpose in the right context.

“Serve God with joy!” exclaims the Psalmist. “Ess en gesunde heita” says the Yiddish expression. Joy and good humor are as much a part of the Jewish character and tradition as are solemnity and earnestness. ■

Is Pope Benedict good for the Jews?

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Always uneasy, the relationship between the Vatican and the Jewish community took another sour turn recently when Pope Benedict XVI announced he was rescinding the excommunication of a bishop who denies the Holocaust.

While the pope managed to smooth things over somewhat by distancing himself from Bishop Richard Williamson's Holocaust denial and, at a meeting last week at the Vatican with Jewish representatives, announcing plans to visit Israel in May, the uproar of the past few weeks raises significant questions about the goals of Benedict's papacy.

It also highlights the scrutiny Benedict has come under regarding Jewish issues in the nearly four years since he became pope. The Williamson affair may be the most dramatic of the Jewish-related crises of Benedict's papacy, but it's not the first.

"What has been revealed most dramatically by this episode is something that Vatican observers have been noting consistently during this papacy in contrast to the previous pontificate: an amazing lack of consideration of the ramifications of papal actions, and a profound lack of collegial consultation," said Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's director of Interreligious Affairs.

The result, Rosen told JTA, is that time and again the Vatican has ended up "running to put out fires" when it "could have prevented the distress to others and the harm to itself in the first place."

The most recent flare-up is a case in point.

Benedict announced Jan. 24 that he had lifted the 1988 excommunication of the British-born Williamson and three other members of the Society of St. Pius X, a breakaway traditionalist group that rejects some of the reforms of the 1962-65 Vatican II Council. The council's *Nostra Aetate* document paved the way for formal Jewish-Catholic dialogue by repudiating collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus.

Just days before Benedict's announcement, Swedish TV had broadcast an interview with Williamson in which he denied the existence of Nazi gas chambers and claimed that only 200,000 to 300,000 Jews had been killed in the Holocaust rather than the more accepted number of 6 million.

While the reinstatement of the four bishops was an internal Catholic matter aimed at fostering Catholic unity, Williamson's rehabilitation triggered anger, outrage and a measure of disbelief around the world.

"The Vatican has done far more than set back Vatican-Jewish relations," the scholar Deborah Lipstadt, an expert on Holocaust denial, wrote on her blog. "It has made itself look like it is living in the darkest of ages."

Condemnation rolled in from Jewish groups, Holocaust survivors, U.S. legislators, Israeli leaders and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, as well as from elements within the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican point man on relations with the Jewish world, complained that he had not been consulted about the matter and did not know about it in advance.

Even more remarkably, the Vatican said the pope himself had not been aware of Williamson's views.

In a frenzy of damage control, the Vatican

issued statements trying to clarify the issue and eventually ordered Williamson to recant his remarks on the Holocaust. Williamson apologized for causing the pope "unnecessary distress and problems" with his "imprudent" statements — but to date he has not retracted his stated views.

On Feb. 12, the pope met at the Vatican with a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, his first meeting with Jewish leaders since the crisis.

Any denial or "minimization" of the Holocaust, Benedict told them, is "intolerable and altogether unacceptable." The Church, he said, is "profoundly and irrevocably committed to reject all anti-Semitism, and to continue to build good and lasting relations between our two communities."

Benedict also personally announced his upcoming trip to Israel, which also will include stops in the West Bank and Jordan.

Some Jewish representatives at the meeting hailed the pope's words.

"We came a long way," Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue in New York told reporters after the meeting. "We traveled to share our pain, to share our disbelief, but we are leaving with renewed hope of stronger bonds between Catholics and Jews."

Others were more circumspect.

"This meeting was an effort to reconcile, to bring closure, but it didn't lay this issue to rest," Anti-Defamation League national director Abraham Foxman, who also attended the meeting, told JTA.

"You cannot say that we oppose anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial and then reinstate a denier," Foxman said. "Every day that Williamson remains" a member of the Church "is an affront. There needs to be action on Williamson, so we know that there are no Williamsons in the Church hierarchy."

Vatican-Jewish relations have been under close scrutiny since Benedict was elected pontiff in April 2005. His predecessor, the Polish-born Pope John Paul II, made fostering Jewish-Catholic relations and promoting awareness of the Holocaust a major focus of his reign.

Benedict was John Paul's "most trusted theological right hand," Rosen said.

From the beginning, Benedict indicated he would continue John Paul's policy toward the Jews. He met with Jewish leaders and made historic visits to synagogues in Germany and the United States.

His own history played a role: Benedict grew up in what he has described as a staunchly anti-Nazi family, but like other German teenagers he was forced to join Hitler Youth. He deserted the German army before the end of World War II.

Now 81, Benedict undoubtedly is the last pope who will have witnessed the Holocaust era firsthand.

While welcoming his synagogue visits, the Jewish community has chafed at some of Benedict's policies.

The most persistent thorn in the community's side has been the ongoing controversy over the role of the wartime pope, Pius XII, whom the Vatican plans to beatify. Many historians say Pius turned a blind eye to Jewish

An Afternoon of Heart and Sole

Robin Little, special to the WJN

On Sunday, February 15, Jewish Family Services supporters and friends and family of Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein gathered in the Michigan League Ballroom to honor them as the 2009 recipients of the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award. This annual award is presented by Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County to an indi-

viduals, and services for refugees and emigres. A matching gift from Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein established an Emergency Aid Fund to assist individuals and families impacted by the current economic crisis.

The keynote speaker was Simon Greer, president and CEO of Jewish Funds for Justice. Greer, a friend of Rachel and Mark (or



PHOTO CREDIT: GREGORY FOX

Jewish Family Services Board President Steve Gerber presented a gift to honorees Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein

vidual or couple who exemplify outstanding leadership and community service. The event was the kick-off for JFS' fundraising campaign, with gifts going to support JFS' ongoing work with families in crisis, at-risk children and teens, isolated and low-income older adults, career services for unemployed

Bendit and Bernstein), spoke about Jewish philanthropy in this time of economic turmoil. Lt. Gov. John Cherry also addressed the economic situation in Michigan and emphasized the important role that social service agencies, like Jewish Family Services, play in helping the most vulnerable and needy.

Ann Arbor represented at International Melton Conference

Rena Ashkenazi, special to the WJN

Against the background of the global economic crisis, the critical importance of adult learning took center stage at the recent 14th annual International Directors Conference of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in Chicago. Gordon Zacks, president of the board of directors of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, gave an impassioned reminder that, especially in difficult economic times, high quality learning for adults is a strategic initiative, not a luxury. Only adult leaders who are informed and knowledgeable about Judaism can continue to inspire community giving and guarantee the Jewish future. Julie Gales, Melton Mini-School director at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County was among the 37 directors from 35 communities in North America and Israel who participated in this year's conference. The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It is the largest global network of pluralistic adult Jewish education, with Mini-Schools in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa and Hungary.

The theme of the Conference—"Melton: Built to Last"—was introduced by Rabbi Loren Sykes, new Director of the North

American Division, who set the tone for the four days of professional development. The intensive schedule of workshops, study, and networking focused on best practices for building stronger, sustainable Mini-Schools in each of our communities. Many Directors shared their successes and challenges in various networking sessions, including a World Café where participants shared ideas about various educational topics. Guest presenters included Dr. Amy Sales, director of the Fisher-Bernstein Institute for Jewish Philanthropy and Leadership at Brandeis University, and Rebecca Sykes, master storyteller and dramatist.

The conference also featured a keynote address by Dr. Jonathan Sarna during a special evening in honor of Dr. Betsy Dolgin Katz, the recently retired North American founding director. A new Melton graduate curriculum on American Jewry was dedicated in Katz's honor.

Under Julie Gales' leadership and the sponsorship of the JCC, the Melton Mini-School for adult learning is flourishing in Ann Arbor. To learn more about Ann Arbor's Melton Mini-School, contact Julie Gales at juiegales@jccfed.org or 971.0990.

continues on page 33

Educators enjoy a day of Jewish culture

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

On Sunday, February 1, more than 30 educators from across South-eastern Michigan gathered at the Jewish Community Center to be immersed in Jewish culture for the day. The University Musical Society partnered with the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and the Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies to offer the "Jewish Culture Immersion Day," a part of its program of professional development activities for K-12 educators.

As it has done with immersion days focusing on other cultures, UMS Education Manager Omari Rush and Claire Rice (the interim director of Education and Audience Development), sought partnership with the Jewish community to develop and implement

Before partaking of a meal of Jewish food from around the world, participants had the opportunity to hear the stories of five community members who come from very different Jewish backgrounds during a panel entitled "Global Jewish Community: Stories from Around the Jewish World." Past UMS President Prue Rosenthal participated in the panel and observed the morning program. "The part of the day of Jewish immersion that Ami and I saw was really, really terrific," she said. She thought the morning was "spectacular, the making challah and shofars and information about Israel was great."

The afternoon program took place at Beth Israel Congregation, and included a tour of the sanctuary, participatory sessions on Jewish music and the Hebrew language, and an opportunity to study education-related Jewish text in the hevruta (partner) style. The day ended with a mock wedding ceremony complete with a festive meal and dancing to the music of the Klezmer Fusion Band.

This exposure to things Jewish is "important for teachers in the area public and private schools. Their familiarity with Jewish culture will make them better prepared to deal with the needs of their Jewish students," said Shtulman. Claire Rice of UMS reported that "we've



Marianne Aaron helps participants learn to write shalom in Hebrew

the program. Eileen Freed, director of Israel/Overseas and Community Relations at the Jewish Federation, coordinated development of the program and recruited volunteers from across the Jewish community. "This was a wonderful opportunity for the Federation to interact with UMS to provide this important service to the community," said David Shtulman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Matthew Weingarten and Kimberly Kunoff, former and current public relations directors at the Frankel Center, were essential to conceiving an interesting agenda and assisted in ensuring its success. Area Jewish educators, most notably Cindy Saper (education director at Beth Israel Congregation), and Terri Ginsburg (education director at Temple Beth Emeth), provided significant advice in the formulation of a program that would be interesting and meaningful to educators.

During the course of the day, the educators were exposed to variety of aspects of Jewish life and culture with hands-on activities, lectures, and panel presentations. Morning sessions held at the JCC included an optional Torah yoga class, a basic introduction to the laws of kashrut (keeping kosher), a presentation on the nature of Jewish time, and holiday experiences including challah braiding and playing dreidel. Frankel Center Director Deborah Dash Moore gave a presentation about Jewish immigration and the development of the Jewish community in the United States, Zingerman's founder Ari Weinzwieg spoke about the origin and geopolitical significance of the bagel, and David Shtulman gave an overview of the Ann Arbor Jewish community and the role of the Jewish Federation.



Rabbi Aharon Goldstein demonstrates the shofar

received nothing but fantastic feedback, and I felt the panel on the global Jewish community was particularly meaningful!"

Participants concur. Michelle Peet, a high school English teacher, said, "I think every component offered wonderful information and was well-presented. I think I'll remember the explanations of the religious and cultural values above all else. The world panel was a wonderful way to illustrate the Diaspora, too." An elementary school teacher who participated appreciated the variety of programming. "It exceeded my expectations. I had hoped to learn about the Jewish culture/religion, but hadn't expected to have so much fun! The range of teaching methods really brought the culture to life."


The variety was possible, in part, due to the bringing together of volunteers from across the broad spectrum of Jewish observance to offer the participants a real sense of the varied tapestry that is Jewish culture. Karen Shill, coordinator of Volunteer Services at the UM Health System and a religious school teacher at both Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth, presented two sessions and spent the entire day with the group. She thought the experience was "an exciting challenge in terms of planning and executing a meaningful set of educational, cultural and hands-on activities; great fun, and a wonderful contribution to make to our community." ■



CANTOR SAMUEL GREENBAUM
— Certified Mohel —

*Skill, Sensitivity and Tradition
come together to create your special Bris.*

Answering all of your anesthetic & aftercare needs.
(248) 855-A BOY (2269)
Office: (248) 547-7970
perfectnow@excite.com



Chelsea Flower Shop, LLC

203 E. Liberty St. Phone 662-5616
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.chelseafloresllc.com

Over 60 years of excellence services



Michal Porath
Associate Broker / Realtor
Certified Residential Specialist

Twenty-Five Years of Experience & Success

www.thinkmichal.com
734-395-0650

Edward Sorell Realtors,
1898 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor MI 48103

BATMAN

Batman vs Haman: Will Purim Survive?

Is it really possible that there was an earlier **Caped Crusader** called **Batman** (alter ego—**Mordechai Ben Yair**) who fought evil in the corrupt Persian Empire 1,700 years ago? Has he finally met his match in **Haman**, Son of Hammedatha, kingpin of the criminal underworld, who now holds the very signet ring of the all powerful **King**?... Is this the end for **Batman** - and his people?

Monday, March 9
Megilla Reading and
Interactive Purim Shpiel
7:30 p.m.
Beth Israel - Gotham City
2000 Washtenaw Ave.



Voices of Youth

A shoe, a soul

by Jono Sherman

I spent the long, quiet ride gazing at the countryside. Vibrant farmhouses speckled the green rolling hills, and the natural beauty allowed my mind to drift from the fact that I was en route to Majdanek, Poland, where 79,000 people were murdered in 34 months. I had read about these places, but from a safe distance. Standing at the gates of the most extensively preserved camp in Poland, I could not know what to expect.

A Soviet-era memorial towered overhead as I entered through the gate. The structure distracted me until I saw the rows of barracks, the barbed wire fence, and the towering brick chimney far in the distance. As I entered, I walked past the camp director's house, and felt a cold and anxious quiet overcome me. I prepared myself to see things, until now, I had never fully believed.

The first building I entered was the gas chamber. Walking along the stone path, a group of ravens crowed in the background. Perhaps their ancestors had been attracted by the crematorium's stench on the wind. Now in the gas chamber, I was struck by the creak of the wood below my feet, the gray light, the blue stains of Zyklon-B on the walls. The screams of those



PHOTO CREDIT: JONO SHERMAN

who died in that room echoed in my head. My body felt cold, my mind was numb. Walking out through the door made me think of all the men, women, and children who never could.

I walked quietly toward a barrack known

as "the shoe room". Cages piled high with shoes lined the walls. Seeing the forlorn remnants, my heart clenched to imagine the souls who had been caged, too. The disheveled shoes were now all that remained. I continued to walk along the

rows in a daze, too overwhelmed to absorb any lasting meaning. But then, I saw it — a small white shoe. Most of the shoes were grey and dusty, but this little dress shoe was embellished with a buckle and small heel. This shoe, which must have belonged to a young girl, gave me a glimmer of what might have been, and all that had been lost. This shoe was literally one among thousands, but it may just as well have been the only one in the room. One shoe. One life. Focusing on its faded white hue, I realized I was there not just to see the terrible things that had happened to my people, but to understand the important fact that before those things happened, each victim had a life, filled with love, pain, and everyday moments. Just like me. In that moment, I joined the victim, and could feel the true loss of one small girl I would never know beyond that she had owned a small white shoe with a shiny buckle.

This piece is a reflection on the day Jono Sherman spent in the Majdanek concentration camp this past summer. Sherman traveled to Poland, and Israel, with the Camp Ramah Seminar Program. Sherman is a senior at Community High School.



PHOTO CREDIT: JONO SHERMAN



PHOTO CREDIT: JONO SHERMAN

OSRUI for a great summer adventure

by Jodie Friedman

This picture is from my two summers at OSRUI. They portray experiences that have all added greatly to my Jewish life. At camp, I learned that even while I was out experiencing nature, there are everyday blessings and miracles. I learned this lesson quickly because technology was largely absent from the camp. In nature, the only thing there is plain old quiet simplicity. This was much appreciated after school ended—camp was a way to unwind and start fresh when I got home.

Yes, everyday we would have t'fillot



(prayers) and follow kashrut (kosher dietary laws), but being Jewish at camp meant more than that. It meant having a support system, knowing that however far the distance may be, somebody cares. On trips we only had



each other for entertainment, food, shelter, encouragement, and most of all dependence.

The first of these photos was taken this past summer, on my climbing trip. For part of it, the girls went on their own mini hik-

ing trip, leaving the boys alone. We all really came together overnight. The other photo is one was the girls and a counselor in my tent on the last night.

OSRUI was such a great adventure; in fact, my unit this year was Moshavah Hateva, or "Adventures in Nature," and I only hope that I can return again someday.

I would recommend this camp to anybody who has the opportunity to go.

Jodie Friedman is a sophomore at Dexter High School.



Ann Arbor's 2007 Maccabi team

Houston Maccabi games

by Gilad Eisbruch

The past two summers I have traveled with other teenagers from Ann Arbor to other cities to participate in the Maccabi games. In 2007, the Ann Arbor delegation participated in the Houston Maccabi games. I wanted to play flag football, but I was the only one from Ann Arbor interested in that sport. I got put on a team from North Carolina that had many more people participating than we did. I was scared at first that I wouldn't be able to make friends with my teammates and I would have a miserable time, but as soon as I showed up to our first practice, I knew that wouldn't be the case. They all came over and introduced themselves, and I jumped right in with the drills they were doing. Even when we got back to the JCC in Houston for lunch, when I couldn't find my friends from Ann Arbor, they invited me to eat with them, and in the time we had off we all played racquetball together at the JCC. Our team got eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, but that didn't matter. It was a great experience, and I met wonderful people whom I still keep in touch with today.

Gilad Eisbruch is a sophomore at Community High School.

Federation Main Event featured inspiring NPR journalist, Mara Liasson

by David Schapiro

On Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor had its annual Main Event in order to raise money. Just like the year before, the teens of the Jewish community were invited to meet after the formal part of the evening with the keynote speaker. This year we were lucky enough to meet with NPR journalist Mara Liasson.

The Main Event went well, from the delicious desserts to the inspiring speeches. Liasson made a long, intriguing speech about the changing politics of America, and related it to Israel. She spoke about the historic election that pleased many but also disappointed many others. She spoke about the challenges ahead for this country and the world, including the economy, the war, and paying for future social security. Her passionate speaking made the presentation all the more interesting. The Main Event raised over half a million dollars for the local Jewish community, a significant amount that could help hundreds of Jews struggling to pay for their housing, food, school, and college. Liasson's speech inspired many to donate to support those struggling from the issues she mentioned.

After the Main Event, the teens that were there were given the opportunity to ask Liasson questions privately for about 45 minutes. She inspired us to pursue our careers, mine being journalism. She told us important advice to be prepared, such as "make a model, think of the worst case scenario," as well as field specific advice, such as "some [stories] are straightforward. And, "sometimes ideas work in the mind, sometimes I'm not quite sure."

Overall the event was a success both financially and intellectually. The speaker did an exceptional job of inspiring us all to be the best we can be. She told us to be optimistic. "Every 4 years, there is something new," said Liasson. She informed us about the world around us and the hard times that lie ahead. She also explained that by sticking together as a community, we can get through the coming hard times.

David Schapiro is in the eleventh grade at Huron High School.



Mara Liasson

the Village Apothecary
1112 S. University
663-5533
Free Delivery

Susan Ayer Photography
When you have only one chance to capture that special moment!
Specializing in Bar/Bat Mitzvahs,
Family Portraits • Children
Family Celebrations • Digital Imaging
Business Reception
(735) 546-0426 • wjn.editor@gmail.com
susanayerphotography.com

Don't just hope your guests will dance...
JOE CORNELL
WEDDINGS • MITZVAHS • SPECIAL EVENTS
248.356.6000 • WWW.JOECORNELL.COM

Heating and Cooling Specialists
A/C • Furnaces • Humidifiers • Air Cleaners
MODERN MECHANICAL
Alan Friedman
Serving our community since 1985
734-662-6644
www.modernmechanical.net

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is participating in:
'09 BOOKSTOCK
USED BOOK & MEDIA* SALE
Lanier Park Place April 26 - May 3
Owned and Managed by CBL & Associates Inc.
All kinds...books on tape, records, videos, CDs & DVDs
Collection day at Ann Arbor JCC
Sunday, March 15
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
DONATE USED BOOKS
To volunteer or for questions, please contact
Tina Gargotta at (734) 971-0990 or tinagargotta@jccfed.org

Congregations

March events at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to WJN

Batman vs. Haman: Will Purim Survive?

Boys and girls, men and women, all are invited to dress in costume and attend Beth Israel Congregation's traditional Megillah reading, combined with an interactive Purim Shpiel, to be held on Monday night, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. This year, Beth Israel's sanctuary will be transformed into the Sanctuary of Beth Israel—Gotham City, where Batman and the boy wonder, Robin, will tell the story of the earlier caped crusader, Mordechai Ben Yair, whose alter ego, Batman, fought crime in Shushan, Persia. Discovering the evil tentacles of Haman, son of Hammedatha, spread throughout Persia, Mordechai sends his own niece, Esther (Jewish name, Hadassah) under cover into the king's palace, where she is chosen to be the king's wife. Mordechai watches in terror as Haman not only rises to second-in-command to the king, but also hatches a plot to kill all the Jews and confiscate their money. With no super powers, how can Mordechai and his niece triumph against the entire Persian Empire? Everyone in the community is invited to come and find out. Complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and hamantashen will be available throughout the evening.

The Megillah reading begins with 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.

Giving to the poor is a traditional activity on Purim. This year the Social Action Committee is sponsoring a Purim Eve collection of cash and check gifts to support the homeless in Washtenaw County. Checks may be made out to Shelter Association, Avalon Housing, or Interfaith Hospitality Network.

On Tuesday morning, March 10 at 8 a.m., the Shacharit Service includes a Torah reading and the traditional Megillah reading, followed by a free breakfast.

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

Activities for young families

Tot Shabbats for preschoolers and their parents take place on Saturdays, March 14 and March 28, from 11:15 a.m.—noon, and include songs, stories, prayers, and puppets. On Saturday, March 14 the Tot Shabbat is run by Peretz Hirshbein. On Saturday, March 28, Jessica Kander will lead Tot Shabbat. There is no charge for this program. Kehillat Shabbat is offered to

preschoolers on Saturday March 14. The programs theme is "Dancing with the Prayers," and will reveal the choreography of the prayers—the times to bow and the times to stand. Participants will groove to the aerobic workout of the Shabbat morning service.

Child care for preschoolers is offered from 10 a.m.—12:15 p.m., and Moadon/Junior Congregation for elementary-school-age children is offered on weeks when there is no Kehillat Shabbat.

Beth Israel's annual blood drive

Beth Israel's annual Red Cross blood drive will run on Sunday, March 1, from 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m., in the Beth Israel Social Hall. Giving blood is an easy way to save a life or two, and perform an important mitzvah. There is an on-line sign-up with the Red Cross. Donors should go to www.givelife.org and fill in the Beth Israel sponsor code, bic13, to make an appointment.

Donate baby and personal care items to SOS Community Services

From March 9—March 29 community members may drop off items in the Beth Israel foyer for SOS. SOS Community Services responds with care and respect to families in need by working in partnerships that result in economic, family, and residential stability. They assist families (including a large number of children) in their move from homelessness to self-sufficiency and permanent, stable housing. SOS occupies four program and administrative sites in Washtenaw County. Donations may include new baby items (diapers, baby wipes, baby washcloths, burp cloths, blankets, gowns/sleepers, baby food, formula, baby shampoo, diaper cream, baby lotion, comb and brush, pacifiers, baby carrier, infant car safety seat, stroller, bouncer seat/swing, diaper bag, or a thermometer) or personal hygiene items (shampoo, conditioner, soap, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, razors, or shaving cream).

Dobrusin's Deli and Variety Show

On March 8, at 1 p.m., Beth Israel will celebrate Rabbi Robert Dobrusin's twenty years of service with a special program, "Dobrusin's Deli and Variety Show." Occurring on the day before Purim, the event has been designed to fit into the joy and celebration of that holiday, and attendees are asked to dress like their favorite sitcom character, as Rabbi Dobrusin is a sitcom aficionado. The Variety Hour will include some talented acts, and an affectionate "roast" of Rabbi Dobrusin.

There is a charge for the meal.

Since Rabbi Dobrusin's arrival in Ann Arbor, there have been many changes in his life and in the life of the congregation. Rabbi Dobrusin met and married his wife Ellen in Ann Arbor; his children Avi and Mickie celebrated their b'nei mitzvah on the bima here. During the past twenty years the congregation has grown, the staff has increased, and programming has grown significantly.

Members of the organizational committee for this event include Haran Rashes, Carol Finerman, Pam Landau, Sarajane Winkelman, Anita Liberman-Lampear, Martha and Eric Young, Max Rashes, Avi Dobrusin, Karan Balmer and Nikki Klein.

While Beth Israel is aware that the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Women's Event overlaps with the start of "Dobrusin's Deli," it is hoped that people will be able to make both events that day. Beth Israel apologizes for the scheduling conflict, but it is a sign of a healthy calendar.

For an invitation to Dobrusin's Deli and Variety Show, call 665-9897.

Passover College

On Sunday, March 29, Beth Israel Congregation will run a Passover College for adults from 7–9 p.m. This program will offer various courses on all aspects of the upcoming holiday. Participants may choose an introduction to running the Passover seder, a session on Talmudic sources of the Haggadah, courses on Passover music, and a cooking workshop for Passover foods. All participants will receive From Marinades to Macaroons, a booklet on favorite Passover recipes from members of Beth Israel Congregation, including all of the recipes from last year's Charoset Throwdown. As part of the Passover College there will be a Haggadah Museum presented by Elliot Gertel, the Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica at the University of Michigan Library system. There will also be a Charoset bar for snacks in between the sessions.

Teen Shabbat and Kids Kiddush

This special Shabbat, when Beth Israel teens lead the entire service, takes place on March 28 at 9:30 a.m. Teachers at Beth Israel Religious School will be honored during the course of the morning as well. After Shabbat services, at 12:15 p.m., the congregation is treated to a "Kid's Kiddush," planned and prepared by interested fifth and sixth graders under the supervision of Karan Balmer, the assistant kitchen coordinator.

3rd Annual Beth Israel Reads

The BIRS Education Committee has organized the 3rd annual Beth Israel Reads program with the book *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs. The Beth Israel Reads program is geared towards adults and high-school age youth and has the goal of increasing Jewish literacy in our congregation. This year's choice is vastly different than those of the past two years. *The Year of Living Biblically* is a *New York Times* bestseller and follows one year in a man's life as he attempts to follow as many of the rules in the Bible as he possibly can. While written in a light-hearted fashion, this book touches on themes that anyone can relate to, all derived from that most quintessential "Jewish" book, the Bible. There will be a community discussion on Saturday, March 28 after Teen Shabbat services, at 1:15 p.m.

Activities at TBE

Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

TBE Purim Carnival features games and separate tot area

Get ready for another year of Purim merry-making at Temple Beth Emeth's Purim Carnival, Monday, March 9. Rabbi Levy, in full costume, will read the Megillah at 5:30 p.m., followed by a two-hour carnival where pizza dinner and hamantashen are available for purchase.

High school and middle school youth group members run great games. In a separate, quieter area of the building, the tots have their own carnival with a duck pond, fishing game, and other easy-to-win activities. Of course, participants receive prize tickets to redeem at the prize table. The public is invited to attend the carnival and is encouraged to come in costume. Tickets for games may be purchased in advance by stopping by the TBE office the week before the carnival, or are available to purchase on that evening.

Passover seder at Temple Beth Emeth

Temple Beth Emeth continues its annual tradition of a congregational seder on the second night of Passover, Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m. Led by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Rose, the lively seder uses a Beth Emeth haggadah with many favorite songs. The seder this year will be catered by Simply Scrumptious at a cost of \$18 per adult and \$12.50 per child 4–10 (Three percent of each fee goes to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.) Tots 3 and under sharing with an adult are free. In order to accommodate the community, this seder will be open to the public, if there is additional seating available after April 1. Please contact the office, 665-4744, to inquire about space.

TBE Brotherhood Men's Seder

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Emeth will hold a men's seder on March 31 at 7 p.m., in the Temple Social Hall. The Seder follows the haggadah of the Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ). This evening will include dinner and the seder lead by Rabbi Levy, with participation from all in attendance. A fully catered "Men's Dinner" is included.

This event is open to all men of the congregation. Cost for the evening for paid members is \$10. Those who wish to attend may pay their dues of \$40 and enjoy the evening as well. Reservation deadline is March 23. Mail your checks to the temple payable to "Brotherhood." For more information, contact the temple office, 665-4744. For all Brotherhood information, visit www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood.

URJ Vice President to speak at TBE

Temple Beth Emeth is proud to host national executive vice president Rabbi Daniel Freeland during Shabbat evening services, Friday March 6 at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Freeland will speak on the reality and growth of inter-faith families in an address titled "Esther and the 'Outreach Revolution.'" The entire community is welcome to come and hear a powerful leader of the national Reform movement on this extremely important topic. Shabbat services will be preceded that evening by Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m. Reservations are required for those wishing to attend the dinner, and may be made on the Temple Beth Emeth website, www.templebethemeth.org, a week in advance.

Sunrise Service at TBE: Birkat HaChama

Mark your calendars, Jewish tradition already has: April 8, the day that ends with the first seder, is a once-in-every-twenty-eight-year Jewish holiday that celebrates the power of the sun. All are

March's Kabbalat Shabbat discussion: Reconstructionism and conversion

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah members Marcy Epstein and Deb Kraus are leading a new adult learning community entitled Bereshit, and will be the featured discussion leaders at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion Friday, March 13, from 6:15–7:45 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.

Conversion is a topic that both Jews and non-Jews think about within the context of belonging to their local Jewish congregation. Within Reconstructionist communities, two key questions arise: What do members of the Reconstructionist community (Jewish and

non-Jewish) think a person should have to do to convert to Judaism? What do those who are personally considering conversion think they need to do to be(come) Jews? On March 13, the community is invited to join a discussion of these matters, which will include Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah members who have converted.

The Reconstructionist Havurah's Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion is preceded by candle-lighting and a brief Kiddush. It concludes with a song and sometimes a prayer. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045 or auraahuvia@comcast.net.

invited to join us at sunrise at Temple Beth Emeth for an eco-service and celebration followed by a light breakfast. After a winter like this, gather as a community for a brief celebration of the glory of nature. Participants will sing, "Here comes the Sun!" followed by a "Blessing of the Sun" breakfast. See you in the early morning light.

Liberation through Torah with Rabbi Levy March 10 and 17

Over 3,000 years ago the Jewish People gained liberation from Egyptian bondage through the mighty hand and the outstretched arm of God. Today, Jews live in the echo of that event, captured in the words of Torah. Rabbi Robert Levy will be teaching a two-part course, "Liberation through Torah," on how Torah can serve us today in our own search for liberation. Sessions are March 10 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. No longer slaves to pharaoh, we still live lives confined by forces seemingly beyond our control. How can Torah and tradition move beyond its own confined religious role to be the key to moving beyond the narrow to the expanse of the wilderness of possibilities? Through teaching and discussion, the class will prepare for the seders by encouraging participants to consider the holiday of freedom in the broadest sense.

TBE's 14th Annual All-Ensemble Concert

On Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m., an hour of non-stop music will fill the Temple Beth Emeth sanctuary as four ensembles present Jewish music of many styles for singers and instrumentalists. A new feature this year will be audience sing-along punctuating each portion.

The Youth Choir will sing favorites such as "Dona Dona" and "Tumbalalaika," and more

modern additions to the repertoire, such as "Ameh Yisrael Chai." Middle School Shir Chadash ensembles will feature a cappella and accompanied singers, as well as a full band performing klezmer and jazz. High School Shir Chadash will share brand new music composed especially for this ensemble, including vocal and instrumental solos. Also featured will be two of the songs performed by Shir Chadash at the Michigan Theater last spring. The 70-voice adult choir, Kol Halev, will sing a small section from Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, as well as Yiddish favorites.

The all-ensemble concert is open to the public, free of charge. A reception follows in the Social Hall. For further information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at 665-4744.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at TBE!

The Temple Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat experience on Friday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m., will feature the High School Shir Chadash performing an original musical service composed by Abe Z. Morrison and David Koenig. The 30-member high school ensemble features 20 singers and 10 instrumentalists, accompanied and led by the composers. Each year Shir Chadash presents its original music at TBE and on tour. Last year the group performed at two temples in Indiana, as well as at the Michigan Theater. This year's tour will be to Cleveland. Recordings of Shir Chadash will be available at the oneg following services. For further information, contact Cantor Annie Rose, 665-4744.

Gift Shop's Passover Bazaar

Sunday, March 29, from 3-7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth's Sisterhood gift shop will be featuring everything for the Passover Seder: Seder

plates, matzah plates and covers, haggadot, Elijah and Miriam cups, kitchen items, cookbooks, paper goods, as well as toys for kids young and old. In addition to these specific hours, the gift shop is open on Monday and Wednesday from 4:40-6 pm, Friday evening from 7-7:30 p.m., and Sunday evening from 6-7:30 p.m. To make an appointment for special needs, contact Amy Paberzs, 668-6842.

Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. This month's hike is on March 22 at 1 p.m. 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 1/2-2 hours. For further information about this month's location, or if you are interested in carpooling, contact Eli at 883-9522 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com. Web site: http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan.

Tot Shabbat—every week

Join us every week for Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and Shira (Song Fest and Service) at 6:45 p.m. Tot dinner costs \$5, which can be paid at the door.

Torah study with Rabbi Levy

Saturday mornings, from 8:50-9:30 a.m., Rabbi Levy offers an ongoing modern exploration of the weekly Torah portion, drawing on traditional commentaries and today's scholarship. This class relies on group participation and draws

wisdom and history from our deepest sources. Torah Study is held in the Temple Beth Emeth chapel.

Lunch and Learn with Cantor Rose, Haftarah Cantillation

Learn the melodies of Haftarah with Cantor Annie Rose on Mondays in the Temple Beth Emeth Adult Lounge. Class meets from 12-1 on March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. All materials are provided: texts, CDs, study materials. All are welcome, free of charge. Registration preferred, by calling the temple office, 665-4744.

Sisterhood Torah Study with Cantor Rose

This March, Temple Beth Emeth's Sisterhood offers Torah study with Cantor Annie Rose, using the new Women's Torah Commentary. Our Torah Study includes reading of the text, commentary, poems inspired by the text, and lively discussion. Torah study begins at 7 p.m. on March 2 (Parashat Tzaveh). At the conclusion of the study session (8:30 p.m.), a meditation session in the chapel is available for all who wish to stay. Torah study is open to all women free of charge, and Torah commentaries are available for use during study. For further information, contact Sisterhood President Hillary Handwerger, 665-4744.

Men's Torah Study at TBE

The monthly study group, sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood, and led by Roger Stutesman, will meet on Wednesdays, March 11 and 25, at 7:30 p.m. The weekly Torah portion is discussed at each session. For further detail, contact Roger, rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net.



DAVID KERSCH
Senior Vice President
Mortgage Lending
Ann Arbor
734.214.3796



BETSY CAVANAUGH
Vice President
Mortgage Lending
Ann Arbor
734.214.3740



CHARLIE CHAPPELL
Vice President
Mortgage Lending
Ann Arbor
734.214.2728



DENISE MCPHERSON-PRATT
Vice President
Mortgage Lending
Ann Arbor
734.214.3733



RAMONA MEADOWS
Vice President
Mortgage Lending
Saline
734.944.3981



STEPHEN ANDERSON
Mortgage Originator
Dexter
734.214.5897



As a **LOCAL** bank, United believes it's important to continue **LENDING** locally.

During these challenging economic times, we feel it's even more important for the community to support its own. That's why, unlike many larger banks, we're still making it possible for our neighbors to buy and sell homes, keeping this community healthy and growing. We know this market, we know the people, and we know how to make things happen. So call us. And let our experience make your loan experience a great one.

17 locations throughout Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Monroe Counties
www.ubat.com



Member FDIC



UNITED
BANK & TRUST
United Behind You.™

© 2009 United Bancorp, Inc.

What's Happen

You Are Invited to the 2009 JCC Gala Auction

Join us for Silent and Live Auctions, Raffles, Dinner and Live Musical Entertainment! \$36 per person includes 2 Raffle Tickets

Please contact the JCC for more information 734-971-0990

Help us Raise Funds to Replace and Insulate Our Roof!

• Kids' Night Out Available (includes 2 Raffle tickets) • Reservations Necessary

Raise the Roof

Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.



Small Sample of Auction Items

VACATIONS & TRAVEL

- One week stay in a three bedroom condominium in sunny Hilton Head Island
- One week stay in a two bedroom condominium in beautiful Longboat Key, Florida
- London Apartment

JEWELRY

- Michal Negrin teardrop earrings
- Michal Golan earrings, pin and necklace set
- Jewelry by Heather Dombey

ARTWORK

- Yehezkel Streichman Painting
- Tarkey Painting

CULTURAL EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- Four Tickets to the University of Michigan production of "42nd Street"
- Zingerman's Baking Class for two

AND MUCH MORE!

What Do You Want Your Early Childhood Center to Have?

- ✓ A License from the State of Michigan
- ✓ Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- ✓ Student/Teacher ratios lower than the state requirement
 - 3:1 ratio for children under 1 year
 - 4:1 ratio for children ages 1-3
 - 7:1 ratio for children ages 3-5
- ✓ Highly educated staff – all lead teachers have a BA or MS
- ✓ Large well equipped classrooms
- ✓ A newly renovated gym and a large motor skills room
- ✓ A gym program with a certified physical education teacher
- ✓ Daily special programming including music, dance, art, Judaic activities and Jewish holiday celebrations
- ✓ Monthly Family Programming
- ✓ Intergenerational Programming

THE JCC EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER HAS ALL THIS AND SO MUCH MORE!

For more information or to register, please contact Noreen DeYoung at 734-971-0990 or noreendeyoung@jccfed.org

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
of WASHTENAW COUNTY



Accredited by the
National Academy
of Early Childhood
Programs



ning at the JCC

Two New Programs at the JCC!

SHALOM ANN ARBOR

If you're new to Ann Arbor or thinking of moving here, the Jewish Community Center's **Shalom Ann Arbor** is here to assist you and welcome you to our Jewish community.

The **Shalom Ann Arbor Welcome Package** is an essential information packet for newcomers or those considering relocating to the city. It includes a copy of the *Guide to Jewish Life*, the most recent edition of *Washtenaw Jewish News*, a complimentary six-month JCC membership, information on activities in the Jewish community, and more.



A volunteer will be available to provide a personal welcome and introduction to Ann Arbor's Jewish community for those who have already moved here.

SHALOM BABY

Maybe your family has recently grown by one, or your friends are just about to welcome a little one into their lives. **Shalom Baby** welcomes parents, their newborns and newly-adopted children into the Jewish Community of Washtenaw County.

Shalom Baby provides you with:

- **Welcome To Our World** giftbag, full of fun and helpful gifts, information on parenting, and Jewish resources for parents and families, hand-delivered by a wonderful Shalom Baby Ambassador.
- A connection to create lifelong friendships for you and your child.
- Support from caring volunteers.
- A connection to your Jewish Community and heritage.



Please join us **Thursday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m.** for a **Babies and Bagels** where we'll meet and greet those who have welcomed new babies to their families. RSVP below.

This is a wonderful way for you to meet new people, make new friends, and learn about your Jewish Community and the resources available for you.

If you are interested in receiving information on the JCC's new Shalom Baby or Shalom Ann Arbor program please contact Halye Aisner at (734) 971-0990 or halyeaisner@jccfed.org.

MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ANN ARBOR

NEW
Mommy/Baby
Class
Beginning
in April

The Bobbie and Myron Levine Jewish Community Center Cultural Arts Fund
Proudly Presents

The Art and Soul of Peace Through Humor

March 1 – May 31, 2009

During regular JCC hours

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery

Visions of Peace From the Hands of Children

For 10 years, Maureen Kushner, an innovative and creative teacher from New York, worked in Israel with Jewish, Arab, Bedouin and Druze children, to create murals and paintings on the theme of war and peace. The result is a powerful and stunning exhibit.

Children and Youth programming will be offered

• Please call Julie Gales for further information (734) 971-0990



Critics aside, Israeli officials see successes in Gaza operation

by Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A month after the Gaza war, with Kassam rockets continuing to fall in southern Israel, many skeptical Israelis are questioning whether the war achieved anything.

Since the cease-fire on Jan. 18, militia-men have fired nearly 50 rockets and mortars at civilian targets in the Gaza periphery. Israel has retaliated with targeted assassinations and airstrikes against smuggling tunnels along the Gaza-Egyptian border.

The skeptics say the current state of affairs is identical to the situation that existed before the war: Hamas firing rockets and Israel reacting with extreme restraint. So, they say, everything is back to square one.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak says nothing could be further from the truth.

Barak argues that Hamas took a heavy beating in the war and that the Gaza-Israel border is on the verge of a long period of quiet. He sees the daily dribble of rocket fire as nothing more than a pathetic attempt by Hamas to show it's still around. And, he says, the fact that Hamas keeps saying how close the sides are to a new 18-month lull, or Tahadiya, shows just how much they need it.

Indeed, it is Israel that is holding out and insisting that there will be no deal on a new lull until the captured Israel soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit is freed.

The view in the Cabinet and among the top brass of the Israel Defense Forces is that the war achieved a number of highly significant goals: It transformed Israeli deterrence vis-a-vis Hamas and in the region as a whole, and it is only a matter of time before this becomes apparent on the Gaza front; it created conditions for the release of Gilad Shalit; and it paved the

way for an inter-Palestinian Hamas-Fatah accommodation that could revive prospects for a two-state solution.

Indeed, Barak speaks of a watershed event in Israeli-Palestinian relations, the full consequences of which have yet to be fully understood.

Right-wing politicians like the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, who is likely to form the next government, argue that Barak and company did not finish the job, since they left Hamas in power, and that sooner or later Israel will have to go into Gaza again to topple the radical Islamists.

Even Kadima leader Tzipi Livni says the IDF may have to strike again if Hamas renews weapons' smuggling on a grand scale.

Nevertheless, all the signs on the ground suggest a relatively long period of quiet in the offing. This is partly because of Hamas' inability to find any effective counters to Israel's military moves. In the war, Hamas' elaborate defense strategy against an Israeli incursion collapsed. The web of tunnels and booby-trapped buildings proved ineffectual, and in the fighting many Hamas fighters and field commanders were killed with minimal Israeli losses.

The IDF estimate is that the Islamist organization does not have the stomach to go through all that again — at least not soon. In other words, the main strategic goal

of Operation Cast Lead, the establishment of a deterrent balance, was achieved. Hamas needs a long period of quiet to rebuild devastated military and civilian infrastructures.

The war also transformed the relationship between Egypt and Hamas. Now in its mediation between Israel and Hamas, it is Egypt call-

ing the shots with Hamas, not vice versa. And although Hamas has been conducting a terror spree in Gaza against Fatah loyalists, killing several and kneecapping others, there is renewed talk of a possible reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah that might allow Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to negotiate for all Palestinians, making a two-state solution more realistic than it was before the war.

Indeed, Fatah will likely get a toehold in Gaza for the first time since the Hamas seizure of power there in June 2007. When Israel as part of the lull opens border crossing points, they will be partly supervised by Palestinian Authority, mainly Fatah, personnel.

The new lull could take a few more days to go into effect because Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has made it dependent on Shalit's release, and he is using the opening of the border crossings as a lever to pressure Hamas to free Shalit. Olmert refuses to open the crossings until a deal on Shalit's release is struck.

In return for Shalit, Hamas is demanding the release of 1,400 Palestinian terrorists in Israeli jails, including 450 of its choosing. Israel names 550 others, with the rest mainly women and minors. Among the 450 are the planners of many of the worst terrorist outrages of the second intifada, including the rash of lethal suicide bombings in buses, restaurants, discos and other public places.

Until now, the Israeli government had been against most of the 450; now the differences are only over a few dozen names. One of those slated to be freed is Fatah's Marwan Barghout, who is seen as a future Palestinian leader and as one who might have the moral authority to make peace with Israel.

Although the Gaza war inflamed popular opinion against Israel throughout the region, and harmed Israel's close ties with Muslim Turkey, it helped restore Israel's deterrent capacity by restoring perceptions of Israel as a regional superpower that was dented by the IDF's relatively poor performance in the 2006 Lebanon war. It also showed that the 2006 war may have been more successful than first thought: Bottom line, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah stayed out of the fighting despite the fact that a fellow Iranian proxy was taking a beating in Gaza. This suggests that the same kind of deterrent model could hold for Hamas, too.

The war in Gaza had other regional ramifications. It was a first major setback for Iran after a string of perceived regional successes, especially the American war in Iraq that in crippling Iraq, removed the main barrier against Iranian expansion and enabled Teheran to create an arc of influence from Tehran through southern Iraq and Damascus to Lebanon and Gaza. Thus the war in Gaza not only was a victory for Israel, but also for regional anti-Iranian moderates such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The Achilles' heel in the post-Gaza war situation is the continued smuggling from Egypt into Gaza. Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter has warned that despite its goodwill, Egypt is not moving quickly enough to block the arms smuggling routes, which could undermine hopes for quiet. Indeed, a new Hamas arms buildup and a new right-wing government in Israel could mean that the lull might not last as long as Barak and the other military planners of Operation Cast Lead had hoped. ■

Time for Israel Advocacy 2.0

by Amos Kamil

NEW YORK (JTA) — A recent online search of the phrase "Zionism is racism" yielded 1.3 million Web pages. "Israel + apartheid" turned up a cool 231,000 hits. Type the word "Israel" into Facebook or YouTube and more than likely you will be confronted with user-generated content created by people who do not hold pro-Israel views.

Things are not much better over at the online encyclopedia Wikipedia. Palestinians and their sympathizers have added "al Nakba," an Arabic term meaning "the catastrophe," to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War entry. On Google Earth, sophisticated Palestinian 2.0 advocates have tagged many Israeli towns and cities with their Arabic names. Both Google and Wikipedia — two Internet behemoths — take cover behind editorial neutrality and free speech, remaining unmoved by Jewish community concerns.

In short, our adversaries have gone 2.0 in their battle to delegitimize Israel, and the recent military operation in Gaza is yet another indication of how Palestinian activists are using the Web to manipulate the public affairs aspects of the debate. A Jan. 18 Jerusalem Post article reported that on Facebook, 648,828 users signed up for the STOP Israel's War Crimes in Gaza application. Only 342,892 users installed QasamCount, a pro-Israel application that updates the user's status with current data showing the number of Kassam rockets that have been fired into Israel from Gaza.

Letter-writing campaigns, used with discretion, may actually help to change a particular media outlet's take on a certain issue. But these tactics alone are not sufficient for capturing the hearts and minds of people all over the world who are increasingly going online for news, analysis and discussion.

As more Jews and non-Jews seek out information online, use social networking tools and watch short form videos, we must train Israel advocates to effectively engage these forums. We must garner our communal resources to train and unleash the next generation of storytellers, bloggers and social media gurus to tell Israel's full story in compelling ways.

If the rise of the Internet and the decentralization of media have shown us anything, it is that information will not reach people unless it is presented in unique ways that succinctly communicate its point. We need to find innovative ways to tell, share and distribute those stories in a variety of formats, including e-mail, blogs, vlogs, music videos and whatever other platforms emerge in this fast-paced media environment.

It is also clear that we are well outnumbered, which is why a much more concerted effort is needed. Those of us who care about Israel's agenda and how the future narrative will be portrayed need to mobilize our com-

Museum a beacon of hope in Jerusalem

by Marvin Hier

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — On October 29, 2008, the Israeli Supreme Court rendered a unanimous decision permitting the Simon Wiesenthal Center to resume construction on its Museum of Tolerance project on the site of the municipal parking lot in the heart of western Jerusalem. The court denied the contention of the project's chief opponent, Sheik Raed Salah, a notorious anti-Semite and Hamas supporter, that the parking lot was a Muslim cemetery and allowed construction to resume even on the small portion where bones were found.

For half a century, hundreds of Jews, Christians and Muslims parked their cars every day on the site, with no protest whatsoever from any Muslim groups, religious leaders, non-governmental organizations or professors.

As the court noted, "for almost 50 years the compound has not been a part of the cemetery, both in the normative sense and in the practical sense, and it was used for various public purposes." It also said, "During all those years no one raised any claim, on even one occasion, that the planning procedures violated the sanctity of the site, or that they were contrary to law as a result of the historical and religious uniqueness of the site." And, "For decades this area was not regarded as a cemetery by the general public or by the Muslim community."

"No one," the court said, "denied this position."

In 1964, the highest Muslim authority, the Muslim Religious Council, even ruled that the adjacent Independence Park (Mamilla Cemetery) was a "mundras," an abandoned site where building is permissible. Today, mundras is a widely relied-upon categorization and sanctioned throughout the Arab world — in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian territories.

While traditional Judaism does not have such a concept, the court noted that "in practice, where public needs required this, an agreed Jewish law solution has usually been found, and this allowed the building to be carried out in a way that minimized ... the violation of the graves."

Since the Israeli government and City of Jerusalem gave us the land eight years ago, the Wiesenthal Center has endured many checks and balances — planning and architectural meetings, City Council hearings, displaying the Frank Gehry model at Jerusalem City Hall, placing ads announcing the project in Hebrew, Arabic and English newspapers. During all these years, while tens of millions of dollars were being spent, not a single protest was heard. No scholar, ordinary citizen or government official argued that the site was a cemetery.

Why? Because they agreed with the court that "the area has not been classified as a

continued on page 33

continued on page 34

Camp Raanana introduces 2009 staf

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN



Deborah Huerta, camp director

Michael Hern, assistant camp director

Tomer Zur, Judaic programs coordinator

Kim Braun, waterfront director

Lauren Field, assistant waterfront director

Camp Raanana has announced its key staff members for summer 2009, including many wonderful returning staff members, as well as a few exciting additions to the staff. Camp Raanana is the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's outdoor summer day camp for children entering grades K-8. Camp Raanana works hard to assemble a staff of talented, dynamic, and mature individuals to ensure that each camper will have an incredible summer camp experience.

Camp Raanana director Deborah Huerta is looking forward to her second year as the camp director, following an enjoyable and very successful 2008 camp season. Currently the youth, teen, and camp director for the JCC of Washtenaw County, Huerta grew up as an active member of the metro-Detroit Jewish community and went on to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in Judaic Studies from the University of Michigan. She has extensive experience implementing Jewish cultural programming and working with children in camp, youth group, after-school, and religious school settings. Huerta loves serving as the Camp Raanana director during the summer and working with Camp Raanana's amazing staff, campers, and families.

The JCC is delighted to introduce Michael Hern as the assistant director for Camp Raanana for summer 2009. Hern has been one of Camp Raanana's most outstanding and dedi-

cated counselors for the past five summers, and is excited to be taking on the role of assistant director this year. Hern grew up in Ann Arbor and has been involved with the JCC and the local Jewish community his entire life. He participated on Ann Arbor's Maccabi Team as a teenager and returned to the games last year as the assistant delegation head for Ann Arbor's 2008 Maccabi Team. In addition, Hern has worked and volunteered at the JCC's Early Childhood Center and been involved with many other JCC youth programs. He has a BA and BS in secondary education from the University of Michigan and recently returned from a two-month trip to Israel, which included visits to many of the friends he has made while working at Camp Raanana.

The JCC is also excited to announce that Tomer Zur, Ann Arbor's community emissary, will be serving as Camp Raanana's Judaic Programs Coordinator this summer. Zur came to work in Ann Arbor's Jewish community for the year through the Jewish Agency's education program. He was born and raised in Israel, in Kibbutz Ein-Hashofet near Haifa, and has traveled around the globe to places like New Zealand, Australia, and the Far East. Zur left the Israeli army in 2003, after having served three years in an infantry unit, reaching the rank of staff sergeant. He went on to study acting and theatre in Tel Aviv, then worked on the kibbutz as the supervisor of programming for children

in first through sixth grades. Zur has extensive camp experience, having served as a summer i at Camp Tamarack for three years from 2003-2006. He is looking forward to working at Camp Raanana this summer and helping bring Jewish and Israeli culture to life for the campers.<http://www.jewishannarbor.org/page.aspx?id=91312>

Camp families will be pleased to know that the Kim Braun is once again returning as Camp Raanana's Waterfront Director. During the school year, Braun is the enthusiastic physical education teacher for the Jewish Community Center and Hebrew Day School. She has taught at the JCC since 1999 and loves working with her current and former students at Camp Raanana. Braun tremendously enjoys working as the Waterfront Director since, after her family, her next love is swimming. She loves teaching children to enjoy and appreciate the water and can't wait for summer to come so everyone can jump in the lake and start swimming. Braun has more than 20 years of experience as a certified lifeguard, water-safety instructor, and CPR and lifeguard instructor.

Lauren Nilsson is also returning this summer as Camp Raanana's assistant waterfront director. Families will remember her as Lauren Field, as she has gotten married since the end of last year's camp season. Nilsson has a BS in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University and currently teaches at Hebrew Day School. She previously worked in the Duck and

Frog rooms at the JCC's Early Childhood Center. This will be Nilsson's sixth summer working at Camp Raanana's waterfront, and she and Braun make an excellent waterfront team. Nilsson is excited to spend another summer helping children learn to swim.

This core staff will be joined by a diverse and talented group of counselors and specialists this summer. Camp Raanana's music, sports, arts and crafts, and nature specialists prepare fun and age-appropriate daily activities for the campers, while Camp Raanana's group head counselors make sure each camper is safe and happy throughout the camp day. All of Camp Raanana's head counselors and specialists have completed at least one year of college and have extensive experience working with children in camp settings. The head counselors are assisted by an enthusiastic group of junior counselors and counselors-in-training. In addition, Camp Raanana has added a special-needs counselor to the staff this year to ensure that high-functioning special needs students can have an enjoyable camp experience.

Pictures and bios of all the camp staff will be posted at www.CampRaanana.com later in the spring. Registration forms, brochures, and further details about the camp are also available on the website. For more information about Camp Raanana, contact camp director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

JCC youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Kids' Night Out—High School Musical 3

Each month the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County offers a Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie to give elementary age kids a chance to have fun with their friends and parents a chance to have a night on their own. This month's Kids' Night Out will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 6:30-10 p.m. at the JCC and will feature the hit movie High School Musical 3: Senior Year.

The March 28 Kids' Night Out will coincide with the JCC's Gala Auction, providing a childcare option for parents attending the auction. Families who attend the auction while their kids participate in the Kids' Night Out will receive two free \$5 raffle tickets to use at the auction.

Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K-5. The cost for JCC members is \$20 (additional siblings: \$18). The cost for non-members is \$25 (additional siblings: \$23). Registrations are due by Thursday, March 26.

JCC to Offer School's Out Programs

The JCC will offer two School's Out/JCC's In programs in March. A School's Out program will be offered on Monday, March 9 for Ann Arbor Public School students. Students will celebrate Purim by making hamantaschen, decorating masks, and playing carnival games. Registration and payment are due by March 5.

A School's Out program will also be offered on Friday, March 20 for Hebrew Day School students. Students will celebrate the start of spring with a day of spring-themed activities, including flower planting, special craft projects, and hopefully some fun in the sun. Registration and payment are due by March 18.

These programs are for JCC members only in grades K-5; middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. The cost is \$34 for care from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (\$32 for additional siblings) and \$8 for Extended Care from 4-6 p.m. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside.

JCC offers enriching after school classes

The JCC has a slate of after school enrichment classes planned for March and April. Classes for elementary students will begin Wednesday, March 11 and continue through the week of April 27. These afternoon enrichment classes are open to both JCC members and non-members, and run from 4:15-5:15 pm. Supervision before and after the classes is also available.

On Mondays, a Net Games class will be offered for students in grades K-2. HDS gym teacher Kim Braun will lead students in a variety of net games, including tennis, volleyball, and badminton.

On Tuesdays, there will be a Dazzling Desserts class for students in grades 1-5. JCC parent and professional cake designer Dahlia Weinman will teach students how to prepare and decorate a variety of yummy desserts.

On Wednesdays, a Sports Galore class will be offered for students in grades 2-5. Kim Braun will lead students in different energetic

sports game each week. Students will get to help choose the sport for the week.

On Thursdays, a Martial Arts class for students in grades K-5 will be offered. Rabbi Peter Gluck leads the class, which helps students increase self-esteem, build self-awareness, and become physically fit.

On Fridays, a Clay Creations class will be offered for students in grades K-5. JCC staff member Rebekah Gamble will teach students how to work with a variety of different clay types and demonstrate creative clay techniques.

In addition to the afterschool enrichment classes at the JCC, a swimming class is offered on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at High Point School. Kim Braun teaches this class for swimmers and non-swimmers in grades K-5.

Registration and payment for these classes are due by March 5. Class fees vary; visit www.jccannarbor.org for details or call Deborah Huerta at 971-0990.

Camp Raanana to hold early bird registration event

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Camp Raanana will be holding a camp registration event on Sunday, March 15 from 12:30–2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. At the camp registration event families will be able to find out more about Camp Raanana and sign up before the April 1 early-bird registration deadline. A free pizza lunch will be provided, and there will also be activities for new and returning campers. Returning campers that bring friends who register for camp for the first time will receive an extra \$10 off a session of Camp Raanana.

Located on a beautiful private beachfront at Independence Lake Park, Camp Raanana is the place for campers to explore new interests, gain self-confidence, build Jewish identity, and have fun outside. The camp offers nine one-week sessions each summer and provides swim lessons, arts and crafts, music, Judaica, nature exploration, sports, free swim, Shabbat celebrations, and weekly special events or all-camp field trips.

This year's all-camp field trips will include the Toledo Zoo, Summit on the Park Water Park, Northfork Farms and Outback, Greenfield Village, Howell Nature Center, Rolling Hills Water Park, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, Splash Universe, and Jump City. Camp Raanana will also be hosting the popular Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan for a visit to camp and an evening performance at the JCC on July 1. The annual Shabbat at the Lake celebration will be held the evening of August 14 and will feature performances by all the camper groups.

At Camp Raanana, campers entering grades K–2 enjoy the benefits of small group sizes and experienced and nurturing counselors. Campers entering grades 3–5 participate in Camp Raanana's many activity offerings

and also choose an enriching specialty each week; this year's specialties options include boating, digital photography, martial arts, drama, drumming, clay creations, world of sports, edible art, dance, magic, jazzy jewelry, and silly science. Campers entering grades 6–8 participate in Camp Raanana's Pioneer Adventure Program, featuring exciting field trips and fun mitzvah projects each week. Camp Raanana also offers a counselor-in-training program for campers entering ninth and tenth graders.

This year's camp season will run from June 22 to August 21. Camp brochures are available at the JCC and at www.CampRaanana.com. The registration deadline is June 1, but families are encouraged to register in advance to reserve their space and take advantage of savings opportunities. Families that register by April 1 will be eligible for early-bird rates, and those that register by May 1 will be entered in a raffle for a free week of camp and other prizes.

Camp Raanana is committed to providing dynamic Jewish camping experiences to Ann Arbor's youth, particularly in these challenging economic times. For summer 2009, Camp Raanana is pleased to be able to offer camp at the same rates as last year. There will be no increases in camp fees, and rates have been reduced for the Pioneer Program and for extended morning and afternoon care. In addition, Camp Raanana is happy to provide scholarships to families who need financial assistance. Scholarship applications are due by April 1.

For more information about Camp Raanana, or to RSVP for the March 15 camp registration event, contact camp director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

JCC seeks camp staff and afterschool program coordinator

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is seeking a dynamic and experienced individual to serve as after school program coordinator for the 2009-2010 school year. The ideal candidate will have extensive experience working with and planning programs for elementary-aged students, solid knowledge of Jewish culture and traditions, and a passion for working with children. Applicants must be available on weekdays from 3–6 p.m. throughout the school year, as well as during most school vacations. This position would begin in the fall, but training could begin as early as this spring.

The JCC's Camp Raanana summer day camp also has several staff openings for this summer. Counselor-in-training positions are available for teens who have completed eighth or ninth grade, junior counselor positions are available for teens who have completed tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, and head counselor and specialist positions are available for college students.

The counselor-in-training (CIT) program is designed for young people who have completed eighth or ninth grade and are making the transition from camper to counselor. Camp Raanana is seeking enthusiastic and responsible teens that can commit to a four-week program and are looking for a challenging, fun, and rewarding summer experience.

Families pay a fee for teens to participate in the leadership training program, and teens receive an honorarium for their work upon successful completion of the training. A limited number of CIT positions are available; teens must fill out an application and meet with the camp director to receive approval to enter the program.

Camp Raanana's junior counselors work directly with a group head counselor, who acts as a mentor and involves the junior counselor in planning and implementing all camp activities. Junior counselors must have completed tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade and have previous experience in a day camp setting. This is a paid position and requires a four-week minimum commitment. All junior counselors will be required to attend staff training week from June 15–19.

Camp Raanana is also seeking mature and talented individuals for a few remaining eight-week head counselor and specialist positions. Applicants for these positions must have completed at least one year of college, or equivalent, and have previous experience in a day camp setting. All staff members will be required to attend staff training week from June 15–19.

For more information about any of these positions, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Shalom Baby welcomes newborns to the Jewish community

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Shalom Baby program welcomes parents, their newborns, and newly-adopted children into the Jewish community. Shalom Baby will host a "Babies and Bagels" meet-and-greet event on March 19 at 10 a.m. at the JCC.

Shalom Baby provides families with a "Welcome to our World" gift bag, full of fun and helpful gifts, information on parenting, and Jewish resources for parents and families, hand-delivered by a Shalom Baby Ambassador, in the hopes of fostering



a connection to create lifelong friendships within the Jewish community, offer support from caring volunteers, and inform parents of available community programs.

If you are interested in receiving information on the JCC's new Shalom Baby program, contact Halye Aisner at 971-0990 or halyeaisner@jccfed.org.

Shalom Baby is made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Reconstruction bat mitzvah class to sell Chico bags

Lillie Schneyer, special to the WJN

During Yom Kippur discussions about sins against the earth, many members of the Ann Arbor Reconstruction Havurah talked about how they need to remember to bring their reusable bags to the grocery store. Subsequently, the Beit Sefer bar/bat mitzvah class decided to address this problem by selling Chico bags. Chico bags are reusable bags that fit into a tiny pouch, so one can easily keep them in a purse or car glove box.

The bags cost \$5 each, have a picture of the world on them, and are available in brown, blue, purple, red, green, mango, black, pink, light green, and blue. All proceeds go to Food



Gatherers. Contact Lillie Schneyer at koala-book@comcast.net to purchase a bag. More information about Chico bags can be found at www.chicobags.com.

Camp Gan Israel to host open house at Jump City

Chana Kroll, special to the WJN

This March 1, Camp Gan Israel will be hosting an open house for local families interested in finding out more about the camp's summer program. The open house will take place at the popular Jump City activity center, which features a large indoor arena of giant inflatable bouncing toys. Kids will have the chance to enjoy the Giant Slide, Bounce House, Gladiator Arena, and other attractions. Meanwhile parents can find out more about enrollment options at Camp Gan Israel, one of Ann Arbor's most popular and diverse summer camps.

This summer, Camp Gan Israel will inaugurate a new program—a sports camp for those who would like intensive athletic training. Participants will have sports training three mornings a week, while being able to enroll in other courses for the afternoons and remaining two mornings.

Camp Gan Israel has also expanded its other courses to include martial arts, a wider variety of fine arts courses, and dance, as well as the workshops and classes in cooking, woodworking, and crafts, which have helped make the program such a hit with kids of all ages. Anyone signing up for the regular camp program will have the chance to participate in a less intensive sports program.

Classes and activities at Camp Gan Israel are taught with an eye towards communicating Jewish values, Jewish traditions, and Jewish history within context. Some of the

programming is specifically related to Jewish history and tradition, while in other courses—such as art, music, and cooking—Jewish themes will be incorporated into the syllabus. In the sports program, discussions of teamwork or about graceful winning (and losing) might reference Jewish tradition as a way to connect kids more deeply to the values being transmitted. All is handled, however, with a non-judgmental approach, which allows children with varying degrees of Jewish education and observance to take pride in their common heritage.

Camp Gan Israel, sponsored by Chabad House, is part of the largest and fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world, which has a strong reputation as a trendsetter with innovative ideas and a creative approach to integrating Jewish values across the curriculum. Camp Gan Israel has also built a solid reputation for its approach to teaching the arts.

Parents attending the open house can register their children and receive a special discount coupon. Pizza dinner will be for sale at the event. The open house event costs \$2.50 per child. For more information, call 995-3276, ext. 15, or visit www.mycampgan-israel.com

Democracy flourishes at Hebrew Day School

Dina Shtull, Special to WJN

Immediately following the recent election, Aron Kaufman, first and second grade Hebrew teacher at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, asked his second grade students if they had a message for the new President, Barack Obama. Below is a selection of the wide variety of notes that students wrote—in Hebrew and English—which Kaufman mailed to Eugene Kang, Special Assistant to the President and University of Michigan alumnus, in the hope that Mr. Kang will show them to President Obama. “Even if the President doesn’t get these notes,” said Kaufman, “I am so proud of the children’s messages of hope, as well as their willingness to help improve our world!”

The notes were only one part of the school’s involvement in the democratic process as the students followed the recent elections and discovered the responsibility inherent to voting. Fifth grade students studied all the parties, including the Green party, and tried to decipher party beliefs. “I learned how to be an educated voter,” said Eva Rosenfeld.

“We were each assigned a candidate to research,” she continued. “After the research, some of us changed our minds about our favorite candidate.” Maya Burgard added: “I had no clue that there were more than two candidates.”

Students watched Republican, Democratic, and Green party conventions and compared the party finances and impact. “It surprised me how little people know about the third parties,” said Hava Kaplan. “People don’t bother to look at them. You need to look at all of your choices.” Miriam Hamermesh explained, “Learning about the other candidates opened up a different part of our brains—a part that adults probably don’t even know about.”

Students also studied the role of campaign advertising. When they discovered that advertisements were often misleading, the fifth graders researched the bills that received each candidate’s vote and compared the candidates’ records to their ads. Said Abigail Hirshbein, “It is sad how much the newspapers hide from us

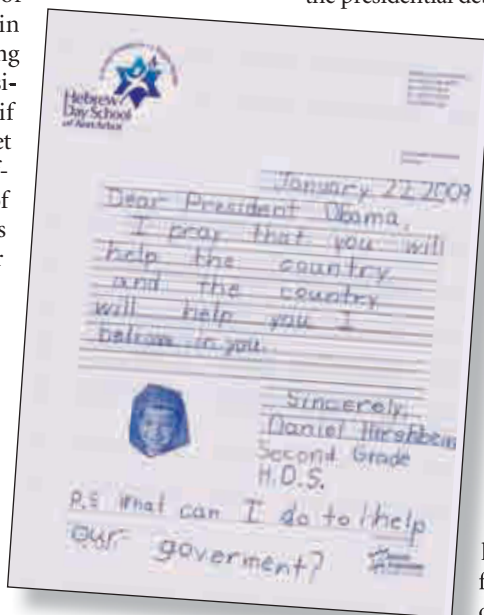
about the candidates. It is hard to find the true facts.” Asaf Pollock agreed, “It is amazing how hard the newspapers try to fake you out of the truth... You have to read many articles, not just one, to see what is really going on. The press changes the facts. You can tell if a newspaper is supporting a candidate, and if it is just their opinion.”

Avishag Eliav commented, “We also watched the presidential debates and tried to separate out fact from opinion. We made a big list of what the candidates said, and concluded that most of what they said was opinion. We learned how important it is to tell the difference between fact and opinion.”

Maya Burgard discussed comparing the Nixon/Kennedy presidential debate with the Obama/McCain debate. “It was interesting to see how much has changed since that first [televised] presidential debate. It was very special that there

was an African-American in the Democratic Party and a woman running for president—rather than just white men. We learned about Civil Rights and how far we have come.” The state of the economy was another focus for discussion. “Right now it is hard for Obama to be president because of the economy,” explained Danielle Turner. “Most people have the urge to vote when they are mad or upset—like when the economy is bad. If they are not annoyed, they don’t have the same need to vote,” said Avishag Eliav. “Does the economy trump race?” questioned Eva Rosenfeld, quoting the title of an editorial they had read in class. “Even those who may have been against voting for an African-American candidate voted in favor because they believed he would fix the economy.”

Since the inauguration, the students have been studying President Obama’s first 30 days in office and analyzing how his actions compare with his campaign promises. Regardless of how Obama fares, the students have learned an important lesson about democracy. “In the last presidential election, I voted for who my parents voted for. Now it’s my own decision,” said Sarah Cooke. ■



Sample Letters to the President from the Second Grade of the Hebrew Day School

Dear President Obama,
I pray that you will stop the wars.
I pray that the banks will be careful
with who they are giving money to.
Sincerely,
Shosh Leflein
P.S. What can I do to stop the wars? Let me know if I can help stop the wars. Thank you.

★★★
Dear President Obama,
I pray that you will be strong
and that you will have a lot of
love. You persevered during the
campaign and became President!
Sincerely,
Mira Strauss
P.S. What can I do to help? If
you have suggestions please let
me know. Thanks!

★★★
Dear President Obama,
I pray that you will stop global
warming.
From,
Jonah Eichner
P.S. How can I help?

★★★
Dear President Obama,
I pray that you Barack Obama will
be a great President! And stop hand
guns only police and in wars. And help
the country.
Sincerely,
Sam Greenberg
P.S. What can I do to stop wars?
How can I help? If you know, you
can tell me. Thank you!

★★★
Dear President Obama,
I pray that you will be a great
president. I also pray that you
will change the planet and make
it into a new planet were people
recycle.
Sincerely,
Corine Burgard
P.S. What can I do help our
government? Please let me
know. Thank you.

★★★

JCC seeks teen athletes for 2009 JCC Maccabi Games

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each summer the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County sends a team of athletes ages 13–16 to the JCC Maccabi Games, an Olympic-style sporting competition that incorporates community service and social activities for an unforgettable experience for Jewish teens. Last year Ann Arbor’s team attended the JCC Maccabi Games hosted by the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit from August 17–22.

This summer Ann Arbor’s team will be attending the JCC Maccabi Games in San Anto-

nio, TX, from Sunday, August 9 through Friday, August 14. Teens may compete in bowling, dance, golf, swimming, tennis, table tennis, boys and girls’ soccer, girls’ volleyball, girls’ softball, or girls’ basketball. Teens of all athletic abilities are welcome to participate. The JCC is also excited to announce that this year’s Ann Arbor team will also include two athletes from Nahalal, Ann Arbor’s partnership region in Israel.

Participants must be JCC members and must be 13–16 years old as of July 31, 2009 to

compete in the JCC Maccabi Games. The fee to participate is \$850, which includes registration fees, plane tickets, and team uniforms. Some scholarship assistance will be offered.

A limited number of spots are available, so families with interested teens are encouraged to contact Deborah Huerta as soon as possible at 971-0990 or deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. To learn more about the JCC Maccabi Games, visit www.jccmaccabigames.org.



Our high number of repeat clients speaks volumes about the care and service we provide. Trust your home improvement with us, and see how we deliver what we promise.

— Gary

award winning creativity



Visit our newly remodeled website
www.RochmanDesignBuild.com

(734) 761-6936

Put your money where your house is.

With bigger banks, you don't know where your deposits are invested. With Bank of Ann Arbor, deposits go right back into this community. Not some city to be named later. 662-1600 or boaa.com. How can we help you?



Law Office of Christopher Sevick, PLC

Focusing on Real Estate and Estate Planning

Evening & Weekend Appointments * www.SevickLaw.com

Free Initial Consultations * 734.480.9100 - Telephone

124 Pearl Street, Suite 405, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2663

PROBILITY PHYSICAL THERAPY

Think Therapy First!

At Probility, our nationally recognized physical therapists treat the source of your pain, unlike medication, which just helps manage symptoms. Ask your doctor to prescribe physical therapy today... *Enjoy Your Life Again!*

www.ProbilityPT.com

STATE STREET • ZEEB ROAD • CLARK ROAD



Tecumseh Center for the Arts

ABBA-Mania

March 7

Featuring 9 incredible musicians and singers pay tribute to one of the world's best selling bands-- *Mamma Mia* at the top.

• \$24 adult
\$21 youth & senior

Maria Muldaur & James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band

March 28

First grabbing public attention with her 1974 hit *Midnight at the Oasis*, Maria has been singing the blues for over 40 years.

• \$22 adult / \$19 youth & senior

for tickets call 517-423-6617 or visit www.thetca.org

Community

JCS Tu B'Shevat at Botanical Gardens a "tree-mendous" event

Seth Penchansky, special to the WJN

I always look forward to Tu B'Shevat in the dead of winter, because of the program that the Jewish Cultural Society and Reconstructionist Havurah offer at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The conservatory at the Botanical Gardens is an oasis of warmth and color in our frigid white Michigan winter. This year the Tu B'Shevat program was supported by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, which allowed the program to be available at no cost to the entire Ann Arbor community, with

over 50 people engaged in the Tu B'Shevat scavenger hunt in the Conservatory, searching for the chocolate and carob and banana trees. There were another 40 people making



paper and planting seeds in the crafts room and a ten people were attending a seminar presented by Recycle Ann Arbor. All the while, dozens of people were tasting the fruits, nuts, and juices offered at the walking Tu B'Shevat seder. Over 400 people attended this event, bringing together a wonderfully diverse cross-section of Ann Arbor's diverse Jewish community. ■

If you are interested in learning about other Jewish Cultural Society events, visit their website at www.jewishculturalsociety.org, or call 975-9872.



enhanced cultural, educational, and craft offerings. The response from the community was remarkable! The parking lot at the Botanical Garden was full by 10:05 and yet cars kept arriving, lining the driveways up toward the entrance gate.

Ann Arbor's own singing sensation, Gemini, performed twice—their first concert was packed with over 200 kids and adults. Gemini treated us to folk songs about the earth and environment, as well as some of their most beloved original songs. Everyone enjoyed singing along with them! And yet, while Gemini was performing, there were



Farming the land, Torah in hand

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — Naf Hanau lives in the Bronx, an odd choice for someone who calls himself a Jewish farmer.

But Hanau, 23, is in the heart of New York City only for horticultural school, to learn skills he'll put into practice when he and his girlfriend, 27-year-old Anna Stevenson, buy land near Rochester, N.Y., and start their farm.

"Five years from now I see myself farming with Anna," Hanau says. "Growing food, growing vegetables, feeding people real food and making a living from that. Supporting a family without being a lawyer, a doctor, a teacher or an accountant."

Stevenson is also preparing for their future, working as the farm manager at the Adamah Jewish environmental program at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, Conn. She is in charge of a four-acre field where she and the Adamah fellows, young Jews on three-month internships, grow pesticide-free fruits and vegetables that they provide to the retreat center, make into pickles and sell through a community supported agriculture agreement.

Through the agreement, people buy weekly boxes of fresh produce directly from local farmers.

Stevenson, too, introduces herself as a Jewish farmer, even though she thinks the title is "kind of gimmicky." But it describes what she does quite accurately. She hoes, plants, weeds and harvests, but she also teaches, studies Jewish texts and rests on Shabbat.

"You work your butt off for six days and you really need Shabbat," she says. "You appreciate Shabbat physically as well as emotionally as well as spiritually."

Hanau and Stevenson are part of a small but growing number of young activists in the new Jewish food movement who are turning to the land as a way of expressing their Jewish values. They are not farmers who just happen to be Jews. They are Jewish farmers, working the land according to agricultural laws set down in the Talmud, teaching their peers and trying to promote the importance of growing one's own food within the greater Jewish community.

They leave a corner of their field unharvested for the poor, in accordance with the Mishnaic Tractate Pe'ah, or corner. They don't plant wheat and barley together, a teaching from Tractate Kilayim, or holding back. They slaughter goats and chickens they raise themselves, practicing "tzar ba'alei hayim," the commandment to show kindness to domestic animals. They say a bracha, a blessing, before they eat. Some keep kosher, some do not, but all are committed to some kind of Jewish dietary practice.

Unlike the Labor Zionist youth of the 1960s and '70s, who learned farming so they could move to Israel and join kibbutzim, today's young Jewish activists say they can farm any land Jewishly. It doesn't have to be Israel.

Even their sources of inspiration are different. Their parents and grandparents looked to the 19th century, reading Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, and Labor Zionist thinker Dov Ber Borochov, while this new generation casts its gaze farther back to Torah, Talmud and the ancient Israelites.

"I very much identify as a biblical Jew," says Aitan Mizrahi, 31, who raises goats for milk and meat at the Isabella Freedman center.

Mizrahi, who is not traditionally observant, lets his beard grow to symbolize his connection to Judaism.

"It reminds me of who my ancestors were," he says, "and how they would walk the hills of Judea with their goats and sheep and really have a deep relationship to the land, an understanding of how that land connected them to Hashem, the holy spirit of God."

For most North American Jews who made aliyah to kibbutzim 30 years ago, the draw was Israel, not farming.

"The people I knew in Habonim were hippies, but we were Jewish hippies," says 51-year-old Dani Livney, who immigrated to Israel in 1980 and joined Kibbutz Gezer, where he still manages its olive grove. "No one ever said, 'let's start a farm in America.' Farming wasn't the major focus. Israel, Zionism and kibbutz were the focus."

Many of this new generation of Jewish farmers have connections to Israel, either through family or past trips. But it doesn't pull them the way it pulled their parents.

Tali Weinberg, 31, spent the last few years farming for a seed company on Salt Spring Island, just off the coast of British Columbia. Her parents met in the late 1960s on the Israeli kibbutz where her father grew up. Her grandparents were members of Labor Zionist youth groups in 1930s-era Poland.

Whereas her parents and grandparents believed they were helping a struggling new country, Weinberg grew up with an Israel that seemed strong and independent.

"I feel a call to be connected to the land, like my grandparents, but I don't feel it has to be in the land of Israel," she says. "What's more critical is that we connect, period. It's less about where we're going to do it and more that we have to do it because of the direction the food system is moving in."

The few young North American Jews who are actually working full-time as farmers are part of a much larger group of environmental and food activists who come out of a growing number of new Jewish farm-education initiatives such as Adamah; the Philadelphia-based Jewish Farm School; Kayam Farm near Baltimore; the Teva Learning Center, a program of Surprise Lake Camp in Cold Spring, N.Y.; and Hazon, an advocacy organization that promotes sustainable environmental practices and sponsors an annual Jewish food conference.

At December's conference, Kayam director Jakir Manela, 27, presented the Talmud's teachings on agriculture to a roomful of young activists.

"One-sixth of the Talmud deals with agriculture," he pointed out, adding that while most of those laws are specific to Israel, others can be applied anywhere.

The Mishnah contains diagrams of how to plant various species in the same field, which Kayam used to pattern its own Jewish Educational Garden. In late February, Kayam is sponsoring a weekend study of Seder Zera'im, the tractate devoted to agricultural law, as part of the group's ongoing efforts to root its farm practice in Jewish values.

"It's not just important as Jews that we eat local but that we recognize that we have a particular tradition about it," he said.

The goal of the Jewish farm-based schools is not to churn out farmers but to make gardening and farming normative practice within the wider Jewish community. The leaders of these programs say they look forward to the day when every Jewish community center, synagogue and day school

continued on page 34

The writer-director behind 'Two Lovers'

By Stuart Klawans

NEW YORK (NEXTBOOK) — James Gray made his name with a trio of brooding, morally ambiguous crime films set in the outer boroughs of New York: *Little Odessa*, *The Yards* and *We Own the Night*. Now, with *Two Lovers* (opening Feb. 13), he has returned to the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn for another story of a troubled young man in peril — only this time, the person most likely to do in the protagonist is himself.

Leonard Kraditor (played by Gray regular Joaquin Phoenix) begins the film by jumping off a pier, then proceeds to the really self-destructive plunge: falling obsessively in love with a new neighbor in his apartment building (Gwyneth Paltrow) whose attention slips out of focus as often as her druggie eyes, and whose powers of self-preservation are no more ample than her skirts.

Leonard would clearly be safer, and more successful, with the shy, modest, beautiful and willing young woman (Vinessa Shaw) whom his parents have picked out for him. But then, sound judgment isn't something to expect of a man who is still living in his parents' apartment in his mid-30s, working in his father's dry-cleaning shop and staying out of the psychiatric ward mostly through the power of medication.

Two Lovers retains Gray's trademark sense of urban space, as well as his preoccupation with fractured families and disturbed spirits. But now that the exterior, physical threats have retreated, the ethnicity of his characters has come to the fore. They are integrally, not coincidentally, Jewish.

When reached by telephone in Los Angeles, where his greatest complaint as a transplanted New Yorker is the absence of a decent pizza slice, Gray readily shared his thoughts on why "Two Lovers" may be his most Jewish movie to date.

NEXTBOOK: Does Leonard Kraditor have to be Jewish for this story to work?

James Gray: The story has its origin in two places. One of them is Dostoyevsky's "White Nights," which I pulled off the shelf a while ago for a little light reading. What I saw in that story was a person who today would be assigned a whole host of psychological maladies, and pharmaceuticals to address them, but in the 19th century he would just have been considered a little off. The other origin is that after my wife became pregnant, we went to the doctor for genetic tests, and the genetic counselor started telling me about cases where both parents were positive for Tay-Sachs disease. She told me about couples that had broken apart because they were both carriers. I thought that was a great place to start, combining Dostoyevsky's conception of bipolar disorder with a heartbreak for Leonard that was rooted in this cultural and indeed biological tradition. So the Jewishness of the character has always been very important to me.

NEXTBOOK: You take great care to be authentic in your settings. Did you feel the need to be authentic in casting, too?

James Gray: It's funny, some people have asked me, "Why didn't you cast Jewish actors?" But Joaquin is Jewish. And Vinessa, I had wanted someone for the role who was like a young Claudia Cardinale because it would have been a cliché to cast someone homely. I saw Vinessa in "3:10 to Yuma" and thought she was lovely, but I wanted the actress to be Jewish. Then I met Vinessa and told her all this, and she said, "My real name is Schwartz." The only one I went off the reservation with was Isabella Rossellini, but in fact she looks

very much like my mother used to look, very earthy and humane. I didn't want the Lainie Kazan kind of "Lenn-id, pick up yuh duhty lawndry." I love Lainie Kazan, but I didn't want any suggestion of Borscht Belt humor. The film couldn't be a negative, loveless portrait of these people, and Isabella was as far away from a stereotype as I could get.

NEXTBOOK: How did you come to cast the Israeli actor who plays Leonard's father, Moni Moshonov?

James Gray: I first saw Moni by accident. I got to a movie theater late and wound up watching "Late Marriage," because it was at the right time and because I remembered reading a very positive review by J. Hoberman. So I went in, and I loved it. Later, I talked about it with someone who was involved in the Cannes festival, and he said, "Yeah, that guy's a wonderful actor, a legend in Israel." When I was making "We Own the Night," I wanted someone who didn't seem like he was out of Eastern Promises. I wanted an avuncular, atypical-looking guy and remembered Moni in "Late Marriage." And I loved working with him so much that I wrote this part for him.

NEXTBOOK: You've been speaking about avoiding stereotypes, but is there perhaps something typically Jewish about men like Leonard, who are bright and talented but can't seem to live in the world?

James Gray: I based Leonard on a guy I actually know. He is Jewish, though that doesn't necessarily have anything to do with it. Or maybe it does. I read an article a few years ago that said Ashkenazi Jews have a relatively high level of dopamine, which is associated with depression. But I didn't think of that consciously when I was making the film. I just based it on a guy I knew who was in a state of arrested development: 32 years old, living at home after a traumatic experience, and his room was a mess.

NEXTBOOK: How deeply did you base the film on real experiences like that? For example, did you, too, grow up with a photograph of a rabbinic ancestor on the wall?

James Gray: Except for a few old pictures of the cast members, the photos you see on the walls of the Kraditor apartment are photos of my family and my ancestors. And the paintings in the apartment belong to my dad. This is all stuff that I took off the walls of the house I grew up in. I wanted to set-design the movie as little as possible, so I took all these elements that were from my life and put them in that apartment. Not that this is a home movie, but you always want to make a movie as personal as you can. It comes from a desire to make a world that I understand in all its details.

NEXTBOOK: It's a loving but disappointed world. Does that, too, seem Jewish to you?

James Gray: There is a kind of pathos in the Jewish cultural tradition — a melancholy, a sense of longing — which I think has its roots very far back, in a religion that lacks an emphasis on heaven and hell. There's a belief that life is what happens between birth and death, an understanding of our mortality and its tragic element, which I think is beautiful. And I've definitely embraced that in the work I've done. ■

Stuart Klawans is the film critic of *The Nation* and author of the books *Film Follies* and *Left in the Dark*. Reprinted from *Nextbook.org*, a new read on Jewish culture.

Here comes the sun: Jewish groups gear up for rare ritual

By Ben Harris

NEW YORK (JTA) — As sunrise broke over New York City on the morning of April 8, 1981, Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi — at the time he was known just as Zalman Schachter — stood on the observation deck of the Empire State Building and sounded the shofar.

For more than two hours after, Schachter-Shalomi led some 300 mostly young adults in an obscure Jewish ritual known as Birkat Hachamah, or blessing over the sun, a prayer recited once every 28 years when, the Talmud says, the sun reaches the same spot in the firmament as when it was created.

According to an account of the service in The New York Times, participants raised their hands in prayer, asked for healing for individuals and the earth, and released 70 balloons. At the conclusion, some worshipers joined in the singing of a Hebrew version of “Let the Sun Shine In” from the rock musical “Hair.”

The rite, Schachter-Shalomi told the Times, “helps us renew our relationship with the solar system and increase our awareness of the sun as a source of energy.”

Twenty-eight years later, Jews across the denominational spectrum are gearing up again for the observance with a range of planned celebrations, many of them environmentally focused. The sun prayer will be said, as it will several times in the 21st century, on April 8, which this year falls on the eve of Passover.

In the northern Israeli city of Safed, an eight-day festival is planned featuring several environmentally and kabbalistically inspired events, including the ceremonial burning of leavened bread on the morning before Passover by concentrating the sun’s rays through an optic lens.

“Over the last 28-year cycle, we have suffered from pollution and the depletion of natural resources,” said the festival founder, U.S.-based artist Eva Ariela Lindberg, in a news release. “Let us use this extraordinary opportunity to co-create the next cycle by seeking alternative solar energies and a purer environment, recharging ourselves and learning how to honor the earth, our neighbors and ourselves. This is a time to renew, and bring fresh blossoms to our world for the next 28-year cycle.”

In the United States, 14 Jewish organizations have joined to launch BlessTheSun.org, a Web site with links to various educational materials and ideas for April 8 activities. The site asks users to sign a Covenant of Commitment in which they “pledge to hasten the day of environmental healing, social justice and sustainable living for all.”

Five of the groups also are sponsoring an art competition for works “interpreting aspects of the sun and exploring the relationship between Judaism and the environment.” And the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism has designed a 68-page study text on the prayer emphasizing environmental themes.

“Growing up, there was almost a fear in recognizing that our holidays and calendar are indicative of an earth-based religion,” said Nati Passow, co-founder of the Jewish Farm School, one of the groups behind BlessTheSun. “That doesn’t necessarily mean idol worship or earth

Felix Mendelssohn, through the eyes of Maestro Arie Lipsky

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

February 3, 2009 was the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer Felix Mendelssohn. Throughout the 2008–2009 concert season, chamber musicians and orchestras around the world are celebrating by programming his music even more frequently than usual. Of course, a great deal of Mendelssohn’s music has entered the standard classical repertoire, but there have been recent discoveries of many of his works that were not published in his lifetime. Although this is due in part to Mendelssohn’s death at a very young age, it is primarily the result of a campaign of character assassination mounted by Richard Wagner and his sympathizers in Germany in the 1850s, and later during Hitler’s time. That music is just now starting to be performed, due to the efforts of Stephen Somary and the Mendelssohn Project.

I talked recently with Maestro Arie Lipsky, conductor of the Ann Arbor Symphony, about the life and times, and music, of Mendelssohn.

WJN: One of my favorite pieces of chamber music is the *Mendelssohn Octet*. Whenever I hear it I’m amazed that he wrote that when he was just sixteen!

Maestro Lipsky: Before that, even, he wrote twelve or fourteen Sinfonies, which are for strings only, and they were fantastic. Every once in awhile they’re still played. But they’re obviously written by a young composer. They’re like the young Mozart works. But the *Octet* and the *Overture to A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, which he also wrote when he was sixteen, they’re absolutely amazing. Anytime chamber musicians get together it’s, “Can we get an octet together?”

He was a prolific composer. Some people claim that he stayed this wunderkind, that he wasn’t able to develop to the next stage. He was very, very critical of other composers who were able to, like Berlioz. Many composers after Beethoven had a hard time figuring out where they were, because Beethoven took it to the limit with his *Symphony Number Nine*. So anything that was done after that needed to be completely different. Wagner took one road with his operas, but then you had Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Brahms, who kind of stayed on the conservative side. They were geniuses, but there were these two streams after Beethoven.

What happened after Beethoven’s death is that Wagner took over the avant-garde, so to speak. And he was so influential, because he was a powerful composer, but also a powerful personality. He wrote this thesis, “The Jews and Music,” and for whatever reason, it hit. He was after two composers, Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer. Mendelssohn actually converted when he was a boy, but in the eyes of Wagner, he was considered Jewish. Wagner’s main criticism was that Jews cannot write or perform pure European music, because they are...well, Jews. It’s the lowest form of anti-Semitism. He was so powerful, and when you have a population on the verge of anti-Semitism anyway...

When you look at it now, it’s clear that Wagner was just jealous. Meyerbeer was

the opera composer at the time in Paris. Whenever Wagner was done in Paris, it was a disaster. So he was so jealous! And Meyerbeer is not Wagner. He’s a lovely composer of light operettas. He didn’t even try to compete, but Wagner couldn’t believe that the Parisians would go for Meyerbeer.

When I conducted a Mendelssohn Symphony in Haifa recently, I told a story to the audience before we played. The roof of a beautiful concert hall in Prague



is adorned with large statues and busts of many famous composers. When the Nazis conquered Prague, the officer in charge of the city ordered one of his men to go up on that roof and tear off the statue of the Jewish composer, Mendelssohn. The soldier climbed to the roof, as ordered, but discovered that he had a problem. None of the statues were labeled. The soldier did not know which one was Mendelssohn. So, following what he learned in his Nazi race studies, he went looking for the composer with the longest nose. He picked out the bust with the largest, most prominent nose and destroyed it—only to learn later that he had torn down the statue of Wagner. [Laughter]

Mendelssohn came from a very prominent family. His grandfather was a well-known philosopher, sort of the prophet of the Reform Movement. Even though he lived and died as an Orthodox Jew, his philosophy was that you should be Jewish in your household, but not outside. You should not wear a *kippa*, *payes*, *tzi tzis*. Do that at home. And that was to prevent anti-Semitism. Having an organ in the synagogue started after him. His son, Avraham, was a banker in Hamburg and when Felix was seven they decided to convert. Actually, the kids were converted first. The parents only converted years later.

WJN: Did they do that to give their kids better opportunities later in life?

Maestro Lipsky: Of course. Mendelssohn was, I don’t know the word in English, in Hebrew it’s *ish eshkolot*. *Eshkol* is a bunch of grapes. When we say *ish eshkolot*, we mean not only one grape, but the whole bunch. In other words he was a Renaissance man. He was a very good artist, a philosopher, he wrote poetry. He started the first professional orchestra in the world, the Gewand-

haus Orchestra in Leipzig. I’m talking about the first professional orchestra for the masses, not just for kings or princes. He later started the first conservatory in the world, also in Leipzig.

WJN: And of course Mendelssohn was largely responsible for the rediscovery of Bach.

Maestro Lipsky: That’s my next point. Mendelssohn was a very good man. There are artists who are into their art, into themselves. Not Mendelssohn. As a music director, he invited many young performers, young composers, to appear with his orchestra. Many of them, who became pretty famous, would not have become as well known if it had not been for him. He was just very gracious, egoless, and helped the career of many, many people. And yes, he started playing Bach with his orchestra. Bach was pretty unknown in Europe at that time. He put on Bach’s St. Matthew’s Passion. Because of Mendelssohn, Bach is what we call Bach. If not for Mendelssohn he would be pretty unknown. Can you imagine that? The father of classical music!

Also, Mendelssohn was instrumental in bringing Schubert to the scene. Schubert was completely unknown. He actually put together his *Symphony Number Nine* and performed it with his orchestra. Mendelssohn was an egoless person. Open.

He traveled a lot, especially to England. He loved England and was revered in England. He wrote his oratorio, *Elijah*, which premiered in England. That’s why it’s written in English. His *Scottish Symphony*, and *Fingal’s Cave* were also written in England. *The Italian Symphony* was inspired by his travels there. The man was quite a traveler. Like Mozart, he died young, at age 38. So sad.

Mahler, toward the end of his life, questioned his decision to become Christian, because he made it as an adult and it wasn’t a matter of conviction. He did it to get a job, as Maestro of the Vienna Philharmonic. You couldn’t get that if you were Jewish. Toward the end of his life he was trying to figure out if this was a mistake or not. With Mendelssohn we don’t know of any incident when he questioned. In his case, of course, the conversion was done when he was a kid, so it wasn’t his decision anyway.

Wagner criticized Mendelssohn only after his death, so he never was aware of that criticism. But then, Wagner criticized anything that wasn’t Wagner. [Laughter]

Whatever you think about Mendelssohn, you have to remember a couple of things. The most beloved violin concerto—ever—is the *Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E Minor*. If you take a poll anywhere, anywhere...

As far as chamber music, again, if you take a poll, one of the most famous piano trios is the *Mendelssohn First Piano Trio in D Minor*. There’s no question. It’s the king, along with Beethoven, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky’s, for sure, but in that group.

He was a genius. He was the post-Beethoven genius, the post-Mozart genius. ■

Maestro Arie Lipsky will conduct the Ann Arbor Symphony in the music of Mendelssohn and Bach on Saturday, March 21, at 8 p.m.

continued on page 33

Celebrate Purim with traditional foods

Judy Cohen, food editor

Oh today, we'll merry, merry be . . . and nosh some hamentashen"

These lines from an old Children's Purim song capture the essence of the holiday of Purim, a day for joyous celebration and feasting to commemorate a narrow escape from a death decree for all Jews living in ancient Persia around 357 BCE. On Purim and on days leading up to it, many people have costume parties, carnivals, parades, plays, or puppet shows for children and adults. The Megillah (or Old Testament Book of Esther) tells the story. Jewish law requires that it be read on Purim, which begins the evening of the 14th day of Adar and ends at sundown the following day. This year, the date corresponds to March 10–11.

The story is of an evil man, Haman, Prime Minister to King Ahasuerus. Haman conspired to persuade the king to have all the Jews killed. Mordechai, a Jew who also served the king and was well regarded by him, learned of this plot. He brought his very beautiful cousin, Esther, to the king and she quickly became the favorite wife in his harem. Esther risked her life by going to the king when he hadn't called for her; until then, the king had not known that she was Jewish. Esther alerted the king to Haman's plans, and the king had Haman and his cohorts hung. The Jews, naturally, celebrated.

The Megillah is usually read in synagogues, temples, or similar houses of worship. It is a joyous and often raucous affair. Children—and often adults, too—come in costume and with noisemakers, such as those provided for a secular New Year's Eve. When the name of Haman is read, the noise can be deafening, meant to drown out the hated name. Some people write Haman's name on the bottom of their shoes and stamp their feet until it is obliterated.

Going to hear the Megillah reading is a lot of fun and has become even more so over the years. The Purim that I remember was just straight forward reading with everyone encouraged to make noise. Only the children came in costume. For the girls it was Queen Esther and for the boys, Mordechai, Haman, or King Ahasuerus. Costumes were simple. I remember many years of making a queen's crown out of cardboard and aluminum foil. One year my Aunt Sheba, who worked in a garment factory in LA, sent me a special present. She used to sew doll clothes for me, but that year she sent two of the most beautiful dresses I had ever seen. One was deep purple velvet with short puffed sleeves and a full wide skirt. The other was all celery green lace over a plain matching material. It had long sleeves. I used the green one for my queen's dress that year. Many of the boys would choose to be Haman, making three-corner hats out of black felt and cardboard, and wearing black pants and shirt. It always puzzled me why they would want to be the evil one, but who could understand boys at that age, anyway.

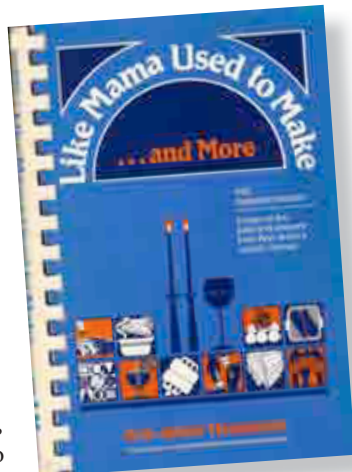
Today the Megillah reading is even more fun. A theme may be chosen, such as Star Wars or Harry Potter. They have done both at Beth Israel, with jokes and a play (Purim spiel) built upon the themes and cleverly acted between sections of the official reading. With the advent of costume stores popping up on every corner at Halloween, it's easy to get really good costumes on sale or to rent even better ones. This has led many adults to come in costume and adds to the fun. Now you can be anything that suits your imagination, and it need not have anything to do with the story.

In addition to hearing the Megillah read, there are four other traditions: To send a gift of food to at least one other friend, to give charity to the poor, to eat a festive meal, and

to get drunk.

It has become customary to exchange packages (Misloach Manot) that can be simple or elaborate. Beautiful baskets or decorative paper plates covered with plastic wrap make nice containers, and it's fun for children dressed in costume to deliver the gifts. Many people bring them to the Megillah reading to exchange with friends, and it's good to have a few extra. Usually these gifts include some combination of special cookies, called Hamentashen, fruits, nuts, candy, cake, raisins, figs, dried fruit, wine, or juice. You can make and deliver them yourself to homes of friends or to the elderly and ill, or you can buy them. The Hebrew Day School has just such a fundraiser, and will deliver specially made packages for a reasonable cost. Hamentashen, a triangle shaped cookie, is traditionally filled with poppy seed, but has also evolved to include fruit jam or sometimes chocolate. The shape comes from the three-cornered hat Haman supposedly wore, but others think that they resemble Haman's ears, or pockets containing his devious secrets. In Hebrew, the pastry is called "Osnei Haman" which means "Haman's ears."

The Purim feast (Seudah) should include a braided challah, resembling the rope that hung Haman and his cronies, soup with kreplach (triangular shaped dumplings stuffed with meat), and turkey, in memory of King Ahasuerus's reign from India to Ethiopia (and also to symbolize his foolishness in listing to Haman at all). Some have a vegetarian meal to honor Queen Esther, who kept kosher in the harem by eating vegetables, grains, and nuts, but needed to keep her Judaism secret. It is also customary to drink wine to excess. The Talmud includes a command to get exceedingly drunk, until you cannot tell whether you are cursing Haman or praising Mordechai. This is a rare instance in Jewish tradition where excessive use of alcohol is not only encouraged but required. In fact, the joke has been told that Jewish parties and celebrations usually need "a designated drinker" instead of "a designated driver." No wonder this is such a joyous holiday! ■



Hamantashen cookie dough

- ½ c. butter or margarine
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 c. flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2 T. milk (or orange juice)
- 1 t. vanilla or lemon flavoring

Cream together the butter and sugar and add the egg.

Mix and sift flour and baking powder together and add a little of this mixture to the creamed butter and sugar.

Add the milk.

Add remaining flour mixture.

Add flavoring extract.

Roll dough out (thinly, but not so thin that the filling doesn't hold); cut into rounds (use a drinking glass or a cookie cutter); fill with a spoonful of filling and form into triangles. Bake at 375° for 15–30 minutes, until delicately browned.

Hamentashen are generally filled with either fruit or poppy seeds. This can be purchased in cans at the supermarket, or you can use plain jam if you wish. There are many recipes for making these from scratch, but I think most people would no longer do that. You could also fill them with chocolate chips or Nutella.

from Like Mama Used to Make...And More; Ann Arbor Hadassah Cookbook is now available on line at the Ann Arbor Public Library



Hamentashen, chocolate filling

- 1 pkg cream cheese (softened)
- 3 t. cocoa
- ¼ c. sugar
- 1 egg

Beat all ingredients together.

from www.cyber-kitchen.com



Stuffed cabbage casserole

- 1 small head cabbage
- 1 ½ lbs. ground beef or turkey
- ½ c. chopped onion
- ½ c. uncooked rice
- ½ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 (10.5 oz) can tomato soup
- 1 (26 oz) jar prepared spaghetti sauce (with mushrooms and garlic, if you like)

Chop cabbage into medium pieces and spread half of it into bottom of a greased 9" by 13" baking dish.

Brown beef or turkey with onion. Drain off fat. Stir in rice, salt, and pepper and spoon mixture over cabbage.

Bring tomato soup and spaghetti sauce to a boil. Pour sauce over the meat and cabbage. Spread remaining half of cabbage pieces over the top.

Cove with foil and bake at 350° for 1 ½ hours. Fluff lightly with a fork before serving.

from The Ann Arbor Kosher Kitchen



Persian rice

Oven Temperature: 300°

Cooking time: 4–5 hours

Container: 8" or 9" square baking pan

- 4–6 servings.
- 4 T. vegetable oil
- 2 large onions, diced
- 4 large carrots, grated
- 1 c. rice
- 1 large potato, peeled and sliced
- ½ c. dates
- ½ c. raisins
- ½ c. water

Heat 2 Tablespoons oil in skillet. Sauté onions. Remove from pan. Add grated carrots to pan drippings and brown.

Cook rice in a saucepan according to directions on box, until half done.

Grease baking dish with remaining oil and line with sliced potatoes. Make a layer of rice, a layer of carrots, and a layer of onions.

Cover with sliced dates and raisins. Sprinkle with water. Bake covered. Remove cover during the last hour. Can be frozen.

from A Taste of Tradition, Shearith Israel Sisterhood, Dallas, Texas



Calendar

March 2009

Sunday 1

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.*

Red Cross Blood Drive: BIC. Do a mitzvah and save a life. Donors should go to www.givelife.org and fill in sponsor code bic13. 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Art Exhibit: JCC Amster Gallery. “The Art and Soul of Peace Through Humor.” Exhibit developed with the meaningful message that laughter is the shortest distance between two people. From 1994–2004, Maureen Kushner, an innovative and creative teacher in New York traveled Israel working with Jewish, Arab, Bedouin and Druze children as well as Russian and Ethiopian immigrants, to create murals and paintings on the theme of war and peace. This inspiring exhibition represents the children’s hope for peace, reaching far beyond the shadow of war. On display from March through May during normal JCC business hours.

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.*

Class: TBE. Class on Islam. 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 2

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

Class: TBE. Haftarah Trop led by Cantor Annie Rose. Noon–1 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. With Cantor Annie Rose. 7 p.m.

Text Study: BIC. “Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time.” With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 3

“The Bible in It’s Time:” JCC Seniors. Taught by Dr. Liz Fried, this class runs through March 24. 10 a.m.

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

Blood Pressure Clinic: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them and address any questions. 1 p.m. *First Tuesday each month.*

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

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

Bet Midrash: BIC. “Contemporary Issues in Halakha,” facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Register by contacting mary@bethisrael-aa.org or call 665-9897. 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. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 4

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Jewish Learning Institute: Winter semester class “You Be the Judge.” Challenge your sense of right and wrong with an exploration of Jewish Civil Law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 5

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week’s news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschawsky will resume today at 2:25 p.m. with a discussion of *Cousin Bette* by Honore de Balzac.

Birthdays and Presentation: JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with birthdays in March. Friends and family are invited to join group for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m., followed by presentation by Larry Hiss, longtime JCC community member, who will discuss his experiences during and after the Holocaust. 1 p.m.

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

Friday 6

Ski Trip: TBE Youth Group. *Through March 8.*

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

Shabbat Service: TBE Sisterhood. With choir and guest speaker Rabbi Danny Friedlander, vice president of the Union of Reform Judaism. 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 7

Coffee Corner: TBE Brotherhood. 8:30 a.m.

Torah Study: TBE With Rabbi Levy. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limud (Shabbat Learning): BIC. Facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion over coffee and cakes. 9–10 a.m.

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

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

Shabbat services: See listing at the end of calendar.

Sunday 8

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.*

Dobrusin’s Deli and Variety Hour: BIC. Celebrating Rabbi Dobrusin’s 20th year of service at Beth Israel. In the spirit of Purim, guests are asked to dress as a favorite sitcom character. 1 p.m.

Talk by Rabbi Steven Greenberg: U-M Hillel. What if God Was Fabulous? The Story of a Gay Orthodox Rabbi. Rabbi Steven Greenberg is a senior teaching fellow at CLAL, The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, and author of *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition*. 6:30 p.m. in Great Lakes Room, Palmer Commons, University of Michigan, 100 Washtenaw Ave. Co-Sponsored by Ahava, Michigan Student Assembly, U-M Hillel, LGBT Commission, Spectrum Center: a Division of Student Affairs, and the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan

Class: TBE. Class on Islam. 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 9

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

School’s Out/JCC’s In: JCC Youth. For Ann Arbor School K–5 students who are JCC members only. Middle schoolers are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Celebrate Purim by making hamantashen, decorating masks, and playing carnival games. \$34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$32/additional siblings. \$8/extended care from 4–6 p.m. Registration and payment due March 5. For information or to register, visit www.jccannarbor.org or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Megillah Reading and Carnival: TBE. 5:30–8 p.m.

Ma’ariv Service: BIC. With some Purim fun and hijinks. 7:30 p.m.

Purim Event: BIC. Reading of the Book of Esther, highlighted with a special purimshpiel “Batman vs. Haman: Will Purim Survive.” Enjoy coffee and hamentashen. Adults and children encouraged to dress in costume; superheroes are especially welcome at this interactive event. 7:45 p.m.

Community Megillah reading: AAOM. 7:45 p.m. at UM Hillel.

Grand Gala Purim Celebration: Chabad. Megillah reading, gragars for everyone, party celebration, Purimshpiel, hamentashen, dancing, singing, food and drink, door prizes, raffles and more. Everyone encouraged to come in costume. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 10

Purim Service: Chabad. With Megillah reading. 7:30 a.m.

Purim Shacharit Service: AAOM. With morning Megillah reading at 7:30 a.m. Women’s Megillah reading at 9 a.m. At UM Hillel. For information, call 994-9258.

Purim Shacharit Service: BIC. Followed by the Reading of the Megillah and breakfast. 8 a.m.

“The Bible in It’s Time:” JCC Seniors. Taught by Dr. Liz Fried, this class runs through March 24. 10 a.m.

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

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

Purim Spiel: JCC. Come to a *Yiddishe* Purim Spiel “Bei Mir Bush Do Shame.” “Shtarring” Angelina Goylie, Brad Putz and Jennifer Knishton. Funded in part by the Nancy Denenberg Fund. 7–8:30 p.m. For information, call 665-5540.

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

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

Wednesday 11

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Youth Enrichment Classes: JCC. Classes begin today including Net Games, Dazzling Desserts, Sports Galore, Martial Arts and Cake Creation. Also evening swim class at High-Point. Fees vary upon class type. For information or to register, email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Men’s Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Learning Institute: Winter semester class “You Be the Judge.” Challenge your sense of right and wrong with an exploration of Jewish Civil Law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 12

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week’s news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschawsky at 2:15 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. David Owens, one of the Happiness Boys, brings his Nostalgia Radio Show for some great old songs from the big band and pre-rock era. 1 p.m.

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

Friday 13

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

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

Saturday 14

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. 8:50 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.*

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 1st through 5th graders. Today’s theme is “Dancing with the Prayers.” When do we bow? When do we stand? Groove to the aerobic workout of the Shabbat morning service. 11 a.m.

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

Shabbat services: See listing at the end of calendar.

Sunday 15

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.*

Camp Raanana Registration Event: JCC. Early bird registration and information event prior to April 1 early bird deadline. Free pizza lunch and activities for new and returning campers. \$10 discount for returning campers who bring a friend who registers as first-time camper. 12:30–2 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Class: TBE. Haftarah Trop with Cantor Annie Rose. Noon–1 p.m.

Minyan Time Change: BIC. Sunday time changed to 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 16

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

Board Meetings: TBE. Brotherhood meeting at 7:15 p.m. Sisterhood meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Text Study: BIC. “Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time.” With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 17

“The Bible in It’s Time:” JCC Seniors. Taught by Dr. Liz Fried, this class runs through March 24. 10 a.m.

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

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

Class: TBE. “Liberation through Torah, Part 1.” Led by Rabbi Levy. 7:30 p.m.

BetMidrash: BIC. “Contemporary Issues in Halakha,” facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. To register, contact Mary at mary@bethisrael-aa.org or phone 665-9897. 8 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday 18

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for their aging parents who either live independently or require full-time care at home or in a residential facility. This month’s topic is “Technology for Caregiving.” For more information, email abbie@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209. 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the JCC.

Meditation: TBE. 7 p.m. in the chapel.

Jewish Learning Institute: Winter semester class “You Be the Judge.” Challenge your sense of right and wrong with an exploration of Jewish Civil Law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 19

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschawsky at 2:15 p.m.

Discussion and Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker Allison Pollock, MSW, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. Maria Farquhar, certified in Qigong, Reiki, Energy Healing and Fitness, presents a demo session and a discussion of the rewards and benefits of regular exercise. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discus-

sions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 20

School’s Out/JCC’s In: JCC. For Hebrew Day School K–5 students who are JCC members only. Middle schoolers are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Celebrate the start of spring with a fun-filled day of spring-themed activities including flower planting, special craft projects and, weather permitting, fun in the sun. \$34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$32/additional siblings. \$8/extended care from 4–6 p.m. Registration and payment due March 18. For information or to register, visit www.jccannarbor.org or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

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

Celebrate Shabbat the Jewish Summer Camp Way: JCC. Bring back memories of summer camp Shabbats and create new memories. The Early Childhood Center and Youth Departments sponsor a fun-filled dinner. Evening begins with camp-style Shabbat songs and blessings led by Noah Wagner, or camp song leader. Special performances by JCC Kids’ Konnection and ECC Youngsters after dinner. \$12/adults; \$6/children 2 and up. 6–8 p.m.

Shabbat Service and Dinner: TBE. Dinner at 6 p.m. Service at 7:30 p.m. Presenting Dr. Alan Morinis for the first of the weekend community shabbaton events on Mussar. Mussar Weekend continues at Beth Israel and UM Hillel.

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

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE

Schedule A Maintenance Today!!



YOKOHAMA Tires Sold Here!
High Performance Free Shuttle Service!

FAWZI'S Westgate AUTO REPAIR

Our Promise To You

- Being honest & ethical in all business activities. Communicating with honesty.
- Saying what we mean & meaning what we say. Doing it right the first time.
- Treating everyone with integrity & keeping our promises.
- Our work for 12 months or 12,000 miles

Fawzi Hamden



Ann Arbor • 2470 W. Stadium Blvd. • 734-665-8700
Just South Of Jackson Rd. • Mon.-Sat. 8-6 • www.fawziautorepair.com

FULL-SERVICE AUTO REPAIR

ONLY \$16.99	ONLY \$28.99	15% OFF	FREE	ONLY \$39.99	\$10 OFF
Oil Change, Filter And Lube <small>Includes: Complete Chassis Lube, Up To 5 Qts. Shell Or Mobil Oil, New Oil Filter, FREE 16 Point Inspection + \$1.00 Disposal Fee. Most Cars And Light Trucks. No Charge For Shop Supplies.</small> FAWZI'S <small>Ann Arbor • 734-665-8700</small> <small>With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 3/31/09</small>	Oil, Lube & Filter <small>With 100,000 Miles • 3000 Cans • 1st Light Trucks \$1.00 Disposal Fee • Tax & Shop Supplies</small> FAWZI'S <small>Ann Arbor • 734-665-8700</small> <small>With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 3/31/09</small>	Auto Repair, Free Towing With Repair <small>Most Cars And Light Trucks</small> FAWZI'S <small>Ann Arbor • 734-665-8700</small> <small>With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 3/31/09</small>	Scheduled Maintenance Service Checkup <small>Value \$68</small> FAWZI'S <small>Ann Arbor • 734-665-8700</small> <small>With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 3/31/09</small>	Front End Alignment <small>Most Cars And Light Trucks</small> FAWZI'S <small>Ann Arbor • 734-665-8700</small> <small>With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 3/31/09</small>	Coolant Flush <small>Value \$24</small> FAWZI'S <small>Ann Arbor • 734-665-8700</small> <small>With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 3/31/09</small>

Calendar

Saturday 21

Shabbat Limud (Shabbat Learning): BIC. Facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion over coffee and cakes. 9–10 a.m.

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

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

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

Sunday 22

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.*

“The Many Faces of Depression and Anxiety: Hiding in Plain Sight”: JFS. Fourth annual Depression Awareness: A Community Conversation event in memory of Dr. Roby Jacobowitz. \$5/suggested donation. For more information, email lisa@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209. 2–4:45 p.m.

All Choir Concert and Reception: TBE. 4 p.m.

Class: TBE. Class on Islam. 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 23

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

Class: TBE. Haftarah Trop led by Cantor Annie Rose. Noon–1 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE Sisterhood. With Cantor Annie Rose. 7 p.m.

Text Study: BIC. “Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time.” With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 24

“The Bible in It’s Time:” JCC Seniors. Taught by Dr. Liz Fried, this class runs through March 24. 10 a.m.

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

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

Class: TBE. “Liberation through Torah, Part 2.” Led by Rabbi Levy. 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. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Bet Midrash: BIC. “Contemporary Issues in Halakha,” facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin and

Rabbi Blumenthal. To register, contact Mary at mary@bethisrael-aa.org or phone 665-9897. 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. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 25

Lunch and Learn: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal. Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Men’s Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Learning Institute. Winter semester class “You Be the Judge.” Challenge your sense of right and wrong with an exploration of Jewish Civil Law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 26

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

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Peretz Hirsbein will share slides and memories of his recent trip to Israel. 1 p.m.

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

Friday 27

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

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

Saturday 28

Jewish Parenting Workshop: TBE. “Engaging the Whole Family in the Seder.” 8:30a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. 8:50 a.m.

Teen Shabbat and Kid’s Kiddush/Teacher Appreciation: BIC. Post bar/bat mitzvah youth lead service, read from the Torah and give D’var Torah. Kid’s Kiddush planned and prepared by 5th and 6th graders. 9:30 a.m.

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

Beth Israel Reads: BIC. Community discussion following Teen Shabbat services about this year’s book, “The Year of Living Biblically” by A.J. Jacobs. 1:15 p.m.

Raise the Roof Auction: JCC. Biannual auction with funds raised going towards replacing and insulating a new roof. Silent auction, live auction, raffle, dinner and entertainment. \$36/person which includes two raffle tickets. 7 p.m. For information, contact rachelricca@jccfed.org.

Kids’ Night Out: JCC. Monthly event for kids in grades K–5 featuring games, crafts, and the movie *High School Musical 3*. This month’s event coincides with JCC’s Gala Auction. Families who attend the auction while their kids participate in the Kids’ Night Out will receive two free \$5 raffle tickets to use at the auction. \$20/JCC members; \$18/additional siblings. \$25/non-members; \$23/additional siblings. Register by March 26. For information or to register, visit www.jccannarbor.org or email deborahuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical di-

mensions 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 29

Women and Modern Jewish Ritual: BIC. Led by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Passover Bazaar: TBE Sisterhood. 3–7 p.m.

Passover College: BIC. 7 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 30

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

Class: TBE. Haftarah Trop led by Cantor Annie Rose. Noon–1 p.m.

Tuesday 31

“The Bible in It’s Time:” JCC Seniors. Taught by Dr. Liz Fried, this class runs through March 24. 10 a.m.

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

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

“Jews as Global Citizens: Our Responsibility in the World:” BIC. Ruth Messinger, president of American Jewish World Service, will speak of her own experiences in the developing world and will propose how American Jews, who enjoy greater affluence and influence than ever before, can do their part to alleviate poverty, hunger, violence, disease and oppression. 7:30 p.m. *Note: Minyan will be held at special time of 7 p.m. on this night only.*

Men’s Seder: TBE Brotherhood. 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. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

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

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance for times. 6:15 p.m. on 3/6; 7:30 p.m. rest of month.

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 6:45 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

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

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

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

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@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

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

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

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

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

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

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

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

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

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

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Camp Gan Israel

A Summer of Adventure!

Ages 3-14



Open House

at

Jump City

jump...play...laugh...bounce...party...jump...play...laugh

Sunday March 1st at 4:30 - 6:30

4:30-6:00 jumping fun

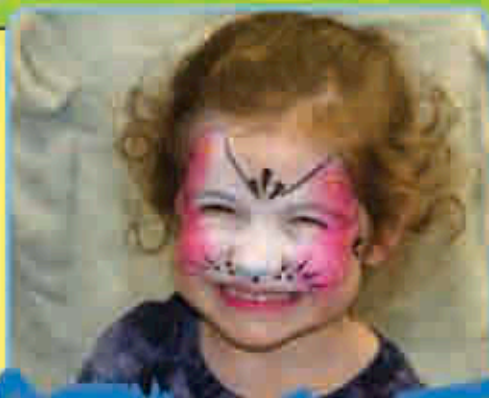
5:45 pizza dinner

get to talk to the director and hear about what's instore for summer 2009

coupons for discounts for summer 09'

cost \$2.50 per child

pizza dinner will be sold speratley.



Summer 2009

mycampganisrael.com

Camp dates: June 22 - August 7

For more information call Shternie @ 734-995-3276 #15



SAVE THE DATE



May 17, 2009

11am-3pm

Jewish Community Center

For more information visit www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael
or contact Tomer Zur or Eileen Freed at celebrateisrael@jewishannarbor.org,
(734) 677-0100

How has Judaism influenced your life?
Why is being Jewish important to you?
Why do Jewish women need each other?
How do we sense Jewishness?

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
presents a special event for women

The *Invisible Thread* EXPLORING THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN JEWISH WOMEN

Sunday, March 8, 2009

For more information or to reserve your place,
visit www.jewishannarbor.org
or contact Laura Berger at laura@jewishannarbor.org
or (734) 677-0100

Monday, March 9 • Monday, March 9 • Monday, March 9

PURIM CARNIVAL

Temple Beth Emeth

2309 Packard St. • www.templebethemeth.org

5:30 pm Megillah Reading • 6-8:00 pm Carnival

Games! • Cosumes! • Prizes!

Dinner & Hamentaschen!

Pope Benidict, from page 12

suffering during the Holocaust, but his defenders say he worked behind the scenes to save Jews.

Jewish groups have called on the Vatican to open its archives to resolve the issue.

Another rift occurred last year when Benedict reinstated a Latin Mass for Easter that includes a prayer some understand as calling for the conversion of the Jews. The Vatican amended the prayer somewhat after Jews voiced concern.

“Decisions that the Church is making for its own use and needs are having unintended consequences and spilling into Jewish-Catholic relations,” Foxman observed.

Many Jews remain unsatisfied. Last month, Italian Jewish leaders took the extraordinary step of boycotting the Church’s annual celebration of Judaism.

In this context, Benedict’s trip to Israel will be watched closely.

It will be the first papal trip to the Holy Land since John Paul II’s historic five-day pilgrimage in 2000. Memorably, he placed a prayer note in the Western Wall asking

for forgiveness for Christian persecution of Jews over the centuries and pledged Catholic brotherhood with the Jews.

Vatican officials said Benedict’s trip mainly will be a pastoral visit to local Christians, though “peace and reconciliation” also would be a focus.

Early this month, at the height of the Williamson affair, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said the Vatican’s reinstatement of a Holocaust denier “offends every Jew, in Israel and around the world, and humiliates the memory of all Holocaust victims and survivors.”

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced Sunday that President Shimon Peres would accompany the pope to sites around the country.

“Naturally we very much hope that the visit will be held in an appropriate atmosphere and will be as successful as Pope John Paul II’s was,” Olmert said. “A papal visit to the Holy Land is always an exceptionally significant event, and we hope that it will be this time as well.” ■

Advocacy, from page 20

munity to man the battle stations from our laptops.

Each day we hear about newspapers and magazines that are either shutting down or laying off record numbers of staff. As far as we are concerned, the writing is on the wall. A few months ago, the Israel Advocacy Initiative — a joint project of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the United Jewish Communities — launched a Facebook group to create discussion about online Israel advocacy.

For years we’ve been using new media to disseminate “Israel beyond the conflict” stories that aim to educate and inspire the

Jewish as well as the broader community. Recently we created a Twitter account (twitter.com/IsraelAdvocacy), where we plan to “tweet” about the latest online advocacy methods, Israeli news and other topics related to pro-Israel activism. We’ve adopted these methods in an effort to digitize our advocacy and frame the discussion online now and in the future.

This is the new frontier in public affairs. It’s time to hop aboard. ■

Amos Kamil is the director of the Israel Advocacy Initiative.

Sun ritual, from page 26

worship, but it means that the calendar and the cycles were a reflection of people who lived with a greater awareness of natural cycles than we have now. And so any time you can teach people about elements of our tradition that are earth-based, and especially the ones that are hidden and not as well known, it’s a way of bringing people into Judaism.”

The prayer, whose origins lie in the Talmud, blesses God “who makes the work of creation” and is the same blessing said over other rare natural phenomena, like lightning or a meteor.

Its Talmudic origins mean that the sun blessing is hardly the sole province of liberal Jewish environmental groups.

ArtScroll Publications, an Orthodox publishing house, has reissued an updated version of Rabbi J. David Bleich’s seminal 1981 book “Birchas Hachamah,” probably the most definitive English-language treatment of the subject. And Canfei Nesharim, an Orthodox environmental group, is working on a number of initiatives, including a sun-themed mishloach manot — the food baskets traditionally given on the holiday of Purim, which falls about a month before the sun blessing.

Bleich’s book includes a rigorously detailed discussion of the evolution of the Jewish calendar and the complex calculations of lunar and solar cycles that determine the dates of Jewish observances.

“The blessing on this occasion, it would seem, is evocative rather than responsive,” wrote Bleich, a professor of Jewish law and ethics at Yeshiva University. “It is designed to arouse man from his lethargy, to force him to reflect upon this cosmic phenomenon, to summon him to contemplation. Marking yet another solar milestone in the calendar of eternity, the occasion calls out to man: Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?”

Despite the complexity of the Talmudic discussion, the determination of April 8 is almost certainly inaccurate, Bleich told JTA. But the sages of the Talmud ordained the blessing not as a precise astronomical commemoration, Bleich said, but as a pedagogic device to impress upon future generations God’s continuing role in sustaining the universe.

Asked about Jewish groups that want to infuse the blessing with an environmental message, Bleich said, “I wish them luck.” ■

Books

How Jews both segregated and integrated Levittown

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (NEXTBOOK) — In the years following World War II, suburbs sprouted up across the United States, giving millions of Americans the ability to own a home. Levittown, in particular, became synonymous with the suburban dream, attracting young families looking for affordable property with modern comforts.

The Levitts, a Jewish family with roots in Russia and Austria, built the first of these towns on Long Island between 1947 and 1951. The second was built north of Philadelphia in the early ’50s. With their appliance-stocked homes, public pools and playgrounds, the Levitts proved adept at tapping into the suburban zeitgeist. But William Levitt (whose father, Abraham, founded the company, and whose brother, Alfred, was the firm’s architect) excluded blacks from living in his family’s developments, arguing that potential white home buyers would find racially mixed areas undesirable.

During the summer of 1957, this whites-only policy was challenged when a leftist Jewish family, the Wechslers, secretly helped an African-American family buy a house in Levittown, Pa. After Bill and Daisy Myers and their two children moved into Levittown, racial tensions erupted.

In his new book, *Levittown: Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America’s Legendary Suburb*, David Kushner vividly depicts how that battle raged and was ultimately resolved in the courts. Kushner, who grew up outside Tampa, Fla., says he “always has had a soft spot for suburbs,” and is particularly intrigued by their dark underside.

In *Levittown*, he tells a story that pitted Jew vs. Jew — William Levitt’s myopic and ultimately unsuccessful business strategy against the Wechslers’ refusal to tolerate segregation.

NEXTBOOK: You first learned about this story because your mother-in-law was neighbors with the Wechslers.

David Kushner: What struck me about it was there was this coming together of so many historical themes: civil rights, McCarthyism, the invention of modern suburbia. Levittown was not the first postwar suburb, but it was iconic.

Aside from barring black families, the Levitts imposed a “no-Jews” policy in one of their earlier developments. So was William Levitt focused solely on profits?

He was really compartmentalized. The way he looked at it was, “I can either fight for civil rights or I can build houses. And I’m a builder.”

On the one hand, he provided the American Dream for an entire generation of veterans, but he also denied it for African-American veterans. He was a complicated person. It would have been difficult for me to write this story had he been the only Jewish character in the book — that could have perpetuated some unfortunate stereotypes. As a Jewish writer, it’s nice to be able to tell a story where there’s Jewish family that’s heroic in fighting for civil rights, a movement where Jews like the Wechslers played a huge role.

NEXTBOOK: The Wechslers and Levitts seem to highlight two different strains in American Jewish history: leftist activists vs. those seeking material success.

David Kushner: That’s true. From what I gather, though, Levitt was on the left side of the political spectrum. He was materially motivated for sure, but he was also motivated by ego — he had the towns named after him. The Wechslers were all about helping people. Levitt was ostensibly about helping people, but just so he could be called the king.

Levitt was very philanthropic and certainly very supportive of Israel. When I visited his widow, there was a picture of Golda Meir on the wall.

NEXTBOOK: How does his widow feel about her husband’s legacy?

David Kushner: She certainly has reached out to Daisy Myers, and she was there when the town honored Daisy in 1999. Actions speak louder than words. Also, she came in later in Levitt’s life; she wasn’t there when he was building Levittown.

NEXTBOOK: The racial hatred that erupted in Levittown after the Myers family moved in was incredible: the mobs, the rocks, even crosses being burnt.

David Kushner: I didn’t want to oversimplify it. I took pains to show that while there was a mob in Levittown, the mob represented a small percentage of people there. The situation also inspired the best in this town — I’m thinking of the scene when Daisy Myers comes home and finds people she didn’t know cleaning her house.

NEXTBOOK: A recent New York Times article on Levittown mentioned that the town is still overwhelmingly white. Is this the Levitt family’s legacy?

David Kushner: Yes. Many people are old enough to remember that this town was not welcoming to blacks. This is similar to Jews not wanting to go to Germany. It’s not exactly the same thing, but there are black people who don’t want to live in Levittown.

But I hope I vindicated Alfred Levitt. He’s the real hero. The houses in Levittown were ticky-tacky little boxes, but that was for a reason. People couldn’t afford anything else. People there had brand-new appliances, which was unheard of. And the houses were built to be expanded.

The New York Times also recently reported that Long Island is 94 percent segregated — the highest rate in the country. In Levittown, Pa., African Americans are still very much a minority population and I don’t see that changing. But one thing people can get out of this story — blacks and Jews can get together because in Levittown, they certainly did. ■

Peter Ephross’ articles and reviews have appeared in the Village Voice, Publishers Weekly, and Antiques & Collecting Magazine, among other publications. Reprinted from Nextbook.org, a new read on Jewish culture.

Around Town

Springtime to wind and dine

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

As Michigan finally breaks free of her seemingly endless freeze-and-thaw cycle, the temptation to treat yourself to a meal out becomes overwhelming. Fortunately, downtown Ann Arbor supports a wide array of restaurants, both homey and exotic, to fit any budget.

A brunch favorite with university students and downtown denizens, **Afternoon Delight** (251 E. Liberty St., 665.7513) is renowned for their salad bar, but also serves a truly vast selection of fresh, filling, and delicious sandwiches, egg dishes, and baked goods, none of which will break your lunch budget or put you on calorie overload. All sandwiches include the customer's choice of potato salad, coleslaw, or pasta salad off the bar, and both the soup-and-salad bar and the prepared salads include bread or a muffin. Keep an eye out for daily specials, as well as the daily fresh desserts and four homemade soups. This is a lunchtime steal.

Cafe Verde (216 N. Fourth Ave., 302-7032) is an extension of the **People's Food Co-op** natural food market, and offers much more than just a full selection of fresh raw juices, smoothies, and Ann Arbor's only 100 percent fair trade coffee drink menu. The Cafe serves a range of grilled veggie or meat sandwiches, available in halves or wholes, for around \$5, as well as lots of sweat organic baked treats in the \$2 to \$4 range.

New drinks and sandwiches rotate into the mix frequently; in March, keep an eye out for the California Wrap (a veggie wrap on whole-wheat lavash flatbread, with mayo, dill havarti, spinach, and sprouts), a coconut-mocha smoothie, and, in late March, a springtime green tea latte, made to order as either a hot drink or an iced smoothie. For extra intensity, the baristas have refined a technique for brewing the green tea using Cafe Verde's espresso machine.

Since **Cafe Verde** and the **People's Food Co-op** are attached at the hip, you can also choose to dine from the Co-op's excellent soup/salad/hot bar (\$7.49 for servings from the hot bar or salad bar; soup is \$2.75 per cup, or \$3.75 per bowl). The hot bar offers new entrees daily, in both meat and vegan incarnations, and made with quality organic ingredients. Heavy on the whole grains, these are incredibly filling—even to those accustomed to a diet heavy in meat-protein—and a great value.

Although occasionally inviting sticker shock ("A \$14 sandwich?!"), the inimitable **Zingerman's** family of eateries and food markets (www.zingermans.com) consistently proves its worth with great service, top-quality ingredients, and scandalously filling meals. Best known for their **Delicatessen** (422 Detroit St., 663-DELI) and fresh-baked bread (from their own **Bakehouse**, 3711 Plaza Dr., 761-2095), they also locally roast their own coffee, and make their own cheeses and gelato, largely from Michigan milk. **Zingerman's Roadhouse** (2501 Jackson Ave., 663-3663) specializes in genuine, high-caliber cuisine Americana. The Roadhouse offers monthly prix fix dinners and tastings that are as much educational as culinary events. In March, look forward to the Flavors of Ireland (March 17, 7–10 p.m.) and Beer and Cheese with the Brewmaster (March 25, 5:30–7 p.m.), which will be host-

ed by the brewmaster of Chicago's Goose Island Brewery and feature American cheeses from across the country, including those produced at **Zingerman's Creamery**. At the end of the month, enjoy a Brunch with Ari (March 28, 10–12 p.m.), in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Book Festival. Brunchers will learn about the process Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzwieg worked through in writing his latest cookbook, and enjoy some of the recipes featured there-in.

Meals at the **Blue Nile** (221 E Washington St., 998-4746) are served in the communal style, with all diners in a party sharing the same spongy, absorbent injera flatbread, which is used in place of utensils. Ethiopian cuisine is composed of exotic echoes of familiar Jewish foods: the flat injera bread is, essentially, a tender, spongy matzo (the bread is just wheat and water), and both beef zilzil wat and lamb yebeg alecha are remarkably brisket-like. The traditional Ethiopian cooking techniques, developed over centuries in order to preserve ingredients in an age before refrigeration, have the added benefit of being remarkably heart-smart: fat is trimmed from all beef; chicken is skinless and bathed in lemon juice overnight to break up the remaining schmaltz; lamb is trimmed, boiled, and skimmed (making it tender and sweet, like no lamb you've had before); and the injera bread is free of dairy, eggs, shortening, or yeast.

This past February, the **Blue Nile** began serving lunch (11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Tuesdays-Saturdays), offering both their standard Ethiopian menu, as well as a rotating selection of seasonal dishes (such as beef tips with mushroom cabernet). Coffee-lovers will want to save room for the **Blue Nile's** fair trade, organic Ethiopian Yrgacheffe coffee, which is roasted, ground, and brewed on the spot. Dine at the **Blue Nile** before or after a University Musical Society or Performance Network event, with ticket in hand, and receive a 20 percent discount on your meal (not including alcohol).

Mediterrano (2900 S. State St. Suite #7, 332-9700) offers sophisticated cuisine spanning the entire Mediterranean region—the South of France, Greece, Spain, North Africa, the Middle East, and Italy—in seasonal lunch and diner menus complimented by an extensive wine list. On "Stretch-your-Dollar" Sundays throughout March, **Mediterrano** boasts a complimentary entrée with the purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value.

On March 19 **Mediterrano** hosts their "Italian Wine Dinner," a four-course prix fix meal, with each course paired with a different Italian wine. To push your cultural explorations a little further, come back for "Greek Week" (coinciding with the week-long Easter celebration observed by the Greek Orthodox church, April 13–19) and enjoy traditional Greek Easter fare available nowhere else in Ann Arbor. The spring is packed with events at **Mediterrano**; learn more online www.mediterrano.com/upcoming-events. ■

Museum, from page 20

cemetery for decades." The bones found during the excavation process were between 300 and 400 years old, unaccompanied by a single marker or monument identifying any individual name, family or religion.

Under the supervision of the Israel Antiquities Authority, the bones discovered will be treated with the utmost dignity and will be re-interred in accordance with Muslim tradition.

Jerusalem is more than 3,000 years old. Hardly a street or neighborhood is without relics or bones. We could declare it a cemetery, off limits to everyone — a city of the past with no future — or we could find a better way to revere the past without choking off the future.

Some recent critics such as Americans for Peace Now and the Council on American-Islamic Relations argue that the museum should set a higher standard. We have. Even though our opponents deliberately watched our project move forward without protesting, our lawyers still attempted to meet with Sheik Salah but were rebuffed. The court's own mediator tried but fared no better. We offered practical solutions to build on top of the bones without disturbing them — also rejected. We offered to restore the virtually abandoned nearby Mamilla Cemetery — they were not interested.

The sheik had one objective — to declare this site in western Jerusalem a Muslim site. He himself chose the venue of the Supreme Court but is unwilling to accept and abide by its unanimous decision. The Museum of Tolerance will not allow itself to fall victim to intimidation and intolerance.

Fortunately, many Israeli and Jewish leaders have endorsed our project: Prime

Minister Ehud Olmert; former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; the executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Malcolm Hoenlein; Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz; former Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler; the chairman of AIPAC's board, Howard Friedman; respected journalist Ehud Ya'ari; and a former adviser to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Eitan Haber. (Visit <http://www.wiesenthal.com> to see all videotaped endorsements.)

It is important to understand that the court's findings clearly indicate that its decision was moral as well as legal.

"The importance and benefit of ... the plan to build the Museum of Tolerance in the center of the city of Jerusalem are very great," the court said. It said the museum "embodies an ideal of establishing a spiritual center that will spread a message of human tolerance between peoples" and that the location "has special significance" in a city "for three religions and an ancient history, which is unique to human civilization."

The museum site has been a public facility since 1960. It will never return to what it may have been 300 years ago. Seeing millions of people, young and old, Jews and non-Jews, arriving there to immerse themselves in the principles of mutual respect and social responsibility, is the very best kind of public-use facility that Jerusalem and the State of Israel needs at this time. ■

Rabbi Marvin Hier is the founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and its Museum of Tolerance.

Farming, from page 25

will have its own garden. These efforts will be spearheaded by what they hope will soon be 180 young Jews graduating each year from the Jewish farm school programs.

Through farming, these farm school alumni grew closer to their Judaism.

"Before I did the Adamah program, I would say I was a farmer first who happened to be a Jew," Weinberg says. "Then I learned about the true nature of our people, of our roots, of our tribal identity in the land of Israel 2,000 years ago. I've not only become more of a Jewish farmer, I understand more of what it means to be a Jew."

The Jewish philanthropic community is starting to take notice.

Since 2005, the Jewish Farm School has run workshops on urban sustainability in Philadelphia and led organic gardening programs at Surprise Lake Camp. In June, the

school's farming program will take up permanent residence in Putnam Valley, N.Y., sharing the site with a new eco-Jewish summer camp. Its partner, Eden Village Camp, received a grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camping and the Jim Joseph Foundation.

Across the board, Jewish environmental and farm-education initiatives are enjoying similar increased interest.

"Today we are being supported by the Jewish community," says Simcha Schwartz, 30, who co-founded the Jewish Farm School with a \$2,000 Hazon grant.

Schwartz in five or six years hopes to establish an agriculturally based Jewish high school at the new site.

"We don't all need to be farmers," he says. "To have farming be a little part of every Jewish person's life, that's our goal." ■

Shabbat Candlelighting

March 6	6:11 pm
March 13	6:19 pm
March 20	6:27 pm
March 27	6:35 pm

Please patronize
our advertisers
and thank them
for supporting
the Washtenaw Jewish News

Vitals

Mazal tov

Samantha Brandt on her bat mitzvah, on March 7.
Hannah and Jeremy Glick on their b'nai mitzvah, on March 7.
Sarah Schyultzon her bat mitzvah, on March 14.
Noah Seel on his bar mitzvah, on March 21.
Tania Nemeth on her bat mitzvah, on March 21.
Myles Weiss on his bar mitzvah, on March 21.
Josh Carn-Saferstein on his bar mitzvah March 28.
Marty and Kathy Ludington on the birth of their grandson, Desmond Malcolm Holden, on February 6.

Condolences

The family of Ida Lansky on her death.
Gloria Helfand on the death of her father, Isadore Helfand.
Linda Benson on the death of her mother, Ruth Reistman.
Andy Schiff on the death of her mother, Annetta Schwartz.
Mike Ehmann and Jake on the death of their wife and mother, Lisa Gayle.
Melanie Calef on the death of her uncle, Jacob Brull on January 9.
Joan Cohen Jones on the death of her mother, Celia Cohen on January 20.
Ann Epstein on the death of her aunt, Fae Reiner on January 21.
Lois Schneyer on the death of her husband, Norman Schneyer on January 23.
Sherri Kantor on the death of her mother, Vivian Domenick on January 24.
Caren Stalburg on the death of her mother, Diana Stalburg on January 24.
Stu Simon on the death of his father, Frank Simon on January 28.
Judge S. J. Elden on the death of his brother, Lloyd Elden on February 10.

Advertisers

Afternoon Delight.....3	Joe Cornell Entertainment15
Amadeus Cafe/Patisserie.....2	Ken Lussenden Contracting6
Susan Ayer Photography.....15	Modern Mechanical.....15
Bank of Ann Arbor24	People's Food Co-op35
Beth Israel Congregation13	Michal Porath; Edward Surovell Realtors .13
Camp Gan Israel31	Probability P.T.24
Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery5	R.D. Kleinschmidt.....4
Chelsea Flowers13	Rochman Design Build.....23
Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair29	Sculpture Show3
Frankel Center7	Christopher Sevic, PLC.....24
Ilene Friedland; Reinhart Realtors2	Simply Scrumptious.....5
Gold Bond Cleaners.....2	South Main Market.....35
Hiller's Market.....10	Tecumseh Center for the Arts.....24
iSoldit.....3	Temple Beth Emeth.....32
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum; mohel13	United Bank and Trust.....17
Jewish Community Center 15, 18, 19, 36	University Musical Society.....9
Jewish Family Services4	Village Apothecary15
Jewish Federation.....32	Zingerman's.....10

Graphic design to fit your
needs... and your budget
Make your next mailer,
brochure, invitation
or any design
project a

**Graphic
Design**
by Dennis Platte
734.483.9619
dplatte2@aol.com



We're local
to the core!
Ann Arbor's only
community-owned grocery



**Discover Authentic Foods
from around the world
in your neighborhood!**

Copernicus Deli

homemade bread and Polish
delicacies

Anthony's Pizza

gourmet pizza

By the Pound

teas, spices and staples

San Fu Oriental Cuisine

good and healthy

Brazamerica

travel Brazilian & Latin style

Tanfastic

get ready for the sun!

Back Alley Gourmet

great cuisine to go!

**SOUTH MAIN
MARKET**

Specialty Foods
Dine-in & Carry-out
Corner of Main & Madison
www.southmainmarket.com





**REGISTER BY APRIL 1ST FOR
EARLY BIRD SAVINGS!**

CAMP RAANANA

**THE JCC'S OUTDOOR DAY CAMP FOR
CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-8**

June 22 - August 21, 2009

"Our kids love swimming every day, the activities with the Israeli Scouts and weekly field trips, and the counselors. We love that our children spend time outside at beautiful Independence Lake park!" - Anna Gilbert & Martin Strauss

"Camp Raanana is awesome! I love the singing, I love Shabbat at the Lake, I love going swimming each day, but most of all, I love being with my friends and counselors. Each summer it's like coming home again." - Emma, age 7

CAMP RAANANA FOR GRADES K-2

Nurturing counselors introduce our youngest groups of campers to the Camp Raanana experience. Swim lessons, nature exploration, arts and crafts, music, sports, and free swim are all part of the fun! Campers entering kindergarten may participate in a 3 day program.



CAMP RAANANA FOR GRADES 3-5

Campers entering grades 3-5 enjoy Camp Raanana's fun activities and also choose an enriching specialty each week. Options include Boating, Digital Photography, Clay Creations, Martial Arts, Drama, World of Sports, Jazzy Jewelry, Drumming, Dance, Magic, and more.



PIONEER ADVENTURE PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-8

The Pioneer Adventure Program caters to the interests of our oldest campers. Each week campers travel to unique field trip destinations, participate in stimulating mitzvah project, and enjoy fun activities, Shabbat celebrations, and special events at camp. High school students may apply to be CITs or Junior Counselors.



For more info or to obtain a registration form, please visit www.CampRanaana.com or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or (734) 971-0990.