

Sheketak, Israeli rhythm and dance group shakes up Ann Arbor

Eileen Freed and Pamela Waxman, special to the WJN

Experience the energy of Israel's culture as never before without leaving Michigan.

Sheketak: Rhythm in Motion brings the energy and rhythm of Israeli dance to Ann Arbor's Power Center on Monday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. Sheketak combines dance, movement, percussion and street energy in a manner that reminds many of the popular British group Stomp.

The Sheketak Crew fuses sound, light, dance, rhythm, hip hop, live music, video, all on one stage. The performance thrills audiences with a blast of interactive energy that fascinates all ages, even those who claim not to care for "dance." Sheketak's creations take 2000 years of Jewish rhythms from all over the world as their inspiration. The group mixes those rhythms with the latest in sound and video technology effects as well as with the popular music and rhythms of hip hop and rock.

In honor of Israel's 60th anniversary, Sheketak has created a special performance, "Israel's Rhythm, From Hora to Hip-Hop." This show is a journey of sounds, visuals, movement and theatre, full of humor, rhythm and "samples" of Israeli culture. The group's live band and percussive dancers transform old, familiar Hebrew songs into arrangements and performances that leave spectators bouncing in their seats. But you don't have to know Hebrew to feel the movement and energy from these songs or others from Israel's diverse ethnic groups. The show includes Sheketak's repertoire of body percussion, percussion with sticks, pots and



Sheketak: Rhythm in Motion

pans, tap dance, Darbuka (middle eastern drum), hip hop dance with "Hora" moves, and even rap in Hebrew.

Sheketak's performance is part of the Celebrate Israel @ 60 sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and 14 other local organizations. Celebrate Israel @ 60 is an eight month celebration of Israel's 60th birthday and offers a variety of programming to bring Israel's culture, music, history, food, film, fashion, and energy directly to the greater Ann Arbor community. ■

To see Sheketak in action, visit www.jewishann Arbor.org/celebrateisrael and click on the Sheketak video. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$40 and are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (<http://www.umich.edu/~muto>), 763-TKTS, or ticket-master.com.

A complete list of Celebrate Israel activities may be found at www.jewishann Arbor.org/celebrateisrael.

Kol Halev and AASO will present Israeli Music

Cantor Annie Rose, special to the WJN

Clap, sing, kvell with the Ann Arbor Symphony and Temple Beth Emeth's 80-voice Kol Halev on Sunday, May 18, at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater! Part of Celebrate Israel, this concert has been specially designed to welcome people of all ages in a delightful program of Israeli music, featuring beloved songs such as "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav," "Tsena," "Halleluyah," and "Ose Shalom," all with audience participation. Other music includes Zalmen Mlotek's "Khalutsim Lider," Paul Ben Haim's "Fanfare for Israel," and Mark Lavry's "Emek." Additionally, a special appearance by Yehonatan Berick playing "Zigeunerweisen"—ten minutes of dazzling music for violin and orchestra—will add to the excitement of the evening.

Born in Israel, Berick started his musical education at the age of six. Berick has performed as soloist with orchestras around the world, and has presented numerous recitals and collaborated in chamber music performances with a long list of internationally renowned artists. He is professor of violin at the School of Music of the University of Michigan.

Kol Halev and the Ann Arbor Symphony will perform under the direction of Maestro Arie Lipsky, known and loved by audiences here and around the world for his masterful musical interpretation. Born in Israel where he received extensive training as a cellist and as a flutist, Lipsky won a music competition at age nine; after this impressive success, he began to appear in concerts throughout Israel and Europe and has since performed around the world. He holds degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and Music which he received before serving in the Israeli Army.

Under the direction of Cantor Annie Rose, Kol Halev specializes in concerts that encourage audience participation with familiar music, throughout Michigan and on international tours. In addition to Kol Halev, TBE's High School ensemble, Shir Chadash, will perform a set of original music in celebration of Israel's 60th. A 30-member ensemble, Shir Chadash performs at TBE and around the country, presenting original musical settings of traditional prayers. ■

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Temple Beth Emeth office, 665-4744, or on the Temple website at www.templebethemeth.org. Prices are \$12 general admission, or \$72 for premium seating and afterglow at Zanzibar with Maestro Lipsky. For more information, contact Cantor Rose at TBE.

Special features at the JCC Film Festival, May 11-15

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Many special programs are planned in conjunction with the JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival running from Sunday, May 11, to Thursday, May 15.

On opening night, May 11, the featured film is *Making Trouble: Three Generations of Funny Jewish Women*. This is a laugh-out-loud, impeccably researched documentary, which explores six legendary American Jewish women comics. This is a tribute to Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Wendy Wasserstein and Gilda Radner. Since Sunday, May 11, is Mother's Day, the



event will include a special dessert reception catered by Lori Shephard of Simply Scrumptious Caterers. All women will be admitted

to the event at no charge and will receive a free gift. Tickets will be available at the box office for their male escorts. The reception will take place beginning at 7 p.m. and the film will be shown at 8 p.m.

Tom J. Buresh, professor and chair of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning will discuss the film *Sketches of Frank Gehry* on Monday, May 12 at 5 p.m. The same evening at 8 p.m., the Festival will feature the Dutch made *Black Book* and U-M English Professor Dr. Ralph Williams will discuss the film.

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Community

Looks Given/Looks Taken exhibit focuses on Jews, urban photography

Deborah Dash Moore and MacDonald Moore, special to the WJN

Jewish street photography in New York City is the topic of a fascinating exhibit showing on the University of Michigan's campus. Looks Given/Looks Taken: Jews and Urban Photography frames a photographic lineage that took shape within the New York Photo League, where young Jewish American photographers created a new sort of interpersonal street photography in the 1930s. This exhibit is presented by the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Institute for the Humanities.

The 30 images shown evidence a tradition, often identified as the New York School of Photography, still productively engaged by a range of American photographers. Expectations among photographers of the developing New York School were shaped by ambivalences common among young native-born Jews who grew up in the difficult Depression years.

Considered against a range of documentary practices, the emergent discourse of the New York School has been more ethnography than advocacy and more advocacy than reportage. The ethnographer, an anthropologist who studies ethnic cultures, is descended from travel

writers and slumming reformers. As participant observers, ethnographic "professional strangers," these New York photographers entangle viewers in the evanescent matrix of street life, the play of body language and eye contact.

Between 1936 and 1951 over a thousand young Jews, many still teenagers, found their way to the Photo League near Union Square in Manhattan. Relatively few of these men and women seem to have been particularly religious. Their ideological commitments were pre-



Lauren Greenfield's "Mijanou & Friends from Beverly Hills High School on Senior Beach Day," Will Rogers State Park (1997), Courtesy Robert Koch Gallery.

dominantly and sometimes vociferously left wing. Most were native New Yorkers, but some came from out of town as migrants or refugees. The League attracted Jews with both East European and German roots. It became a home-away-from-home where even disputations felt heymish. This vibrant working-class space served as a club, school and professional association. Although members might be challenged on grounds of ideology, craft or aesthetics, the League's ethnic Jewish dimensions remained comfortably in the background, present but seldom explicitly acknowledged. Even decades later some alumni bristled to hear the League referred to as a Jewish milieu. Such sensitivity betokens both the importance and fragility of the League's unselfconscious Jewishness.

The Photo League offered itself as a mirror and a window. It promised to help people in communities stratified by class, race, and ethnicity to see themselves as they were. And just as the League tried to mirror people back to themselves, it also worked to open a window so that visitors might perceive the city as experienced by those who walked its streets year round.

League photographers often organized collective projects, supporting one another as they explored neighborhoods they might not otherwise have visited. With their cameras they negotiated among strangers; some of them became adept at instigating and managing encounters. Such representational relationships were twice charged. Modernity requires that individuals practice their performance skills in order to get by in the city. If everyone passes in this sense, wearing faces and clothes for varying occasions, the "Jewish Problem" reveals itself as a normative condition. Young Jews at the Photo League tried to assimilate their city visually by exposing its web of sightlines. The structuring energies of New York School photographs often relate to tensions of looks averted, of eye-lines that drill through pictured space or that spark like crossed tram wires.

The exhibit can be seen in the Institute for the Humanities gallery on the first floor of the Thayer Building (202 S. Thayer Street) until May 16. For more information on the exhibit call 763-9047 or visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic>. ■

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JEWISH NEWS

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Special thanks

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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



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Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor at wjna2@aol.com. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 5,000

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

The deadline for the June/July/August
Washtenaw Jewish News is
Friday, May 9.
Publication date: May 28.

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

Federation Annual Meeting to feature storyteller, Vered Hankin

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 29, at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.

This year, as part of the continued celebration of Israel's 60th birthday and of Jewish life, the annual meeting will feature a performance by nationally acclaimed storyteller Vered Hankin (www.veredhankin.com). The performance, titled "Israel on My Mind," is an inspiring collection of tales including one woman's childhood experience of growing up in blissful Jerusalem, and her journey away and back to her homeland after an 11 year hiatus. Interweaving her own experience of Israel, both as an American and Israeli, with traditional Jewish folktales, Hankin uses humor, music, movement and audience participation to bring the magic of Israel—past and present—to life.

Hankin was born and spent the first few years of her life in Israel and grew up in Kansas City. She has been a featured performer in theaters, schools, universities, radio, film and television and was named "the leading storyteller of her generation" by *The Jewish Week*. Her publications include stories and essays in *On the Fringes: An Anthology of Young Jewish Women's Writings* (SUNY Press, 2003) and *The Complete Guide to Storytelling for Parents* (Norton Press 2000). Hankin's CD, *The Day the Rabbi Disappeared: Jewish Holiday Tales of Magic*, based on The National Jewish Book Award



Vered Hankin


winning collection by Howard Schwartz, features a full musical score by Bruce Dittmas, who has toured with Barbra Streisand, and is produced by Broadway Producer Shari Upbin. The CD has received the prestigious Award of Excellence from the Film Advisory Board. Hankin recently joined ce-

lebrities Jerry Stiller, Leonard Nimoy, and Henry Winkler in an internationally aired radio show and audio CD of children's folktales, *One People: Many Stories*.

She has performed in hundreds of venues as diverse as New York's prestigious 92nd Street Y, Makor, The Jewish Museum, the International Fringe Festival, Performance Space 122 (Obie award winning play), Jewish Federations, Hadassah's and Hillels around the country, schools of all denominations, Public International Radio and BRAVO TV. She is a member of UJC and Hadassah speakers' bureaus and has been commissioned by Jewish Women's Archive to create performance pieces for each of their "Women of Valor."

The evening's entertainment will be accompanied by the business of the annual meeting, including the election of Federation directors and officers, reports from the Jewish Community Foundation and Jewish Federation, and acknowledgement of outgoing board members. This year, membership will be asked to vote on an amendment to the by-laws to change the name of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. ■

For more information about the Annual Meeting, contact Eileen Freed at 677-0100 or eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org.



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Israeli Archaeologist to lecture on mysterious tunnels

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Israeli archaeologist Oren Gutfeld, Ph.D., will present "The Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Mysterious Tunnels" on Sunday, June 1, at 7:45 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation. June 1 is Erev Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), and in honor of the day, special Israeli snacks will be featured as part of the



Oren Gutfeld

refreshments. The event is free and open to the entire community and is part of the Current Topics in Jewish Studies series, chaired by Judy Endelman. The lecture is also part of a lineup of exciting cultural and educational events planned for Washtenaw County's Celebrate Israel @60.

The Copper Scroll, found in Qumran in 1949, describes the hiding place of ancient treasure, believed by many to be no less than the Temple treasure. In 1960, the Copper Scroll expedition, led by John Marco Allegro, made an archaeological survey in the Judean Desert. During their survey, two mysterious tunnels with stairs carved in the rock were found in a valley at the base of Mt. Hyrcania. Allegro believed that these tunnels could be the tunnels mentioned in the Copper Scroll.

Allegro's team tried to excavate the tunnels, but soon gave up because of the hard conditions. The tunnels were forgotten for almost 40 years, until Gutfeld was asked to lead a new expedition to the site in the year 2000. At that point, the question remained: Could the tunnel steps be the steps referred to in the Copper Scroll? In this presentation, Oren Gutfeld will tell the fascinating story of Hyrcania's tunnels and the Copper Scroll.

Gutfeld received his Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from the Department of Archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is currently a visiting scholar and a lecturer at the University of Michigan where he is teaching several courses. He now serves as the director of the Hebrew University's excavations at Beit Loya and co-director of the University's excavations in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. He is also a member of the editing team completing the final report of the late Avigad's Jewish Quarter Excavations.

Gutfeld has extensive field experience. He served as excavation director on the following projects on behalf of the Hebrew University: the area of the Hurvah Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem (in cooperation with Hillel Geva), Nahal Sekhakha (Hyrcania Tunnels), in the Judean desert, Tiberias (in cooperation with Prof. Yizhar Hirschfeld), and Ramla.

Ann Arbor is fortunate to have the Gutfeld family (including four children ranging in age from 3–16) living here for a period of three years. While Oren Gutfeld teaches about archeology, his wife, Orit Gutfeld, is a fellow in the U-M Radiation Oncology Department. Oren Gutfeld comments, "I'm pleased to have the opportunity to present this talk on the Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Tunnels at Beth Israel Congregation, which has welcomed our family during our time here in Ann Arbor." ■

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JCC Film Festival *continued from page 1*

On Tuesday, May 13, at 5 p.m. U-M Political Science Professor Dr. Lars Rensmann will discuss the film *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*. This documentary looks at the man whose persistent unflinching resolve led to the capture of 1,100 former Nazi officers.

On Wednesday, May 14 at 2 p.m., Dr. Deborah Dash Moore, director, Jean and Sam Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, will discuss the films *A Good Uplift* and *The Powder and the Glory*. *The Powder and the Glory* is a wonderful film about Helena Rubinstein and Elizabeth Arden, two amazing women who dared to create an industry in a man's world.

David Rubinger, internationally prominent Israeli photographer, will be here in Ann Arbor at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14 to speak about the film *David Rubinger – Eye Witness*. In the film, Rubinger journeys back to the places and people he photographed and leads viewers to a better understanding of the contemporary Israeli reality.

Director Todd Yellin will be present at the

showing of *Brother's Shadow* on May 14 at 8 p.m. This is the story of a Brooklyn Jewish family featuring actor Judd Hirsch.

On the last day of the Festival, Thursday, May 15 there will be three important presentations. First, there will be a panel discussion with local Israelis who lived in Israel during the Six Day War or fought in the war. This panel will occur after the 2 p.m. showing of the film *Six Days*. Film maker Ilana Tractman will discuss the film *Praying With Lior* after its 5 p.m. showing. Finally, Dr. David Magidson, director of the Film Festival will discuss the closing film, *Nina's Home* which will be shown at 8 p.m. following the Sponsor Reception. ■

The Jewish Film Festival will showcase 14 films over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty. Tickets are now available at the JCC. Tickets are \$10 each or a Festival Pass good for all 14 movies is \$65. The entire film schedule is available at <http://www.jccannarbor.org> or call the JCC at 971-0990 for more information.

Tom J. Buresh to talk about Frank Gehry's work

Professor Tom J. Buresh is scheduled to lead a discussion at the 7th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival following the film *Sketches of Frank Gehry*, Monday, May 12 at 5 p.m. Buresh is chair of the architecture program, and associate dean for academic affairs at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. He is also Principal of Guthrie + Buresh Architects.



In the film *Sketches of Frank Gehry*, director Sidney Pollack attempts to answer the question, "If you are a complete layman and not an architectural specialist, what's so great about Frank Gehry? What is all the fuss about?" This documentary feature spans five years of the architect's illustrious career, beginning with Gehry's original sketches for each project. The film explores Gehry's progression of turning these abstract drawings into tangible, three-dimensional masterpieces of the modern age.

Buresh received a BA in architecture from Iowa State University and master of architecture from the University of California at Los Angeles. From 1988 to 2001, he was a member of the faculty at the Southern California Institute of Architecture in Los Angeles. During the same period he held visiting appointments at the University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Berkeley; Rice University; University of Melbourne; University of Texas, Austin, and the University of Minnesota.

In 1988, he and Danelle Guthrie established Guthrie + Buresh Architects. Their work has been published in over 45 books, periodicals and newspapers and exhibited internationally including the cities of New York, Los Angeles, Barcelona, London, Copenhagen, Vienna, and Tokyo. In 1998 Millar/Guthrie + Buresh's project WaterWorks AWTP received a Progressive Architecture Awards Citation from Architecture Magazine. Guthrie + Buresh's project WorkHouse was featured in "The Un-private House" exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Buresh was the Dinkeloo Fellow at the American Academy in Rome in 1986. The College of Design at Iowa State University named him their 2000 Distinguished Alumnus and in 2001 he was recognized as the Distinguished Alumnus by the Department of Architecture at the University of California in Los Angeles. Buresh received TCAUP's, 2003 Donna M. Salzer Award for excellence in teaching and the 2004 Faculty Service Award.

Photographer David Rubinger to discuss film about his life



Photographer David Rubinger will lead a discussion following the film *David Rubinger: Eyewitness* on Wednesday, May 14, at 5 p.m. In the film, Rubinger journeys back to the places and people he photographed, and leads viewers to a better understanding of the contemporary Israeli reality. Rubinger's pictures represent his own life story, professional views and experiences, but mainly his great love for the country and its people.

Born in Vienna in 1924, David Rubinger emigrated to Israel, then Palestine, in 1939. A chance encounter in Paris left him with the gift of a small 35mm camera, resulting in his decision to try to make a living from photography. After the end of Israel's War of Independence in 1948, he began freelancing for local papers. In 1954 TIME/LIFE published their first two Rubinger photographs. In the 1970's, Rubinger became a TIME contract photographer, a position he holds to this day.

Rubinger witnessed the birth of the nation in 1948 and subsequently lived through ten wars which in most cases he observed from close quarters as a TIME photo-journalist.

In his work Rubinger frequently came

into contact with key Israeli leaders and gained

their confidence, including: David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Shimon Peres, Yitzchak Rabin, and Ariel Sharon as well as world leaders such as Presidents Carter and Reagan and Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria.

It was Rubinger who was chosen to accompany many of these leaders on international missions such as Manachem Begin's historic visit to Sadat in Egypt, 1977, to Oslo for his Nobel Prize and further trips with Shimon Peres, Yitzchak Rabin, and Ariel Sharon.

Rubinger was awarded the Israel Prize for his services to the media. This is the highest accolade that can be received in Israel. He also has a permanent collection of his photographs in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

David Rubinger's singular and perceptive way of viewing the world around him has resulted in an historic archive of immeasurable value for future generations.

Williams to lead discussion on *Black Book*

University of Michigan professor Ralph Williams is scheduled to lead a discussion following the film *Black Book* at the 7th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival on Monday, May 12. Set during the end of World War II, *Black Book* is the story of a Dutch Jewish girl who narrowly survives the war in Holland. She joins the resistance to find out who betrayed her family, after all of them were killed in an attempt to reach the liberated south.



A professor in the Department of English, Language and Literature at the U-M, Dr. Williams has studied 15 languages including Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic, and uses Italian, French, and Latin, especially frequently.

He specializes in Medieval and Renaissance literature, Shakespeare, literary theory, comparative literature, and biblical studies. He has taught such wide-ranging courses as The Bible in English, plus the Literature of Chaucer to Frederick Douglass, to the works of Primo Levi and the Memory of Auschwitz.

He was associate chair of the Department of English (for the second time) from 1999 to 2002, and he also served from 1996 to 1999 as director of the Program on Studies in Religion. While associate chair of the English Department, he was instrumental in creating and developing the Royal Shakespeare Company Residency program at the U-M.

In addition, he continues to work closely with the University Musical Society to further the activities of the RSC Residency. For tickets, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Deborah Dash Moore to speak following *The Powder and the Glory*

Dr. Deborah Dash Moore will speak following the film *The Powder and the Glory* on Wednesday, May 14, at 2 p.m. at the 7th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival at the Michigan Theater. Dr. Moore is the director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and the U-M Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History. She is a graduate of Brandeis University, receiving her M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. She was also featured in the recently aired PBS special about Jews in America.

Dash Moore taught for many years at Vassar College in New York. While there she served

intermittently as head of Religious Studies and helped found a program in Jewish Studies. While at Vassar, Dr. Dash Moore wrote and co-edited numerous books, articles and collections. Her first book, *At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews*, explores how the children of immigrants created an ethnic world that blended elements of Jewish and American culture into a vibrant urban society. To the Golden Cities: Pursuing



the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L. A. follows those big city Jews who chose to move to new homes after World War II and examines the type of communities and politics that flourished in these rapidly growing centers.

Issues of leadership, authority and accomplishment have also engaged her attention, first in *B'nai B'rith* and the Challenge of Ethnic Leadership, and more

recently in the award-winning two-volume *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, which she edited with Paula Hyman. Her most recent work, *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*, charts the lives of fifteen young Jewish men as they faced military service and tried to make sense of its demands, simultaneously wrestling with what it meant to be an American and a Jew. *GI Jews*, a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year, is a powerful, intimate portrayal of the costs of a conflict that was at once physical, emotional, and spiritual.

Lars Rensmann to speak on Wiesenthal film

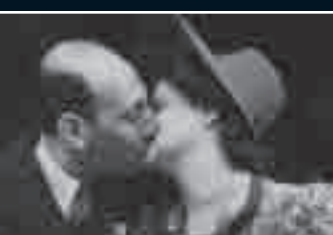
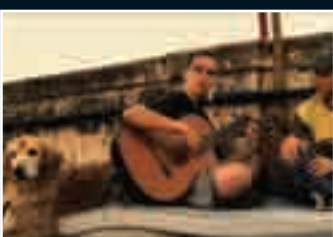
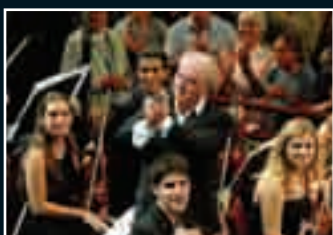
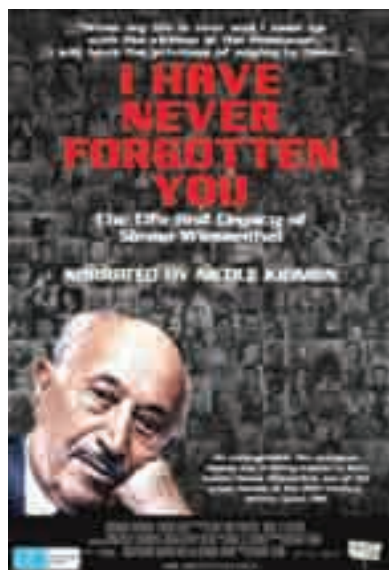
Lars Rensmann, DPhil, DAAD visiting assistant professor of political science, will lead a discussion at the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival, following the film *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*, Tuesday, May 13, at 5 p.m. This Holocaust related documentary looks at the man whose persistent, unflinching resolve led to the capture of the 1,100 former Nazi officers. The work of Simon Wiesenthal is among the most heroic Jewish stories of the 20th (and 21st) century.

Lars Rensmann came to Ann Arbor in the fall of 2006. He teaches in the areas of modern political theory, European integration and European comparative politics, and German politics.

Rensmann is the author and editor of six books and has published widely on political theory and German and European politics in journals such as the *European Journal of Political Theory*, *German Politics and Society*, *Patterns of Prejudice*, *Political Studies*, *Political Science*, the *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, and the *Journal of Contemporary History*, and in dozens of edited volumes.

Rensmann graduated with distinction from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa (B.A. in political science) and from the Free University of Berlin, Germany (M.A. in political science). He holds a doctoral degree (DPhil) from the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the Free University of Berlin. He is also affiliate professor at the University of Haifa and Permanent Fellow at the Moses Mendelssohn Center, University of Potsdam.

Before coming to Michigan, Rensmann was lecturer/assistant professor at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Potsdam. He also held several other previous research and teaching appointments, for instance as visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley; visiting fellow and post-doctoral fellow at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies (YCIAS), Yale University; guest lecturer at the Bucerius Institute for Contemporary German History and Society, University of Haifa; lecturer at the Departments of Political Science at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and at the University of Vienna; research fellow at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna.



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ARTIST ED COHEN began his career as a graphic designer and art director on the West coast. During this time he began to pursue his interest in woodworking. In 1989 he returned to the East coast and began to seek out his Jewish roots. Combining this new found interest with his woodworking, he started creating mosaics.

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Tuesdays

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

10 a.m. - Noon. The Bible in its Time; Part 22: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, PhD. For new and continuing students. Class begins May 6 and ends June 3. No class on May 20.

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3

1 p.m. Games and Activities. A variety of games and activities to enjoy, including Mah-jong, quilting, art projects and poker.

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Speaking Group, At the U-M Michigan League. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for more information.

Special Tuesday Event!

Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m. - noon. Osher Lifelong Learning Course: Aging in Place. See below under "special events."

Wednesdays - New!

10 a.m. - Noon. Music Appreciation and Exploration—a WCC Special Community Group Education Course. Join facilitator Ken Kozora in listening, discussing and comparing music from around the world throughout the ages. Kozora will also provide hands on opportunities to play and learn about interesting ancient instruments such as the D'Jembe, Dumbek, Frame Drum, Dung, Bamboo Flutes, Singing Bowls and exciting modern instruments such as the synthesizer, electronic percussion, wind synthesizer and sequencer. Free. Minimum 10 participants. Class begins May 7 and ends June 11. To register, contact Merrill at 971-0990.

Thursdays

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

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

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, \$3

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

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

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Reading Group. Call Ray Juni for location at 761-2765

Thursday Special Events and Presentations

May 1: 12:30 p.m.

Birthday Celebration for all with May birthdays. Bring your family. Cake and ice cream.

May 1: 1 p.m.

"The Four Treasures", Bobbie Levine, U-M Museum of Art docent, discusses "The Four Treasures." Chinese culture has a long and illustrious history full of tradition and self-references. Chinese painting portrays the writers, musicians and artists of this rich culture. This talk will focus on the four treasures (the tools of the artist) and the four formats (hand and hanging scrolls, fans and album leaves) as it brings Chinese culture to life.

May 8: 1 p.m.

U-M Museum of Art: The Silk Road. Kaaren Strauch Brown, U-M Museum of Art docent, discusses "The Silk Road." In an age of globalization, the Silk Road is a great case study in the interconnectivity of culture that spans vast geographical spaces and crosses the boundaries of empire. Using religious and artistic artifacts this

talk traces cultural connections and influences over miles and millennia on the Asian continent.

May 15: 1 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival: Six Days. Transportation will be provided to the Michigan Theater for the 2 p.m. showing of *Six Days*, a documentary that uses arresting archival footage to examine how the war in 1967 remade the Middle East. Film costs \$10; transportation is free. Reservations required. Call Merrill: 971-0990.

May 22: 1 p.m.

U-M Museum of Art: Medieval to Renaissance. Sue Frazier, U-M Museum of Art docent, discusses "The Transition from Medieval to Renaissance Worldviews." Using painting and sculpture as artifacts of history, this talk allows us to visualize the monumental transition in European society from the Medieval period to this Early Modern/Renaissance era and touches on major changes in society.

May 29: 1 p.m.

U-M Museum of Art: American Landscapes Sue Frazier and Ina Sandalow, U-M Museum of Art docents, will discuss "American 19th Century Landscapes." Industrialization and urbanization of the 19th century along the east coast created a romantic nostalgia for wilderness. Moving west from the wild areas of the northeast to the Rockies and the west coast, this talk, accompanied by paintings from the UMMA collection, illustrates the transformation of America in the 19th century.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, May 6: 1 p.m.

Yiddish Open House: Join the Yiddish Open House on a field trip to the Frankel Center's "Looks Given/Looks Taken: Jews and Urban Photography" exhibit for a special docent-led tour. Transportation is free and will leave the JCC at 12:45 p.m. Reservations required by April 29 to Merrill at 971-0990.

Wednesday, May 14: 1:30 p.m.

A2SO Afternoon Delights (formerly Matinee Musicale) 1:30 p.m. Dessert and socializing; 2 p.m. concert. With A2SO Principal French Horn player Andrew Pelletier and Pianist Christina Laberge. Tickets \$7, available at the door.

Tuesday, May 20: 10 a.m. - noon.

Osher Lifelong Learning Course: Aging in Place. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Jewish Family Services co-sponsor this one-time course entitled "Move or Improve? That is the Question—Aging in Place" with Peg Trimble and David Rhoads, both Certified Aging in Place Specialists. Learn how to age in the comfort and safety of your own home. General topics to be discussed are: 1) Achieving accessibility in entries, halls and baths, 2) Selecting durable, low-maintenance finishes, 3) Making surroundings safe by providing adequate light, non-skid floors, grab bars, etc., 4) Maintaining a pleasant and aesthetic appearance. Photos of completed work and samples of products will be shown, followed by a question and answer session. Peg Trimble is a designer and owns Trimble Associates, Ltd. David Rhoads is the owner of HSA Remodelers and Builders. Together they have several years of experience in helping many families age in place.

Cost: OLLI members: \$10; Non-members: \$20. Pre-registration required. Minimum 8 participants. To register, call 734-998-9351 or visit www.olliumich.org.

JFS and Federation collaborate in strategic planning for Older Adult Services

Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, Carol Lessure, and Elisha Caplan, special to the WJN

Growing older is inevitable, planning for it is not. That is why the Federation's Task Force on Older Adult Services and Jewish Family Services have worked hand in hand to develop a long term plan for serving the needs of the growing population of older adults.

With the older adult population growing by leaps and bounds as Baby Boomers are hitting their 60s, the American Jewish community is seeing an increased demand for resources and programs designed for Jewish older adults. More and more, Ann Arbor is becoming a retirement destination for older adults interested in being near children and grandchildren, individuals looking for a city with high quality cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities, and people who have been in Ann Arbor for decades who have decided to stay here as they age.

The story of "Sam"* is not uncommon. A former professor, Sam has lived in Ann Arbor for decades, staying close to his children and grandchildren. He prides himself on living independently, but a bout of pneumonia left him weak and in need of additional support. His children contacted his congregation for support, and they suggested Jewish Family Services. JFS helped Sam find a skilled nursing facility for rehabilitation—one that provided some Jewish programming via JFS ElderLink.

JFS also worked with Sam's family to prepare for his return home, identifying home therapy and care, simple home modifications, and meal deliveries during his first few months home. In addition, JFS made sure that Sam had regular visits or calls from family, friends, fellow congregants, volunteers, and his JFS case manager. "When an older adult faces reduced activity and independence, even temporarily, a good support network and social contact can speed recovery," notes JFS director of Older Adult Services Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson.

The article in the March 2008 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News*, "Strategic Planning for Jewish Older Adult Services Enters New Phase," highlighted the findings of the community-wide, Federation led Task Force on Older Adult Services that met throughout 2006-2007. The Task Force included representatives of Jewish Family Services' Older Adult Services department staff as well as

JFS board members and former staff. The five priorities outlined by the Task Force reflect five central services that JFS currently provides to older adults, as well as goals for growth identified in JFS' own strategic plan.

Sam's case exemplifies the importance of the five strategic goals as well as existing JFS services:

1. Referral for Jewish Older Adult Services

JFS is at the forefront of the local referral system, acting as a clearinghouse of information for Jewish older adults. As in the case of Sam, many Jewish families turn to JFS for advice and counsel. JFS receives approximately 30 calls per month regarding older adult services with the majority of referrals from Jewish congregations, agencies, and organizations.

2. A Jewish outreach for residential facilities

Sam chose one of five residential facilities that participate in Jewish Family Services' "ElderLink" program, and can choose one of two home care agencies when he returns home. JFS ElderLink, established with the support of a Jewish Federation's Humanitarian Award grant, provides facilities and home care agencies the tools, materials and know-how to meet the needs of Jewish older adults. The staff and care providers of these agencies have received JFS training on Jewish history, culture, holidays, and end of life care. JFS also makes sure that ElderLink facilities offer Jewish holiday and cultural programming.

The Older Adult Task Force has identified the expansion and scope of JFS ElderLink as a way to achieve its goal for Jewish outreach to local facilities. Furthermore, the Jewish Community Foundation has recently secured the Pear Family Endowment to fund this expansion.

3. Welcome and engage older adults

The Task Force points to enhancing collaborative efforts between local agencies, congregations, and organizations to welcome incoming older adults. Sam's family benefited from the new JFS "Caregiver Concierge" program, funded by the Jewish Federation's Humanitarian Award grant. JFS provided access to information and referrals and facilitated introductions to geriatric care providers, and offered education and support.

Sam's adult daughter is now attending the monthly "Caregiver Conversations" education-and-support groups, convened by JFS and

co-sponsored by the JCC, Temple Beth Emeth, Congregation Beth Israel, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, and the Jewish Cultural Society. Furthermore, Sam had a JFS volunteer visit him regularly at the residential facility—helping him meet some of the other Jewish residents while he was there recuperating.

4. A community-wide special needs fund

JFS spends thousands of dollars a year to cover emergency assistance for older adults—including burial assistance, medical costs, or home expenses. These funds are only used when all other resources from the county and other agency funds are unavailable. Furthermore, both Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth set aside thousands of dollars annually for such emergencies. The congregations often help JFS cover expenses of community members when other sources are not available. The Task Force, at the suggestion of JFS, recommends that the community centralize special needs funds similar to the camp scholarship fund provided by the Federation and administered by JFS.

5. Case management

Sam and his adult children benefited from the "one-stop shop" approach to case management at Jewish Family Services. JFS staff help families develop a plan of action and

often make calls and set up visits for families so that they can focus on their loved ones' needs. The agency currently provides case management to over 250 older adults and their families, and sees a steady increase in demand for these services. JFS serves all, regardless of means, through a sliding fee scale and the assistance of grants such as those provided by the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation to support aging in place, resource and patient advocacy, and volunteer services for individual older adults.

Implementing the Task Force's recommendations

The Older Adults Task Force will turn its attention to implementation under the leadership of Ami Rosenthal. The group will: (a) work towards developing and focusing community resources on the five areas identified in the plan, (b) promote a community-minded collaborative approach and to coordinate strategies, and (c) develop community-wide data capturing senior services needs and use as well as demographics. JFS staff and leadership will play a key role in the implementation phase as the Task Force continues to support and expand the current social service structure. ■

*Sam is a composite of several JFS clients over the past year.

Caring for older adults is a community responsibility

Whose responsibility is it to serve this aging population? It is written in Leviticus (19:32), "You shall rise before the gray-haired person and grant glory [v'hadarta p'nei zakein] to the face of the elderly." The mitzvah of hidur p'nei zakein (that is, the mitzvah of allowing all older adults to experience joy, meaning, and fulfillment in late life), is an obligation of all Jews toward all elders. The beauty of the Task Force on Older Adult Services is in its implicit reminder that the burden of caring for older adults falls not upon any one individual, family, agency, or congregation, but upon the whole community, together.

By convening the Older Adults Task Force, the Jewish Federation has instigated the important work of building a community-wide response to older adults' increasing needs, by garnering funding, collaboration, and encouraging an approach that builds on synergies.

In each of the five priority areas, the Jewish Federation plays a unique role in securing resources for further development and enhancement of JFS's existing services. Through the JFS allocation, the Humanitarian Award grants, and solicitation of individual donors, the Federation makes Jewish Family Services' work possible, covering critical funding needs and gaps in JFS Older Adult Services and offering stability and continuity that grant funding does not provide.

As the primary provider of older adult services to the Jewish community, Jewish Family Services played a key role in this planning and prioritization process and will continue to be an influencing voice in efforts to meet the needs of the growing Jewish older adult population in Washtenaw County throughout the implementation phase.

Grandparents'/ Special Friend Shabbat Luncheon

Noreen DeYoung, special to the WJN

The Early Childhood Center will celebrate the sixth annual Grandparents/ Special Friend Shabbat on May 23. The Shabbat luncheon will be held in the Gym from 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m. "Tot Shabbat" families will be included in the celebration, and all children are encouraged to bring grandparents or other "special friends" as their guests. Song leader Jake Kander will lead everyone's Shabbat favorites, and ECC preschoolers will prepare a film of some of their favorite activities.

Each year the ECC set aside one Shabbat where children are encouraged to invite their grandparents. If grandparents are unable to attend, or they do not have grandparents they can ask a special adult friend to attend. This event will be the culmination of a week-long focus on Shabbat as a study unit. Classes will

have worked on making their own Shabbat ritual items such as challah covers and candlesticks, and story times will center on Shabbat tales.

Early childhood is an ideal time to begin teaching core Jewish values. Children are active participants in all Jewish Holiday celebrations. Staff and children create meaningful ways to celebrate Shabbat and all of the holidays. As part of our focus on Shabbat the children will make a gift to present to their special guests.

The ECC looks forward to celebrating Shabbat with the children, their parents, grandparents and special friends to rejoice in this year's many accomplishments.

For more information on how to be included, contact Noreen De Young at 971-0990.



On March 30, about 30 families hosted other members of the community for an evening of fine dining as part of "Dinner with the Family," a Jewish Family Services fundraiser. A reception in honor of JFS volunteers, featuring dessert and dancing, was held at the JCC following dinner. Shown here is one group of happy diners.

PHOTO CREDIT: PHYLLIS PERRY

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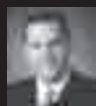
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Community

Amira Hass, *Haaretz* journalist, delivers Motorola Lecture at U-M

Ilana Hairston, Tamar Weaver, and Ruth Kraut, special to the WJN

On April 8, noted *Haaretz* journalist Amira Hass spoke to a packed audience at the University of Michigan on the topic of "Virility and Arms: Male Individualism in the Last Round of Israeli-Palestinian Bloodshed." Hass, who is the only Israeli journalist living full-time in the West Bank, framed her talk in the context of the way that weapons become intimate, beloved, almost erotic symbols to both Israeli and Palestinian men. The talk was hosted by the U-M Women's Studies Department.

Hass used many examples, beginning from the time of the second Intifada, to explain a juvenile masculine competition over who is more fearless. The love of guns was highlighted on both sides. Hass described how the Israeli soldier is supposed to treat his gun like a woman and clean it and love it. She also pointed out that one way Palestinian men showed their love for guns was by getting a photo with a gun, often held in a phallic position.

Hass also mentioned the depiction in the Israeli press of two recent burglaries. The victims were parents of fallen soldiers, and in both cases, the army-issued guns of their sons were among the loot. The guns had been



Amira Hass

given to the families by the army in remembrance of the men. In both cases the families spoke about the loss of these weapons as the most hurtful; they described the relationships of their sons with their weapons, using loving terms, like the guns were their sons' girlfriends.

Hass described a cycle, following the beginning of the second Intifada, that she calls the Policy of Escalation. She described that when Palestinians threw stones, Israelis shot back with live fire. When Palestinians threw Molotov cocktails, Israelis rode in on tanks. In her analysis, it is as if the fight was proving "who's is bigger?," a fight that the Palestinians lose by definition.

Words become an important battleground as well. Israeli soldiers at checkpoints or on patrol, she suggested, are called "boys" and their actions are associated with being a victim of the cause of protecting Israel and

being loyal to one's friends, rather than as an active perpetrator of violence and oppression. Palestinians of the same age, however, are described as "youngsters." Their cause is revenge. Their idols are martyrs.

Hass, who describes herself as left-wing and opposed to the Israeli government's policies, has been criticized for her writing by both Israelis and Palestinians. When asked why, she said that the settlers hated her reports about their brutality, while the Palestinians leaders don't like her talking about their impotency.

Does Hass believe that her reporting makes a difference? Yes. After Hass published a piece on the mockery of a Palestinian fighter, suggesting that the Israelis use tanks because are too scared of being attacked by fighters, the army started doing foot patrols.

After her formal talk, Hass fielded some questions. She was asked what it is like to live with two peoples (she used to live in Gaza and now she lives in Ramalla). She answered that both societies are people. She remarked that she likes some and doesn't like others, depending on the individuals, but that she tries to bring people from both sides together as friends and this gives her some comfort. ■

First JCC Israeli Dance Party a big hit

Laura Steiner, special to WJN

When I got to the parking lot, I thought there was another event happening at the same time," said Mira, an Israeli dance lover who had come to some previous dance classes. Over 60 people danced together at the first Israeli Dance party at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County on March 16. The party was advertised for all ages, and participants included Julia, a Tappan Middle Schooler, and her exchange-sister Antonia, a student from Germany who is studying at Pioneer High School. Julia's mother Joan was also among the dancers.

"We dance twice a week in Savion," said an Israeli couple, newcomers to Ann Arbor, who just arrived from Israel last week, and were happy to see such a large and vibrant group of dancers. "It was a nice surprise when we found out about the dance party, we felt welcomed to a great community!" Another newcomer, Barbara, who recently moved from Ottawa and had been very disappointed that there was no weekly dancing in Ann Arbor, was delighted to learn about the party and especially about the new weekly dance sessions on Thursdays at the JCC. A large group of dancers also arrived from West Bloomfield and Detroit.

Some of the participants met earlier in the afternoon to practice Israeli couple dances and stayed for the party. Two of the West Bloomfield special guests, Cheryl Feit and Gordon Smith, enjoyed teaching the large crowd a few of the latest Israeli dance hits. Margit, Eileen and Neil, long-time experienced dancers, were happy to learn these recently choreographed dances, which are very popular in Israel.

Tom Starks, an entertaining and experienced instructor of Israeli dance for over twenty years, taught a variety of dances and kept the party moving and hopping. His wife Kathi was

the DJ and also played the drums. Tom began the party with "Od Lo Ahavi Dai" a well-loved classic, aimed at beginners during the first part of the evening. Experienced dancers formed an inner circle and helped demonstrate the steps for the many beginners and intermediate dancers, who formed the large outer ring. The spacious, wood-floored JCC gym was the perfect venue for the event.

The quick beat of new Israeli songs and energetic dances surprised many, who thought that Israeli dance is limited to Hora and Klezmer music. Galit remembered a favorite dance "Veshuv Itchem" and it was played for her during the request time. She met her friends Miri and Iris, and they danced to songs they remembered from Israel and learned new ones as well. "This is not only fun, it's also great exercise," Galit commented. Aaron and Dahlia, who recently arrived from New York, learned several new dances during the evening simply following along, even without instruction.

Among the new faces in the Israeli Dance party were students from the University of Michigan and many from the Au Pair in America program who were invited as part of a special

event, and had a lot of fun experiencing Israeli culture through music and dance. Linda from South Africa arrived with a friend from Brazil expecting to see salsa-style dancing. Linda turned out to be a natural dancer and soon she was dancing alongside Mira and learning the steps and rhythms of Israeli dance. She plans to come to future parties and weekly sessions.

Other dancers, including Annalise from France, Camila from Brazil, and plenty of Ann Arborites, had a great time learning new Israeli dance steps. Jewish Community Center director, Leslie Bash, a strong supporter of Israeli dancing at the JCC, was instrumental in planning the event, and she was thrilled to see the large turnout and watch the community come together to dance.

Israeli dancing is happening every Thursday at the JCC, from 7:30 to 10 p.m., led by Cheryl and Amnon. The next Party, led by Tom Starks, will be held May 4 at 5 p.m. at the JCC. The dance party will cap off a day of Celebrate Israel festivities. For more information, contact Laura at a2rikud@gmail.com or the JCC front desk at 971-0990. ■

AIPAC Conference to be held June 2-4

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

The Democrat and Republican presidential candidates will address the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Policy Conference, which is the pro-Israel community's preeminent annual gathering. The event, to be held June 2-4, attracts more than 6,000 community leaders and student activists from all 50 states, and more than half of the U.S. Senate, a third of the House of Representatives and countless Israeli and American policymakers and thought leaders.

Over three jam-packed days, Policy Conference participants choose from hundreds of informative sessions and participate in the pro-Israel community's largest and most important advocacy day. Among those planning to attend from our area are Harvey and Shelley Berman, Malcolm and Judy Cohen, Mike and Liz Fried, Florence, Carmel, Sander, Tracy, and Marvin Gerber, Bob and Laurel Hern, and Herb and Jane Kaufer. For more information, visit www.AIPAC.com.

Women

Hadassah honors Eileen Thacker with leadership award

Martha Young, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Hadassah chapter will honor Eileen Thacker with the 2008 National Hadassah Leadership Award at their Year End Event on Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The theme for the evening is "Chai Approach to Fashion"-featuring Israeli fashion and food in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary.

Steve and Madeline Flaster will host this special evening of modeling and fashion sales. They have a private clothes buying club for women and work with designers from New York, California, Canada, Italy and now, Israel. The Flasters have generously offered to donate 18 percent of the evening's sales to the Ann Arbor chapter.

Hadassah members of all shapes, sizes and ages will model the clothes. Israeli jewelry will also be featured. Dinner will be a Middle Eastern buffet catered by Simply Scrumptious.

The Leadership Award is given to a Hadassah member who is a role model for leadership among the membership, is active in enhancing their chapter's success, and is involved in the greater Jewish community and beyond. Thacker clearly fits all of these categories. Since joining the Ann Arbor Hadassah chapter in 1995, she has held many board positions, such as membership and programming, and was



Eileen Thacker

chapter president for three years. Thacker will be co-chair of chapter programming again for the 2008-09 year. In addition, she has held Regional board positions and will be executive vice president for the regional board for 2008-09.

Thacker was chair of the Hadassah Regional Fall Conference that was held at the Campus Inn in October, 2007. She began work on the event nearly a year ahead of time and was pivotal to that event's success. She was inspirational to work with, and everyone on the committee and in attendance marveled at her organizational skills and her creativity.

The Ann Arbor Hadassah chapter is proud to present the National Leadership Award to Eileen Thacker—she is the epitome of leadership.

Cost for dinner and the fashion show is \$18, and if you join Hadassah that evening, the cost is \$9. A reservation by May 10th is required. RSVP by sending a check, made out to "Hadassah" to Sue Rebner, 3935 Wynnstone Ann Arbor, 48105. For more information, call Sue Rebner, program chair, at 994-1125 or email MURREB@aol.com. Rides are available by calling Jeanne Berkowitz at 973-8642.

Annual ORT Spring Dinner to be held at Carlyle's Grill

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its Annual Spring Dinner on Monday, June 2, at 6 p.m. at Carlyle's Grill on Jackson Road. The three-course dinner, offering a choice of three entrees, is \$36 per person.

The dinner provides ORT members the opportunity to dine with friends and to recognize the chapter's generous donors, who helped the chapter exceed its Financial Assignment in 2007 by 124%. Non-members are also invited to attend and learn more about ORT America and the Ann Arbor chapter.

The guest speaker will be Beverley Katz, First Vice President of Michigan Region of ORT America. Katz will speak about her involvement with ORT, from South Africa to Southfield. She will also share her experiences as a participant in an ORT

mission to Israel as a Nathan Gould Fellow.

ORT America promotes the understanding and appreciation of Jewish values through a global network of schools and training programs in 56 countries with more than three million graduates to date. Worldwide Jewish and secular communities are strengthened in those towns and cities in which ORT programs exist. The cutting edge education acquired at ORT schools, colleges, and international programs provides marketable skills that enable 270,000 students annually to attain successful careers, become community leaders, and live independently.

Rides to the event are available to those who need them. For more information or to RSVP, contact Linda Sokolove at rhinolin@comcast.net by May 23.

Women's League Strawberry Social

Rachel Schreiber, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Women's League invites its members to be their guests at the first-ever Strawberry Social on May 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Beth Israel Congregation.

The Strawberry Social will feature Nikki Klein's scrumptious spring cuisine and entertainment from Beth Israel Religious School's music director, Wendy Zohar. Zohar will perform with a pianist honoring Israeli composers in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary. In

addition, members of the newly formed Beth Israel Religious School Orchestra will perform a medley of inspirational and familiar Jewish holiday music.

This event is open at no charge to paid up Women's League members. To bring your dues up to date, send \$36 to Florence Gerber, 3060 Overridge, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Anyone planning to attend must RSVP by May 4 to Robin Aronson, 222-0079 or robin@firststriver.com.

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JFS Caregiver Conversations

Thursday, May 22, 2008

6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center

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

This month's session explores the following: When is the right time to consider alternative housing arrangements for aging loved ones? How do you broach that subject, and what are the options? The guest speaker will be **Justine Bykowski**, Housing Counseling Coordinator at the Housing Bureau for Seniors.

Please RSVP to Abbie at abbie@jfsannarbor.org or 734-769-0209.



Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

JFS Annual Picnic at Gallup Park

Friday, June 6, 2008

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

All are welcome to attend. JFS will provide the main course, and everyone will share their culinary delights with a dish to share.

For more information contact Nina at nina@jfsannarbor.org or 734-769-0209.



Ages and Stages of Adoption

Sunday, June 8, 2008

1:00- 3:00 pm

Jewish Community Center

We invite adoptive and prospective adoptive families to come hear **Dr. Jerri Jenista** share her professional expertise about the ages and stages of adoption. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions, meet with other adoptive parents and pick up adoption related materials. **Child care will be provided on site.**

Please RSVP to Lisa at lisa@jfsannarbor.org or 734-769-0209.



Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

Visit www.jfsannarbor.org or call 734-769-0209

Ann Arbor/Nahalal Partnership Strengthened by Visit

Dr. Jerry Rosenberg and Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

A group from Ann Arbor representing the Partnership 2000 (P2K) Community-to-Community committee recently spent five days in Israel meeting and building relationships with their counterparts in Moshav Nahalal. The Jewish Agency, in cooperation with other Jewish groups such as the United Jewish Appeal (precursor to the United Jewish Communities) launched P2K in 1995. This ambitious program began with two major goals: to help Israel develop its priority areas (the Negev, Galilee and Jerusalem) and to create closer connections between Jews in Israel and the Diaspora as a means of promoting Jewish continuity and cohesiveness.

The origins of the Partnership

The Jewish communities of Michigan, led by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, have developed a close partnership with the Central Galilee, including the municipalities of Migdal Ha'Emek, Nazareth Illit and the Jezreel Valley. Since 2002, Ann Arbor has had a relationship with Moshav Nahalal through its funding of Jewish Family Education at the Nahalal Elementary School. During the past year, a new Community-to-Community committee, chaired by Cheryl Sugerman and Eva Solomon, has been engaged in an effort to expand the relationship for the benefit of both communities. The Ann Arbor committee is comprised of representatives from most of the community's educational organizations and was organized with the cooperation of the Jewish Educators Council.

Located in the Jezreel Valley, Nahalal is renowned for being the first moshav, for its unique design, and for being successful in adapting to changes in Israel's social and economic environment. Nahalal, with a current population of about 900, was established in 1921 using a unique physical plan. It is circular in form, about one mile in circumference, encompassing 2,250 acres divided, like slices of a pie, into 75 farms. Unlike a kibbutz, on a moshav there is private ownership of property; but like a kibbutz, members function cooperatively and as a community.

Members of the Community-to-Community committee, Cheryl Sugerman, Eva Solomon, Ruth Freedman and Dr. Jerry Rosenberg, accompanied by Federation Acting Executive Director Eileen Freed, spent five full days in Nahalal and the Jezreel Valley (Emek Yizra'el) learning about the community and working with their Israeli counterparts to develop ways to broaden and deepen the partnership. The Nahalal delegation visited Ann Arbor last October to begin the dialogue on how the objectives of the community-to-community program could be achieved. In Nahalal, home hospitality created excellent opportunities to develop close friendships and to experience how Israelis on a moshav live.

Meeting the founders and connecting with history

The first official program was a meeting with a Senior Citizens group from Nahalal that convenes once every two weeks for breakfast and appropriately goes by the name of the Boker Tov (good morning) Club. This was an opportunity to learn about the early years of the community when conditions were much more difficult than they are today. After break-

fast, the entire party joined together to visit the nearby Ramat David Air Force Base whose jets roaring over the skies of Nahalal are well tolerated by the Nahalalis despite more than a token amount of complaining.

Mt. Shimron, a picturesque hill-top just outside the moshav, is the site of the community's cemetery and a favored place for excur-



Aerial view of Moshav Nahalal

sions and picnics among the trees. The area is also ideally suited for viewing the countryside. The Nahalal cemetery is the final resting place for such luminaries as Moshe Dayan and Ilan Ramon as well as two long rows of young men from Nahalal who were killed in service to their country. The visit was an opportunity to hear more about the early days of the community and, by extension, Israel. We learned that the father of one of our hosts was able to purchase his farm because the previous owner and his son were killed during riots in the 1930s. One of the most interesting stories was that of Nahalal's rabbi, Rabbi Cohen. Although they are reputed to be quite secular, the Nahalalis spoke fondly of the Rabbi and his wife, a Yeminite couple who served Nahalal until his tragic death in an auto accident in the 1960s. The rabbi was engaged to serve the needs of the founders' parents who wanted to maintain their more traditional lifestyle. He was revered for his tolerant nature. Upon his death, and according to his wishes, he was buried in the Nahalal cemetery with the community.

Nahalal is known as one of many early settlements to have played a vital role in protecting Israel during the British mandate and the 1948 War of Independence. It was the site of a hidden ammunition storehouse (sliq), one of many similar ingenious devices for storing weapons in the pre-state period. This sliq evaded British detection, and the weapons stored were essential to Israel's defense during the war. This large underground cellar beneath a cowshed has been converted into a museum; one of several tourist sites located in the moshav.

Nahalal's sons continue to contribute to Israel's defense. Students from the local school serve in elite units, and an elegant and somber Yad L'Banim (memorial to the sons) contains photos and stories of the young men and women who lost their lives in service to

the State of Israel. There was not a dry eye when Eliezer, who lost his closest friend and an uncle shared stories about the many of the young men, many of whom came from the same families. We learned of mothers who lost sons and brothers. The latest casualty is a 21 year old who had just made plans to follow his father and grandfather in their cow

various ages and was very welcoming.

A farming community with outstanding schools

Another of the outstanding features of Nahalal is its educational facilities and programs. The elementary school and regional high school are both organizations through which cooperative programs may be developed. For example, the leadership of Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and Nahalal elementary school met and are working together to develop strategies for deepening the already strong relationship between the two schools. Additional programming is planned to connect students in Ann Arbor's Hebrew and Sunday schools with elementary, middle, and high school students.

The Nahalal regional high school is a modern well-kept facility with approximately 1200 students from Nahalal and neighboring communities. They pursue a wide variety of subjects but emphasize an agricultural curriculum. There are facilities for students to have hands-on instruction in animal husbandry, plant cultivation, organic farming, and dog training. In addition, there are dormitory accommodations for boarding students and programs that involve troubled teen-agers and those with learning disabilities.

Building the Partnership

Throughout the five-day visit, the groups were engaged in serious discussions about how to strengthen the bond between Ann Arbor and Nahalal and how to make the connection meaningful in each of the communities. Projects in progress and further refined include the "Box Project" in which families from Ann Arbor and Nahalal will communicate with each other by sending boxes containing objects, letters, photos, etc., around particular themes throughout the year.

This year's Celebrate Israel festival will include a Nahalal exhibit to give the Ann Arbor community a taste of Nahalal. Two representatives of Nahalal will be in Ann Arbor to share the community's celebration of Israel's independence. Other potential projects discussed include connecting the bar mitzvah classes of Nigun Ha'Lev and the Jewish Cultural Society of Ann Arbor in mutual learning, engaging middle school students in Nahalal and Ann Arbor Sunday Schools through a reading project (e.g. reading and discussing *Night*, a book middle school children in both countries

continues on next page

farming business and was killed in the second Lebanon War in the summer of 2006.

Shabbat in Nahalal

Shabbat provided a completely different and unexpected picture of Moshav Nahalal. We enjoyed a Kabbalat Shabbat service with the seven-year old Humanistic congregation, Nigun Ha'Lev (song of the heart). The congregation was founded by a bright, young native-born Israeli rabbi by the name of Reut Hammer and her husband, Yair (chair of the Nahalal community-to-community committee). Her ordination took place under the direction of the late Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills, Michigan. The service, however, did not resemble those that he conducted. Under Rabbi Hammer's influence it has taken on a distinctly Israeli character with a great deal of singing, all in Hebrew of course, accompanied by a guitar and incorporating traditional sections from the Siddur (prayer book).

The following morning's Shabbat service was held in the community's synagogue. It was a traditional service led by Nahalal committee member, Abir Glantz, who serves as cantor, and youngyeshiva students who trek from the nearby town of Migdal Ha'Emek each Shabbat as a service to the small congregation. The congregation, although small, was comprised of moshavniks of



Community-to-Community committee co-chairs Cheryl Sugerman and Eva Solomon with some of Nahalal's many four-legged members

Letter from Sderot

Ben Freed, special to the WJN

Ben Freed is spending the year in Israel as a participant in Young Judea's Year Course. This is the most recent of many updates he has sent family and friends during the year. Year Course brought participants to Sderot just one day before terrorists infiltrated the border and killed two civilians.

Israel is not a big country. It took all of 45 minutes to drive from where I live in Bat Yam to our destination in Sderot. Sderot is a town of about 19,000 people (about 5,000 less than lived there eight years ago) situated less than one kilometer (about half a mile) from the Gaza Strip in southwestern Israel. For the past seven years it has been subjected to over 8,000 rocket and mortar attacks.

Until 2005, Israel had a presence in Gaza including both civilian communities and military patrols. In the summer of 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew all civilians and military from the Gaza Strip. Our group spent the first part of the day visiting with civilians who were withdrawn (or as they prefer "expelled") from the Gaza Strip by the Israeli government. Many of them are still living in temporary housing ("caravillas") in communities that range from 20 to 500 families. Nitzan, the community we visited, was one of the largest with about 500 families. Many of these families are still living in temporary housing because the Israeli government has yet to compensate them fully for the land they were forced to give up in Gaza. Others are waiting until the entire group receives compensation so the community can relocate together. These people's homes were razed by the army after they left, but the buildings the army left standing (including synagogues, greenhouses, and community buildings) were burned, looted, desecrated and utterly destroyed by Palestinians who could have used the green houses and community buildings to their benefit.

It was a great debate in Israel, and continues to be a bitter dispute as to whether the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza was a good idea. Israel hoped that with some of their land free of Israeli interference, the Palestinians would begin to set up a national infrastructure, including joint ventures with the Israelis such as factories, a power plant, and other sources of income, jobs, and economic viability. Instead, the Palestinians took Israel's leaving as a sign of weakness, and when Hamas ran in the 2005 elections as the

ones who "kicked the Jews out of Gaza," they won an overwhelming majority of the votes in the Gaza Strip. The idea that violence works has created a dangerous precedent that continues to cause problems for Jews living inside Israel.

Sderot is a town within Israel by any map (unless you happen to be using a Palestinian textbook, in which case Israel does not exist), and yet is the only city in the western world forced to live every day under threat of rocket attacks. When the "Tzeva Adom" (Color Red), sirens go off, residents and visitors have 15 seconds to get to the nearest shelter or re-enforced room they can find. (To see a great movie about these 15 seconds check out <http://youtube.com/watch?v=hUBX8ROqLwE>) This fact, combined with the fact that there are up to 50 rockets a day, over 4,000 since 2005, and even 300 during the "cease fire" with Hamas (better known in Sderot as the "we-cease-fire") has created a virtual ghost town. There are still 19,000 people living in Sderot, but even on a beautiful sunny day, we could count on two hands the people we saw walking on the sidewalks outside as we drove through the town. The fear that these people are living in every day is truly palpable.

The simple fact of the matter is that this situation is inexcusable and should not be allowed to continue. It is a miracle, truly a miracle that there have still been fewer than 10 people killed by these rockets despite the fact that there has been an average of three attacks a day in recent weeks. Do we really need to wait until the kindergarten classroom is full when a Qassam hits it before we do anything? Unfortunately the old truism "if it bleeds it leads" is all too true when talking about the western media's coverage of the situation in Sderot. If Detroit was being bombed daily from Canada, or home-made Mexican explosives paralyzed the citizens of San Diego and El Paso, the US would not hesitate to respond. And yet every time Israel strikes back at the people who cause its citizens so much pain and hardship, it never does so without significant condemnation from those outside Israel.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." This Edmund Burke quote is a favorite of high school seniors on college essays, and for motivational speakers the world over, and not without good reason. The silence of the world is taken for acquiescence by the terrorists. Granted, the residents of



Ben Freed

Gaza are living in troubling conditions, caused in no small part by the failure of their leadership to prioritize improving economic conditions over attacking Israeli civilians. However, any steps taken by Israel to pressure Gazans in order to drive home the point that terrorism does not work are not applauded by the world, but often harshly condemned. Not only is Israel feeding and supplying electricity and water to a population intent on her destruction, but when that aid is decreased, the world quickly jumps to blame Israel, not those responsible for these necessary steps. In a cruel trap, Israel is essentially financing the attack on her own civilians.

There are only three alternatives to the policy of collective punishment such as lowering the supply of electricity and food allowed into Gaza, and none of them are particularly appealing. One is air strikes against the people responsible for these attacks. Israel already carries out such attacks in Gaza, but only against people who are about to, or have just fired a Qassam missile or a mortar. The problem with carrying out attacks on missile suppliers or manufacturers is that they are cynically (and strategically) located in civilian buildings. Hamas uses the Palestinian residents of the Gaza strip as human shields (a war crime) to prevent Israel from being able to attack its militants and weapon supplies. Many Gazans go to sleep every night in houses that contain bombs, missiles, or militants who know that if they surround themselves with enough women and children, Israel won't attack.

The second option is a ground invasion of Gaza. Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005, and

there is nothing Israel wants to do less than go back in. Unofficial intelligence estimates are that a ground invasion of Gaza could result in over 500 Israeli soldiers killed and over 1,000 wounded. Additionally, hundreds of Palestinians would be wounded and killed. This is not an attractive option, needless to say, and it would be used only as a last resort. However, if rocket fire increases and more and more civilians are injured or killed, it is only a matter of time before Israeli public opinion demands an invasion to stop the targeting of innocent civilians.

The third and final option is to uphold the status quo; to continue to hope that the rockets will miss, and to ignore the fact that the missiles are getting larger, stronger and more accurate. This is not a tenable option for the people living in Sderot, something must be done, the world cannot, must not remain silent.

Here are some practical suggestions for how you can help the people of Sderot:

- Go to www.sderotmedia.com and learn more about what is going on. The site has pictures, videos, and articles in Hebrew and English to help you better understand the situation.
- Send that link to a friend, (even one) so that they also begin to appreciate what daily life is like there.
- If you're Jewish (or even if you're not) you can contact your local Jewish Federation to see if they've started a special fund for Sderot, if not, set one up.
- Lobby your Congressmen and Senators and alert them as to what is going on in Sderot, if they already know about it, ask why nothing is being done.
- Visit <http://connectionsIsrael.com/donate/sderot-holiday-gift-basket> and buy a gift basket for a Sderot family to help make their Passover a little bit happier.
- Lastly, simply raise awareness about the terrible situation in which these people are living. These are people like you and me who get up in the morning, go to school, or have jobs, except they don't sleep as well at night because they know that if that siren goes off, they only have 15 seconds to reach safety. ■

To learn more about Freed's experiences in Israel, contact him at benfreed@comcast.net.

continued from previous page

read), and developing a relationship between the Boker Tov Club and seniors participating in JCC senior programming.

Other Partnership 2000 programs

The group also visited other P2K programs. In Migdal HaEmek, founded in 1953 and located between the mountains of the Galilee and the Jezzeel Valley, and throughout the P2K region, significant effort is being made to bolster its English language programs after tests showed students lagged behind their peers in the center of the country. English is crucial for educational and economic advancement in Israel.

The Detroit P2K Steering Committee, along with its Israeli counterparts, has developed and funded an important, multi-faceted program including teacher and principal training and enrichment resources. The group

also had an opportunity to visit the absorption center at Kibbutz Merhavia where newly-arrived Ethiopian Jews are taught Hebrew and integrated into Israeli life and to meet with and learn from Israeli P2K volunteers.

Shalom u'lihitaot (see you soon)

For their last evening in the Galilee, the hosts took their Ann Arbor guests to a historic site in Beit Shearim, a short distance from Nahalal. It is thought to be the burial site of the Rabbi Judah haNasi (Judah the Prince) who compiled the Mishnah. This visit was a reminder that Israel is not only the modern land of the Jews, but also the home of our ancient heritage. The Mishna is a compilation of the oral law, a commentary on the Torah and the basis of Halacha and around which the Talmud is based. All of our values are derived from these sources and are at the core of what it truly means to be a Jew, whether religious or



Sign welcoming the delegation at the Nahalal Elementary School

not; whether Israeli or American.

A very real bond of friendship and affection was created during this visit between the two delegations. From the Ann Arbor side, a deeper appreciation of what life is like in the Galilee

was gained. It is obviously not the same as living in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. The attachment to the land is evident and the ability of the Israelis in this area to adapt to the changes in local and world economies are impressive. This is not an area in which tourists spend significant time, and the essence of Israel is seen as it really is, not obscured by artifact. Each of the participants in this visit left with a deeper understanding of life in Israel and how we in America are related to this country of our people. ■

For more information about P2K and the Community-to-Community project, contact Eileen Freed, 677-0100 or eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org.

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The many meanings of Shavuot

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Although the holiday of Shavuot will not be celebrated until June, I am choosing to write about the holiday this month for two reasons. First, because Shavuot is a holiday which deserves significant thoughtful preparation; and secondly, because right around the time of next month's deadline, we'll be preparing to celebrate our daughter's bat mitzvah. So, with all of the details and the anticipated emotional affect of seeing Mickie on the *bima*, I'd rather write this month.

Shavuot is one of the three festivals, along with Pesach and Sukkot. We know it as *z'man matan torataynu*, the Time of the Giving of the Torah. The Rabbis identified this holiday in this way and saw it as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. However, the Biblical origin of the holiday is as Hag Habikkurim, the Festival of the First Fruits. On this day, the farmer brought the first fruits of the harvest to the Temple, gave them to the priest and said: "My father was a wandering Aramean," a text from the book of Deuteronomy which traced the history of the people from the time of the Patriarchs through the arrival in Canaan. The first fruits were the gift to God for God's salvation from slavery, and the fulfillment of the Divine promise to bring the people into the land.

After the destruction of the Second Temple and the scattering of Jews beyond the borders of the Holy Land, the tradition of the first fruits obsolete; in order to continue the tradition of observing the holiday, the Rabbis developed the concept of connecting Shavuot with the giving of the Torah. Shavuot became a time to celebrate serious Torah study.

Among the other traditions for the holiday, the Rabbis established the custom of the reading of the Biblical book of Ruth during the festival. This lovely, charming book provides another opportunity for making this holiday a

special time through study.

The story of Ruth is well known. Ruth, the Moabite, chooses to stay with her Israelite mother-in-law Naomi after the death of her husband. Her statement of loyalty to Naomi: "Wherever you will go, I will go; wherever you stay, I will stay; your people will be my people; your God, my God," is rightly considered to be one of the most beautiful statements in the entire Tanach.

For Ruth, the impact of this statement was that she remained with Naomi and eventually was married to Boaz, then was identified as one of the ancestors of King David. But for the Rabbis of the tradition, the impact of Ruth's statement is that she became identified, a bit anachronistically to say the least, as the first convert to Judaism.

Clearly, there was no real concept of conversion in Biblical times; but in later years, the Rabbis looked at the statement of Ruth and read into it a reference to traditional conversion. There is a beautiful midrash which claims that when Naomi heard Ruth's desire to stay with her, she began to tell about the traditions of Jewish law (again, anachronistically). Naomi stated that the law forbade attending pagan celebrations, and Ruth responded: "Where you go, I will go." Naomi said that the laws of ritual purity needed to be observed, and Ruth responded: "Where you sleep, I will sleep." Ruth then ended with a statement of love for the people of Israel and for God.

The importance of this midrash goes far beyond any suggestion that Ruth actually converted to Judaism by this statement. If you combine this thought with the fact that we read it on Shavuot, it reminds us that our allegiance to our people is best expressed by a shared commitment to the values and the tradition of Torah.

This is not to say that each of us must observe each of the laws of Torah in the same way to be considered part of the Jewish people. In fact our strength, I believe, is found in our diversity of approaches to understanding and observing the traditions of Judaism. But what unites us is our willingness to look back at the event at Sinai—however we understand it, however we picture it, whatever objective truth we attach to that event—and embrace it as the moment in which we became a people.

Eighteen years ago, fourteen years before the Red Sox finally achieved redemption, I wrote an article that appeared in Moment Magazine about the connection between baseball, and specifically the Red Sox, and Jewish philosophy and tradition. One point that I made concerned the foul lines in baseball, which emanate from one spot and continue to widen as the distance from home plate increases.

My point then was that what unites us is that we can look back to a point in our past at which we all stood together. The fact that we grow further from each other is immaterial, as long as we can look back to that spot and know in our hearts that what we are doing is in reaction to that great moment in which we stood together.

And, as is implied by the Rabbinic traditions regarding Ruth, it is incumbent upon us that we stand together with Jews of all perspectives and backgrounds including, most notably, those who have chosen Judaism. We are honored and we are bettered by their presence and active involvement in our communities.

This year on Shavuot, let us look back to that moment at Sinai and let us commit ourselves to loyalty to our people through our commitment, as Ruth expressed it, to our tradition and to our extended family of Jews. ■

Torah portion of Emor and the power of speech

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Torah portion that we will read of the Shabbat of May 10 is called Emor, and it contains a lesson for every Jew. "Emor—Say" the Torah commands every Jew. The power of speech entails a certain responsibility we must always be aware of every time we open our mouths.

The Midrash explains that all of God's utterances are "pure statements." Whatever God says comes into being, unlike the statements of a fleshly king, who may promise the world but not necessarily fulfill his pledge. God is the essence of truth, and His utterances endure forever.

As every Jew is intimately connected to God, his statements share this same quality of endurance. Every Jew must therefore be extremely careful when he speaks, and re-

frain from saying anything negative about his fellow Jew.

The Torah portion of Emor teaches us to speak only positively about other Jews. As Maimonides puts it, "It is a mitzvah [commandment] to love each and every Jew...therefore, one must speak [only] of his praise."

Maimonides writes that a Torah scholar "extols the virtue of his fellow and does not denigrate him." Every Jew is similarly obligated to say only kind things about others, and not, God forbid, speak evil of his fellow man.

Even if we see a Jew doing something wrong we must always judge him favorably and try to understand what caused him to sin. We must never defame his character or mention his transgression.

Just as God's utterances are "pure," abid-

ing forever, so too do our positive statements about other Jews exert a lasting and powerful influence. The very act of praising another Jew serves to reveal the innate good that is hidden inside him, and causes him to want to live up to the words of praise.

Emor is read during sefirat ha'omer, the counting of the omer. These days are a period of mourning for the 24,000 disciples of Rabbi Akiva who passed away because they did not treat each other with the proper respect.

Counting the omer reminds us to stop speaking about other Jews in an unfavorable light. Similarly, Emor reminds us to speak favorably about our fellow Jews.

"Emor!" the Torah enjoins us. Say only good about another person! ■



Talmudic Ethics Course

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

Sooner or later, it happens to almost everyone. You face a tough ethical decision, and you have to pick a course of action that will let you live with yourself. You feel like you are lost in a maze of possibilities, unsure which courses of action will lead you out of your turmoil, and which will leave you in a dead end of regret and self-recrimination.

Traditionally, Jews have looked to the Talmud to help them unravel tangled instincts. "The simple fact is that life is complicated. Most days people hesitate and agonize over difficult decisions," says Rabbi Goldstein of Ann Arbor Chabad House. "The Talmud recognizes that ethics is complex and subtle, and it knows that complicated questions cannot be answered with a simple yes or no. While the technology may have changed over time, the rabbis of the Talmud have grappled with the same kinds of ethical concerns that we worry about today."

This May, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute launches "Talmudic Ethics," an innovative approach to facing life's most challenging dilemmas. Participants need no prior knowledge of the Talmud and no formal legal training. There are no prerequisites other than an open mind. Talmudic Ethics tackles big issues like abortion, euthanasia, freedom of expression, and fair business practice. Students will learn how the best Jewish minds struggled with hard choices, and trace their search for satisfying resolutions. And they will discover how Judaism offers a moral compass to help them find direction through the maze of life.

This new course will be offered at the JCC and Chabad House for six weeks on Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting Wednesday night May 21. "The course costs \$75 per person and \$120 for a couple, says Rabbi Goldstein. But we are so sure that people will enjoy it that we invite them to attend the first lesson free, with no obligation."

Recognizing the personal nature of the gut-wrenching issues this course will address, Rabbi Goldstein concluded that, "we can't promise to provide you with all the answers. But we guarantee you'll think about the questions in a whole new way."

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI's classes and programs are offered at over 300 locations in more than 200 cities nationwide, as well as in international locations (including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela). JLI classes have been attended by nearly 75,000 people since its creation in 1998.

Every course offered by JLI is synchronized so that lessons are offered concurrently in all locations. This unique feature has helped to create a true global learning community. ■

To register for this course, visit www.myJLI.com. JLI courses are presented in Ann Arbor under the auspices of Ann Arbor Chabad House.

Course syllabus

Lesson 1: My Brother, My Self

A parent in the Holocaust struggles to decide whether to ransom his son from certain death, because he knows that the guard will seize another Jewish boy in his son's stead. Explore under what circumstances people may protect their own interests first, and when they must sacrifice themselves rather than bringing harm to another.

Lesson 2: The Ebbing Flame

Families facing the imminent death of a loved one grapple to make end-of-life decisions that impart the final moments with dignity and respect. They wonder when medical intervention is morally required, and when it is excessively intrusive. Must life be preserved at all costs, or can it be permitted to gracefully ebb away?

Lesson 3: The Right to Life

A woman must decide whether to abort a fetus so that she can provide a marrow transplant for her dying sister. How can we balance the interests of the yet unborn fetus with the interests of those who have already entered this life?

Lesson 4: Words That Wound

What happens when a playwright portrays a public figure in a negative light? Can the playwright be sued for slander and character defamation? Is there special protection accorded artists so that they may be free to create? Are their artistic statements held to different standards than assertions made in the press or in the context of regular public discourse? Or are all people equally accountable for their hurtful words?

Lesson 5: The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth

When truth and justice conflict, which value takes primacy? May a lawyer lie or withhold knowledge in order to ensure a just outcome? Must one trust that the system will ensure an appropriate outcome, or is it the responsibility of those in the legal profession to bend the rules so that a fair outcome is reached?

Lesson 6: Penny for Your Thoughts

Both Jewish and secular legal systems have rules outlawing unfair competition, or "encroaching on another's boundaries." In the modern world, the boundaries of these rules are tested by considering the degree to which ones thoughts are protected.

Can one own an idea? Are patents and copyrights concepts that are recognized by Jewish law? See how ancient cases can have some surprisingly modern applications.



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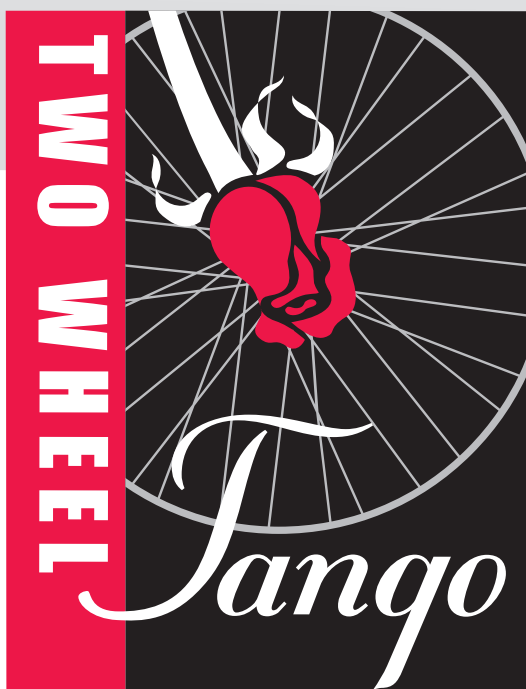
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Congregations

May events at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day) Community Program

Beth Israel Congregation will host a community wide Yom Hazikaron program (Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism) on May 7, at 7 p.m. in the Beth Israel Sanctuary. Malli Holoshitz is the chair of this one hour event. Yom Hazikaron is an Israeli national holiday. Yom Hazikaron is observed on the fourth day of the month of Iyar of the Hebrew calendar, always preceding the next day's celebrations of Israel Independence Day, Yom Ha-Atzma'ut. (This year the Yom Hazikaron begins on the eve of May 6). This day honors veterans and fallen military personnel of the Israel Defense Forces and other Israeli security services who died in the modern Arab Israeli conflict, including the pre-state days, as well as civilians murdered by acts of terrorism—over 22,000 people who were killed in the line of duty, and over 1,600 civilian terror victims. Scheduling the memorial day right before the independence day is intended to remind people of the continuing price paid for independence.

Israeli Archaeologist discusses the "Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Mysterious Tunnels"

As part of Washtenaw County's Celebrate Israel @60, Beth Israel will feature Israeli archaeologist, Oren Gutfeld, Ph.D, on Sunday, June 1, at 7:45 p.m. This is Erev Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) and Israeli snacks will be served. Gutfeld will present "The Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Mysterious Tunnels." (See article on page 3.)

T-Shirt Shabbat

Beth Israel's annual T Shirt Shabbat will take place on Saturday, May 31, starting at 9:30 a.m. At this informal service, congregants and visitors are encouraged to wear one's favorite camp, college, school or travel

T Shirt. Children going to camp this summer will each be given a "goody bag" filled with things which can be used at camp, compliments of the congregation. Contact the congregation if your child will be attending.

The service will be followed by a sum-
mery Kiddush luncheon.

Spring Retreat for Young Families

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

Tot Shabbat

This month's Tot Shabbat (for children through age five and their families) and Minyan Matok (for children in kindergarten through second grade) will be held on Shabbat morning May 10 at 11:15 a.m. There will be no Tot Shabbat at Beth Israel on May 24.

Shabbat Yoga for adults

The free adult Shabbat yoga class taught by Allison Stupka is held at 9 a.m. on the third Shabbat of each month. This month's class will be Saturday, May 17 in room 15 on the lower level.

content by authorized individuals. Another Havurah member and web developer, Joel Goldberg, fine-tuned and implemented the vision using an open source content management system called Joomla. According to Goldberg, "Open source content management system sounds like a mouthful. But what using Joomla as our website tool really means is we get tremendous flexibility for this new AARH site. Especially key are the easy updating of the information and photos and the convenient discussion forums for registered members."

Steinmentz adds, "Among other things, we hope the enhanced AARH website will serve as one very friendly entry point for anyone interested in learning more about what the Havurah offers. We invite everyone to visit www.aarecon.org and to take our poll about their favorite Jewish holiday."

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah meets at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County on the second and last Fridays of the month and warmly welcomes visitors to all of its activities. For more details, visit www.aarecon.org or phone 913-9705. ■

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Yom Hashoah and Shabbat Service

Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. This meaningful Shabbat service is created by Generations After, TBE's group of relatives of Holocaust Survivors in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. All are welcome.

Mitzvah Day Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Registry Drive

Saturday, May 3, 9 am to 3 p.m. Sign up for the blood drive by visiting www.givelife.org and entering in the code 'tbe.' Any questions, call 665-4744 or email Marty at mludington@albion.edu.

Kol Halev and High School Shir Chadash concert

TBE Choirs will present "Songs of Israel at her 60th" with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This event is Sunday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater. Ticket prices are \$12 for general seating and \$72 reserved orchestra seating and afterglow with Maestro Arie Lipsky. To order tickets call 665-4744, or buy tickets online by visiting www.templebethemeth.org.

"Reflections on Israel at 60"

Discussion with Bob Schwartz, Senior Policy Advisor for the Consul General of Israel in Chicago. Friday, May 9. Services are at 7:30 p.m., preceded by an-Israeli-themed Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m. Cost TBA, RSVP by calling 665-4744.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot adult study

"Wars of Self Defense: S'drot and Missiles from Gaza" with Rabbi Robert Levy, Sunday, June 8, 9 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. Come for the discussion, have some cheesecake.

Families with young children

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

Tot Play Group

The Thursday group has moved to Wednesday mornings from 9–10:30 a.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. Contact Ginger for more information, or if you plan to attend, email ginger.darrow@gmail.com. Open to the community.

Mom's Night Out

Saturday, May 17, 6 p.m. Join us for dinner at Paesano's on Washtenaw. RSVP to Julie Berson Grand at jbgrand@umich.edu by May 12. For moms of babies and tots, open to the community.

Tot Shabbat every week

Join every week for Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and Shira (Song Fest & Service) at 6:45 p.m. The next adult catered dinner will be on Friday, May 9. Tot Shabbat and Tot dinners will go weekly through May. Beginning in June, there will be Shabbat Services at 7:30 p.m. until the fall.

Twenties & Thirties

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

TNT Mitzvah Day Project at Alpha House/IHN Saturday, May 3, 1 p.m. Help with Alpha House's outdoor spring clean-up. Wear work clothes and closed-toe shoes. Register by contacting Julie in the temple office, 665-4744 or jhaines@templebethemeth.org. For more information, contact Sharon Gourjdi, sgourdji@umich.edu. Meet-up for the Jewish Film Festival in May & Top of the Park in June. Watch the email for more details. To be added to the TNT email list, contact Jeffrey Fogel, fogel@umich.edu.

Movie Tuesdays

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

A Life Apart

Tuesday, May 20, 1–3 p.m. *A Life Apart* explores the ways in which the Hasidim have withstood the pressures and temptations of contemporary society to maintain their unique community in America. It presents a rare insider's view of Hasidic life, including holiday celebrations, the role of rebbes, and the embrace of God in all things.

Saturday morning Torah study

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

Jewish Hikers event

May 18, 1 p.m. Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. All adult couples, singles and children are welcome. The hikes take place on a monthly basis on different trails in the local area. All skill levels are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. Each hike lasts approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For further information, contact Eli, 883-9522 or Eve, 546-9645, or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com. For more information, visit http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan.

AARH launches improved website

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

What events are upcoming at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)? What is the Havurah anyway? And what exactly is Reconstructionism? What is the Jewish Progressive Giving Fund? Where can photos taken at recent AARH events be seen? What are some of the favorite recipes of AARH members? These questions and many more are answered on the newly enhanced AARH website at www.aarecon.org.

The enhanced Havurah website launched in mid-March, and has already garnered much admiration and usage. According to Danny Steinmetz, AARH board chair, "It is exciting! Now we can get more done with less effort and we can do a better job of letting others know about us."

Paul Resnick, Havurah member and professor at the University of Michigan School of Information, conducted an in-depth needs analysis and developed an initial blueprint for an enhanced website. Resnick was a strong proponent of using an approach that allows for collaborative development and maintenance, including easy updating of website

Gan Yeladim gears up for fall

Esther Goldstein, special to the WJN

Happy Fourth Birthday! Chabad of Ann Arbor's Gan Yeladim Playgroup is growing up right along with its students. Like all four-year-olds, "The Gan" takes on new challenges this September, with an Enrichment Program designed to stimulate the minds, bodies, and souls of its young scholars, ages 20 months to five years. For the mind—art, to develop dexterity and an appreciation of color and form. For the body—ballet and yoga, to refine movement, develop strength, and encourage serenity. For the soul—music, to cultivate expression through sound and rhythm. The Enrichment Program is offered by enrollment to the Playgroup classes.

Gan Yeladim's mission is to welcome preschoolers into the world of knowledge with interactive, purposeful play and socialization. The instructors, with years of experience in classroom and youth programming settings, ensure a positive experience for both the child and the family. Enrollment is limited to maintain a four-to-one student-to-teacher ratio.

Jewish values and traditions are the core of a program that includes an introduction to *mitzvot* (commandments) such as *brachot* (blessings) and *tzedakah* (charity) the weekly Torah portion, and Jewish holidays. Hands-on projects like baking challah for Shabbat and making *graggers* for Purim, and Jewish songs, reinforce these themes. The children enjoy an afternoon snack together, as well as lunch provided from home. Parents are encouraged to participate both inside and outside the classroom. Many families have become devoted members of our Ann Arbor Jewish community as a result of their child's experience in "Gan Yeladim." As with all of Chabad of Ann Arbor's programs, Gan Yeladim welcomes families of all levels of religious observance and background. ■

Registration for the Gan Yeladim Playgroup and the Enrichment Program for 2008–2009 is currently open. For more information, contact Esther Goldstein at 995-3276 or esther@jewmich.com.

Jewish Community Center youth activities

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Girls' Night Out and Boys' Night Out

On Saturday, May 3, the JCC will host two events for elementary school students: "Girls' Night Out: An Enchanted Evening" and "Boy's Night Out: Travel to the Future."

For the Girls' Night Out event, the JCC lounges will be transformed into a beauty parlor, dance hall, and concert venue. After primping, singing, dancing, and eating dinner, participants will settle down to watch *Enchanted*, the delightful new movie about a fairy tale princess who gets transported into the real world.

The JCC's first ever Boys' Night Out will feature the fantastic movie, *Meet the Robinsons*. Participants will play futuristic games in the gym, dream up cool inventions, and enjoy some delicious food before turning out the lights for showtime.

The Kids' Night Out program is open to JCC members and non-members in grades K-5. The cost is \$20 for JCC members (additional siblings cost \$18 each) and \$24 for non-members (additional siblings cost \$20 each).

JCC to host first ever Teen Game Night

On Saturday, May 17, the JCC will host its first ever Teen Game Night for students in sixth grade and up. The JCC lounges will be transformed into a fun-filled arcade with games such as Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Mario DDR, Wii Sports and more. A pizza dinner will be provided and a movie will be shown at 8:00 pm for those who are ready to give their fingers and legs a rest from gaming.

The Teen Game Night will be held at the JCC from 6:30–10 p.m.. The event is open to

JCC members and non-members in sixth grade and up. The cost is \$20 for JCC Members (\$18 for additional siblings) and \$24 for non-members (\$22 for additional siblings). Registration in advance is required.

Camp Raanana to hold "Bowl With Your Counselors" event

On Sunday, May 18, Camp Raanana will hold a "Meet the Staff" event at Colonial Lanes bowling alley (1950 South Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor) from 3–5 p.m. This event will be a great chance for returning, new, and prospective camp families to meet the Camp Raanana staff, learn more about camp, turn in registration forms, and have fun! Bowling and snacks will be provided free of charge. Plus, campers who bring a friend who registers for camp for the first time will receive \$10 off a session of Camp Raanana.

Camp Raanana is the Jewish Community Center's summer day camp for children entering grades K-8. Camp Raanana is dedi-

cated to providing a nurturing environment for children to explore new interests, learn important skills, gain self-confidence, interact with other Jewish youth, and have fun. The camp dates for summer 2008 are June 23–August 15, plus a 9th week field trip program from August 18–22. Families that register by April 30 will be entered into a raffle to receive one free week of camp. The final registration deadline is June 9.

Camp Raanana is located on its own beautiful private beach front at Independence Lake County Park. The facility includes a large covered pavilion, a swimming beach, playground structures, and access to ball fields, volleyball courts, nature trails, a spray zone, and more. The camp programming includes activity sessions (such as arts and crafts, nature, sports, music, and Judaics), instructional swim lessons, general swim time, weekly special events or field trips, and Friday afternoon Shabbat celebrations. The JCC provide round trip school bus transportation from the JCC to

Independence Lake, and also offers morning and afternoon extended care options.

A downloadable brochure and registration form are available at Camp Raanana's website, www.campaanana.com. ■

For additional information on JCC youth programs, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.



Calling high school students: Come get the inside scoop about Hebrew for high school

Milka Eliav, special to the WJN

High school students interested in taking Hebrew as part of their studies can do so at Keshet with professional language instructors. It is the only program in town where high school students can take Hebrew and earn high school credit for it. At Keshet, students meet twice a week in a small group of their level; through a variety of activities they work on reading, writing, listening and speaking Hebrew, and bring it to life in many creative ways.

Keshet students come from all walks of the Ann Arbor community, giving students

the opportunity to meet new friends and widen their social circles. The teachers at Keshet are committed to the success of their students, and have much experience to draw on. Pauli Weizman, Gilla Wiesel, Ilan Rosenberg, and Malli Holoshitz all work hard and do a great job of creating an engaging learning environment for their students.

Keshet will hold its annual open house class on Monday, May 12, from 6:30–7:45 p.m., at 2010 Washtenaw Avenue. The program opens its doors to any high school age student

interested in Hebrew; students can later decide if they wish to take Keshet as a for-credit class or not. Fun activities are scheduled for the open house, so that students of any level can enjoy the open house and the Keshet experience. As on every Monday night, all are invited to join Keshet students for pizza at 6 p.m. ■

For more information, contact Keshet coordinator Milka Eliav at milka@umich.edu.



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HDS students invent compound machines that ease daily living

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Fourth graders at the Hebrew Day School entered the world of mechanical engineering with their new innovations to make daily tasks just a bit easier. Their compound machines used levers, wheels, axels, wedges, inclined planes, pulleys, and screws to accomplish the task at hand. They were aware of the possibility that their creations could revolutionize the world! After all, once upon a time, clothing and dishes were washed by hand.

"Why get out of bed in the morning to turn on the light?" wondered Miriam Hamermesh. Instead, while in bed, set a ball in motion down an inclined plane. When it reaches the lever, the lever will hit the light switch which turns on the light. Miriam's creation, The Light-a-Pull 12,000, costs \$20 with \$5 for shipping and handling. To order now, call 995-5569.

Bucket to Bucket 2000 is for those lazy couch potatoes who want the bucket of ice for their drink brought right to them. "Beats having to carry it," claims Sarah Cooke, who created the pulley system that brings the bucket right to you.

Berries shouldn't be touched with bare hands; everyone knows that, especially chefs. The oils and dirt in your fingers might ruin the pure flavor. Leah Weingarten's Maneuvering Mover 7K resolves the problems. Using a wheel, axle, pulley and inclined plane, the machine picks up the berry and places it right into your mixing bowl. Cost is \$1.50. One dollar off if you order before March 23! Just in time for Passover.

Stepped to perfection. That is the promise

of Tea-Rrific, an invention created by Avishag Eliav that will pour the water for your cup of tea, and dip the tea bag in and out until the tea is perfectly suited for your tastes. Tea-Rrific even has a safety rail between the tea pot and cup, a no-spilling feature for the klutzes in our midst.

Food preparation must feel rather daunting for the fourth graders, because there were two more inventions to make cooking easier. For \$15, including shipping and handling, you can purchase Leah Kaplan's Cracker 5000 which eliminates the mess of cracking eggs! The machine pulls up the egg onto a ramp, sets it in motion down the ramp into a bowl and which sets off a hammer that comes down to crack the egg. Maya Burgards's Nut Cracker 8000 lets you have fresh walnuts (no more pre-packaged stale ones) by cracking them for you, and sending the nut down a tube into the serving bowl, and the shells down another tube into the garbage.

Another chore made easy is doing the laundry. Abigail Hirshbein is thinking about all those



Avishag Eliav's Tea-Rrific

parents who don't like touching dirty laundry. She created a Laundromatic 3000 machine which will dump the dirty laundry into the washing machine without any need for handling!

Fourth graders are not only household-bound. Some are thinking of spring and ways to make outdoor chores a little smoother. Hava Kaplan created Birdfeeder H.K. which uses an axle to push seed out of a hole into a lever which

then flips the seed into the feeding bowl for the birds. Birdfeeder H.K. comes in three sizes; small, medium, and large. Danielle Turner created Speedy Plantastic Planter 5000 which, with one easy push, digs the hole, plants the seed, waters it, and covers it with soil. "It makes your garden happy," says Danielle of her product.

And then there were fourth graders who were thinking of more ways for children to have fun. Two inventions, the Three-Layer Labyrinth created by Eva Rosenfeld and Pachinko Madness by Elana Leflein, challenge the game player to maneuver the ball through a maze into

a hole. In one game you have to manipulate a handle; in the other you shoot a steel ball with a spring.

A little fantasy doesn't hurt anyone. Asaf Pollock created Reloading Catapult to automatically shoot out balls, just in case someone needs to destroy a medieval castle. Cowabunga!

Morah (teacher) Eileen Nadler reports that "the students were excited and asking about this project early in the fall, way before we began our unit. Once they understood the scientific concepts on which machines are based, they were looking forward to applying what they knew." Prior to starting machine construction, the students were required to think of a need not met by present-day machines, and to write a proposal specifying design and function. To help ensure the complexity and quality of the projects, their proposed design had to include at least two simple machines.

Where did all the parts and supplies for the students' projects come from? There were a variety of sources, including Morah Eileen Nadler's huge tupperware box of bits and pieces, people's basements, neighbors' homes, a lot of visits to Ann Arbor's Scrap Box, and hardware stores.

Which machines would you like to purchase? Contact any one of the fourth grade Hebrew Day School students. They are sure to make a special deal for you. All products are guaranteed for safety. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or visit www.hdsaa.org.

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Youth

HDS students help the community

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Fifth Grade students at Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor received three mini-grants from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation's Youth Council, grants which promote volunteerism and youth philanthropy. The grants were given to the students to buy car seats for homeless families at the Alpha House shelter, to donate needed items to Ronald McDonald House, and to take a trip to the fire station to learn about fire safety.

When the fifth graders heard about the Youth Grant Program from their teacher Carol Gannon, they first researched some needs in the community and then divided up into small groups to write the grants, which required them to describe the idea and create a budget. "My group," said fifth grade student Danielle Lehavy, "decided to jump in and help the Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House helps families with sick children. We did our research on their website and got some information. Then we contacted them, and they helped us find their wish list."



HDS students sing and dance for the seniors

The children bought tooth brushes and tooth paste, umbrellas, fleece blankets, toilet paper, canned pasta and Styrofoam carry-out boxes. "They will have a good feeling that someone cares for them," says Danielle. "We know that if we were at Ronald McDonald House, we would want the same feeling." In addition to receiving funds to pay for the cost of the items, the students also received the money they requested for transportation so they could deliver the items themselves.

Hebrew Day School students had once before received a Community Foundation Youth Council grant to create a "Comfort Station" in the school hallway for visitors and seniors to sit and talk. With the grant, they bought two chairs, a rug and a table (with a chess set) which are used daily by students, parents, the Jewish Cultural Society on weekends, and visitors to the building. The Comfort Station is situated in front of the windows that look out to the Shelly Volk Memorial Garden.

Community service is also an important part of the education of the other HDS students. On Purim day, Friday, March 21, HDS third, fourth, and fifth graders visited the seniors at the Glacier Hills Retirement Center. They came in costume, sang and danced for the seniors, and gave out hamantaschen that they had baked for them in school. There were a number of additional musical performances by two fourth grade recorder ensembles, a fifth grade string ensemble, and the school's Klez Kids Band.

"You brought the seniors a lot of joy," said Glacier Hills chaplain Ruthann Bourlier. ■

NEW PROGRAMS!

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Sixty years of successes, despite Israel's craziness

By Uriel Heilman

(JTA) — Being in Israel in the 21st century, one often wonders what Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, would think of this modern-day state if he could see it.

The malarial swamps of prestate Palestine have been replaced by rapidly growing cities with glitzy shopping districts, carefully landscaped parks and six-lane highways that run between high-rise office buildings and limestone apartment complexes.

The agricultural pioneers, the halutzim who struggled to sow the seeds of the new nation-state armed with triangular hats and simple hoes, have been succeeded by sunglasses-wearing settlers in the West Bank's Jordan Valley who have installed high-tech drip-irrigation devices to hydrate hybrid tomatoes for export to markets in London, Paris and New York.

And the nation whose birth defied the odds in a war of independence against invading Arab armies to the north, east and south has become a regional military superpower with an assumed nuclear arsenal, a crack air force and peace treaties with two of its four Arab neighbors.

Agricultural settlements have turned into sprawling cities, the 1948 population of roughly 800,000 has swelled to more than 7 million and — perhaps most important of all — the Jewish state has become home for Jews from Russia, Europe, Iran, Ethiopia, Argentina, Egypt, North America, India and too many other places to count.

Sixty years on, Israel has much to celebrate, having raised a vibrant, diverse and occasionally bewildering society virtually from scratch.

In all likelihood, Herzl would not even recognize the place.

"I think Herzl would be so perplexed," says veteran Israeli journalist Yossi Klein Halevi, a senior fellow at the Shalem Center, a conservative think tank in Jerusalem. "He wouldn't know in

what proportion to be thrilled and disappointed. Israel bears no resemblance to what Herzl imagined, conceiving a Jewish state from the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire."

Herzl envisioned a socialist utopia that would combine the best of European culture and Jewish ingenuity. In his famous work "Alt-neuland," Arabs hardly merit mention.

Halevi says Herzl would find Israel's radical Jewish diversity most perplexing.

"The East-West mixture, the racial mixture of Israel, Ethiopian culture, Moroccan music — all the elements that make Israel so unpredictable and so interesting are elements Herzl couldn't conceive of sitting in Vienna in the beginning of the 20th century," Halevi says.

In many ways, however, Herzl's dream of a Jewish state has been fulfilled.

Israel has secured its place among the nations even though its leaders bemoan the existential threat posed by Iran and the demographic threat represented by the Palestinians. A state like any other, Israel boasts metropolitan cities, concert halls, theaters, centers of science and learning, skyscrapers, a stock exchange and a thriving nonprofit sector.

Of course, as a state like any other, Israel also has poor people, failing schools, government corruption, run-down neighborhoods, traffic, drug problems and criminals.

And after 60 years, Israel still faces basic questions of existence and character most countries have resolved long ago: Can the state be both Jewish and democratic? What will the final borders of the country look like? Where, exactly, is the balance between religious and secular, Arab rights and Jewish character, change and preservation, future and history?

Sixty years on, the battle for Israel's soul is far from over.

Tel Aviv leftists debate right-wing settlers

about whether the final borders of the state should encompass the West Bank or run along the pre-1967 border. Secular yuppies from Herzliya lobby to be able to buy pork products and shrimp in their local supermarkets while Knesset-sanctioned inspectors slap fines on malls that open on Shabbat.

Russian Israelis say Israeli immigration policies unfairly exclude their non-Jewish relatives, while yeshiva rabbis warn that an influx of foreign laborers and non-Jewish immigrants erode the state's Jewish character. Arab Israelis from Jerusalem ask why their Palestinian cousins from nearby Bethlehem are barred from visiting them while a Jew from Chicago can become an Israeli citizen simply by showing up at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv with a letter from her rabbi.

These are the growing pains of a state that 60 years after its founding still hasn't quite decided what it wants to be.

Yet even as they struggle with these basic questions, Israelis are continuing to build the state.

One would be hard-pressed to find another country in the world that has experienced as rapid growth over the span of just six decades. That the growth has occurred amid frequent wars, the constant scourge of terrorism and other daily challenges has made it all the more remarkable.

And despite the apparent lack of natural resources in Israel — the country has no oil reserves to tap, no verdant breadbasket and a relatively small population — Jewish ingenuity has made Israel a center of innovation.

Israel has more companies listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange than any other outside the United States. The world's leading technology companies, including Intel, IBM and Microsoft, maintain extensive R&D facilities in Israel. The country has the highest proportion in the world of university graduates per capita. Outside of

Europe and North America, Israel leads in the number of patent applications.

Israelis invented the video camera that fits inside a pill, giving doctors a new non-invasive way to view their patients' insides. Four young Israelis invented the first instant-messaging technology, known as ICQ, which was later sold to AOL. The disk-on-key, now almost universally used in place of diskettes, was created in Israel.

"Israel has the highest concentration of talent in the world," says Moshe Kaveh, the president of Bar-Ilan University.

Despite the worrisome headlines about Iran, Hezbollah's resurgence along the Lebanon border and Hamas' growing power in the Gaza Strip, Israel has become an increasingly stable, normal country. In 2007, terrorism-related deaths in Israel fell to 13 — the lowest level in years.

The question for Israel isn't so much whether people will be able to live in the country in 10, 20 or 30 years but whether they will want to.

After 60 years of focusing on survival, Israel must now address its internal challenges, Israelis say, particularly the ones that threaten national unity: the religious-secular gap, the Arab-Jewish gap, the rich-poor gap, the right wing-left wing gap.

This, essentially, is how Israel has developed throughout its six decades — always in a state of emergency, under the threat of wars or terrorism, and with the great questions of society still unanswered.

Yet all the while, Israelis have forged communities, launched companies, started rock bands, built cities, gone to cafes and raised their families. This perseverance — the carrying on of daily life, despite all the craziness in the country — is what makes Israel at 60 a story worth telling. ■

Israelis not in partying mood as country celebrates 60th

By Dina Kraft

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel is turning 60, but few here seem in the mood to crack open the champagne. Israelis are still gloomy about the country's perceived failures in the 2006 war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, and every day brings fresh reminders that no solution has been found for the growing problem of cross-border rocket fire from the Gaza Strip.

"I don't see Israel as a failure, but what makes this anniversary less of a celebration is that we cannot proclaim a happy ending," veteran Israeli journalist Nahum Barnea, a columnist for the daily Yediot Achronot, told JTA. "We did not reach a point that we can say, 'OK, the period of state building is finished and now we can live happily after.'"

The contradictions of life here can be painful. Israel has an outwardly robust economy that produces high-tech giants but also a record number of people living in poverty. There is a feeling of security that has come with a decline in terrorism-related deaths, but also a widespread resignation that peace remains a distant dream.

All this, to say nothing of government corruption, one of the problems most troubling Israelis.

"I don't feel very festive," said Shaanan Street, the lead singer of the popular Israeli hip-hop band HaDag Nachash, shortly before taking the stage at a Tel Aviv club Tuesday.

"Israelis are not too happy. They are worried instead about the next war and how they are going to finish the month."

In a country where one in three children lives in poverty, there has been grumbling about the \$28 million the government has budgeted to mark the country's 60th birthday, even though some of the money is earmarked for educational and infrastructure programs.

Meanwhile, many say, the list of celebratory events is a bit of a snooze.

Aside from the bigger-ticket items like local fireworks shows, a huge dance party in Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park, and sound and light shows, scheduled events include a concert titled "Military Orchestras Playing Peace" and the display of the world's largest Israeli flag, measuring 656 feet high and 320 feet wide. The week after the anniversary, President Shimon Peres is also hosting a conference with a star-studded guest list on the future of the Jewish people.

Israel at 60 is a modern-day Sparta and Athens, Barnea says, walking a fine line in its dual existence as both a garrison state and a thriving cultural and business locale.

"It's not easy to live successfully in these two worlds at the same time," Barnea says.

Gidi Grinstein, a former Israeli negotiator who runs an independent think tank in Tel Aviv, the Reut Institute, agrees.

The national mood, he said, exists in "tension between exuberance and concern because Israel is a country that offers very polarized performances on a number of levels."

"Let's start with socio-economic," he said. "According to certain indicators, we are world leaders in research and development, and ranked in the Top 10 in the world in terms of business and technology. And at same time, other sectors are badly underperforming, like education and law enforcement and the entire government structure, which is in crisis."

Grinstein, who advocates structural reform of the government to make it less beholden to sectarian interests, asks which Israel will prevail in the next 60 years, "the Israel of excellence or the Israel of mediocrity?"

A recent Haifa University poll of Israeli Jews found their faith in state institutions at an all-time low. Fewer than half those surveyed, 48 percent, said they have faith in the Supreme Court, 15 percent said they had faith in the police and just 9 percent said they had faith in the government.

Mitchell Barak, who heads Keevoon, an Israeli research firm in Jerusalem, says recent surveys conducted by his firm show Israelis are more concerned with corruption than with threats from the Arab world.

On Tuesday, former Israeli President Moshe Katsav turned down a plea bargain offer that

would have required him to admit to sexual misconduct in exchange for the dropping of a possible indictment against him on more serious charges, including rape. Katsav now may face those charges and go on trial.

"We are seeing a significant rise in people who've had it with their elected officials," Barak said.

Ben-Dror Yemini, a columnist for Ma'ariv, says Israelis do not know whether the government has viable plans to deal with the country's ongoing threats, both external and internal.

"They don't have the slightest idea about what is really going on," he said.

Eti Doron, a toy store owner in Tel Aviv, says a weariness has descended upon Israelis.

"There is a feeling of being down. People are not sure what is happening with the country," she said. "Socialism has disappeared, the corruption is worrisome and our leaders are power-mongers."

A nearby grocer, Danny Horvitz, sounded a different note as he packed bags at his small store. "Overall I feel positive," he said. "There is corruption here but overall things are good. Israel will be here in 60 years and it will be even stronger. There will be a deal by then with the Palestinians."

Horvitz paused before adding, "That is what I hope for, at least, and that things will be good for both us and them. Otherwise, neither one of us will be here. ■

Israel's centrality hinges on identity, technology, politics

By Sergio DellaPergola

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel at 60 faces three major challenges: identity, technology, and politics.

The future Israel will have to strive and struggle to maintain a credible role as the cultural and spiritual center of Jewish peoplehood. Demography will continue to play a fundamental role here, but the main challenge will be whether Israel can strengthen internal and transnational Jewish cultural bonds to preserve some consensus among the Jewish people.

Jewish religion and identity will remain central to how Israel sees itself and Jews worldwide perceive Israel. But to be viable, Israel's Jewish identity must be attractive to an array of Jewish constituencies, each of which will view Israel as a place that, permanently or occasionally, is home.

On the technology front, Israel will have to expand its already remarkable facilities to become, even more than now, a world center for research and development capable of offering its creativity and services to Jews and others beyond the limited space of its local market. Israel must join the world's most developed societies.

To achieve this, Israel will have to overcome the gaps distinctions that persist between greater Tel Aviv and the country's peripheral areas, and limit the deepening socioeconomic differences between the country's richest and poorest.

On the political front, Israel will require leaders that can take the country to new horizons. Many Israelis today feel that our political leaders do precisely the opposite, slowing down the major transformations we need to make in such areas as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel-Diaspora relations, the relationship between religion and state, public investment versus privatization in the economy, and more active participation of private individuals in civil society.

Politics in Israel will have to be reinvented so it again becomes a driving force for the fulfillment of Jewish dreams. The overarching issue of peace and normalization of ties with Israel's neighbors is crucial to this because the final outcome of the Middle East conflict will result either in the fulfillment of dreams or disaster.

These three major challenges share something in common: urgency. Every day that passes without progress brings potentially irreversible negative consequences that threaten the very survival of Israel and the Jewish people.

The way we respond to these challenges ultimately will determine the future course of the Jewish people—and Israel's fate at its 120th birthday. ■

(Sergio DellaPergola is a professor at the Hebrew University and a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute in Jerusalem.)

Doves launch effort to take on pro-Israel establishment in D.C.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — After years of on-and-off policy wars with the pro-Israel establishment, liberal Jewish advocates for a more aggressive U.S. posture in Middle East peace-making are taking the fight to the street.

K Street, Washington's lobbying mile, that is. A conference call last month was set to launch J Street, a lobbying outfit and political action committee backed by some of the biggest names in the dovish pro-Israel community. Until now, organizers of J Street have been unwilling to discuss their plans in detail. But in a recent interview with JTA, executive director Jeremy Ben-Ami said the goal is to take on the pro-Israel giants, particularly the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, where they are the most powerful: in Congress.

The new group's launch video takes aim at several prominent non-Jewish conservative supporters of Israel, as well as Morton Klein, the president of the Zionist Organization of America, suggesting that their criticisms of the current peace process do not represent the views of many American Jews.

Ben-Ami says the new lobby will work the halls on Capitol Hill, where he asserts that the majority of lawmakers are sympathetic to the pro-Israel, pro-peace position and doing more to support Palestinian moderates, but are afraid of the political consequences of speaking out.

J Street wants to show members of Congress that the dovish view commands support among "longtime donors, new donors, leading people in their community," said Ben Ami, who has spent at least two years trying to launch various incarnations of the project.

The group is ready to go with a projected annual budget of \$1.5 million, about half of which is on hand, and a staff of four. That's a fraction of the nearly \$50 million AIPAC spends—and that doesn't even include the totals from AIPAC's recent legacy fund-raising program.

Despite the funding gap, Ben-Ami insists the new lobby will play as tough as its counterpart and suggested consequences for lawmakers who don't step up. The idea, he says, is to balance the voices urging lawmakers not to line up behind dovish measures with those of other supporters who favor aggressive efforts to promote Arab moderates and peace talks.

"It's so they'll hear, 'Please do sign on because if you don't, I'm going to be upset,'" Ben-Ami said. The idea is that this kind of call from a major donor—or potential donor—could nudge lawmakers off the fence.

Such differences already are part of Washington public life, at least as far as policy debates go. Americans for Peace Now, the Israel Policy Forum and Brit Tzedek v'Shalom are go-to spots for those seeking out the dovish Jewish view.

The goal is to take on the pro-Israel giants, particularly the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

Over the years, each has carved out a niche: the Bush administration has come to use the Israel Policy Forum — inviting its leaders to top briefings — as a means of reminding the pro-Israel establishment that it recognizes more than one Jewish voice. Brit Tzedek has an activist base it says numbers about 30,000 ready to blitz lawmakers with calls. Americans for Peace Now brings notable Israeli doves to Capitol Hill for briefings, and behind the scenes has played a role in tempering hard-line bills.

However, legislation is where the rubber meets the road in Washington, and in this area the groups' success has been limited by AIPAC's years of credibility and influence on the Hill.

How the dovish groups define success is indicative of their relative weakness: Their officials will note the significant role they played, for instance, in rolling back what they considered the more obnoxious elements of last year's Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act, which in a defeated hard-line version would have blocked the United States from dealing with moderates in the West Bank, including Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

In fact, the groups — in some cases officially, in others on background — actually opposed the overall bill, believing restrictions aimed at inhibiting Hamas terrorists were overly punitive to Palestinian civilians and also helped sow radicalism. Yet the measure passed overwhelmingly in both houses of Congress.

The problem, Ben-Ami said, is that the

existing dovish groups have failed to convince lawmakers that their approach is "a politically feasible position."

J Street will attempt to change that dynamic, rallying to its advisory board not only leaders of the dovish triumvirate but veterans of more mainstream and establishment groups.

They include Sara Ehrman, the doyenne of Jewish Democrats and a former AIPAC board member; Sam Lewis, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel affiliated with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Alan and Debra Sagner, veteran United Jewish Communities fund-raisers; and Hannah Rosenthal, the former executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the community's public policy umbrella.

Rosenthal, now an executive with a Wisconsin nonprofit health-care provider, says that as JCPA boss, she was constantly fielding queries from constituents about why the word "peace" seemed to be missing from so much pro-Israel activism.

"The story that comes to mind is when we were pulling together the Israel solidarity rally in April 2002," she said. "It was so important, and it was a wonderful experience participating and organizing the rally," held during the bloodiest period of the second intifada, when suicide bombings were almost routine.

"But what I remember most is hearing afterward from various communities, 'Where was the word peace? Where is the voice that talks about negotiations, about diplomacy?'" AIPAC declined to comment about the J Street launch; insiders said it was watching the new group with interest but was not overly concerned. They also noted that AIPAC has backed peace efforts when Israel and the United States have endorsed those efforts, most recently and notably the Bush administration's diplomatic push launched last year in Annapolis, Maryland.

AIPAC has demonstrated a readiness to heed forceful Israeli calls in favor of bolstering Palestinian moderates. Last year, for instance, it backed a congressional letter from the Bush administration urging an increase in funding for the Palestinian Authority.

Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of

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Israel

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Major American Jewish Organizations, says he is doubtful that J Street is going to have a significant impact on U.S. policy.

"I don't think that it affects policy," Hoenlein said. "I think AIPAC enjoys very broad-based support."

Klein, of the ZOA, said he was "pleased to be shown" in the J Street video "opposing the policies of this group which I think are naive, simplistic and mistaken."

While members of J Street's advisory board include the leaders of a number of dovish organizations, none of the groups is affiliated with J Street because its explicitly political agenda conflicts with their nonprofit status. Separate from the lobbying outfit, J Street also will set up as a political action committee to raise funds for candidates.

Ben-Ami, a Clinton administration domestic policy adviser who has gone on to counsel a number of Democratic campaigns, says ambitions are low for now:

"On the PAC side we'll have serious endorsements in no more than a handful of races," he said. On the lobbying side, "no more than a couple of dozen offices" will be targeted for swaying over to the dovish side.

Lobbyists who now seek to roll back AIPAC-backed legislation count themselves fortunate to garner 40 votes in the U.S. House of Representatives and about a dozen in the Senate.

J Street organizers insist their organization will not always be in competition or conflict with AIPAC and others in the pro-Israel establishment.

"It's not an institutional competitiveness," Ben-Ami said. "It has nothing to do with anti- or pro- any organization."

Still, his pronounced commitment to taking on the establishment marks a change from the pleadings of cooperation when JTA first reported on nascent attempts to set up such a group 18 months ago. At that time, a number of figures involved in the effort opposed direct confrontation.

Ben-Ami subsequently led a failed effort to roll the dovish groups into a single body. Institutional differences proved insurmountable, and there were philosophical differences as well with the Israel Policy Forum, which resists identification as "dovish."

Of the three groups, only the IPF's top leaders are not represented on the J Street advisory board, although some of its funders are members.

"I think there is a place for a PAC such as

the J Street project to represent the views we have espoused," said Seymour Reich, IPF's president. "I hope it succeeds."

Privately, some staff at the existing groups wonder about possible duplication. They note that their role has included lobbying and are concerned that too many voices may be making the same point on the Hill.

But Diane Balser, a former Brit Tzedek executive director, says J Street will complement the work of her group and the others.

"The larger movement needs a PAC that can direct support for people running for office to strengthen us as we strengthen them," said Balser, who currently directs Brit Tzedek's advocacy committee.

Ben-Ami says the project has no one single major donor, and hopes to duplicate successes such as MoveOn.org and the Barack Obama presidential campaign in building up small donor bases. Nor does it have offices — Ben-Ami says he has been setting up J Street from Internet cafes.

Significant donors to the startup include Alan Solomont, a Boston philanthropist and a leading Obama fund-raiser; Alan Wurtzel, the Circuit City mogul who is also involved in the Israel Policy Forum; the Sagners; Fran Rodgers, a major Democratic donor who founded WFD, an employment consultant; and Gail Furman, a New Yorker who funds Democratic activist groups.

Off the record, leaders of established Jewish organizations are watching the group with interest, but also are anxious that it included figures who have stirred controversy. Among them are Eric Alterman, a media critic who has been lacerating in his criticism of AIPAC, and Eli Pariser, the MoveOn.org founder whose group's strident anti-Iraq war activism has spooked some centrist Democrats.

Notably absent is George Soros, the billionaire philanthropist identified with confrontational liberal politics. His interest in Ben-Ami's earlier efforts drove off mainstream Jewish donors.

Solomont told JTA that focusing too closely on who is and who isn't on the list was narrow-minded.

"This is too difficult and dangerous a problem to be left to a minority of folks to decide what the right course is," he said. "We have shut off certain kinds of debate, and that's not in our interests as Americans and as Jews." ■

(Staff writer Ben Harris in New York contributed to this report.)

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Arts & Culture

Revival of old-world Jewish music

By Grant Slater

MOSCOW (JTA) — Holding a music box up to the microphone, Daniel Kahn asks his audience to stand at attention and spins the crank to play a tinny rendition of “The Internationale,” a socialist workers’ hymn laden with meaning in this post-Soviet capital.

With a heave at the bellows of his marbled accordion and a stomp of his boot, he then sounds the whistle for the night shift of the International Klezmer Union’s chapter in Moscow.

A two-hour peal of Jewish musical folklore follows, the lyrics spewing from the stage in four languages: English, German, Yiddish and Russian.

“When I’m with the Russians, it’s always a party,” Kahn says. This was the final sprint of the fourth annual Moscow Yiddish Fest, a weeklong festival of music of the Jewish Diaspora that brought together a global cast of performers to capitalize on a resurgent interest in Jewish music here.

They played to packed houses: concert halls during the day, clubs at night.

The festival was founded by Anatoly Pinsky, an educational scholar and adviser to the Russian Ministry of Education. Originally called Dona-Fest, after the Yiddish band Pinsky created, the festival has grown every year. It also has gained the support of the Federation of Jewish Communities, Russia’s largest Jewish umbrella organization, and the Moscow city government.

When Pinsky died in December 2006, his daughters and community members kept the festival going. With its growing stature, the festival enables musicians from around the world to experience the distinctive Muscovite brand of Yiddish music. “Many of our musicians were going outside the country to play at other festivals,” said one of Pinsky’s daughters, Zoya Pinskaya. “We wanted to bring them here to see what we have. Now it’s a tradition.”

The festival was comprised of three gala concerts, two in concert halls and one at a Jewish community center. Seminars and academic discussions on Yiddish music also were featured throughout the week. Kahn played two shows in posh Moscow nightclubs with a rotating lineup of festival participants.

At the final concert hall performance, more than 50 musicians packed the stage for a farewell performance conducted by Frank London, a trumpet player from the New York-based Klezmatics.

“When I started showing up here years ago, they would stand up there with a tape recorder and sing in broken Yiddish,” London told JTA. “Now it’s more ingrained into their consciousness.”

As with other facets of Jewish culture, klezmer music suffered under the communist era. London said it took 10 years from the fall of the Soviet Union for an organized klezmer scene to emerge in Moscow. It has been getting closer to its pre-Soviet roots ever since.

Psoy Korolenko, a prolific poet and musician who was involved at the festival’s beginning, said this gathering and others like it provide an opportunity for Klezmer musicians to bond. “These conventions create intentional communities,” Korolenko said. “Without this the music would stop.”

With his wild, gray-flecked beard and mane to match, Korolenko was Kahn’s right-hand man throughout the weekend, singing backup and loosely translating off-color jokes for Russian-speaking audiences.

On the concert hall stage last month Koro-

lenko and Kahn stood out from the staid, Yiddish choral acts and classical clarinet solos as they tried to convince the audience to sing along to a tongue-in-cheek tune about a weeping Russian cosmonaut. The audience wasn’t interested.

But under the low lights of an upscale Moscow nightclub the next night, Kahn’s brand of klezmer found a more receptive crowd. Ebullient Israeli expatriates, Russians and even a Chabad chasid hiding behind sunglasses and a baseball cap sang along with fervor.

The set was at turns bawdy and contemplative, swinging from an up-tempo Russian dance tune to a plodding treatise on Zionism. Kahn’s music and lyrics also reveal an interest in leftist Jewish politics, evident in the group’s most recent homage to a mythical klezmer union — klezmer bund, in German — and the music-box rendition of the socialist anthem.

“I was a bit nervous playing it in” the former Soviet Union, Kahn said, “but everyone there seems to love it.”

Kahn, 29, raised in Detroit and now living in Berlin, is a central player in Germany’s klezmer scene. When he was 18 years old, he bought an accordion from a pawn shop in Ann Arbor, took it home and learned to play “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

Since then he has led a nomadic life. After graduating from the University of Michigan, where he studied theater, Kahn lived in New Orleans and New York before moving to Berlin. Along the way he has performed in Jewish theater, organized folk festivals and played in lounge acts. Kahn also found a gateway back to Jewish culture through klezmer, literature and language, he said, gradually exploring his own Jewish identity.

In Berlin, he and his band recorded an album of what he calls “alienation klezmer music”—a combination of radical Yiddish tunes, American gothic music and punk cabaret that draws on his travel experiences. Kahn said that translating lyrics from Yiddish and German to English has become a major interest and source of inspiration for his listless music.

“Home is a tricky thing; home is people for me,” he said. Yiddish “has a sense of alienation. The language is loaded with prejudices and misconceptions. It’s very rich.”

The music scenes in Berlin and Russia are strongly intertwined. Berlin has a vibrant underground music scene built on the foundations of Russian groups, Jewish and secular, who frequently make the trip between Moscow, St. Petersburg and Berlin.

Among them is Naekhovichi, a Jewish group with a shuffling lineup that provided the rhythm section for several performances at the festival. At home with blues riffs and dance beats, the group is comprised of mostly secular players, but they chose to chase their grandfathers’ Jewish roots in Odessa with their music.

Fyodor Mashendzhinov, the drummer for Naekhovichi, said his four-year-old band plays two types of gigs: synagogues in Russia and club shows in the underground klezmer scene.

Lately, he said, the two worlds have started to merge as Jewish music has become a more stable part of the community.

“It’s very funny to me to see Chasidim and older people in the clubs listening to us,” Mashendzhinov said. “Usually you can only see these people in synagogues, but we are playing this music and it is their cultural background.” ■

At Jewish festival in S.F., artists make music — literally

By Sue Fishkoff

BERKELEY, Calif. (JTA) — Aaron Alexander brought a traditional Druze melody from Mount Meron. Jewlia Eisenberg brought a poem by Palestinian nationalist poet Mahmoud Darwish. Mariana Sadovska brought Ukrainian calling songs and Carpathian wedding music, while Avi Avital brought a Macedonian folk tune he'd heard at a festival in Safed.

These four holed up last month in a basement room near the University of California campus here with five colleagues—all of them innovative, world-class musicians—to create a new piece of Jewish music to be performed as the finale of this city's 23rd annual Jewish Music Festival.

Sadovska brought her harmonium, John Schott brought his guitars and balalaika. Avital had his mandolin, Jessica Ivry her cello, Stuart Brotman his bass fiddle and Glenn Hartman his accordion and trombone.

They worked, sequestered, with the music, lyrics and ideas they had gathered from their respective homes in the Bay Area, New York, Italy and Germany.

Singing in five languages, they mixed klezmer with Ladino, threw in Eastern European melodies and songs from the Moroccan souk, and sprinkled it with blues from the Mississippi Delta and cutting-edge contemporary jazz.

Valiantly trying to harness the creative energy was trumpeter, bandleader and composer Frank London, a member of the Grammy Award-winning group the Klezmatics, entrusted by festival director Ellie Shapiro with the task

of whipping the project into shape.

For a week they tinkered, scribbled and jammed while downing lots of coffee, and on March 29 at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, to rousing applause they presented "Cyclical Rituals (Part I): Spring," a concert in nine, 10 or possibly 11 parts.

This extraordinary undertaking is believed to be the first of its kind — a Jewish music festival in the United States sponsoring a group of musicians to come together to create a new piece of Jewish music.

Shapiro, who with London invited the participants and raised the money for their week-long artistic incubation as part of her position at the JCC of the East Bay, says she came up with the idea while attending the Krakow Jewish Cultural Festival in Poland.

Participating musicians after their concerts each night jam in local clubs into the wee hours. The sessions are organized by the festival, but the collaboration is driven by the artists.

"It was a convergence of my thinking that music is about building community," Shapiro said. "I got the idea of doing an artist residency, bringing together people who understand and respect traditional music, and are also innovative as musicians and composers."

Each of the nine had worked with at least one other member of the group before, and some were longtime friends. But they had never worked together as a group until last week.

"Each of us has a different relationship to what Jewish music is," London said. "I asked

people to bring in stuff, and we built on the themes of spring, ritual, cycles, the ark, without specifying what any of that means."

The collaboration began March 24 when the musicians shared what they had brought and started to build on each other's contributions.

"It became a winnowing process," London said. "Some things dropped out, sometimes we took the text from one person and put it in someone else's piece."

By the end of the week they were still writing new parts and had yet to play the entire piece.

Late Friday morning the group was rehearsing a difficult passage in Avital's "Macedonia," a fast-paced folk tune. Avital strummed furiously on the mandolin and Alexander was keeping time on the hand drum while Brotman plucked the strings of his electric bass. Hartman was having trouble with the accordion solo, his brow furrowed with frustration.

The group stopped playing.

"You're fired," Schott deadpanned.

Avital explained what he wanted from the piece—each musician took charge of his or her own contribution—and the rehearsal began again. This time Schott, on electric guitar, lost his fingering.

"I don't think I'm going to get that," he muttered. "I'm just not going to get it. I fire myself."

Later that afternoon, members of the group expressed varying levels of readiness for the next night's show.

Asked to rate his preparedness on a scale of 1 to 20, Schott put his own level at the high mark

of 20. But he added, "I'm always ready, I don't aim for that kind of perfection. I'm always ready to pick up my guitar and play for you, for me, for whoever's there."

Somehow the show came together on Saturday night. The pieces segued seamlessly one into the other, the lighting was flawless and the sound system worked.

Showered and shaved, their shoes back on, the musicians played as if they had known the music for years — as if they had actual scores in front of them instead of hastily compiled handwritten notes.

Although many in the audience didn't fully grasp what they were watching, those who knew and had seen the work in its various stages of undress were moved by watching the birth of a new piece of Jewish music — a birth supported by Jewish communal institutions and donors who understood the importance of financing Jewish cultural creativity.

These were folks who gave the money and then backed off, trusting in the artists to invent something of meaning.

The group already has been invited to perform the piece at this summer's Krakow festival, and Shapiro hopes to repeat the project next year — if she can raise the money again.

"For a very small organization to take on such an undertaking was very ambitious," she said. "I'm glad we did it. It's time that the Jewish world acknowledge the cultural figures that are sustaining us." ■

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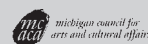
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Sharing spirituality through chanting: the music of Eyal Rivlin and Danya Uriel

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Temple is the husband and wife duo of Eyal Rivlin and Danya Uriel. The young couple creates and presents Hebrew chants, short phrases from Jewish texts that they have set to music. Danya and Uriel presented a program in Ann Arbor in March. Danya's singing and Eyal's guitar work were certainly beautiful and masterful, but the evening was more than merely a concert. All of us in the audience were invited to chant along with them, and occasionally even to dance. It made for a deeply moving, meaningful, and spiritual experience. A few days later, over coffee at Sweetwaters, we talked.

WJN: Was there a lot of music in your families?

Eyal: There is a phrase in the Jewish world that I love, "shetaltel nigunim." Literally it means, "You have sown within me the seeds of nigun." A child says it to his parents or grandparents. I feel that the seeds of nigun have been planted in me.

We just played in Israel. My grandfather was born in Germany and had to flee Nazi Germany. He came to Israel, Palestine at the time, in 1937. He was about 14 or 15 when he left, on his own, with a youth movement. In the middle of our concert in Jerusalem two months ago he gets up and tells this story, how he came with just a backpack and a guitar. I never even heard this story before. Soon after he arrived, he said, he needed to trade his guitar for a rifle, to protect the kibbutz that they were starting. He eventually became a general in the Army and served many, many years and the rifle was his instrument. And then, he says to me, "Eyal, you have traded your rifle for a guitar." (Because I also served in the Army.) Such a cycle. Enough of war. Let's make this our instrument of peace.

Danya: I come from an American family. I grew up in Colorado. Both my parents, very musical. My father was going to become an opera singer. He studied at Julliard. Both my parents were always singing in the car, singing while we cleaned the house, singing all the time. Music was always a part of my vocabulary. It's always been the way I expressed love and prayer. But I don't have formal musical training. This was not my intention necessarily, to be on this path.

WJN: What did you study?

Danya: I'm a massage therapist. I also got my degree in sociology from Wellesley. I think my parents and grandparents had high hopes that I would go on to be a doctor, but I was always drawn to the alternative healing realms, which, in a roundabout way actually brought me to chanting because of the healing power of music.

Eyal: I picked up the guitar around age twelve. That was my cathartic instrument. I played a lot of rock 'n roll...

WJN: I could hear it! (Laughter)

Eyal: I played the Tel Aviv rock scene. I toured. You can't really say, "I toured all over Israel," because Israel is so small, (laughter) but I played in a few bands, recorded. Then, around age 25, I went to India and started studying sitar and Indian music. I kind of opened to world sounds. Acoustic guitar be-

came my passion, and playing for an audience, with an audience, the more interactive, participatory kind of music, which feeds me so much.

WJN: How did the two of you meet?

Danya: We met in Boulder. I came back to Colorado to go to massage school about eight years ago, and Eyal came to Boulder to study at Naropa University and get a master's in transpersonal psychology, also eight years ago. We moved to Boulder from opposite sides of the world in the same week, but didn't meet for several more years. He was on his path, I was on mine, and we met through the Jewish community. There was a Rabbi in Boulder, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, and she was putting together a chavurah, a group of young Jews, as a think tank, to discuss, "How can we make Judaism more appealing to the younger generation?" She called together some people who she thought might have answers to that question, and that's where we met.

Eyal: Out of that think tank we started experimenting, "What are our ways to make meaningful practice?" Music has been a big part of my life, a big part of Danya's life. We started spontaneously collaborating to create chants that we could work with in our group. Then the bigger community said, "Oh, can we use your chants?" And then it was, "Oh, can you lead for the high holidays?" And all of a sudden, from our living room, ten people, then a hundred people, then we're leading for the big high holidays, and before we knew it we had a record contract.

Danya: It happened very organically. It wasn't that we set out to say, "We want to do this." It was more, "How do we pray?"

Eyal: One of my teachers is Rabbi Zalman Schecter-Shalomi. In one of the meetings with him, we said, "You know, Reb Zalman, there just isn't a meaningful Jewish practice there for our generation." And he said, "Yes. And you need to create that which you're seeking." (Laughter) It was kind of shifting the responsibility, shifting the weight from, "feed me, feed me," to "go and create that which nourishes you." It was very empowering. He gave us the...

Danya: ...the seal of approval.

Eyal: Right. Go and do that, because obviously we're not the only ones who are hungry and thirsty for it.

Danya: To hear that from a teacher who is eighty something, really having his blessings to say, "This is a living tradition. You don't have to carry on with the way that I did. You can draw from that and see what's relevant to you and your generation." It was a big shift for us. You don't have to reject Judaism and say, "This is dead for me. I'm going to

go to kirtan where I can chant, or go to yoga class." Of course, I do all of those things also, but it wasn't like, throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Eyal: He has a beautiful way of posing that question, kind of as a challenge and an invitation. He asks you, "How do you Jew?" Using Jew as a verb. "How do you do your Jewish practice?" It shifts the paradigm from saying, "this is what Judaism needs to be," to saying, "How do I make my Jewish practice?" For our generation, that is such the right question, to empower, to recreate, and renew.

Danya: We got married last August. We went for our honeymoon to Omega in New York, to the ecstatic chanting festival. We thought it would be the ideal honeymoon for us. And literally every second person, if not more, that we spoke

with, had a Jewish background. Yet there was no one there leading Hebrew chanting.

Eyal: The majority of the leaders had a Jewish background.

WJN: The same is true in music. Many of the blues and folk people of the Sixties were Jewish,

but they looked to other traditions.

Eyal: I love chanting in Sanskrit, but there is something that happens on the cellular, and soulular, (laughter) level of the body, where in Hebrew it just goes one layer deeper into my psyche DNA. It resonates at another frequency. We can be singing in Sanskrit, but to feel truly authentic, that I can stand behind what I am saying, to feel like I am completely in integrity, Hebrew is my language. It's my ancestor's language; there is something more right about it. I can stand there and fully own it.

WJN: You mentioned in your concert that most of your work has been with 20 and 30 year olds.

Danya: As you probably know, I imagine it's the same in Ann Arbor because it's kind of the same everywhere in America; there is this gap age that is not usually addressed by mainstream Judaism. If you walk into a synagogue in most places in the U.S., you see families with young children and teenagers, but you won't see the 18 to 35 year olds. They are out backpacking in India, going as far away as they can. It's hard to say if those people will ever actually come back.

And so, various organizations have come to us, because they see that our shows attract that population. And, as I said before, it's not our agenda to make anyone become a member of any particular synagogue, but we do feel passionate about creating that relevance and then empowering people to find their own way.

Eyal: That's how it started. We created a meaningful way to do our own Jewish practice. We found a way that really works for us. And we want to empower people to create their own ways of doing it. It's not, "This is

the way!" It's more saying, "This is what we found. What works for you?"

Having said that, at our performances, often the people who are most moved by what we do tend to be 50, 60 year olds, usually men, who have run away from synagogue and come to us in tears, saying, "I never knew these prayers... I was so turned off by my Bar Mitzvah. I had to run away."

It came out of our own need, but I think it spans every age. My belief is that when an artist is real in sharing the truth, it speaks to anyone.

Danya: That's really one of our passions, community building, helping people connect, to create chavurot, little pods of people who can share spirituality.

Eyal: We also teach workshops. It's deeper practicing than just the chanting evening. In an eight-week series, we dive in together as a group and make chanting a practice that people can take home. Working with the chants as a tool kit that people can make their own and pull out at the right time. We like to see these chants as medicine. You can use a chant to invoke certain states of consciousness. It could be grounding, it could be waking up, or it could be healing.

Danya: We've developed practices with the chants that give people an opportunity to use them. So it's not just a song about something, it actually becomes that thing. It's not about love, it's doing love.

WJN: Tell us about your CD, "Coming Home"

Eyal: This CD, it's like birth, a part of yourself that's now out in the world that you're connected to. We feel so blessed that we were able to go with Sounds True. Sounds True is a really righteous, beautiful company centered in Colorado.

The concept was to create a CD that people can take home and use as a practice. And, since most people don't speak Hebrew, we wanted to have liner notes that really walk you through what each song means and how to use it.

Our process of working with the musicians on the recording was... I had charts for everything, but more than that, I explained what the "kavanah," the intention was. "In this song what we're trying to create is a vibration of healing. How would you play healing? How can you infuse each note with that frequency, that vibration?"

Danya: We wanted every note to be a prayer.

Eyal: To be able to capture that, to be able to share that, feels like such a special blessing. We feel so humbled, because we've been getting emails from people who have been using the CD. Someone used it during a birth. They were going through labor and that's what they wanted to calm themselves.

We got another email from someone who said her father was passing away and he wanted "Ana El Na" (one of the chants on "Coming Home") to be playing. What an honor! That's the greatest gift you can get as a musician, that your work is serving someone. ■

To learn more about Eyal Rivlin and Danya Uriel or to purchase their CD, visit www.hebrewchanting.com.

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Judy Cohen, food editor

This month marks the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. On Friday, May 14, 1948, the British Mandate over Palestine officially ended and Israel was born. In 1949 the Knesset (Israel's congress) declared Iyar 5, the date in the Hebrew calendar corresponding to May 14, to be a public holiday, Yom Ha'azma'ut, Israel Independence Day. It was noted by David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, that this was the first holiday to be added to the Hebrew calendar in over 2000 years.

Yom Ha'azma'ut immediately follows a very somber day, Yom Hazikaron, a day to remember all who have fallen in battle and in recent years those who died in terrorist attacks.

On Yom Ha'azma'ut, however, a carnival atmosphere prevails. All over Israel, in every city, town and kibbutz there are celebrations and ceremonies. Festival stages and street fairs are everywhere. There is dancing and singing in the streets. People greet and hug each other, but may spray silly string all over friends and strangers alike. And of course there is food. This is, after all, a giant birthday party, and especially at a Jewish party, there must be food and lots of it.

In addition to the street fairs, family and friends gather at each others homes for barbecue, not unlike our July 4 holiday in the United States. Also on this day, or close to it, Jews all over the world join together locally to show solidarity with and to learn more about Israel and to eat Israeli food. Here in Ann Arbor, there will be a Yom Ha'azma'ut festival on Sunday, May 4.

What is Israeli food? Like the United States, Israel is a melting pot of cultures and ethnicities. Among them have been Jews from the surrounding countries such as Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, etc. Early in Israel's history, they brought with them many of the foods that we have come to associate with Israel: hummus, tahina, baba ganouj (eggplant salad), falafel and shish kebabs often served in or with pita (small pocket bread) and assorted salads. These are among the foods

sometimes called "street foods" because they are easily sold from small stands or carts near shopping areas and schools.

Another style of cooking came about though early life on the kibbutz, a cooperative settlement that pre-dates the official establishment of the State of Israel. In most cases, these were agrarian settlements where red meat was not plentiful. Many had ponds where they bred carp, so the diet was primarily fish plus organic fruits and vegetables, eggs, cheese and maybe some duck or chicken. Jaffa oranges were used often and are one of the exports more commonly associated with Israel.

Over the years, Jews from Eastern Europe such as the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia to name a few, brought their native foods. In recent years, Jews from Argentina and Ethiopia have added their own specialties as well. Ethiopian food is often very spicy and there is a special mixture of spices that is commonly used for either vegetable dishes or with meat. The Ethiopian immigrants have opened many restaurants.

If you visit Israel, you can sample all of these foods and many others as well, but if you get homesick, there are kosher McDonalds everywhere, although these are not considered "Israeli food." Since most restaurants are kosher, however, it is easy to observe the dietary laws in Israel.

The recipes I have included here are those commonly associated with Israel, primarily those taken from the surrounding countries, from the kibbutzim and from Ethiopia.

In her book, *What's Cooking in Israel*, (1972) Margalit Banai tells a story of Nissim, a Yemnite street vendor who competed with many others for the snack money that the children brought to the school she attended. Nissim's falafel was the best and his recipe is included here with some of my own suggested variations. No longer just a street food, falafel is now served in fine restaurants as an appetizer. It is often served in pita with Israeli salad and tahina, available now at most supermarkets. ■

Falafel

- | | |
|---|---|
| ½ pound fresh chickpeas (or 10 oz. can) | 1 teaspoon salt |
| water | 1 teaspoon ground cumin |
| 3 tablespoons burghur (cracked wheat) | (some use 1 or 2 hot chili peppers instead) |
| 2 tablespoons flour | Dash chili pepper |
| 2 cloves garlic | Pinch ground coriander |
| | Oil for deep frying |

(Although this recipe doesn't mention it, some people add an egg.)

Soak chickpeas overnight in water. (canned chickpeas in water eliminate the need to soak overnight) Soak burghur in water for 1 hour. (Bread crumbs can be substituted without soaking) Grind chickpeas and burghur in food processor. Mix in remaining ingredients except for oil. Form into small balls and deep fry in oil until golden brown. Drain on paper towel and serve hot. Makes approx. 30 balls.

Pita

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 oz. fresh yeast or 2 packages active dry yeast | 4 cup flour |
| 1 teaspoon sugar | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 ¼ cups lukewarm water | |

Dissolve the yeast and sugar in water. Sift flour and salt together and mix with the dissolved sugar and yeast. Knead. Divide the dough into 20 balls and roll each one out as thin as possible on a floured board. Cover and let rise in a warm place for ½ hour. Roll out again as thin as possible and let rise another ½ hour. Bake a few at a time in a preheated 500° oven for just a few minutes until they get puffy. When cut open, the pita can be filled with falafel and salad or used for dipping into tahina or hummus.

Israeli Eggplant Puree (Babganouj)

From www.fooddownunder.com.

- 1 small-medium eggplant
- 2 tablespoons tahini (available in most supermarkets- could substitute mayonnaise if desired)
- 2 tablespoons water
- juice of one lemon
- 1 clove (or 1 teaspoon) minced garlic
- salt to taste

Heat grill or broiler. Prick eggplant with a fork and grill or broil until skins are charred, about 20-25 minutes. When cool enough to handle, remove skins. In a small bowl, mix together tahini, water, lemon juice, garlic, salt. In a food processor or by hand, blend cooked eggplant and tahini together.

Hummus

- 1 16 oz can of chickpeas or garbanzo beans
- ¼ cup liquid from can of chickpeas
- 3-5 tablespoon lemon juice (to taste)
- 1 ½ tablespoon tahini (available in most supermarkets)
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoon olive oil

Drain chickpeas and set aside liquid from can. Combine remaining ingredients in blender or food processor. Add ¼ cup of liquid from chickpeas. Blend 3-5 minutes on low until smooth. (in food processor, use pulse feature if you want it a little more texture) Place in serving bowl or plate and create a shallow well in the center. Add a small amount of olive oil into the well. (1-2 tablespoons) Garnish with any of the following: chopped parsley, pine nuts, paprika and/or a few whole chickpeas if desired. Serve with fresh, warm pita bread. For spicier hummus, add a sliced chili pepper or a dash of cayenne pepper. Hummus can be refrigerated for up to three days and can be kept in the freezer for up to one month. Add a little olive oil if it appears too dry.



Dorowat (Spicy Braised Chicken)

From www.fooddownunder.com

- 8 oz. tomato sauce
- ¼ cup paprika
- ¼ cup dry red wine
- 1 tablespoon ginger root, grated
- 1 teaspoon red pepper (cayenne)
- 1/8 teaspoon cardamom, ground
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg, ground
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon, ground
- 1/8 teaspoon allspice, ground
- 1/8 teaspoon cloves, ground
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoon cooking oil
- ½ teaspoon turmeric, ground
- 3 pound broiler chicken, cut up
- ¼ cup dry red wine

1. Make the red pepper sauce first. Combine tomato sauce, paprika, ¼ cup red wine, grated ginger root, red pepper, cardamom, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon and allspice. Set red pepper sauce aside

2. In a large skillet, cook onion and garlic in hot oil till onion is tender but not brown. Stir in red pepper sauce, turmeric and 1 t. salt. Add chicken pieces to skillet. Spoon onion mixture over chicken pieces, bring mixture to boiling; reduce heat, cover. Simmer about 30 minutes. Stir in ¼ cup dry red wine. Cook uncovered about 15 minutes; turn chicken pieces often, skim off fat. Serve with Ethiopian flat bread or pita. This highly spiced hot red pepper sauce is called Berbere which is the characteristic flavor of many Ethiopian dishes.



Spiced Orange Wedges

From *What's Cooking in Israel?* by Margalit Banai

- 4 navel oranges (Israeli Jaffa oranges are good)
- water
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ¼ cups water
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 12 cloves



Cover unpeeled oranges with water, add soda and bring to a boil: lower heat and simmer 20 minutes. Drain and cut oranges into eighths, removing any seeds. Combine sugar, water, vinegar, cinnamon and cloves and simmer about 5 minutes or until sugar dissolves. Add orange wedges and cook for 20 minutes. Put in covered dish and refrigerate. Serve in individual dishes and eat with your fingers. Serves 4.

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Calendar

May 2008

Thursday 1

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 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 (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Birthdays and Talk: U-M Museum of Art "The Four Treasures." JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration with cake and ice cream for all those over 80 years old. Family guests welcome at 12:30 p.m.; Celebration followed at 1 p.m. by U-M Museum of Art docent Bobbie Levine discussing "The Four Treasures." Chinese culture has a long and illustrious history full of tradition and self-references. Chinese painting portrays the writers, musicians and artists of this rich culture. The talk will focus on the four treasures (tools of the artist) and the four formats (hand and hanging scrolls, fans and album leaves) as it brings Chinese culture to life.

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

p.m. Sign up by calling 665-4744 or visit www.templebethemeth.org.

Girl's Night Out—An Enchanted Evening: JCC—Youth. The JCC lounges will be transformed into a beauty parlor, dance hall and concert venue. After primping, singing, dancing and eating a yummy dinner, settle down to watch *Enchanted*, the delightful new movie about a fairy princess who gets transported into the real world. \$20/members; \$18/Additional siblings; \$24/Non-members; \$22/Additional siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Boy's Night Out—Travel to the Future: JCC—Youth. Join in on the fun and games at the JCC's first ever Boy's Night Out. The evening will feature the fantastic movie *Meet the Robinsons*. Play futuristic games in the gym, dream up cool inventions, and enjoy delicious food before turning out the lights for showtime. \$20/members; \$18/Additional siblings; \$24/Non-members; \$22/Additional siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

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 4

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.*

Graduation: BIC. Kitah Chet (8th Grade) graduation and honoring Madrichim who are graduating from high school. 11 a.m.

Israeli Dance Party: JCC. Dance party, with Tom Starks, is for all ages and families are encouraged to bring children from 5–5:30 p.m. for kid-friendly dances. \$5/adult; \$8/family. 5–7:30 p.m. at the JCC. For information, call 971-0990 or email a2rikud@gmail.com.

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

Monday 5

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

Tuesday 6

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mah-jong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time, Part 22: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East" with Lisbeth Fried. For new and continuing students from May 6 through June 3, but no class on May 20. 10 a.m.–noon. No charge but registration

Friday 2

Youth in Crisis Workshop: JFS. Gathering of parents, mental health, medical, legal and educational professionals to explore resources available and those needed to assist families with pre-teen and teenage children at risk of crisis behavior. For information, contact Lisa Keefauver at 769-0209 or email lisa@jfsannarbor.org.

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

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. Celebrating a gathering of friends. Two concurrent services, one for adults and young adults and another for young children. Recently rewritten observance is designed for adults and young adults who want to slow down and take time at the end of the week to relax and reflect, with occasional speakers and discussions. Children's observance, led by Tzofim (aides), begins with a short and upbeat celebration with lots of singing and jumping, followed by a dinner for everyone, then crafts, stories or more running around for the kids. \$8/person or \$20/family of 4. 6:30–9 p.m. at the JCC in all of the lounges. For more information or to RSVP, contact joannamm@umich.edu or jcs@jccfed.org or call 975-9872.

Shabbat and Yom Hashoah Service: TBE. Led by Temple Beth Emeth's Generations After group consisting of relatives of Holocaust survivors. 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 3

Mitzvah Day: TBE. Red Cross Blood Drive from 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Service at 11 a.m.; Lunch at 11:30 a.m., reservations required. Projects at 1

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required at first class session. Minimum enrollment of 10 participants required. For information, contact Merrill at 971-0990, extension 40.

YOH! Yiddish Open House: JCC Seniors. Field trip to the Frankel Center's "Looks Given/Looks Taken: Jews and Urban Photography" exhibit for a special docent-led tour. Transportation is free and leaves JCC at 12:45 p.m. Reservations required by April 29. For information, contact Merrill at 971-0990.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

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

Wednesday 7

Israel Memorial Day: BIC. Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day) Program. 7 p.m.

Music Appreciation and Exploration Emeritus Course: JCC Seniors. This is a Washtenaw Community College-Division of Special Community Group Education eight-week course. Join facilitator Ken Kozora in listening, discussing and comparing music from around the world throughout the ages. There will also be opportunities to play and learn about interesting ancient instruments such as the D'Jembe, Dumbek, Frame Drum, Dung, Bamboo Flutes, Singing Bowls and exciting modern instruments as the synthesizer, electronic percussion, wind synthesizer and sequencer. No fee, but minimum of 10 participants required. To register, contact Merrill at 971-0990, extension 40. *Through June 11.*

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. Series brings wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30-9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 8

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 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 (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Talk: U-M Museum of Art: "The Silk Road." JCC Seniors. Karen Strauch Brown, U-M Museum of Art docent, discusses "The Silk Road." In an age of globalization, the Silk Road is a great case study in the interconnectivity of culture that spans vast geographical spaces and crosses the boundaries of empire. Using religious and artistic artifacts, this talk traces cultural connections and influences over miles and millennia on the Asian continent. 1 p.m.

Israeli Dance Class: JCC. Taught by Cheryl and Phill. Instruction from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Requests and open dancing from 8:30-10 p.m. Beginners to experienced dancers welcome. \$6/includes refreshments. For information, call 971-0990 or email a2rikud@gmail.com. *Also May 15, 22 and 27.*

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

Friday 9

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

ECC Celebrates Shabbat: JCC—Early Childhood Center. For all families with young children under age 5. Welcome in Shabbat as children from Lamb and Frog classrooms sing favorite songs learned this year. \$10/adult; \$5 child over age 2. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at ndeyoung@umich.edu or call 971-0990.

Tot and Adult Shabbat Services and Dinner: TBE. Tot Shabbat, 5:30 p.m.; Tot dinner and Adult dinner for Israeli Independence Day, 6-7:30 p.m.; Shira, 6:45 p.m.; Shabbat Service—"Reflections on Israel at 60," with speaker Bob Schwartz from the Consul General Office of Israel in Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 10

Minyan Matok (M&M): BIC. Special service for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. With songs, stories and active learning. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3-5 years old and parents followed by a Tot Kiddush. 11:15 a.m.

Victory Day Observance: JFS. JFS Russian community will observe Victory Day honoring Russian veterans of World War II. Lunch at 1 p.m. followed by concert at 2 p.m. featuring a popular Russian singer and musician. Parkway Meadows, 2575 Sandalwood Circle. \$15/lunch. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at 769-0209 or email nina@jfsannarbor.org.

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

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

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

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater, bring the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival to Ann Arbor for the seventh year. Showing of fourteen films in 5 days at the Michigan Theater. View schedule at www.jccannarbor.org. For information, email annetartaglia@jccfed.org or call 971-0990. \$10/film or \$65/festival pass. *Through May 15.*

Mother's Day Café: TBE. 6 p.m. in TBE Sanctuary and Social Hall.

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

Monday 12

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.—noon at Jewish

Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

A2SO Afternoon Delights: JCC Seniors: Featuring Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's principal French Horn player Andrew Pelletier and Pianist Christina Laberge. \$7/door. 1:30 p.m. for dessert and socializing; Concert at 2 p.m. For information phone Merrill at 971-0990.

Hebrew for High School Open House: Keshet. Open House for any high school student interested in Hebrew and who may decide later whether to take it as a for-credit class. Fun activities will be offered so students at any level can enjoy the Keshet experience. 2010 Washtenaw Avenue. Pizza at 6 p.m. and class from 6:30-7:45 p.m. For information, contact Milka Eliav at milka@umich.edu.

Tuesday 13

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time), \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time, Part 22: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East" with Lisbeth Fried. *See May 6.*

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

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Wednesday 14

Music Appreciation and Exploration Course: JCC Seniors. *See May 7.*

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30-9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 15

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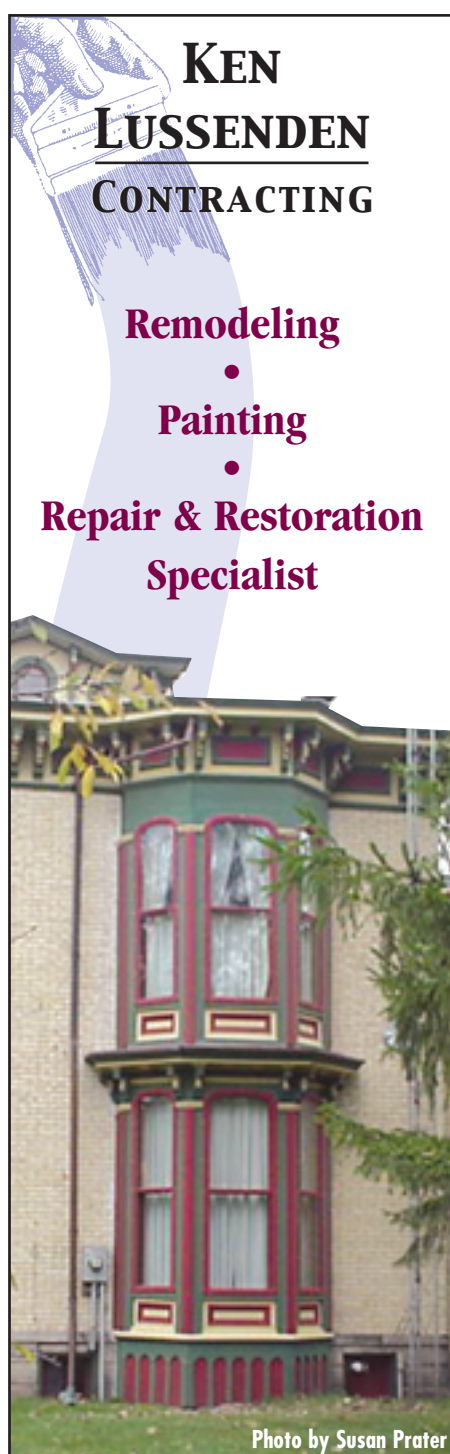


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Calendar

Jewish Film Festival Outing: JCC Seniors. Transportation will be provided to the Michigan Theater at 1 p.m. for 2 p.m. showing of *Six Days*, a documentary that uses arresting archival footage to examine how the war in 1967 remade the Middle East. \$10/ticket. Reservations required. 1 p.m. For information or to reserve, contact Merrill at 971-0990.

Israeli Dance Class: JCC. Taught by Cheryl and Phill. Instruction from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Requests and open dancing from 8:30–10 p.m. Beginners to experienced dancers welcome. \$6/includes refreshments. For information, call 971-0990 or email a2rikud@gmail.com. *Also May 22 and 27.*

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

Friday 16

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

Lager for Lag B'Omer: JCS. Beer education and tasting fundraiser for Jewish Cultural Society, secular humanist community celebrating the culture and history of the Jewish people. Tasting from a local brewery as well as exclusive tastings from other featured breweries, accompanied by breads and cheeses from Zingerman's. \$35/person contribution. 8–10 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact jcs@jewishculturalsociety.org or call 975-9872.

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

Saturday 17

Shabbat Yoga: BIC. Taught by Allison Stupka. 9 a.m.

Teen Game Night: JCC–Youth. JCC lounges will be transformed into a fun-filled arcade with games such as Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Mario DDR, Wii Sports and more. Pizza dinner provided and movie will be shown. \$20/members; \$18/additional siblings; \$24/non-members; \$22/additional siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

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

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

Shabbat services: See listing at the end of calendar.

Sunday 18

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.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Sponsored by

TBE's Caring Community and open to all. 1 p.m. For information, call Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewishhikers@gmail.com.

Film Outing: JFS. Outing for senior adults to the Jewish Film Festival Celebrate Israel showing of *Praying with Lior* at the Michigan Theater. No cost for JFS seniors. \$6/roundtrip transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. 5 p.m. For information, contact Nina Dmtrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

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

Monday 19

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

Tuesday 20

Osher Lifelong Learning Course—Aging in Place: JCC—Older Adult Program. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Jewish Family Services sponsor this one-time course "Move or Improve? That is the Question—Aging in Place," with Peg Trimble and David Rhoads, both Certified Aging in Place Specialists. Learn how to age in the comfort and safety of your own home. General topics to be discussed are: achieving accessibility in entries, halls and baths; selecting durable, low-maintenance finishes; making surroundings safe; and maintaining a pleasant and aesthetic appearance. Photos of completed work and samples

of products will be shown, followed by a question and answer session. \$10/OLLI members; \$20/non-members. Pre-registration required. There is an 8 participant minimum. 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC. To register, call 998-9351 or visit www.olliumich.org.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time); \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Showing of *A Life Apart*, exploring ways in which the Hasidim have withstood the pressures and temptations of contemporary society to maintain their unique community in America. It presents a rare insider's view of Hasidic life, including holidays and celebrations, the roles of rebbes, and the embrace of God in all things. 1–3 p.m.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

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

Wednesday 21

Music Appreciation and Exploration Course: JCC Seniors. *See May 7.*

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.



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Thursday 22

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 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 (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Talk: U-M Museum of Art: “Medieval to Renaissance.” JCC Seniors. Sue Frazier, U-M Museum of Art docent, discusses “The Transition from Medieval to Renaissance Worldviews.” Using painting and sculpture as artifacts of history, the talk allows us to visualize the monumental transition in European society from the Medieval period to this Early Modern/Renaissance era and touches on major changes in society. 1 p.m.

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children caring for aging parents. This month's session explores questions like: When is the right time to consider alternative housing arrangements for aging loved ones who live independently? How do you broach the subject and what are the options? Guest speaker Justine Bykowski, Housing Counseling Coordinator at the Housing Bureau for Seniors, will discuss choices for residential care ranging from continuing care retirement communities, independent living facilities, assisted living, nursing homes, small group homes and more. Followed by discussion. Co-sponsored by the JCC, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Jewish Cultural Society. 6:30–8 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to RSVP by April 10, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

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

Friday 23

Grandparents and Special Friends Shabbat Luncheon: JCC—Early Childhood Center. Celebrate the sixth annual Shabbat luncheon where children are encouraged to invite grandparents and special friends. The event is part of a weeklong focus on Shabbat as a study unit and classes will have worked on their own Shabbat ritual items such as challah covers, candlesticks and storytelling. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. For information, email ndeyoung@umich.edu or call 971-0990.

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

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

Saturday 24

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 25

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

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

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

Monday 26

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

Tuesday 27

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m. (new time), \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mah-jong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Class: JCC Seniors. “The Bible in its Time, Part 22: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East” with Lisbeth Fried. *See May 6.*

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Israeli Dance Class: JCC. Taught by Cheryl and Phill. Instruction from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Requests and open dancing from 8:30–10 p.m. Beginners to experienced dancers welcome. (Note change of day for this week only.) \$6/ includes refreshments. For information, call 971-0990 or email a2rikud@gmail.com.

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

Wednesday 28

Music Appreciation and Exploration Course: JCC Seniors. *See May 7.*

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 29

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 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 (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Talk: U-M Museum of Art: “American Landscapes.” JCC Seniors. Sue Frazier and Ina Sandalow, U-M Museum of Art docents, discuss “American 19th Century Landscapes.” Industrialization and urbanization of the 19th century along the east coast created a romantic nostalgia for wilderness. This talk,

accompanied by paintings from the UMMA collection, illustrates the transformation of America in the 19th century.

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

Friday 30

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

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

Saturday 31

T-Shirt Shabbat: BIC. Annual T-Shirt Shabbat followed by a summery Kiddush luncheon. 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

June 2008

Sunday 1

“The Copper Scroll and Hyrcania’s Mysterious Tunnels.” BIC. Presented by Oren Gutfeld, PhD. 7:45 p.m.

Monday 2

Annual Spring Dinner: ORT. Dine with friends and recognize the Ann Arbor chapter of ORT, America’s generous donors. 6 p.m. at Carlyle Restaurant, 3660 Jackson Road. For information, contact Linda Sokolove by May 23 at rhinolin@comcast.net.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 7:30 p.m. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:45 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 and classes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

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

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

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

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

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

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

May 2 7:13 p.m.

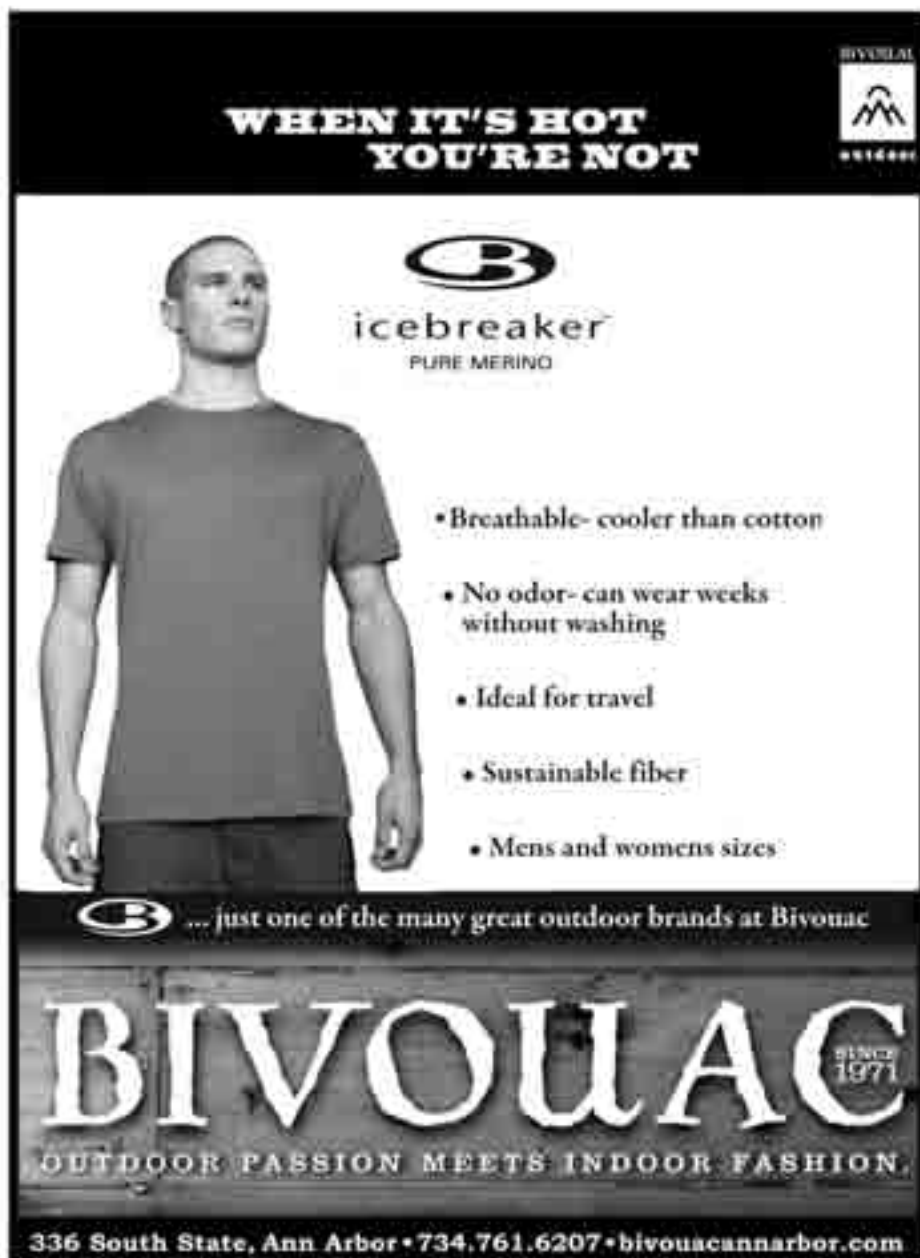
May 9 7:21 p.m.

May 16 7:28 p.m.

May 23 7:35 p.m.

May 30 7:41 p.m.

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Around Town

Spring cleaning

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

Start with your car. As the weather warms, an entirely new set of strains will afflict your engine. Fawzi Hamdan (Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair; 2470 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor; 665-8700) advises regularly checking filters, belts, hoses, and fluid levels. This is also a good time for a coolant flush; minor problems with the coolant system can grow serious as the weather warms.

Look at your house from top to bottom, inside and out. Sharon Kleinschmidt notes that "People think if you clean [your gutters] once per year that's good enough, but you really need to do it several times per year." R.D. Kleinschmidt, Inc. (428-8836, <http://www.rdkleinschmidtinc.com>) specializes in repairing and replacing roofs, gutters, siding, and installing high-efficiency replacement windows. Their full-service maintenance department can also clean out those gutters if you're wary of climbing the ladder yourself. If your setting your sights on something a little grander than new gutters, consider Ken Lussendon Contracting (995-0715, <http://kenlussendencontracting.com>). Lussendon offers repair and restoration services, as well as refinishing, remodeling, custom carpentry, and interior/exterior painting. Need to finance these projects? Contact United Bank or the Bank of Ann Arbor.

Few homeowners think about their heating and cooling systems until something goes wrong. "Maintenance is very important," explains Alan Friedman of Modern Mechanical (2608 W Liberty St., Ann Arbor; 662-6644; <http://modernmechanical.net>), "Many times it can prevent a future repair." Additionally, ill-maintained heating and cooling systems waste energy and drive up utility bills. For both safety and efficiency, systems should be checked, cleaned, and adjusted annually. For best results, wait until we've had our first string of 70-degree days to schedule an AC check-up. Although Friedman advises his customers to frequently change the filters in the heating and AC units, he warns against expensive "high-efficiency"

filters sold to "block allergens." Such filters restrict air flow, forcing the equipment to function "way out of spec." The strained appliance gobbles energy with no discernible benefit. "Unless you have a professional, high-efficiency air purifier... I would not spend over five or six dollars for a disposable filter."

Looking to upgrade your heating/cooling system? Friedman notes that Carrier climate control systems offer excellent rebates through mid-July. Along with the added comfort, buyers will also save a phenomenal amount of energy and several hundred dollars.

If you're considering making a clean sweep that goes beyond vacuuming and dusting, head to Dragon's Lair Futons (2231 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, 665-4646), which specializes in organic, natural latex mattress. These earth-friendly mattresses are free of fire-retardants, which have been linked in some studies to cancer and birth defects. Dragon's Lair Futons also offers a variety of futon and bed frames with non-toxic finishes.

Finally, John Splitt—owner of Gold Bond Cleaners (332 Maynard, Ann Arbor; 668-6335)—reminds us to be sure to thoroughly clean all winter clothes before storage, since dreaded vermin like moths are attracted to food stains and dirt, not the clothing itself.

Spring cleaning tends to generate a lot of waste. Fortunately, Recycle Ann Arbor's curbside pick-up will take reasonable amounts of paper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, aluminum, steel, glass, and yard waste. If you have more to dump, or need to get rid of bulky items (e.g., appliances, computers, TVs) or hazardous materials (e.g., batteries, fluorescent tubes, tires, or dangerous liquids like paint, anti-freeze, and motor oil), head to their Washtenaw County Drop-Off Station (2950 E. Ellsworth Road). Items in good repair can be donated to their ReUse Center (2420 South Industrial Highway) for resale. All proceeds go to support county-wide sustainability efforts. ■

Classifieds

Job Opening: Event Planner & Volunteer Coordinator for Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, part-time. Will work closely with Havurah Board and other volunteers to plan and coordinate Shabbat and festival events. Must be well-organized, able to work independently, and good at motivating others. Details at: www.aarecon.org/coordinator or by email: hiring@aarecon.org

Elementary School Teacher, Judaics and Hebrew Studies. The David S. Stone Hebrew Academy, a K-5 community day school offering a 40+ year history of academic excellence, seeks a dynamic and creative educator to teach K & 1st grade Judaics and Hebrew Studies for 2008-2009. The Academy is managed by the Toledo Board of Jewish Education, a member organization of the United Jewish Council and is located on the Jewish Community Campus in Sylvania, also home to the JCC/YMCA.

Ideal qualifications include a B.A. in education or similar Judaics teaching certification, basic Hebrew skills, strong Judaic background, familiarity with differentiated instruction, ability to establish effective working relationships with students, teachers, staff and families in a team-based environment.

Qualified candidates should submit cover letter and resume to Dr. Bohleke, Principal, Stone Hebrew Academy, 6465 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania, OH 43560 or to leeanne@jewishtoledo.org.

24-year-old student entering graduate nurse practitioner program in Sept. seeking full-time nanny position for summer. Available May 19-Aug. 15. Have car. Contact Leah at ginsburgl@gmail.com or 646-9292.

Sunny (Furnished or not) Burns Park 2 bedroom condo available June 1st. Walk to Shul, U of Mich. Free parking spot. Call Stephanie 996-2323 or email to skosarin@aol.com

Functional computers needed for Jewish Family Services resettlement and employment clients, 769-0209.

Volunteer with JFS! Visitors, tutors, special events, and office support needed, 769-0209.

Just starting a new service or business? Furniture to sell? Looking for a handyman or roommate? The Washtenaw Jewish News classifieds is the answer! Only \$3/line enables you to reach over 5,000 readers. Ads can be emailed to wjna2@aol.com or call 971-1800.

The deadline for the June/July/August Washtenaw Jewish News is Friday, May 9. Publication date: May 28.

Vitals

Mazal tov

Rachel and Jeffrey Lando, March 14.
 Bonnie Miller on the birth of her granddaughter and Rachel and Tom Akiva, on the birth of their daughter, Nera Grace Akiva, March 28.
 Jessica Lieberman and Bradley Maze on the birth of their daughter and Victor and Sharon Lieberman on the birth of their granddaughter, Adira Chana.
 Lauren Katz and Joel Rubenstein on the birth of their daughter, Mia Rani.
 Leslie and Phyllis Werbel on their 50th wedding anniversary.
 Devon Fitzig and Jeff Anker on their recent engagement.
 Marilyn Scott, on the birth of her grandson, Ethan Scott Lano, son of R Michal Dobrusin on her bat mitzvah on May 3.
 Oren Bregman, on his bar mitzvah, May 10.
 Thomas Friedlander, on his bar mitzvah, May 10.
 Eliza Stein on her bat mitzvah on May 10.
 Lilly Scheerer on her bat mitzvah on May 17.
 Kayla Mandell, on her bat mitzvah, May 17.
 Justin Cohen, on his bar mitzvah, May 24.
 Mollie Gross, on her bat mitzvah, May 24.
 Sophie Spindel on her bat mitzvah on May 24.
 David Choos, on his bar mitzvah, May 31.
 Benjamin Ehrlich, on his bar mitzvah, May 31.

Condolences

The family of Abe Muchnick on his death.
 Richard Galler on the death of his mother, Etta Galler.
 Richard Chusid, on the death of his father, Sheldon Chusid, March 13.
 Howard Stewart, on the death of his mother, Mary Stewart, April 1.

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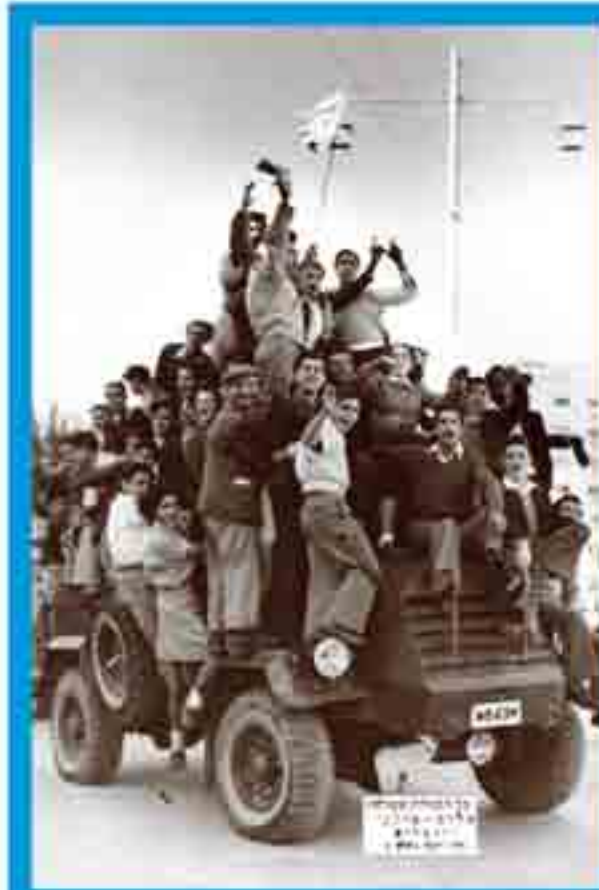
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Sunday, May 4 Celebrate Israel Festival

Jewish Community Center
9-11:30 – Morning Program
12-5pm – Festival
5-7:30 – Israeli Dance Party

Monday, May 5 Sheketak: Rhythm in Motion

"From Hora to Hip-Hop"

7:30 pm, Power Center, tickets: www.umich.edu/~muto/

Tuesday, May 6 Israeli Art, Craft & Jewelry Show

7:00 pm, Home of Cindy & Scott Kellman

Wednesday, May 7 Yom Hazikaron

(Israel Memorial Day) Observance
7 pm, Beth Israel Congregation

May 18

Songs of Israel at her 60th

Temple Beth Emeth's Kol Ha Lev & the Ann Arbor Symphony
7 pm, Michigan Theater

May 11-May 15: 7th Annual JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival

Michigan Theater

Sunday, June 1

"The Dead Sea Copper Scrolls" Lecture

Oren Gutfeld, Ph.D., 7-8:45 pm, Beth Israel Congregation

June-August 2008 Israeli Film Series

Beth Israel Congregation

Tuesday, July 15

Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) Caravan

7 pm, Jewish Community Center

November 16-23

Community Mission to Israel

Jewish Federation

For more information: www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael

or contact Gilla Henga-Wiesel:

(734) 677-0100; celebrateisrael@jewishannarbor.org



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