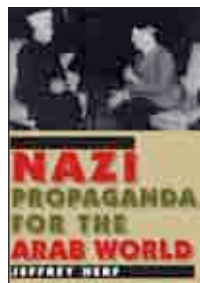


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WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

April 2010 Nisan/Iyar 5770

Volume XXXIV: Number 7

FREE

JCC Jewish Film Festival returns to the Michigan Theater

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The ninth annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival will return to Ann Arbor April 25–29. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater, will showcase 14 films over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty.

The festival will open at 8 p.m. with a showing of the Lenore Marwil 2010 Feature Film winner, *A Matter of Size*, which tells the story of an overweight chef who discovers the fine art of Sumo wrestling. Film sponsors are invited to a pre-film sponsor's reception catered by Lori Shepard of Simply Scrumptious Catering.

Of the 14 films, eight of the films are foreign, including five from Israel. The Israeli films, *The Debt*, *A Matter of Size* and *For My Father* have all been nominated for multiple Israeli Academy Awards. *Leaving the Fold* won the award for best documentary at the International Festival of Cinema and Religion in Rome, and *Tel Aviv Jaffa*, which depicts the remarkable, moving and humorous story

of the largest and most important city in Israel, is a Steven Spielberg Jewish Archive production.

This year's event will feature two new Lunch and Learn programs at the Michigan Theater.



Scene from the film *Hello Goodbye*

The program on Wednesday, April 28, will feature a discussion on the Michigan Film Industry. Thursday, April 29, the program will feature Leila Ferault and Michael Levine, with a discussion on "Jewish Genealogy—How to Find the Family You Never Knew You Had." The cost for each program is \$8 for JCC members and \$10 for non-members.

The festival will conclude on April 29 with the showing of the Australian comedy, *Hey! Hey! It's Esther Blueburger*, starring Toni Collette and Keisha Castle-Hughes. This is the hilarious story of the unending quest to fit in, and the girl who solves it by completely breaking out.

The Jewish Film Festival is made possible thanks to the Michael and Patricia Levine Philanthropic Foundation, the Charles and Rita Gelman Educational Foundation, and the many generous sponsors of the event. Additionally, the Ann and Jules Doneson Film Festival Endowment Fund was established by Shira and Steve Klein to help insure the festival's longevity.

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Sixth Annual Celebrate Israel salutes Israeli innovation

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

As an Innovation Nation, Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ than any other foreign country and boasts the largest number of start-up companies per capita in the world! The Ann Arbor community will gather to celebrate Israel's 62nd birthday and to applaud Israeli innovation on Sunday, May 2, from 12:30–3:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. This event brings together representatives from Greater Ann Arbor's Jewish communal organizations to conceive, program and implement a joyous celebration of Israeli innovation, creativity and culture for over 600 celebrants of all ages.

As in previous years, participants can enjoy Israeli dancing, tasty Israeli street food and top-notch entertainment. Opening and closing ceremonies featuring Temple Beth Emeth's Shir Chadash and Ann Arbor's own Ricardo Seir will take place at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There will be fun Israel-themed activities for the entire family, a children's carnival, and a *shuk* (marketplace)

with Israeli merchandise. This year's theme: Innovation Nation, will offer new twist to programming with a puzzle station, other hand-on activities, and displays of some of the inventions that have come from Israel's hi-tech and green tech industry.

For the third year in a row, Ann Arbor will host a delegation from its Partnership 2000 community, Moshav Nahalal. The delegation

will develop an exhibit focusing on innovation in Israel's agricultural sector.

Tickets for Celebrate Israel are \$5/individual and \$10/family. Pre-registration is highly encouraged. For more information or to register, volunteer or sponsor Celebrate Israel, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael or contact Eileen Freed at celebrateisrael@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100. ■



Delegation from Moshav Nahalal with Ann Arbor hosts

Remembering the fallen

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

The Community-Wide Yom Hazikaron Ceremony for Greater Ann Arbor, hosted by Beth Israel Congregation, will take place on Monday, April 19, from 7–8 p.m.

Yom Hazikaron, which is often translated as Israel Remembrance Day, is a time for Israelis and Jews the world over to take a moment to mourn the loss of Israeli soldiers and victims of terror. Coming as it does just before Israeli Independence Day, this one hour ceremony can provide a very powerful emotional experience to everyone present. In the ceremony in Ann Arbor, volunteers from the community will present memorial poems and songs (with instrumental accompaniment) in Hebrew and English, and a PowerPoint presentation which memorializes the lives of some of the fallen. Rabbis from each of the congregations in Ann Arbor will read biblical or religious selections. Many of the works to be included mirror those used in Israeli ceremonies.



The 22,570 Israeli soldiers killed in the line of duty and 1,723 civilian terror victims are remembered on this day. The ceremony this year is taking place just before the eve of Israeli Independence Day. Malli Holoshitz, originally from Israel, chairs the committee that plans this community-wide event. Holoshitz teaches adult Hebrew at Beth Israel Congregation and is a Hebrew instructor at the Frankel Jewish Academy in West Bloomfield.

Mark your calendar

March 29–April 7: Passover

April 12: Yom Hashoah

April 19: Yom Hazikaron

April 20: Yom Ha'Atzmaut

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Community

Ann Arbor Film Festival lineup includes three Jewish-related movies

Becca Keating, special to the WJN

The 48th Ann Arbor Film Festival, March 23–28, will host 170 films from 20 countries over six days. Films in this year's festival span all genres, narrative, documentary, animation, experimental and music video. With 40 programs, 10 that are free to the public, there is something for everyone at this year's festival.

Three feature documentary films playing at this year's festival examine cultural aspects of Judaism and how many Jewish people live in today's world. These films are: *City of Boarders*; *Expansive Grounds*; and *Off and Running*.

City of Boarders will play as part of the Out Night films in competition on March 25, at 7 p.m. In the heart of Jerusalem stands an unusual symbol of unity that defies generations of segregation, violence and prejudice: a gay bar called Shushan. This compelling and intimate documentary goes inside this underground sanctuary where people of opposing nationalities, religions and sexual orientations create an island of peace in a land divided by war.

Screening Sunday, March 28, at 1 p.m., will be the feature documentary *Expansive Grounds*. This documentary explores the filmmaker's discussion about her identity as a German caused by the Berlin Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. Observations during the time of 2003–2007 from the installment of the first slabs until two years after the opening of the memorial to the public and many dialogs lead the filmmaker to a new reflection about her family's role during Nazi time and about the significance of collective guilt. A German story of every day life, *Expansive Grounds* is sponsored by Detroit Public Television and co-presented by The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus.

Off and Running is another feature documentary in this year's festival screening Saturday, March 27, at 5 p.m. With white Jewish lesbians for parents and two adopted brothers—one mixed-race and one Korean—Brooklyn teen Avery grew up in a unique and loving household. But when her curiosity about her African-American roots grows, she decides to contact her birth mother. This choice propels Avery into her own complicated exploration of race, identity, and family that threatens to distance her from the parents she's always known. *Off and Running* is sponsored by *The Chronicle* and co-presented by the Neutral Zone. ■

Tickets to the festival are \$9 for general admission \$7 for students. To view the full festival program or purchase tickets go to www.48.aaf.lmfest.org.

New documentary provides tools to respond to anti-Semitism on campus

WJN staff writers

Many campuses around the world were flooded with anti-Semitic propaganda under the name of Israel Apartheid Week, held the beginning of March, including the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus. These activities created an insidious environment where Jews were verbally and even physically attacked on some campuses.

Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus is a new documentary highlighting the line that is crossed when anti-Zionist rhetoric turns into a pure form of anti-Semitism.

"Behind a veil of criticizing Israeli policies, professors, teaching assistants and other university authorities are putting Jewish students at risk," explains Wayne Kopping, director of *Crossing the Line*. "This film provides a critical understanding of a dangerous trend on campus that we unfortunately see is growing."

For a limited time, a condensed version of the film can be viewed on the documentary's official website: www.campusintifada.com.

"What we have noticed on many campuses is that Jewish students know the accusations made against Israel are abusive and anti-Semitic but they do not know how to respond," says Kopping. "Empowering students through education and knowledge is the only solution to the growing epidemic of anti-Semitism on campus." ■

Meet and Greet event for newcomers

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Shalom Ann Arbor program welcomes all newcomers for bagels and coffee at a Meet and Greet on Monday, April 19, at 10 a.m. Participants will be provided with a welcome package that includes essential information for those new to the Ann Arbor area, including information from local Jewish organizations. For more information or to RSVP, contact Halye Aisner at 971-0990 or halyeaisner@jccfed.org. Shalom Ann Arbor is made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

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

Community

Noa and Mira Award at Wharton Center, May 5

Bob Hoffman, special to the WJN

Israel's leading recording artist Noa will team up with Arab Israeli singer Mira

Award for a sophisticated blend of contemporary Western pop with Mid-Eastern inflections for one night only—Wednesday, May 5, at Wharton Center in East Lansing. Known in Israel by her given name, Achinoam Nini, Noa was born in Tel Aviv and lived in New York City from age two until her return to Israel at age 17. Her strongest influences come from the singer-songwriters of the 1960s, like Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. These musical and lyrical sensibilities, combined with Noa's Yemenite roots and the jazz/classical/rock background have shaped her unique sound.

Noa has tremendous experience in recording for film and theater. A few of these popular recordings include the part of Esmerelda in the original French soundtrack of *Notre Dame de Paris*, which went multi-platinum. Another is a collaboration of two songs, one for the James Bond film *Goldeneye* and the other for *Joan of Arc*. She also wrote the lyrics for the musical theme of *Life is Beautiful*, an Oscar award-winning movie in 2000.

Nominated as a "Good Will Ambassador" for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Noa extends herself in the fight for peace, which she values greatly. In a global telecast fundraiser concert in front of an audience of 350,000, Noa joined a notable group of stars and performers to raise awareness for children in conflict areas. The event, produced



Noa

by Quincy Jones in Rome, included Noa as she performed "We are the Future." The broadcast,

which included such celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie, Josh Groban, Carlos Santana and Alicia Keys, was performed live on various channels and viewed by millions.

There will be a Preview Lecture at this performance. This free, half-hour discussion will be presented by Serling Chair in Israel Studies, Dr. Yael Aronoff. Previews are held 45 minutes prior to a performance. Previews for

the Cobb Great Hall are located in the Stoddard Grand Tier lounge on the third floor.

This World Music & Dance at Wharton Center Series performance of Noa is generously supported by Larry & Faylene Owen Arts and Culture Fund, Michigan State University Hillel, The Greater Lansing Jewish Welfare Federation, and Mid-Michigan MRI.

Noa's World Music & Dance at Wharton Center Series performance is co-presented by Wharton Center for Performing Arts and the MSU Lester & Jewell Morris Hillel Jewish Student Center. The media sponsor of the 2009-2010 World Music & Dance at Wharton Center Series is Michigan Radio. ■

The Noa and Mira Award concert will take place on Wednesday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m., at Cobb Great Hall on the Michigan State University campus. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased on www.whartoncenter.com, or by calling (517) 432-2000 or (800) WHARTON.

Chaverim B'Shirim to perform music From Harold Rome's Pins and Needles

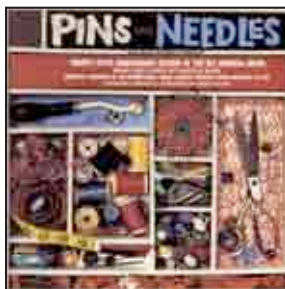
Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Chaverim B'Shirim, Ann Arbor's own all-volunteer choir, will have the room swaying and the band playing as they perform music from Harold Rome's *Pins and Needles* at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday, April 25, at 3 p.m. Last year, Chaverim B'Shirim entertained the audience with selected songs from Rome's popular Broadway musical, *Call Me Mister*.

Pins and Needles originally opened on Broadway in 1937 at the tiny Princess Theatre. It was sponsored and performed by members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Originally, it played only on weekends, but it was so popular that it quickly added performances and moved to the larger Windsor Theatre. *Pins and Needles* ran for 1,108 perfor-

mances, the longest run of any musical during the 1930s. Songs from the production included "Sunday In the Park" and "Sing Me a Song of Social Significance," which reflected the new populist, socially conscious outlook that had come into existence during the first years of the Roosevelt administration.


Tickets are \$5 and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the JCC at 971-0990. ■



JCC hosts a night of Jazz, Rock and Klezmer

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host a Musical Coffee House on Sunday, April 18, from 7-9 p.m., at the JCC. Live musical entertainment includes special guests Brett Levy with Momena; Gerald Ross, who performed with Yiddishe Cup in January at the Ark; and Alexi Ernstoff. Gourmet coffee and desserts will be provided. The cost is \$10 for JCC members and \$12 for non-members. Children 8 and over are welcome and free of charge. For more information or to RSVP to the event, contact the JCC at 971-0990.



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Community

Lansing Civic Players to host Holocaust tribute

Laura J Croff, special to the WJN

In honor of Days of Remembrance, the annual commemoration of the Holocaust, The Underground at Lansing Civic Players, in partnership with Dr. Henry Greenspan, will present *Remnants* on Friday, April 16 and Saturday April 17. Both performances are at 8 p.m.

Remnants is based on 20 years of the playwright's (Dr. Henry Greenspan) conversations with Holocaust survivors. Forty minutes in length, the piece is stark and minimalist, each segment recreating moments in which survivors reflect not only on the destruction but also on their lives in the aftermath. Performances of the play are followed by a discussion between playwright and audience.

Remnants was first produced for radio in 1992 and distributed to NPR stations across the United States. As a stage play, *Remnants* has been presented at more than 200 venues throughout the United States and Canada as well as in Britain, Israel, and the Czech Republic and has been a winner of the Henrico National Competition, the Attic Theater Center New Plays Festival (Los Angeles), the New Hope Performing Arts Festival, the National Script Competition of the Midwest Radio Theatre Workshop, and the Michigan Public Broadcasting Focus Award. Recent presentations have included performances at the John Houseman Theater (New York), the British Library (London), the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, DC), and the



Dr. Henry Greenspan

Magdeburg attic theatre in the former Theresienstadt concentration camp—a space used for performances during the Holocaust itself.

Henry Greenspan is a psychologist and playwright at the University of Michigan who has been writing and teaching about the Holocaust for almost three decades. He is the author of *On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Recounting and Life History* and, with Agi Rubin, *Reflections: Auschwitz, Memory, and a Life Recreated* as well as the acclaimed play, *Remnants*.

LCP embraces fully the community that LCP lives and plays in and presents this performance, with Dr. Greenspan, as outreach and dialogue in what remains an age of genocide.

The Underground at Lansing Civic Players is located at 2300 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing. Tickets are \$15 and reservations are available at (517) 484-9115. ■

JFS Caregiving Academy

Efrion J. Smith, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services was awarded a one-year grant, with an option for renewal, from the Washtenaw County Workforce Development and Community Action Innovative Enhanced Program Services, for the JFS Caregiving Academy.

The JFS Caregiving Academy is a pioneering project that fosters innovation by integrating approaches to meeting the needs of older adults while concurrently providing basic and health literacy education for a non-English speaking and functionally illiterate population. The training is matched with a career path in healthcare and caregiving. By bringing together basic literacy training and special training in caregiving, the Academy will be creating a solid foundation for the participants, developing the needed skills for successful job placement and continuing education in the growing field of geriatric services.

The JFS Caregiving Academy consists of five components:

- English as a Second Language (ESL) literacy training curriculum.
- Field training in working with older adults: in-home health services, medical accompaniment, transportation, errands, grocery shopping, prescription pick-up and delivery, yard maintenance, computer/

technology assistance, and moving and transition assistance.

- Case management and support to remove barriers to employment, including job readiness services. This includes "job coaching" from individuals who have either worked in or are currently in the senior services field.
- Workshops on small business development and networking in the senior service field. JFS's partnership with Washtenaw Community College's Small Business and Technology Development Center will provide special workshops to address various aspects of entrepreneurship.
- The Caregiving Academy will work with individuals to enroll them in a Certified Nursing Assistant Program. The Academy will also assist them in completing course requirements; passing state licensure examinations and obtaining employment with project partners.

This funding will enable JFS to continue to serve the ever-growing numbers of adults needing employment, along with older adults needing caring, competent and committed caregivers. For more information about the JFS Caregiving Academy, visit the JFS website, www.jfsannarbor.org, or call the office at 769-0209.

Marilyn Krimm's CD, *Songs of Our Past*, now for sale

WJN staff writers

The CD of Marilyn Krimm's *Songs of Our Past*, recently produced from the master of her 1973 Hadassah-sponsored recording, has been accepted by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. for sale in its museum shop. All of the proceeds of the sales are being donated to the museum.

The CD contains 16 songs. The first six are Yiddish songs, most of them familiar to a Jewish listener. The next three are songs about the Holocaust:

"The Homeless Child," based on a poem by Chana Chaitin; "The Butterfly," based on a poem by Pavel Friedman; and "Birds Are Sleeping On The Branches," based on a poem by Leah Rudnitsky. The final seven are songs of Israel, some of which may be familiar.

The CDs are also available for purchase at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Beth Israel Congregation, and Hadassah; again, all proceeds going to the participating organization.

"I'm excited that Mike is running. He cares about people and works for the public good!" *Barbara Levin Bergman, Washtenaw County Commissioner - 8th District*
 "I've known Mike for over 40 years. He's a guy who bridges differences and gets things done!" *Chuck Newman, Founder & Chairman/ReCellular, Inc.*

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Jewish Film Festival

Jewish Film Festival returns to the Michigan Theater

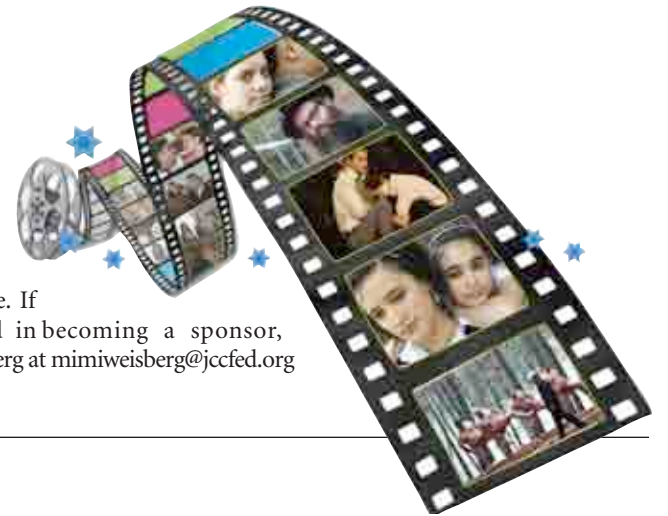
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This year's festival chairs are Levana Aronson, Norman Miller and Roberta Tankenow. The festival will also take place in Commerce Township, Birmingham, and Flint.

Individual movie tickets are \$10 each or a Festival Pass can be purchased for viewing all 14 movies.

Festival Passes cost \$70 if you are a JCC member or \$75 for non-members, and can be purchased at the Jewish Community Center. Tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities are available with a \$360 donation or more. Look for more information about the Jewish Film Festival, sponsorship opportunities

and special Festival programming on the JCC website. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Mimi Weisberg at mimiweisberg@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.



2010 Film schedule

Sunday, April 25

Opening Night, *A Matter of Size*, 8 p.m.

A Matter of Size tells the story of Herzl, an overweight chef from Ramala, who discovers the fine art of Sumo wrestling after landing a



job as a dishwasher at a Japanese restaurant. In order to become the first Jewish Sumo wrestler, Herzl will recruit three hefty friends to help him achieve his goal. The result is a touching, sweet, relatable and hilarious story about self-love and acceptance.

Monday, April 26

Leaving the Fold, 1:30 p.m.

Leaving the Fold is a documentary film that tells the story of five young people born and raised within the ultra-Orthodox Jewish world who no longer wish to remain on the inside. In particular, two of the young men who have left Orthodoxy are able to maintain a relationship with their father, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi. Instead of shunning his sons, all three find a way to keep peace and love in their hearts while agreeing to disagree about religion. What follows are candid, open and honest dialogue between the three men with no solution but respect and love.

followed by: *City of Borders*

City of Borders follows the daily lives of five Israelis and Palestinians at Jerusalem's only gay



bar. Set against the construction of the separation wall between Israel and the Palestinian territories and the struggle for a gay pride parade in Jerusalem, these inter-woven stories reveal the contradictions and complexity of the struggle for acceptance.

The Debt, 5 p.m.

The Debt is a mesmerizing espionage thriller that takes place in Israel in the mid-1990s. Rachel is a retired Mossad agent who recently



published records about how she assisted in the capture of the "Surgeon of Birkenau," a Nazi war criminal. However, complications occurred and the trial was never completed due to his alleged suicide. Thirty years later, a man living in a Ukraine nursing home claims to be the surgeon and leaves Rachel with some unfinished business.

Jump, 8 p.m.

Photographer Philippe Halsman became one of the most sought-after celebrity portrait

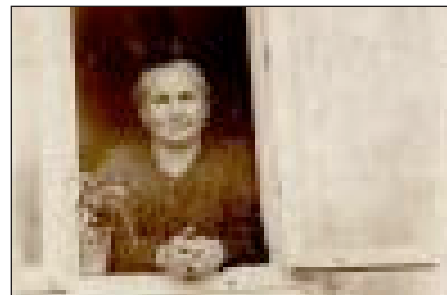


artists of his generation, creating memorable images of famous personalities often jumping in midair for LIFE magazine. Set in 1928 Austria, *Jump* brings us the true story of the first trial of a Jew by the Nazi government. Philippe Halsman and his bullying father Morduch, share a troubled relationship, which turns increasingly sour as the two embark upon a hiking tour in Austria. When Morduch is found dead, Philippe is charged and convicted of the crime. This film stars the late Patrick Swayze.

Tuesday, April 27

No. 4 Street of Our Lady, 1:30 p.m.

This is the remarkable, yet little-known story of Francisca Halamajowa, a Polish-Catholic woman who rescued 16 of her Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust. Cleverly passing herself off as a Nazi sympathizer, Francisca was able to save two families who would surely have been killed by the Nazis. This film uses the diary en-



tries of Moshe Maltz as a timeline to explore some of the painful moral and ethical dilemmas that acts of rescue and survival often entail. It also reveals how traumatic events of the past continue to play out years later.

HAG: The Story of the Hasidic Actors Guild, 5 p.m.

Special Guest: Filmmaker, Yisrael Lifschutz "Pay Us for Payos" is the motto of the Hasidic Actors Guild. HAG is a serio-comic hybrid of fact and fiction chronicling the life of Yisrael "Izzi" Lifschutz. He has acted in and/or consulted on such Hollywood films as *The Chosen*, *Stranger Among Us* and the independent classic *Pi* (which he also co-produced). This outrageously funny mockumentary is a survey of Jewish visibility in cinema and fictionalized history including archival "behind the scenes" footage, interviews and staged scenes. It also goes beyond its humor to speak to contemporary Jewish experience.



For My Father, 8 p.m.

For My Father tells the story of Terek, a Palestinian man who is forced to complete a suicide mission in Tel Aviv in order to regain his father's



honor. However, Terek is given a second chance at life when his explosive vest does not go off. While waiting for repairs, he meets Keren a young woman who has recently separated from her Orthodox family. Members of this small, poor community take Terek in as one of their own over the course of the weekend. Although

on edge, fearing remote detonation, feelings of life return to Terek's soul and by the end of the weekend has to make the most important pronouncement of his life.

Wednesday, April 28

Tel Aviv-Jaffa, 1:30 p.m.

In celebration of the 100 years since Tel Aviv's establishment, *Tel Aviv-Jaffa* depicts the remarkable, moving and humorous story of the largest city in Israel, the secular and youthful alternative to Jerusalem. Supported by in-depth research and rare archival materials, the film accompanies Tel Aviv from its inception, as an unpretentious neighborhood on the outskirts of Ottoman Jaffa, to the establishment of the State of Israel.



Disturbing the Universe, 5 p.m.

Filmmakers Emily and Sarah Kunstler explore the life of "the most hated lawyer in America," their father William. *Disturbing the Universe* examines the life of William Kunstler and the high profile cases he was involved with including the fight for Civil Rights with Martin Luther King Jr., and the Chicago 8 activists who protested the Vietnam War. The daughters share a provocative and deeply personal journey as they paint a complex portrait of a man whose life mirrors the battles that forever defined our history.



The Brothers Warner, 8 p.m.

The Brother's Warner is an intimate portrait and epic saga of the four film pioneers who founded and ran the Warner Bros. studio for more than fifty years. Cass Warner Sperlberg,



granddaughter of Harry Warner gives us an inside look at the original Hollywood independent filmmakers.

Thursday, April 29

Hello Goodbye, 1:30 p.m.

In an effort to make a change from the mundane Paris lifestyle, Alain, a successful doctor and his wife, Gisele, decide to embrace their Jewish heritage and move to Tel Aviv. Hello Goodbye is a comedic account of the



struggle that Alain & Gisele encounter while starting their new life. This film stars Fanny Ardant and Gerard Depardieu. A must see for empty-nesters.

Bon-Papa, A Man Under German Occupation, 5 p.m.

In a gorgeously shot, meditative documentary, the director sets out to explore the mystery of her non-Jewish paternal grandfa-



ther and the strange family silence surrounding his activity in Vichy, France, during the War. On the maternal side of her family, both grandparents were victims of the Holocaust. This is a soul-searching film, where responsibility for the past must be weighed against the reality of kin and blood.

Hey! Hey! It's Esther Blueburger, 8 p.m.

This is a quirky, yet meaningful, coming of age film that all can relate to. Searching to find herself, Esther leaves her bat mitzvah celebration and runs into Sunni, the cool girl. Opposites attract and the girls quickly be-



come friends and each find the strength they did not know they had. Esther goes on a slew of adventures that challenge her belief on the importance of fitting in. Starring Toni Collette and Keisha Castle-Hughes, this is a family film everyone will love.

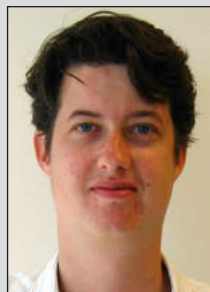
Special events at this year's Film Festival

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

As part of the 9th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival, several guest speakers will lead discussions following many of the films. There will also be new lunch and learn programs as part of this year's event. The festival takes place April 25–29 at the Michigan Theater, located at 603 East Liberty.

Lars Rensmann to speak about f lm, Jump, starring Patrick Swayze

Lars Rensmann, DPhil, DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, will lead a discussion following a showing of the film *Jump*, Monday, April 26, at 8 p.m. Set in 1928 Austria, *Jump* tells the true story of the first trial of a Jew by the Nazi government.



Lars Rensmann

Rensmann came to Ann Arbor in the fall of 2006. He teaches in the areas of modern political theory; European integration and European comparative politics; and German politics. He is the author and editor of six books and has published widely on political theory and German and European politics in journals such as the *European Journal of Political Theory*, *German Politics and Society*, *Patterns of Prejudice*, *Political Studies*, *Political Science*, the *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, and the *Journal of Contemporary History*, and in dozens of edited volumes.

Rensmann graduated with distinction from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa (B.A. in political science) and from the Free University of Berlin, Germany (M.A. in political science). He holds a doctoral degree (DPhil) with distinction ("summa cum laude") from the department of Political and Social Sciences at the Free University of Berlin. He is also affiliate professor at the University of Haifa and permanent fellow at the Moses Mendelssohn Center, University of Potsdam. He also held several other previous research and teaching appointments.

Filmmaker Yisrael Lifschutz to discuss his comedic f lm Hag: the Story of the Hasidic Actors Guild

Yisrael Lifschutz will lead a discussion following a showing of his film, *HAG: The Story of the Hasidic Actors Guild*, playing at the Michigan Theater on Tuesday, April 27, at 5 p.m. Lifschutz produced his first film in 1977 entitled *The Return: A Hassidic Experience*, focusing on people like himself who, after riding out the 1960s, opted for a more spiritual experience. The film, which won a red ribbon at the American Film Festival for lifestyles, subsequently appeared on PBS and a number of cable channels. *The Return* was subsequently brought to the attention of the producers of *The Chosen*, who hired Lifschutz as a consultant and actor. Since then, Lifschutz has been called upon to serve in a similar capacity for such films as *A Stranger Among Us*, *A Price Above Rubies* and the now indie classic *Pi*, for which he also served as one of the producers. His TV resume also includes the PBS 9-part series *Civilization and the Jews*, *Unsolved Mysteries* and *NYPD Blue*. He has also produced programs for cable, including Saturday Nite Chai and Mosaic.



Yisrael Lifschutz

Ken Droz and Jim Burnstein to appear at Lunch and Learn Program about Michigan f lm industry

The JCC's Jewish Film Festival will feature two new Lunch and Learn programs as part of this year's event. The first program will take place Wednesday, April 28, at 11:30 a.m., at the Michigan Theater. This event will feature a discussion on the Michigan film industry. Invited guests include Ken Droz and Jim Burnstein. The cost for the Lunch and Learn program is \$8 for JCC members and \$10 for non-members.

Ken Droz is manager of communications at the Michigan Film Office in Lansing. Droz managed Michigan marketing activities for the major film studios for 12 years before moving to Los Angeles in 2000 to operate his own PR firm. There, he serviced such clients as the Writers Guild Foundation, Paramount Pictures, Revolution Studios, Farmers Almanac TV, *Creative Screenwriting Magazine* and many others.

He also did some screenwriting while in Hollywood after studying under legendary comedy writer Danny Simon, mentor to such masters as his brother Neil Simon, and Woody Allen. Droz was able to collaborate briefly with Simon on an anticipated book of his teachings until Simon's untimely death in 2005, preempting the project.

Droz has been at the Michigan Film Office since May 2008, returning to his home state to help the new film incentive program gain traction. In his position, he processes the continuing flow of information from the exploding Michigan filmmaking scene to the state's many interested audiences such as the media, public, production and governmental communities, and keeps track of the growing number of success stories statewide from the economic activity resulting.



Jim Burnstein

Jim Burnstein heads the Screenwriting Program at the University of Michigan, his alma mater, in the Department of Screen Arts and Cultures. He's worked on such films as *Renaissance Man* and *D3: The Mighty Ducks* and is one of the few working Hollywood screenwriters living in Michigan. Most recently, MGM optioned *The Quarterback Tale*, written by Burnstein and his partner Garrett Schiff. Other projects written in collaboration with Garrett Schiff include *Naked Shakespeare* (Patchwork Productions), *Genius* (Paramount) and *AWOL* (Myriad Pictures).

Emily Kunstler discusses f lm Disturbing the Universe

On Wednesday, April 28, following the 5 p.m. showing of *Disturbing the Universe*, filmmaker Emily Kunstler will lead a discussion about the film. Kunstler and her sister, Sarah, are both producers and directors. They run Off Center Media, a production company that produces documentaries exposing injustice in the criminal justice system. The sisters founded Off Center Media in 2000, and have produced, directed, and edited a number of short documentaries, including *Tulia, Texas: Scenes from the Drug War* (2002), which won Best Documentary Short at the Woodstock Film Festival, and was instrumental in winning exoneration for 46 wrongfully convicted people; and *Getting Tough to the President* (2004), which has aired on the Sundance Channel.

Other notable Off Center Media projects include *A Pattern of Exclusion: The Trial of Thomas Miller-El* (2002), a documentary about racism at the trial of Miller-El, who had been on death row in Texas since 1985; *The Norfolk Four: A Miscarriage of Justice* (2006), about four young men in Norfolk, Virginia, who falsely confessed to a rape-murder that they did not commit; and *Executing the Insane: The Case of Scott Panetti* (2007). These films have contributed to campaigns to secure pardons, stay executions and convince decision makers to reopen cases.

Disturbing the Universe is the sisters' first documentary feature.

Emily Kunstler graduated in 2000 from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Film and Video. She was a video producer for *Democracy Now!*, an independent national television and radio news program, and a studio art fellow with the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2004. Emily and her sister were awarded the L'Oréal Women of Worth Vision Award at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and the Special Jury Prize for Best New Filmmakers at the Traverse City Film Festival.



Ken Droz



Emily Kunstler

continued on page 9

American funnyman in Israel's army

By Jonathan Kirsch

LOS ANGELES (*Jewish Journal*)—The first thing you need to know about Joel Chasnoff's *The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid From Chicago Fights Hezbollah* (Free Press, \$25) is that it's laugh-out-loud funny. It was tough for the rest of my household to concentrate on *The Bachelor* for all of my chortles and guffaws, and I was repeatedly asked: "What are you reading?"

But you also need to know that Chasnoff, a stand-up comedian from Chicago who joined the Israel Defense Forces and served as a tank gunner in Lebanon, is not just telling jokes here. He has some serious and even shocking things to say about Israel and its relationship with American Jews, and I promise you that you will not think about your own Jewishness in quite the same way after you finish his smart, funny and provocative book.

Chasnoff is exactly the right guy to conduct the American reader on a tour of Israel.

Raised in the suburbs as a Conservative Jew, he reminds us that buying Israel bonds and picking up a Gilon assault rifle are quite different ways of supporting the Jewish state.

"When I told my father I wanted to join the Israeli army, he slammed both hands on the table and yelled, 'What?'" Chasnoff writes. "From across the table, my father glared at me like I'd just announced that I was Republican. And Muslim. And gay."

Chasnoff's Israeli girlfriend was even less enthusiastic.

"Real Israelis are animals," she warned him. "They'll eat you alive."

And the immigration officer at the Israeli Consulate in New York asked, "Are you out of your goddamn mind?"

Chasnoff sets out to replace the image of Israel that we see on posters and postcards with a hard dose of reality. He shows us a selection of combat rations, which includes two sets of utensils, a kosher version of Spam and chocolate spread in cans stamped "KOSHER FOR PASSOVER — 1985."

We hear army slang, which includes a good many words you never heard in shul; Chasnoff usefully provides a glossary where you can look up the words. He observes that officers tend to be Ashkenazim while "[t]he highest-ranking dark-skinned guy I've seen at the Armored School is the barber." And he explains that observant Jewish soldiers, whom he calls "the Yeshiva Boys," are not given time off for prayers and must skip meals if they want to daven: "Who knew it would be so tough to be a Jew in the Jewish army?"

So the IDF is hardly lionized in the book, but the "insanities" that Chasnoff describes—including the shirkers in his training unit who inspired the title of the book—can be found in any army.

Chasnoff is likened to "Woody Allen channeling Leon Uris" in one of the blurbs on the back cover, but it is far more accurate to say that he stands in the tradition of

Joseph Heller, author of *Catch-22*, a civilian who bravely does his duty while fully aware of the absurdities of war.

Clearly, Chasnoff is going for more than yucks when he reveals that his tank unit was forbidden to fire on Hezbollah commandos because they happened to be in a "Closed Fire Zone," but was later ordered to launch a \$5,000 missile at a stray dog that showed up on the night-vision targeting screen of their tank.

Indeed, the historical weight and meaning of wearing the uniform of a Jewish soldier are not lost on Chasnoff, and he is far more sentimental than his comrades in arms about the heartbreaking photographs on display at Yad Vashem when his unit is sent there on a field trip. His fellow soldiers cheer because the trip means "three less hours of push-ups, wind sprints, and Platoon Sergeant Guy busting our balls," not to mention the ice cream on sale at the coffee shop next to the Walk of the Martyrs.

For Chasnoff, however, it

is a life-changing experience.

"Standing here in Yad Vashem in my olive-green uniform," he writes, "I feel absolved of the Holocaust guilt I've been carrying since grade school. Finally, I don't have to whisper, 'Never again' — I am Never Again!"

But, as it turns out, there is a catch and, not unlike *Catch-22*, it is a thoroughly crazy-making one.

Chasnoff was Jewish enough to serve in the IDF, but when he and his fiancée start planning their wedding, his Jewishness is suddenly challenged by the religious authorities. His mother was a convert to Judaism, and even though the conversion was conducted by an Orthodox rabbi, the Rabbinical Council in Tel Aviv has gone to the trouble of determining that she prepared for the ceremony by studying with a Conservative rabbi.

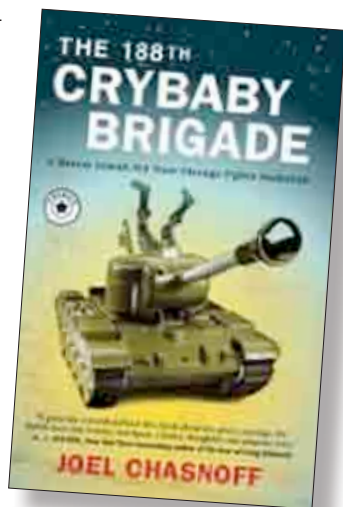
"Which means that according to the State of Israel," says the municipal rabbi, "you're not a Jew."

The book ends on a funnier and happier note, but Chasnoff leaves us thinking about the ironies that he regards as nothing less than a life-and-death matter for the survival of Israel.

"It's a Jewish state where observant Jewish soldiers have to choose between breakfast and prayers, where the most religious Jews don't even have to serve in the army, and where the criteria for getting drafted aren't enough to get you buried in the military graveyard," he concludes.

"Israel's future, if it has one, depends on all the reject-Jews they've been pushing away from the table." ■

Jonathan Kirsch, the author of 13 books, is the book editor of *The Jewish Journal* and blogs at jewishjournal.com/twelvetwelve. He can be reached at books@jewishjournal.com.



Book examines how Nazis tailored their message for Arab and Muslim audiences

By Adam Kirsch

NEW YORK (Tablet)—If you want to get even more depressed about the prospects for peace in the Middle East, check out a Web page maintained by the Anti-Defamation League that offers excerpts from the Hamas charter.

One of the remarkable things about the document is how it fuses three originally separate varieties of Jew-hatred.

The first comes from the Koran, in which Jews are represented as opponents of Muhammad and thus as eternal enemies of Islam: "The prophet, prayer and peace be upon him, said: 'The time will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews (and kill them); until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: O Muslim! there is a Jew hiding behind me, come on and kill him.'"

The second strain comes from 19th-century Europe, where religious Jew-hatred had given way to modern anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. Thus the Hamas charter states that Jews "control the world media [and use their] wealth to stir revolutions . . . They stood behind the French and the Communist Revolutions . . . They also used the money to establish clandestine organizations which are spreading around the world, in order to destroy societies and carry out Zionist interests." (Among these Zionist front organizations, you will be interested to learn, are the Rotary Club, the Lions and B'nai B'rith.)

Last but not least, the Hamas charter incorporates the 20th-century rhetoric of apocalyptic anti-Zionism. "Today it is Palestine and tomorrow it may be another country or other countries," it says. "For Zionist scheming has no end, and after Palestine they will covet expansion from the Nile to the Euphrates."

It follows that peace between Israel and Arab countries is, by definition, impossible: "Leaving the circle of conflict with Israel is a major act of treason and it will bring curse on its perpetrators."

Koranic anti-Judaism, European anti-Semitism, Arab anti-Zionism: Mix them together and you have an intoxicatingly paranoid worldview in which Jews are all powerful and totally malevolent, and Israel is not just a state but the latest incarnation of an eternal evil. You have, in fact, a 21st-century version of Nazism.

The revelation of Jeffrey Herf's new book, *Nazi Propaganda in the Arab World*, is that this affinity is not coincidental. Rather, between 1939 and 1945, Germany tirelessly used radio and print media to spread Nazi ideas about the Jews to Arab countries, especially Egypt.

Herf, a historian of Nazi Germany and not a student of Arabic or Arab history, makes clear that his book is not a study of the way this propaganda was actually received. But simply by documenting, in great and horrible detail, what the Nazis were telling the Arabs about the Jews, he raises the question of whether "the impact of fascism and Nazism on the Middle East [is] inseparable from contemporary political controversies about anti-Semitism, radical Islam, 'Islamofascism,' and international terrorism since the attacks of September 11, 2001."

The key source for *Nazi Propaganda in the Arab World* is transcriptions of German and Italian radio broadcasts made by experts at the American Embassy in Cairo. Between September 1941 and March 1945, the embassy sent the U.S. State Department weekly reports on "Axis Broadcasts in Arabic." After the war the transcripts, totaling thousands of pages, ended up in the National Archives, and Herf is the first historian to consult them extensively.

In addition to showing just what the broadcasts said, Herf puts them into historical context, show-

ing how the German message evolved in response to wartime events. As the author of a definitive study of the Nazis' domestic propaganda, Herf also is able to show how the Nazi message was specifically tailored for Arab and Muslim listeners.

Before World War II, German attempts to reach out to the Muslim world were made very awkward by the Nazis' racial doctrines, which held Arabs, Persians and Turks to be biologically inferior to Aryans. In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler openly declared that "I am prevented by mere knowledge of the racial inferiority of these so-called 'oppressed nations' from linking the destiny of my own people with theirs."

Accordingly, the Nazis frowned on marriage between Germans and Muslims. In 1935, the Hitler Youth expelled a boy whose father was Turkish, leading to a public relations disaster in Turkey.

When the 1936 Olympics were held in Germany, Egypt and Iran threatened to boycott to express their insulted racial pride. Significantly, what smoothed over these diplomatic quarrels were the Nazis' assurances, private and public, that their anti-Semitism was directed solely against Jews, not against other Semitic peoples.

Once the war began, Germany turned its attention to the Muslim world in earnest. In particular, the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa were important to the Nazis' geopolitical designs.

During World War I, the British had inspired the Arabs to revolt against Ottoman Turkey with promises of independence. But when peace came, the region was divided up between the British and French empires, breeding a resentment among the Arabs comparable to the Germans' feelings about the Treaty of Versailles.

Adding fuel to the fire was the Balfour Declaration in which the British promised to support a Jewish home in Palestine.

The key themes of Nazi propaganda, accordingly, were anti-imperialism and anti-Zionism, with a sideline in anti-communism. It may seem incredible that at the very moment Germany was occupying almost every country in Europe—and exploiting them for slave labor—it could pose to the Arabs as a champion of native peoples against foreign rule. But in some quarters, the Arab resentment of Britain was so intense that Germany could be taken for a potential liberator.

The Nazis found a valuable ally, for instance, in Haj Amin el-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem, who found refuge in Berlin after fighting the British in Palestine and Iraq. Germany's Arabic-language radio made great use of Husseini's speeches, such as the one he delivered in Berlin in 1943 explaining that the Jews "lived like a sponge among peoples, sucked their blood, seized their property, undermined their morals. . . . All this has brought the hostility of the world down on them and nourished the Jew's hatred against all the peoples that had been burning for 2,000 years."

As Herf notes, despite spending the war as a guest of Hitler and Himmler, the mufti was never tried for war crimes, but returned to Egypt as a national hero.

One of the things Husseini and Hitler talked about when they met in November 1941 was their plans for the Jews in Palestine and throughout the Middle East. Hitler, who still hoped that he was on the verge of a quick victory over Stalin, promised that once the USSR fell, German forces would cross

continued on next page

U.S. anti-Semitism envoy wants to bring non-Jews into the fight

By Melissa Apter

WASHINGTON (JTA)—President Obama's special envoy on anti-Semitism wants to recruit non-Jews to make her case.

Hannah Rosenthal outlined her goals in her new role during a recent address in Dallas to the annual plenum of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the public policy umbrella she once led as president.

To combat anti-Semitism, the Jewish people need more non-Jews on their side, said Rosenthal, who spoke at a panel on anti-Semitism alongside Abraham Foxman, the Anti-Defamation League's national director.

Everyone expects Foxman to be on the case, she said, "but if we have the messenger be someone who's not Jewish, who's willing to be a spokesperson condemning anti-Semitism, it comes with much more power." To that end, Rosenthal said she will incorporate the annual anti-Semitism report into the State Department's annual human rights report instead of the separate breakout authored by her predecessor, Gregg Rickman. That brings the issue to a larger audience.

"If I want to infuse this into every annual report, the people on the ground better know what anti-Semitism is," Rosenthal said. Additionally, she will introduce a daylong module into training at the Foreign Training Institute; modules at the prep school for diplomats usually last only a few hours.

Rickman favorably views his successor's attempts to bring non-Jews into the fight, but cautioned that Rosenthal needs to be wary of how she views criticism of Israel. "If she fails to see how anti-Israelism can be parlayed into anti-Semitism," then her efforts to train and work with diplomats will be in vain, he said.

Rosenthal said she would maintain existing practices, including using Jewish nongovern-

mental organizations like the ADL and pressing U.S. diplomats to report on anti-Semitic acts around the globe.

Rosenthal also committed to utilizing the United States' role as a superpower through quiet diplomacy. She pointed to the recent referendum passed in Switzerland that would prohibit minarets from being built on new mosques. Buried in the same referendum was a call for the end of Jewish cemeteries. "Very quietly, we dealt with the Christian Democratic People's Party and in fact they apologized and that policy is not happening," she said. "You didn't read about it and that policy was taken care of."

Rosenthal, who was sworn in last November, was a controversial choice by Obama. Jewish insiders questioned her lack of diplomatic experience. At the time she readily acknowledged that after a career of advocacy, she wasn't about to switch to anodyne niceties overnight.

She has made waves with criticism of Israel's ambassador to Washington, Michael Oren, for refusing to deal with J Street, a liberal pro-Israel group that Rosenthal helped to found.

That drew a rebuke from Alan Solow, the chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who said her remarks "could threaten to limit her effectiveness in the area for which she is actually responsible." The Obama administration stood by Rosenthal.

The position Rosenthal holds was created in 2004 by legislation sponsored by U.S. Reps. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) and Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio).

Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, saw a need for Western democracies to speak out on the rise of anti-Semitism globally. Rickman was its first appointee. ■

Film Festival special events, continued from page 7

Ann Arbor's Mike Levine and French filmmaker Leila Ferault to speak at Lunch and Learn on genealogy and the movie Bon Papa

Two exciting programs will take place on Thursday, April 29, as part of the Jewish Film Festival. At 11:30 a.m. there will be a Lunch and Learn program with guests Michael Levine and *Bon Papa: A Man Under German Occupation* filmmaker Leila Ferault, featuring a discussion on Genealogy—How to Find the Family You Never Knew You Had. Several years ago, Levine and Ferault were working on independent genealogy projects and through their research, the cousins found each other. The cost for the Lunch and Learn program is \$8 for JCC members and \$10 for non-members.

Following the showing of *Bon Papa* at 5 p.m., Ferault will join French educator Kathy Meyer in a panel discussion about the film. There will be a light French themed supper between the 5 p.m. showing of *Bon Papa* and the 8 p.m. presentation of *Hey! Hey! It's Esther Blueberger* generously sponsored by Patricia and Mike Levine.

Michael Levine, a founding member of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, came to Ann Arbor in the 1960s to pursue a career in aerospace. He has more than 70 patents and his inventions include the programmable thermostat, Microprocessor architect & P.C. with Sam Irwin; Interactive T.V. guide, on-screen programmer for VCR; and Low Energy Vacuum System for water distillation and desalination using waste heat from power plants.

Levine is founder of several businesses including Principal Engineer Sycor and Conductron Corp., Ann Arbor Terminals (which manufactures computer display terminals), Ann Arbor Leasing Corporation (which leased kitchen equipment to 1,200 Dominoes pizza franchises) and Quad Six Corporation (the manufacturer microprocessor based thermostats) which has since been sold to Honeywell.

Levine sits on many boards and consults for several private and public companies. He has sponsored research at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Michigan. The research at FAU resulted in the team becoming finalists for the Inventor's Hall of Fame.

Leila Ferault, director of *Bon Papa, A Man Under German Occupation*, decided to make this film after years of hearing about her mother's family, most of whom were decimated

in the Nazi concentration camps and having very little knowledge of the history of her paternal family. She knew very little, only that her grandfather, Henri Ferault, was imprisoned at the time of Liberation, and that he was a royalist who voted for the extreme right wing. Growing up she had little correspondence with her grandfather and as she grew older she decided to research who he really was. *Bon Papa* is an intimate and probing portrait of an ordinary man who chose what turned out to be the wrong side during the Occupation. As Ferault unravels the French historical facts that intersect with her grandfather's life, she breaks her family's silence and confronts their shame and bewilderment.



Leila Ferault

Ferault will take part in both Thursday's Lunch and Learn program and a discussion following the showing of *Bon Papa*.

Kathy Meyer has always been captivated by French culture and language and pursued a BA and MA in French language and literature as well as a teaching certificate. Her earlier experiences abroad included a junior year studying in Aix-en-Provence, France and a year teaching English in a middle school and high school in Grenoble, France.

In 1990 she became a coordinator an intermediate level course in the Romance Languages Department at U-M. She has a strong interest in understanding the various perspectives of people living in France during the early 1940s Meyer has recorded and filmed several interviews with family and acquaintances in France about their perceptions and memories from this time period.

In 2001, Meyer implemented the U-M summer program in Grenoble, France, for which she served as director four times. ■



Kathy Meyer

For more information about the 9th Annual Jewish Film Festival or to RSVP to the Wednesday or Thursday Lunch and Learn program, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Nazis, continued from previous page

the Caucasus Mountains and proceed to the "destruction of the Jewish element" in the Middle East.

That plan was blocked by the resistance of the Red Army, but eight months later, when Rommel's Afrika Korps invaded Egypt, it seemed that the Nazis might reach Palestine from the west instead. At that desperate moment for the Allies, German radio issued a broadcast in Egypt whose title was "Kill the Jews Before They Kill You."

"It is the duty of the Egyptians to annihilate the Jews and to destroy their property," the announcer said. "Egypt can never forget that it is the Jews who are carrying out Britain's imperialist policy in the Arab countries and that they are the source of all the disasters which have befallen the countries of the East."

If not for Montgomery's victory at El Alamein, it is certain that the Holocaust would have extended to Palestine and North Africa. In fact, the SS already had set up an Einsatzgruppe for the region, like the ones that initiated the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

Given the extreme vulnerability of the Jews in Palestine, and the utter destruction being visited on the Jews in Europe, what is most striking in the Nazis' Arabic-language propaganda is the unquestioning assumption of Jewish power. Again and again the British and the Americans are described as pawns of the Jews; Roosevelt is alternately said to be Jewish or surrounded by Jews (including Eleanor); Chaim Weizmann is considered as powerful

as Roosevelt and Churchill put together.

"Had it not been for the Jews, neither London, Washington nor Moscow would have been linked together," explained one broadcast in December 1943.

It is a perfect example of the Nazi "Big Lie," for of course the truth is exactly the opposite: It was Germany's aggression that brought together those unlikely allies.

Reading "Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World" is a reminder of how powerful such lies can be. They are so shameless, so contrary to every evident fact, that they seem to render facts meaningless.

If you could believe, for instance, that following the American landings in North Africa, "the Jews" bestowed on Eisenhower the title "the Glittering Sword of Israel"; or that on the way home from the Tehran Conference, Roosevelt and Churchill stopped in Jerusalem to confer with their Zionist masters; or that the tiny Jewish settlement in Palestine was the nucleus of a planned Jewish empire that would include the entire Middle East and all of North Africa—then what wouldn't you believe?

Herf does not show that such Nazi propaganda claims were actually accepted by Arab listeners, and surely the vast majority discounted them. But sadly, as the Hamas charter shows, we have not yet heard the end of the ideas whose birth Herf documents in this frightening, necessary book. ■

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Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

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.

1 p.m. Wii Sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No sports or computer experience necessary.

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

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

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

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

Fridays

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

Tuesday special events

April 6 and 20, 1-2 p.m. Welcome to the new Wii! Join SPICE for Wii sports. No experience or physical expertise necessary. Call Merrill at 971-0990 for more information.



The Yiddish Reading Group

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.

Wednesday special events

April 21, 1-2:30 p.m. Afternoon Delights concert featuring Arie Lipsky (cello), Yehonatan Berick (violin) and Ra Jung (piano) performing the Mendelsohn Piano Trio #1 in D minor and the Mozart Trio in B Flat for Piano, Violin and cello.

JCC's SPICE Program goes to the movies

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

The 2010 Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival takes place this year from Sunday, April 25-29. Participants of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's SPICE Older Adults program will take part in the film festival on Thursday, April 29, with a trip to the Michigan Theater for the 1:30 p.m. showing of the film *Hello Goodbye*.

This Graham Guit film is an entertaining romantic comedy with Gérard Depardieu and Fanny Ardant portraying a comfortable, middle-aged Jewish French couple whose mid-life identity crisis lead them to pack up and move to the Land of Milk and Honey.

Henry Aldridge, professor of communication media and theatre arts at Eastern Michigan University, will attend the film with the SPICE group. He will lead a discussion of the film at the next SPICE weekly presentation on Thursday, May 6. Community members are encouraged to attend both events.

Roundtrip transportation from the JCC to the Michigan Theatre will be provided by the Jewish Family Services CareVan. Reservations for transportation and film tickets are required by April 12 and can be made by calling Merrill at the JCC at 971-0990.

A250 and JCC host Afternoon Delights Concert

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will present an Afternoon Delights concert on Wednesday, April 21. The hour-long concert will begin at 1:30 p.m., with refreshments served at 1 p.m.

The concert will feature a piano trio with Arie Lipsky on the cello, Yehonatan Berick

on the violin and pianist Ra Jung performing the Mendelsohn Piano Trio #1 in D Minor and the Mozart Trio in B Flat for Piano, Violin and Cello.

Tickets are \$8 and will be available at the door and through the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra at 994-4801. For more information, contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990.

Thursday special events

April 1, 12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with April birthdays! Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake. 1 p.m. Ann Arbor.com visits with information and demonstrations of what's available on-line.

April 8, 12:30 p.m. A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.) 1 p.m. Mae Sander presents "Who Won the War between Chop Suey and Gefilte Fish?" which refers to an article in the Jewish paper "Der Tog" published in the 1920s about Jews eating in Chinese restaurants-the topic of Jews and Chinese food is not at all new!

April 15, 12:30 p.m. Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services geriatric social workers will be available for discussion. 1 p.m. Rabbi Robert Dobrusin reads and discusses a chapter from his new book. This chapter is primarily about his mother and sermons which she inspired.

April 22, 1 p.m. Jason von Ehrenkrook, University of Michigan Frankel Center for Judaic Studies scholar presents on "Jesus and Jews," which attempts to complicate the conventional polarity between Jesus and Jews, considering both the relationship between the historical Jesus and first century Judaism and the ongoing interactions between the Jesus Movement (Christianity) and Judaism in Greco-Roman antiquity.

April 29, 1 p.m. SPICE travels to the Michigan Theatre for the Jewish Film Festival's showing of Hello Goodbye, a comedic account of the struggle that Alain (Gerard Depardieu) and Gisele (Fanny Ardant) encounter when they decide to embrace their Jewish heritage and move to Tel Aviv. Transportation provided by JFS. Reservations required by April 22.

JFS and JCC host seder for seniors and their families

Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will again host a Passover seder for Washtenaw County seniors and their families. This year the seder will take place on Thursday, April 1, from 5:30 to 7 pm.

The seder, led by Rabbi Robert Levy and Cantor Annie Rose from Temple Beth Emeth, will include a catered Passover meal, music and a thought-provoking discussion of the ways in which Passover themes are uniquely relevant to the lives of older adults.

RSVP by March 25 by calling Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209 or email to abbie@jfsannarbor.org. The cost for the seder is \$25. Transportation can be arranged through the Jewish Family Services Transportation Service.



TBE Sisterhood April events

Hillary Handwerger, special to WJN

Lilith Salon

A potluck brunch and discussion of the latest issue of *Lilith* will take place on April 4, at 11 a.m., at the home of Jennifer Merritt. Contact Jennifer at 213-1610 or jmerritt@umich.edu to sign up for this meeting.

Trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and lunch

On April 18, TBE Sisterhood members will visit the Holocaust Museum in Farmington



Hills, the nation's first freestanding museum dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust, featuring extensive material to enhance and extend the scope of the history, including the Kinder Quilts. Participants will hear a talk by a Holocaust survivor, then lunch at Deli Unique on Orchard Lake Road. The tour will begin at 11 a.m.; carpooling from TBE will start around 10 a.m. RSVP to Helaine Reid at hmr1335@comcast.net or 663-0198. Space is limited.

Jewish Film Festival dinner and a movie

Meet for dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, at the Cottage Inn on East William Street and continue to the Michigan Theater at 8 p.m. to see *For My Father*, an Israeli film about a Palestinian who is forced to complete a suicide mission in order to regain his father's honor. Tickets are \$10. For reservations for dinner and/or the film, contact Annette Fisch at annette1636@yahoo.com or 997-7250.

Busy Women's Lunch

Meet other Sisterhood members for lunch on April 28 at Logans, at 11:45 a.m.

Mahj Jong

Sisterhood Mahj Jong games take place each month on the first and third Wednesday afternoons, and the second and fourth Thursday evenings. Contact Hillary Handwerger at 662-0154 to find out where the game is.

TBE Sisterhood Women's Torah Study

On April 5 and 19, 7-8:30 pm, TBE Sisterhood Women's Torah Study will meet in the TBE Adult Lounge. *The Women's Torah Commentary* is a major source of insight for those studying

the weekly portions of the Torah or who want to get into interesting discussions of history and how that impacts one's life today. Cantor Rose will lead a discussion of Shemini, Leviticus : 9:1-11:47 on April 5, and Kedoshim (Ashkenazim), Leviticus : 19:1-20:27 on April 19.

Brisket Bake Off

On May 2, at 5:30 p.m., an impartial team of judges will taste and determine the winners of the Brisket Bake Off, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. There will also be a category for vegetarian briskets. Contact Emily Wachsbarger, 971-3868, by April 5 for the rules and to sign up for the brisket bakeoff.

A full dinner for entrants and the rest of the TBE family follows the judging, with the briskets as the main course. Contact Helaine Reid, hmr1335@comcast.net to sign up for the dinner. The cost is \$18/adults; \$10/ children 4-12 years; under 4 years and brisket contestants are free.

Bulb sale

The Sisterhood Bulb sale will take place April 10-May 26. Bulbs are available at www.tlc-i.com/bulbsale. Purchase now when the gardens are blooming, or not, to see where new flowers are needed. Bulbs will be delivered in the fall.



Lenore Bernstein Knitting Fund

TBE Sisterhood announces the Lenore Bernstein Knitting Fund. Lenore Bernstein, long-time active Sisterhood member, was known for the knitted baby sweater sets she would give to new parents. In honor and memory of Bernstein, Sisterhood is starting a knitting project designed to create sweater sets for new babies in the TBE congregation. Bernstein was never satisfied with the standard neutral baby colors; her sweaters were always created with interesting yarns and organizers would like to continue in that tradition. Sisterhood will purchase a supply of yarns that can be used. There are also patterns for sweaters, booties and hats that Bernstein used, though it is not necessary that these patterns be used for the items.

Those wishing to contribute to the Lenore Bernstein Knitting Fund, should send a check to the TBE office. Knitters should contact Hillary Handwerger at hillaryh@ix.netcom.com for yarns, patterns, and to volunteer to make these items. For those wanting to learn to knit, Marilyn Jeffs is coordinating a knitting group on Tuesday afternoons. Sisterhood will also organize some evening sessions.

Beth Israel Women's League activities

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Women's League invites the community to attend the adult bat/bar mitzvah of Corry Berkooz, Joan Deas, Denise Garden, Charlene Yudowin, and Jack Gramer on Shabbat Shemini, April 10, at 9:30 a.m., at Beth Israel Congregation.

The last Beth Israel Café will be held on Sunday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Café welcomes Beth Israel Religious School and Hebrew Day School parents and Women's League members, to relax, read, learn, nosh, shmooz, and meet new friends at the cafe. Participants are invited to stay for 5 minutes or 3 hours. There is also a children's area for younger children brought by their parents.

Women can sign up at www.bethisrael-aa.org to participate in Women's League Shabbat on Saturday, May 1, at 9 a.m. The service is conducted by the women in the congregation.

In visit to Israel, Latinas see themselves

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA)—For Sindy Benavides, a Hispanic community organizer from Virginia who was visiting Israel last week, the Jewish community is a newfound friend.

Three years ago, Benavides said, she had the "frightening" experience of seeing the number of anti-immigration bills introduced in the Virginia House of Representatives triple to 148—a reaction, she said, to the influx of Latino immigrants in the area.

With funding and training from the American Jewish Committee, Benavides and her fellow Latino community members mobilized to defeat about 100 of the bills in the 2006-07 legislative session—all those whose passage ran counter to the interests of their community.

Benavides, now 27, called the help she received from the organized Jewish world "invaluable."

The collaboration is an example of the alliances Jewish groups are forming with the U.S. Hispanic community, now the largest minority community in the United States.

Last week, Benavides was one of about a dozen or so prominent Latina leaders who came to Israel under the auspices of Project Interchange, an educational institute of the AJC, in cooperation with the National Council of La Raza, the largest Hispanic advocacy organization in the United States.

"There is a great deal of commonality between the Hispanic and Jewish communities," Latina political consultant Ana Navarro told JTA in Jerusalem. "It would do us all good to get to know each other better."

For decades, the American Jewish and Hispanic communities have been indifferent to one another, says Dina Siegel Vann, director of AJC's Latino and Latin American Institute. But the two communities share the common history of immigration, and their domestic interests often dovetail, particularly on civil rights issues. It behooves the Jewish community to seek a deeper relationship as the Latino community grows in numbers, she said.

The visit to Israel was a way to introduce Israel to several key Latina community leaders. The participants also met with women leaders in Israel, including Bank Hapoalim owner Shari Arison, and government leaders.

The Latina women traveled all around Israel, meeting Ethiopians in an absorption center in Safed, talking with Palestinians in Jerusalem, visiting religious sites in Jerusalem's Old City, and taking in a tour highlighting the strategic value to Israel of the Golan Heights.

In a visit that had resonance for many of the Latinas, the group also visited Beit Hatfutsot, a Tel Aviv museum focusing on the Jewish Diaspora where they learned how Jews have kept their culture in exile while integrating into their host countries.

The Jewish state does not get a great deal of coverage in Hispanic media, Navarro said, and the trip enabled her to learn firsthand about Israel.

Navarro—who was born in Nicaragua and emigrated to the United States with her family during the Nicaraguan revolution in 1980—said she was particularly interested in learning how Israel has assimilated Jewish refugees from so many countries around the world. She said she was struck by how Israelis are accustomed to living in "survival mode," and that they are so dedicated to the defense of their homeland.

"Israelis are staunch, strong and educated," Navarro, 38, said.

The trip underscored the need for Hispanic and Jewish communities in America "to foster further the understanding of each other's experiences and challenges," she said.

Benavides, who came to the United States from Honduras at the age of 1, echoed that sentiment. She said she was impressed at how Israel and the Jewish community found "a place at the table, a place in the world," and believes the Jewish and Hispanic communities have a lot to learn from each other.

She said her visit to Israel was "only the beginning. I see myself looking more closely when I get home."

"That is why it is so important to bring these women to Israel," Vann said. It "makes the Israeli and Jewish experience relevant to the Latina experience."

Vann is both Hispanic and Jewish. Born in Mexico, she came to the United States in 1996. As someone who speaks both the actual language and the cultural language of the two communities, Vann said she is trying to act as a bridge between Jews and Latinos.

Coalition-building has always been an important part of the Jewish community's strategy in both advocacy and politics, Vann said, and having a close relationship with the largest minority group in the United States can be very beneficial to the Jewish community.

This was the AJC's seventh mission to Israel involving Latin American or Hispanic groups. Other groups have included Latin American journalists, Latin American government officials and Hispanic businessmen. ■

Hadassah to hold "futuring" session

Annette Fisch, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Hadassah chapter is holding a "futuring" session on Sunday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Renee Resnik, the regional chair of leadership training and development, will facilitate a morning of planning and brainstorming goals for the chapter in the coming years.

The meeting will be held at the home of Eileen Thacker, 1049 Westview Way. Brunch will be served, and all members are welcome. To RSVP and/or arrange for a ride, contact Barb Bergman at yoshka1942@aol.com or 668-6821.

"Heart Health for Women" at April Hadassah meeting

Annette F. Fisch, special to the WJN

On Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Great Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Chapter of Hadassah will present University of Michigan cardiologist Lisa Jackson, M.D., and cardiologist nutritionist Dr. Kathy Rhodes, PhD, RD. Dr. Jackson will speak on cardiac concerns for women, and Dr. Rhodes will present heart-healthy versions of favorite Jewish recipes. The program is free. Heart-healthy appetizers will be served, and recipes for them will be distributed. RSVP by April 1 to Martha Young at youngmarth@comcast.net or 769-7523.

Congregations

April activities at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah service

The Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service is scheduled for April 10, at 9:30 a.m. Corry Berkooz, Denise Garden, Charlene Yudowin, Jack Knapp, and Joan Deas will read from the Torah, chant the Haftarah, and lead parts of the service. The Adult Bat/Bat Mitzvah study sessions are sponsored by the Beth Israel Women's League, and these adults have studied with Lisa Bernstein since September. Bernstein also serves as the school director of Kehillat Israel in Lansing. The service will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Beth Israel Congregation and the class participants.

Yom Hashoah Shabbat Service

Members of Beth Israel will be joining together with Temple Beth Emeth members at the Yom Hashoah Shabbat Service at Temple Beth Emeth (2309 Packard St.) on Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. This service is prepared and planned by the children of Holocaust survivors from both Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth (The Second Generation Group) and the service will include the Temple Beth Emeth Kol Halev adult choir. The children of survivors contribute readings and personal content to this unique Shabbat service. The service is followed by an Oneg of desserts. On that evening there will not be a separate Friday night service at Beth Israel.

Erev Yom Hashoah

On Sunday, April 11, which is Erev Yom Hashoah, during the regular Beth Israel evening service at 7:30 p.m., the six Shoah memorial candles will be lit and the service will include appropriate readings.

Kabbalat Shabbat and Sweets Tasting

On Friday, April 16, the Friday Night Service will take place at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Sweets Tasting event at 8:30 p.m. where Michele Leshan will share her knowledge of sweets, while participants sample several types of chocolate and

caramel. No RSVP is needed for the sweets tasting and there is no charge for the program.

Teen Shabbat and Kids Kiddush

The Teen Shabbat and Kids Kiddush will take place on Saturday, April 24, at 9:30 a.m. Beth Israel teens lead the entire service including reading from the Torah, leading prayers, and delivering the dvar torah. After Shabbat services, at about 12:15 p.m., the congregation will be treated to a "Kid's Kiddush," planned and prepared by interested 5th and 6th graders, under the supervision of Nikki Klein, the kitchen coordinator.

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. Sacred Texts is the last topic to be covered, and it will be explored over the course of three weeks. Adults are welcome to sign up for the final topic, even if they have not participated in the class before. All classes begin at 7:30 p.m. with Maariv, the evening service, and are facilitated by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Beth Israel's senior rabbi. The Sacred Texts classes will take place on April 21, 28, and May 5. Pre-reservations are recommended. Contact Mary at 665-9897.

Beth Israel Reads

The community discussion of *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman will occur on Saturday, April 24, after Shabbat services (approximately 12:30 p.m.) The discussion will be led by Virginia Murphy, University of Michigan lecturer in the Residential College Department of Creative Writing.

The fourth annual "Beth Israel Reads" program is sponsored by the BIRSEducation Committee and the Adult Library/ Beth Israel Reads seeks to promote Jewish literacy and a communal discourse on Jewish topics and ideas. *The Zookeeper's Wife* is true story about the courageous action of two individuals, Antonina and Jan Zabinski, which occurred in and around Warsaw during World War II.

Shabbat Limmud

On Saturday, April 3 and April 10, from 9–9:50 a.m., Rabbi Dobrusin will lead a discussion of Jewish texts on the subject of "Slavery in Jewish Law and Tradition," based on materials developed by the Rabbis for Human Rights-North America, which address the issue of slavery and human trafficking in today's world.

Passover services

Passover morning services are held in the Beth Israel Sanctuary on the last two days of Passover, April 5 and April 6. All services begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at noon., followed by a light kiddush of Passover sweets. Mincha and Maariv services vary on Passover. Check www.bethisrael-aa.org for the latest information.

Wednesday Lunch and Learn Sessions

Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and Rabbi Dobrusin will lead Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions from noon–1:15 p.m. at the GarfunkelSchteingart Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw Ave). Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch with refreshments and desserts being provided free of charge by the congregation. They will take place on April 7, 14, 21, and 28. On April 7 the topic is "So this Guy Gets on a Plane and Starts to Daven" about Jewish observance and being a Jew in America. On April 14 and 21 the topic is "The Afterlife in Jewish Tradition." On April 28 the topic is "Memories of a Dark Weekend in November 1963," considering the assassination of President Kennedy and how rabbis and other clergy interpreted the event for their communities at the time.

"Road Rally" for adults and "Amazing Race" for youth

Community members can enjoy racing around Ann Arbor solving scavenger hunt clues and completing all sorts of challenges around town. Adults will love the friendly competition as they drive all over town in a Road Rally on Sunday,

April 18, starting at noon, kids in 3rd-12th grade will experience their own scavenger hunt challenge as they traverse the University of Michigan campus on foot for the "Amazing Race" on Sunday, April 25, also starting at noon.

Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat is a special Saturday morning service for parents and their children 2–5 years old on April 10 and April 24, at 11:15 a.m., that includes songs, stories, and prayers. This program is run by Peretz Hirshbein on the second Saturday of each month and Jessica Kander on the fourth Saturday of each month. Special preschool sized tables are set up for the regular kiddush so that families may easily attend with their children following Tot Shabbat. There is no charge for this bi-monthly program.

Kehilat Shabbat and Moadon on Saturday mornings

Kehillat Shabbat is a Saturday morning program for K–5th graders that takes place this month on April 10 at 11 a.m. It includes a special morning service to celebrate, to schmooze and to learn, led by Gabe Pachter. This month's theme is exploring Israel. Moadon, a gathering place for elementary school aged children, starts at 10 a.m. every Saturday, and provides a Junior Congregation experience at 11 a.m. on weeks where there is no Kehillat Shabbat.

New members in April enjoy 15 months of membership

Individuals and families who join Beth Israel in April can enjoy 15 months of membership, including the 2010 High Holidays, for the 2010–2011 membership year. (The typical membership year is July 1–June 30). In addition, \$300 membership dues are available for new members under the age of 35, for the first year, including High Holiday tickets. For further information, call 665-9898.

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah learning opportunities

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Learning Services continue

Drop-in Learning Services continue monthly at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. The program, described by one recent newcomer as "the most creative thing I've ever seen under the guise of Jewish learning," is designed to be highly interactive, integrating active-learning experiences with prayer time.

On April 3, the topic will be "The Torah Service." Key questions to be explored will include: How did it evolve into its current form? What was its original intent? Why is it seen as the highlight of the service? How can Reconstructionist communities address the challenges this service poses, including making its deeper meanings more apparent and felt?

The topic of the May 1 session will be "The Prophetic Voice." Where do we hear the voice of the prophets in the prayer service? How does it compare and contrast with the other voices found there? What is prophecy's place today? These and more are the questions under investigation at the May Learning Service.

Learning Services are held the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.–noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

They are open to non-members, and no RSVP is necessary. For more information, contact Aura Ahuvia at 975-9045 or Aura613@gmail.com.

Recon Salon

Did Exodus really happen? Come learn about the current state of scholarly understanding about who the Israelites were, where they came from, and how they got there. The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah welcomes University of Michigan Archeology Professor J.P. Dessel this month, to offer a discussion and PowerPoint presentation on this timely topic.

Recon Salon will take place Saturday April 10, 7–9 p.m., at the JCC. A brief Havdallah ceremony plus light dessert are included. For more information, contact Aura Ahuvia at 975-9045 or Aura613@gmail.com.

B'nei Mitzvah students study Pluralism

Last month, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's post-bar and bat mitzvah students were treated to a special diversity training class taught by Rachel Goldberg, a teacher and librarian with specialized training on diversity education.

The class began by talking about being bullied or teased for being different. After consider-

ing Jewish texts on the importance of respecting the stranger and loving one's neighbor, the class was challenged to consider the consequences of following such teachings, as well as ignoring them. This led to analyses of one of Holocaust survivor Primo Levi's poems, and of a powerful reading on the importance of speaking up against injustice by German pastor and theologian Martin Niemöller.

The session concluded with the true story of Billings Montana, where in 1993, the Ku Klux Klan came to town and began menacing several minority groups there. The town responded by banding together to paint over swastikas left on Native Americans' houses, attending African American church services, posting Chanukah menorahs in their windows, and marching together in the streets. Eventually, the KKK left.

In lock-step with the b'nei mitzvah class, the Havurah's discussion series, Recon Salon, examined religious pluralism last month. With the help of the Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice, the Havurah viewed the hour-long documentary, *Fremont, U.S.A.*, after which a trained mediator facilitated a discussion on the topic of how Jews (and those of all religions) can accept

the truth of other people's views without jeopardizing their own beliefs.

These events were part of the Havurah's advance preparation for a visit to the Detroit Metro-area's Holocaust Museum, scheduled to take place later this month.

Beit Sefer tours being booked now

Families who are interested in enrolling their students in the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's Sunday morning religious school are invited to arrange for a personal tour while classes are in session, between now and the last day of religious school, May 23. The once-per-week program runs throughout the school year, for children ages 5 through bar-mitzvah age.

The curriculum includes both self-paced Hebrew language study, as well as a cultural and ethical component. The school is designed to maximize participation both of students within the Havurah's services, holiday celebrations, and volunteer events, as well as of Havurah members who may serve as volunteers in the school.

To schedule a tour with a current Beit Sefer parent, or for more information, contact Beit Sefer Director Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045 or Aura613@gmail.com.

"And when your child will ask you..."

by Rabbi Eliyahu Touger

The Torah associates the commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt with Jewish children. This is seen from the wording of the commandment to retell and relive the story of the Exodus: "And you shall tell your son on that day..." Similarly, the Talmud notes that our Sages incorporated many customs into the Seder in order to arouse and maintain the interest of young children.

There is a metaphorical connection between children and Pesach, for Pesach represents the birth of our people, the days of our nation's youth. Furthermore, a fundamental element of the Egyptian oppression was Pharaoh's decree that "every son that is born, you shall cast into the river."

Allegorically, this decree is relevant to our present-day circumstances. Pharaoh's decree called for the physical annihilation of Jewish children, but it can also be understood as referring to spiritual annihilation. The Nile, the trusty source of Egypt's wealth and prosperity, was worshiped by the Egyptians as a god. Throwing a child into the Nile meant immersing him in the ways of Egypt. There he would be left to drown spiritually, totally submerged in that culture from infancy.

We frequently see this tragedy replayed in our own time. How many parents see "the Nile" as the source of prosperity, the only means by which their child can achieve a "good life?" Career goals are set from the cradle. From the moment a child is born, his parents are preoccupied with his material well-being. Why isn't the same concern shown for his spiritual future?

This approach to establishing priorities is doubly mistaken. The first error lies in not giving the child's spiritual potential its proper weight. The second problem is that the parents' approach cannot even guarantee material success. A Jew cannot prosper unless God wills it. Our people's fortune is determined by a process different from that which controls the fate of other nations. God controls the future of other peoples through the medium of the natural order, while the success of the Jewish people is not a natural phenomenon; it depends directly on our relationship with God.

Our direct dependence upon God can be illustrated by a comparison between Egypt and Eretz Yisrael. In ancient times, agriculture in Egypt was sustained by the Nile River which rose each year and irrigated the land. From a superfi-

cial perspective, no Godly influence was apparent and the natural order seemed to control the water supply. Eretz Yisrael, by contrast, has no major river and is dependent upon rain.

The Midrash explains that this dependence is divinely ordained so that "the eyes of all would look upward" for rain, to "the One Who holds the key to rain." Toil and till and try as we may, the success of our crops depends on God's blessings.

As a Jew acquires the humility to recognize the Source of his water supply, he also comes to a broader realization: he cannot assure himself of a natural, reliable means of sustenance. Not only in a spiritual sense, but materially, too, the Torah is our source of life. He must work to earn his livelihood, but his efforts are no more than a medium through which God grants his blessings.

Just as the Egyptian oppression of the Jewish people was felt most fiercely in the fate of their children, so too, children were intimately involved in the redemption from Egypt. Our Sages teach that "In the merit of the righteous women of that generation, our forefathers were redeemed from Egypt." In defiance of Pharaoh's decree against their children, the Jewish women

responded with self-sacrifice, bearing children whom they hid from the Egyptians, and educated as Jews, despite the dangers involved.

This upbringing endowed the children of that generation with unique sensitivity. Having experienced God's miraculous providence and protection in exile, these children "recognized Him first" at the splitting of the Red Sea. [Moshe, Aharon, Yehoshua, all the elders, and the entire Jewish people were present—yet these children recognized God before all.

In the very near future we will merit the fulfillment of the prophecy, "As in the days of your exodus from Egypt, I will show you wonders," with the coming of Mashiach. In anticipation of that event, we must raise our children to serve as "the vanguard of the Redemption," granting them a knowledge of the Redemption and imbuing them with a yearning for it.

And in the very near future, these very children will "recognize Him first," as we proceed "with our youth and with our elders... with our sons and with our daughters" to greet Mashiach. May this take place in the immediate future. ■

TBE Caring Community and Adult Education

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Passover Yiskor Service and Lunch

Monday, April 5, 11 a.m.

The community is welcome to attend Temple Beth Emeth's Yiskor service on the seventh day of Passover. The service, conducted by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Rose, will be held in the chapel. Names of those who have passed away in the last year will be read. Everyone is invited to a light Passover lunch following the service.

Movie Tuesday at TBE

Tuesday, April 13, noon

This month, the Movie Tuesday group will watch the comedy, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, the first of Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy. The main character, Eugene, played by Jonathan Silverman, lives with his parents, his aunt, two cousins and his brother. He goes through the hardships of puberty, and living the life of a poor boy in a crowded house.

Movies are always free and open to the public; babysitting is available with advanced notice; contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Community Yom HaShoah v'ha'G'vurah Observance

Friday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.,
at Temple Beth Emeth, co-sponsored
by Beth Israel Congregation.

Everyone is invited to the ommunity-wide Erev Shabbat and Shoah remembrance service, lay-organized and lay-led by "Generations After," members of TBE and BIC with family ties to the Holocaust. The service will include original prayers, family narratives, and music of the Holocaust. During the service there will be a candle lighting ceremony to remember the six million who perished. An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service. For more information, contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Renaissance Group attends Ragtime at the Power Center

Saturday, April 17

The Renaissance Group, TBE's social group for members 55+, will attend the University of Michigan theater students production of *Ragtime*, on Saturday, April 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be reserved by contacting Shelley Perlove, sperlove@umich.edu. Before the theater, the group will be going to Mercy's Restaurant for dinner.

Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Sunday, April 18, 1 p.m.

Spring is here, along with a great new season of hikes led by Eli Avny. The first hike will be at a location unexplored by the Jewish Hikers' Group, the Saginaw Forest Natural Reservation, an area owed by the University of Michigan, and located five miles west of the university campus, on Liberty Road.

Hikes are open to all age groups, no prior experience is necessary. Bring a snack and a bottle of water for an exploration of what Washtenaw County has to offer. Participants are asked to not bring pets on hikes. Those interested in being added to the email list for Jewish Hikers, should send an email to Eli at jewish.hikers@gmail.com, call him at 883-9522, or contact the TBE office, 665-4744.

TBE All Ensemble Concert

Sunday, April 18, 4 p.m.

The annual year-end musical extravaganza will feature performances by all of the Beth Emeth musical ensembles: Kol Halev, the congregation's adult choir; High School Shir Chadash, Middle School Shir Chadash and the Youth Choir. The concert is open to the community and free of charge.

TBE's 14th Annual Mitzvah Day, May 1

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Habitat for Humanity's work in Washtenaw

County. TBE members will be working with homeowners and staff painting, landscaping and doing small repairs at Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley's oldest and largest neighborhood in Ypsilanti near Perry School. Each year, TBE chooses a focus for Mitzvah Day, from a single agency such as Alpha House, the project for 2009, to working with many social service agencies in one day as was done in previous years. Hundreds of members help to make each Mitzvah Day a success.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Annie Rose

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.,
Who Needs God, by Harold Kushner

Harold Kushner has been a rabbi for more than 30 years. His best-selling books have helped millions of people find in faith a source of help for coping with life's problems. This month's selection deals with attaining and then maintaining one's religious sense. The culture of individualism, self-sufficiency, and competitiveness works against spiritual inclinations, with technology a prime contender for our reverence. Many people are vaguely aware of something lacking in their lives. Rabbi Kushner believes that "human life has meaning... but only in religious terms." According to this crucial realization, it is religion that connects us to God and community. In the end, Rabbi Kushner goes so far as to define religion as community rather than theology—a point of contention. He attempts to transcend differences while conveying basic spiritual truths.

TBE Men's Torah Study

April 13 and 27, 7:30 p.m.

On April 13, TBE's Men's Torah Study will meet to discuss Tazria-Metzora (Lev. 12:1–15:33) and on April 27, to discuss Emor (Lev. 21:1–24:23). Both sessions will be

held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 16. Refreshments will be enjoyed with the lively discussion. Questions about Men's Torah Study go to Roger Stutesman at 327-9215 or at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. Newcomers are always welcome.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Levy: "God"

Fridays, noon-1 p.m.

Beginning in April, Rabbi Levy will discuss a topic that is of interest in the Jewish community. He will facilitate an ongoing discussion about man's relationship with God as individuals, as a Jewish community and God's relationship with man. Bring lunch for this informal discussion group in the adult lounge.



Beth Emeth sponsors opening movie at Jewish Film Festival

Sunday, April 25, 6 p.m.

The Jewish Community Center's Jewish Film Festival kicks off this spring and TBE is co-sponsoring the first movie, *A Matter of Size* on April 25, at 6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat

Fridays, 5:30 p.m.

Each week TBE welcomes families from all over Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas for a special Shabbat experience. Cantor Annie Rose, Rabbi Levy and Noa Guterman provide a wide variety of songs and stories that reach children through age 5. Following the short services and traditional blessings, everyone is welcome for a dinner of macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce and a salad bar, for only \$5. Reservations are appreciated, but not mandatory.

Voices of Youth

The Voices of Youth page was created to give children in the community the opportunity to publish their work. This month's contributions are from the Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth Religious Schools.



The Israeli Army

The first years of Israel have not been peaceful. Wars have happened between Israel and their Arab neighbors, and there have been clashes between Jews and Arabs in the country, that forced Israel to have a large, maintained and well-trained army in case of conflict.

For Jews or Druze Israelis, being in the army is part of growing up. In Israel, if you are 18, man or woman, you have to go to the army. The men have to stay for at least three years. The women have to stay for two. Druze or Israelis who were from neighboring Arab countries are not allowed in the army, because if they got into a war with that country, they may think they were fighting for the wrong side. In the army, every other weekend, they are allowed to go home and visit their family.

The first day in the army is confusing and exciting. Everyone is given their new uniform. Everyone has to take off their running shoes and jeans. Long-haired men are forced to get their heads shaved and women have to tie back their hair. At the end of the day, everyone is wearing green fatigues and combat boots.

At 5:00 a.m. every morning, the soldiers are woken up. Before breakfast, they do their difficult morning exercises. For the rest of the day, they continue their physical training. Some soldiers attend courses where they learn specialized skills, such as using radar or repairing damaged tanks. Most of the men become combat soldiers. Their physical training gets more intense. More men become pilots or join the navy. Other men and women are trained in a little different field. They may become map makers, computer programmers, or clerks.

After the long day of hard work, the soldiers collapse into bed. Few soldiers get more than five hours of sleep. Soon they get used to it. So they stay up late and talk and play cards with their new friends.

After their army years are over, some go on and get a job, but some stay in the army. Also, some of them go on "reserve." They train and serve the army for a few weeks every year and then if a massive war breaks out, and they need more soldiers, the reserves can help defend their country.

By Jack Harris



A Kibbutz

A kibbutz is like a small town. It might have some houses, a school, and some shops, and probably, a market. On a kibbutz, everyone shares and helps everyone else. For example, for every age there is a house where children can go before and after school. This frees up their parents so that they can work. On a kibbutz, no one is paid for their work. Instead, if they want to buy something, they don't have to pay. Most families eat together in a large dining room for breakfast and dinner. From ages seven to sixteen, children must go to school. Their school is not always on the kibbutz. A school bus picks them up every morning. Sometimes during the summer, children visit other kibbutzim to see their friends.

By Marina Daver



Ice Hockey in Israel

Hockey started in Israel about 1986 when the first rink opened in Qiryat Motzkin. Israel was the 2007 Division II World Champions. Currently, the season is underway, with six teams: Metula Hailon, Ma'a lot, Rehovot, Rishon, Lexion, and Bat Yam.

Who are you rooting for? Israel has 1,000 hockey players waiting to play. Roller hockey is also big in Israel, with over 10 roller hockey rinks.

By Josh Bradin



My Israel

A land of Shehekienu and V'ahavta
A land of golden stars and pillars of stone.
The wind on your face as you sit on that far-away plain.
The rocky mountain tops, the desert heat.
A land where each sunrise is a blessing,
and each night the sun touches the wate,
and the sunset around it rests
on the ocean like a distant dream.

Israel,
My Israel.

By Aiden Kutcher



Nobel Prize

This is a special year for Isreel as Ada Yonath became the first Israeli woman to win a Nobel Prize for her work in showing how ribosomes function. She is not the first Israeli to win the Nobel Prize; eight other Israelis have won it. She has also won many different awards over the years. She is currently working at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. Dr. Yonath is a sabra, a native-born Israeli, as she was born in Jerusalem and went to Hebrew University and the Weizmann Institute of Science. She was recently elected to the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

All Israelis and all Jews should feel proud of her accomplishment because it shows the contributions that Israel makes to the world community. Ada Yonath is a chemist. As explained by Mark Saper, also a chemist who worked with Ada Yonath for many years, what happened was that the special x-ray machine they used hit the crystal in the ribosome and the crystal scattered to pieces and a picture was taken. Mr. Saper said he enjoyed working with Ada Yonath because she was very nice and an inspiration. She worked many long nights, but remembered to take care of co-workers. She worked on a project that everyone thought was impossible but every year she made progress and then she achieved her goal. She is still working at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

By Jamie Todd

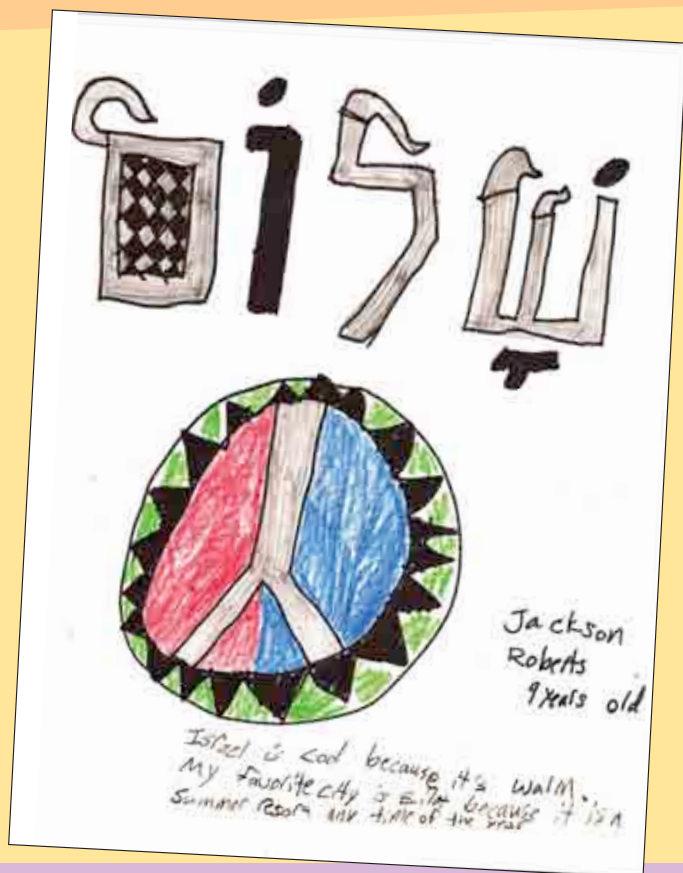




Masada

Masada was one of the ancient fortresses built by Roman Governor Herod the Great. Built in 66 A.D., Masada was taken over by Jews fleeing the Romans in about 70 A.D. The Romans got Masada back by eventually breaking through the walls. Rather than surrender to the Romans who were skilled warriors, the Jews set their houses on fire and killed themselves. The next morning the Romans found two women and five children hiding in a water pipe. Today you can go to Masada and check out the synagogue the Jews built there, one of the oldest in the world, and lots more. And since Masada is right next to the Dead Sea, after you see Masada, you can float in the salt or take a mud bath.

By Elijah Maze



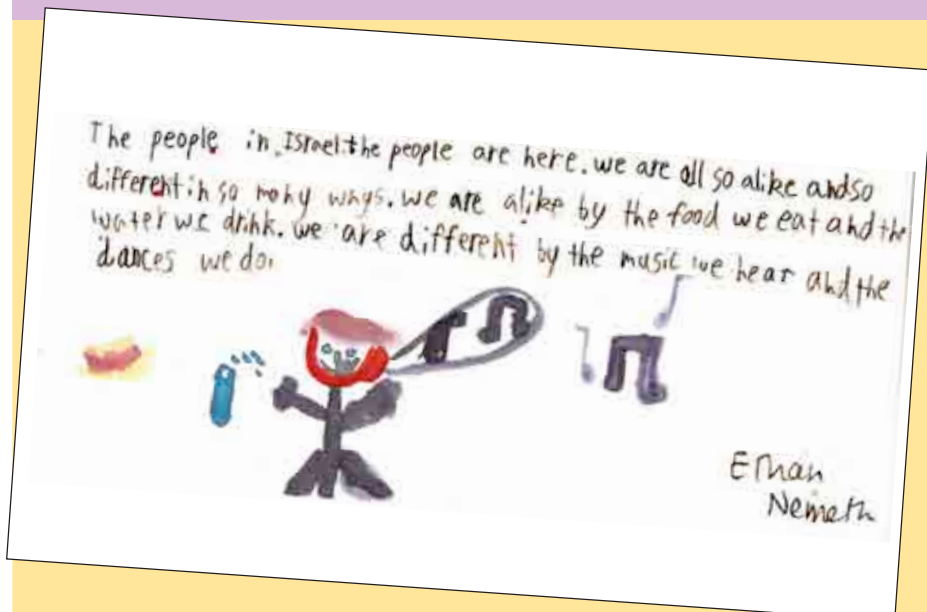
Foods of Israel

There are many different groups of people in Israel. They all have different styles of food. Although they eat and make different styles of food, a food called pita is sold everywhere in Israel. People like to eat it with Middle Eastern spreads like hummus.

One of the most popular foods in Israel is falafel. It doesn't take too long to find falafel. Street vendors sell them everywhere. Fruit and vegetables are also a big part of a meal. Usually they are freshly grown.

Food in Israel sounds very good. It's different from here, but when I go to Israel I'll be excited to try new things. That's why I think food in Israel is really exciting.

By Hannah Aronow



REASON 1:

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Youth

JCC/ECC prepares to garden

Noreen DeYoung, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Early Childhood Center is preparing for spring and gardening. A team of teachers and administrators, including Carolyn McComb, Nancy Witter, Joshua Sanchez, Leah Jackson, Dee Dee Davis, and Noreen De Young, attended the Growing Hope Community and School Garden Development Institute for five weeks. This institute guided the team through goal setting, group leadership, site design and development and how to recruit community involvement. Growing Hope is a non-profit organization located in Ypsilanti. Their mission is to help people improve their lives and communities through gardening and healthy food access.

This spring and summer the ECC will further develop the garden that was started last year. The garden project was a great success and the children gained an understanding of the relationship between humans and the environment. The gar-

den also encouraged healthy eating and it gave the children a better understanding of seasons and connections to the Jewish holidays. For example, the children were able to hang ornamental corn from the garden in the Sukkah this year, which really tied the holiday to the harvest. Staff that attended the institute gained new ideas to further involve the children in the garden and outdoor activities.

The ECC has a family workday planned for Sunday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Child-care and lunch will be provided for all who come out to help. This time is set aside to fully develop the garden site, build additional raised beds and prepare the soil for planting. Children are encouraged to attend and help with their parents, grandparents and friends. For more information or to volunteer, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or noreendeyoung@jccfed.org. ■



JCC youth news

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Camp Raanana offers scholarships and savings

Camp Raanana is the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's outdoor summer day camp for campers entering grades K-8. Located on a beautiful private beachfront at Independence Lake Park, Camp Raanana is the perfect place for campers to explore new interests, gain self-confidence, build Jewish identity, and have fun outside. The camp offers nine one-week sessions each summer and provides swim lessons, arts & crafts, music, Judaics, nature exploration, sports, free swim, Shabbat celebrations, and weekly special events or all-camp field trips. This year's camp season will run from June 21-August 20, with extra program options available for the week of August 23-27.

At Camp Raanana, campers entering grades K-2 enjoy the benefits of experienced and nurturing counselors and enriching activity sessions, including Red Cross swim lessons three times a week. Campers entering grades 3-5 participate in Camp Raanana's swim lessons and other activity offerings, and also choose an enriching specialty each week; this year's specialties options include Boating, Digital Photography, Martial Arts, Lego Mania, Yoga, Drama, Drumming, Clay Creations, World of Sports, Edible Art, Dance, Magic, Jazzy Jewelry, and Silly Science. Campers entering grades 6-8 participate in Camp Raanana's Pioneer Adventure Program, featuring exciting field trips and fun mitzvah projects each week.

Camp Raanana and JCC staff are committed to providing dynamic Jewish camping experiences to Ann Arbor's youth, particularly in these challenging economic times. Scholarship assistance is available for qualifying families. Camp Raanana offers substantial scholarships to families with significant financial need, as well as smaller scholarships to families that just need a little extra help to send their children to camp. The Camp Raanana scholarship application deadline is April

15, but some scholarship funds may still be available after this date.

In addition to the opportunity to apply for scholarships, all camp families that register for camp by May 3 will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a free week of camp and other prizes. The final camp registration deadline is June 1, but families are encouraged to register for camp well in advance of the deadline in order to reserve their space.

Camp brochures and scholarship applications are available at the JCC and at www.CampRaanana.com. For more information, contact camp director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

April Break Fun Days

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will offer April Break Fun Days during the April school breaks. The April Break Fun Days are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5; middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Each day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, and gym time or outdoor recess.

The JCC will be closed for Passover on March 30-31 and April 5-6. April Break Fun Days programs will be offered on April 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9. Students can sign up for one or more days and should bring appropriate clothing for playing outside each day. On April 1 and 2, a Passover lunch will be provided. On April 7-9, students should bring a nut-free, meat-free lunch.

The cost for each day is \$36 for care from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (\$32 for additional siblings) and \$10 for extended care from 4-6 p.m. Programming details and registration forms will be available in at www.jccannarbor.org and at the JCC. Registration and payment will be due by Friday, March 26. Late registrations is accepted if space is available.

For additional information or to register, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

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Youth

HDS students bring joy to others

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The month of Adar on the Jewish calendar is a time for joy and merriment. According to the Jewish tradition, "When Adar enters, the happiness is great." Hebrew Day School (HDS) students marked the beginning of the month of Adar by bringing joy to others. Dressed in Purim costumes, the students visited Glacier Hills Senior Living Community. The school's Klez Kids Band, under the

ed with a shine in his eye.

During the month of Adar, HDS students also took a field trip to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital to deliver stuffed animals they had collected and blankets that they had made out of colorful fleece. The animals were collected on a day at school designated as Rainbow Day, a day when the story of Noah is recounted. Special emphasis is given to the message of the



HDS students Mira Kaufman, Arianna Seir, Brayan Zivan, Ahava Kopald, Bev Warshari, Zach Rochman, Gabe Rosenberg, and Benjamin Ramseyer-Gordon with residents of Glacier Hills

direction of Debbie Gombert, played for the seniors. Band members, who are in the 3rd-5th grades, played cello, violin, trumpet, clarinet, or recorder. The students practice weekly after school throughout the year. Also performing for the seniors were 4th grade recorder ensembles that played Israeli folk songs. The instrumental music performances were followed by a choral music performance led by HDS music teacher Bev Warshai. The students sang Purim songs and other favorite tunes familiar to the seniors. Following the performance, the children participated in another joyous tradition of sharing hamantaschen with the seniors. The hamantaschen were baked by HDS second graders who organized a fundraising campaign to collect money for "Hamantaschen and Haiti."

"The seniors look forward to the children coming every year on Purim," says Reverend Ruthanne Bourlier of Glacier Hills. "They have tears in their eyes when the kids sing, and some even join in. There is no better way to bring them happiness. We are so grateful that the Hebrew Day School students include us in their holiday celebration," she added. "It was my 90th birthday on the day they came," said a Glacier resident. "They sang Happy Birthday in Hebrew," he added.



rainbow—that we are partners with God in making our world a better place. The blankets were crafted as part of a lesson, led by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and parent volunteer Debbie Zivan, on the prayer asking God to heal the sick. The students are learning to be partners with God by reaching out to help those in need.

"The children of the Hebrew Day School in Ann Arbor are learning the values of helping others," say Diane Shember from the Mott Hospital Community Relations Department who greeted the children to accept the gifts. "Their donations of toys, animals, and blankets add so much comfort to the patients and their families as they go through a difficult time. Thank you Hebrew Day School for your continued support and kindness," added Shember. ■

For more information about the school, call 971-4633 or check the website at www.hdsaa.org.

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Chocolate Crispy-O's for Passover

Noa Gutterman, staff writer

When I was a kid, I loved celebrating Passover. Not for the seder, or the family gatherings, or the sense of spirituality. I loved Passover for the breakfast cereal. For the other 51 weeks in the year, I was only allowed to eat healthy breakfast cereals, void of sugar and trans fats. However, on Passover, Chocolate Crispy-O's were a staple of my diet. Each year, I looked forward to going to the kosher grocery store in Southfield and buying many boxes of Crispy-O's. I would eat them for breakfast, pack them in my lunch, eat them for a snack after school, and have a few handfuls for dessert. Even though I have experienced many varieties of breakfast cereals since childhood, I still prefer my yellow box of Crispy-O's for Passover. To be honest, Crispy-O's aren't very tasty or delicious. But year after year, I still eat them during the week of Passover along with my stewed fruit and matzah.

Putting my cereal obsession aside, Judaism is often associated with food. On Rosh Hashanah, we eat apples and honey. On



Noa Gutterman

are Jewish and which are not. According to the Torah, our connection with food began on Mount Sinai and has continued to my Crispy-O's. While I personally choose not to observe *kashrut*, I can understand that observing these commandments act as a constant reminder of Judaism.

While this relationship between Judaism and food can be associated with family or ancient texts, I think it comes down to tradition. Whether that is religious, cultural, or familial, our holidays mostly consist of attending synagogue and eating food. Whether you choose to eat what you eat because of *kashrut*, because of

fusion between American and Jewish cultures, or because of your Grandmother's recipe for stuffed cabbage, we all maintain the concept that Jews like to eat food. While some may say that this is a stereotype we should try to reject, I would disagree. I think that our tradition of eating is a fantastic aspect of the Jewish religion. It does not require the concentration of a prayer service and it does not require the diligence of reading from the Torah. But it is an opportunity for us to be nostalgic, to connect with our families and communities, and to celebrate our holidays in an enjoyable and satisfying manner.

I cannot wait for Passover to start and for my fresh box of Crispy-O's. I can guess that most other people would prefer the sweet *charoset*, the chocolate covered matzah, or the jelly slices, but my love for chocolate imitation-Cheerios will never fade. Crispy-O's are not just a reminder of my childhood when I discussed breakfast cereals, not curfews, with my parents; Crispy-O's are my small, personal connection with Passover. And the best part of the best food of the best Jewish holiday is coming home from the first night's seder, putting on my pajamas, and breaking into a brand new box of chocolate love. ■

According to the Torah, our connection with food began on Mount Sinai and has continued to my Crispy-O's.

Chanukah, we eat latkes and *sufganiot*. On Purim, it's *hamentashen*. On Yom Kippur, we don't eat anything at all, yet I still manage to think about food all day. Our holidays have a bizarre correlation with large quantities of food. Even looking at the big picture of Judaism and food, many Jews observe the laws of *kashrut*. Simplified, these rules set Jews apart from others by dictating what types of food

Yael Silver inducted into international honor society

WJN staff writers

Yael Saphira Silver of Ann Arbor, an 8th grader at Ann Arbor Open School and a member of Beth Israel Congregation, is one of 50 students nationwide to be inducted into the American Hebrew Academy Honor Society. The Academy, in Greensboro, North Carolina, is a Jewish pluralistic college-prep boarding school. The Honor Society was formed to identify the most outstanding 8th grade Jewish students from around the world. The search has produced hundreds of nominations. All Honor Society inductees are invited to the Academy for a "Scholars Weekend" to be held in March.

"To be named a member of the American Hebrew Academy Honor Society is a great achievement," says Mark Spielman, director of the Honor Society. "We look forward to meeting each of the honorees and following their successes as they make great contributions to our society." Silver was chosen by the selection committee because of her extracurricular activities and commitment to community service.

During the Scholars Weekend, all honor society nominees will engage in a program on leadership that will include discussions, classes and renowned speakers. All honor society students will be acknowledged at an induction ceremony and have the opportunity to win one of five annual scholarships worth \$20,000 a year to attend the American Hebrew Academy.

"Yael is a diligent, passionate person with a clear dedication to Jewish life and learning," wrote Rabbi Kim Blumenthal of Beth Israel Congregation when nominating Silver for the award. "She is well deserving of this prestigious honor."



Yael Saphira Silver

Nahalal-A2 Student Exchange brought new friendships, and many lessons

By Mari Cohen

It's not often that we get to completely experience another culture and develop friendships with people our age who live thousands of miles away. I was lucky to have this opportunity on the Nahalal-Ann Arbor Student Exchange. I hoped that in journeying to Nahalal, I would meet new

The fact that we speak different languages may seem to be an important difference, but as we got to know each other, the language barrier was almost never an issue. They knew plenty of English, putting my limited conversational Hebrew knowledge (about 5-10 words at the beginning of the trip) to absolute shame. When there were blanks in the conversation for unknown words, we taught each other things. I came away with a nearly quadrupled Hebrew vocabulary.

Besides the language, the Nahalal moshav is a different environment than the neighborhoods in Ann Arbor. Built in a unique circle design, Nahalal is very small, so you are never more than a mile



Mari Cohen (right) with new friends Dayana and Michal

from where you started. Because of this, the teens can see each other very often without complication. They can meet each other at their youth club or at someone's house and it will take less than five minutes to get there. They can stay out until late at night and walk back in the dark without having to worry about any kind of crime. Since I have to set up rides and carpools with parents when I want to see many of my friends, I am envious of this set-up. In fact, I am jealous of many things in Nahalal: the wonderful weather, the beautiful landscape, and the genuine kindness of everyone there. From the minute we arrived, we were treated like family.

I came away from this trip with a new knowledge of the Israeli culture and with friendships I hope to keep forever. I am already counting down the days until my new friends from Nahalal come to Ann Arbor. To all teens with the chance to take a trip like this, I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity. I'm sure I will remember the Nahalal exchange trip as one of the best experiences in my life. ■

When I was an eighth grade, a few students at my school participated in the Hikone exchange program. Students from Hikone, Japan came to my school for a few days and kids from Ann Arbor later went and did the same in Japan. I always thought it seemed like an exciting, memorable experience. So when I learned about the similar exchange to Nahalal this year, it seemed perfect. My sister had visited Nahalal during a free weekend on a teen trip and had adored it. I had loved Israel when I visited with my family four years before. The Nahalal trip seemed like an excellent fit and an amazing adventure. I was immediately interested.

What did I find in the new friendships on this exchange? I found that the differences between myself and the teens living thousands of miles away are few and far between. We like the same movies and TV shows and we listen to the same music. Our conversations often span the same interests. After having met just a day or so before, we were already laughing and joking together. By the end of ten days, it was like we were old friends.

from where you started. Because of this, the teens can see each other very often without complication. They can meet each other at their youth club or at someone's house and it will take less than five minutes to get there. They can stay out until late at night and walk back in the dark without having to worry about any kind of crime. Since I have to set up rides and carpools with parents when I want to see many of my friends, I am envious of this set-up. In fact, I am jealous of many things in Nahalal: the wonderful weather, the beautiful landscape, and the genuine kindness of everyone there. From the minute we arrived, we were treated like family.

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Mari Cohen is a ninth grader at Community High School.



From left to right: Lior Porath, Eli Sugerman, Mari Cohen and Gahl Porath. The four are grandchildren of three best friends who grew up together in Metro Detroit: Cyril Moscow (grandfather of Mari), Donald Sugerman (grandfather of Eli) and Murray Shekter (grandfather of Gahl and Lior of Timrat, Israel). The teens reunited and attended school together during the Student Exchange.

Nahalal-A2 Student Exchange creates lasting bonds between communities and teens

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

On Sunday, February 18, seven 9th and 10th graders from Ann Arbor embarked on a ten-day visit to Moshav Nahalal, Ann Arbor's Partnership 2000 (P2K) sister community. The teens—Mari Cohen, Isaac Fink, Hannah King, Jonathan Saltzman, Lilly Scheerer, Eli Sugerman and Sarah Zimmerman—returned home on March 1, having experienced the “time of their lives.”

The Student Exchange is part of the Jewish Federation's P2K Community-to-Community (C2C) project with Moshav Nahalal. The visit, which occurred during the Ann Arbor mid-winter break, was the first half of an exchange with ninth graders from Moshav Nahalal who will be in Ann Arbor during their Sukkot break this fall. During the course of the visit, the teens were hosted by Nahalal families and had the opportunity to attend school, visit Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and celebrate Purim with their new friends.

“Nahalal was like my home away from home,” said Zimmerman, a ninth grader at Pioneer High School. “The moment I got there everyone welcomed me in so kindly. The days were full of

new experiences that were wonderful! I made so many friendships that I am sure will last. I cannot wait to go back!” Others in the group were also impressed by the warm hospitality they received in Nahalal. King, a ninth grade student at Community High School, felt that “the people in Nahalal were really nice, and were VERY welcoming.” Scheerer, a ninth grader at Pioneer, concurred, “This trip made me feel that I have a home in Israel that I can always go to.”

The Ann Arbor participants got a taste of the lives of their Israeli peers. They explored the fields of Nahalal, witnessed the exuberance of Israeli classrooms and helped their new friends create a Purim carnival for the children of Nahalal. Saltzman, a ninth grader at Greenhills, felt the best aspect of the trip was “the chance to stay in Israeli homes and do things that Israeli teenagers did. This gave me more of a sense of the true Israel than my previous experience as a tourist.” When asked about the impact the trip had on their connection to Israel, Fink, a tenth grader at Community, answered, “Now I feel like I have a connection to Israel!”

They also expanded their knowledge of Hebrew. King is one of four participants taking Hebrew at Keshet, Ann Arbor's Hebrew language program for high school students. She “loved meeting new people, and learning about the different cultures. I also learned a lot of new Hebrew!!” Keshet Director Milka Eliav reported that the students came home with a lot of new vocabulary, especially Israeli slang, and that they seemed very motivated about Keshet upon their return.

Participants' parents noted the impact of the trip and the new friendships forged between their children and the teens of Nahalal. “Eli had an amazing, life altering experience in Nahalal,” said Gayle Rosen, mother of Sugerman, who is a tenth grader at Community High School. “The kids have really learned, grown and formed what are likely to be life-long friendships.” There is much excitement and anticipation among the teens and their families about returning the hospitality and reconnecting with their new friends in September. “I can't wait until

everyone from Nahalal comes to Ann Arbor in September!” said King.

The Student Exchange was the vision of C2C Co-chairs Eva Solomon, Cheryl Sugerman and Yair Hammer. Cheryl Sugerman (aunt of Eli Sugerman) was excited about the trip's success. “It looks and sounds as though this has been an amazing trip, and you and the entire C2C committee should be proud and thrilled that the first half of this program was such a huge success!” In a note to parents during the trip, Hammer wrote: “I just wanted to let you know how happy we are to have your kids here in Nahalal.... We can already see how hard it will be to say goodbye. The kids from both sides get along great and look like they have been together forever. They already feel like part of the family.”

For more information about the 2010 Student Exchange, to see photos of the trip, or to find out about getting involved, visit www.jewishannarbor.org, check out the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Facebook page, or contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100. ■



- 1 – (L to R) – Hannah King, Sarah Zimmerman, Isaac Fink, Lilly Scheerer, Jonathan Saltzman, Mari Cohen and Eli Sugerman embarking on their trip to Israel
- 2 – Lilly Scheerer receives a certificate from Yadi Betzer, General Secretary of Nahalal, on the occasion of planting a tree at the new Ann Arbor/Nahalal park
- 3 – The group during a tractor trip around Nahalal
- 4 – Lilly, Hannah, Shlomit, Dayana, Sarah, Lipaz and Shani with Yair Hammer, C2C Nahalal chair
- 5 – Purim at Nahalal School
- 6 – Enjoying the sun and new friends
- 7 – Mari, Hagar, Halel, Sarah, Hannah, Michal and Lilly at the Kotel in Jerusalem

Abramson and Volk recipients of first Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarships

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor teens Mara Abramson and Maia Volk are the first scholarship recipients of the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship Fund. Paul and Carolyn Lichter created the fund to honor the memory of their daughter, Susan Lichter z"l, and over 170 relatives, friends and community members contributed to the fund. The proceeds provide two scholarships annually for Ann Arbor area high school students to participate in peer group Israel experiences such as semester, summer or gap year programs.

Abramson is a junior at Pioneer High School and will be participating in Young Judeaea's Machon summer program. As a leader in Young Judeaea, Abramson educates her peers about Israel and Jewish identity. However, she says in

her essay, "since I've never been to Israel, I feel like my contributions are limited. Receiving this scholarship means that I finally have the opportunity to explore and discover myself in Israel, a land that I've learned and heard about for sixteen years, but never got to experience," said Abramson. "I can't explain how grateful I am to have received this scholarship; it has literally made this trip possible for me!"

Volk, a sophomore at Community High School, has been involved in Habonim Dror for several years and will participate in the movement's Machane Bonim Israel (MBI). She is looking forward to meeting Habonim Dror teens from around the United States, Israel and from around the world. "Receiving the Susan Lichter Scholarship means that I will be able to go on MBI, which

has been a dream of mine since the 7th grade," said Volk. "MBI will not only be a highlight in my involvement with Habonim Dror, it will be a highlight of my life as a Jew. I am so grateful and honored to be a recipient of this scholarship which allows me to go on this unique trip!"

Five applicants submitted essays in which they described their goals for visiting Israel and how their particular program would help them meet these goals. A scholarship committee, chaired by Laurie Rashes and including Judie Lax, Ami Rosenthal, and U-M student Jenna Weinberg, had the difficult task of reading the essays and determining which of the very worthy applicants would receive the scholarship. All essays were submitted blind; the committee members received no identifying information about the applicants

other than what was in the essays. "It was difficult to choose from so many deserving students," said Rashes, Susan Lichter's sister. "One candidate's emphasis on the importance of forming new friendships and learning family history reminded me of Susan. We were moved by another's desire to bring back what she learned to help educate others in a leadership capacity."

The Lichters are pleased their efforts are bearing fruit. "We are so happy to be able to make a difference by helping these two outstanding teens reach their dreams of traveling to Israel," said Carolyn. "We thank the committee for the excellent job they did in reviewing the applications. We know that it must have been difficult for them to make a decision, and we look forward to helping more young people in the years to come." ■

Looking forward to Machane Bonim Israel summer

By Maia Volk

All my life Judaism has surrounded me. I have been discovering my religion and my connection to it since I was a preschooler at the Jewish Community Center. My journey continued through elementary school at the Hebrew Day School, through my bat mitzvah preparation, Camp Tavor and my involvement with a Jewish youth movement Habonim-Dror. This year I am about to add another passage to my journey, when I will participate in the Habonim-Dror summer program, MBI, Machane Bonim Israel. I have several goals for this trip: I am looking forward to visiting places I have only learned about such as Mount Tavor, for which my camp is named after, or the Golan Heights and the Dead Sea—places we studied in elementary school. I am also very excited about sharing the experience with other Jewish teens who are passionate about Israel like I am. I know the MBI experience will greatly increase my understanding of Israel, its problems, and its people. This trip will strengthen my ties with my Jewish peers and my Jewish community, not only now, but also in the future.

Machane Bonim Israel is one of the programs run by Habonim-Dror, a Progressive Labor Zionist Youth Movement that also runs Camp Tavor. I have attended Camp Tavor for the last four summers and am also very active in the Habonim-Dror local chapter Ken Pardes. The impact this movement has had on my life through camp has already drastically changed my life. I've learned so much about myself, and my connection to Judaism at Camp Tavor. Going to Tavor gives me motivation to learn more about the history of Israel and Jewish history. Camp Tavor isn't just another Jewish summer camp, it's a community of Jewish youth. Everyone is very supportive of each other as we all go on our journey of discovering who we are together as a "Kvutza." I am closer to my friends from my kvutza than anyone else I've met at home or at school; I consider them my family. Going on MBI with my kvutza from Tavor will not only give me the opportunity of learning more about myself as a Jew, but also to continue building my relationship with my kvutza and feel part of something special. I will also get to know kids from other kvutzot from Habonim-Dror camps all over North America.

Making new friendships and strengthening relationships with Jewish friends is very impor-



Maia Volk

tant for me. I have nice friends from school, but the basis of these friendships is different. MBI North American has over 100 kids from all parts of the US and Canada. People who went on MBI have told me that the friendships and social connections they created during the trip are some of the most wonderful aspects of the MBI experience. Going through the trip together, hiking through some difficult paths, riding the busses,

and sharing meals brings people together in a very unique way. I know I will make life-long relationships that will become part of my connection to Judaism and Israel.

MBI is not a "tour bus" kind of trip, it is a Machaneh, a camp. One of the most important activities at camp are "Peulot" (discussion based activities). I really enjoy the peulot because they make me think, and other people's viewpoints and opinions bring new issues and perspectives to my attention. On MBI we will have discussion-based activities after each event along the way and I expect they will greatly enrich my experience. Hearing everyone's opinions and thoughts will lead to a deeper understanding and will help me discover things I would not have thought about myself. This is one of the reasons why MBI is so special: being able to explore Israel with my peers, listening to my friends and expressing my thoughts and feelings to them would make this a very unique experience.

I am also really excited about meeting Jewish kids from other counties; one of the highlights of MBI is a day where we meet youth from all over the world. Habonim-Dror is active in many countries around the globe such as South Africa, India, Australia, United Kingdom, Argentina and Brazil. During the summer the North American kids meet Habonim-Dror kids from other countries. This will be a great opportunity to interact with kids from other cultures who may have a different way of life, yet have a lot in common with me.

I have been very interested in my family's history ever since we did the family history project at the Hebrew Day School. The book *Everything is Illuminated* has a very personal meaning for me, because the setting of this fictional story takes place in a real place: the little Jewish town of Trachimbrod in the Ukraine, which was destroyed completely in the Holocaust. My mother's family is from Trachimbrod. I read this book and saw the movie

Young Judeaea Machon Program fosters love for Israel

By Mara Abramson

Judaism has always been one of the most important aspects of my life. I've grown up in a home where our religion is celebrated and cherished and I feel so lucky to be a Jew.

Three summers ago I was signed up and dues were paid for me to attend a YMCA camp in Northern Michigan. About a month before I was scheduled to leave for this camp, something came over me and my plans and life changed completely.

It was a Saturday night and I was at the bar mitzvah party of Ari Axelrod. I was seated at the table with Ari and Robert's friends that they'd met through Young Judeaea. It was incredible for me to be surrounded by other Jewish teens (well, tweens at the time!) who were just as interested in Judaism as I was. I was already impressed with the friendships made between Judeaans at the kid's table, but when I looked around to the parent table I was amazed. All the current Judeaans that I had made friendships with at the party were children of past Judeaans. I watched the parents (not in a creepy way!) laugh and reminisce about all the experiences they had spent together throughout their lives. Young Judeaea had created a sense of community throughout the generations for these families, and that was something that I wanted.

I made the decision to go to Young Judeaea's senior camp, Camp Tel Yehudah. Attending TY was probably one of the most beneficial experiences I have had in my life. I have now been a member of Young Judeaea for three years and it has completely opened my eyes to what it is to be a Jew and a Zionist in modern America.

In the past year, I've become increasingly involved with Young Judeaea. I'm the administrative vice president of the Central States region of Young Judeaea and I really value all that YJ has given me. However, as much as I appreciate Young Judeaea and value it, I feel I'm not valuing it to its full po-

when I was in eighth grade and used it for a school report. This experience gave me a sense of where I came from and my connection to the history of Jewish people. Visiting Israel will be another way to discover more about my family's history because I have many relatives who live there.

In conclusion, I know MBI will be one of the highlights of my life. I am looking forward to visiting places that are meaningful to Jewish history



Mara Abramson

tential. Why? The answer lies in the rest of this essay.

Young Judeaea is the oldest Zionist youth movement in the United States and focuses on instilling a commitment to Jewish values, Jewish pride, and love of Israel. I uphold Jewish values, have a strong sense of Jewish pride, and love Israel. The only problem is, I've never been there. With my role as a leader in the Young Judeaea Movement, I spend a great deal of time educating other members about Israel and why I love it

and all the good it is doing for the rest of the world. However because I've never been to Israel, I feel like my contributions are limited. All I know about this beautiful country is what I've read in books, seen in videos or pictures, and heard people describe.

My motivations for visiting Israel are endless. I want to go to Israel so I can experience the culture and the beauty that I've heard so much about. I want to go to Israel to connect with my Jewish heritage and really learn where I come from. I want to go to Israel to educate myself on the Arab-Israeli conflict. I want to go to Israel to learn about how Darfurian refugees are being treated. I want to go to Israel to become a better leader in Young Judeaea. I want to go to Israel to inspire other Jews to be Zionists. I want to go to Israel so that I can stick up for her when she is being spoken against. And last but not least, I want to go to Israel so that I can taste a genuine falafel.


I think this particular program, Machon, will help me achieve these goals because it is a part of the Young Judeaea movement, which has already done so much for me and my understanding and love of Israel. ■

To raise additional funds for her trip, Mara will perform at a benefit concert, Saturday, April 3, at 8 p.m., at the JCC.

and religion, and to sharing these experiences with other Jewish teens. The discussions and new friendships will add a special perspective to the trip. As I go through life and transition from being a teen to a young adult, MBI will be an important passage that will strengthen my connection to Judaism and my commitment to the Jewish people and my Jewish community. ■



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For more information or to RSVP, please contact Halye Aisner at 971-0990 or halyeaisner@jccfed.org.



Book on Israeli start-ups bolsters Israel's image

By Uriel Heilman

NEW YORK (JTA)—When Intel's Israeli division proposed a new strategy to vastly improve the processing speed of the company's laptop computer chips, Intel's U.S. management had no interest. The idea required a fundamental change in Intel's technological approach, which had been to build what were known as faster "clock speeds"—essentially, faster "engines"—to accelerate processing. Israel's division proposed to run the engine of the chip slower, but to gain even more power by configuring a system that used gears like a car.

The project was mothballed. But exercising typical Israeli chutzpah, the Israelis were persistent in advocating their out-of-the-box solution. They traveled back and forth to Santa Clara, Calif., incessantly pressing their case to Intel's higher-ups. Staying the course, they argued, was riskier for the company than adopting the paradigmatic changes they were proposing. Eventually the Americans caved.

Upon its release in March 2003, the new Centrino chip was widely hailed as an important innovation and became the basis for Intel's edge in faster and more powerful chips. Originally code-named for a spring in northern Israel, the program eventually became known in the industry as "the right turn."

The anecdote is one of dozens of stories recounted in *Start-Up Nation*, a book by Israeli journalist Saul Singer and former U.S. foreign policy adviser Dan Senor that seeks to unpack the ingredients for Israel's extraordinary success in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Since its release last November by the Council on Foreign Relations, where Senor is an adjunct senior fellow for Middle East studies, *Start-Up Nation* has garnered widespread attention and prompted a rare wave of unabashed praise for Israel. Journalists, pundits, business leaders and policymakers have cited the Jewish state as a model for emulation.

In an uncommon case of good public relations for Israel, the book has helped generate discussions about what Israel is doing right in media more often focused on what's going wrong in Israel.

Start-Up Nation has reached the best-seller lists of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*, spurred Op-Eds in *Newsweek*, the *Times*, *Forbes* and CNN, and been covered in numerous other news outlets. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu singled out the book for praise in a speech a few months ago, it has become a best-seller in Singapore and it was a centerpiece of a recent half-hour feature on the Israeli economy by Germany's leading TV network, ARD. The book is being translated into Chinese, Russian and Hebrew.

At a time when Israel is trying with limited success to rebrand itself beyond the conflict, the book promotes a positive view of Israel without wishing the conflict away. On the contrary, the conflict is cast as part and parcel of the reasons for Israel's success.

The relatively non-hierarchical nature of the Israel Defense Forces, and the leadership skills and maturity the army develops among its young soldiers, are important factors in fostering Israeli entrepreneurship, the authors write. The adversity Israel faces surrounded by hostile forces is cited as a reason for Israeli inventiveness. The perils of investing in a country seemingly always on the verge of war spurs Israelis to go the extra length to show foreign financiers that Israel is a smart place to invest and build.

Singer, a columnist for *The Jerusalem Post*, said the phenomenon of the book's success has been uplifting. "People are tired of looking at Israel just as a conflict," he told JTA. "They find it refreshing to hear about a completely different side of Israel."

His co-author, Senor, a private equity executive who served as a Defense Department adviser in the last Bush administration and is married to CNN anchorwoman Campbell Brown, is considering running as a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.). Senor reportedly is expected to announce his decision in the next few days. Senor and Singer are also brothers-in-law.

Singer said the pair did not write the book to bolster Israel's public image but to tell a story about a real success. "This is the first book to look at an entire side of Israel that no one has paid attention to previously," he said from Jerusalem. "It's a huge story that's essentially been missed with thousands of correspondents here."

Start-Up Nation considers what elements of Israeli culture make it an ideal incubator for innovation and entrepreneurship. In the process, the book tells the stories of myriad Israeli companies and connects their successes to some quintessential elements of Israeli society: its small size, dearth of natural resources, ubiquitous army service and, of course, the common national traits of chutzpah, informality and persistence.

Israeli qualities that in some circumstances might be considered shortcomings, the au-

thors find, are essential ingredients for entrepreneurial success. On Israeli unruliness: Mooly Eden, who runs Intel's cross-cultural seminars to bridge gaps between the company's Israeli and American workers, tells the authors, "Israelis do not have a very disciplined culture. From the age of zero we are educated to challenge the obvious, ask questions, debate everything, innovate."

On Israeli impetuosity: Mark Gerson, an American investor in Israeli start-ups, says that "When an Israeli man wants to date a woman, he asks her out that night. When an Israeli entrepreneur has a business idea, he will start it that week. The notion that one should accumulate credentials before launching a venture simply does not exist. This is actually good in business. Too much time can only teach you what can go wrong, not what could be transformative."

On the lack of natural resources in Israel, Harvard professor Rocard Hausmann tells the authors, "What's striking about Israel is the penchant for taking problems—like the lack of water—and turning them into assets—in this case by becoming leaders in the fields of desert agriculture, drip irrigation and desalination."

Having immigrated to Israel 15 years ago from New York, Singer said the book never occurred to him until Senor, who lives in the United States but travels frequently to Israel for business, approached him with the idea. "When you're looking from the inside, you tend to look at problems and tend to complain," Singer said. "When you're looking at Israel from the outside, you see how amazing it is. We need to appreciate what we're good at and how important it is." ■

Op-Ed: A tennis lesson for the world

By Leonard A. Cole

NEW YORK (JTA)—The news out of Dubai has been rife with speculation about who assassinated Hamas terrorist commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in a local hotel. Israeli agents and al-Mabhouh's Palestinian rivals are high on the guess list.

But amid the who-did-it debate, a happier Dubai event was taking place. A few weeks ago, Shahar Peer became the first Israeli woman to compete in a professional sporting event in the United Arab Emirates.

Peer, a superb tennis player, defeated several highly ranked competitors on her way to the semifinal round of the annual Dubai championships. The 22-year-old then lost to American star Venus Williams, who went on to reclaim the title she had won the previous year. But no less significant was Peer's stunning performance and how she got there in the first place.

Her appearance was a year overdue. Peer was part of the draw for the 2009 Dubai championships, and her name like that of the other players had been supplied to the Emirates authorities long in advance. Yet the day before the opening matches, Peer received word that the UAE had denied her a visa.

Tournament director Salah Tahlak said Peer's presence "would have antagonized our fans" because of their opposition to Israeli policies.

In fact, 2009 was dotted with international insults to Israeli athletes. Weeks after the Dubai event, the Swedish Taekwondo Federation blocked Israeli participation in the annual championships at Trelleborg. On the eve of the tournament, 45 Israeli athletes had to cancel their flight plans.

In October, at the fencing world championships in Antalya, Turkey, the Iranian team dropped out without notice. The Iranian government forbade its fencers to compete after learning that they were in seeding brackets with Israeli athletes. Iran's disruptive behavior drew barely a nod from the Turkish hosts.

Effrontery to Israeli delegations was not limited to athletic competitions. Two Israeli women, both research doctors, were abruptly disinvited to a conference in Egypt on breast cancer. The sponsoring organization, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, told the women that the Egyptian Health Ministry was barring them. The doctors were doubly shocked by subsequent Komen and Egyptian claims that the Israelis themselves had decided not to attend.

Neither the Swedish, Iranian, Turkish nor Egyptian authorities were seriously criticized for their misbegotten behavior. But sponsors of the Dubai tennis tournament reacted differently, and therein lies a huge lesson.

Peer responded indignantly when she was notified of her ban in 2009. Larry Scott, the chief executive of the Women's Tennis Association Tour, echoed Peer's assertion that politics should be kept separate from sports. After consultations among the players, and with Peer's concurrence, the tournament was not canceled, but the Dubai authorities were hit with an avalanche of penalties.

Scott warned that if Peer were prevented from playing in Dubai in the future, "they would run the risk of losing their tournament." Meanwhile, *The Wall Street Journal's* European edition dropped advertising for the 2009 event and cable television's Tennis Channel canceled its planned coverage.

Soon after, the WTA levied a fine of \$300,000 on the Dubai tournament organizers. The WTA board also demanded that the organizers post a \$2 million guarantee that henceforth all players who qualified would be allowed to compete. The UAE would have to show proof of entry permission for any Israeli player at least eight weeks prior to the tournament. Further, Venus Williams said she would not play again in Dubai unless Peer were admitted to the 2010 contest.

The threat of losing the tournament and its accompanying money, attention and prestige evidently impressed the Dubai organizers. Peer's participation in 2010 made that point even though

none of her matches were on the centercourt. All were relegated to an outside court with limited seating, presumably as a safety measure. Still, Peer's iron determination to play, and play well, drew plaudits from commentators around the world. Above all, her presence signified the ability to rectify a wrong when good people are insistent.

The Iranian fencers in 2009 were permitted to let politics trump their commitment to compete. Their Turkish hosts and fellow competitors remained stone silent rather than call for penalties for the Iranians' blatant discrimination. Nor were the Swedish and Egyptian authorities who disinvited Israeli participants even censured, let alone penalized.

If ignored, such injustices will be repeated. Dubai 2010 demonstrated how concerted efforts can help change errant behavior.

Overseers of all these events would do well to heed Scott's words after the UAE agreed to the WTA's stipulations: "Thanks to the courage of Shahar, and all those individuals and organizations, including her fellow players that supported her, the UAE has changed their policy and another barrier of discrimination has fallen." ■

Leonard A. Cole is the co-chair of the Task Force on Anti-Semitism for the Jewish Agency and former chair of the Jewish Council of Public Affairs.

News Analysis: Salam Fayyad, the Palestinian with a plan for statehood

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Pundits and politicians have taken recently to comparing Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad to Israel's founding father, David Ben-Gurion.

No less a figure than President Shimon Peres, one of Ben-Gurion's foremost disciples, is the latest Israeli leader to offer the accolade.

The reason is simple: Like Ben-Gurion, Fayyad is building institutions of statehood.

In the 1920s, the Jews of Palestine under the single-minded Ben-Gurion established institutions for what they called the state-in-the-making: the Haganah with the idea of a single armed force; the Histadrut Trade Union, with a department for workers' rights, a sick fund, a bank and the Solel Boneh construction company; and the Jewish Agency dealing with immigration, schools and hospitals.

Now Fayyad is doing something similar.

Last August he announced what has come to be known as the "Fayyad Plan" under the heading: "Palestine—Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State." The idea is to build a de facto Palestinian state by mid-2011, with functioning government and municipal offices, police forces, a central bank, stock market, schools, hospitals, community centers, etc. Fayyad's watchword is transparency, and his aim is institutions that are corruption-free and provide an array of modern government services.

Then, in mid-2011, with all the trappings of statehood in place, he intends to make his political move: Invite Israel to recognize the well-functioning Palestinian state and withdraw from territories it still occupies, or be forced to do so by the pressure of international opinion.

In February, at the 10th Herzliya Conference, an annual forum on Israel's national security attended by top decision-makers and academics, Fayyad, the lone Palestinian, gave an articulate off-the-cuff address, leaving little doubt as to what he has in mind.

"This is not about declaring a state. It is about getting ready for one," he explained. "The program we have embarked upon was not supposed to be in lieu of a political process. It was supposed to reinforce it."

"The political process track," Fayyad added

later, "is absolutely necessary because that is what is going to bring an end to the occupation."

Fayyad went on to speak about creating a critical mass of positive change on the ground that by mid-2011 would persuade the world that the Palestinians were ready for statehood, and that it was time for the Israeli occupation to be rolled back.

"If by then we succeed, as I hope we will," he declared, "it's not going to be too difficult for people looking at it from any corner of the world

to conclude that indeed the Palestinians do have something that looks like a well-functioning state in just about every facet of activity, and the only anomalous thing at the time would be that occupation which everyone agrees should end."

Fayyad has been working closely on the economic and institutional elements of his plan with Tony Blair, the former British prime minister and the international Quartet's special representative to the Middle East, and on the law enforcement aspects with U.S. Gen. Keith Dayton.

The results on the ground have been impressive. Palestinian security forces trained by Dayton's troops have been deployed in West Bank cities, creating new levels of law and order and enabling Israel to remove dozens of roadblocks and checkpoints. The aim from the outset was to secure a major principle of modern statehood: a single armed force, subordinate to the elected government, with no rival militias roaming the streets. For all intents and purposes, this is the case already in the West Bank today.

At the Herzliya Conference, Fayyad suggested that Israel could help further augment this facet of his state-building by handing over more West Bank territory to Palestinian security control.

The law and order and the opening up of the West Bank to free movement of people and goods has led to a dramatic change in the eco-

nomic climate, which also augurs well for Fayyad's state-building project. The upturn in trade, tourism and consumer spending was reflected in economic growth of 7 percent last year, one of the highest figures anywhere in the world. Fayyad also is working on Palestinian budgetary independence. More than half of this year's Palestinian Authority budget of approximately \$3 billion will be raised in taxes.

There have been significant institutional achievements as well: A functioning stock market is operating in Nablus, Fayyad has been building government and municipal offices, and the nucleus of a central bank is in place.

Over the past two years, Fayyad has completed more than 1,000 communal projects, investing more than \$100 million in schools, clinics, libraries and community centers. He is starting work now on a new phase to improve existing infrastructures: roads, electricity, water and sewage. Most of the money has come from the United States, the European Union and the oil-rich Gulf States.

The American-educated Fayyad, 58, was born in the village of Dir Rasun near the West Bank city of Tulkarm. After earning his doctorate in economics at the University of Texas in 1986, he conducted research at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis before joining the World Bank in Washington, where he worked from 1987 to 1995. Then, in the wake of the Oslo agreements, he was appointed International Monetary Fund representative in the Palestinian territories from 1995 to 2001.

The following year, desperate for a modicum of transparency in funding for the Palestinians, the United States and other donor nations forced his appointment on Yasser Arafat as the Palestinian leader's technocrat finance minister. Fayyad, a small but very determined and self-confident man, bravely took on the corruption rife in Palestinian affairs, sacking thousands of superfluous

bureaucrats and closing down social institutions serving as fronts for terrorist activities.

Unlike most of his generation of Palestinians leaders, Fayyad never joined the Palestinian resistance, never took part in terror and never spent a single day in an Israeli prison. This accounts for the fact that despite his internationally acclaimed success, he has only a small domestic political base. He never joined the West Bank's ruling Fatah party, and when he ran in the 2006 elections, the Third Way party he founded, dedicated to fighting corruption, won only two seats.

A recent survey by leading Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki showed that although 40 percent of Palestinians rated the Fayyad government's performance as good or very good, only 13 percent supported him as prime minister.

Fayyad was appointed prime minister by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in June 2007 after the Hamas takeover of Gaza, and was reappointed last March. Fayyad also has been serving a second term as finance minister since March 2007.

Israelis on the right side of the political spectrum, who oppose Fayyad's state-building project, argue that he is not as dedicated to nonviolence as he claims. They point to his presence at ceremonies honoring Palestinian terrorists and his active participation in a ceremonial burning of Israeli products manufactured in the West Bank.

Fayyad has his critics on the Palestinian side, too, who accuse his police of being nothing more than subcontractors for the Israeli occupation. Rather than bringing the occupation to an end, the critics argue, Fayyad's scrupulous maintenance of law and order is prolonging it.

At Fayyad's address to the Herzliya Conference, among the interested spectators was Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak. As the leader of the Labor Party, Barak is Ben-Gurion's heir and, like Fayyad, is a strong advocate of the two-state solution.

For people like Barak, who see this as the key to a secure Jewish-majority state at peace with its neighbors, Fayyad could well be the man of the hour. And he also could prove the toughest opponent of those Israelis who see in an independent Palestine a recipe for disaster ■



Salam Fayyad

Off the Radar: Tel Aviv high-rises, Ben and Jerry's is back, making connections

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Here are some recent stories out of Israel of which you may not be aware.

Tel Aviv skyline

Some Tel Aviv residents are angry that they were not consulted over plans to double the city's housing capacity by eschewing city blocks lined with low-rise apartment buildings for high-rise blocks.

The city last week released a plan, dubbed "T.A./5000," which recommends lining Tel Aviv's main streets with apartment buildings up to 14 stories in place of the current four-story buildings, Ha'aretz reported. Residents are upset because the municipality claimed that the new plans were drawn up in consultation with city residents.

As of 2008, Tel Aviv had 178,000 living units and now plans to build 83,000 more, according to the newspaper. Eventually, under the new housing push, the city could boast 460,000 living units by 2025.

Couples and young families often struggle to find affordable housing in Tel Aviv.

Another section of the wall

Archeologists have discovered a section of an ancient city wall of Jerusalem that may have

been built by King Solomon. The wall, which dates back to the First Temple-period based on potsherds found in the vicinity, is located on the hill between the Temple Mount and the village of Silwan.

Also uncovered in the city wall complex: an inner gatehouse for access into the royal quarter of the city, a royal structure adjacent to the gatehouse and a corner tower that overlooks a substantial section of the adjacent Kidron valley.

The dig, led by Hebrew University's Eilat Mazar and funded by Daniel Mintz and Meredith Berkman, a New York couple interested in biblical archeology, is a joint project of the school, the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, and the Company for the Development of East Jerusalem.

"The city wall that has been uncovered testifies to a ruling presence," Mazar said. "Its strength and form of construction indicate a high level of engineering. We can estimate, with a high degree of certainty, that this was built by King Solomon toward the end of the 10th century BC."

Artifacts found near the excavation, includ-

ing clay seals with Hebrew names on them, are indications that the wall was part of the royal structure, the team said.

Beyond Hadera to Gadera

Israel's Cabinet approved a \$7 billion plan to create a transportation network that would construct highways and lay train tracks in the north and south of Israel. The plan would connect the center of the country to both Eilat in the south and Kiryat Shmona in the north.

"The time has come to open the bottleneck and join the State of Israel in one country," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "There will no longer be three countries, no longer a greater Tel Aviv metropolitan area country, which is also stuck, and others in the distant Galilee and the even more distant Negev. We will take our small country, one of the smallest in the world, and will allow Israelis to travel quickly, without bottlenecks, and in comfort."

Nineteen ministers voted for the 10-year plan; four opposed and one abstained. It is not yet clear whether the money for the plan would be taken from other ministries' budgets or new money.

High time you came home

A man who left his apartment in Lod for three months returned home to discover that it had been turned into a marijuana nursery, Ynet reported.

The haredi man who owned the apartment had been planning to rent it out but hadn't found any takers. Upon returning to the property, the owner found that the locks had been changed. He broke into his own apartment only to discover marijuana seedlings all over the floor, with grow lights strategically placed to help facilitate the plants' growth.

Metallica bends to pressure

Israelis will pay less to see the American heavy metal band Metallica at the Ramat Gan Stadium after ticket prices were significantly lowered following a boycott campaign launched on Facebook.

The May concert is Metallica's third visit to the country and the first since 1999. Ticket prices originally were about three to four times higher than those for performances at European venues. The least expensive tickets for the

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Brett Levy, musician and environmental activist

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

To say that Brett Levy wears a lot of hats is an understatement. He's a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan School of Education, also a masters candidate in the School of Natural Resources & Environment. That's a pretty heavy double right there, but Levy also has a serious interest in music, both in performing and songwriting, and even in video production. He plays music for the children at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Early Childhood Center; he and his band, Momenta, play at local clubs; and they're working on a new CD. You can hear some tracks from that CD and see videos at their website, www.momenta-arts.net.

Brett Levy and Momenta will also be playing a concert at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on April 18. Splitting that evening with them will be local ukulele master, Gerald Ross, who was featured in these pages last year.

Levy: I was just one of those overscheduled kids. I always had stuff three or four days after school, three days of Hebrew School, piano lessons, trumpet lessons somewhere in there. I was just always doing stuff, and I guess I've continued that level of activity into my adulthood. (Laughter) I didn't really plan on it. It just kind of happened. I got excited about all these different avenues of expression, including teaching and research.

WJN: Right after you graduated from college?

Levy: I graduated college, where I majored in history, in 2000. I didn't study music there, but in my first summer after college I ended up teaching music at a summer program. I thought I might like teaching, I wanted some teaching experience, and it ended up being my field because I had such a good experience that summer. I enjoyed the act of sharing ideas and knowledge and concepts. I was in an a cappella group and jazz band in college, in Princeton. I taught a cappella and songwriting at that summer program at Wellesley College. After that I had a job lined up in the Bay area. I worked for a civil rights law firm for a year. I was interested in law, but I realized it wasn't as interactive as I expected. So I tried teaching and I got really into it. Did it for three years, and then in my fourth year I applied for grad school and I got in here at U-M. Even before I got here I was interested in environmental issues, and all along the way I was writing music about social and environmental issues. It tied to my interest in history, government, and civics.

When I got here, Al Gore's movie came out and it just seemed like I had a real opportunity here to get involved pretty deeply in environmental issues because there was this school here that I could get a degree in. And it really isn't actually that much more to get a degree in SNRE, because it's only four more courses. For my doctorate I have to take 13 courses outside of the School of Education anyway, so then I can double count a bunch of courses.

WJN: You play music for the kids at the JCC Early Childhood Center every week. How did that come about?

Levy: Well, grad students don't get paid a lot of money. (Laughter) I was looking for some sort of extra income. I figured I'm a musician; I should be able to make money doing something (in music). I sent out a bunch

of flyers to pre-schools and the one that that called me back was the JCC. Noreen DeYoung (Early Childhood Director) called me and said, "We need a song leader." I've been doing it for 3 1/2 years now and have really enjoyed it. I have a repertoire of 30-40 songs, some for each of the holidays. It's my regular Friday morning thing. In my second year, Debbie Gombert joined me. A lot of times we do it together, but sometimes we alternate because of each of our various commitments. Sometimes I have to miss because I am doing research for my dissertation.

WJN: What is your dissertation about?

Levy: It's about civic engagement; how do you get adolescents to become civically engaged? I did a lot of reading about that and then, based on my reading about empowerment, and what gets kids to feel empowered, I looked for a program where I could study this in action. I found that there are basically three or four things that tend to lead to kids becoming empowered. The things that seem to lead to it are discussion of controversial issues, working in groups, doing simulations, Model United Nations programs for example, watching other kids in action, developing, learning.

WJN: What about your background? How did you come to civic involvement and your interest in social causes?

Levy: Right now I'm developing a theory of how people develop a sense of civic empowerment. It works for me and it works for almost all the kids that I am studying. First, you need to be interested, before you decide to join a group like a Model UN, or before you join an after-school environmental empowerment club. But to be interested, there needs to be a few things that precede that. One is social norms, like family. Do you see that in your family, do you see it in your friends around you? Is it big in your community? Are people talking about these things?

Another one is seeing a relationship between yourself and the broader issue. Sometimes that comes from seeing that discussed, but sometimes it's something that affects you. Suddenly you're being taxed and you don't like it, or suddenly there is pollution in your back yard and you don't like it.

Another one is external forces telling you to get involved. Your parents tell you to do it, your teacher tells you to do it.

Another one is feeling that you have the skills to do it. You just want to use your skills.

WJN: So you saw this in your family as you were growing up?

Levy: My parents didn't do this for their work, but they set an example for me by being in-

terested in these issues. I think they probably did all four of those things. My dad talked a lot about history. He attended events that political leaders organized. We lived in Bloomington, Delaware. We had a couple of long time senators; Joe Biden was one of them. My father used to go to these Biden seminars twice a year. Senator Biden would bring in various people from Washington to speak on various issues. Being involved that way, and then coming home and talking about it, it kind of set an example that this is what's normal, to be engaged, to be interested. My dad is also on a couple of Commissions now, the Forestry Commission of Delaware, he's chairman of the Prisons commission, dealing with prisons issues. He's a businessman. This is not his profession. He just does community service and civic stuff.

And he and my mom talk about these things. When I was a kid, they encouraged me to run for class office. I ran for my first representative position in fifth grade. I was in student government starting from then on. That little push at the beginning was the external force, but then I developed the skills along the way. I guess I can talk in front of people, I guess I know how to work with other people, I know how to write things. Those skills make you feel like you can do something.

WJN: What about the music? Was that also in your family home?

Levy: My dad played a lot of music. He plays by ear, plays a lot of songs on piano. I would hear that going to sleep a couple of times a week. I'd be in my room and hear it reverberating throughout the house. I also have three older sisters, and they all took piano lessons. I was the youngest and I wanted to take lessons early. I started on piano maybe at four, and then also took trumpet lessons. Guitar, I started at nineteen. So it was just a norm in my family to play music, and since I was interested in civic issues, as soon as I started writing songs, when I was about 13, I started writing things that were related to community issues.

WJN: Tell us about your band.

Levy: I'm a songwriter and a singer and play a few different instruments, but I think that music is a lot more powerful when you have people around you to support it and add energy. I especially love going to shows and seeing drummers, because that just adds a lot of excitement. A band is something that's hard to have stick, unless you have a personal connection with the people. I've wanted to form a band, but I didn't want to force it. Over the past couple of years it has fallen into place. Both the drummer, Jesse Broman, and the bass player, Louis Rudner, go to Michigan State—they're in the jazz pro-

gram there. The guitarist, Zach Cowden, is at the Berklee College of Music and travels back and forth between Boston and here.

WJN: Your songwriting, and your band sound, combine elements of jazz, funk and rock.

Levy: I'm probably influenced by a lot of things. There was the pop music I listened to as a kid and that has kind of come in and out of influencing me. Starting in high school I got really into jazz and was strongly influenced by jazz. I started to appreciate good instrumentals and improvisation, especially. So I always wanted an improvisational element in my music. Then in college I got turned on to Bob Dylan, especially his social commentary music, so my lyrics are largely influenced by Dylan and by other social commentary and symbolic writers. I lived in San Francisco for a time. There's a huge music scene out there. I like to have fun with my music in live settings, so I really like a bass funk sound that people can move to.

I think my music and environmental perspective is also influenced by Judaism. For example, having Tu B'Shvat, knowing that Tu B'Shvat has such a long history, is kind of a social norm in the Jewish community. It's probably one of my favorite holidays because it celebrates something that is often under-appreciated, especially during the winter.

WJN: How did your making videos come about?

Levy: I wrote a song called *The Age of Hope*, about Obama, that's how it all started. I wrote the song at the very end of 2007, beginning of 2008, because I could kind of see the change that was coming and I was inspired by Obama. And I thought that making a video to go with the song would be a good way to bring publicity to the campaign and get my music out there and use it for something useful. In the process of making that video I learned how to do editing. I really enjoy it a lot. And probably one of the other reasons I got into that is that I can't play music after midnight in my apartment, (Laughter) but I can do video.

WJN: So what's next for you?

Levy: I'll probably be done with my studies within a year. I'm planning to stay in Ann Arbor. I'm hoping to do all of the things I'm doing now, teaching, research, and music. The teaching that I do is teacher education, that's my job in the School of Education. My research is studying civic engagement, and that's basically what my income is from. It's not huge, but it's enough to sustain me and I enjoy it a lot. My girlfriend is in a doctorate program in environmental engineering. She's here for another four years, so that's one of the reasons why I'm not considering leaving. We also play music together.

The music is something I'm not going to stop doing. I'm in the very beginning stages, just trying to develop an audience. I don't think very much about the business end of it, I think more about the music side of it. It's hard to make a lot of time for the business end of music, because of all the other stuff I'm doing—and trying to get enough sleep. (Laughter) ■

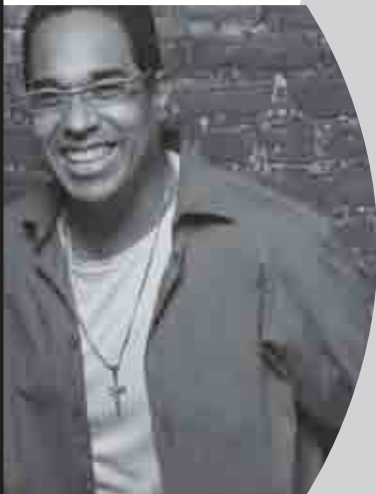


Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra with Lang Lang piano Christoph Eschenbach conductor

Wed, Apr 7 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Prokofiev Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Op. 25 ("Classical") (1917)
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26 (1917-21)
Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73 (1877)

CO-SPONSORED BY DENNIS AND ELLIE SERRAS.
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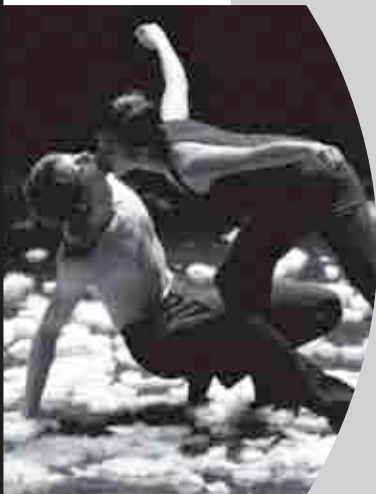
21st-Century Dizzy Danilo Perez Featuring Danilo Perez piano David Sanchez tenor saxophone Rudresh Mahanthappa alto saxophone Amir ElSaffar trumpet and vocals Jamey Haddad percussion Ben Street bass Adam Cruz drums

Thu, Apr 8 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

Panamanian jazz pianist Danilo Perez brings together a global, all-star band that celebrates the music and bountiful inspiration of his mentor, Dizzy Gillespie, the great jazz trumpeter who invented the modern sounds of bebop and Afro-Cuban jazz. Perez' new band performs arrangement of classic Gillespie tunes in addition to original group compositions.

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MEDIA PARTNERS WEMU 89.1 FM, METRO TIMES, AND MICHIGAN CHRONICLE.



Baaba Maal Opening Act: NOMO

Sat, Apr 10 | 8 PM
MICHIGAN THEATER

One of the true stars to rise from the African continent, Senegalese master musician Baaba Maal has been making music for the world to enjoy for nearly two decades. With critically-acclaimed releases ranging from contemporary Afropop to expressions of traditional West African music, he is renowned for his fiery performances that fuse funk, rock, and blues with the beats and melodies of West Africa. Opening for Baaba Maal is NOMO, an Afropop, Fela Kuti-inspired nonet formed in Ann Arbor by graduates of the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

FUNDED IN PART BY THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

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



131st Season **ums** 09|10 APRIL EVENTS

Michigan Chamber Players

Mon, Apr 12 | 8 PM
STAMPS AUDITORIUM (Walgreen Drama Center)

Each year, UMS hosts two free concerts by the Michigan Chamber Players, showcasing the talents of faculty members of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

PROGRAM
Henri Dutilleux Les Citations (1991)
Bohuslav Martinu La Revue de Cuisine (1927)
William Walton Façade (1922)

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Glenn Edgerton artistic director

Thu-Sat, Apr 22-24 | 8 PM
POWER CENTER

This innovative and exciting American dance company presents sophisticated work by both American and international choreographers with an energy that literally jumps off the stage and into the audience. Their engaging, seductive, human, and often edgy performances inspire audiences to think, but also to have fun. The company will perform dances by Jiri Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, Terence Marling, and Jorma Elo. Complete program details are available at www.ums.org.

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The Rest is Noise in Performance Alex Ross & Ethan Iverson piano

Sun, Apr 25 | 4 PM
RACKHAM AUDITORIUM

Two of today's most interesting and respected cultural forces present a dynamic tour of the 20th century, re-creating a show they developed for a sold-out performance at the Paris Bar in New York. New Yorker writer Alex Ross reads vivid portraits of the 20th-century's iconic composers from his universally acclaimed and best-selling book, *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century*. After each selection, Iverson, the pianist in the postmodern jazz trio The Bad Plus, performs a piano interlude related to the reading. The performance includes piano arrangements of works by Debussy, Schoenberg, Bartók, Jelly Roll Morton, Ives, Stravinsky, Gershwin, Webern, Charlie Parker, Shostakovich, Babbitt, and Ligeti.

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APRIL 2010 EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the JCC

Achieving Social Justice Through Group Work

\$80 per person (includes catered lunch) CE Value: 5 credits

Emeritus Professor of Social Work Charles Garvin and JFS Resettlement Program Director Mira Sussman are presenting this course.

In our culturally and ethnically diverse society, issues of social justice often arise when individuals are drawn together in a therapeutic group setting. This course will consider how the group work process can be enhanced by a consideration of social justice issues at each stage, from determining the purpose of the group to ending and group evaluation. The course will be taught through a combination of short lectures, group discussion, and experiential exercises and role plays.

Register online at www.jfsannarbor.org or by calling Mira Sussman at JFS (769-0209) by **April 7**. We will try to accommodate late registrations if space is available.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Noon – 1:30 pm at the JCC

International Lunch

Join current and former English as a Second Language students from all over the world for delicious ethnic dishes and conversation.

RSVP required to Robin Little at robin@jfsannarbor.org by Tuesday, April 13.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

1:30 – 4:00 pm

Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor

Movies and Discussion for Caregivers of Aging Parents

(co-sponsored by the Turner Senior Resource Center)

View and discuss humorous, heart-wrenching, and thought-provoking selections from several popular films that depict caregiving relationships.

RSVP to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson (abbie@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209).

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, MAY 16

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An Argentinean beach town goes Jewish

By Diego Melamed

MIRAMAR, Argentina (JTA)—It is said that there are two kinds of religious people in Miramar: the surfers who pray for the fantastic waves for which the Argentine beach town is known, and the Jews who flock here in the summer and turn Miramar into something resembling a shtetl.

And then there are the Jewish surfers.

Daniel Pezzente, who recently opened a bed and breakfast surfing school in town, said that four of his first students were ob-

send their children to college and enjoy a luxury that might have seemed impossible to their progenitors: vacations by the sea.

While Mar del Plata was the most popular resort destination in Argentina, it was not very welcoming of Jews.

"It was an expensive place, where the Argentinean upper class vacationing there didn't always look favorably upon the arrival of Jews," said Anita Weinstein, director of the Jewish community's documentation center.

So the Jews began moving to Miramar, a beach town 27 miles down the coast from Mar del Plata and less expensive. The first set of buildings in Miramar was named for the Jewish Belmes family—the entrepreneur investors who developed modest buildings for sale while keeping some apartments for their own personal use. Miramar quickly soared in popularity among the country's Jews.

Ricardo Gaudini, owner of the Tiburon resort, said 85 percent of his February clientele is Jewish. The numbers are only slightly lower in January. Other resort owners report similar numbers.

"Even 35 years ago, my first clients were Jews," Gaudini said. "Today, most families are also my friends. I was even invited to the bar mitzvah of many of the boys."

Miramar has grown considerably more Jewish over time. In 1998, the city opened its first kosher store, selling falafel, the Sephardic specialty lahmajun and other delectables.

"I make the best knishes in Argentina," boasted the store's cook, Gladys Linares, who is not Jewish. "In the recent seasons we sold more than 30,000 meals, 2,200 pounds of meat and more than 1,000 pounds of chicken. We also offer kosher wine imported from the United States."

Jacobo Simantov, who owns the store, also is in charge of the city's synagogue. Beit Yaa-kov, which is open only during the summer months, makes Miramar the only beach town in the country with a summer synagogue.

On January 15, anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on the street near the synagogue, and a meeting was arranged hastily with Miramar's mayor. The crime remains unsolved, but it marks the exception rather than the rule in the town.

An event that took place on February 6 was more typical: The Jewish community organized a street festival of Israeli dance in solidarity with the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

As with past Israeli dance festivals in Miramar, the city offered public space and diverted traffic for the event.

"We really care for the Jewish community, which is critical to the development of our city," Bove told JTA.

A monument in the city's central square is dedicated to the victims of the 1994 AMIA Jewish community center bombing in Buenos Aires.

Recently the ultra-Orthodox, or haredi, presence in the city has been growing. To accommodate them, the beach spa Maui offers two rows of beach tents pitched in opposite directions so men and women cannot see each other. Next year the Tiburon resort will open a kosher grill. Coexistence is the rule in Miramar.

The prestigious *La Nacion* newspaper recently dubbed Miramar the star of the Argentine coast. If Miramar is a star, it's a Star of David. ■

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The Jewish connection to Miramar dates back to the 19th century, when a ship full of Jews fleeing persecution in Europe arrived at Argentina's shores in 1891.

servant Jews who kept kosher and took breaks from surfing to pray. Two were locals, but two came all the way from California.

In January and February, Miramar is to the Jews of Buenos Aires what Miami Beach during Passover is to the Jews of New York.

This country of 40 million has some 200,000 Jews, making the Miramar phenomenon rather rare. Located about 250 miles south of Buenos Aires and about a half-hour's drive from the famed beach town of Mar del Plata, Miramar has become a favorite summer spot for the country's Jews.

Mezuzahs are common on doorways here and restaurants in town offer Jewish fare such as kasha varnishkes and knishes. On the beach, families play Jewish games and sport Chai necklaces; even a few kipahs can be spotted there. At night, some resorts organize Israeli dance performances.

"Jews are more than tourists here," said Maria Eugenia Bove, secretary of tourism in Miramar. "They are part of the history and the future of this city. They are honorary citizens."

The Jewish connection to Miramar dates back to the 19th century, when a ship full of Jews fleeing persecution in Europe arrived at Argentina's shores in 1891. Financed by Baron Hirsch, the Pampa first landed at the port of Buenos Aires. The refugees were supposed to be housed in the province of Entre Rios, but their housing complex was not ready and the ship was ordered to sail farther south.

Eventually the Pampa's passengers were put up at the Atlantic Hotel near Miramar, a city that had been founded only three years earlier.

"The first testimony of the relationship between our city and the Jews was marked by a devastating tragedy: a high number of children were infected with a disease transmitted by birds and died here," said Carlos Pagliardini, Miramar's director of tourism. "After this incident, most of the parents moved to Entre Rios province, and while there was no Jewish cemetery in Miramar, many returned to see the graves of their children."

During the boom times in the 1950s, many of these immigrant families rose out of poverty to become middle class. For the first time they could afford to buy houses,

Calendar

April

Thursday 1

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. On days when the JCC is open during the April school breaks, the youth department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students can sign up for one or more days and should bring appropriate clothing for playing outside. A Passover lunch will be provided. \$36 for first child; \$34 additional siblings. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. *Also April 2, 7, 8 and 9.*

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 and Birthday Celebration: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with April birthdays, featuring lunch and birthday cake for family and friends at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. by a visit from a representative from Ann Arbor.com plus online demos.

Community Seder: JCC Seniors. Seder for Older Adults and their families cosponsored by the JCC and Jewish Family Services. Led by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Annie Rose. \$25 per person. 5:30–7 p.m. at the JCC. For more information, contact Merrill Poliner at merrillpoliner@jfsannarbor.org.

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

Friday 2

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. On days when the JCC is open during the April school breaks, the youth department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students can sign up for one or more days and should bring appropriate clothing for playing outside. A Passover lunch will be provided. \$36 for first child; \$34 additional siblings. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For more information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. *Also April 7, 8 and 9.*

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 popsicle oneg. 5:30–7 p.m.

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

Saturday 3

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. “Slavery in Jewish Law and Tradition.” 9 a.m.

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. 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 4

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

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

Monday 5

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.*

Passover Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Passover Yizkor Service and Lunch: TBE. 11 a.m. in the chapel.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7 p.m.

Passover Mincha Service: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 6

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. Wii sports including bowling, tennis and baseball. No sports or computer experience is required. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Passover Services and Yizkor: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

“Beyond Never Again: How the Holocaust Speaks to Us Today:” Jewish Learning Institute. Spring semester course. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Wii Fun: JCC Seniors. Intro to Wii sports. No experience or physical expertise necessary. 1 p.m. For information, call Merrill at 971-0990.

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

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Cantor Annie Rose leads a discussion of the book *Who Needs God?* by Rabbi Harold Kushner. 7:30 p.m.

Passover Mincha Service: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Passover Service: Chabad. 7:45 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 7

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. On days when the JCC is open during the April school breaks, the youth department will offer full day programs featuring field trips or special activities for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students can sign up for one or more days and should bring appropriate clothing for playing outside. Attendees should bring nut-free, meat-free lunch. \$36 for first child; \$34 additional siblings. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For more information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. *Also April 8 and 9.*

Lunch and Learn: BIC. “So This Guy on a Plane Starts to Daven...” With Rabbi Dobrusin. Noon.

Sisterhood Mahj: TBE. 1 p.m.

Thursday 8

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. On days when the JCC is open during the April school breaks, the youth department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students can sign up for one or more days and should bring appropriate clothing for playing outside. Students should bring nut free, meat free lunch. \$36 for first child; \$34 additional siblings. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. *Also April 9.*

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.

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

Health Check and Discussion: JCC Seniors. At 12:30 p.m. a registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address questions. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.) Followed at 1 p.m. by a presentation by Mae Sander on “Who Won the War Between Chop Suey and Gefilte Fish?” which refers to an article in the Jewish newspaper “Der Tog” published in the 1920s.

Sisterhood Mahj: TBE. 7:15 p.m.

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 9

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. On days when the JCC is open during the April school breaks, the youth department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students can sign up for one or more days and should bring appropriate clothing for playing outside. Students should bring nut free, meat free lunch. \$36 for first child; \$34 additional siblings. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

Mussar Class: TBE. With Judy Freedman. 10 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, Dinner and Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. followed by songs and popsicle oneg in the Social Hall.

Adult Shabbat Dinner: TBE. \$10/person. Register at www.templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Yom Ha'Shoah Service: TBE. Yom Hashoah v'ha'givurah service with Kol Halev for Holocaust Memorial Day, led by “Second Generation.” 7:30 p.m. *See article.*

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

Saturday 10

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

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. “Slavery in Jewish Law and Tradition.” 9 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. “Celebrate Israel” for 1st through 5th graders. 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. Tot Shabbat. 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. 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 11

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

Youth Group: TBE Rishonim Youth Group. Lunch at Mongolian BBQ on Main Street, followed by visit to Kilwin's Chocolates. 1 p.m.

Benefit Concert: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Performance by Charlie King and Karen Brandow, musical storytellers and political satirists who sing and write about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people in the tradition of Woody Guthrie, Malvina Reynolds, and Pete Seeger. \$15/tickets; \$50/benefactors. 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth/ St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard Street. For information or advance tickets, phone 663-1870.

Candle Lighting Minyan: BIC. Lighting of six Shoah memorial candles during regular minyan in the chapel. 7:30 p.m.

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

Monday 12

Tuesday 13

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. Wii sports including bowling, tennis and baseball. No sports or computer experience required. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

“Beyond Never Again: How the Holocaust Speaks to Us Today:” Jewish Learning Institute. Spring semester course. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Film selection is *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. With Rabbi Delson. 1 p.m.

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

Heart Health for Women: Hadassah. Presentations by Elisabeth Jackson, U-M cardiologist and Kathy Rhodes, U-M clinical dietician, on risks and treatments, and heart-healthy versions of favorite Jewish recipes. Heart-healthy appetizers will be served. 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. RSVP to Martha Young at youngmarth@comcast.net or phone 769-7523.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Led by Roger Stutesman. 7:30 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 14

Social Justice Course: JFS. Emeritus Professor Charles Garvin and JFS Resettlement Pro-

gram Director Mira Sussman lead an all-day course, “Achieving Social Justice Through Group Work,” addressing how group work process can be enhanced by a consideration of social justice issues at each stage. Short lectures, experiential exercises and role plays group discussion. \$80 per person including catered lunch. 5 CEU credits. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register online at www.jfsannarbor.org or by calling Mira Sussman at 769-0209 by April 7.

Lunch and Learn: BIC. “The Afterlife in Jewish Tradition,” with Rabbi Dobrusin. Noon.

Thursday 15

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

Discussion: JCC Seniors. At 12:30 p.m., Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker Allison Pollock, MSW, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance. At 1 p.m., Rabbi Dobrusin will read and discuss a chapter from his new book.

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 16

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 popsicle oneg. 5:30 p.m.

Camp Style Shabbat: JCC Early Childhood and Youth Departments. Families with children are invited to celebrate Shabbat and get in the camp spirit. Sing Shabbat songs and enjoy performances by the ECC and KK/KC students, and eat a camp-style Shabbat dinner. Families can also find out more about Camp Raanana from the camp director, staff members and past camp families. \$12/adults; \$6/children ages 2 and up. Reservations required by April 12. For information, phone 971-0990. 6–7 p.m.

Service for All Ages with Choirs: TBE. With Youth Choir, Middle School Shir Chadash and High School Shir Chadash. 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services: BIC. Followed by a “Sweets Tasting” oneg. 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 17

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.

Shabbat 6th Grade Session: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 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.*

Renaissance Group Outing: TBE. Attend “Ragtime” at the UM Power Center, preceded by dinner. 8 p.m.

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

Sunday 18

Beth Israel Café: BIC Women’s League. 9:30 a.m.

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

Museum Trip: TBE Sisterhood. Trip to Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills. 10 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. *Every Sunday.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Opening hike of the season in Saginaw Forest Natural Reservation. Open to all age groups. No prior experience required. For information, contact Eli at jewish.hikers@gmail.com or phone 883-9522 or 665-4744. 1 p.m.

Road Rally: BIC. Adult Road Rally. Noon.

All Ensemble Concert: TBE. Featuring Kol Halev and three young people’s choirs: youth, middle and high school. 4 p.m.

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

Monday 19

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.*

Shalom Meet and Greet: JCC. Join other Ann Arbor newcomers for bagels and coffee. A welcome package will be provided with essential information for those new to the area, including the *Guide to Jewish Life*, a complimentary six-month JCC membership, contact information for local Jewish organizations, and other information about activities in the Jewish community. For more information or to RSVP, contact Halye Aisner at 971-0990. 10 a.m.

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

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony: BIC. Community-wide ceremony. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 20

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. Wii sports including bowling, tennis and baseball. No sports or computer experience required. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

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

“Beyond Never Again: How the Holocaust Speaks to Us Today:” Jewish Learning Institute. Spring semester course. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Wii Fun: JCC Seniors. Intro to Wii sports. No experience or physical expertise necessary. 1 p.m. For information, call Merrill at 971-0990.

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 21

Lunch and Learn: BIC. “The Afterlife in Jewish Tradition,” with Rabbi Dobrusin. Noon.

Mahj: TBE Sisterhood. 1 p.m.

Afternoon Delights Concert: JCC Adults: The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra’s “Arie and Friends”

with Arie Lipsky on cello, Yehonatan Berick on violin, and Ra Jung on piano, will perform the Mendelsohn Piano Trio #1 in D minor and the Mozart Trio in B Flat for Piano, Violin and Cello. Refreshments at 1 p.m. Concert at 1:30 p.m. \$8. For information, contact Merrill Poliner at merrillpoliner@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

Meditation: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Judaism 101: BIC. Sacred Texts. 8 p.m.

Thursday 22

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; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Looking Inside Tour: Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Historic bus tour of four Detroit churches that were formerly synagogues: Temple Beth El, Shaarey Zedek, B’nai David and B’nai Moshe. Departs from Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27275 Bell Road in Southfield. \$32 for JHSM members; \$40 for non-members. Lunch included. 10 a.m. For information, phone 248-432-5517.

“Jesus and Jews:” Frankel Institute. Presentation by Jason von Ehrenbrook, UM Frankel Center for Judaic Studies scholar, attempting to complicate polarity between Jesus and Jews, considering both the relationship between the historical Jesus and first century Judaism and the ongoing interactions between the Jesus Movement (Christianity) and Judaism in Greco-Roman antiquity. 1 p.m. at the Frankel Center, 2020 South Thayer Street.

Mahj: TBE Sisterhood. 7:15 p.m.

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

Friday 23

Mussar Class: TBE. With Judy Freedman. 10 a.m.

Meditation: TBE. 1 p.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. Followed by songs and popsicles. 5:30–7 p.m.

Sixth Grade Family Shabbat Dinner: BIC. 6 p.m.

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

Saturday 24

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

Teen Shabbat: BIC. With Kid’s Kiddush and honoring of High School Seniors. 9:30 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.*

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

Sunday 25

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah

reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. The JCC of Greater Ann Arbor, in association with the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater, bring the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival to Ann Arbor for its ninth year. Showcasing 14 films and 2 “Lunch and Learn” programs over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty Street. For full festival schedule, visit www.jccannarbor.org. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10 per movie ticket. Discounted Festival Passes available. For information, contact Mimi Weisberg at 971-0990 or by email at mimiweisberg@jccfed.org. *Through April 29.*

Social Action Retreat: TBE. 10 a.m.

Library Book Club: BIC. Facilitated by Nika Bareket. 10 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.*

8th Grade Graduation and Reception: BIC. 11 a.m.

The Beth Israel Amazing Race: BIC. For Kadima and Chalutzim and USYers. Noon.

BIC Reads Community Discussion: BIC. Discussion of *The Zookeeper’s Wife*. 12:30 p.m.

Spring Grounds Cleanup: TBE. 1:30 p.m.

Movies and Discussion for Caregivers of Aging Parents: JFS. Cosponsored by Turner Senior Resource Center. View and discuss humorous, heart-wrenching and thought-provoking selections from several popular films that depict caregiving relationships. 1:30–4 p.m. at Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Road. RSVP to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at abbie@jfsannarbor.org or by phone at 769-0209.

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

Monday 26

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.*

Tuesday 27

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

“Beyond Never Again: How the Holocaust Speaks to Us Today:” Jewish Learning Institute. Spring semester course. 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 U-M and non-U-M participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster’s Café, ground floor of U-M Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Men’s Torah Study: TBE. Led by Roger Stutesman. 7:30 p.m.

Book and Film Club: TBE Sisterhood. The group will visit the Jewish Film Festival to view the film *For My Father*. 7:30 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 28

Jewish Film Festival Lunch and Learn: JCC. Featuring a discussion on the Michigan film industry. Film Festival runs all day from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the



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Calendar

Michigan Theater. For a full festival schedule, visit www.jccannarbor.org. Lunch program cost is \$8/ members; \$10/non-members. For information, contact Miriam Weisberg at 971-0990 or by email at miriamweisberg@jccfed.org. Also April 29.

Lunch and Learn: BIC. "Memories of a Dark Weekend in November 1963," with Rabbi Rob Dobrusin. Noon.

Judaism 101: BIC. Sacred Texts. 8 p.m.

Busy Women's Lunch: TBE Sisterhood. 11:45 a.m. at Logan's Restaurant.

Thursday 29

Jewish Film Festival Lunch and Learn: JCC. Featuring special guests Leila Ferault, Michael Levine and Robert Stevens discussing "Jewish Genealogy—How to Find the Family You Never Knew You Had." Film Festival all day from 8 a.m.—4 p.m. at the Michigan Theater. For a full festival schedule, visit jccannarbor.org. Lunch program is \$8/members; \$10/non-members. For info, contact Miriam Weisberg at 971-0990 or by email at miriamweisberg@jccfed.org.

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 Warschawsky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Film Festival Trip: JCC Seniors. SPICE travels to the Michigan Theater for the Jewish Film Festival's

showing of *Hello Goodbye*, a comedic account of the struggle that Alain (Gerard Depardieu) and Gisele (Fanny Ardant) encounter when they decide to embrace their Jewish heritage and move to Tel Aviv. Transportation provided by the JFS. Reservations required by 4/22. Call 971-0990 for information.

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 30

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 popsicle oneg. 5:30–7 p.m.

Friday evening services: See listing end of calendar.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at U-M Hillel. Call 994-9258 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. 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

Shabbat Candlelighting

April 2 6:39 pm

April 9 6:47 pm

April 16 6:55 pm

April 23 7:03 pm

April 30 7:11 pm


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Vitals

Mazal tov

Corry Berkooz, Joan Deas, Denise Garden, Jack Knapp and Charlene Yudowin on their adult bar/bat mitzvah on April 10.
Benjamin Blair Freedman on his bar mitzvah on April 17.
Ben and Jackie Shapo on the birth of their son, Jonathan, and their daughter, Michaela.
Matthew Orringer on his bar mitzvah, April 10.
Benjamin Ratner on his bar mitzvah, April 17.
Orin Levin on his bar mitzvah, April 17.
Daniel Schorin on his bar mitzvah, April 24.

Condolences

Paul Berkowitz on the death of his wife, Jeanne Berkowitz.
Idelle Hammond-Sass on the death of her father, Maury Hammond.
Marcelle Henley on the death of her husband, Keith, February 20.
Judi Davidson on the death of her father, Irving I. Boigon, February 25.

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Dr. Jamie Barnes is Bennett Optometry's primary care and contact lens specialist, with a special focus on glaucoma and difficult to fit contact lenses. She graduated first in her class at Ferris State University's Michigan College of Optometry in 2005. Dr. Barnes holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and did clinical rotations at an HMO/LASIK center, a Veterans Administration hospital, and a state prison. Dr. Barnes participated in a 2004 Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity Mission to help provide superior vision services to underprivileged people around the world. She is an avid runner, rollerblader, cook and world traveler. Call today to schedule an appointment with Dr. Barnes or one of our other specialists at Bennett Optometry. Bennett Optometry. The Eye Care Professionals. Good Vision, Good Health.

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If you have any questions, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 734-971-0990.