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FREE

Jeffrey Zaslow to open Jewish Book Festival

Margi Brawer, special to the WJN

Jeffrey Zaslow, author of *The Girls from Ames* will open the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's 22nd Annual Jewish Book Festival on Tuesday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. A complimentary dessert reception catered by Lori Shepard of Simply Scrumptious Catering will take place that evening at 7 p.m. for audience members. The event is sponsored by Penchansky Whisler Architects and Simply Scrumptious Catering.

Meet the Ames girls: eleven childhood friends who formed a special bond growing up in Ames, Iowa. As young women, they moved to eight different states, yet managed to maintain an enduring friendship that would carry them through college and careers, marriage and motherhood, and dating and divorce.

The Girls from Ames is a testament to the deep bonds of women as they experience life's joys and challenges—and the power of friendship to triumph over heartbreak and unexpected tragedy. The girls, now in their 40s,

have a lifetime of memories in common, some evocative of their generation and some that will resonate with any woman who has ever had a friend. Photograph by photograph, recollection by recollection, occasionally with tears and often with great laughter, their sweeping and moving story is shared by Jeffrey Zaslow as he attempts to define the matchless bonds of female friendship. It demonstrates how close female relationships can shape every aspect of women's lives—their sense of themselves, their choice of men, their need for validation, their relationships with their mothers, their dreams for their daughters—and reveals how such friendships thrive, rewarding those who have committed to them.

The Girls from Ames is the story of a group of ordinary women who built an extraordinary friendship. With both universal insights and deeply personal moments, it is a book that every woman will relate to and be inspired by.

Jeffrey Zaslow is a *Wall Street Journal* colum-

nist and, with Randy Pausch, coauthored *The Last Lecture*, the #1 *New York Times* bestseller now translated into 41 languages. Zaslow attended Dr. Pausch's famous lecture and wrote the story that sparked worldwide interest.

The JCC was very fortunate to host Zaslow at last year's Book Festival when he spoke about *The Last Lecture*.

The Girls from Ames grew out of one of his column's in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Zaslow will be introduced by Dr. Steve Grandwohl, a local physician, who is the brother of one of the "Girls from Ames." ■



Jeffrey Zaslow



PHOTO CREDIT: TESS HERMAN

Judeo-Spanish Ladino music at UMS

Jim Leija, special to the WJN

The University Musical Society (UMS) will present Ladino singer Yasmin Levy on Saturday, November 14, at 8 p.m., in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium (825 North University Avenue) in a concert program that blends Levy's Ladino/Judeo-Spanish musical roots with Andalusian Flamenco.

Yasmin Levy was born in Jerusalem in 1975 and was introduced to Ladino singing and culture from a very young age. Her father, who passed away when she was only a year old, was the leading figure in the world of research into and preservation of the Judeo-Spanish culture, dating back to 15th-century Spain. Today, Ladino remains one of the most moving and romantic traditions of all time. "[Yasmin Levy's CD] *Mano Suave* blends her mixture of flamenco, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Sephardic Jewish Ladino traditions to somewhere near perfection. If you're looking to plunge into a deep pool of exquisite yearning and heartbreak, then just dust off your trunks and dive right in," reported fRootsmag.com.

Yasmin Levy's deep, spiritual singing, passionate vocal delivery, and striking good looks continue to entrance audiences around the

world. Her first album, *Romance and Yasmin*, focused on Ladino music and Turkish influences. A year of studying flamenco in Seville

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Yasmin Levy

"Did God Survive the Holocaust" is topic of discussion at EMU

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

On Monday, November 23, at 7 p.m., in the ballroom of Eastern Michigan University's Student Center, Hillel at Eastern Michigan University is partnering with Holy Trinity Catholic Student Parish at EMU, EMU's Division of Academic Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences, and multiple academic departments to sponsor "Did God Survive the Holocaust: A Jewish/Catholic Conversation" between two scholars of international distinction, Guy Stern, Ph.D. and Father John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Ph.D.

Dr. Stern currently serves as the interim director of the International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, in Farmington Hills. He is a distinguished professor of German and Slavic Studies at Wayne State University and has held guest professorships at the Universities of Freiburg, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Potsdam, and Munich. He co-founded the Lessing Society and was its president, president of the American Association of Teachers of German, is a standing



Dr. Guy Stern

Father Pawlikowski

member of the board of the Leo Baeck Institute, and secretary of the Kurt Weill Foundation. He is recipient of the Grand Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe Medal, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. A consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Dr. Stern co-curated the exhibit "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings."

Father Pawlikowski is a professor of social ethics at the Catholic Theological Union, part of the Hyde Park cluster of theological schools near the University of Chicago, and director of the Catholic-Jewish studies program at the

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Community

Congressmen Mark Schauer expresses support for American Friends of Magen David Adom and Israel

WJN staff writers

Thanks to a gift by the estate of Jack Greenberg of Cincinnati, Ohio, an AFMDA ambulance was dedicated to members of the U.S. Congress on Wednesday, September 23, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

The emergency vehicle, which will soon thereafter be in service "Saving Lives in Israel," was dedicated on the eve of American Friends of Magen David Adom's celebration of its 70th anniversary. Founded in 1940 as American Red Mogen Dovid for Palestine, during the pre-State "Yishuv" era, the organization became American Red Mogen Dovid for Israel with Israel's Declaration of Independence and then American Red Magen David for Israel before changing its name to American Friends of Magen David Adom.

Congressman Mark Schauer was one of 20 U.S. lawmakers who came to the corner of New



Gary Perl, AFMDA Northeast regional director; Robert L. Kern, AFMDA director of marketing and communications; and Congressman Mark Schauer, representing Michigan's 7th Congressional District.

Jersey Avenue SE and C Street SE to express their support of American Friends of Magen David Adom and Israel.

Jewelry show to benefit JFS, Hope Clinic

WJN staff writers

The work of local artisan Anne Mininberg will be on display December 1-3 at the Washtenaw Medical Arts Building. A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to Jewish Family Services and Hope Clinic

Mininberg has lived and worked in the Ann Arbor area for more than 40 years. She taught ballet for many years and now works as a hypnotherapist. Her jewelry has been sold at private parties and at a downtown day spa. The pendants, necklaces and earrings incorporate quality semi-

precious stones and silver.

"I am donating part of the proceeds of the sale to JFS and Hope Clinic because of the outstanding contributions these organizations make to the community," says Mininberg. The Washtenaw Medical Arts Building is located at 3075 West Clark Road, Suite. 103, in Ypsilanti.



Yasmin Levy, continued from page 1

resulted in her second album, *La Juderia*, a combination of flamenco and Sephardic styles. Her third album *Mano Suave* was released in October 2007 and marked a mature return to her Ladino roots.

Yasmin's touring activities have taken her to many parts of the globe. In 2008 she made her first national tour of Australia, culminating in a sold-out performance at the prestigious Sydney Opera House. She has also made national tours of England, Sweden, and Germany, along with shows in Austria, Switzerland and Finland. Levy has appeared at World Music Expo (WOMEX) Festivals in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, the UK, and Canary Islands as well as at New York's Carnegie Hall. Levy's U.S. debut tour, in addition to her performance in Ann Arbor, includes stops in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, and New York.

Yasmin has been nominated three times for the BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards. More recently she has appeared on television and radio in countries as diverse as Australia, Germany, Israel, Sweden, Spain, and Austria. In January 2009 she was featured on France's Concert FIP, a prestigious live radio series devoted to exploring the talents of artists from all over the world. In October 2008, she was nominated for Holland's prestigious Edison Award, the Dutch equivalent of the Grammys, in the category of Best World Music Album.

In March 2006, Levy was presented with the Anna Lindh Award for promoting cross-cultural dialogue, for her work with musicians covering three cultures, and her connection with the history of Spain. Levy currently serves as Goodwill Ambassador for Children of Peace, a UK-based charity working to alleviate the plight of all children caught up in the decades-old Middle East crisis. As part of this role, Yasmin has committed to giving at least two workshops a year to Middle Eastern children from all sides of the conflict, talking about her career, and trying to imbue these children with the hope that through music they may still live their dreams.

For tickets or additional information, contact the University Musical Society at 764-2538 or online at www.ums.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the League Ticket Office (911 North University Avenue). ■

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

Editor and Publisher
Susan Kravitz Ayer

Calendar Editor
Claire Sandler

Advertising Manager
Gordon White

Design and Layout
Dennis Platte

Staff Writers
Noa Gutterman, Sandor Slomovits

Contributing Writers

Leslie Bash, Laura Berger, Margi Brawer, Daniella Cheslow, Rabbi Lisa Delson, Leonard Felder, Sue Fishkoff, Eileen Freed, Chuck Frelich, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Emily Grekin, Ruth Ellen Gruber, Uriel Heilman, Marni Hochman, Deborah Huerta, Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, Dina Kraft, Jeffrey Lazor, Jim Leija, Rabbi Robert Levy, Merrill Poliner, Deborah Renner, Tamar Sacerdoti, Dina Shtull, Dave Siefkes, Clara Silver, Ronnie Simon, Grant Slater, Daniel Sokatch, Elliot Sorkin, Moshe Yosef, Alicia Zimbalist

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A2SO's Brahms and Friends to include *Overture on Hebrew Themes*

Dave Siefes, special to the WJN

On November 14, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will offer the third performance in its Season of Celebration with the concert "Brahms and Friends." The A2SO has much to celebrate this year. Maestro Arie Lipsky celebrates his tenth anniversary as music director with the A2SO this season. The orchestra is releasing its first CD in December and with concerts like 'Brahms and Friends,' they celebrate some of the most treasured symphonic classics. "Brahms and Friends" features works by three of the great master composers: Sergei Prokofiev, Georges Bizet, and Johannes Brahms.

This concert will open with the richness and depth of Russian composer Prokofiev's *Overture on Hebrew Themes*. The commission for the overture, written in 1919, came during Prokofiev's four-year stay in the United States. Zimro, a sextet chamber ensemble whose members were of Jewish descent and who had emigrated from the Soviet Union, asked Prokofiev to write a piece unique to the instrumentation of their ensemble (clarinet, piano, and string quartet) and inspired by Jewish folksongs. Zimro players were searching for a showcase piece that would fit with their efforts to raise funds for a new conservatory in Jerusalem.

Prokofiev had no shortage of ideas for the piece, put pen to paper and quickly finished the work. The overture follows a fairly conventional structure, exploring the unique tonal nuances of traditional Jewish melodies through two major themes. Though these two themes are carefully modeled after Hebrew folk music, musical historians have credited Prokofiev with writing original melodies in the work. The premiere of *Overture on Hebrew Themes* came in 1920 in New York with Prokofiev at the piano (a last-minute change due to illness). While the original chamber version of the piece is most often performed (Opus 34,) Prokofiev arranged the work in 1934 for full orchestra (Opus 34a,) in the form in which it will be heard with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra on the Michigan Theater stage.

The gorgeous melodies and flowing contour of Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 2* will be brought to life by renowned pianist Anton Nel and the A2SO. Child prodigy Johannes Brahms began wowing audiences with his piano prowess when he was just ten-years-old. At that time, he studied composition and piano with Eduard Marxsen, an elder conductor and teacher of



Maestro Arie Lipsky



Anton Nel

high distinction in Hamburg. Years later when Brahms completed the Piano Concerto No. 2 in 1881, he lovingly dedicated the work to his mentor, Marxsen. This concerto lives among the most grandiose, virtuosic, momentous and demanding of the piano repertoire. Brahms pushed the boundaries of the genre, writing a piece that features the players of the orchestra and the soloist with near equal footing. There is a warmth and luxuriousness in the concerto that only Brahms could achieve.

Pianist Anton Nel tours the world performing with the most prestigious orchestras. A native of South Africa, Nel won all of the local competitions in Johannesburg while still in his teens. In 1987 he won the Naumburg International Piano Competition at Carnegie Hall, securing his place as a major player on the world stage. His performance career has taken him to North and South America, Europe, Asia, and South Africa. He currently serves as professor of piano and chamber music at the University of Texas in Austin and maintains a vigorous touring schedule. This is Nel's sixth appearance with the Ann Arbor Symphony.

This tour-de-force concert will conclude with the youthfulness and brightness of *Symphony No. 1 in C Major* by the French composer Bizet. Written while studying at the Paris Conservatory, Bizet was just seventeen-years-old when he began scoring the Symphony, and phenomenally completed the work within a month, in 1855. The symphony exudes the energy and vitality of young Bizet, full of playful motives, scampering flourishes, and lyrical melodies. But, it is of some miracle that we will have the opportunity to hear the symphony performed, as it was lost in the archives of the Paris Conservatory until 1933 when rediscovered by Bizet's biographer.

The symphony was premiered the same year to much acclaim, though the composer never once heard his work performed. This was the only symphony penned by Bizet, but a supreme masterpiece nonetheless.

It is concerts like this that have so endeared Maestro Arie Lipsky to the community during his ten years with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. "The music has never been better," said Symphony President Kim Eagle. "It is the quality of the music that has so taken our attention; it is the innovative programming that Lipsky demonstrates again and again, season after season. Rod Little, A2SO vice-president of artistic affairs commented, "Arie has a gift for introducing pieces we may have never heard before but will most definitely love. Concert music selection is a balancing act, said Little. "Some listeners want to experience the favorite warhorses. Other more jaded types want to hear something new. Arie dances on this tight-rope as adeptly as on the podium."

"His programs are a wonderful blend of better known classics," continues the A2SO vice-president, "little known gems from familiar names, and exciting works from less familiar composers that expand our horizons. All this organized around an appealing theme. How does he do it? Thought, experience, an eclectic taste and enormous enthusiasm for his art."

And it is with concerts like "Brahms and Friends" that concert goers are exposed to Prokofiev's rarely performed *Overture on Hebrew Themes*, Bizet's once forgotten *Symphony No. 1*, and Brahms's momentous *Piano Concerto*.

A pre-concert lecture will be given by Maestro Lipsky covering the evening's repertoire will take place from 7-7:30 p.m. on the main floor of the Michigan Theater. ■

Brahms and Friends begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, at the Michigan Theater in downtown Ann Arbor. For ticket information, call 994-4801 or go to www.a2so.com.

TBE awarded Beacon of Light Award

Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth has been awarded the "2009 Beacon of Light Award" for Washtenaw County. The award will formally be presented at the Food Bank Council's Michigan Harvest Gathering Luncheon in East Lansing, November 12, where leaders in the anti-hunger movement throughout the state will be recognized. Food Gatherers made the award in recognition of Temple Beth Emeth's two efforts this fall to collect much needed food for the hungry in Washtenaw County.

In an emergency drive this past August, TBE spearheaded a collection that included participation from St. Clare's Episcopal

Church, Beth Israel Congregation and local businesses, including Dykema Gossett. Over 6,000 pounds of food and \$700 in donations were contributed at that time. Last month, TBE's youth group, AARTY, again sponsored the annual Yom Kippur Food Drive. Response was overwhelming, with another generous collection resulting in a total of 11,000 pounds for the twodrives combined.

Rabbi Robert Levy, in his letter to the congregation about the award, said, "For me, the pleasure is working with and for such marvelous people who can achieve such powerful results. We are amazing, and although good works are their own reward, this recognition also has its place."

TBE and its social action committee are continuing its work on hunger in Washtenaw County through participation with St. Clare's Episcopal Church in the "Back Door Food Pantry," located in a small house on their shared property on Packard. Members of both congregations work together to sort and pack the grocery bags that are available for distribution every week. The pantry, open every Thursday from 4-7 p.m., has served over 1,747 households and 5,207 local residents in need of food. The Back Door Food Pantry won the Beacon of Light Award in 2007. ■

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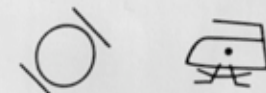
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JFS receives Caregiving Grant from Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

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

Jewish Family Services has received a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan for a project that will address two facets of the current troublesome economic climate: high unemployment and the increasing burden on caregivers of older adults. The grant will support JFS as a comprehensive resource for caregivers from which they will receive affordable, direct, non-medical care for their aging loved ones (and, thereby, respite from caregiving responsibilities). The direct care for older adults will be provided both as part of a training internship for unemployed individuals who are interested in gaining marketable skills in senior services and for individuals, particularly those facing early retirement, to engage in productive, meaningful activities. In addition to field experience, these trainees will receive job skills acquisition, employment support and education to enhance their ability to work professionally with older adults. This innovative pilot project turns the current problem of extensive unemployment in Southeast Michigan into an opportunity to address another critical problem, caregiver burden among those caring for the rapidly growing population of older adults wishing to remain living independently.

The older adult population is growing quickly, and Washtenaw County is no exception. From 2000 to 2006, the population of people over the age of 60 in Washtenaw County grew from 35,478 to 43,868, a growth of 24 percent. At the same time, the 85+ year old population grew from 3,199 to 3,872, a growth of 21 percent. Compared to the rest of the state, Washtenaw County gains in the 60 and over population were at a rate double or faster than other counties. This trend

will continue, as the Blueprint on Aging in Washtenaw County projects a 50 percent increase in the 65+ population between 2010 and 2020.

Because of the increased numbers of older adults living longer, the numbers of adult child and spousal caregivers are also growing quickly. It is currently estimated that 16 percent of American adults, or nearly 40 million adult caregivers, provide unpaid care to a recipient over the age of 50. Adult children are involved in many aspects of their parents' care, which creates a large strain as they simultaneously care for their own children and hold jobs. In fact, it is estimated that adult children provide 70-80 percent of all services to non-institutionalized aging parents.

Last summer, JFS conducted its own survey of caregivers in the Jewish community. The survey addressed the scope of tasks adult children are currently performing in support of their aging parents, caregiver stress, formal services currently utilized, familiarity with existing services offered to caregivers through JFS, and areas in which services are needed but not available.

Over 76 percent of the caregivers who responded found caregiving to be at least moderately stressful, and many felt that it was "very stressful" or "extremely stressful."

Indeed, the impact on caregivers of caregiving is financial, emotional, and physical. There is a strong correlation between caregiving and poor mental and physical health due to the stressors involved in providing care to an aging parent. Among caregivers, burnout is common, leading to a downward spiral of depression and ill health for caregivers (and reduced support for those for whom they care). The current economic crisis has

intensified the stressors of caregiving. Many caregivers are reluctant to jeopardize their jobs by taking time off for caregiving, but they simultaneously have fewer hours available for caregiving because of longer workdays or holding multiple jobs to make ends meet.

At the same time that caregiving is becoming increasingly costly and difficult to provide, services for older adults are being cut back. At least 22 states and the District of Columbia are cutting or proposing cuts to home and community services for older adults or are significantly increasing what low-income people must pay for them.

Unfortunately, caregivers who need additional support to modify the effects of the economic crisis and reduce their caregiving burden are now finding themselves unemployed. The auto industry crisis has taken a heavy toll on both blue collar workers and professionals in Southeast Michigan. Local social service agencies have seen requests for financial and employment assistance more than double over the past six months as the local, state and national economic crisis deepens. Over half of all incoming calls to JFS from new clients are for employment services and related needs.

Coincidentally, one area of employment is growing quickly: senior services. The second and third projected fastest growing occupations from 2006 to 2016 are personal and home care aides; and home health aides respectively. In seeking a win-win situation for both caregivers (and their aging loved ones) and the many individuals who find themselves facing early retirement or needing to find work in a new industry, JFS will utilize volunteers to support caregivers' needs by providing a range of both professional and unskilled services to older adults. In turn, these volunteers will receive training in working with older adults, exposure to the senior service sector, and employment support ranging from educational advocacy to networking assistance to resume building.

The mission of the caregiving grant is two-fold: (1) Support for those caring for older adults through direct care to older adults and support, groups, counseling, educational resources, and problem-solving for caregivers; and (2) Provide opportunities for unemployed individuals to gain job skills in working with older adults, as well as exposure to educational, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in senior services.

The caregiving grant will support the following JFS services:

- Case management: Case management as a method of intervention tackles the many interconnected issues that make accessing and utilizing services difficult for some older clients, particularly those with chronic mental or physical health problems, co-occurring diseases, or interpersonal, social, or economic difficulties. JFS geriatric social workers currently provide case management to more than 190 adults over the age of 65 residing in Washtenaw County.

- Patient Partners medical accompaniment: Last year, JFS launched "Patient Partners," a program in which trained volunteers accompany older adults to medical appointments and procedures to facilitate communication between medical professionals and older adults. The need for volunteers to ac-

company older adults is particularly important in today's employment environment in which family caregivers may be reluctant or unable to take time off from work for fear of jeopardizing their job. Patient Partner volunteers ease this increasingly difficult strain on family caregiving and reduce the burden on the caregiver, at the same time ensuring that older adults are able to receive necessary medical care.

- Transportation: Providing transportation is one of the many tasks that caregivers perform for their aging loved ones, and in caregivers' absence, older adults often struggle with the need for easily accessible transportation to necessary appointments, grocery stores, and social engagements. Lack of transportation often contributes to isolation and depression.

- Friendly visiting: Friendly visiting provides essential social interaction and companionship to older adults who might otherwise be completely isolated. The need for friendly visitors frequently exceeds JFS' ability to provide volunteers for this important service. JFS could use many more volunteers to help with this program as isolation is a widespread and serious problem among older adults.

- Caregiver support groups, workshops and presentations: JFS offers "Caregiver Conversations," a monthly drop-in support and education group for adult children caring for aging parents. Each month, guest speakers present on a topic of relevance, followed by open discussion. JFS also offers approximately two large educational workshops and presentations each year to caregivers and older adults, on topics ranging from advocating for a loved one while s/he is hospitalized to planning for end-of-life care and late-life decisions. These workshops are part of the JFS Advocacy Connection program, funded by the Benard A. Maas Foundation.

- Counseling, information, and referral: JFS provides short term counseling for caregivers experiencing stress and burnout, as well as information and referrals for caregivers whose parents live outside of Washtenaw County or for those who live locally.

Moving transition assistance: JFS frequently encounter families who are in the process of moving an older parent to Ann Arbor from elsewhere, or from independent living in Ann Arbor to an assisted living facility. The complexities of selecting an appropriate residence, downsizing a lifetime's worth of belongings, choosing what to keep, donate, or sell, not to mention packing and unpacking prove overwhelming at best and paralyzing at worst.

JFS Director of Older Adult Services Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson and Volunteer Services and Community Outreach Director Deborah Renner are reaching out to community members in a number of ways. First, JFS is seeking individuals with experience and interest in job training, re-training, or employment services to serve on a committee to assist in the development of this project. Secondly, individuals interested in exploring new career options, or interested in volunteering in senior services, should contact either Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson (abbie@jfsannarbor.org) or Deborah Renner (deborah@jfsannarbor.org) via email or at 769-0209. ■

Lydia Cacho—honorable, decent, extra ordinarily brave

Rabbi Robert D. Levy, special to the WJN

The question of this year's Wallenberg Lecture was who is Lydia Cacho and what did she do to merit her honor? She certainly is no Bishop Desmond Tutu or Dali Lama. Her deeds are unrelated to the Holocaust, like Elie Wiesel or Miep Gies and many other past recipients. Cacho is neither world renown nor a hero of the Holocaust. Who is she?

The answer is refreshing and in keeping with the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg. Lydia Cacho is a person, just a person, who when the choice presented itself to save others or herself, she chose to defend others and thereby honored the human spirit. She is honorable, decent and extra ordinarily brave. Cacho stood up to the powerful and their minions to save the lives of abused women and young girls and boys trapped in the Mexican sex industry. Lydia Cacho is in the company of eighteen previous honorees who, regardless of their fame or the venue of their deeds, valued above all else the dignity of others.

Cacho told us about why she stays in Mexico, where her life is threatened. She told us how her grandfather, an immigrant from Portugal, schooled her in the evils of slavery as he taught her both the glorious and inglorious of her Portuguese forbears. She told us of her discovery of modern slavery, the sex trade. She told us of the children who motivated her activism.

Actually, Cacho, is ordinary in the most profound way. She met children volunteering in a children's shelter. Like many of us, she started by doing her share to repair the world. Then she moved toward greatness. She wrote a book. She went to jail and into danger. And then Lydia Cacho embraced a life of determined activism on behalf of children sold into sexual slavery.

She told us we need love. She is a lover of life and humanity.



Lydia Cacho

YAD Shabbat in the Park event a success

Laura Berger, special to the WJN

Once again, Shabbat in the Park was a huge success. On September 11, the program enjoyed its biggest turnout ever, when over 160 newcomers, YAD members and their families came together to celebrate Shabbat at Burns Park with an evening of singing,

play, and a picnic dinner. Highlights included familiar musical Shabbat favorites by musicians Brett Levy and Debbie Gombert, who regularly lead Shabbat singing on Fridays at the JCC Early Childhood Center. YAD was pleased to partner with the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor (HDS) this year. Allison Pollock, an HDS parent, was instrumental in the planning, and her group of parent volunteers helped make this event so successful. More photos from the event can be viewed at the photo gallery on the Jewish Federation website at www.jewishannarbor.org. For information about future YAD programs, contact laura@jewishannarbor.org or call 677-0100.



- 1-Dina Shtull and Jeffrey Leflein
- 2-Blessing over the challah by Richard Primus.
- 3-Brett Levy and Debbie Gombert entertaining the crowd.
- 4- Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, Alan Jacobson, and their sons, Micah and Oliver

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Community

Night of Hilarity and Charity

Jeffrey M. Lazor, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Young Adult Division Night of Hilarity and Charity, chaired by Dr. Stefanie Aronow and Andrew Landau, was held on October 22, 2009 and featured the Sklar Brothers. Over 160 people came out to see the famous comedic duo discuss their childhood, their Judaism and their take on current events. Guests dined on Sushi appetizers prepared by the Polo Fields. Attendees were also asked to support the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish community's 2010 Annual Campaign.

Sushi buffet



Dr. Stephanie Aronow introduced the Sklar Brothers

Randy and Jason Sklar



Seniors

November SPICE* of Life

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Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

NOTE: Jewish Book Fair activities preempt exercise and games and activities on Tuesday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 10.

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. \$4 per session, or 3 sessions for \$10
Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. \$3 per person

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

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

Thursdays

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

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

Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. \$3 per person

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

2:15 p.m.: Literary Group facilitated by Sidney Warschausky, Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, for more information and the current book.

Fridays

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

Wednesday special events

November 18

1 p.m. Afternoon Delights Concert presenting Arie and Friends sponsored by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. Tickets \$8 at the door or through the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. *Note time change.*

Thursday special events

November 5

Exercise and current events are pre-empted by activities of the Jewish Book Fair

Noon: Award-winning author S.J. Rozan reads from and discusses her newest mystery novel, *The Shanghai Moon*, which follows a trail from Shanghai to Manhattan's Chinatown on a hunt for a valuable brooch.

November 12

Noon: *When You Lie About Your Age, the Terrorists Win*, the first book by comedian Carol Leifer, is a laugh-out-loud look at life, love, and family that deals with her personal journey through aging, adoption, animal activism, feminism, and faith. Ultimately, it is about coming to terms with yourself, coming into your own, and becoming the person you are meant to be.

November 19

12:30 pm: Birthday celebration for all with November birthdays! Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake. 1 pm: Singer, pianist, composer and one-man band, Avy Schreiber, brings his music to SPICE for an hour of memorable music.

November 26


The JCC is closed for Thanksgiving.

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Jewish Education

Ann Arbor Chabad to offer "SoulQuest"

Moshe Yosef, special to the WJN

The confrontation with the harsh reality of mortality, whether through aging, a health crisis, or an encounter with death, makes one wonder whether life has any meaning. It is during these existential crises that Jewish tradition reaches out to people with solace and comfort, asserting that while one's body may die, one's soul is eternal, and this world is but one step in its journey. For death is not an end. Nor is it a mere passageway to the next stage of existence. One's knowledge of death can become a means of inspiring life, and ensuring that one's moments here are lived to the fullest.

The course SoulQuest is not a philosophical one, but an experiential one. It does not attempt to prove the existence of a soul, nor of the afterlife, nor of heaven and hell and reincarnation. Instead, it shares the intuitive truths that have inspired generations of Jews to live more fully and to face death fearlessly. It explains how those who left this world are not lost to their loved ones, nor the loved ones to the departed. It allows one the opportunity to resolve what death has left unresolved, and

thereby to find peace and closure.

Ann Arbor Chabad invites everyone to discover the odyssey of their soul. Find out where it came from, where it is going, and what it is doing right now. Explore the limits of mortality, and how one can better appreciate the true life of those who are living, as well as those who have passed on. Lessons will examine a range of classic Jewish sources, drawing extensively from the Talmud and Kabbalah.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Chabad House will teach this course at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and Chabad House for six Tuesdays, starting November 24. Call 995-3276 for more information.

SoulQuest, like all JLI's courses, is designed for people at all levels of Jewish knowledge. Participants without any prior experience, affiliations or background in Jewish learning are welcome to attend. ■

Visit www.myJLI.com or www.SoulQuestion.com for up-to-date information about SoulQuest.



JLI class 2009

Course overview

Lesson One: Meet the Pilot

To talk about death, one first has to talk about life, and the soul that is the source of life. Classic sources will be studied to develop the idea of the soul and its properties, and the purpose of the soul will be examined.

Lesson Two: Before You Were Born

The soul as the "real self," eternal in its existence, is established, with a look at the origin of the soul and the manner in which it prepares for its descent into the world, as well as Jewish customs of pregnancy and birth designed to aid the soul in its transition.

Lesson Three: Death and Beyond

The Jewish customs of death that aid the soul in its transition out of the physical world will be examined, as well as the pleasure the soul receives as a result of its positive actions in this world, and the process of *Gehinom*, cleansing the soul so that it can reunite with its source.

Lesson Four: Reincarnation

The soul usually requires many lifetimes to complete its mission, with each lifetime adding to the experience of the soul and

drawing upon the lessons of previous lifetimes. This knowledge allows one to navigate one's life and mission with greater hope and confidence. Famous Jewish personalities will be studied, to see how the mystics have explained the events of their lives through the lens of their past lives.

Lesson Five: Eternal Bond

Once a soul has left this world, despite its exalted spiritual place, it can no longer perform *mitzvot*, which is left to the living. This lesson discusses the customs of Kaddish, Yahrzeit, Yizkor, and visiting the grave. It also discusses the ways that departed souls may communicate, and pray or intercede on one's behalf.

Lesson Six: Toward a More Meaningful Life

By understanding the different stages of the soul's journey, one can live their own life more fully. Each day is, in fact, a microcosm of the soul's journey, and the current moment is pivotal in launching us towards a fuller future. The course will end with a morning meditation for inspiration to make the most of each day.

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JCC Book Festival

JCC 22nd Annual Jewish Book festival hosts Local Author Fair and Brunch

Margi Brawer, Special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor 22nd Annual Book Festival will host a Local Author Brunch on Sunday, November 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. This event, which celebrates Ann Arbor's community creativity, is an opportunity to hear about new books from talented authors living in the area. Each author will discuss his or her book and answer questions. A complimentary light brunch will be served. The Local Author Brunch is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

Jane Alkon, author of *Mr. Boy*

Mr. Boy is the first in a series of books about Jane Alkon's Labrador retriever. *Mr. Boy* features real-life stories and actual experiences of an owner of a Labrador retriever in a suburban home setting. Alkon's vivid photographs of her dog, coupled with her personal stories, give the reader a glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of living a dog's life.



Jane Alkon

Jane Alkon is a lifelong dog lover and dog owner. She is a supporter of Patriot Paws Service Dogs, serving disabled veterans, and is an active member of the Pet-a-Pet Club, providing pet therapy in the Detroit area through hospitals and nursing care visits with her dog, Andy. A graduate of Michigan State University, Jane is the author of *Element—Art and Design*, a photo retrospective of her work as a handcraft artist. *Mr. Boy* is Jane Alkon's second published work and combines Jane's artistic background with her love of writing and passion for Labrador Retriever, Andy.

Marvin Brandwin, author of *A Smorgasbord of Verse*

A Smorgasbord of Verse, a collection of easy-to-digest poems, is a potpourri of food related rhymes having ingredients of humor and empathy, and at times seasoned with a pinch of cynicism.

Marvin Brandwin is an emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Michigan Health System. After more than a half-century of clinical experience with people, he applies his insights to a new constituency: food. *A Smorgasbord of Verse* is his first non-professional publication.



Marvin Brandwin

Paul Ehrmann, D.O., author of *Generation XL: The Childhood Obesity Pandemic A Community-Based Solution*

The fact that childhood obesity is now the number one health concern for kids compelled Dr. Paul Ehrmann, a family practice physician in Southeast Michigan, into action. *Generation XL* details the childhood obesity pandemic and offers real solutions to the problem. The books take a no-nonsense approach to fighting childhood obesity with ideas including battling the XL psychology, cooking and nutrition tips, and fitness ideas in the real world.

Dr. Ehrmann earned his bachelor of science of Pharmacy in 1976 and his



Dr. Paul Ehrmann

Doctor of Osteopathy in 1980. Dr. Ehrmann has been a community-based activist advocating for grass roots preventative healthcare. His work in health promotion and disease prevention has been well recognized. In 2002, Dr. Ehrmann became actively engaged in the fight against childhood obesity by creating and implementing the Children's Health Initiative Program, (CHIP) which is a family-based healthy living program for elementary children and their parents. Currently, he is on staff at the St. John and William Beaumont Hospital systems.

Judith Endelman, author of *An American Experience: Adeline Moses Loeb and Her Early American Jewish Ancestors (1876-1953)*

Eight generations of a prominent American Jewish family unfold in this captivating biography of Adeline Moses Loeb. Combining lively stories by family members with archival and genealogical research, this book is a glowing portrait of Adeline, the daughter of a successful banker, and the family that shaped her.



Judith E. Endelman

Judith E. Endelman is director of historical resources and the Benson Ford Research Center at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. Endelman has co-authored *The Jewish Community of Indianapolis, 1849 to the Present*; *Religion in Indiana: A Guide to Historical Resources* (with L. C. Rudolph); and *Americans on Vacation* (with Donna R. Braden). She has also published articles and book reviews in museum studies, archival administration, and American Jewish history.

Dr. Laura Hirshbein, M.D., author of *American Melancholy*

American Melancholy traces the growth of depression as an object of medical study and as a consumer commodity, illustrating how and why depression came to be such a huge medical, social, and cultural phenomenon. It is the first book to address gender issues in the construction of depression, explore key questions of how its diagnosis was developed, how it has been used, and how we should question its application in American society.



Laura Hirshbein

Laura Hirshbein is a clinical assistant professor in the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry. She holds an M.D. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in medical history from the Johns Hopkins University.

Keren McGinity, author of *Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America*

Over the last century, American Jews married outside their religion at increasing rates. By closely examining the intersection of intermarriage and gender across the twentieth century, Keren R. McGinity describes the lives of Jewish women who intermarried while placing their decisions in historical context. *Still Jewish* dismantles assumptions that once a Jew intermarries, she becomes fully assimilated into the majority Christian population, religion, and culture. Rather than becoming lost to the Jewish

community, women who intermarried later in the century were more likely to raise their children with strong ties to Judaism than women who intermarried earlier in the century. The first comprehensive history of these intermarried women, *Still Jewish* is a multigenerational study combining in-depth personal interviews and an astute analysis of how interfaith relationships and intermarriage were portrayed in the mass media, advice manuals, and religious community-generated literature.

Keren McGinity is the inaugural Mandell L. Berman Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life at the University of Michigan's Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.



Keren R. McGinity

Shelley Perlove, author of *Rembrandt's Faith: Church and Temple in the Dutch Golden Age*

Covering all the media Rembrandt worked in throughout his career, *Rembrandt's Faith* is the only art-historical study to address the full breadth of the artist's religious imagery. Rembrandt weighed in on important religious issues of his day and was a close student of the Bible, using traditional approaches based on Saint Paul to employ typology between the Old and New Testaments. He also shared the Dutch propensity to draw analogies between the biblical tales of the "chosen people" and Dutch society, including commentary on righteous leadership under God's covenant. *Rembrandt's Faith* raises essential questions about the complex relationships among Rembrandt's art, religion, and the theological debates of his time.

Shelley Perlove is a professor of art history at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where she teaches Renaissance and Baroque art, and museum studies. A distinguished and popular teacher, public speaker, and active publishing scholar in the area of Renaissance and Baroque art and architecture, she is also the honored recipient of many national grants, and two prestigious faculty awards. Her definitive book on the Italian sculptor Bernini has been republished in paperback, and was recognized by the Gustav Arlt Humanities Book Award. *Rembrandt's Faith: Church and Temple in the Dutch Golden Age*, was awarded a Kress Award and a Newberry Library Brown-Weiss Award for Outstanding Books in the Humanities. Perlove has served as president of the Midwest Art History Society and is member of the board of directors of the Historians of Netherlandish Art. She is much admired for her on-site art, architecture, and history tours to Europe.



Shelley Perlove

Aliza Shevrin, author of *Tevye the Milkman*

For the 150th anniversary of the birth of the "Jewish Mark Twain," Aliza Shevrin has published a new translation of Sholem Aleichem's most famous works, titled, *Tevye the Dairyman and Motel the Cantor's Son*. Tevye and Motel are arguably the most celebrated characters in all of Jewish fiction. Tevye is the lovable, Bible-quoting father of seven daughters, a modern Job whose wisdom, humor, and resilience inspired the lead character in *Fiddler on the Roof*. And Motel is the

spirited and mischievous nine-year-old boy who accompanies his family on a journey from their Russian shtetl to New York, and whose comical, poignant, and clear-eyed observations capture with remarkable insight the struggles and hopes and triumphs of Jewish immigrants to America at the turn of the twentieth century.

Aliza Shevrin, is the most prolific translator of Sholem Aleichem, having translated eight other volumes of his fiction. While working on Tevye and Motel, she was also translating *Wandering Stars*, Sholem Aleichem's sprawling love story spanning ten years and two continents, and set in the colorful world of the Yiddish theater. She has also translated and published a novel and several short stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer. The novel, *Enemies, A Love Story*, was made into a successful film. Her work as a translator has been favorably reviewed in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, as well as many other periodicals. Shevrin frequently teaches Yiddish classes and lectures throughout the country on the art of translating and the lives of the authors she has translated.



Aliza Shevrin

Margaret Fuchs Singer, author of *Legacy of a False Promise: A Daughter's Reckoning*

Margaret Fuchs was thirteen in June 1955 when she learned that her parents had been Communists while working for the U.S. government in the 1930s and 1940s. This book chronicles the years during which her parents were exposed and her father was subpoenaed before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Eventually he named names, and subsequently lost his job as a law professor at American University, and was blacklisted from teaching ever again. *Legacy of a False Promise* also details the author's quest as an adult to learn whether or not her parents ever spied for the Soviet Union. Most 'red-diaper babies' who have written on the subject had parents who refused to give in to HUAC's demands. Singer's work instead recounts the shame and series of betrayals that her father's decision to name names brought to her family. This is a poignant meditation on family secrets, father-daughter relationships in times of crisis, teenage loneliness in the midst of trauma, and the effects of parents' actions on the lives of their children. It also serves as a timely reminder of the dangers of sacrificing civil liberties in the name of national security.

Margaret Fuchs Singer is retired from a 35-year career in special education. She holds a bachelors degree in psychology and an masters degree in deaf education. She has published three professional papers in the fields of psychology and education. Singer now has a photography and fabric art business, A Moment to Remember.



Margaret Fuchs Singer

Mark Tessler, author of *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

Mark Tessler's highly praised, comprehensive, and balanced history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the earliest times to the present—updated through the first years

of the 21st century—provides a constructive framework for understanding recent developments and assessing the prospects for future peace. Drawing upon a wide array of documents and on research by Palestinians, Israelis, and others, Tessler assesses the conflict on both the Israelis' and the Palestinians' terms.



Mark Tessler

Tessler is Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor of Political Science, director of the International Institute, and vice provost for international affairs at the University of Michigan. He is author (with Ann Lesch) of *Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinians: From Camp David to Intifada*, co-editor of *Democracy, War, and Peace in the Middle East*, and editor of *Area Studies and Social Science: Strategies for Understanding Middle East Politics*.

Jeannie Weininger, author of *Santa Fe Sister*

Set in Santa Fe, Jeannie Weininger's novel provides a loving description of a tiny Jewish community in a small southwestern town. The Jewish community is unaware of the secret of one of its leaders, Zoltan Klein. With the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement as

background, the reader becomes entangled with Zoltan's secret past and his beautiful daughter, Mitzi. When Mitzi tries to break free of her father's old world traditions, she finds her rebellion leads to a dramatic turn from her family and a move to Michigan as she explores her independence, sexuality and ideas about race. Jeannie Weiner's compelling novel weaves quirky, yet believable characters, through the ordeal of a father's haunting past and draws on the universal themes of grief, love, and forgiveness.



Jeannie Weiner

Weiner is a freelance writer for the *Detroit News*, *Detroit Free Press* and the *Detroit Jewish News*. *Santa Fe Sister* is Weiner's first novel. In addition to her writing career, Weiner served as the president of the Michigan Jewish Conference and the president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metro Detroit.

The Local Author's Brunch is free and opened to the community. For more information about the brunch or other Jewish Book Festival functions, please contact Julie Gales at the Jewish Community Center 971-0990 or email juliegales@jccfed.org.

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JCC Book Festival



Jeff Zaslow

Dan Senor

Jonathan Cohn

Abigail Pogrebin

Howard Blum

Steve Luxenberg

Debra Darvick

Jewish Book Festival hosts national journalists

Margi Brawer, special to the WJN

A bevy of nationally known journalists will descend on Ann Arbor as part of the 22nd Annual Jewish Book Festival at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor from Tuesday, November 3 through Sunday, November 15. The journalists work in a variety of mediums from print and broadcast to the newer social network blogs and are equally varied in their perspectives and interest. These notable journalists offer an opportunity to meet some of the nation's best journalist at a dynamic time when the field of journalism itself is rapidly evolving.

Opening this year's book festival is Jeff Zaslow on Tuesday, November 3, at 7 p.m. to discuss his book, *The Girls from Ames*. The book grew out of an article about women's transitions that was featured in his Moving On column in the *Wall Street Journal*. Zaslow, best known for co-authoring *The Last Lecture*, the best seller that grew out of a lecture titled, "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams," given by Dr. Randy Pausch after he learned he had terminal pancreatic cancer, Zaslow is currently co-authoring *Highest Duty*, *My Search for What Really Matters*, which is an autobiography of Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the commercial airline pilot whose emergency landing on the Hudson River earned the world's admiration. *Highest Duty* is set for release in fall 2009. This event is sponsored by Penchansky

Whisler Architects and Simply Scrumptious Catering.

On Wednesday November 4, two respected journalists from different sides of the political spectrum will be discussing books of public policy. At the noontime Lunch & Learn, author Dan Senor will discuss his book *Start-Up Nation* that examines the cultural and economic realities that propel Israel's rapid-fire economic growth. Senor is an analyst at *Fox News* and a contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, not to mention the husband of *CNN* anchor, Campbell Brown. At 7:30 p.m., Jonathan Cohn will discuss his book, *Sick: the Untold Story of America's Health Care Crisis and the People Who Pay the Price*. Cohn's unique "inside the Beltway" knowledge will shed light on whether Washington can cure America's healthcare system. Cohn, the senior editor at *The New Republic*, and a senior fellow at the think-tank Demos, has written for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Mother Jones*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Slate*. *Start-Up Nation* is sponsored by Wm. Molnar Roofing, Inc. and Judy and Paul Freedman and *Sick* is sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Society.

Thursday evening, November 5, at 7:30 p.m., Abigail Pogrebin, will discuss twins in her book, *One and The Same*. She herself is a twin, and her identical twin sister, Robin Pogrebin, is a culture reporter for *The New York Times*. In *One and the Same*, Pogrebin

examines what it means to go through life as a double and she uses both her personal experience as well as extensive research to investigate how the different aspects of being a twin affects a person. Pogrebin has been a producer for *Charlie Rose*, *Bill Moyers*, and *60 Minutes* and was a senior correspondent for *Brill's Content*, a contributing writer for *Talk* magazine, and is now a free-lance journalist whose work has appeared in many magazines and newspapers. *One and the Same* is sponsored by Esther Ullman and Morley Witus.

Week Two of the Book Festival will also feature several national journalists. Howard Blum will kick off the week on Monday, November 9 at noon for a Lunch & Learn. Blum, author of *American Lightning*, is an award-winning former reporter for the *New York Times* and is currently a contributing editor of *Vanity Fair*. *American Lightning* describes the bombing of the *LA Times* building in 1910 and the conflict between management and labor unions that appears to be the cause. That evening, as part of Baseball Night, Ira Berkow, American Pulitzer Prize-winning sports reporter and columnist for the *New York Times*, will recount the story of Major League pitcher Lou Brissie in his book, *The Corporal was a Pitcher*. *American Lightning* is sponsored by Prue and Ami Rosenthal and Baseball Night is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth.

Wednesday, November 11, at the noon

Lunch & Learn, Steve Luxenberg, associate editor at *The Washington Post*, will discuss his book, *Annie's Ghost*. As a former Detroit-er, Luxenberg uses his mastery of the written word to create a historical and family memoir that will especially resonate with residents of southeast Michigan. Heather and Stuart Dombey are the sponsors of *Annie's Ghost*.

On the final day of the Book Festival, November 15, at 10 a.m., Debra Darvick will share her book, *I love Jewish Faces* with pre-schoolers and their families. Darvick's blog, featuring book reviews, recipes, gardening tips and words of wisdom, has a popular following. Additionally, her essays and feature stories have appeared in dozens of mainstream and Jewish presses including *Moment*, *Hadassah*, *the Forward*, *Newsweek*, *Detroit News*, and *Detroit Free Press*. The JCC Early Childhood Center will be sponsoring Darvick and providing activities and pizza lunch for young festival attendants.

While each individual journalist will be promoting his or her book during the 22nd Annual Jewish Book Festival at the Jewish Community Center, as a group they offer an unprecedented opportunity to meet some of the finest journalists in the nation and hear their unique perspectives on the craft today. For more information on the Book Festival, contact Julie Gales at the JCC, 971-0990 or juliegales@jccfed.org. ■

L.A. Law's Tucker and Eikenberry to appear at Book Festival Sponsor Event

Margi Brawer, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will honor sponsors of the 22nd Annual Book Festival at a cocktail reception and dinner on Sunday, November 8, at 6 p.m. There will be a "meet and greet" for sponsors during the reception with featured author, Michael Tucker and his wife, Jill Eikenberry. Sponsors will also receive an autographed copy of Tucker's book, *Family Meals*. Tucker and Eikenberry or the "Tuckerberries" as they affectionately refer to themselves, will speak at 7:30 p.m. and the talk is free and open to the public.

Family Meals is the memoir of the "Tuckerberries" return from retirement to care for an aging parent. Michael Tucker recounts how he and Jill settle into their dream house in Italy when life suddenly interrupted their plans. Jill's mother began a rapid decline into dementia following the death of her husband. Thus begins *Family Meals*, a beautifully told memoir that examines the sacri-

fices one makes for family. After a disastrous attempt to place Jill's mother in a senior residence, an apartment becomes vacant right across the hall from Michael and Jill's New York residence and they set up their own personal nursing home. Michael and Jill's children—much to their parents' delight—decide not only to relocate to Manhattan but also move in together. Their family which had been a loose network of individual parts is now a remarkably cohesive unit. *Family Meals* is a heartwarming story of Tucker's own unique family and the journey each member has taken. It is a book that addresses a fact of



Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry

life that all face—aging—with remarkable charm, sympathy, and warmth, showing the ways in which loved ones are the greatest asset in times of sorrow and times of joy. Jewish Family Services and Glacier Hills Senior Living Community.

A veteran stage, film and television actor, Michael Tucker is perhaps best known for his role as Stuart Markowitz in the hit series, *L.A. Law*. His eight-year stint on the popular NBC-TV drama brought him three Emmy nominations and two Golden Globe nominations. His wife, Jill Eikenberry, is also well known for her role on *L.A. Law* as Ann

Kelsey, which earned her four Emmy nominations, two Golden Globe nominations and a Golden Globe Award. As a team, the "Tuckerberries" have also appeared together on stage and television movies and produced a documentary film. Currently, Michael and Jill have put together a two-person show that they are performing around the country which tells the story of their 35-year relationship with the help of a dozen songs, video clips from TV and films and even a cooking segment where Michael passes out tasty morsels to the audience.

The Jewish Book Festival runs from November 3–15. To become a Book Festival Sponsor or for more information, contact Julie Gales at 971-0990 or juliegales@jccfed.org.

Book Festival hosts community-wide book club night

Leslie Bash, special to the WJN

The JCC Jewish Book Festival Committee has planned the first annual Book Club Night for the Ann Arbor community during this year's Jewish Book Festival. The event will take place on Thursday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m. Fran Martin, Mimi Chapman and Esther Ullman, 2009 JCC Book Festival chairs, have announced that the featured speaker is David Liss author of *The Devil's Company* and winner of the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. The event is being sponsored by the ORT and Hadassah Book Clubs.

All Book Clubs in the community are invited to the event and each group will be able to sit together at tables and enjoy dessert and the author's presentation. The dessert is \$5 and the book can be purchased with dessert as a package for \$25. Individuals are also welcome to attend both the dessert and the talk. The talk alone is free and open to the entire community.

The Devil's Company is a superb new historical thriller from the acclaimed author of *The Whiskey Rebels* and *A Conspiracy of Paper*, is set in the splendor and squalor of eighteenth-century London. The year is 1722. Ruffian-for-hire, ex-boxer, and master of disguise, Benjamin Weaver, a Jew, finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse, pitted against Jerome Cobb, a wealthy and mysterious schemer who needs Weaver's strength and guile for his own treacherous plans.

Weaver is blackmailed into stealing documents from England's most heavily guarded estate, the headquarters of the ruthless British East India Company, but the theft of corporate secrets is only the first move in a daring conspiracy within the eighteenth century's most powerful corporation. To save his friends and family from Cobb's reach, Weaver must infiltrate the Company, navigate its warring factions, and uncover a secret ploy of corporate rivals, foreign spies and government operatives. With millions of pounds and the security of the nation at stake, Weaver will find himself in a labyrinth of hidden agendas, daring enemies and unexpected allies.

With the explosive action and scrupulous period research that are David Liss's trademarks, *The Devil's Company*, depicting the birth of the modern corporation, is the most impressive achievement yet from the author who continues to set ever higher standards for historical suspense.

David Liss is the author of *The Whiskey Rebels*, *The Ethical Assassin*, *A Spectacle of Corruption*, *The Coffee Trader*, and *A Conspiracy of Paper* (He received his bachelors' degree from Syracuse University, a masters degree from Georgia State University and his masters of philosophy from Columbia University).

For reservations and information, contact Julie Gales at the JCC at 971-0990 or email her at juliegales@jccfed.org.

"Take Me Out" to Baseball Night

Emily Grekin, special to the WJN

Escape the daily grind for a few hours on Monday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m., and relish the literary glow of the all-American pastime, the game of baseball. Join other fans at the 22nd Annual Jewish Book Festival held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor for Baseball Night—a night of intellectual discussion, captivating speakers, inspirational stories, and insight into the game of baseball. The JCC will host two prominent authors and speakers, Brooks Mendell and Ira Berkow, as they discuss their two very different, but equally intriguing, books on baseball.

Brooks Mendell is author of *Beaverball*, the story of how the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's baseball team won its first ever championship. His book relays the true extent to which coaches, parents, and teachers impact team and individual values, potential, and leadership. Mendell was co-captain and co-MVP of MIT's only winning baseball season, and is now president of Forisk Consulting. He is also a professional motivational speaker.

Ira Berkow's book, *The Corporal was a Pitcher*, takes a completely different tone, exploring the psyche of a WWII survivor—baseball great Lou Brissie—as he fights his way back into the major league as a pitcher. Berkow has been a sports columnist and feature writer for the *New York Times* for the past 25 years, and won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001. He has published 18 books, including several best sellers.

The Jewish Book Festival's Baseball Night is free of charge and open to the public. The evening is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth and the MIT Club of Southeast Michigan. It promises to be a night to remember for all baseball fans, book lovers, and those who long for a greater understanding of successful team dynamics, as well as personal accomplishments and growth, in the face of overwhelming challenges.

Spirituality Book Club, new at TBE

Leonard Felder, Ph. D., special to the WJN

Join Cantor Annie Rose as she leads a journey through nine books over nine months on the first Tuesday of each month, from 7:30–9 p.m., October–June. The class is designed with everyone in mind: firm believers, non-believers, gentle skeptics, or interested seekers. November's book, *Seven Prayers That will Change your Life*, can be drawn upon to help on a stressful day, whether a person considers him or herself to be religious, spiritual, not very religious, or very skeptical. The author, Leonard Feller, is a licensed psychologist in West Los Angeles who has spoken on the connection between spirituality and psychology to hundreds of religious, secular and adult education groups nationwide.

The book club is free to join, with the exception of the cost of the books. Books are available on amazon.com or through other booksellers. Sign up for the book club by emailing Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com.

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NOVEMBER 3-15, 2009

JCC JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

A COMMUNITY WIDE CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOKS



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3		WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4		THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5	
OPENING NIGHT DESSERT RECEPTION 7:00 P.M. <i>Free and Open to the Community</i>		7:30 P.M.  Jeffrey Zaslow <i>The Girls from Ames</i>	NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Dan Senior <i>Start-Up Nation</i>	7:30 P.M.  Jonathan Cohn <i>Sick: The Untold Story of America's Health Care Crisis and the People Who Pay the Price</i>	NOON LUNCH & LEARN  S. J. Rozan <i>The Shanghai Moon</i>
					7:30 P.M.  Abigail Pogrebin <i>One and the Same</i>
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6		SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8		MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9	
NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Michael Rosen <i>What Else But Home</i>		12:15 P.M. AMERICAN GIRL DOLL LUNCHEON & TEA  WIN AN AMERICAN GIRL DOLL	7:30 P.M. AUTHOR PRESENTATION OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY  Michael Tucker & Jill Eikenberry		6:00 P.M. SPONSOR RECEPTION & DINNER
				NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Howard Blum <i>American Lightning</i>	7:30 P.M. BASEBALL NIGHT  Brooks Mendell <i>Beaverball</i>  Ira Berkow <i>The Corporal was a Pitcher</i>
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10		WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11		THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12	
NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Kurt Roberg <i>A Visa or Your Life!: A Boy's Life and the Odyssey of His Escape from Nazi Germany</i>		7:30 P.M.  Chris Bohjalian <i>Skeletons at the Feast</i>	NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Steve Luxenberg <i>Annie's Ghosts</i>	7:30 P.M.  Ernie Harburg <i>Liberty, Equality, Consensus and all that jazz at the Del Rio Bar</i>	NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Carol Leifer <i>When You Lie About Your Age, The Terrorists Win</i>
					7:30 P.M. BOOK CLUB NIGHT  David Liss <i>The Devil's Company</i>
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13		SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15			
NOON LUNCH & LEARN  Nick Dubin <i>Asperger Syndrome and Anxiety: A Guide to Successful Stress Management</i>		10:00 A.M. - NOON CHILDREN'S PROGRAM  Debra B. Darvick <i>I Love Jewish Faces</i> FREE PIZZA LUNCH	10:00 A.M. LOCAL AUTHORS' BRUNCH <i>Celebrating our Community's Creativity</i>		12:30 P.M. LUNCH & LEARN  Bruce Feiler <i>America's Prophet Moses and the American Story</i>
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Congregations

Beth Israel Congregation activities in November

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Thanksgiving Kiddush luncheon honoring college students

On Thanksgiving weekend, Beth Israel invites college students who are in town from universities across the country, as well as U-M and EMU students who are not able to be with their families in other cities, to a Kiddush luncheon in their honor at noon, following the Shabbat service on Saturday, November 28. Students are welcome to attend the Shabbat service that begins at 9:30 a.m., with the Torah reading service starting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Tailgate Kiddush

Beth Israel will offer a special Tailgate Kiddush following Shabbat services on Saturday, November 21 at 12:15 p.m. The Shabbat morning service begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Tailgate Kiddush will include hot dogs, chili, baked beans, veggie options, hot cider and more and marks the traditional University of Michigan/Ohio State University football game on that day.

Judaism 101: An Introduction and a Refresher

Judaism 101 is a continuing class meant for anyone who is looking to learn or review some of the fundamentals of Judaism. Four topics are

still to be covered through the end of the course: Shabbat, Prayer, Conservative Judaism and Sacred Texts. Each topic will be explored for three weeks. Participants are welcome to sign up for one topic, a few topics, or all four topics. All classes begin at 7:30 p.m. with Maariv, the evening service, and are facilitated by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Sessions on the subject of Shabbat will take place on December 2, 9, and 16. The session on Prayer will take place on January 13, 20, and 27. The session on Conservative Judaism will take place on March 10, 17, and 24. The sessions on Sacred Texts will take place on April 21, 28, and May 5.

Lunch and Learn

Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions will be presented on November 4, 11, and 18, by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal at the Garfunkel-Schteingart Activities Center (2010 Washatenaw Ave.). Each week a new topic is presented. Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch, and refreshments and desserts will be provided by the congregation. There is no charge for this weekly event. Topics are found at www.bethisrael-aa.org.

Story teller and Friday evening service

On Friday evening, November 6, at 7:30 p.m., Beth Israel will offer "Shabbat: Take the Time... for Stories." That night's Friday evening service will be enhanced by a visit from Laura Pershin Raynor,

a professional story teller. Following the service, there will be an Oneg Shabbat, during which time Raynor will tell a story specifically for adults. Parallel programming will be provided for children.



Laura Pershin Raynor

Raynor has performed as a Teller-in-Residence at the International Storytelling Center in 2005, and she has been featured at the Celebration of Light, Timpanogos and Colonial Williamsburg festivals. She brings to life the colorful cast of characters from her unique and loving family. Her Grandma Dinah, who lived to be 105 years old, raised her on the tales of the old country, providing Raynor with a landscape for her own stories, told in an animated and intimate style. Raynor performed at the 2004 National Storytelling Festival. In 2006 she won the Award of Merit for Children's Librarian of the Year in the State of Michigan. One of her CDs, *A Well Kept Secret: Family Stories from the Old Country to the New*, won a Parents' Choice award. She is a children's librarian at the Ann Arbor District Library.

Tot Shabbat and Kehillat Shabbat

On November 14 and November 28 at 11:15 a.m. the Tot Shabbat program will be offered to preschoolers and their parents. Stories, prayers, songs, and fun are a part of the program led by Peretz Hirshbein and Jessica Kander on alternate weeks. The pre-schoolers can enjoy their own kid-size tables at the synagogue kiddush which follows at 12:15 p.m.

On November 14 at 11 a.m. Kehillat Shabbat will offer first-fifth graders their own learning service and snacks.

Camp and Israel Programs Fair

The community is invited to attend the Camp and Israel Programs Fair, which will be held in the Beth Israel Social Hall from 9:30 a.m.-noon. on Sunday, November 15. (See article, page 18.)

General community is always welcome to events

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

November events at TBE

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Environment Shabbaton with Dr. Jonathan Cohen

This year Temple Beth Emeth is focusing on the environment, from food, to carbon footprint, to sustainability. Engaging in environmental conservation is a way to connect to the Jewish principle of *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the world).

Dr. Jonathan Cohen, associate professor of Talmud and Halachic Studies at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and director of the HUC-UC Ethics Center, will join TBE November 13-14, for a weekend of study and discussion titled "Nurturing Nature: Sustainability in Judaism." Friday evening, TBE will host a community dinner and hear Dr. Cohen speak during services about what Judaism has to say about environmental sustainability. On Saturday, November 14, from 1-4, the conversation will continue through interactive text study and discussion.

These events are open to the public. Reservations for dinner can be made at www.secure.templebethemeth.org and reservations for Saturday can be made by calling the temple office at 665-4744. For more information, contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

Movie Tuesday

Come to TBE on Tuesday, November 10, at 1 p.m., for a free midday movie, nosh, and short discussion. November's movie is the Israeli film, *Ushpizin*. *Ushpizin* translates into holy guests and even though the holiday of Sukkot is over, the joys and problems of family life are constant. Childcare is available with advanced notice.

A cinematic fable set in the Orthodox Jewish world, *Ushpizin* follows a poor, childless, devout man named Moshe (Shuli Rand) and his wife Malli (Michal Bat Sheva Rand, Shuli's real-life spouse) who can't afford a *sukkah*, the temporary dwelling required by the Sukkot holiday.

Suddenly a friend helps them find a *sukkah* and an anonymous donation rescues them from debt; Moshe believes the Lord has smiled on him at last and celebrates by buying a particularly beautiful citron (a lemon-like fruit) for the Sukkot observations. But when a couple of escaped convicts appear—one of whom knows Moshe from his old neighborhood—they insinuate themselves into Moshe and Malli's hospitality and quickly abuse it, threatening the couple's marriage and testing their faith.

Torah and Tonics

Want to do a little Jewish learning in a relaxed atmosphere with other twenty and thirty-somethings? Come to Torah and Tonics Tuesday, November 24, at 7:30 p.m., at Vinology (110 S. Main St.). Rabbi Lisa Delson will join the group on a monthly basis to study Jewish texts from the racy to the bizarre. No prior Jewish knowledge necessary and no need to RSVP—just stop by. Contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org with questions.

Mom's Night Out

Sometimes moms just need a night out. Join other moms on Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m., for a relaxing dinner without the kids at Grizzly Peak on Washington St. downtown Ann Arbor. This is a great way to connect with other moms who attend Tot Shabbat every week or to meet some new people. To RSVP, email Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

Basic Judaism

Basic Judaism, offered Sundays, November 1, 15, 22 and continuing through March, from 7:45-9 p.m. at TBE, is a course for those hoping to learn more about Judaism. This class is for those who were born Jewish, interested in conversion, or would just like to know more about



TBE families and kids enjoyed pizza and sukkah decorating party, Friday, October 2.

Jewish life. Rabbi Lisa Delson will teach Judaism through God, Torah, and Israel (the people and the land). "New Beginnings" coordinator, Janice Gutfreund, will also teach once a month, discussing the joys and challenges of converting to Judaism. The class is still open for those would like to join. Contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or at 665-4744.

Women's Torah Study

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Annie Rose continues in November with meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month, November 2 and 16, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the TBE Adult Lounge. Examining the text through the award winning *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, the study group reads essays and poetry related to the portion as well as commentary by Biblical scholars.

On November 2, the group will discuss *Vayeira*, with focus on divine messengers and Sarah's role as wife and mother. On November 16, the discussion of *Tol'dot* will again focus on motherhood and relationships, this time looking at Rebecca, Jacob, and Esau.

Renaissance Group attends Book Fair

Attend the Jewish Book Fair with the Renaissance Group on Tuesday, November 3, to hear author Jeff Zaslow, *Wall Street Journal* columnist, discuss his book *The Girls from Ames*. The group will meet for dinner at Shia Chang, 2016 Packard Road at 5:30 p.m. before the 7 p.m. lecture. For reservations and information, contact Deb Schild, at 477-0738 or deb_schild@comcast.net indicating attendance at dinner or both.

Jews of color come together to explore identity

By Sue Fishkoff

PETALUMA, Calif. (JTA)—Dafna Wu, a 48-year-old San Francisco nurse, resembles her Chinese father more than her Jewish mother. She's been Jewish her whole life, but she's used to walking into synagogues and having people ask who she's with, as if she didn't belong there of her own accord.

Her oldest daughter, Ruby, 24, looks like the Jewish man who fathered her, "like someone from a Vishniac photo," Wu says.

When Ruby was a baby, Wu says, "people thought I was her nanny."

But Wu's youngest child, 9-year-old Amalia, has a Chinese father and looks Asian. The Hebrew school she attends is filled with mixed-race children, but the parents in the congregation are all white. Amalia is in the minority, which concerns her mother.

"All my life I've had to defend being Jewish," Wu says. "I don't want her to have to explain her Judaism or be exoticized for it. I just want her to be a kid, not 'that special, multi-racial kid.'"

That's why Wu brings Amalia to Be'chol Lashon's retreats and holiday celebrations.

At Be'chol Lashon, a San Francisco-based organization for ethnically and racially diverse Jews and their families, Amalia plays with other Jewish children who are black, Hispanic and Asian, as well as a sprinkling of white children from non-conventional families. They study Hebrew, celebrate the holidays, read Bible stories and learn about Israel, but they also talk openly with their counselors about what it means to be Jews of color, to juggle an identity people can't see with the one proclaimed by their skin.

About 5.4 percent of America's Jews are non-white or Hispanic, according to the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Survey. A 2004 study by the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, Be'chol Lashon's parent organization, puts the figure at about 10 percent.

Nevertheless, say activists in the field, the prevailing assumption is that Jews in the United States are white, and that Jews of other racial or ethnic backgrounds are adoptees or converts. Sometimes they are, but increasingly they are not, as the children of mixed-race couples grow to adulthood and begin raising their own Jewish children.

As their numbers grow, mixed-race Jewish families are facing the same question often put to interfaith families: Is there a need for separate programming?

The answer, judging by the growth in the field, seems to be yes.

After 12 years of holiday programming in San Francisco and six years of annual fall retreats, Be'chol Lashon ran its first summer camp in June, when a critical mass of its families' children reached the 8-to-12 age group. An East Coast organization with similar goals, the Jewish Multiracial Network, founded by white Ashkenazi parents of African-American children, this summer formally passed leadership on to the next generation and is now run by and for Jews of color.

Both organizations have greatly expanded their activities this year. Be'chol Lashon, which used to limit programming to the San Francisco Bay Area, now has representatives in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago, as well as a rabbi in Oklahoma City who works with anusim, Hispanics of Jewish ancestry.

And the Jewish Multiracial Network, which sponsors an annual retreat and an active listserve, since September has held potluck gatherings and town hall meetings in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and is planning one for Los Angeles.

"This is a population that is growing, that deserves our sensitivity, and is not getting it," says Paul Golin, associate director of the Jewish Outreach Institute.

Golin has participated in Jewish Multiracial Network events. His wife is Japanese, and he expects their future children to face the same

They study Hebrew, celebrate the holidays, read Bible stories and learn about Israel, but they also talk openly with their counselors about what it means to be Jews of color, to juggle an identity people can't see with the one proclaimed by their skin.

questions she experiences in Jewish settings.

"I've learned a tremendous amount of what it means to have white privilege," he says. "I was fairly oblivious to it before. There's white privilege in America, and Ashkenazi privilege in the Jewish world."

But Be'chol Lashon founder and director Diane Tobin says she notices a "marked increase of interest" in reaching out to non-white Jews within the greater Jewish community.

"Diversity has become a very popular issue, especially with the election of Barack Obama," she says.

At the most recent Be'chol Lashon fall retreat, held Oct. 2-4 at Walker Creek Ranch just north of San Francisco, parents interviewed said they don't want to segregate their children from the larger community. Most, but not all, send their children to mainstream religious schools and belong to synagogues. They look at the Be'chol Lashon activities as supplementary, giving them space to explore their connection to Judaism without having to explain who they are.

Tobin created Be'chol Lashon with her husband, the late Gary Tobin, 12 years ago when they adopted Jonah, who is African American. The Tobins' daughter, Sarah Spencer, who was 21 at the time, was in on the decision.

"We thought it was important to have a community where Jonah and kids like him would not have to choose between their identities, where they didn't have to be black sometimes and Jewish sometimes," Spencer says.

Spencer, who has a 2-year-old son with her husband, a black Jamaican, says at first she wasn't sure there was a need for the new summer camp.

"But every parent I've talked to in the program says they've been looking for this," she says. "So it seems there was a void."

And it's not just the parents. Children who attended the camp this summer say they feel the difference.

"I have more friends that understand me here," says 10-year-old Aviva Davis, whose mother is the camp director.

At both Jewish Multiracial Network and Be'chol Lashon, mixed-race or non-white children who grew up in the organizations are taking over from their parents' generation.

The biggest upheaval took place within the Jewish Multiracial Network in June when Tanya Bowers, 36, of Washington was elected the group's first African-American president. "The shift is happening now," she says.

The group was started by Ashkenazim who adopted multi-racially, and for the past several years Bowers says there has been "some tension between these well-intentioned Jewish parents and the people of color in the organization, a lot of control issues." By this summer the parents were ready to let go, and Bower stepped forward.

"We still want the parents involved," she says. But the agenda is being set by the new generation. The summer retreat was the first to boast a separate track for Jews of color, along with the previous tracks set up by the group's founders.

Within Be'chol Lashon, young non-white faces are more prevalent in the group's leadership. Kenny Kahn, 27, the son of a white Jewish mother and black non-Jewish father, is a veteran of Hebrew school, Jewish summer camps and an Israel program, and has been coming to Be'chol Lashon for 12 years. He now serves as head counselor at the retreats and summer camp.

Kahn grew up in Richmond, a heavily African-American city north of Berkeley, and attended Temple Beth El, a Reform congregation in Berkeley.

"I had my Richmond friends and my Beth El friends," he says. "Being able to mediate between those two worlds has become a theme in my life."

A big, friendly guy who looks more African American than white, Kahn says he never experienced anti-Semitism in the black community or raised eyebrows in the Jewish community. But he relishes the space Be'chol Lashon provides him and his peers to explore their Judaism at leisure with others who share their backgrounds and concerns.

"In California we're blessed with tolerance," he says. "But tolerance is just the first step to acceptance, and that's what we need more of in the Jewish community." ■

Abraham planted a grove

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

On Shabbat November 7, we will read the Torah portion of Vayeira. It speaks about the greatness of our forefather Abraham, the very first Jew. Through Abraham's service, God's Name was made known throughout the world, and many people were brought to believe in Him.

The Torah states: "And Abraham planted an *eishel* [literally a grove] in Be'er Sheva, and called there in the name of God." The Torah specifically mentions Abraham's planting of the *eishel*, as this was considered a very great deed and a unique accomplishment.

The Midrash explains that an *eishel* is more than just a stand of trees under which wayfarers may find protection from the burning sun. An *eishel* is an inn, a place of lodging. Our Patriarch Abraham established his *eishel* in Be'er Sheva, in the heart of the desert, to cater to travelers in that inhospitable climate.

Did Abraham know these travelers personally? Of course not. He had no idea who might arrive. All he knew was that these strangers would no doubt be hungry, thirsty and tired from their trek across the desert. His motivation was to make their journey more pleasant and less taxing.

Abraham provided his guests with all kinds of amenities, not just bread and water to satisfy their hunger and quench their thirst. His visitors were offered meat, fine wines, fruit and a wide array of delicacies, as well as a place to sleep to rest from their travels.

His visitors' spiritual needs were also taken into consideration. Next to the inn that provided all their physical necessities, Abraham established a Sanhedrin, a court of law, so that wise men could answer the travelers' questions and find solutions to their personal and business problems.

This same attribute of kindness and justice is the birthright of every Jew, an inheritance from our forefather Abraham. And the Torah portion of Vayeira teaches us how we are supposed to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah (charity).

It isn't enough to provide a poor person with the basic requirements necessary to sustain life. We must offer him more than just the bare minimum, bringing him pleasure and enjoyment. And not only must his physical needs be met, but we must also try to help him resolve his spiritual struggles. This applies to every single Jew, even those we do not know personally, and constitutes the true meaning of the commandment of tzedakah ■

Scholars, continued from page 1

Catholic Theological Union's Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Center. He is a founding member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He currently chairs the Council's subcommittee on church relations and serves on its executive committee, the committee on conscience, and the academic committee. He is a member of the advisory committee on Catholic-Jewish relations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. His awards include the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award for Distinguished Contributions to Religion, the Righteous Among the Nations Award, the Justice and Peace Award from the American Jewish Committee, and the NCCJ Martin Luther King Award for Resisting Racism. Father Pawlikowski is author of 10 books including *The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology and Christ in the Light of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue*.

The dialogue will be introduced by EMU's new provost, Jack Kay, and will be moderated by English and Judaic Studies Professor Martin B. Shichtman. The community is invited to join the EMU students and faculty in taking this journey through the relationship between spirituality and human tragedy. ■

Federation announces Ann Arbor/Nahalal Student Exchange Program

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Ann Arbor/Nahalal Community-to-Community committee (C2C) announces the development of a new project designed to deepen the relationship between the two communities. The Ann Arbor/Nahalal Student Exchange Program is a two-part exchange in which 9th and 10th grade students from Ann Arbor will spend their February vacation in Nahalal. The following September, during the Sukkot break, their counterparts from Nahalal will come to Ann Arbor.

The Student Exchange is a natural offshoot of this summer's successful combined Ann Arbor/Nahalal Maccabi delegation. Three teen athletes from Nahalal spent a week in Ann Arbor before traveling to San Antonio with the Ann Arbor team. Atalia Mekler, one of the Nahalal athletes reported being "happy that we have a home over the ocean. We felt like being in a family." Those who were involved in the project on both ends found the personal relationships with their counterparts to be important and meaningful. The committee in both Israel and Ann Arbor sought a way to expand opportunities for teens to connect with their peers in each community. Yair Hammer, chair of the Israeli committee is "very excited about the prospect of a regular teen exchange in which our children strengthen their Jewish identity by connecting with the Jewish world outside Israel and yours strengthen their Jewish identity by developing relationships with Israelis."

Part One of the exchange will take place during the Ann Arbor Public School's 2010 February break, leaving Thursday, February



Bekah Lauer, Anna Cohen (both of Ann Arbor) and Atalia Mekler (of Nahalal) connect during the 2009 Maccabi Delegation visit.

19 and returning Monday, March 1. Organizers decided to extend the visit to Monday to enable the group to experience Purim in Israel. Participants will be hosted by families in Nahalal, and the program will include attending classes at the Nahalal Regional High School, touring Nahalal and the surrounding region, plenty of interaction with local teens, and a visit to Jerusalem. Students and their families will be asked to serve as hosts for the Nahalal delegation during the last two weeks of September 2010 (specific dates to be determined). The Nahalal students will have a similar program of touring, school attendance and teen interaction. Program organizers are consulting with the staff of Ann Arbor Public School's successful Hikone Exchange for middle school students for advice on development and implementation of the program.

Federation Executive Director David Shtulman sees the program as an important opportunity for Israeli and American Jewish teens to learn from one another. "Jewish teens in Israel and in the United States experience what it

means to be Jewish in very different ways," says Shtulman. "This program will give the teens from Ann Arbor an opportunity to understand what it means to be a teenager growing up in a Jewish state with military service looming just after high school graduation. The Israeli teens will experience what it means to be Jewish living in a non-Jewish country where one's Jewish-ness is experienced as a voluntary choice to participate in Jewish communal activities or not. Together, they will have the opportunity to understand the unique challenges to Jewish identity that each path holds."

The Student Exchange is funded by the Federation's Partnership 2000 C2C allocation; participants will be asked to cover only the cost of their flight and pocket money during the trip.

The Ann Arbor/Nahalal Partnership is an integral part of the Michigan/Central Galilee Partnership 2000 program led by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Cooperative programs are developed with communities in Michigan and those of Nazareth Illit, Migdal Ha'Emek and the Regional Council of Emek Yizrael (Jezreel Valley). Developing a closer relationship with Moshav Nahalal, a village in the Jezreel Valley, has allowed members of both communities to learn from and interact more closely with one another. This summer saw a record number of visitors from Ann Arbor to Moshav Nahalal, and the community eagerly awaits the arrival of the first Student Exchange group. ■

For more information about the Ann Arbor/Nahalal Student Exchange, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

A once in a lifetime experience in Israel

Tamar Sacerdoti, special to the WJN

I've been to Israel many times with my family, but it's a completely different experience than what I went through this summer. Along with 152 other teenagers, I flew to Israel through Habonim Dror North America. Although the plane ride was a never-ending 11 hours, we made it to The Holy Land in one piece.

When I arrived, I was a bit nervous about meeting my new companions that I would be with 24/7 for the next month of my summer. I also didn't realize that this one month would make this summer one of my most memorable summers yet. Nevertheless, we landed in Ben Gurion Airport in Lod and we were off to an amazing summer.

Throughout the trip we stayed at youth hostels all over Israel, and saw amazing sights that I wouldn't have ever seen if I was in Israel with my family. From hiking up Masada at 4 in the morning, to driving up the Jerusalem hills, to the night life in Tel Aviv, to the north of Israel, to the Negev, the trip was unforgettable, and the most fun I've had in a while.

My favorite sight in all of Israel was probably the Western Wall. I know that most teenagers will say that, but the reason that I love it so much there is because it is the center of Judaism, and every time I visit the Western Wall I get a feeling inside me that I cannot get anywhere else in the world. At the Western Wall, there's a sort of connection with God that can't be experienced anywhere else.

Another unique experience in Israel was on the second day of my trip, in which we built a full size raft with only 20 people, and then sailed that same raft over the Kineret for three and a half hours. While sailing over the Kineret in our man-made raft, we sang songs and ate watermelon. I don't think that I will ever get to do that again in my life, and that was another unbelievable experience.

My youth movement, Habonim Dror, has a sister movement called Ha'noar Ha'oved Ve'Ha'lomed. For a short period of four days we had a seminar with them to connect with a large group of Israeli teenagers our age. It was very remarkable to spend a couple days with them and compare the similarities and differences with both movements. During the day we had bonding activities, and during the night we played the guitar and sang songs that we all had in common. Bonding with Israeli teenagers was really fun, and something that couldn't be done anywhere else in the world.

After my trip ran its course, I stayed with family and got to experience the family aspect of Israel, again. Overall, the trip MBI CHAI 2009 was incredible. I learned a lot of Israel's history while stepping foot where it actually happened. I highly recommend to all teenagers to take some sort of organized trip to Israel, through camp, through your synagogue, or even with your family to experience the amazing features and sentimentality that Israel has with the Jewish people. Going to Israel was an amazing experience, and even possibly inspired me to join the IDF or make aliya later on in life. ■

Lichter family establishes endowed Israel scholarship fund

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor has announced the establishment of the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship Fund created by Paul and Carolyn Lichter in memory of their daughter, Susan Lichter z"l. Proceeds of the fund will provide two scholarships annually for Ann Arbor high school students to participate in peer group Israel experiences such as semester, summer or gap year programs.

Upon the passing of their daughter, the Lichters knew they wanted to keep her name alive in the community in a meaningful way and thought seriously about how they could both honor Susan and help the community. "Susan had a wonderful, open personality, loved being Jewish and was very connected to Israel," said her mother, Carolyn. The Lichter family took their first trip to Israel in 1980. Susan's sister, Laurie Rashes, recalled the emotions she and her sister felt upon arriving in Israel. There was an instant "wow, I'm in the land of Israel. What we had learned in religious school was so fresh, and we were seeing places we had only heard about. You just can't describe the feeling until you get there."

The family trip spurred Susan to spend a semester of her junior year with the Rothberg Overseas Program at Hebrew University. Caro-

lyn said the experience had a profound influence on Susan. "The friends she made there remained among her closest, and the only negative aspect of the trip was that she went for a semester instead of a year." In 1993, Susan participated in a Federation Young Leadership mission, and she became involved with the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), Boston's Federation. At CJP, Susan was on a committee that disbursed educational scholarships. She told her parents that this work made her realize how lucky she was not to have to ask for financial help when she visited Israel.

"We wanted to establish this scholarship to keep Susan's name alive in the community and to give other young people the opportunity she had, to have a meaningful Israel experience," said Paul, Susan's father. "Israel is a special place, and it's important for the younger generation to develop a connection to and identification with the land and its people. This can best be accomplished by being there." "Paul and Carolyn have found the perfect way to honor Susan," said Foundation Director David Shtulman. "They combined something important to Susan, her love of Israel, with the community's interest in assisting its teens to grow as Jews."

The Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship Fund will provide two scholarships of \$2,500 to local high school students to participate in peer group Israel experiences under the auspices of Jewish youth movements, denominational movements of Judaism, community service programs or high school study programs. Scholarships will not be awarded for



Carolyn and Paul Lichter

family or individual travel, and will be paid directly to the programs in which the selected students participate. The scholarship application includes the submission of an essay in which students will be asked to describe their goals for visiting Israel and how their particular program will help them meet these goals. A scholarship committee, chaired by Laurie Rashes, will determine the scholarship award winners. "Paul and I intend for the scholarship to be significant and chose to provide two larger scholarships," said Carolyn. "We did not want the process to be pro forma in which everyone who applies gets a subsidy. We hope the essay will encourage teens to think about their experience seriously."

The application deadline is February 1, and awards will be determined by March 1. Winning essays will be published in the *Washtenaw Jewish News* and on the Federation website. Local high school students interested in applying should visit www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 734-677-0100. ■



Susan Lichter



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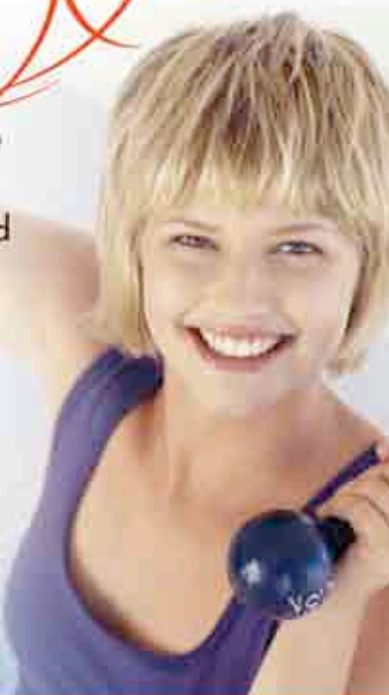
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Youth/Teens

HDS students test Mallet Creek water

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Fifth grade science explorers at Hebrew Day School (HDS) decided to find out whether Ann Arbor's Mallet Creek is a healthy ecosystem. Mallet Creek is the main waterway from south Ann Arbor to the Huron River. The students wanted to answer such questions as: Are there particles in the water that clog fish gills, block light from aquatic plants, and absorb heat? Can the water support diverse species? How does the clarity and temperature of the water effect photosynthesis, respiration, and the reproduction of aquatic life?

On a cool day in October, HDS fifth graders hiked down to the creek with test tubes, thermometers, vials, and data sheets to measure the amount of dissolved oxygen (DO), pH levels (acidity), turbidity (clarity), and temperature of the water. Their water testing was part of World Water Monitoring Day, an international effort to builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources by engaging citizens in basic monitoring of their local water bodies. The program is sponsored by many organizations, including the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the International Water Association (IWA), and the Jewish National Fund (JNF). All three of these organizations work to preserve and enhance the global water environment through educational initiatives, collaboration, and research. JNF, the environmental leader in Israel and the Middle East in the area of water conservation and river rehabilitation, supplied the kits used by the students to test the water.

"The quality of the water was pretty good," said Zachary Bernstein. "There was a good amount of oxygen." "This means that animals can thrive more easily," explained Kobi Eichner. "We saw lots of crayfish, but

we also saw three soda cans, a dead goldfish, and even a carpet that had been thrown in the water," added Daniel Zacks. "Just because it is a small creek doesn't mean it should be



Zachary Bernstein and Mira Kaufman examine the clarity of their water sample

used as trash can," he lamented.

"Different parts of the creek tested differently," explained Mira Kaufman. "The water was less clear under the bridge." "Maybe that was when we were playing in the water catching water bugs and stirred up the dirt and sediment from the bottom," Jane Mintz suggested. "This project definitely made us more aware of the importance of our water," added Mira Kaufman.

Fifth grade teacher, Carol Gannon, posted the test results on the world-wide water-monitoring website where she registered Mallet Creek as an official testing site. "Our next step is to compare the quality of Ann Arbor's water with other regions," she explained.

For further information about the Hebrew Day School tours and open houses and other HDS scientific explorations, call 971-4633 or visit www.hdsaa.org. ■

Jewish Cultural Society youth group expands its mission

Marni Hochman, special to the WJN

The Jewish Cultural Society of Ann Arbor is a community of observant, secular humanistic Jews that has a Sunday school program, a B'nai Mitzvah program, and activities and discussions for adults. Until this year, the main role of teenagers at the Jewish Cultural Society has been to help out in Sunday school classrooms as *tzofim*, or aides. Recently, a new program has been created called the Tzofim Community Leadership Program (TCLP). In addition to helping out in Sunday School classrooms on a rotating basis, TCLP now has a greater focus on helping the community-at-large. Throughout the year, the group plans on having a long-term service project, which is yet to be determined. For now, the program has several smaller goals: a can drive, a book drive, and a used clothing drive.

Due to the current economic conditions, Food Gatherers is struggling to provide food to their clients, so TCLP decided that the can drive would be the first priority. The food drive will last from October 4 through No-

vember 1. To contribute, stop by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor (where the Jewish Cultural Society is located). A box will be in the lobby. Canned food items and other non-perishables will be accepted. Contributions of any size would be greatly appreciated.

New members to the Tzofim Community Leadership Program are always welcome and being a member of the Jewish Cultural Society is not a requirement. In addition to service projects, TCLP plans on having discussions and educational experiences. For example, the group will be visiting the Muslim Community Association as a cultural exchange and in a small effort to promote peace in Israel. The TCLP is also about having fun, so the group plans on having lock-ins and just hanging out. It is a great way to get connected with other Jewish youth in Ann Arbor. For more information, contact Madeleine Levey-Lambert at madfran@umich.edu or call the Jewish Cultural Society at 975-9872.

Ann Arbor Young Judaea offers range of programs for 2009-2010

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor Young Judaea (YJ) has announced a full schedule of programs for 2009-2010. Young Judaea, celebrating its 100th birthday this year, is the national, pluralistic, peer-led Zionist youth movement of Hadassah.

The group kicked off the year in October with a trip to Talladay Farms Corn Maze and Wasem's Fruit Farm. "It was a great way to gather together everyone who'd been away for the summer," said Miriam Alexander, a Pioneer High School freshman who coordinates the club with Pioneer High School junior, Mara Abramson.

Young Judaea offers programs for Ofarim/Tsofim (3rd-7th graders) and Bogrim (teens in 8th-12th grade). Bogrim, students from the University of Michigan and parent volunteers are involved in planning and staffing all programs. This year's schedule (see side bar) includes a Parent's Night Out and a Shabbaton (overnight) for Ofarim/Tsofim and Hanukah Hot Spot and Pesach Pig Out for Bogrim. Local activities will culminate in a community picnic on May 23 for Young Judaeans, their families, YJ alumni and Hadassah. National and regional programs for Bogrim include an Alternative Winter Break in South Florida (www.youngjudaea.org/awb) and Fall Merchav (region) Convention at Camp Henry Horner outside Chicago.

Ann Arbor Hadassah Chapter President Barb Bergman is please to see the local YJ club so active and looks forward to collaborative programming. "We hope to have a birthday party for Young Judaea to celebrate 100 years of developing Jewish leaders," says Bergman. In celebration of this important milestone, Hadassah is offering life memberships at a discounted price of \$200, with \$100 of each life membership earmarked for YJ camp and Israel program scholarships.

All local, regional and national activities are open to Jewish youth regardless of affiliation or commitments to camps not associated with Young Judaea. Additionally, Young Judaea offers summer camp experiences at

Young Judaea Midwest (3rd-9th grade) and Camp Tel Yehudah (9th-11th grade) and short and long-term Israel experiences.

For more information about Young Judaea, contact Miriam Alexander, Mara Abramson or Eileen Freed at annarboryj@gmail.com or call Eileen at 677-0100. Facebook users are encouraged to join the Ann Arbor Young Judaea Facebook group.

2009-2010 Schedule of Activities

November 7, 7-10 p.m.

Parents Night Out: Kids Night In Movie Madness, Home of Amy & David Hamermesh

December 6, 4-6 p.m.

Camp Young Judaea Midwest Information Session, Home of Peretz and Laura Hirshbein

December 3-6,

Bogrim Convention, Camp Henry Horner outside Chicago

December 12, 7-9 p.m.

Bogrim Hanukah Hot Spot

December 23-30,

Alternative Winter Break, South Florida, www.youngjudaea.org/awb

January 29-30,

Ofarim/Tsofim YJ Invasion Shabbaton/Bogrim Movie Night

February 11-15,

Bogrim National Midwinter Convention, CYJ Texas, Wimberley

March 7, 2-4 p.m.,

Ofarim/Tsofim Program

March 27, 9-11 p.m.,

Bogrim Pesach Pig Out

May 2,

Celebrate Israel, JCC

May 23, noon-2 p.m.

Young Judaea Community Picnic, Gallup Park

To RSVP or for more information about any of these activities, email annarboryj@gmail.com or call 332-1250.



Ann Arbor Young Judaeans Hannah Alexander, Miriam Alexander, Robert Axelrod, Noam Saper and Mike Beleyev (of Flint), enjoy running the Tel Aviv Beach booth at Celebrate Israel 2009.



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Youth/Teens

Frizzy hair

Noa Gutterman, staff writer

Hair products are a big part of my life. Some promise to tame frizz and smooth ends. Others guarantee fuller curl definition, whatever that is. There are even a few that simply claim to be better than all the others. My bathroom is a hair product graveyard. Coming from a long line of Jewish women with uncontrollable curly hair, I thought I had won the gene pool lottery when I still had straight hair at age 11. However, to my disappointment, I woke up one morning with a head full of frizz, which didn't disappear no matter how many times I brushed and pulled at it. By age 13, I gave in, accepted that I was destined to have curly hair, and began buying hair products. Some women love shoes. Others love bags. For me, it's hair products. I read magazines and books, run extensive Internet searches, and stand in the hair product aisle at Target for hours. One book promised me that if I didn't use shampoo, I would have better curls and less frizz. So I went without shampoo for a week. All I got was smelly, greasy hair. I've gone through lemon juice, cranberry juice, and even olive oil. I felt like a fruit basket. Thus far, the only successful way to reclaim my straight hair is to flat iron my hair into oblivion until it resembles the consistency of straw. Then, I spend the next two days avoiding humidity to evade a curl catastrophe.

On occasion, (my mother will tell you this happens less than frequently) I decide to clean my bathroom. Yet, I can't seem to throw away any of my hair products. They line my shelves like ghosts of hair disasters past, just waiting for that moment when I will need them again. But why am I so insistent on keeping so many of them? There is a large probability that the majority of my hair products either pre-date high school or did not agree with my hair. So why

grant them space in my bathroom cabinet?

This hair product introspection is not a new idea of mine. I have often wondered why I refuse to throw away my old hair gels, mousses, creams, and goop. I don't believe it is nostalgia. Nor do I believe that it is simply a pack-rat attitude. After much consideration, my hypothesis is that I do not always realize when transformation occurs. And when it does, I am constantly worried about going back to what I was before. Therefore, I save my hair products just in case I ever need them. When I look in my cabinet and see John Frieda, L'Oreal Paris, Pantene Pro V, and Paul Mitchell, I recognize



Noa Gutterman

that these are a part of my past, but a part that I am not willing to let go of. Whether or not you have curly or straight hair, or no hair at all, we all hold onto the past. I still keep the dress that I wore for 3 months straight as a two-year-old while living in Israel. I still have the journal I kept in 2nd grade. And tucked away in the back of my closet is the costume I wore in the 8th grade musical. Every time I reach for that big, green garbage bag, I can't bear to throw anything away. And even though I've changed, I can't risk getting rid of something that I could need in the future. My hair products are my security blanket.

Yet, my hair products also serve another purpose. One day, I will have to get rid of all of them. Whether that happens next week or next fall when I go to college, I realize the impending doom of the bottles of sleek n' shine and frizz tamer. Just like all other aspects of life, change is inevitable. Even my favorite products will one day become dusty bottles tucked away in the back of the shelves. But for now, I think I will just add hair product shopping to my list of extra-curricular activities. ■

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Beth Israel Congregation and Jewish Federation to present Camp and Israel Programs Fair

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Congregation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor are co-sponsoring a Camps and Israel Programs Fair Sunday, November 15, 9:30 a.m.-noon, at Beth Israel Congregation. The fair is open to the entire community. Representatives from Jewish camps from around the Midwest will be on hand to provide parents and children information about their programs. Participating camps include Camp Raanana, Camp Gan Israel, Tamarack Camps, Camp Tavor, Camp Young Judaea Midwest, Camp Ramah, and more. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience a number of camp-related activities.

A wide range of Israel programs will be represented including summer, high school semester and gap year programs. Information will be on hand for MASA, BBYO, Habonim, Young Judaea, USY & Ramah, Alexander Muss High School in Israel, NFTY, Nesiya, Oranim, Camp Kimama and more. Representatives of many of these programs will be on hand to answer questions, and alumni from some of

the programs will be available to share their experiences.

"We are excited to provide our students and parents with information about the many Jewish camping and Israel programs available," said Beth Israel Congregation Director of Education Cindy Saper who initiated the fair several years ago. "I believe Jewish summer experiences have a significant impact on children's Jewish identity. By offering families a wide range of camps and programs, we hope every child and teen will find a program that will provide them a perfect opportunity to extend their Jewish learning and have fun in a distinctly Jewish environment."

Beth Israel Congregation is located at 2000 Washtenaw Avenue. For more information about the Camp and Israel Programs Fair, contact Cindy Saper at 769-2041 or school@bethisrael-aa.org. For information about Israel Programs and scholarship opportunities, contact Eileen Freed at 677-0100 or eileen-freed@jewishannarbor.org.

Jewish Community Center youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Girls' Night Out and Boys' Night Out

Every other month, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor offers a Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie or other special activities. This month's Kids' Night Out will actually be two simultaneous events, a Girls' Night Out in the JCC lounges and a Boys' Night Out in the JCC gym. The events will be held on Saturday, November 21, from 6:30–10 p.m. at the JCC.

The Girls' Night Out event will be full of



Students enjoying a past JCC Kids' Night Out

singing, dancing, and magical fun. After enjoying games, crafts, and a yummy dinner, participants will settle down to watch the classic movie *The Wizard of Oz*. Activities will include making ruby red slippers or magic wands and playing games along the yellow brick road.

The Boys' Night Out event will feature a viewing of the hit animated comedy *Up!* The movie is about a 78-year-old man who ties balloons to his house and flies away, with an 8-year-old stowaway on board. Before watching the movie, participants will enjoy dinner and lots of fun balloon games and challenges.

Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K–5. The cost for JCC members is \$20 (additional siblings: \$18). The cost for non-members is \$25 (additional siblings: \$23). Registrations and payment are due by Thursday, November 19. Registration forms are available at the JCC and at www.jccannarbor.org.

School's Out Programs in November

The JCC will offer three School's Out/JCC's In Days this November. On days when Hebrew Day School or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC Youth Department offers full day School's Out programs featuring field trips or special activities. These programs are for JCC members only in grades



A magic show during a JCC School's Out day

K–5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside.

On Tuesday, November 3, a School's Out program will be offered for AAPS students.

Activities will include making patriotic desserts in honor of Election Day. On Friday, November 13, there will be a School's Out program for HDS students featuring a magic show and lesson. On Wednesday, November 25, a School's Out program will be offered for both AAPS and HDS students. Students will enjoy a field trip to the Shalom Street in West Bloomfield to view an interactive exhibit of artwork by Maurice Sendak, including rare and original pieces from his 1963 classic *Where the Wild Things Are*.

The cost for each School's Out day is \$36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (\$4 off for additional siblings) and \$8 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registrations and payment are due at least 3 days in advance.

Enriching afterschool classes

The JCC has an exciting schedule of afterschool classes planned for the November–December session. Youth Enrichment classes for elementary students will begin Friday, November 6 and run through the week of December 14. These fun and stimulating afternoon enrichment classes run from 4:20–5:20 p.m. and are open to both JCC members and non-members. Snack and supervision in the JCC's afterschool programs before each class are included for all class participants.

On Mondays, a Pilo Pollow class will be offered for students in grades K–2. HDS gym teacher Kim Braun will lead students in active games of pillow polo, a version of field hockey played with padded sticks and balls.

On Tuesdays, an Abrakadoodle Art class will be offered for students in grades K–5. In this innovative and imaginative art education class, students will explore a different artist or style each week and then produce a creative framed piece inspired by the day's lesson.

On Wednesdays, HDS gym teacher Kim Braun will run a Fit Kids class for students in grades 2–5. The class will teach students about the joys and importance of proper fitness and nutrition with fun exercises, energetic games, and healthy snacks.

On Thursdays, certified teacher and yoga instructor Adele Kieras will offer a Kids Yoga class for students in grades K–5. Students will enjoy fun warm-up games, learn partner and group poses, and explore breathing techniques.

On Friday, a Lego Robotic class will be offered for students in grades K–3. Younger students will build and program working LEGO robots, while older students will complete robot challenges and explore physical science principles.

In addition to the afterschool enrichment classes at the JCC, a swimming class will also be offered on Tuesday evenings from 5:30–6:30 p.m. at High Point School. Hebrew Day School gym teacher and Camp Raanana waterfront director Kim Braun teaches this class for swimmers and non-swimmers in grades K–5.

Registrations and payment for these classes are due by November 4. Class fees vary.

JCC Snow Days for Grades K–8

The JCC Youth Department will once again offer Snow Day programs this winter. On days when the JCC is able to open but Ann Arbor Public Schools are cancelled due to winter weather conditions, a Snow Day program will be offered from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. for students in grades K–5; middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee.

Students will enjoy games, gym activities and fun in the snow under the supervision of youth director Deborah Huerta and other available staff. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothes for playing outside (weather permitting).

The Snow Days program is for JCC members only and the program fee is \$50 (additional siblings and Kids' Konnection & Kids' Club participants receive discounts). Registration in advance is not required, but parents will be asked to fill out a registration form and submit payment when they arrive.

JCC seeks teen athletes for 2010 JCC Maccabi Games

Each summer the JCC sends a team of athletes ages 13–16 to the JCC Maccabi Games, an Olympic-style sporting competition that incorporates community service and social activities to combine for an unforgettable experience for Jewish teens. This past summer, Ann Arbor and its Partnership 2000 (P2K) sister community,



Cassidy Moravy-Penchansky and Emma Share

Moshav Nahalal, joined forces to send eight teens to compete in the JCC Maccabi Games in San Antonio, Texas, from August 9–14. The athletes competed in swimming, bowling, dance, and soccer and brought home an impressive total of 18 medals.

Next summer, Ann Arbor's team will attend the JCC Maccabi Games from August 1–6, 2010. The location has not been decided yet, but the following sports will likely be offered: basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, bowling, dance, golf, swimming, table tennis, and tennis. Athletes of all abilities are welcome to participate and scholarship assistance is available to help defray the costs of attending the Games.

A limited number of spots on the team are available each year, so for more information about participating as an athlete, coach, or volunteer interested families are encouraged to contact the JCC as soon as possible. Teens must be 13–16 as of July 31 to participate.

For additional information or to register for youth classes and programs, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.



Noah Seel and Sacha Moravy-Penchansky.

Children's programming abounds at the Jewish Book Festival

Stacey Martin, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's 22nd Annual Jewish Book Festival will feature two children's programs. In celebration of American Girl's new Jewish doll Rebecca and her accompanying chapter book series, the JCC will host a Rebecca



tea on Sunday, November 8 at 12:15 p.m. This program is for children in elementary school and their families and will cost \$7.50 per person. The event includes lunch, tea, Jewish baked goods, a reading from the first Rebecca book by Rebecca Rubin herself, and games and crafts. The second program will feature Debra Darvick, author of *I Love Jewish Faces* on Sunday, November 15 at 10 a.m. This program is intended for preschool age children, is free of charge, and includes a free pizza lunch.

The Rebecca Rubin books, written by Jacqueline Dembar Greene, follow the life of nine-year-old Rebecca, daughter of Russian immigrants, who lives in New York's Lower East Side in 1914. The collection educates readers on early twentieth century Jewish American immigration, the labor movement, Coney Island, silent movies, and Jewish holidays, to name just a few themes of the series. All attendees of the tea will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Rebecca doll. The Hebrew Day School and the Siegel/Perlove family are sponsoring the event.

Debra Darvick's *I Love Jewish Faces* celebrates the diversity of Jewish communities. In ninety-four words and thirty-plus full color photos, *I Love Jewish Faces* turns the image of the *Yiddehe punim* on its head, showing that a Jewish face can have blonde hair and blue eyes, dark hair and dark eyes, and everything in between. The event will also incorporate photos taken of people in attendance, exhibiting the diversity of Jewish faces in our Ann Arbor community. The JCC Early Childhood Center is sponsoring this event.

Debra B. Darvick is an award-winning essayist whose byline has appeared in various newspapers and magazines, including *Newsweek*, *Forward*, *Moment* and *Hadassah*. Her essays are excerpted in eight anthologies. A much-followed blogger, Darvick wrote *I Love Jewish Faces* after watching Jewish youngsters of all shapes, sizes, and origins at play at her children's day school.

To register for either of these events, call the JCC at 971-0990.

75 years on, Jews in Russia's Jewish autonomous district hold on

By Grant Slater

BIROBIDZHAN, Russia (JTA)—The diminutive leader of the handful of Orthodox Jews in this nominally Jewish district of Russia, 90-year-old Dov Kofman, e-mailed his friend and benefactor in Tokyo to say he could go on no longer.

Kofman was planning to return to Israel and would pass on to his protege, Alexander Kleinerman, control of the Torah scroll that the Jewish community in Japan had provided, as well as the keys to the paint-slathered lean-to where his congregation worships.

"I am confident that the community Beit Tshoova will live," Kofman wrote in his e-mail last month.

Beit Tshoova's shul is situated on the outskirts of Birobidzhan, the capital of Russia's Jewish Autonomous Region and a relic of a misguided Soviet plan to resettle Jews in the far east of Russia, near the Chinese border, in the 1930s.

Kofman's departure says something about the enigmatic nature of this Jewish capital on this, its 75th anniversary. The town of 80,000 is developing quickly by Russian standards, and there is a newer synagogue and Jewish community center off the main square.

But at times there is a sense that the veneer of Judaism in Birobidzhan is no thicker than the fresh coat of paint applied citywide for the anniversary festivities. Political expediency and regional independence seem more likely motives for an emphasis on Jewish culture and government placards printed in Yiddish than the region's dwindling Jewish population, which now stands at about 5 percent.

The town receives a cultural budget from the government in Moscow each year to sustain Jewish activities like an International Jewish Cultural Festival the week before the anniversary. In mid-September, the Jewish educational organization Limmud held a conference here.

Nearly 4,000 miles from Moscow, the Jewish Autonomous Region is unique among the patchwork of entities that makes up the Russian Federation. All other autonomous regions were declared independent republics with the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Chlenov, the secretary general of the Eurasian Jewish Congress, said that Birobidzhan and its environs are not strong enough to be a republic. Fearful of stepping on Israel's toes with the creation of another Jewish state, Chlenov called the region's status "a delicate matter."

"It was not easy to start and it will be more difficult to eliminate," Chlenov said as his car sped past the remnants of collective farms where Yiddish-speaking settlers attempted to tame the mosquito-plagued swamps 75 years before.

A wave of Jewish immigrants traveled the thousands of miles from European Russia or further in the mid-1930s to settle here. But many left the district after the verdant promises of Soviet propaganda yielded to the reality of harsh winters and swampy terrain. Still others left when a more hospitable Jewish homeland came into existence: Israel.

Today, however, the region is on the cusp of an economic boom. By 2014 or before, a rail bridge across the Amur River will carry granular

iron and other metals from Russia into China, with its booming economy. The bridge is the first border crossing constructed together by the Russian and Chinese governments, and only the third bridge to be built across the border.

It's not clear, however, whether this will bolster the region's Jewish spirit.

Though Birobidzhan always resembled other Soviet towns of similar size, its Jewish character made it unique. Yiddish is an official language here. Statues of Jewish violinists and accordion players dot the city. A golden menorah presides over the fountain in front of the train station, and Tevya from "Fiddler on the Roof" is frozen in bronze on his nearby haywagon—a Jewish Disneyland.

"All this is beautiful, but people have started to live worse," said Igor Magadenko, a retired lawyer, who relaxed recently with visiting friends from Israel on a new riverwalk built for the 75th anniversary. "There are no jobs, and the wolves in the government are hunting the profits from the new bridge."

Marina Gitikh lives in a ramshackle two-room house where the first Jewish collective farm here was founded in the late 1920s. Unemployed, she lives with her elderly mother and a son from her second marriage.

"We won't go to the city for the anniversary," she said as she poured beer from a five-liter bottle into a teacup. "Why should we celebrate with those people when there aren't better houses or jobs for us? There's no work anywhere."

Rabbi Mordechai Sheiner, a Chabad emissary

who arrived in Birobidzhan in 2002, just before the new synagogue was completed six years ago, said that the community is going through hard times. Chabad suffered a funding crisis last year when its main donor lost a significant portion of his wealth.

Roman Leder, the head of the community that runs the new synagogue and community center, said Chabad's funding to the city was cut in half.

The biggest benefactor of the Jewish community there, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, warned of impending cuts but they never came. The nine community groups supported by the center continued unscathed, he said.

The city of Birobidzhan provides free heating to the two buildings despite laws prohibiting it, Leder said.

Daniel Turk, the president of the Jewish Community of Japan, said his group provided a Torah to the elderly Orthodox Jews in Birobidzhan out of a sense of charity and, in part, to provide the community with a source of religious support other than Chabad.

Despite the obvious challenges, the Jews of Birobidzhan have kept Judaism alive in this remote corner of the earth.

Three decades ago, when this was still part of the Soviet Union, Chlenov recalls being approached by a waiter who appeared to be Jewish. Quietly, he invited Chlenov to Shabbat prayers.

"We have no shul," the waiter said, "but we have a minyan." ■

Project documents stories of Jewish refugees from Arab countries

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — Joseph Samuels, born Yosef Sasson in Baghdad, was 18 when he fled Iraq for the new state of Israel.

It was 1949, and life was becoming increasingly difficult for Jews in Iraq, as it was throughout the Arab world. The Sasson family's good relations with their Muslim neighbors changed with Israel's creation in 1948, and Yosef's parents urged him to leave, promising they would follow when they could.

Unable to secure an exit visa, Yosef escaped Iraq with his younger brother in tow, taking the train to Basra, then cramming into a smuggler's boat with 16 other young Jews, rowing to Iran and finally making his way to Tehran. There he joined a massive airlift to Israel, landing in time for Purim that year.

"That Passover was the first time I celebrated as a free man," says Samuels, who served in the Israeli navy and now lives near Los Angeles.

Like many Holocaust survivors, Samuels only shared bits and pieces of his story with his children. "I didn't want to seem like a victim, so I didn't tell them," he explains.

Unlike Holocaust survivors, however, his story — as well as those of more than 800,000 other Jewish refugees from North Africa and the Middle East — is not widely known. These Jews, part of large, ancient communities in nine Arab countries, were victimized and persecuted, stripped of their rights and property, and in some cases forcibly expelled from the lands of their birth from the 1940s through the 1970s.

Finding refuge mainly in Israel, France and North America, they became the forgotten refugees of the Middle East conflict.

Jimena, a San Francisco-based organization for Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa, is trying to change that.

As part of an international consortium led by Hebrew University and the University of Miami that is collecting and documenting testimony from these Mizrahim, or Jews from Arabic-speaking countries, Jimena has launched a visual history project to interview those now living on the West Coast.

Jimena's East Coast partner, the American Sephardi Federation in New York, began its interviews of New York-area Sephardim in September, while partners in several other countries are working to collect oral testimonies in their regions. Each project is responsible for its own funding.

The goal, organizers say, is to do for Jewish refugees from Arab lands what Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation Institute has done for Holocaust survivors: preserve their stories and dignify their heritage.

"Their stories have not been documented," says Sarah Levin, Jimena's program director. "We want to collect as many stories as we can. These people are getting older, and soon it will be too late."

On Oct. 18, a dozen Jews born in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco and other lands of the Maghreb gathered at the Jewish federation offices in San Francisco to learn how they could

become a part of the project.

Filmmaker Avi Goldwasser, director of "The Forgotten Refugees," says that when he grew up in Israel, he learned nothing about this history. In the United States, where the Jewish community is overwhelmingly Ashkenazi, it is even lesser known.

"We want to get people like yourselves to share your personal stories," he told the group. "We have to get the word out that Palestinians were not the only people displaced by the conflict."

It's not about denying Palestinian suffering, Goldwasser said, but about presenting all sides of the history as a precursor to real peace and reconciliation.

Rachel Wahba of San Raphael, Calif., nods her head. The child of an Iraqi mother and Egyptian father, Wahba was born in 1946 in India, where her mother's family had fled after Iraq's June 1941 pogroms.

"My mother heard the screams for 48 hours until the British finally put a stop to it," she recalls.

Expelled from India, as they had no papers, the family ended up in Japan as stateless refugees. They finally reached California in 1968 and rebuilt their lives.

Wahba used to lecture about her family's history, but she tired of the hostility and ignorance she encountered. "I'd tell my story, and people would say, 'so, your grandmother spoke Yiddish.' As if they hadn't heard me," she said. "I

The stories of more than 800,000 other Jewish refugees from North Africa and the Middle East is not widely known.

said no, we spoke Judeo-Arabic. The non-Jews would listen more openly than the Jews — they just couldn't get it."

Wahba and Samuels are two of the first interviews Jimena is taping. A third is Egypt native Soliman Elgazzar, 61, who left his homeland in 1970 after three years of imprisonment.

When the Six-Day War broke out in June 1967, he told his interviewer, military-age Jewish men were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. He was interned with 350 other Egyptian Jews in a camp outside Cairo.

"We lived 70 to a room, sleeping on the floor like sardines, overlapping each other," he related. "The scariest part was not knowing when we'd be released. They gave us the impression they'd never let us go until Egypt won the war."

As part of the international initiative, Hebrew University in Jerusalem is setting up an archive of the recorded testimonies, including nearly 700 made by the Jewish Agency for Israel in the late 1940s and early '50s on reel-to-reel tapes.

Jimena is not sure whether its interviews will join that archive or be used another way. But time is of the essence, as this population ages. And, slowly, Jews from Arab lands who never spoke of their past are beginning to open up.

"These people only wanted to look forward, not back," Levin says, adding that Jimena is sponsoring Mizrahi Month in March to encourage greater focus on Sephardic history and culture. "Maybe that's why there have not been efforts to document their stories."

"But there's pain that has never been addressed. We hope this will be cathartic for some of them." ■

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Israel

New signs that Ethiopian aliyah will resume

By Uriel Heilman

NEW YORK (JTA) — After being shut for more than a year, the gates of mass Ethiopian immigration to Israel may be swinging open again — this time for some 9,000 people.

In July, Israeli government representatives returned to Ethiopia to assess the eligibility for aliyah of approximately 3,000 Ethiopians who may be entitled to immigrate but had never filed petitions. Advocates had pressed Israel to expand its assessment to a much larger group of Ethiopians — 8,700 people in all — but Israel had demurred.

Now, however, a campaign by advocates that stresses the health risks facing the 8,700 Ethiopians, along with the support of Israel's interior minister, Eliyahu Yishai, may throw open the aliyah gates for all of them.

If that happens, mass Ethiopian immigration to Israel likely would continue through 2017, at a rate of 100 immigrants per month, officials say.

The group at issue is comprised of so-called Falash Mura — Ethiopians who claim links to descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity generations ago, but who now seek to return to Judaism and immigrate to Israel.

A major sign of change came last month when Yishai, who became interior minister when Benjamin Netanyahu's government took office six months ago, sent a letter to a U.S. Jewish aid group saying there were "steps in place" to consider the aliyah eligibility of 5,700 Ethiopians in addition to the 3,000 the ministry already was checking.

The letter, sent to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, urged the JDC to reopen its medical clinic in the northern Ethiopian city of Gondar, where the 8,700 people live. The JDC had shuttered the clinic in July after those the Israeli government deemed eligible for aliyah had moved to Israel.

At the same time, the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, or NACOEJ, an aid organization and the main advocacy group for Ethiopian aliyah, stepped up efforts portraying the 8,700 aliyah hopefuls in Gondar as at grave medical risk.

NACOEJ took a prominent Israeli physician to Ethiopia to assess the medical condition of the Gondar community, whose members NACOEJ considers Jewish but whose Jewish links remain unverified by Israel. While the assessment did not include any physical exams, the physician, Dr. Arthur Eidelman, told JTA he saw "clear signs of malnutrition in children, particularly under age 6."

Eidelman, formerly the chief of pediatrics at Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem, produced a report calling for the reopening of the JDC clinic.

Once the JDC, which says it takes its cues from the Israeli government on Falash Mura-related issues, received Yishai's letter, it began taking steps to reopen the medical clinic in Gondar, JDC officials said. Now the organization says it needs \$250,000 to operate the clinic.

In the meantime, NACOEJ says children are dying of malnutrition.

"Many children in the Jewish community of Gondar, Ethiopia have already become ill or died from hunger this year," said a fund-

raising e-mail NACOEJ sent to its mailing list in mid-September, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah.

The group has sent similar e-mails throughout the past decade, even when the JDC clinic in Gondar was open. During that time, JDC officials maintained that accounts of children dying of malnutrition were untrue or unverified.

But with the shuttering of JDC's clinic and the decline in food aid at NACOEJ-sponsored aid centers in Gondar — due to budget cuts from federation sponsors in North America, NACOEJ officials say — the health of the Gondar population has grown more precarious, according to NACOEJ.

The group's director of operations, Orlee Guttman, told JTA that several children from the community had died in the last year from hunger, malaria and tuberculosis.

NACOEJ does not conduct medical assessments or perform autopsies; Guttman said it relies on parents to determine cause of death.

In response to JTA's inquiries, NACOEJ disclosed the names of five toddlers it said had died over the past year. Four died of malaria and one, 2-year-old Benyam Derebie Abere, had "hunger" listed as cause of death, according to the organization.

There appears to be little dispute that reopening the JDC clinic in Gondar for the 8,700 aliyah hopefuls would improve their ability to receive considerably better health care. What is in dispute is who they really are and whether they truly are linked to Ethiopian Jews.

Many Israelis believe they are mostly Christian Ethiopians deceptively claiming Jewish links and adopting Jewish observances in a bid to escape Africa's desperate poverty for the relative comfort of the Jewish state.

"We are creating a hell of a job for ourselves because of political correctness or trying to be nice," Israel's previous interior minister, Meir Sheetrit, told The Jerusalem Post in a 2007 interview about the 8,700.

Advocates say the people in Gondar are Jews who have been left behind by Israel.

Ethiopian immigration long has vexed successive Israeli governments. On several occasions, Israel has committed to bringing in a finite number of immigrants that they believed constituted all the remaining Ethiopians eligible for aliyah, only to be told once the number had been reached that thousands more had been left behind.

Israel completed the most recent phase of mass Ethiopian aliyah in the summer of 2008, when the last of some 16,095 immigrants arrived under a 2003 decision by Ariel Sharon's government to bring those eligible from a 1999 Israeli census of possible Ethiopian olim.

But in September 2008, then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert asked the Interior Ministry to return to Ethiopia to check the eligibility for aliyah of those from the 1999 census who had never filed petitions — a group said to comprise approximately 3,000 people. The Interior Ministry representatives left for Ethiopia this summer and are still there.

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October conference brings together a multitude of voices in support of Israel

By Daniel Sokatch

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) —The upcoming J Street conference will bring a thousand American and Israeli progressive thinkers and activists to Washington. Titled “Driving Change, Securing Peace,” the conference comes at a critical moment because dramatic as it may sound, we are in a battle for the future and soul of Israel. And despite the concerns of some in our community, Israel is strong enough to withstand free and fair debate about its most significant issues. Indeed, it is only through such debate that these issues will be resolved.

The J Street conference offers an opportunity to discuss the serious issues affecting Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship, to air out the controversies and to have the conversations that are avoided too frequently by mainstream Jewish organizations. It also will facilitate the building of connections and synergies among the disparate pro-Israel, pro-peace and pro-democracy groups in Israel and the American Jewish community.

The timing is critical. President Obama’s commitment to restarting the peace process, and his understanding that Israel must change its de facto support for the settlement enterprise, has changed the political dynamic between Washington and Jerusalem.

Despite the overwhelming support of the majority of the American Jewish community for this approach and for President Obama in general, most Israelis do not trust this admin-

istration to advance Israel’s interests. The growing rift between the two communities does not bode well for Israel and its relationships here.

The pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy camp can serve as a bridge between the American Jewish and Israeli communities at a time when such a bridge is sorely needed.

As incoming CEO of the New Israel Fund, the leading organization committed to equality and democracy for all Israelis, I am alarmed not only by this rift but also by leaders in Israel and the American Jewish community who seem determined to repel all criticism or even thoughtful debate about the deepening tension between security and human rights imperatives in Israel.

Initiatives launched by the current Israeli government—including legislation that would require a McCarthyesque loyalty oath of all Israelis, and attempts to discredit and delegitimize the country’s human rights groups (of which we are a leading funder)—seem designed to erode civil society and further marginalize Israel’s Arab citizens.

Add to this the continuing Orthodox monopoly on religious practice and personal status issues, and the growing economic and educational gap between the haves and have-nots in Israeli society, and you have a recipe for potential disaster that should be of great concern to all of us who love and treasure Israel.

J Street, which has added an important new

voice to the Washington policy equation on peace issues, understands that the “internal” Israeli issues that NIF works on are anything but. Israel’s record on social justice has a profound impact on its international standing. Countries that deny equality to their indigenous minorities sacrifice their moral standing in the eyes of the world and their own citizens.

A foreign minister who heads a party that consistently narrows the definition of citizenship and equal rights is properly regarded with suspicion by the leaders of other democracies, American and European. And a quasi-theocracy that uses one fervently Orthodox standard to define Jewishness — when Jewish identity is the *raison d’être* for the state — raises hackles among the overwhelming majority of Americans and others who believe in the separation of religion and state.

Social justice and human rights issues in Israel also are crucially relevant here at home. The growing indifference of many American Jews, particularly young Jews, to Israel is directly related to their concerns over the occupation and the seeming indifference of some Israeli governments to basic democratic values. A Jewish community that voted overwhelmingly for President Obama; a community that proudly takes leadership positions in American progressive institutions and causes; a community whose record of concern for social justice and civil rights in the United States is second to none — this is not a community that will turn a blind

eye to ultranationalism, extremism and intolerance in Israel.

Simply put, if American Jews cannot find a way to love Israel and help fix its flaws, if there is no role for the millions of Jews who want Israel to live up to the dreams of its founders, the American Jewish support that Israel depends upon economically and politically will continue to wane.

The New Israel Fund and the other progressive groups that will meet at the J Street conference are unabashedly pro-Israel, and we provide the means for American Jews to support Israel in ways consistent with their progressive values. We know there are too many voices on the left, both in the United States and worldwide, that are unquestionably hostile to Israel no matter what it does. We are the most obvious rebuke to the notion that support for Israel is a right-wing phenomenon, exemplified in the U.S. by evangelicals and neo-cons.

We are the bridge between a largely progressive American Jewish community and millions of Israelis seeking a way out of political stalemate and moral quandary. The quest for a humane, just and equitable Israel is the most pro-Israel act imaginable, and as we partner with J Street and other progressive organizations to amplify our voices, we expect that more and more, our voices will be heard. ■

(Daniel Sokatch, founding executive director of the Progressive Jewish Alliance, takes over as CEO of the New Israel Fund on Oct. 19.)

continued from previous page

Due to the difficulty of proving Jewish lineage among the Falash Mura, those who wish to make aliyah must meet several conditions: They or their spouse must demonstrate Jewish maternal links at some point in their provenance; they must have had a relative in Israel file a petition on their behalf by July 31, 2009; they must be listed on the 1999 census; and they must be among the group in Gondar.

Designed to limit the number of Ethiopians who qualify, the conditions also are more relaxed than those that apply to would-be immigrants from elsewhere in the world, such as the United States or the former Soviet Union. While Americans or Russians would be disqualified for aliyah for being less than “one-quarter” Jewish or if their only Jewish grandparent converted out of the faith, Ethiopians are not disqualified for ancestral conversion to Christianity — as long as they can demonstrate maternal links to a Jew.

Ultimately, the battle over these 5,700 additional people — an Interior Ministry list puts the total number, with the 3,000, at approximately 9,300 — is part of a debate that has raged in Israel and among American Jews since the beginning of the aliyah of the Falash Mura over where to draw the line.

The line has changed with nearly every Israeli government. Where, exactly, it is drawn under Benjamin Netanyahu remains to be seen. ■

AIPAC, J Street or JDate?

By Chuck Freilich

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel’s national security is predicated on three strategic pillars: The commitment, resolve and resilience of Israel’s people; the Israel Defense Forces and other defense agencies; and the “special relationship” with the United States. All three face serious challenges today.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is largely unparalleled in history, one carefully nurtured over decades and in which AIPAC has played a vital role. It is a relationship under attack from numerous quarters, including pro-Arab and generally left-leaning groups, renowned scholars who write scurrilous attacks on the “Israel lobby,” and others. It is a relationship showing increasing signs of “Europeanization,” where it seems Palestinians and Arabs can do no wrong, Israel no right.

It is a relationship weakened by well-meaning but dangerously misguided Jewish Americans who established the group J Street as a “moderate” alternative to AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

My beef is not over the issues. On some I agree with J Street. It is about the best ways of ensuring the long-term vitality of the U.S.-Israeli relationship and the security and well-being of Israel.

It is presumptuous of our brethren in the United States, and frankly offensive, for them to believe that they “know better” what is right for Israel. The Jewish state is a vibrant, pluralistic democracy. Only Israel’s citizens, who endure the consequences, bear the responsibility for its policies. The place to change Israel’s policies is in Israel, not Washington. A corollary of sovereignty is the right to err. We waited for that right for 2,000 years.

J Street’s stated position—that it “supports

political solutions over military ones” regarding the Palestinians and “strongly opposes the use of force by Israel or the U.S.” against Iran—is the height of presumption andchutzpah. So was its position earlier this year, during the Gaza operation, when it opined that “escalation will prove counterproductive” and called for an immediate cease-fire.

We all prefer diplomatic solutions. Sometimes it is not entirely up to us; sometimes there is no recourse but military action. The residents of Sderot, now enjoying their ninth months of relative quiet, might question the military expertise behind J Street’s assessment. Israel and only Israel will decide whether to attack Iran’s nukes.

Hopefully it will never come to this, but if it does, J Street had better be behind us.

This is not to dispute the right of Jewish Americans to express their views. Being pro-Israel, as J Street correctly states, does not mean blind support for every Israeli government position. Many Israelis are at least as critical.

I, for one, a fiercely patriotic Israeli, madly in love with this crazy place, have published numerous highly critical articles. Jewish Americans who share a deep concern for Israel’s trials and travails have the right, even the duty, to express their criticism within the Jewish community, the public at large, pretty much anywhere—except before the U.S. administration and Congress. There we have to present one voice—not “pro” every Israeli policy but united, unswerving support for Israel and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

Some have criticized AIPAC’s allegedly right-wing, “Likud-minded” tendencies, whereas a majority of Jewish Americans are more dovish.

This is a fundamental misconception both of reality and of AIPAC’s role, which is to promote the U.S.-Israel relationship regardless of who is in office in either country. Some of Israel’s policies may be mistaken, but they are Israel’s, made by its democratically elected government. AIPAC does not and must not get involved in these battles, but simply do its utmost at all times to strengthen the relationship.

Only “the Jews,” with their well-earned and arguably endearing reputation for fractiousness, could conceive of doing something that weakens AIPAC. A model to be emulated, the envy of virtually all other lobbies, AIPAC has been at the forefront of the bilateral relationship for decades.

AIPAC may have made mistakes over the years—who hasn’t? But there is a wise, old American saying: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” AIPAC is definitely not broken, and for those who take issue with some of its positions and actions, the appropriate recourse is to work for change from within.

To date, despite the plethora of Jewish organizations in all other areas, the U.S.-Israel relationship has largely had one voice in Washington. This is as it must be. AIPAC has a devoted, sophisticated, often brilliant professional staff and lay leadership. It simply does not get better.

For those seeking new and different relationships, get on JDate. ■

(Chuck Freilich, a former deputy national security adviser in Israel and a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, is now completing a book on Israeli national security decision-making processes. This Op-Ed originally appeared on the Jerusalem Post Web site, JPost.com.)

Singer's book explores growing up in shadow of McCarthy era

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

This month, the University of Alabama Press is publishing Margaret Fuchs Singer's memoir, *Legacy of a False Promise: A Daughter's Reckoning*. The author, who now lives in Ann Arbor, writes about her teenage years in the mid-1950s, after her father, Herbert Fuchs, was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Both of Singer's parents had been members of the Communist party while working for the U.S. government in the 1930s and 1940s, and in his testimony, Herbert Fuchs named names.



Singer writes about the trauma those events caused in her immediate and extended family, and she writes of her painstaking research, many years later, (which included searching through FBI files and American University archives) to try to understand why her father did what he did.

WJN: You write about the McCarthy era and the isolation you felt because your parents had been in the Communist Party in the 1930s. But you also mention the anti-Semitic atmosphere of the times. I think most Jews growing up in America today have no idea that fifty, sixty years ago that was very real in this country.

Singer: I thought it was over, until very recently. I thought it was done. I thought it was true in my childhood and that it was finished. Which it isn't. And it wasn't just the anti-Semitism. It was also that my parents were New York liberals, intellectuals, in a town that was basically quite conservative, and definitely Christian. Our house, which was in a really nice neighborhood, it's now gentrified and quite upscale, but was then just a really nice neighborhood in the northwest section of the city, there were relatively few Jews living there. Half a block away was an area that was restricted to Jews.

It was just something you grew up with. Kids yelling in the street, "Jew girl!" It hasn't been a part of my life since then.

My parents were really making an attempt to be assimilated. They weren't religious, anyway, because they were Lefties. But there was a certain anti-Semitic sense of trying to become a part of the general culture and community. Which meant passing, basically.

My brother and I both tried to pledge fraternities and sororities that had never had a Jewish member. My father, in later

years, joined a country club that had not had Jews previously. I went to Christian Sunday school, to feel like I was part of...and so, it's interesting that it wasn't until I got divorced and started dating again that I had any real interest in dating Jewish men. It felt like coming home, to a home I never had.

WJN: Every family has secrets of one kind or another and there are sometimes estrangements between members of families. In your family the estrangements had to do with your parents being in the Communist Party and then leaving, and your uncle not leaving and holding some very different views. It's almost like when somebody converts, and takes on a new religion.

Singer: Yes, it was that kind of situation. And one of the most poignant moments for me [in doing the research for this book] was digging this cousin up. The connection that we had, which I write about in the book, was really like finding a long lost twin. The emotional connection was unbelievable, having our families, my two children, her two children, our husbands, and the partner of our third cousin surrounding us the first time we met. Learning about each other's lives — in our fifties!

And it turns out, she too had been a Leftie. And yet she ended up being the person, not just in my family, but anywhere, who had the most sympathy for my father's position.

WJN: Looking back now, it may be hard for people to understand why it was that people who were very loyal Americans, such as your parents, got involved in the Communist Party. Many people don't know that, in fact, there was a lot of overlap between the Communist Party platform, if you will, in the 30s and 40s, and some of the tenets of the New Deal and Roosevelt.

Singer: Particularly as it concerned labor and anti-Fascism. Both my parents were labor lawyers. But my parents, particularly my father, even though he thought the Soviet Union was the mother of the Party, he never, never, never could connect with choosing that over this. Where some other people actually did, to varying degrees.

But in my father's case, he really was about labor. That was his thing. The people who gave the secret of the bomb, they thought they were loyal Americans too. But, to them it meant going so far as to give information that wasn't theirs to give to a foreign country to prevent the United States from being the only one who had this secret. And still other people were involved in countering American imperialism. There was every variety. Yes, there was the notion that you could be a solid American, without any question a patriotic American, and still be a member of the Communist Party.

WJN: During his testimony before HUAC, your father decided not to take the Fifth, as a way of distancing himself from the Party.

Singer: Absolutely.

WJN: A number of people, including some very famous people did the same thing,

for the same reason. Budd Schulberg and Elia Kazan, (the writer and director respectively, of the famous 1950s movie, *On the Waterfront*) who both testified, and who both named names did so not only as a way of not protecting themselves, but also as a way of renouncing their former connections to the Communist party.

Singer: That is not a position that has a lot of respect. And you can understand it. OK, in Kazan's case, somewhere in the protesting, he turned a lot of people off. I personally really believed him that he really needed to say, "No, I don't want to have anything to do with this."

WJN: Schulberg, who died recently, was once asked "How could you have done this?" [Name names.] And he got very angry and replied that if he hadn't done that he would have felt he was still supporting the Communist Party.

Singer: That's how my father felt.

WJN: Schulberg said that would be not only supporting the Communist Party of the Forties, but also of the Fifties and supporting Stalin. He asked, "Why didn't all those loyal American Communists stand up and denounce Stalin?"

Singer: That's where my father was. He absolutely felt, "I need to distance myself from something that I thought was this wonderful thing, and it turned out to be something I can't support."

WJN: Your father was called to testify in 1955. By then McCarthy had been discredited.

Singer: It could have been much, much worse. I think the fact that Francis Walter was the chief then, made a difference. Walter was not as far out as the last two chairmen. So that was lucky too.

WJN: You describe a very bizarre series of events, where at first HUAC is pressuring American University not to fire your father because the Committee is worried that may discourage others from naming names, yet they were the ones pressuring your father to name names. And then, later, when the University did dismiss him, William Buckley, of all people, is publicly defending your father. And then, even more remarkable, Francis Walter later helps your father get the job he held for the rest of his working life. The notions most of us have of those times are very black and white, very simplistic. What your book shows is how complex the times and the people were. There was, alongside the witch-hunts, humanity, compassion.

Singer: If I was able to convey that, that pleases me. I think it's a contribution. I was particularly interested in presenting the two sides of the argument, the position of the Left about naming names, and the mainstream historians who really were trying to find out if espionage was going on. Most of what I've read, most of the people I talked to, have really been on one side or the other, and I think there is value in seeing the nuanced positions.

WJN: I was intrigued by your title, *Legacy of a*

False Promise. Clearly you are partly referring to the false promise of the Communist party in the 1930s. But how else do you see that as a legacy?

Singer: I would say that this is a stretch, but this is what I had in mind. Not to blame them, but with parents there is the unwritten promise that you'll protect your kids from trauma. They didn't do this on purpose, but we suffered from extreme trauma around the fear that was unspoken. They couldn't risk it. But I think kids do better when they're told stuff, when they're given as much information as they can handle.

And there were a million other false promises. The anti-Communist crusade caused a lot of havoc. The whole intellectual Left community was literally wiped off the map. Thousands of people who were in a position to make enormous contribution....

WJN: They were essentially silenced.

Singer: There were a lot of betrayals, by American University where my father was teaching, by HUAC, and by his colleagues. I know that they really respected him, really liked him. I think he was supposed to be chosen for the deanship. There were no questions about his competence or his contribution. And they couldn't do it. Couldn't stand up to defend him.

WJN: How do you feel now? Have you put yourself in your father's place and asked yourself, "What would I have done?" or, "What would I ask my husband to do?"

Singer: I would wish that I would not name names. Maybe find another way to make a declaration.

I thought you were going to ask me how I felt about writing this book, telling these stories. I talked about that with Rabbi Dobrusin, and he asked me, "What is your purpose? What are you trying to do here?" You know, memoirs very often have an ax to grind, and I've asked myself over and over, "Am I trying to trash them?" And I think, on the contrary, my attempt really was to honor them. Could someone else have represented their story better than I? I don't think so. But, I would wish that I would not do it. [Naming names.] My husband is much more philosophical about it. They actually did it for us.

WJN: Of course. Your father was trying not to go to jail so he could support your family.

Singer: The daughter of Michael Meeropol (one of the sons of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg) did a documentary which basically asks the question, "What could be so compelling that they could tolerate the notion of dying and leaving their children?" She pursues that question and in the end she says, "Well, at least they didn't talk." I say, about my parents, "At least they didn't leave me." ■

Margaret Singer will be appearing at the JCC on November 15, as part of the Jewish Book Festival. Her website, www.margaretsinger.com, also includes much additional historical information on the period, that she compiled in her research for her book.

On Another Note

The Sound Of Music's golden anniversary

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

The *Sound of Music* is fifty years old this month. The original Broadway production of the musical opened in November 1959, with Mary Martin and Theodore Bikel in the lead roles of Maria and Captain von Trapp. (The movie version, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, came out in 1965.)

One of the most familiar and beloved musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music* almost never became a musical. Broadway producers, Leland Hayward and Richard Halliday, Martin's husband, originally planned a play, based on the true story of the von Trapp Family, that would include some songs from the family's real life repertoire of classical songs. Their next revised plan was to add a few original songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein, and only finally was it decided that it would be a musical with all new songs by the famed duo. It was the last musical on which Rodgers and Hammerstein collaborated. Hammerstein died nine months after *The Sound of Music* opened. (Rodgers went on to compose two new additional songs, "Something Good" and "I Have Confidence," for the movie version.)

There are nearly a half dozen songs in the musical that it seems almost everyone knows by heart. "The Sound of Music," "My Favorite Things," "Climb Every Mountain" and "Do-Re-

Mi" are frequently heard standards, as is "Edelweiss", (which is also a staple of polka bands at Oktoberfests everywhere). The rest of the songs from the musical are also in the "if you hum a few bars, I can fake it" category. This summer when the movie was featured as a sing along at the Top of the Park, the lyrics were projected on the screen, but they seemed unnecessary to most of the audience, many of whom were not even born for thirty or more years after the play first premiered.

In 1959, when the play first appeared, there were still plenty of people who vividly recalled the brutal Second World War and the Nazis. That may have helped it get its first warm reception and acceptance in America. But countless productions, from Tokyo to Mexico, and numerous revivals to this day, attest to its timeless appeal.

Of course, not everyone loves *The Sound of Music*. Famed drama critic, Walter Kerr, reviewing the opening night for the New York Herald Tribune wrote, "Before The Sound of Music is halfway through its promising chores it becomes not only too sweet for words but almost too sweet for music. The people on stage have melted long before our hearts do." But he was a lone voice then, and fifty years later, is still in a very small minority.

The film, perhaps due to its Hollywoodiza-



tion of an already Broadwaydized version of a true story, is apparently not popular in Salzburg. (Though it hasn't, and won't stop the city from capitalizing on the anniversary, by inviting tourists to visit and see Maria's hills alive with the sound of music.) The good citizens of Salzburg object to a number of changes that the musical and in particular, the movie, made to the original story of the von Trapp family. From the trivial—no self respecting Austrian would ever list among their favorite things, or consider eating, schnitzels with noodles, even if they do

rhyme with strudels—to the more substantive; apparently, the real Captain von Trapp was not cold and stern before Maria arrived. After they married, they lived in Austria for a few years—they were not forced to flee immediately after the Anschluss. When they did escape, it was to Italy, not Switzerland. In fact, as journalist Johnny Diamond said in a BBC piece on the musical, had they hiked over the mountains as portrayed in the movie, they'd have gone right into Hitler's Germany, rather than to freedom.

Having said that, having acknowledged that Broadway and Hollywood, as is frequently the case, took a good story and made it "better," we still find it very easy to thrill to the astonishing voice and youthful exuberance of Julie Andrews, and to be moved to rage by the hateful Nazis only hinted at in the film. The musical continues to be staged in high schools, civic theaters and professional settings everywhere. I have every confidence that fifty years from now our grandkids will still be singing these magnificent songs. Happy Golden Anniversary, *Sound of Music*. ■

The author wishes to thank Wikipedia, a BBC broadcast about the history of The Sound of Music, and his own daughter, who is a staunch Julie Andrews and TSOM fan, for much of the information contained in this article.

Film

Lebanon latest film to explore Israel's Vietnam

By Dina Kraf

TEL AVIV (JTA) — From the depths of an Israeli soldier turned middle-aged filmmaker's haunted memories, the new award-winning movie *Lebanon* consists mainly of scenes shot from inside a sweat- and anxiety-soaked tank of Israeli army conscripts trapped behind enemy lines.

Accepting the prestigious Venice Film Festival's top prize last month, Samuel Maoz, the film's writer and director, said the victory was for all those forever marked by the trauma of war.

"I dedicate this award to the thousands of people all over the world who, like me, come back from war safe and sound," he said after winning the highest international honor ever bestowed on an Israeli film. "Apparently they are fine, they work, get married, have children. But inside, the memory will remain stabbed in their soul."

"Lebanon," which opens this week in Israel, is part of a trilogy of internationally acclaimed Israeli movies on the first Lebanon War to have come out in the past three years.

The films — *Beaufort* (2007) and *Waltz with Bashir* (2008) are the other two — are a reminder that the war's impact on Israeli society and the men who fought it is still being played out 25 years after the first Israeli tanks rumbled across Israel's northern border and into a different type of war than Israel had ever known.

Launched in an invasion in the summer of 1982, the war became Israel's first experience fighting a guerrilla war. What originally was sold to the government by then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon as a swift operation stretched into 18 years of fighting on Lebanese soil. The Israeli public began to question the

war's goals as it stretched into what was called "the mud of Lebanon" and became known as Israel's Vietnam.

"Lebanon people began to ask themselves why Israel there, and it became symbolic as the Unnecessary War," Yehuda Stav, a film critic at Israel's largest-circulation newspaper, *Yediot Achronot*, told JTA.

That explains its appeal as a storyline, he said, just as Hollywood's films about Vietnam continue to capture the popular imagination of U.S. audiences.

In films depicting Israel's earlier wars, there was little hint of the self-doubt and critique of Israeli society that began to emerge after the first Palestinian intifada in the late 1980s, Stav said. Movies at the time started to express an Israeli sentiment that came to be known derisively as "shooting and crying" (in Hebrew, "yorim v'bochim") — a label bestowed by anti-war Israelis on left-wingers who took part in what they viewed as questionable military missions only to return and criticize the army and the government for what they themselves had participated in.

The current wave of Lebanon movies in some ways continues the trend, Stav said, in particular *Lebanon* and *Waltz with Bashir*. Both wrestle with individual soldiers' internalized, suppressed emotions reflecting traumatic events the filmmakers themselves experienced fighting in Lebanon.

A common denominator in the films is their viewpoint limited to one slice of the war: the experiences of individual characters. In the case of *Beaufort*, it's the characters at the Crusader-era fortress of the same name on the eve of Israel's

withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000. The audience sees no more than the characters do from their hilltop perch.

Waltz with Bashir, an animated documentary that made the Academy Awards finals in the Best Foreign Film category last year — *Beaufort* had reached that milestone the previous year — explores what the Israeli role may have been during the massacre of Palestinians at Lebanon's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in a narrative drawn from the repressed memories of filmmaker Ari Folman and his fellow soldiers.

In *Lebanon*, the war is viewed from the perspective of four soldiers manning a tank that has been dispatched to search a hostile town only to become lost amid Syrian forces. The film shows little more than what the soldiers themselves see: a limited line of vision to fighting outside the tank and the dynamic of terror inside the tank, as four young men try to navigate their vehicle — not just a machine of war but a potential death trap — back to safety.

Yvonne Kozlovsky-Golan, an academic who researches the theme of war and film and teaches at Sapir College in southern Israel, says it's not surprising that it has taken awhile for films to be made about the war. "Post-trauma usually takes about 10 years to come out, not only in film but literature too," she said.

Lebanon War-related films are coming out now because of financial reasons, too. In recent years, as Israel's film industry has grown and received more recognition, Israeli productions have drawn greater investment from abroad. Even though all three films were made on relatively limited budgets, they had the support of European co-producers.

Some have described the films as anti-war treatises and one of the reasons liberal European funders—and audiences—found them palpable.

But Kozlovsky-Golan sees them differently.

"It may be fashionable to call them anti-war movies, but in the very origins of these films is a theme of the Jewish value of being a pursuer of peace, a 'rodef shalom,'" she said.

"In the Talmud, a debate emerged that concluded that Jews should refrain from confrontation and not be involved in war-like situations," Kozlovsky-Golan said. "And even though these filmmakers are secular Jewish Israelis, I see that this tradition is also rooted in them, this feeling that somehow war is not a Jewish thing."

Meir Schnitzer, a film critic for Israel's daily *Ma'ariv*, said the films promote the image Israelis would like to see of themselves.

"The films are a continuation of the feeling that Israel is the victim in the Middle East conflict," he said. "They act as a salve against charges that we are war criminals."

David Silber, the producer of *Beaufort* and *Lebanon*, said the films on the Lebanon War serve a social function.

"They help people understand the misery of war, the need to explain again and again that it's a terrible thing and should only be chosen as a last resort," Silber said. "I don't know if we are still paying a price specifically for the Lebanon War, but the far bigger issue is that we have been at war for the past 100 years here."

"On one level we are a post-traumatic society," he said, "and these films give expression to that." ■

Calendar

November 2009

Sunday 1

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

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.*

Basic Judaism Class: TBE. Led by Rabbi Lisa Delson. 7:45 p.m.

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

Monday 2

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

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 3

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Exercise, games and activities pre-empted by Jewish Book Fair activities. \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon. *Every Tuesday.*

Schools Out/JCC's In: JCC Youth. On days when Hebrew Day School or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC's Youth Department offers full day School's Out programs featuring field trips or special activities. These programs are for JCC members only in grades k-5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. \$36/members, \$32/siblings, \$20/middle school helpers. 8 a.m.—4 p.m. Extended care until 6 p.m. is available for additional fee. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

SoulQuest: Jewish Learning Institute. “The Journey Through Life, Death, and Beyond.” Fall semester course examines the twin mysteries of life and death that have fascinated philosophers and laymen since the dawn of time. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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

Jewish Book Festival Opening Night Reception: JCC. Festival opens with talk by Jeff Zazlow, journalist and author of *The Girls from Ames* and co-author of *The Last Lecture*. A dessert reception precedes author talk. Sponsored by Pechansky Whistler Architects and Simply Scrumptious Catering. Reception at 7 p.m. Talk at 7:30 p.m. For information, contact Julie Gales at 971-0990 or email juliegales@jccfed.org.

Speaker: Frankel Center. Jenna Weissman Joselit discusses, “The View from the Gallery: Why Jewish Museums Matter.” 202 South Thayer, Room 2022. 7 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Class led by Rabbi Glogower covering various topics treated over a period of one to several weeks. Material is presented in English and Hebrew. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but under-

standing it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 4

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring dairy lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. Noon.

Thursday 5

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Exercise and Current Events pre-empted by Jewish Book Fair activities. \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Award-winning author S.J. Rozan reads from and discusses her newest mystery novel *The Shanghai Moon*. Noon.

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

Friday 6

Youth Enrichment Classes Begin: JCC Youth. New series of enrichment classes for youth begin this week. All classes run from 4:20 p.m.—5:20 p.m. except for “Swim With Kim” from 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. For information, call 971-0990.

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

Tot Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Followed by songs and popsicles. 5:30–7 p.m.

Family Ties Shabbat Weekend: EMU Hillel. Services and Dinner. 6 p.m. *See also Saturday, 11/7.*

Service and Storyteller: BIC. Shabbat Service with Storyteller Laura Pershin-Raynor. 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 7

Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m., followed by Morning Minyan at 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. *Every Saturday.*

Family Ties Shabbat Weekend: EMU Hillel. Shabbat Learning, Service and Lunch beginning at 10 a.m. Walk to Gilbert Senior Residence at 1 p.m. Havdallah Closing Shabbat Ceremony at 6 p.m.

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

Concert: TBE. Performance by Ralph Katz and Company. \$10/person. 8 p.m.

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

Sunday 8

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

Seasons of Mussar II Group: BIC. 9:45 a.m.

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

Jewish Book Festival American Girl Doll Tea: JCC. Celebration of the release of American Girl's first Jewish doll and chapter book series. Elementary and middle school-aged girls and boys are welcome to bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal and join an afternoon of lunch and tea, a reading from the first *Rebecca* book, crafts, games and more. \$7.50/person. For information, contact Julie Gales at 971-0990 or email juliegales@jccfed.org. 12:15 p.m.

Jewish Book Festival Sponsor Reception and Dinner: JCC. Special reception for Book Festival Sponsors featuring guest speakers from the television show *L.A. Law's* Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry. After the dinner, Tucker will speak about his book, *Family Meals*. Sponsor Reception at 6 p.m. Free Author Talk at 7:30 p.m. For information, or to become a sponsor, contact Julie Gales at the JCC at 971-0990.

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for aging parents. Caregiver Conversations is sponsored by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and co-sponsored by the JCC, AARH, TBE, BIC, and JCS. JFS sponsors JCC Book Festival event featuring *L.A. Law's* Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry as they discuss their book, *Family Meals: Coming Together to Care for an Aging Parent*. 7:30–8:30 p.m. For information or to RSVP, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

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

Monday 9

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

Speaker: Frankel Center. Pavel Lion will present, “Petersburg vs. Moscow: Two Big Differences in Russian Klezmerland.” 4 p.m. at 202 South Thayer Avenue, Room 2022.

Women's Study Group: BIC. Contact Rabbi Blumenthal at 665-9897 for meeting place and more information. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 10

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Exercise and games and activities pre-empted by Book Fair activities. \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon. *Every Tuesday.*

SoulQuest: Jewish Learning Institute. “The Journey Through Life, Death, and Beyond.” Fall semester course examines the twin mysteries of life and death that have fascinated philosophers and laymen since the dawn of time. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Viewing of the film *Ushpizin*. 1–3 p.m.

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

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Bi-monthly men's study group led by Roger Stutesman. 7:30 p.m.

“Walking with God Part I—Tanakh and Rabbinic Literature:” BIC. Presented by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the

text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 11

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. Noon.

Thursday 12

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Weekly special events and guest presentations (see description below); Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Comedian and author Carol Leifer will discuss her laugh-out-loud book, *When You Lie About Your Age, the Terrorists Win*, dealing with her personal journey though aging, adoption, animal activism, feminism, and faith. Noon.

Library Book Club: BIC. Meeting at the JCC Jewish Book Fair for presentation by David Liss, author of *The Devil's Book Club*. 7 p.m.

Jewish Comedy: EMU Hillel. Mel Brooks' *History of the World Part 1*. 7 p.m.

Mussar Class: TBE. Led by Judy Freedman. 7:30 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Class led by Rabbi Glogower covering various topics treated over a period of one to several weeks. Material is presented in English and Hebrew. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

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

Friday 13

Schools Out/JCC's In: JCC Youth. On days when Hebrew Day School or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC's Youth Department offers full day School's Out programs featuring field trips or special activities. These programs are for JCC members only in grades k-5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. \$36/members, \$32/siblings, \$20/middle school helpers. 8 a.m.—4 p.m. Extended care until 6 p.m. is available for additional fee. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

Mussar Class: TBE. Led by Judy Freedman. 11:30 a.m.

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

Tot Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Dinner, songs and popsicles. 5:30–7 p.m.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Series: BIC. 7th Grade Family Series Service and Shabbat Dinner. 6 p.m.

Adult Shabbat Dinner, Service, and Guest Speaker: TBE. Dinner from 6–6:45 p.m., followed by Shabbat Service with guest speaker, Rabbi Jonathan Cohen. Rabbi Cohen will speak on “Nurturing Nature: Sustainability in Judaism.” \$10/dinner per person with advance reservation. For details or to reserve, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or phone 665-4744.

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

Saturday 14

Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m., followed by Morning Minyan at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.

Shabbaton: TBE. "Nurturing Nature: Sustainability in Judaism," with Rabbi Jonathan Cohen. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or phone 665-4744.

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 1st through 5th graders. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

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

Yarns: Stories that Weave the Web of Life: Storyteller's Guild. Evening of storytelling for adults (14 and older) interwoven with Celtic harp music. \$10/tickets. 7:30 p.m. at TBE. Free Family Storytelling event will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. at the Pittsfield Branch of the Ann Arbor Public Library. For information about either event, see annarborstorytelling.org, email bevblack@umich.edu, or phone 665-4312.

Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar

Sunday 15

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the

prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.

Camp and Israel Programs Fair: BIC. 9:30 a.m. **Tanya—Jewish Mysticism: Chabad.** Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.

Jewish Book Festival Children's Event: JCC. Author Debra Darvick will share her new book, *I Love Jewish Faces*, with preschool-aged children and their families. Darvick's picture book celebrates the diversity of Jewish communities by showing that a Jewish face can have blonde hair and blue eyes, dark hair and dark eyes, and everything in between. For information, contact Julie Gales at 971-0990 or email juliegales@jccfed.org. 12:15 p.m.

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. TBD. For information, contact Eli at 883-9522 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Discussion, Bagels and FYSH: EMU Hillel. Discussion of Jewish Comedy. 1 p.m. at Hillel for "First Year Students of Hillel."

Basic Judaism Class: TBE. Led by Rabbi Lisa Delson. 7:30 p.m.

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

Monday 16

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245

South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 17

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

SoulQuest: Jewish Learning Institute. "The Journey Through Life, Death, and Beyond." Fall semester course examines the twin mysteries of life and death that have fascinated philosophers and laymen since the dawn of time. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Class led by Rabbi Glogower covering various topics treated over a period of one to several weeks. Material is presented in English and Hebrew. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

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

Wednesday 18

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. Noon.

Afternoon Delights: JCC Seniors. Afternoon concert at the JCC with the Ann Arbor Symphony's Brahms Trio. \$8/ticket at the door or in advance through AASO. For information, phone 971-0990 or email merrill@jfsannarbor.org. Note: Time change. 1 p.m.

Speaker: Frankel Center. Ari Weinzwieg will present "Rye Bread and Anarchism." 7 p.m. at 202 South Thayer, Room 2022.

Thursday 19

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschawsky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.


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

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with birthdays in November for family and friends. Lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. followed by performance by singer, pianist, composer and one-man band Avy Schreiber. 1–2 p.m.

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

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To register, please visit www.jewishannarbor.org
or call Cindy Adams at (734) 677-0100.

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Annual Campaign is required to attend. You will have the
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**Jewish
Federation**
of Greater Ann Arbor

2939 Birch Hollow Drive
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Calendar

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

Friday 20

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

Tot Shabbat, Dinner and Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat and dinner followed by songs and popsicles. 5:30–7 p.m.

Got Shabbat?: EMU Hillel. 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 21

Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. followed by morning minyan at 9:30 a.m.

Chanukah Bazaar: TBE. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

7th Grade Shabbat Program: BIC. 9:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service: BIC. Service followed by “Tailgate Kiddush.” 9:30 p.m.

Boys/Girls Night Out: JCC. First Girls Night Out of the year with singing, dancing, and magical fun. Enjoy games, crafts and dinner followed by viewing of classic movie *The Wizard of Oz*. Boys Night Out will feature balloon games and challenges, plus dinner followed by viewing of hit animated comedy *Up!* \$20/members; \$25/non-members. \$18/siblings, \$23/non-member siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 972-0990 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. *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. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar

Sunday 22

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

Storytime: BIC. For 3 and 4 year olds and their parents with BIC Youth Librarian Stacy Tessler. 9:30 a.m.

First Café: BIC Women’s League. For all parents (men and women) to relax, socialize, network, go online, feel at home, and build Jewish identity. 9:30 a.m.

Season of Mussar II: BIC. 9:45 a.m.

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

Chanukah Bazaar: TBE. 3–7:30 p.m.

Basic Judaism Class: TBE. 7:45–9 p.m.

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

Monday, 23

Jewish-Catholic Dialog: EMU Hillel. Scholars Reverend John Pawlikowski and Dr. Guy Stearns explore the difficult topic “Did God Survive the Holocaust?” LBC Certified. 7 p.m. at Student Center Gallroom.

Tuesday 24

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3

sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, and weekly Bridge Club, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

SoulQuest: Jewish Learning Institute. “The Journey Through Life, Death, and Beyond.” Fall semester course examines the twin mysteries of life and death that have fascinated philosophers and laymen since the dawn of time. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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Men’s Torah Study: TBE. Bi-monthly men’s study group led by Roger Stutesman. 7:30 p.m.

“Walking with God Part I–Tanakh and Rabbinic Literature:” BIC. Presented by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. 8 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Class led by Rabbi Glogower covering various topics treated over a period of one to several weeks. Material is presented in English and Hebrew. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

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

Wednesday 25

Schools Out/JCC’s In: JCC Youth. On days when Hebrew Day School or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC’s Youth Department offers full day School’s Out programs featuring field trips or special activities. These programs are for JCC members only in grades k-5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. \$36/members, \$32/siblings, \$20/middle school helpers. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Extended care until 6 p.m. is available for additional fee. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

Ultimate Pre-Party: EMU Hillel. Every campus Hillel in Michigan is getting together for pre-Thanksgiving bash. 7 p.m. at Whirlyball, 41550 Grand River Avenue in Novi.

Thanksgiving Service: TBE. Annual joint service on “Erev Thanksgiving.” Conducted by clergy from Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare’s Episcopal Church, with choirs from both congregations. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 26

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

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

Friday 27

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

Tot Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Followed by songs and popsicles. 5:30–7 p.m.

Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 28

Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m., followed by Morning Minyan at 9:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their parents. 11:15 a.m.

College Student Kiddush Luncheon: BIC. Special luncheon in honor of college students in town for Thanksgiving. Noon.

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

Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar

Sunday 29

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. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 30

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

Tuesday 31

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

SoulQuest: Jewish Learning Institute. “The Journey Through Life, Death, and Beyond.” Fall semester course examines the twin mysteries of life and death that have fascinated philosophers and laymen since the dawn of time. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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

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

Shabbat Candlelighting

November 6	4:59 p.m.
November 13	4:52 p.m.
November 20	4:46 p.m.
November 27	4:42 p.m.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. 5 p.m. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by Shira at 6 p.m.; Shira: 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@aaarecon.org or visit www.aaarecon.org.

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

Weekly Shabbat services

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

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

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

Phone numbers and addresses 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. 761-5324

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

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Ruthless Cosmopolitan

Discovering an ancestor's footsteps

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

RADAUTI, Romania (JTA) — It's the custom in Judaism to visit the graves of family members around the High Holidays.

This year I went a step further and walked in the footsteps of my ancestors.

My father's parents, who immigrated to the United States before World War I, were born near the market town of Radauti in the Bucovina region of northern Romania.

This is where I went a couple of weeks before Rosh Hashanah. It was my fourth trip to Radauti, which when my grandparents lived there was one of the easternmost towns in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

My first visit there was more than 30 years ago, in the freezing December of 1978. I was a correspondent for United Press International and was accompanying Romania's then-chief rabbi, Moses Rosen, on his annual Chanukah tour to far-flung remnant communities throughout the country.

I recall visiting 19 Jewish communities in six days. Elderly people in winter coats and astrakhan hats huddled together in unheated synagogues, and puffs of steam came from the mouths of the Jewish choir from Bucharest that came along with us to perform.

My brother Sam also was on that trip, and he and I took time in Radauti to visit the Jewish cemetery and pick our way through the stones to find the grave of our great-grandmother, Ettel Gruber, who died in 1946 and in whose honor I was given my middle name.

Discovering her grave did not trigger in me any further genealogical impulse, though what we experienced on our trip around Romania that week sowed the seeds of my interest in Jewish heritage.

As far as I knew, Ettel's was the only tomb of my ancestors in that cemetery, and in subsequent visits to Radauti in 1991 and 2006 for other research projects I never thought to seek any other family traces.

My trip to Radauti last month was not supposed to be a roots trip, either. I went there to work on an online photographic project called (Candle)sticks on Stone, about how women are represented on Jewish tombstones through the depiction of Shabbat candles. (See the Web site <http://candlesticksonstone.wordpress.com>.)

But it was inevitable, I guess, that the ghosts of my long-dead ancestors hovered about, and even somehow intervened, as I carried out my business. After all, though candlesticks are common symbols marking the gravestones of Jewish women, the stone marking my great-grandmother Ettel's tomb in the Radauti cemetery was the first I had seen bearing that image.

This ancestral intervention was particularly evident thanks to the fact that three of my cousins — Arthur, Hugh and Hugh's son Asher — had come along with me for part of the journey. The four of us made a pilgrimage to Ettel's grave and took a ritual picture, but otherwise my cousins were not very interested in the other tombstones I was documenting.

Rather, they wanted to find out about our family history and, as the expression goes, to walk where our ancestors had walked.

A friend of a friend in town took us to the city's registry office and helped us examine yellowing tomes that yielded handwritten dates, names and even street addresses of our forbears.

With the information that turned up and the aid of a couple of friendly policemen, we

actually found the house in the nearby village of Vicovu de Sus where Ettel and her husband, our great-grandfather Anshel, had lived when they married in 1880.

Vicovu de Sus, like much of rural northern Romania, is a place where horses and carts are still common forms of transportation. The house we found was an isolated old wooden farmstead with a steep wood-shingled roof at the end of a grassy track at the edge of corn fields. Its only outward concession to modernity seemed to be electric power lines and a satellite dish.

My cousins left Romania after a few days, but I stayed on for a bit to continue work on my project, documenting the Jewish cemeteries in Radauti and several other towns.

But that's not all that I ended up doing.

I can't say that I had been bitten by the genealogy bug, but our session at the town hall, the faded names and dates and notations, and our subsequent discovery of our great-grandparents' house kept me thinking.

Our discoveries about our ancestors' lives had left some questions that I wanted to try to answer, and I couldn't leave town without at least attempting to resolve them.

One of these loose ends was my discovery that another of my female ancestors — my grandmother's grandmother, who died in 1904 — was, like Ettel, buried in the Radauti Jewish cemetery, and that her Hebrew name, and even the plot number and row of her grave, were known.

Armed with this information, I again entered the cemetery and its tilting forest of stones on my last day in town. The cemetery caretaker pointed out the row and left me to push through the undergrowth and scrutinize the Hebrew epitaphs. It was slow going — my Hebrew is basic at best, the stones were weathered and I had to keep brushing away spiders.

After half an hour or so, there it was: Chaya Dvoira bas Moshe Mordko. She was described in the epitaph as a "modest and honest" woman. Above the words were braided candlesticks on stone, with hands raised in blessing above them and faded traces of the red and green paint that must once have adorned the carving.

In a memoir she wrote by hand when she was well past middle age, my own grandmother recalled how she had lived with her grandparents in Radauti for two years as a young girl, "the happiest two years of my life as a child."

Chaya Dvoira, she wrote, "saw that my clothes were nice and clean, she had meals on time and my hair was always combed nice and neat." They had, she wrote, very little money.

I stood there for a while in front of this memorial to an ancestor whose existence had never really crossed my mind before this trip.

"I pulled away a strand of stray vines: not sure what, if anything, I actually felt," I wrote that day on my blog. "Glad to be there; cognizant of distance, time, realms; the passing of time and history. Wishing the others could have been there too. Wondering what she looked like!"

Ruth Ellen Gruber's books include *National Geographic Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Eastern Europe*, *Letters from Europe (and Elsewhere)*, and *Virtually Jewish: Reinventing Jewish Culture in Europe*. She blogs on Jewish heritage issues at jewish-heritage-travel.blogspot.com. ■

Kosher Cuisine

Once a staple but long out of fashion, schmaltz makes a comeback

By Daniella Cheslow

NEW YORK (Tablet) — On a rainy fall night in Teaneck, N.J., Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster and her husband bumped around their tiny kitchen tending a heavy skillet full of frying potatoes and onions. Kahn-Troster, 30, spooned a pudding-like yellow glop into the pan, where it sizzled and gave off the aroma of a highly concentrated chicken soup.

She was cooking with homemade schmaltz, an ingredient she discovered by accident a year earlier while following a Mark Bittman recipe for duck breast that left her with a jar of liquefied fat. Nowadays she keeps a plastic bag of chicken skin and fat in her freezer ready for rendering at a moment's notice.

"When we got married, Paul and I joked that we both like old Jewish man food," Kahn-Troster said. "If it's kosher we're kind of willing to try it."

Schmaltz — the result of the long process of heating leftover chicken fat with chopped onions over a low flame until it liquefies — once was suspected to be on an irreversible decline. Health concerns, the advent of margarine after World War II and a desire to assimilate exiled it from most Jewish kitchens. But now a new generation of Jewish and gentile cooks are rediscovering the old staple.

"Sometimes I get a chicken and it's very fatty, and I pull off the fat and throw it in the freezer. And when I have some time I render it," said Tina Ujlaki, a non-Jew and food editor at *Food & Wine Magazine* who doesn't like to waste any part of the animal.

Ujlaki fries onions and chicken skin in schmaltz, a concoction known as gribenes, for a topping.

"You can sprinkle them on top of liver, on top of salad, or just sort of use them like you would a crouton," she said. "Chicken cracklings would be awesome. Not that potatoes fried in chicken fat wouldn't be amazing."

Once an essential part of the "yiddishe tam," or Jewish taste, schmaltz was part heritage, part economy, according to New York University culinary ethnographer Eve Jochnowitz. It was poor food, made and used by Jewish cooks trying to stretch every piece of chicken for maximum nutrition and served as a spread akin to butter and often eaten with grated radish. But like many other traditional food practices, its popularity ebbed.

Even among slow food devotees.

"It's not the way people cook anymore," Jochnowitz said. "The days when you got up early in the morning and started cooking, those days just really are gone."

What's more, schmaltz suffered from various stigmas. Susan Rosenthal, a 59-year-old doctor in East Brunswick, N.J., said that although she grew up eating her grandmother's schmaltz, her mother never served it.

"In my mother's generation, people who grew up wanted to be American," Rosenthal said. "People changed their names then, nose jobs were really big. And part of being modern was eating American food."

Yet though beaten, schmaltz was far from dead, as the Empire Kosher Chicken company discovered in early 2007, when CEO Greg Rosenbaum discontinued packaged schmaltz to cut costs on what he saw as an unprofitable product. His aunt and her sisterhood swamped his phone line with calls

of protest, and by Passover schmaltz was back on grocery shelves, according to Empire spokesman Elie Rosenfeld. It's high sales points are just before Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Chanukah.

If Empire's schmaltz caters to devoted older customers, there are recent signs that younger, trendier cooks have similarly become schmaltz champions. Mitch Davis, the vice president of the James Beard Foundation, featured schmaltz prominently on his book tour for *The Mensch Chef* cookbook in 2002.

"At all the events that had food, I served as appetizers gribenes cooked until they were crisp and topped with sea salt," Davis said. "People ate them like they'd never eaten before."

Then, in September 2008, Ten Speed Press published Jennifer McLagan's *Fat: An Appreciation of a Misunderstood Ingredient, with Recipes*. A month later Bittman, the Minimalist food columnist for the *The New York Times*, featured schmaltz as an essential ingredient in an article and related video about preparing kasha varnishkes.

Beyond the taste, schmaltz connects to sustainable eating. Kahn-Troster said that cooking with schmaltz meshes with her attempt to keep a low ecological profile. She and her husband drive Priuses, and for every Talmud volume on her shelves there is a food politics book by Marion Nestle or Michael Pollan.

"Meat comes from a real animal, and we need to respect that animal," she said. "The more and more parts of the animal we throw away, the less respectful we are."

Schmaltz also has, improbably, gotten a clean bill of health. According to NYU's Jochnowitz, a vegetarian, schmaltz has less trans fat than margarine and more omega-3 fatty acids than most vegetable oils. That means it's better for the heart and brain.

David Sax, whose book *Save the Deli* comes out later this month, noted that a schmaltz revival would be on par with wider trends in the American kitchen.

"The fat phobia that hit the delis and got a lot of them to replace schmaltz with vegetable oil in chopped liver and kishke [stuffed derma], that sort of peaked in the '80s to the '90s," he said. "If you see in non-Jewish, goyish food culture, fat is really the battle of the moment, the biggest thing is the fattiest part of the pork."

Despite its ups and downs in Jewish American history, schmaltz, said Sax, "stays in your body forever." ■

Daniella Cheslow is a freelance writer living in Israel. Reprinted from *Tabletmag.com*, a new read on Jewish life.



Vitals

Mazel tov

David Berman on his bar mitzvah, November 7.
 Hannah Shevrin on her bat mitzvah, November 14.
 Sari Greifer on her bat mitzvah, November 14
 Anna Hayman on her bat mitzvah, November 14
 Nancy and Martin Zimmerman on the birth of their granddaughter, Camila Eliana, daughter of Daniel and Tamara Zimmerman.
 Lou and Happy Feigelson on the birth of their grandson, Amichai Yitzchak Feigelson, son of Daniel and Sara Feigelson.
 Tina Tolin and Tom Scheper; on the birth of their grandson, Oliver Chen Scheper, son of Jennifer and Kevin Tolin Scheper, October 16.
 Herb and Eileen Pritzker on the birth of their granddaughter, Jori Soble Pritzker, daughter of Alan Pritzker and Bea Soble, October 22.

Condolences

Inessa Gankin on the death of her grandmother, Lliza Malkina, September 15.
 Carla Grayson on the death of her mother, Vida Grayson, September 20.
 Gretta Spier on the death of her mother, Ann Key Spier, September 24.
 Allen Menlo on the death of his wife, Marilyn Menlo, September 28.
 Seth Pettie on the death of his father, David Pettie, September 24.
 Jim Hansell on the death of his mother, Jeanne Hansell, October 3.
 Lotte Catford, on the death of her husband, Ian, October 6.
 Bill Dauer on the death of his mother, Roslyn Dauer.

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The Foundation for Jewish Camp updates website

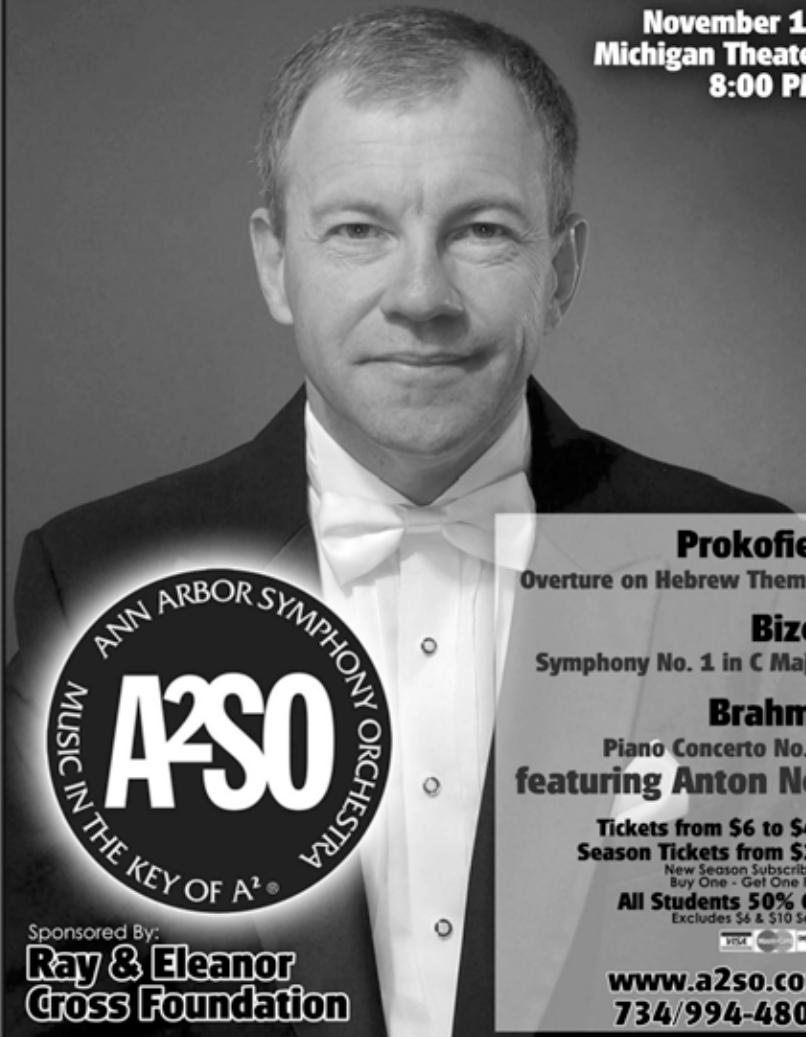
Alicia Zimbalist, special to the WJN

The Foundation for Jewish Camp has launched a new website at www.JewishCamp.org, a comprehensive, user-friendly, informative location for anyone with an interest in Jewish camp. The many upgraded features on the site include:

- A new "Find a Camp" Tool: This new database is an easy-to-use instrument for finding nonprofit Jewish overnight camps. With filters that allow families to choose preferences from specialties to special needs, it shows where each camp is on a map and links to their individual page.
- Leaders Assembly News and Information: This is the one-stop shop for everything you need to know about Leaders Assembly.
- Blog: "The Campfire" will feature regularly updated content about the field of Jewish camp as well as FJC and its programs.
- Research: An all-inclusive catalog for all of FJC's field and market research. Links to complete findings are also available here.
- Directory of Camp Scholarships: A database that will act as a central location for camps to list available scholarships.
- Job Board: Summer and year-round Jewish camp jobs can be posted and found here.
- Incentive Program Information: The Camper-ship Incentive Program, JWest Campership Program and Genesis Camp Initiative are all listed in one central place where they are explained and linked to www.onehappycamper.org.
- New Specialty Camps Information: Highlighted in the "Types of Camps" section is the "Specialty Camps" listing which specifically outlines the details of each Incubator Camp.
- Resource Library: A collection of publications and web links that aim to inform and assist with education and programming ideas year-round.

Brahms & Friends

November 14
Michigan Theater
8:00 PM



Prokofiev
 Overture on Hebrew Themes

Bizet
 Symphony No. 1 in C Major

Brahms
 Piano Concerto No. 2
featuring Anton Nel

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November Events

Christine Brewer soprano
Craig Rutenberg piano

Sun, Nov 1 | 4 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Gluck "Divinites du Styx" from Alceste
Wagner Wesendonk Lieder
Songs by R. Strauss, Marx, Britten and others

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**Keith Terry and the
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Fri, Nov 6 | 7 PM
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**Gal Costa and
Romero Lubambo**

Sat, Nov 7 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

"Gal Costa's melting, sensuous voice has been a Brazilian pop archetype since she was the muse and advocate of the Tropicália movement." (*The New York Times*) Now the great female vocalist makes her area debut as part of UMS's ongoing exploration of the superstars of Brazilian music, which has brought Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil and more to Ann Arbor in recent years.

MEDIA PARTNERS **WEMU 89.1 FM**, **METRO TIMES**, AND **ANN ARBOR'S 107ONE**.

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Sun, Nov 8 | 4 PM
RACKHAM AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Haydn String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2 (1799)
Ravel String Quartet in F Major (1902-03)
Adams Second Quartet (2008)

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Yasmin Levy

Sat, Nov 14 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

Declared the "next world music superstar" by London's *Guardian*, Israeli-born Yasmin Levy visits Ann Arbor as part of her US debut tour, performing her unique blend of flamenco, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Sephardic Jewish Ladino songs.

MEDIA PARTNER **WEMU 89.1 FM**.

Berliner Philharmoniker

Simon Rattle conductor

Tue, Nov 17 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Brahms Symphony No. 3 in F Major, Op. 90 (1883)
Schoenberg Begleitmusik zu einer Lichtspielszene, Op. 34 (1929-30)
Brahms Symphony No. 4 in e minor, Op. 98 (1884-85)

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Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda

Patti LuPone

Gerald Wirth artistic director

Fri, Nov 20 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

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