Recipe for Mega Challah, a community celebration

Mae E. Sander, special to the WJN

Ingredients for Mega Challah:

- 250 pounds flour
- 100 pounds sugar
- 15 dozen eggs
- Yeast
- Water
- 125 special aprons, bowls, and pastry brushes

Add: entertainment, refreshments, door prizes, and a sense of unity! Ann Arbor’s Mega Challah event will be September 13. One hundred twenty-five women and girls will put on their special Mega Challah aprons and measure out just the right amount of flour, sugar, eggs, yeast and water for their loaves. While participants are enjoying the seemingly miraculous result of mixing, kneading, and watching the dough rise, all will share in singing, hearing stories, and watching videos. The lucky ones will win door prizes.

Sisters, mothers and daughters, grandmothers, and friends, through their shared experience at Mega Challah, will have the opportunity to strengthen their connection with one another and the local community as well as to become aware of ties with women in other Jewish communities around the world. Esther Goldstein, Ann Arbor Mega Challah organizer, stresses, “how special it is to be a part of something so much larger than just our community.”

Guest entertainer Esther Freeman will offer songs and stories reflecting the beauty of Jewish life. She has recently performed at Mega Challah events in Texas, Florida, and other states. From the Mega Challah website: “Esther’s music ranges from slow soulful ballads to high-energy songs based on deep esoteric concepts of the Torah and life experiences, all accompanied by personal stories that intrigue the hearts of her audiences leaving them humming her tunes and always wanting more. The strength of her songs is in her meaningful lyrics reflecting a genuine passion to share the beauty of Judaism with the world.”

Registration for Mega Challah is open to all Ann Arbor Jewish women and girls over 13 years old. The event will take place at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor in the gym. Online registration, ongoing since July, is at website http://www.a2megachallah.com/. The cost is $18 in advance. If spaces are still available, cost at the door will be $25. Event sponsors are Chabad House, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, the ICC, and Akerwall Technologies, Inc.

Live Well to Feel Well

Caroline Kennedy, special to the WJN

any older adults struggle with issues such as isolation, sadness, or anxiety. But, they are not alone. Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County will offer a five-week group designed to provide individuals with skills related to living a rich, full, and meaningful life. The group is Live Well to Feel Well and is based on an approach called Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). ACT is designed to help people let thoughts and feelings come and go while they pursue what matters most to them. Participating in Live Well to Feel Well will involve one individual appointment to complete paperwork and attending weekly group meetings for five weeks during which the group will discuss skills related to accepting thoughts and feelings; living the life you want to live; and taking small steps in the direction of your most cherished goals.

This group will be facilitated by Dr. Adrienne Lapidos, a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Lapidos’s clinical interests include group and evidence-based individual psychotherapies; trauma; and behavioral approaches for chronic pain and sleep disorders. Live Well to Feel Well will begin on September 13, and run until October 11. Enroll today by calling Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County at (734) 769-0289 or carolinekennedy@jansarbor.org.

Dr. David Hirsh to speak at EMU on anti-Semitism

Martin Shichtman, special to the WJN

On Monday, September 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Eastern Michigan University Student Center, the EMU Center for Jewish Studies will present Dr. David Hirsh, senior lecturer in sociology at Goldsmiths University of London, who will talk about and sign copies of his new book, Contemporary Left Anti-Semitism. Hirsh notes that today’s anti-Semitism is difficult to recognize because it does not necessarily come dressed in a Nazi uniform and it does not openly proclaim its hatred or fear of Jews. He looks at the kind of anti-Semitism which is tolerated or which goes unacknowledged in apparently democratic spaces: trade unions; left-wing and liberal politics; social gatherings; and seminars and journals of radical intellectuals. In his book, Hirsh considers how criticism of Israel can mushroom into anti-Semitism, and discusses the various struggles over how anti-Semitism is defined. He will also address the ways in which those who have raised the issue of anti-Semitism have been accused of doing so in bad faith. The entire community is invited to attend and admission is free.

Dr. David Hirsh

Mega Challah planners with their event aprons, pastry brushes, and hats

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High Holidays

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services

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<td>Mincha</td>
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<td>Sounding of the shofar, festive meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillel</td>
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<td>Orthodox (see AAOM)</td>
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<td>Pardes Hannah</td>
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<td>Reconstructionist Congregation</td>
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<td>Children Service</td>
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<td>Temple Beth Emeth</td>
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<td>Family Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
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<td>AARTY</td>
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<td>Birthday of the World Service</td>
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<td>Break-the-Fast</td>
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<td>Yizkor (Memorial) service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillel</td>
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<td>Pardes Hannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embodied Practice</td>
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<td>Meditation</td>
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<td>Mincha</td>
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<td>Ne’ilah</td>
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<td>Reconstructionist Congregation</td>
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<td>Children’s Service</td>
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<td>Workshops</td>
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<td>Yizkor</td>
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<td>Ne’ilah</td>
<td>6:45 p.m.–7:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Afternoon Service</td>
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<td>Yizkor/Ne’ilah</td>
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Levine Fellows strengthen ties and deepen understanding on the 2017 Campaigners Mission in Israel

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The past July, three emerging Jewish leaders, Rob Stern, Mira Sussman, and Laura Udell, accompanied by Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Interim Director Eileen Freed, embarked on a journey in Israel to strengthen ties and deepen their understanding of the complex Israeli society and the organizations working on the ground to address important social welfare needs. They participated in the Jewish Federation of North America’s (JFNA) Campaigners’ Mission as the first leg of their tenure as Levine Fellows, a program generously funded by Michael Levine which aims to cultivate, engage and educate volunteers with the potential to make significant contributions to the well-being and advancement of the local Jewish community.

**Experiencing partnership**

The group began their ten days together with a visit to Moshav Nahalal, Ann Arbor’s Partnership2Gether community. They experienced warm Nahalal hospitality, explored the moshav—from the always intriguing hi-tech robotic cow shed to the British mandate period silo (secret arms cache)—and braved an unexpectedly challenging bike ride on the Partnership2Gether bike trail. The various communities in the Central Galilee including the Arab town of Ye’feya collaborated to create the bike trail, a project supported by the Jewish Federation. It has transformed a neglected area of forest into a well-used recreational area, and its construction has fostered warm partnerships between Jewish and Arab youth, volunteers, and activists, providing the Nahalalis and visitors from Ann Arbor opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations about the importance of the Ann Arbor/Nahalal partnership, engaging young adults, and the issues facing communities in Israel’s periphery.

**Experiencing partnership**

The group joined the JFNA mission and dove head first into a whirlwind of activities and learning experiences. The goal of the mission was to provide participants with tools and knowledge to be more effective campaign volunteers and professionals: to help them tell the very important story of how the Federation annual campaign fosters and sustains Jewish life in their communities, Israel, and around the world. Visits to projects developed by the Federation’s overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), demonstrated how, through the annual campaign, Federation donors and volunteers participate in the endeavor to address the serious needs of some of Israel’s most vulnerable communities.

At the JDC-supported Accessible Health Zone, participants heard from a remarkable young edel (immigrant) about her story, the obstacles she faces as she navigates Israel’s inaccessible landscape in a wheelchair, and how the Accessible Health Zone’s services helped her adjust to a new reality and become a powerful advocate for the disabled. The mission participants also participated in a highly competitive and completely unskilled game of wheelchair basketball.

With a continually widening socio-economic gap in Israel, the increasing numbers of children and youth at risk is one of the most serious social issues facing Israeli society. The group visited and engaged with some children who have a chance for a better future through their participation in JAFI’s Youth Futures program. The program’s mentors work with children, their families, their schools and the community to address individual social service and educational needs, bolster self-esteem, and provide the support to help them to become independent, constructive members of Israeli society.

Other experiences included a moving interaction with Holocaust survivors who were dealing with their painful stories through photography, hearing directly from members of the Haredi, Arab and Ethiopian communities about how their community is working to provide them with the education and resources they need to succeed in Israeli society.

**Experiencing programs addressing needs of Israel’s vulnerable populations**

The group visited the JFNA’s Children at Risk program, which uses innovative tools to reach children in distress. Through their participation in JAFI’s Youth Futures program, the group learned about the importance of the partnership between Jewish and Arab youth, and the potential for creating a brighter future for all children in Israel.

**Experiencing programs addressing needs of Israel’s vulnerable populations**

The group continued on their journey, visiting the Partnership2Gether community and engaging with young adults, and the issues facing communities in Israel’s periphery. The goal of the mission was to provide participants with tools and knowledge to be more effective campaign volunteers and professionals: to help them tell the very important story of how the Federation annual campaign fosters and sustains Jewish life in their communities, Israel, and around the world.

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Birmingham Temple declares itself Sanctuary; is TBE next?

Ken Wachberger, special to the WJN

The Birmingham Temple Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Farmington Hills, Michigan, made news this past February when the board of trustees voted to declare Birmingham Temple a sanctuary congregation, the first Jewish congregation in Michigan to do so. But many others, in Michigan and throughout the nation, are considering it seriously and could be close behind, including Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor.

The sanctuary movement is a non-partisan immigrant rights movement that has its roots in the laidback Obama administration and has picked up steam under the unhinged Trump administration. It is a call to religious congregations to declare that they will work to change unjust immigration laws and practices; and at the same time will willingly house immigrant families—or support congregations that do—being unjustly pursued until just policies can be put in their place.

At Temple Beth Emeth, support is strong among a growing number of congregants, including members of the board, the board president, and the rabbi, to become a sanctuary congregation to the highest level possible, which may mean that they would house an immigrant family facing deportation while the family was fighting its case.

Under the leadership of TBE’s new activist rabbi, Josh Whinston, and an activated Social Action Committee (SAC), a Declaration in Support of Becoming a Sanctuary Congregation was endorsed by SAC and presented to the board for approval. The spirit of the Declaration was well received. The reasons why Jews must support sanctuary were embraced.

But the phrase “even house immigrants, refugees, and others’ raised concerns for some board members. What legal and financial constraints might this put on members of the board and the congregation in general? Does the declaration of being a sanctuary congregation send a false message of safety to immigrants in the facility? Are we broadcasting a plan of action that might better be served in a less public way?

No formal vote on the Declaration was taken. Instead, the Social Action Committee was empowered, with the board’s unanimous blessing, to become active in the broader sanctuary movement and to educate the congregation on what sanctuary means, including dangers, costs, practicalities, and why Jewish history makes our support of sanctuary obvious and inevitable.

Every Jewish congregation that considers sanctuary will face these questions. Therefore, it is helpful to learn how other Jewish congregations that joined the movement came to their decisions. What motives drove their passion? What challenges did they face and how did they overcome them? How are their circumstances similar to and different from TBE’s?

Birmingham Temple becomes Michigan’s first Jewish Sanctuary Congregation

It should be no surprise that Birmingham Temple would be at the forefront of the sanctuary movement. The congregation was founded in 1963 and led until his death in 2007 by Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, whose leadership and philosophy gave birth to Humanistic Judaism.

According to Board President Charles Paul, the idea to become a sanctuary congregation was brought to the executive board by Rabbi Jeffrey Falick, examined, and determined to be worthy of the full board’s consideration. “I have been a member of the Birmingham Temple Congregation for Humanistic Judaism for over forty years. Measures like this are a basic tenet of our philosophy. I asked the same question that the rest of our board and membership asked: How could I not support this?”

Rabbi Falick adds, “We believe that it is our obligation as Humanists to preserve the dignity and human rights of all people. This includes advocating to keep families from being torn apart. As Jews we also recognized our people’s history of wandering from land to land, expelled and rejected from most places.”

A written draft of the recommendation was distributed to board members before the next regular board meeting with instructions from Paul that it would be discussed and voted upon at the meeting. “At the board meeting Rabbi Falick presented his case and I stated that it had the unanimous support of the executive board. Following Q&A, the entire board voted unanimously to approve the motion. From beginning to end, the process took about ten days.”

The congregation was informed of the decision through an email burst signed by Paul and Rabbi Falick. According to Paul, the email included the text of the formal statement and an explanation of the process they followed to make the decision. The temple’s executive director dismissed their decision at the monthly meeting of Jewish congregation active for many, many years—so much so that most people in our leadership did not know there was an issue. And we are quite small.”

Paul adds: “I personally received about a dozen very positive emails from our members. They all echoed the comments from our exec board and board members who essentially asked, ‘Why aren’t Jewish Humanistic Jews, how could we not support this?’

Meanwhile, at Temple Beth Emeth

This is the same question that sanctuary leaders and supporters at Temple Beth Emeth are asking themselves: “As Reform Jews, how can we not support sanctuary?”

But activists at TBE are going a different route in their campaign. In addition to lobbying for the eventual positive board decision, they are taking steps to educate themselves and members of the congregation, including board members:

• They have become active in Ann Arbor Jewish Sanctuary, the coalition of Jews from all congregations throughout the city as well as Washenaw Congregational Sanctuary (WCS), an emerging coalition of sanctuary supporters and organizations.

• The Social Action Committee has begun bringing experts to TBE from WCS and the sanctuary legal community to answer congregants’ questions.

• TBE was an early signer of the Brit Olam charter created by the Religious Action Center of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and is recognized by URJ as an immigrant justice congregation.

• As Board President Carol Freedman-Dolan announced in a recent monthly newsletter column, TBE joins “Reform congregations across the country in committing ourselves to ethical leadership through congregational and community-based action.” This is the first step in our congregation declaring ourselves a welcoming community for all.”

Challenges

But TBE faces challenges unknown to Birmingham Temple. For one, TBE shares its building with Packard Road with St. Clair Ecclesiastical Church. Even after the board votes to declare TBE a sanctuary congregation, if they do, TBE won’t be able to house immigrants until St. Clare’s votes its support as well. To address this issue and to explore ways to work together, members of SAC have recently begun meeting with sanctuary supporters from St. Clare’s.

Also, although they are willing, Birmingham Temple’s building lacks showers, closets, and any possibility of private bedrooms. Classrooms conceivably could be converted, says Paul, but that space is needed for classes. In addition, we have no infrastructure of volunteers to administer or manage this kind of undertaking.”

By not being able to host immigrant families due to the building’s physical limitations, Birmingham Temple avoided the fiduciary challenges that TBE will face. But, according to Rabbi Falick, such an issue would never have been a point of concern. “We do not make our decisions with an eye on the budget. As it happens, we gained members.”

Instead, the congregation—as well as individuals within the congregation—provides financial and material support for Freedom House, an immigrant rights organization that has its roots in the sanctuary movement of the eighties. In June, they co-sponsored a major Freedom House event in Farmington.

Critical legal guidance came to the temple from an attorney in the congregation whose practice is in immigration law. According to Paul, the attorney “couldn’t imagine a situation where the police would invade our sanctuary space unless one of the residents was a criminal. Anyone coming into our building would first go through a thorough background check. And we would be a very low priority for enforcement of any potential liabilities. That being said, I urge you to consult with legal representation of your own before making any final decisions. These are very valid questions your board members are asking.”

Rabbi Falick elaborates: “The one member who left said if it’s illegal we shouldn’t do it. We categorically reject that argument. All social justice movements engage in non-violent ‘illegals’ civil disobedience. The nonprofit status issue was not a real issue. No ‘religious’ organization has ever lost its nonprofit status for something like this. Very few have ever lost it at all.”

Families they will support through sanctuary must be through referral from Michigan United and only after consultation with the temple’s immigrant attorney expert. TBE’s main and relatively minor physical limitation is its lack of a shower system, a shortcoming that can be easily remedied, though not without substantial renovation costs, in the downstairs restrooms, which are already set up to have showers even though they don’t actually have them yet.

This means that TBE still has to explore liability, legality, costs, and other issues that come with housing a family. SAC’s educational campaign will focus heavily on these issues.

Meanwhile, in our nation’s capital

One congregation that did already deal with these issues is Temple Sinai, in Washington, DC. The decision to declare to the sanctuary congregation was a fitting one given their social justice history and their proximity to our nation’s capital.

According to Gary Friend, president of the temple’s board of trustees, many members work in the federal government, in Congress, in local government, or on behalf of organizations involved with public policy issues. As a result, they are acutely aware of major public policies and their consequences.

“Also, we are a relatively liberal congregation and, being in Washington, DC, felt the emotional unrest after the election and an inherent call to action on issues adverse to social justice. When a social justice issue emerges, more times than not, there are active members of the congregation—clergy, lay leaders, members—engaged in the issue already. Many of us became concerned about the actions of the new administration on immigrants and, therefore, felt a call to action being around a sanctuary.”

According to Friend, the whole process that culminated in a board vote only took a few months thanks to the thoroughness of Rabbi
Jonathan Roos, who introduced the conversation to the officers and then the board; and two members of the congregation who are experts on immigration law.

“To the extent that there was a dissenting view, there was the concern that what we were doing would be seen as a political move, not a social justice move. In the spirit of how we work, dissenting views were discussed. At the end we were a single voice in support.”

Numerous factors made administering sanctuary easy, not least of which was a building that already had logistical resources and an infrastructure that included a shower, bathroom, full kitchen, and a room that could be converted to a living space, making start-up costs minimal.

Discussion got more intense around the subject of who would be eligible to be a sanctuary family. “We narrowed eligibility to an individual or a family, not just anyone. If another temple calls about another person, unless the person passes the connection process, we would likely not take them.”

Financial risks were deemed to be small enough to not offset its social justice import. The cost to take in a family was modest because the infrastructure was in place already. “The cost to take in a family was modest because the infrastructure was in place already.”

Practical risks: “We asked, what is the risk of someone with a connection to the temple and no criminal record. So Temple Sinai is a low target. There are thousands of places that ICE would raid before they pound down the door of a synagogue for someone whose documentation is not current.”

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Effect on nonprofit status and liability: “To the extent that we spent material time thinking about sanctuary’s effect on our nonprofit status or on our liability, the issue was whether or not individuals on the board would be personally at legal risk. Having immigration experts in the room was tremendously helpful. And, we consulted with our liability insurance company and found that being a sanctuary did not require any changes to our current policies. The list of recommendations to follow was short and relatively straightforward to implement in the event we house an individual or family.”

Concern of parents with children: “The heads of the nursery school and the religious school were represented in discussions. The fundamental point we made was that we would not be housing a criminal. The issue was more about how you feel about social justice, not that we’re housing a bad person.”

Support from the congregation was near unanimous. “The reactions are more questions from members who want to understand more about the issue. To my knowledge, no one was ideologically against the notion.”

Temple Sinai published their decision on their website and through internal communication to temple members. In addition, Rabbi Roos published an editorial explaining the temple’s sanctuary decision in the Washington Post.

Calling attention to “years of stalled negotiations in Congress on comprehensive immigration reform,” he writes: “We now face a political and cultural moment marred by xenophobia and anti-immigrant violence. The government’s stated goals of building walls and increasing enforcement have already broken up families and forcibly removed productive, long-standing members of our communities. As a community of faith, our course of action must transcend politics. When people’s lives are at stake and it is within our power to interfere, we are compelled to act.”

Members of Temple Beth Emeth may be coming to the same conclusion.
The 2017–2018 Frankel Institute Fellows
Kelsey Robinette, special to the WJN

What did ritual baths and synagogue furniture feel like for the ancient Judai? Are the rituals that were used still practiced? What kinds of objects did healers use in antiquity, and in what kinds of places did they perform their healing? How did material economic conditions affect Jewish ritual expertise in the ancient world? How did the ancient rabbinic conception of the natural world?

The answers to these and many other fascinating questions will be explored this fall, when a distinguished group of fellows of the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies will gather around the theme of “Jews and the Material in Antiquity.” They will be led by Head Fellow Rachel Neis, Jean and Samuel Frankel associate professor of rabbinic literature.

The 2017–2018 Frankel Fellows represent a wonderful range of scholarship and accomplishment, explained Neis, “including people with expertise in archaeology, art history, ancient history, rabbinics, early Christianity, and comparative and ancient religion. These scholars, working across diverse fields and topics in antiquity, will bring their rich backgrounds to bear upon questions relating to Jewishness and the material. They will be researching objects, buildings, and artifacts, as well as the ways that the ancients thought about matter more broadly.” After writing her first book on the sense of sight in ancient Rabbinic Judaism, Neis came to propose this topic through her ongoing interest in the interconnectedness between objects, space, and embodiment. Currently writing a one-credit class on rabbinc “biography” and reproductive thought, Neis puts the rabbis in conversation with ancient perspectives onto the natural world.

“From the reproduction of species to the architecture of knowledge and the embodiment of the divine, Frankel fellows will be exploring new ways of understanding the ancient world and how those who lived in it interacted with the objects around them,” stated Director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Jeffrey Veidlinger. “We are excited to welcome twelve scholars from around the world to work with faculty and students at the University of Michigan and to present a series of public events that will make the ancient world more accessible to all of us.”

Established through a generous financial contribution from the Jean and Samuel Frankel Jewish Heritage Foundation, the Frankel Institute provides annual fellowships for scholars and artists around the world to conduct research on a given theme. Since its establishment in the academic year of 2007–2008, the Frankel Institute has helped advance Jewish studies globally and has nurtured cutting edge scholarship in the field, hosting just over 140 Institute Fellows. Additionally, the Institute offers lectures, symposia, art exhibitions and musical performances to the public.

The 2017–2018 Frankel fellows and their fields of research are:

- Todd Berzon, Bowdoin College, “Holy Tongues: The Materiality of Language in the Religious World of Late Antiquity”
- Rick Bonnie, University of Helsinki, “Material Religion in Hasmonean-Roman Judaism: The Role of the Senses, Space, and Climate in Determining the Use of Synagogues and Maqsurot”
- Sean Burras, Metropolitan Museum, “Image and Empire: Jewish Identities and Visual Arts under Rome”
- Catherine Chin, University of California at Davis, “Life: The Natural History of an Early Christian Universe”
- Deborah Forger, University of Michigan, “God’s Embodiment in Jewish Antiquity”
- Chaya Halberstam, King’s University College at the University of Western Ontario, “Justice and Mercy Revisited: A Religious-Legal History of Judicial Impartiality”
- Rachel Neis, University of Michigan, “The Reproduction of Species: Humans and Other Materials in Ancient Rabbinic Biology”
- Megan Nutzman, Old Dominion University, “Ascetipus and Eliajfb: Ritual Healing in Roman and Late Antique Palestine”
- Daniel Picus, Brown University, “Ink Sea, Parchment Sky: Reading Practices of Late Ancient Rabbinic”
- Michael Swartz, Ohio State University, “The Economics of Ritual in Judaism in Late Antiquity”
- Juan Tebea, Catholic University of Argentina, “Fluid Cultural Boundaries in Idumaean and the Formation of Jewish and Idumaean Identities”

JCLP welcomes five new faces
Paige Walker, special to the WJN

The Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) at the University of Michigan School of Social Work welcomes the start of the new semester, and with that, the five new faces of the Class of 2019. Over the next 20 months, their journey will include rigorous academics and training in social justice, management, community organizing, interprofessional practice, and Judaic studies. During their time, students will have access to courses and professional development opportunities through the School of Social Work, including a one-credit class on Jewish philanthropy.

They will also take advantage of offerings through the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Leadership in Community Benefit Organizations program, Ross School of Business, and Ford School of Public Policy. JCLP is excited about the variety of strengths, interests, and experiences the incoming cohort brings with them.

Emily Cloch, originally from Deerfield, Illinois, is a 2016 graduate of the University of Michigan. She received her bachelor’s degree in cultural anthropology and minor in Community Action and Social Change. Currently, Cloch is a counselor with a wilderness therapy program based in Salt Lake City, Utah where she leads teen groups. She plans to study Interpersonal Practice with a focus on Children and Youth.

Ali Duhan, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, comes to JCLP from Jackson, Mississippi, where she has spent the past two years as an Education Fellow with the Institute of Southern Jewish Life. She is excited to learn through JCLP about the changing landscape of American Judaism and the role that small-town Jewish life can play in the broader Jewish world. She plans to study community organizing and community and social systems.

Daniel Kaplan, originally from Highland Park, Illinois, graduated from Wellesley College in May 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in Race and Ethnic Studies. Since March 2014, Kaplan has worked as a community organizer with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago. As a JCLP student, Kaplan looks forward to learning about leading Jewish social justice organizations with efficacy, integrity, and rootedness in Jewish history and values. He plans to study management and community and social systems.

Jordyn Rosenzweig is from Detroit, and plans to study Interpersonal Practice with a focus on Children and Youth.

Rachel Wall, originally from Mountain View, California, comes to JCLP from the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor where she has held the position of office manager since June 2014. She received her bachelor’s of science degree in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University. She plans to study management and community and social systems.
Second Golf Outing a big success

Laurie Cohen, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor hosted its second annual Golf Outing for Youth Scholarships Monday, August 14, 2017, at the Polo Fields Golf and Country Club of Ann Arbor. The 32 sponsor organizations, prior golfers, donors, and scholarship donors, along with 60 golfers helped create a light-hearted atmosphere for the scramble style event, which included several contests: Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Beat the Pro.

The event was created by three community members who golf and who also have served or are currently serving on the Ann Arbor JCC’s board of directors, Jonathan Goldstein, Bruce Moyer, and Roberta Tankanow, to raise funds to offset the nearly $50,000 provided by the JCC to community families who request help to afford its Early Childhood Center and Camp Raanana programs.

The cost of high quality early childhood education and high quality summer camp can be prohibitive for many community families, yet it is necessary for many families to employ these kinds of services to enable them to comply with day care regulations. Currently, the Ann Arbor JCC has no specific fund or endowments specifically dedicated to providing these families with financial assistance, yet provide assistance it does. According to David Stone, Executive Director, “the scholarship funds come directly from the Ann Arbor J’s operating budget. We don’t have any specific source for these much needed funds so we never know how that’s going to impact us. We aren’t going to stop helping families who need it, so we needed to find a way to help offset the cost. ‘The golf outing is the first step.’

Camp Raanana’s Assistant Director Clara Saltovez-Bair, and Director of Child and Family Services Perez Hirshbein agree that the experiences these programs provide are central to strong childhood development and a strong community. Hirshbein notes that, “a major predictor of educational success is attendance at a high quality preschool, and the ECC also impacts a child’s identity development because of the wide range of Jewish experiences that we provide. Our community is stronger because we have a strong preschool program and because we help families in all kinds of financial circumstances take advantage of the opportunity to send their children here.”

Saltovez-Bair has built Camp Raanana around major Jewish values and says that, “Jewish camp is a proven link between Jewish childhood experiences and a strong adult Jewish identity. While the kids are having a great time developing important life skills, they are also immersed in Jewish values like respect, kindness, creativity, friendship, and community. Their experiences at Camp inform their characters long after their camping days are done.”

Stone and Director of Operations Clara Silver, supported Goldstein, Moyer, and Tankanow in their efforts, securing the venue and providing the professional support to register golfers and solicit sponsors. The committee expects to continue building on its two previous successes and supporting even more families in the future with a tentative date of Monday, August 13, 2018 for next year’s outing. Tankanow says, “everyone had such a great time this important cause, and it was just fantastic to see everyone come out and support our kids.” For information on making a donation for this year’s scholarships or on next year’s golf outing, contact Clara Silver, director of operations, at clarasilver@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990.

JFS provides vital human services

Laurie Cohen, special to the WJN

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program at JFS has served thousands of students from more than 40 countries. Jewish Family Services received a generous donation of 50 Detroit Tigers game tickets from the Tigers Foundation. This summer, ESL refugee students and their families enjoyed a wonderful afternoon exploring Detroit and cheering on the Tigers.

The ESL program offers instruction at various levels of English language proficiency, including beginning, intermediate, and advanced, as well as test-taking and work-related English skills for the advanced speaker. Classes emphasize the communicative approach to language learning while building life skills, focusing on building speaking skills through self-expression and communication. ESL program at JFS is more than a language training curriculum. It is also designed to provide students with social, cultural, and practical skills.

ESL students enjoy Tigers baseball game

Laurie Cohen, special to the WJN

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Supporting Older Adults through Clutter Assistance Program

Diane L. Fenske, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County participates with The Hoarding Task Force (HTF) of Washtenaw County—a group of dedicated community professionals whose target audience is individuals dealing with clutter and hoarding issues. Individuals referred to the HTF are often older adults, with their primary goal to remain safely housed.

"Too much stuff”—clutter and hoarding—is becoming increasingly recognized as a problem everywhere in the U.S., affecting more than 1.5 million people. Collecting items to excess creates chaos, and the subsequent lack of functionality in the home setting.

JCC’s Second Annual Blood Drive a success

Rachael Hoffenblum, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor partnered with the Washtenaw County chapter of the American Red Cross to host a summer blood drive this past July. There is generally a higher need for blood donations in the summer as regular donors go out of town, and this year was no exception. Thanks to the 26 individuals who regist
A Negev ‘Pitch Night’ for new start-ups also solves local problems

by Megan E. Turner, JNF report

On a balmy summer’s eve in Be’er Sheva, the excitement in the air was palpable at Jewish National Fund’s Laufer Employment Center as 19 entrepreneurs shared their concepts for social change with a crowd of more than 250. Each took the stage in what was billed as a local “Pitch Night.” With only 30 seconds to sell their idea, these budding business leaders summarized the past six months of hard work on their unique ideas into just a few, fleeting moments. Even more exciting, the best pitches of the evening were awarded seed money to help get their business off the ground.

With its sweeping vision to develop Southern Israel, Jewish National Fund has created myriad opportunities for residents in the Negev Desert region including finding good jobs and jumpstarting careers. The Laufer Center also helps to guide social entrepreneurs, formulate business plans, and teaches business skills to assist budding start-ups with the means to see their ideas come to fruition. As a byproduct, entrepreneurs often end up addressing unique social problems within their communities throughout the south.

“The people coming to us have the desire to make society better,” explained Maor Elkayam, director of HaMeitz in Be’er Sheva, one of the Laufer Employment Center’s partners. The ideas they are cooking up include a wide range of fields: education, culture, sustainability, health, and social housing, and they are headed up by Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, and young and old.

One of the pitches came from the Visitor’s Educational Center for Ethiopian Jewish Culture and Heritage in Yerucham, a Negev development town founded in the 1980’s that hadn’t seen growth for more than 50 years. The center aims to dispel the stereotype of Ethiopian Jewish Israelis as “the other” by bringing traditional Ethiopian Jewish culture to the wider Israeli society in an accessible and experiential way, with the center itself being a traditional Ethiopian gojo village house.

“If you are able to bring someone into your home, they see the culture and the tradition through different eyes, with a different mindset,” said entrepreneur Matuk Almu, 33, and father of three. “It is this type of conversation that deepens cross-cultural understanding.” The center also aims to strengthen Ethiopian identity with the younger generation born in Israel. “We want our kids to feel the culture and carry it with pride.” By creating a space for dialogue and cross-cultural experience, Almu and his team are striving to tackle racial prejudice and stigmas that so sharply affect the Ethiopian community.

The Pride House of Be’er Sheva and the South also gave their pitch to give the LGBTQ community in the Negev a safe haven for community, assistance, advocacy, and support. “I didn’t study medicine,” Osnat Glikstien, 24, entrepreneur of the Pride House, said, “but I
Celebrate Shavuot 2018 in Israel with the Ann Arbor-Nahalal Women’s Experience

Ayelet Shapiro, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is pleased to announce the Ann Arbor-Nahalal Women’s Experience in Israel, May 17–28, 2018.

Since 2007, Ann Arbor has developed a special relationship with Moshav Nahalal, as part of the Michigan/ Central Galilee Partnership 2Gether project. The Women’s Experience is a fantastic opportunity to experience the power of this partnership and to participate in a unique journey in Israel together with the women of Nahalal. The trip will include time in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and a deep exploration of the central Galilee—its cuisine, wineries, art, culture and natural beauty. The program will include participation in Nahalal’s legendary Shavuot celebrations and meaningful conversations about Jewish identity and issues important to women in Israel and the US.

One of the most prominent projects of the partnership has been the Ann Arbor/Nahalal Student Exchange. Now in its eleventh year, over 100 Ann Arbor-area teens have visited Nahalal and hosted reciprocal visits. “My sons participated in the Student Exchange and experienced Nahalal’s warm hospitality and the power of making close connections with their peers in Israel,” said Women’s Experience planning committee chair Liz Wierba. “I am excited to work with our committee and counterparts in Nahalal to offer this meaningful experience to the women our community.” The planning committee includes Carey Sherman, Ellysa Koidin Schmier, Eva Solomon and Laurie Barnett.

As of press time, specifics about the trip, including departure dates, destinations, and program cost, are still being finalized. Visit www.hadassah.org for more information.

ORT America Opening Tea

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Fall Event provides an opportunity to learn about ORT America’s important work supporting World ORT’s schools and high-tech training programs. The tea also provides an opportunity to meet old and new friends and to learn about the Ann Arbor chapter’s activities, including the popular Book Group. For more information about ORT Ann Arbor, please check the website, www.ortannarbor.org.

For many students, ORT training is a transition to a satisfying career. For the 300,000 students ORT serves annually in over 37 countries, an ORT education makes all the difference. A suggested donation of $10 will help support ORT. Rides are available if needed. RSVP to Joan Levitt at jlevitt2@gmail.com by September 15.

Levine Fellows, continued from page 3

Maxine Solvay, special to the WJN

The campaigners had an opportunity to visit with international leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin, as well as professionals working in the field and meeting with current students in the Levine Fellows program.

For more information, contact sperlove@umich.edu.
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Kol Nidre .............. Sept. 29 7:00 PM at the JCC
Yom Kippur .......... Sept. 30 6:00 PM at the JCC
Break-the-Fast .... Sept. 30 2:00 PM at the JCC
Potluck

For ticket information, contact:

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Federation

Federation announces its Fall Campaign events
Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is proud to announce two exciting autumn events to kick off its 2018 Annual Campaign.

The Major Gifts event will take place Monday, October 2, at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and will feature Jeff Goldman, an Emmy Award-winning producer and reporter for CBS News and PBS News Hour. In “Covering the White House from Reagan to Trump: An Insider’s Retrospective,” Goldman will provide attendees with his unique perspective of current events as well as both serious and humorous anecdotes from his career covering six Presidents over 34 years. Having traveled the world with Secretaries of State from Colin Powell to Hillary Clinton, Goldman has been an eyewitness to major historical events, including both Gulf Wars, the election of Nelson Mandela, and the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

The Major Gifts event is co-chaired by Carey and David Sherman and Cindy and Scott Kellman. “We are truly fortunate to have a speaker who will provide his unique insider perspective on events from inside the White House and Air Force One,” said Carey Sherman. Individuals or families who pledge at least $5,000 to support the Jewish community through a gift to the 2018 Annual Campaign are invited to participate.

With an amusing and tasty twist, this year’s Main Event will feature comedian Joel Chas- noff and two-time Chopped champion, Israeli chef Einat Admony. On Monday, November 6 at Washtenaw Community College’s Towley Auditorium, the two will combine forces to present Belly Laughs, an evening of comedy, stories, inspiration, and the “best darn baklava on this side of the Mediterranean.” In 2012, Ad- mony and Chasnoff teamed up to write Rafa-boons, an award-winning cookbook featuring Admony’s Mediterranean recipes and hilarious anecdotes about what it takes to make it as an Israeli chef in New York. Guests will be laughing and noshing their way through the evening with dishes prepared straight from the cookbook.

The Main Event has become an anticipated community event bringing together people from across the Jewish community to be entertained, educated and/or challenged. It is also an opportunity to reflect with pride on how, through the important work of our local, national and international partners, our community fosters and sustains Jewish life in Ann Arbor, in Israel and around the world.

For more information about either of these events, visit our www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Max Glick at max@jewishannarbor.org, or (734) 677-0100 x228.
Comfort and challenge

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

As I write this article, we are preparing to celebrate the Shabbat known as Shabbat Nahamu, the Shabbat of comfort. Shabbat Nahamu is the name given to the Shabbat after the fast day of Tisha Bav, the 9th of Av. On that Shabbat, the reading from the Prophets, the Haftarah, is taken from the book of Isaiah and begins with the words Nahamu Nahamu Ami, “Be comforted, be comforted, my people.” Isaiah seeks to comfort the Israelites whose parents and grandparents had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylonia following the destruction of the first Temple. He assures them that they will return to Jerusalem, a prophecy which became a reality with the return to the land and the building of the 2nd temple.

By the time this issue of the WJN reaches you, we will all have moved on from the Shabbat of comfort and will be well into the month of Elul, the month of preparation for the High Holy Days. As the rabbis tell us in the first chapter, the world stands on three pillars: The three pillars are: 1. The study of Torah 2. Service to God (sacrifices in the Holy Temple when it stands, but for now it’s our prayer services) 3. Acts of kindness—charity, helping someone in need, etc.

Since on Rosh Hashanah we prepare the world for the upcoming year, we want to make sure that we are doing our part to see that the world is on firm and steady pillars. Therefore, it’s appropriate that during the month of Elul we should make extra efforts to ensure that the three pillars upon which our world stands are strengthened and secured through extra efforts on our part. We start out with the study of Torah. During Elul, one should increase their study of Torah. This directive is indicated in the name of the month. If we take the letters of Elul—aleph, lamed, vav, lamed it makes an acronym of the words enah hayah v’amati lach, which means, if something negative happens to come your way God will show you a way to protect yourself. The Torah is speaking here of a city of refuge—the original “sanctuary city” elucidated in the Torah where a person who, God forbid, commits an accidental homicide can be safe from the avenging family. The Torah prescribes that there be six of these cities to which people can run to be spared the revenge of the aggrieved family. That is on the physical level. On the spiritual level, if a person doesn’t treat their soul properly, they need protection while they are facing for the wrongdoing. The study of Torah provides this sanctuary. That’s the first pillar, the pillar of Torah study that we should increase during Elul.

The next pillar is avoda, the service to God. What does that have to do with Elul? In the “Song of Songs” we express our love to God and God to the Jewish people. In Hebrew there is a famous phrase taken from this song—“Ani l’dodi vli’dodi le”—“I to my beloved and my beloved to me.” That is the relationship between God and the Jewish people. It is a two-way relationship—the love of a Jew to God and the love of God to a Jew. The aforementioned acronym for Elul is also applied here. The four Hebrew words begin with the same four letters in the month of Elul—aleph, lamed, vav and lamed. This pillar we do via our service to God. In the times of the Holy Temple it was by the sacrifice services. Today, without the Holy Temple, our services consist of our prayers that we give from ourselves to God. That is the second pillar, the pillar of service to God and we should increase our prayers in quantity and in quality during Elul. There are a couple of customs that help us accomplish this. One is the twice-daily recitation of Psalm 27. We find the Elul connection with the Hebrew word litaah. The second custom, which was instituted by the Ba’al Shem Tov, the founder of the Chasidic movement, is to increase the recitation of all of the book of Psalms. He suggested, that starting from the first day of Elul, we recite three chapters of Psalms per day all the way up to the eve of Yom Kippur. Then, during Yom Kippur, we recite 36 chapters that adds up to 150 chapters—the complete book of Psalms. Our sages tell us that the recitation of Psalms creates great effects in the spiritual world and in that merit God will give us a good year.

The third pillar is acts of kindness. We find in the Book of Esther, words regarding giving to the poor and giving gifts on Purim. In the story of Esther, one should give to one’s friend, u matanot leyeyim—one should give gifts to poor people. The acronym of these two phrases is the word Elul. So this is another reason why we increase our charity and other acts of kindness during the month of Elul beyond what we normally do.

In addition to the three pillars that the world stands on we have two more aspects pertaining to Elul. One is Teshuvah—repentance. We should increase our repentance to God. In Deuteronomy we find the phrase “But you must return to the Lord, your God. For the Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in lovingkindness; he does not turn aside from anyone who turns to Him.” 11 We find in the book of Psalms, our sages tell us that the recitation of Psalms creates great effects in the spiritual world and in that merit God will give us a good year.

The High Holy Days are a time to seriously consider the course of our lives, to evaluate where we can change for the better. The world stands on three pillars: The study of the Torah, service to God, and acts of kindness. By the time this issue of the WJN reaches you, we will all have moved on from the Shabbat of comfort and will be well into the month of Elul, the month of preparation for the High Holy Days. We are instructed by our tradition to dedicate this month to teshuvah, repentance, considering our actions of the past year and thinking about the judgment represented by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The High Holy Days are a time to seriously consider the course of our lives, to evaluate where we can change for the better.

The third pillar is acts of kindness.
Despite this nightmare, we will defeat hate

By Sonya Lewis

Last night I dreamed that I was trapped inside my synagogue while dozens of neo-Nazis surrounded the building, all pointing semi-automatic weapons toward the windows. Those of us inside were terrified and confused, scrambling together for cover. The dream seemed to go on forever. It was the kind of dream in which you wake up briefly, return to sleep, and realize that the action has continued without pause; the kind of dream for which the clarity of daylight typically provides reassurance that these horrific events could never happen in real life.

Only in this case, I am now wide awake, haunted by my nightmare, realizing that in this Trumpian era in which bigots are emboldened, activated, and armed, the events of my dream cannot be dismissed as fantasy. Over the past two weeks in Ann Arbor, we have had a bomb threat at Jewish Family Services, we saw our local skate park defiled by swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti, and we experienced hateful vandalism at a popular gay bar. Hatred has penetrated my city, a liberal and loving enclave that is relatively insulated from the bigotry that has erupted across the nation.

While I don’t think that our local synagogues will ever be threatened in military fashion as they were in my dream, I do know that the values represented by our buildings and institutions are increasingly under siege. Trump’s rise to power is the expression of long seething fear and hatred that pre-dated his candidacy, and now finds wider acceptance as he pours gasoline on the flames of intolerance. Trump did not create the fire-breathing monster, but he is very much responsible for its growth and proliferation.

I’m not offering any solutions here, except my usual call for each of us to do our part to counteract hatred with large and small acts of love, compassion and activism (which may indeed be the only solution). We can defeat hatred, and we WILL do so. However, in the process, we must steel ourselves for a prolonged battle against menacing forces that threaten us day and night, even in our dreams.
**TBE September events**

**Families with Young Children (FYC): Tot Shabbat Service, Every Friday**

September 1, 8 and 15, 5:45 p.m., TBE Sanctuary 5:45 p.m., Tot (0-5 year olds) Shabbat Night and with Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut 6:15 p.m. Dinner for Tot Shabbat 6:45 p.m. Shira Service

All of your favorite songs led by TBE’s tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Levy. Join in for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, apple sauce and a salad bar immediately following the service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

**Step Up Shabbat for 1–5 grades**

Fridays, September 8, 15, and 22, 5:45 p.m., TBE Chapel

TBE’s new Shabbat experience for children in first through fifth grades that will take place parallel to Tot Shabbat. Rotating services led by Rabbi Joshua Whinston, Cantor Regina Lamberti-Hayut and Rabbi Daniel Alter.

**Welcome Back Welcome, New Member Shabbat**

Friday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.

Summer is officially over and the new liturgical year begins again at TBE.

**Meet and Greet for new Education Director Rabbi Daniel Alter**

Saturday, September 9 from 9:30-10:15 a.m. or 10:35-11:40 a.m.

Stop by TBE and meet incoming education director Rabbi Daniel Alter.

**Weekly Lunch & Learn**

Fridays, September 8, 15, and 22, noon – 1 p.m., TBE Adult Lounge

Rabbi Whinston meets for Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch.

**High Holy Days “How To” with WTBE**

Sunday, September 10, 5:30 – 7 p.m., TBE

The Women of TBE (WTBE) is sponsoring a group of four lay-led holiday workshops. The first one scheduled for September 10 will cover the Holy Days. During the fun-filled session, history, common foods and customs will be reviewed. Each participant will learn to shape a turban challah and take it home to bake and freeze for their holiday meal.

**Shabbat Achat:** One Community Shabbat

Friday, September 22, TBE Sanctuary; 6:30 p.m. Dinner for Shabbat Achat, 6 p.m.

Don’t miss the Shabbat Achat service for the entire community! All ages — come one come all for One Shabbat led by Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut. There will be a Shabbat Achat on the fourth Friday of each month. Join in for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, apple sauce, and a salad bar immediately preceding the service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office. Note the 6:30 p.m. start time for services on Shabbat Achat.

**Torah Study**

Saturdays, September 2, 9, 16, and 23, 8:50 a.m.

Everyone is invited to this weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston.

**Chapel Service**

Saturdays, September 2, 9, 16 and 23, 10 a.m., TBE Chapel

Join in for this Saturday Shabbat service led by Rabbi Whinston or Cantor Hayut.

**Women’s Torah Study**

Monday and September 11 and 25, 7 p.m.

An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week’s Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org

**Men’s Torah Study**

Thursday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

A men’s Torah discussion group will be led monthly by Rabbi Whinston on the 4th Monday. Participants will find their way as men by wrestling with text. For more information, contact Bill Parkus at parkus@comcast.net.

**Shalom Gever, Jewish Karate**

Tuesdays, September 1 and 5, 4 p.m. Fridays, September 8, 12, 19 and 26, 4 p.m. Register today for Health, Healing and Self-Defense. Try out this unique martial arts instruction including lessons in how to live a healthy lifestyle, be energetic, do well in school and learn anti-bullying self-defense. 12-week semesters for belt advancement. Drop-in when schedules permit. Enrollment is open for students and adults. Shalom Gever is taught by Rabbi Peter Gluck, 5th Degree Black Belt and martial arts instructor for 21 years. Contact the Temple Beth Emeth office at 665-4744 or Rabbi Gluck, info@shalom-gever.org, for more registration information.

**Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit**

Thursdays, September 7, 14 and 28, 1 p.m., TBE Chapel.

For practitioners of all levels. Intention and instruction followed by 30-minute silent meditation. Facilitated by SooJi Min and Quyen Epstein-Ngo. Shalom TBE is TBE’s executive director. She completed a 16-month mindfulness teacher training program sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and the Awakened Heart Project. Quyen Epstein-Ngo is a therapist who holds a joint doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology and Women’s Studies. One of the areas she specializes in is working with adolescents, adults, and couples on issues of faith and spirituality. Contact SooJi Min with questions, 665-4744.

**Washtenong Memorial Park Open House and Dedication**

Sunday, September 17, 10 a.m. – noon

Tour TBE’s additional cemetery site located at Washtenong Memorial Park, 3771 Whitmore Lake Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Have your questions answered by members of TBE’s cemetery committee. Rabbi Joshua Whinston will lead a brief dedication service during the Days of Awe this year.

**Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation**

Wednesday, September 20, 7-8 p.m.

SooJi Min, special to the WIN

**TBE welcomes Rabbi Alter as new school head**

SooJi Min, special to the WIN

On July 1, 2017, Temple Beth Emeth welcomed its new director of Religious Education, Rabbi Daniel K. Alter. He will lead the Terri A. Ginsburg Religious and Hebrew School, named for his predecessor whom she recently retired after 21 years. Rabbi Alter joins TBE as a newly ordained rabbi, graduating from the Hebrew Union College in San Pedro, CA. He previously served as a rabbinical student in Beverly Hills, CA. In his fourth year, Rabbi Alter served as the student rabbi on a naval base in China Lake, California.

His congregation consisted for the most part of retirees from the base, and his few students at the religious school included elementary students, toddlers, and additionally, an adult preparing for conversion. In his sixth year, he worked at B’nai T’Shuvah, the only Jewish residential addiction recovery center in the country, located in Los Angeles. This exceptional program serves people of all faiths who were looking for a spiritual pathway to recovery. Beit T’Shuvah combines Jewish teachings as well as 12-step and other programs to help the residents meet their goals.

During a visit to Ann Arbor earlier this year, a group of congregants enjoyed a preview of Rabbi Alter’s enthusiasm and educational style. Rabbi Alter’s great-grandfather founded a business in Beaumont, Alter’s Gem Jewelry, which today is managed by Rabbi Alter’s father. Rabbi Alter’s mother has a masters in social work and is very active in the community, volunteering for Family Services. Rabbi Alter identifies the following as his parents: to see everyone as equal, without labels or distinctions. Rabbi Alter serves on the board of the Jewish Community Foundation, which manages the Jewish Community Foundation, which today is managed by Rabbi Alter’s father. Rabbi Alter’s mother has a masters in social work and is very active in the community, volunteering for Family Services.

**High Holy Days Adult Education**

A Jonah Teaching & Discussion, Presented by Rabbi Whinston

Session B: Thursday, September 7, 12:30 p.m. or 7 p.m., TBE’s Adult Lounge

Prepare for the High Holy Days with an adult ed class and open discussion on the origins, meaning, and continuing relevance of the book of Jonah. Session B will explore the relevance and meaning of Jonah in Jewish tradition and today. Mix and match sessions in whatever way you’d like. Study materials available, but not necessary to attend, participate and enjoy.

**High Holy Days, Prayer Prayer Book Session**

Thursday, September 14, 7-8 p.m., TBE Get a preview of the new High Holy Day Prayer Books, Mishkan HaNefesh, to be used during the Days of Awe this year.

**Weekly Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation**

Tuesday, September 5, 12, 19 and 26, 21 p.m., TBE Family Room next to Sanctuary.

Yin yoga is a slow-paced style of yoga with postures, or asanas, that are held for long periods of time. Sessions are led by SooJi Min. Bring a yoga mat, blanket, props if needed, water and wear comfortable clothing. Contact SooJi Min, sijnim@templebethemeth.org with questions.

**WTBE Fiber Arts Group**

Monday, September 18, 7-9 p.m.

Anyone interested in Fiber Arts: knitting, crocheting, and crafts are welcome. Meet new people and have fun with the Women of TBE. This group will be contributing to the Israeli Peace quill. (All materials for the project provided by WTBE.) Contact Bobbi Heilvel for details at (734) 276-5741 or bobbiheilvel@gmail.com.

**Soul Art**

Thursday, September 14, Noon

Led by Annie Rose, TBE’s cantor emerita. Everyone is welcome to the new season of TBE’s Spirituality Book Club. This year the group will be reading six books over the course of nine months. Feel free to come to the Tuesday night sessions or the Thursday afternoon sessions. Registration is not required, but it is helpful to the planning to know how many people may come: cantorannie@gmail.com.
**THE ART HOUSE CONVERGENCE PRESENTS**

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**Arie Lipsky, Music Director and Conductor**

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**BROADWAY • BERNSTEIN • BRAVISSIMO!**

**9.16**

8 P.M. / Hill Auditorium

Celebrate the music of American icon Leonard Bernstein for his 100th birthday. Enjoy the best from Gershwin, Rossini, Puccini, Mozart, Verdi, Bernstein, and Porter. Direct from Broadway, the Met, and the Kennedy Center are Lucas Meachem and Detroit native Jacqueline Echols.

**Special Guests:**

Jacqueline Echols, Soprano
Lucas Meachem, Baritone
Adrian Wyard, Visual Choreography, Pictures at an Exhibition

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**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra**

**Music in the Key of A**

**Arie Lipsky, Music Director and Conductor**

**OPENING NIGHT GALA:**

**BROADWAY • BERNSTEIN • BRAVISSIMO!**

**9.16**

8 P.M. / Hill Auditorium

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Learn about Medicare coverage, how to pay for prescription drug costs and more.

To make a gift to Jewish Family Services, go to www.jfsannarbor.org/donate
TBE celebrates 25th anniversary of Ray McLellan's service as musical accompanist

Robin Little, special to the WIN

This month, TBE celebrates the 25th anniversary of Ray McLellan joining us as the musical accompanist for services, choir rehearsals, and concerts. In September 1992, Ray McLellan was hired as the organist at TBE to accompany Friday night services. During these 25 years, he has worked with Marilyn Krimm, Cantor Emerita Annie Rose, and Cantor Regina Hayut. Over that time, said Cantor Hayut, "He has developed a deep understanding of Judaism that is apparent and meaningful in his work with us.

McLellan had a wide array of musical training, studying piano, organ, and carillon. He grew up in Florida, receiving his bachelor's degree from Florida Southern College. McLellan came to the University of Michigan in 1980 for master's and doctoral degrees in Organ Performance. The carillon was a cogitate for the doctoral degree. After he completed the DMA in 1994, he studied at the Netherlands-Carillon School in Amersfoort. He has been the University Carillonneur at MSU since 1997 where he performs and teaches in their School of Music. McLellan has given carillon recitals on the U-M campus, playing the Baird Carillon in the Burton Tower and the Ann and Robert Lurie Carillon on North Campus. On August 7, he performed on the Lurie Carillon in a diverse program that included original music for the carillon, "Maple Leaf Rag," and arrangements of "Hava Nagila" and the Yiddish classic "Oyfn Pripetshik.

McLellan was raised in the United Methodist Church, but he has worked at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Monroe since 1985, where he directs their music program and volunteer choir. He plays for masses, weddings, and funerals. McLellan says, "Over the years, I have learned that the Catholic liturgy descended from the Jewish liturgy, and of course both religions have the Old Testament in common. It's more meaningful when you understand the connections." Many congregants have noted how engaged McLellan is during services, reading and chanting prayers, and singing along, even when he isn't playing the piano.

As a member of Kol Halev, McLellan traveled on the choir trips to Eastern Europe in 2004 and Argentina in 2007. He recalls that "Traveling together really strengthened our Kol Halev community." He remembers the experiences fondly, but jokes that the honky-tonk pianos in Bucharest and Moisesville should not have survived the Second World War.

Cantor Emerita Annie Rose worked with McLellan throughout her 20-year tenure at TBE and commented on his flexibility: "Sometimes, it's not possible to set a spirituality, and consequential existence exactly as one might wish. This was the case in several of our concerts in Europe and Argentina, where the piano was behind a pillar, or even behind the choir, yet I never even thought about McLellan missing a beat or dragging the tempo. His ability to listen and to trust the other musicians is mighty.

Choir members appreciate McLellan's patience with them as they learn new repertoire. He often leads sectional rehearsals, "always with a smile and an easy going attitude," according to Ronnie Simon, member of Kol Halev and past TBE administrator. Cantor Hayut concurs: "McLellan brings warmth and humor to Kol Halev rehearsals. He is my right hand – I could not run rehearsals successfully without him."

TBE will honor McLellan at "Welcome Back Shabbat" services on Friday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. The entire Jewish community is welcome to join TBE for services and a special oneg afterwards. For more information, contact the TBE office, at (734) 665-4744.

Congregations

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation welcomes new rabbi

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) is delighted to welcome its new Rabbi, Ora Nitkin-Kaner, starting on September 1.

"We were looking for someone who could lead engaging and inclusive services, provide pastoral support, and help our community grow," explains AARC board chair Debbie Field. "Rabbi Ora led a Shabbaton for our congregation in the summer of 2016, and we were extremely impressed by her thoughtful service leading and teaching by her warm, empathetic presence. We are looking forward to welcoming her and helping her to find a home with us."

Born and raised in Toronto, Rabbi Ora learned to love and wrestle with Judaism at home, in Hebrew day school and at the University of Toronto. As part of her rabbinical training, she worked as a student and sabbatical rabbi in synagogues in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. During her final year of rabbinical school, Ora served as the Beit Linder Rabbinic Intern at West End Synagogue in New York City. Rabbi Ora was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) in 2016.

Prior to entering the RRC, Rabbi Ora spent the years of 2008-2010 in New Orleans as a fellow of the Jewish service corps organization, Avodah. There she worked with the organization Resurrection after Exonation which was founded by death row exonerate John “JJ” Thompson. Following her ordination in 2016, Rabbi Ora returned to New Orleans and spent the past year working as a chaplain in a local hospital.

Below, Rabbi Ora shares thoughts about her recent experiences in New Orleans and her plans for leading the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation.

Eisbruch: Tell us about your chaplaincy work in New Orleans.

Rabbi Ora: This past year working as a chaplain at East Jefferson General Hospital has been hard and emotionally rich. Most of my work is with oncology patients, which means that I am often sharing pastoral conversation, reflection, and prayer with people facing their own death within months or even weeks.

On one occasion, I was called to the death of an elderly woman who had suffered from dementia for years. Prior to her dementia, the patient had been a difficult and harsh parent, and had had trouble expressing affection to her daughter. I was present as the patient’s daughter stood at her dying mother’s bedside. The daughter stroked her mother’s forehead over and over for hours, and, crying, reassured her mother, ‘It’s ok for you to go. I’ll be ok. You can go now.’

One dynamic I have observed in hospital chaplaincy is that regardless of faith tradition, patients often approach their deaths in ways similar to how they lived. For several months I visited a patient whose family and early relationships had taught her to repress her more difficult emotions so that she would not ‘push people away.’ As she grappled with the news that she would likely die within a few weeks, I witnessed her dancing around her coming death, sometimes engaging and sometimes retreating, as was her way. It seems that if we are lucky and we get the chance, even dying can offer a heart-wrenching opportunity for growth, not only for ourselves but also for our loved ones as we take leave of them.

Eisbruch: How has the chaplaincy work impacted you?

Rabbi Ora: Much of the work of a good chaplain happens inside. During my work this year, I have been challenged to remain emotionally present and compassionate towards patients who are abusive, violent, racist, or anti-Semitic; I have set clear and appropriate boundaries with patients whose mental or physical illnesses cause them to want to break down boundaries between themselves and others; I have been challenged to be empathetic without being consumed by another’s grief or my grief for them; and I have mourned the losses of patients whose lives touched mine, often deeply and often briefly, before they died.

Eisbruch: What are you most looking forward to as you start your Rabbinical work with the AARC?

Rabbi Ora: I have been so moved and impressed by AARC congregants’ joyful commitment to vibrant and creative Jewish life in Ann Arbor. These are folks who have full time jobs, families, and diverse responsibilities outside of AARC, but they consistently make time to dream and create meaningful Jewish experiences for themselves and others. I am excited about being in community with such thoughtful and curious Jews.

Eisbruch: What are you bringing to Ann Arbor from your experience with the New Orleans Jewish community?

Rabbi Ora: I am looking forward to building and growing relationships between AARC and other local synagogues and Jewish organizations. When I first moved to New Orleans in 2008, I was struck by how the city’s synagogues had really come together to support one another in the wake following after the levees’ failure in Hurricane Katrina. I began attending Beth Israel, a Modern Orthodox shul whose building had been destroyed in the storm, and whose services were ‘temporarily’ housed in Gates of Prayer, a large reform synagogue. This temporary arrangement ended up lasting several years, until Beth Israel raised funds to build a new synagogue on property purchased from (and adjacent to) Gates of Prayer. This was such a sweet model of collaboration, and it is one that I believe does not have to be precipitated by a natural disaster! There can be a lot of joy and meaningful friction when Jews of different denominations and backgrounds come together to learn and eat and pray, and I am hoping there will be many opportunities for this kind of cross-community building in Ann Arbor as well. I am also looking forward to establishing and deepening relationships with local non-Jewish faith communities.

Eisbruch: What do you expect to be your first areas of focus as Rabbi for the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation?

Rabbi Ora: I will be focused on listening closely to the needs and dreams of the AARC community: what congregants are hopeful and hungry for, what their pastoral, spiritual, and educational needs are, what kind of leader they want for themselves, and how they want to grow as individuals and as a community. I am looking forward to offering and sharing soulful, song-filled services, vibrant Jewish learning, a commitment to local and national justice issues, and a spirituality that is nourishing and potentially transformative.

For more information about the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, visit http://aarecon.org/
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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

HOWARD MARKEL DISCUSSES HIS BOOK THE KELLOGGS: THE BATTLING BROTHERS OF BATTLE CREEK
TUESDAY, SEPT 12 • 7-8:30 PM
From U-M Professor Howard Markel comes the story of America's empire builders John and Will Kellogg. Join Dr. Markel for a delightful evening as he discusses his critically-acclaimed new book The Kelloggs: The Battling Brothers of Battle Creek; two extraordinary men whose lifelong competition and enmity toward one another changed America's notion of health and wellness. This event includes a book signing and books will be for sale.

ACTOR/WRITER JON GLASER DISCUSSES COMEDY AND HIS CAREER
SUNDAY, SEPT 17 • 1-2:30 PM
DOWNTOWN 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Spend a fun afternoon with actor and writer Jon Glaser as he discusses television and his comedy career. He played Councilman Jamm on Parks and Recreation and Laird on HBO's Girls. Other TV credits include Inside Amy Schumer, Louie, and Curb Your Enthusiasm.

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Washtenaw Jewish News

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Happy Birthday to the World celebration for families with children

Sarah Klein, special to the WJN

Families with children aged 7 and younger are invited to join Beth Israel Congregation and PJ Library for a Happy Birthday to the World celebration! This free event will take place at Galil Park on Sunday, September 24, from 10 a.m.–noon. Families will enjoy an interactive story experience, make shofar kazoos, and have fun in birthday party activities. In addition, families can participate in “tashlich”—an activity traditionally done during Rosh Hashanah when kids and parents can think about all the things they have done wrong during the year and throw them away into a body of water. (Tashlich is the Hebrew word for “casting out.”)

PJ Library sends free Jewish children’s books to families across the world every month. They know that something magical happens when parents sit down together to read with their children. PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help a family talk together about values and traditions that are important to them. In case of rain, the event will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. There is no charge for this event. To reschedule or for more information, contact Sarah Klein, BIC program director, at sklein@bethisrael-aa.org, or call (734) 769-1651.

Mussar classes return to Ann Arbor

Roann Altman, special to the WJN

A n introductory class in Mussar will be offered this fall through Beth Israel Congregation. The course, A Season of Mussar I, is based on materials developed by Dr. Alan Morinis, dean of The Mussar Institute (TMI).

The spiritual practice of Mussar provides a guide for living a more meaningful life, one filled with more skillful relationships and greater equanimity. As participants become more aware of their behavior through a study of Jewish sources dating back to the 10th century, they begin to experience powerful changes and growth.

The foundation of Mussar is the study of soul traits (middot) that underlie one’s behavior. Examples of traits include Honor, Patience, Strength, and Trust. The 13-week program includes an introductory session followed by six sessions, each focusing on a soul trait (middah) for two weeks. Participants receive reading materials and exercises electronically prior to each biweekly group meeting. In the weeks following each group meeting, participants meet informally at a time and place of their choosing for more in-depth study.

Group meetings will be held on Monday evenings from 7:45–9:15 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation on the following dates: October 16 and 30; November 13 and 27; December 11 and 26 [Tuesday]; January 8.

Facilitators of the course will be Roann Altman and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin.

The cost of the program, including all materials and exercises, is $136 per person, payable directly to The Mussar Institute. To enroll in the program or to obtain additional information, email roann@umich.edu or call her at (734) 483-8352. Enrollment must be completed by Tuesday, September 26, to ensure timely receipt of the study materials prior to the first class meeting.

Adult Hebrew classes

Adult Hebrew Classes and Drop-In Registration Join an Adult Hebrew class this fall to gain new skills while making great friends! Classes are co-sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth and Beth Israel Congregation, and will begin the week of October 16. Tuition for the 12-week session is $180 for members of either BIC or TBE, $200 for non-members, and $50 for full time students. Potential students are welcome to stop by the BIC social hall on Monday, October 2 from 5–7 p.m. At this informal Drop-In Registration, BIC Director of Education Cindy Saper will be available to answer any questions and help students determine which class best meets their needs. For more information, contact school@bethisrael-aa.org or (734) 769-2041.

Complimentary tickets for High Holidays for newcomers, graduate students and full-time medical residents, and special dues for those 35 and under

Individuals and families who have moved to Washtenaw County since last Yom Kippur, may request High Holiday tickets at no charge as Beth Israel’s way of welcoming them into the local Jewish community. Graduate students and full time Medical Residents with I.D.s may also request free individual tickets. Request forms for Rosh Hashanah must be submitted by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, and by September 28 for Tom Kippur, and no tickets can be provided immediately prior to any service.

People who are 35 years old or younger may become members at a special rate of $300 for the whole family for their first year of membership (plus USCJ dues assessment of $37.25).

Tickets for the High Holidays are provided free of charge to all members of Beth Israel in good standing. Non-members may purchase tickets for the High Holiday Services, although no tickets are required for the Erev Rosh Hashanah Family Celebration for Young Children. Those interested in further information are asked to call the synagogue office at (734) 665-9897. All High Holiday ticket and Membership forms are found on the Beth Israel website, www.bethisrael-aa.org.
Cultural Jews find meaning in High Holidays

Julie Gales, special to the WJN

The High Holidays ask us to take stock of our year, our lives, and our community. Jews of every cultural or religious background engage in this process of reflection and renewal, and make a yearly course correction to reconnect with our personal, professional, and communal goals.

The traditional, rabbinic view of the High Holidays is steeped in awe and terror. An omnipotent Yahweh undertakes an annual judgment of humanity, rendering an initial verdict on Rosh Hashanah and a final verdict on Yom Kippur. In the face of Yahweh’s terrifying presence and power, the safest human response was to appear as humble as possible. Appeasement ceremonies, including prayer, fasting, wearing torn clothing, and weeping were all ways to supplicate before God.

The Haskalah or Jewish Enlightenment, out of which Secular Humanistic Judaism grew, undermined the old belief framework of the High Holidays and weakened the overwhelming sense of dread. Notions of divine record-keeping and supernatural rewards and punishments were questioned by the new rational inquiry. Modern-thinking Jews revised their prayers and dispensed with some rituals entirely because they were deemed less compelling or seemed to be an unnecessary deprivation.

Some secular Jews regarded any celebration of the holidays as too religious and were likely to neglect them altogether. Why do cultural Jews observe the High Holidays today when some of our immediate ancestors rejected them? We realize that the High Holidays, precisely because they are personal rather than national, have a special significance for Secular Humanistic Jews.

If human judgment replaces divine judgment, and if human power becomes the alternative to divine power, then Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur become perfect vehicles for celebrating a humanistic philosophy of life. It is appropriate for Jews to reflect on the moral quality of their behavior and to make decisions to improve it. It is also appropriate to revitalize rituals, customs, and ceremonies when they enhance our observance and celebration and are compatible with our values and philosophy.

Introspection and goal setting are traditional. They are also humanistic. The High Holidays provide the occasion for cultural Jews to restate our belief in personal responsibility. They are not a punishment or threat, but an opportunity for each of us to reset our moral compass.

The Jewish Cultural Society, Washtenaw County’s Secular Humanistic Jewish community, will be observing Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur at their home in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and Tashlich at Island Park. For more information and times of these observances, call (734) 975-9872 or go to www.jewishculturalsociety.org.

Whether the emergency is a terrorist attack or a heart attack, the paramedics of Magen David Adom, Israel’s emergency medical response and blood-banking agency, save lives in Israel every day. As we enter the new year hoping for peace, we must continue to prepare for routine and terror-related emergencies.

If you’re looking to make a difference for Israel and secure the nation’s health and safety for the coming year, there’s no better way than through a gift to MDA. Please give today. Shanah Tovah.
Apply for Federation 9th grade Student Exchange Israel trip

Ayelet Shapiro, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is accepting applications for the 2018 Ann Arbor/Nahalal Student Exchange trip to Israel taking place December 27, 2017–January 7, 2018.

Now in its eleventh year, the Student Exchange offers 9th grade students the opportunity to spend part of their December break in Israel at Ann Arbor’s partnership community Moshav Nahalal. Participants are hosted in the homes of their peers. They spend the week with their hosts attending school, touring the Central Galilee, visiting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and creating lasting and meaningful relationships with their new friends.

This trip was the best experience of my life. I spent only 8 days with our Nahalali’s but by the end of the trip, I felt like I had made lifelong friends,” commented Yakirah Mitchell, Student Exchange cohort of 2017.

The Ann Arbor teens will have the opportunity to re-circulate by hosting their Israeli peers during Sukkot in late September 2018.

The Ann Arbor Moshav Nahalal relationship is an integral part of the Michigan/Central Galilee Partnership project. The two communities have developed a deep connection based on mutual values and shared interests, such as environmental and ecological conservation, social justice, and diverse and creative religious expression.

For more information, contact Ayelet Shapiro at ayelet@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 677-0100 ext 220.

Aiva Zoldan’s winning photo on display in Tel Aviv

Cindy Saper, special to the WJN

Aiva Zoldan, photograph, The Art of Religion, was selected as a winning entry in the Jewish Lens@Beit Hafutsot Photo Competition. Zoldan’s photograph, along with other winning entries from nine different countries, is currently featured in an exhibition at Beit Hafutsot – The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv. The exhibition opened in August and will be on display until January 2018. Aiva is the daughter of Andre and Yael Zoldan. Zoldan created her piece as part of her studies as an eighth grader at Beth Israel Religious School. Teacher Alana Goldstein, also a graduate student in the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at University of Michigan, led students in discussions and activities on themes of Jewish values and community using Jewish texts and photographs. For the contest, students chose a favorite photo they had taken, and reflected on the photo by writing a title and caption. At their graduation ceremony these photos were displayed anonymously and everyone in attendance voted for their favorite three photos to compete in the international photo competition.

The Jewish Lens curriculum (www.jewishlens.org) and the contest on the theme “My Connection to the Jewish People” were developed in partnership with renowned photographer Zen Ozeri. The other winners of the local competition are Maarz Bareket, son of Nika and Zevi Bareket; and Max Perry, son of Julie and Ron Perry.

A description of the photo “The Art of Religion” by Aiva Zoldan

Albert Einstein once said, “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.” I believe in science but I also believe in God and my religion. This siddur is an image of my feelings. It is neither lame nor blind. It is more. It is my spirit, my belief. It is special to me. When I was very young, before I could read, before I could understand the text in this siddur, I would flip through the pages pretending to follow along. My little sister does the same. This taught me that life is not about knowing, it is about growing. I started out flipping through the siddur, now I read as it is pray, I have grown. But I wouldn’t have if I hadn’t started out like I did, not knowing but trying. I have grown. I have grown in my understanding of science as well. I know that science and religion are intertwined. Just as this siddur is intertwined with my life.

Youth

PJ Library connects more and more Jewish families with Jewish life

Jessica Gillespie, special to the WJN

The D. Dan and Betty Kahn foundation awarded a grant jointly to the both the metropolitan Detroit and Ann Arbor communities to participate in the Grinspoon Foundation’s flagship program, PJ Library®, which provides free books to families raising Jewish children all over the world. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor hosts this area’s PJ Library® program, as well as PJ Our Way® for older elementary school aged children, and has used these and other funds to register families and provide professional engagement support via PJ Library coordinators. Jessica Gillespie, who also works as the Ann Arbor JCC’s Family Programs Coordinator, Under Gillespie’s stewardship, PJ Library® registration has grown by over 100% in the past year. This leap in subscribers demonstrates that Ann Arbor Jewish families are seeking tools to help them engage their children in Jewish life. PJ Library® recognizes this need nationally, and continues to expand offerings “beyond the envelope,” and families, in turn, are embracing these new opportunities.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor was selected as one of only 33 communities nationally to participate this past summer in the second stage of the PJ Get Together pilot grant program, which provides PJ Library® families with funding to organize and implement their own Jewish themed “get togethers.” PJ Library approved and funded 28 proposals from families in the Ann Arbor area. Out of the 33 communities nationwide, the Ann Arbor area had the 13th highest number of families approved and the highest percentage of families reached overall at 13.9 percent.

Seeing the success of the PJ Get Together grants, Perez Hirshbein, director of Child and Family Services, and Gillespie wanted families to be able to continue engaging in Jewish life and participating in Jewish experiences with their friends and neighbors in the comfort of their own homes on an ongoing basis. Hirshbein and Gillespie applied and received a Harold Grinspoon Foundation Engagement Grant of $8,000 to launch Shabbat @ Home, a program which will help families both create Shabbat experiences for their children as well as host others to participate. David Stone, executive director, said, “The Ann Arbor JCC is honored to receive this grant and thrilled to be part of the global PJ Library family of communities reaching more than 125,000 families.” Grinspoon engagement grants are designed to build social connections among families and engage them in Jewish life, programming, or learning. The 12 winning proposals ranged from ongoing neighborhood meet-ups to Shabbat-themed workshops and dinners and were chosen through a competitive process open to organizations implementing PJ Library® across North America.

The success of PJ Library® is significant in its impact on participants. A survey of 800 families who participated in last year’s grant-funded projects showed huge engagement: 85 percent of families connected socially during the programs; 64 percent of families followed up with the social connections afterward; 76 percent of families sought out or attended other Jewish programs; 99 percent would recommend the programs to friends. “PJ Library’s impact goes well beyond the more than 170,000 books we send out each month across the United States and Canada,” said Jadi Wisch, director of community engagement for PJ Library. “We have worked closely with our local partners for years to help advance Jewish family engagement, and now we are able to add financial support to help ensure the success of great initiatives.” Part of a five-year strategy to expand Jewish engagement in North America, these grants are funded through the PJ Library Alliance. Partners in the Alliance are the Aziriel Foundation; Carl and Joanne Bianco; William Davidson Foundation; Jim Joseph Foundation; William and Audrey Farber Philanthropic Fund; Diana and Guilford Glazer/Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles; the Marcus Foundation, Inc.; Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation; Sussman Family Trust; Walter, Arsee, Sarah, and Aaron Winschell; and two anonymous partners.

The results from PJ Library’s 2016 Triennial Family Study included several key takeaways. “This evaluation sought to understand who PJ Library Families are; different types of families have welcomed PJ Library into their homes and that it plays an important and meaningful role in their Jewish lives” (note from the Executive Summary From Jewish Books to Jewish Life: Results from the PJ Library’s 2016 Triennial Family Study). One PJ Library subscriber stated, “PJ Library brings Judaism into our house in an active way and gives us an opportunity to connect to a culture that we lost connection with.” Locally, 85 percent of PJ Library families in the Ann Arbor area say that PJ Library has made them more interested in Jewish traditions, values, and/or customs and 87 percent say it has been a valuable parenting tool. In addition, 94 percent of local participating families say that PJ Library has supported them in building upon or deepening their friends and neighbors in the comfort of their own homes on an ongoing basis. Hirshbein and Gillespie applied and received a Harold Grinspoon Foundation Engagement Grant of $8,000 to launch Shabbat @ Home, a program which will help families both create Shabbat experiences for their children as well as host others to participate. David Stone, executive director, said, “The Ann Arbor JCC is honored to receive this grant and thrilled to be part of the global PJ Library family of communities reaching more than 125,000 families.” Grinspoon engagement grants are designed to build social connections among families and engage them in Jewish life, programming, or learning. The 12 winning proposals ranged from ongoing neighborhood meet-ups to Shabbat-themed workshops and dinners and were chosen through a competitive process open to organizations implementing PJ Library® across North America.
**Susan Horowitz named assistant JCC Early Childhood director**

**Claire Silver, Special to the WIN**

Susan Horowitz, a long-time early childhood educator at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, has been named the assistant director of the J’s Early Childhood Center (ECC) as of September 1. Horowitz has already been fulfilling the functions of the assistant director over the summer, and has been a teacher at the ECC since 2006, serving the past four years as the head teacher for the ECC’s Infant and Toddler program. Horowitz earned a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from Nova Southeastern University and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. According to Horowitz, “This position will be so valuable to both me and the center. I’m excited to have the opportunity to spend more time developing teachers, working with families, and overall, improving the excellence of our program.”

Horowitz recently completed the Jewish Community Center Association of North America’s (JCCA) first Sheva-Covenant Directors Institute alongside 18 other rising Jewish early childhood education leaders. As part of her Directors Institute experience, Horowitz earned the national director’s credential, AimExcellence. The Directors Institute is a three-year long program aims to develop high quality leadership in the field of early childhood education to ensure excellence in programming in the field and address anticipated leadership shortages.

According to ECC Director Peretz Hirshbein, “Susan is such a passionate advocate for excellence in Jewish early childhood education, and there is nothing that she loves more than helping others to nurture that same passion in themselves. I am looking forward to working even more closely with her to support our families and teachers as we strive to make every moment meaningful for the children in our program.”

The Early Childhood Center at the JCC has been providing high quality early childhood care and education to the Ann Arbor community for over 25 years. Its mission is to provide a safe, warm, child-centered Jewish learning community where children and adults explore ideas, develop skills, and gain knowledge together. For more information about the ECC, contact Peretz Hirshbein at peretzhirshbein@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990.

**EMU Professor Jeff Bernstein**

Lisa Carolin, staff writer

Jeff Bernstein, who teaches a variety of political science courses as well as a master’s level statistics course at Eastern Michigan University, has become known along with faculty member Marty Schichman as the creators of EMU’s Jewish Studies Program, which they started five years ago. “So many people at EMU don’t have much awareness of Jewish people or culture,” said Bernstein. “There’s a lot of education to be done.”

Jeff Bernstein grew up in Brooklyn then Long Island where he attended a Conservative synagogue. He was involved in Hillel as an undergraduate student at Washington University in St. Louis, and then moved to Ann Arbor for graduate school at the University of Michigan.

When he started to run out of funding, he worked part time at EMU, which turned into a full time job as a faculty professor of political science. He is now in his 20th year.

“EMU is a university of opportunity,” said Bernstein. “It attracts nontraditional students, many first generation college students. The faculty can work closely with students and is rewarded and valued for doing that. It’s enabled me to have the kind of career I wanted.”

He has been directing the master’s program, but stopped doing so in August. He looks forward to being able to teach more because he enjoys his time in the classroom.

Bernstein and his wife Lisa, a teacher, live in Ann Arbor. Their son Zachary, 17, is a senior at Pioneer High School, and their son Solly, 12, is a student at Tappan Middle School.

“I go to Beth Israel Congregation and was president for two years earlier in the decade,” said Bernstein. “It’s a critical part of who I am.”

As far as living in Ann Arbor goes, he feels fortunate.

“I like living in a progressive community,” said Bernstein. “People talk about living in a liberal bubble. It’s dangerous politically because it makes us lazy and our political judgments biased. But I’m grateful to live in such a tolerant, open-minded place.”

Although he’s lived in Ann Arbor for 26 years, Bernstein has not lost his love for New York, especially the New York Mets, whom he still follows. His biggest gripe about living in Ann Arbor is, “I wish you could get a good bagel here.”

On the subject of his work, Bernstein is proud of what he is doing at EMU, especially being part of the Jewish Studies Program.

“We’ve done some good things to create a Jewish presence,” he said. “I think we’ve been very successful.”

**Patty Benson, volunteer extraordinaire**

Lisa Carolin, staff writer

Patty Benson’s strong commitment to volunteering is an important part of who she is. At 62, she has stepped away from her career as an occupational therapist and devotes much of her time to volunteer work for Jewish Family Services in Ann Arbor.

Her first volunteer job at JFS was in the Partners in Care Concierge (PICC) program, in which she accompanies older adults to medical appointments.

“It is an opportunity to assist in making sure that client concerns are expressed and their questions answered while providing emotional support and companionship,” said Benson.

She was invited to join the JFS board, which she did from 2012–2016.

“I got to know people in the agency better and highly respect the staff and their hard work and dedication,” she said.

During that time, Benson began volunteering as a citizenship tutor working with individuals seeking citizenship.

“People have different circumstances, and I get to see the work it takes to become a citizen, especially when English isn’t your first language,” said Benson. “It continues to be a pleasure to learn their history and observe their resilience.”

She works with young adults up to seniors from countries including Yemen, Togo, Iran, China, Russia and Mexico.

Recently, Benson has gotten more involved in the Resettlement program, where she is the volunteer coordinator of donations.

“Trump’s executive order has affected a number of refugee families arriving and being resettled,” she said. “There are whole families whose travel was cancelled. The agency was prepared to resettle 300 individual refugees this year, but that was before the executive order.”

“One of our tasks is to spread factual information about refugees,” said Benson. “The vetting process is very extensive. It’s been a real frustration that misleading information has been spread to the public. Many refugees have given up their homes and possessions to be able to travel. It’s heartbreaking.”

One of Benson’s duties is to coordinate community and congregational drives for supplies, and she praises the community for its response.

Benson is one of Temple Beth Emeth’s representatives for JFS’s Welcome Wagon program, which is a key part of helping refugees being resettled. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers in the program including a need for professional mentors, interpreters, house warmers, office workers, business mentors, cultural orientation instructors, food pantry assistants, job coaches, and school ambassadors.

“We’ve had hundreds of volunteers go through orientation,” said Benson. “It’s a real interfaith effort. It’s inspiring to meet so many generous people.”

Benson was born and raised in Ann Arbor and attended Eberswhite and Dicken elementary schools, Slauson Middle School, and Pioneer High School. She spent a year at Michigan State University, then attended and graduated from Eastern Michigan University when she decided to become an occupational therapist. She spent many years working at Chelsea Hospital.

Benson is married to Brian Chodoroff, a physicist. They have 24-year-old twin daughters, Clare, who is starting a physician’s assistant program, and Laura, who has an early elementary teaching degree and works as a substitute teacher.

Benson also spends a lot of time with her mom, who is 96, and lives in Dexter.

As far as religion goes, she said, “I was raised in the Lutheran Church. When Brian and I married in 1987, we became members of Temple Beth Emeth, and our daughters grew up there and had a wonderful experience. We are honored to be members of such a vibrant congregation.”

When it comes to volunteering, Benson said, “I’m reminded of how much I take for granted. I am humbled to work side by side with the volunteers and clients. They inspire me with their resilience and incredible spirit.”

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On Another Note

A conversation with Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Maestro Arie Lipsky
Sandler and Emily Slosarvits, staff writers

I've been writing a monthly column on Jewish music and musicians for WJN since 2004. I've had the great good fortune to be able to enjoy an enormous range of music, and to talk with many of the fabulous musicians who have played the concerts I've attended, and made the recordings to which I've listened. I'm not ready to hang up my Mac computer yet, but I am delighted to bring my daughter, Emily into another aspect of my family business.

Emily has been joining me on stage, playing music with me and with my brother, Laz for about 15 years now. She has grown into a remarkable singer and violinist—I know, I know, proud papa talking—but there's plenty of independent corroborating evidence supporting my claim. Since graduating from college, Emily has begun doing some of the same kind of freelance writing for local publications that I've been doing for many years. While she has chosen to follow in my footsteps in music and now in writing, she is also following, creating, her own path. So this column will change. I want to thank you for indulging me all these years, and ask you to welcome Emily to the pages of the Washtenaw Jewish News.

Finally, allow me kvel for a bit. Besides being a musician and a writer, Emily has also developed a love for all aspects of theatre. Because of her, our family has seen as many plays and musicals as concerts in the last few years. She has also been singing and playing music, and acting in a number of local theatre productions. She will be in a couple of upcoming productions of the Spinning Dot Theatre Company, a children's theatre company specializing in the works of internationally acclaimed writers. For more information about these two shows, The Oregling and This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing, please visit SpinningDot.org.

Hello, WJN readers! Emily here. From now on, I will be continuing my dad's coverage of music events and musicians in the area, but I'll be bringing my own interests into the column as well. In addition to the music writing, my articles will also focus more on theatre. I'll preview and review local and visiting theatre performances, and profile local, national and even international theatre artists. In the interest of full disclosure, I should tell you that since I am a full-time musician and actor, I may occasionally write about shows in which I am involved. However, I will not toot my own horn playing the violin. As a result, music in our family was more than an art form—it meant life, existence and a bright future.

On Another Note

Rabbi Alter, continued from page 13

Arie Lipsky

WJN: Did you choose material based on soloists you wanted to bring in, or did you choose the material first and then the soloists?
Lipsky: Usually, I plan the season including the solo pieces and concerts. Then, I envision the artist who will play them best. There are soloists who specialize in classical repertoire like Mozart and Beethoven. Others concentrate on Romantic concerti like Tchaikovsky and Brahms. It is a fascinating process.

WJN: I'm a big musical theatre fan, my dad is a big opera fan; your opening night gala on September 16 has something for both of us to look forward to. What was the impetus behind "Broadway, Bernstein, Bravissimo"? What special gifts do Jacqueline Echols and Lucas Meachem have that will make them uniquely suited to the material?
Lipsky: Jacqueline Echols and Lucas Meachem bring a unique vocal versatility to our stage. Both feel at home singing opera repertoire as well as musical theatre standards. I'm sure that our audience will be mesmerized as both singers switch from Rossini, Mozart and Verdi to Gershwin and Cole Porter. What fun!

WJN: The Ann Arbor Symphony does a lot with outreach in the community, from special children's instrument petting zoos to afternoon chamber music concerts at the Jewish Community Center. Can you talk about what it means to you to educate, and to share your love of music outside the concert hall?
Lipsky: One of the missions of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra is to nurture the love of music in community members of all ages through excellent performances. We are committed to, and proud of this vision—whether playing to the toddlers in kinderconcerts, family concerts, youth concerts, side by side concerts, ensemble and maestro visits in schools, senior centers concerts and of course our main stage concerts.

Arie Lipsky

WJN: You have quite a diverse and interesting program for this 2017/18 season; which are the concerts you are particularly excited about?
Lipsky: It's like asking me which of my children I like the most...each of the concerts poses a special challenge, has its own emphasis and musical highlights. I tried to create a season of concerts that complement each other to create a very wholesome musical experience for the audience and to the musicians. We are so fortunate to have such a great orchestra in Ann Arbor, an orchestra that is at home in the core classical repertoire as well as in popular music, an orchestra which is compared regularly to the best international orchestras which Ann Arbor is so lucky to host. Highlights of the season include the beautiful and evocative Verdi Requiem, the rarely heard poignant Symphony No. 15 by Shostakovich and of course the music from Star Wars...

WJN: Would you talk about what it means to you to educate, and to share your love of music outside the concert hall?
Lipsky: I'm a big musical theatre fan, my dad is a big opera fan; your opening night gala on September 16 has something for both of us to look forward to. What was the impetus behind "Broadway, Bernstein, Bravissimo"? What special gifts do Jacqueline Echols and Lucas Meachem have that will make them uniquely suited to the material?

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Calendar

September 2017

Friday 8

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Step Up Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shira from 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Shabbat Service from 7:30–9 p.m.

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

Saturday 9

Torah Study: TBE. 9:30–10:15 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Rabbi Daniel Alter–Meet & Greet: TBE. 10:55–11:40 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Mini–Minyan: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

SAC Community Conversation: TBE. 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.


Annual Picnic: TBE & R&R. Offsite. 5–9 p.m.

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

Sunday 10

Brunch and Art Museum Tour: Hadassah Ann Arbor: Join Hadassah for brunch at Sava Restaurant, 216 South State Street, followed by tour of University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State Street, with Shelley Perlove, Ph.D. Registration required. To register, contact Maxine Solvay at solvaym@att.net or by phone at (734) 668-1901. Brunch at 10 a.m., Tour from 12:15–1:15 p.m.

A Toast to the New Year: BIC. With Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Monday 11

Russ Collins Film Discussion Group: JCC. Lively monthly discussion of movie plots, characters and the unique cinematic elements that send subtle messages to viewers, hosted each month by Russ Collins, executive director of the Michigan Theater and co-host of WEMU’s Cinema Chat. Films shown include popular blockbusters, independent films, thought-provoking dramas, intense thrillers, and more. Refreshments provided. Space is limited. Register by phone at (734) 971-0990 or online at www.jccannarbor.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Women’s Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Mizmoret Rehearsal: TBE. 8–9:30 p.m.

Tuesday 12

Yiddish tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). See first Tuesday of month.

Flu Shot Clinic: ICC. Annual Flu Shot Clinic, provided by CVS. Vaccines offered on first come first serve basis. Contact Rachael by phone at 734-971-0990 or by email at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. RSVP to ensure CVS has an accurate estimate of how many participants to serve. Bring insurance card. Contact your insurance provider with any questions about coverage.

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Brotherhood Board Meeting: TBE. 7:15–8:45 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. Tuesdays.

Wednesday 13


Mega Challah: Chabad and Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Also co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor and Akervall Technologies. Held in the JCC gym. Register online at www.s2megachallah.com. $18 donation in advance, $25 at the door, if still available. 6:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 14

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

New IHHD Prayer Book Session: TBE. 7–8 p.m.

Mizmoret Rehearsal: TBE. 8–9:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Tuesday of month for details. 8 p.m. Thursdays.

Friday 15

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Step Up Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shira from 6:15–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service from 7:30–9 p.m.

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

Saturday 16

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

6th Grade Shabbat Morning with the Rabbis: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Selichot Service: TBE. 8–11 p.m.

Selichot Havdallah, Reception, Program, and Service: BIC. Will include Memorial Plaque dedication. 9 p.m.

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

Sunday 17

Selichot Service: Chabad. 1:30 a.m. (Yes, am.)

Featuring Cantor Rabbi Polter from Royal Oak leading the service. 1:30 a.m.

Family Journey Event: BIC. 6th Grade parent’s session on “Navigating Adolescence,” with Beth Pearson, Ph.D. 9:30 a.m.

Gan Katan: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Washtenaw Memorial Park Open House: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Apples & Honey and Lots, Lots More: JCC. The J’s annual community event celebrating the fall Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. Generously supported by anonymous donors and open to entire community. For information, visit jccannarbor.org. 2–5 p.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

Monday 18

WTBE Fiber Arts: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 19

Yiddish tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). See first Tuesday of month.

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. Tuesdays.

Wednesday 20

Mahj: TBE. Offsite 1–3 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Observance: JCS. Rosh Ha-shanah marks a turning point in the year and a separation between what was and what will be. Rosh Hashanah offers Secular Humanistic Jews a time to renew, reflection, and new beginnings. The shofar brings the community together to begin this time of reflection, music, readings, and a creative observance. Held at the JCC. Register at jewishculturalsociety.org. For information, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org.

Ever Rosh Hashanah: AARC. Held at Unitarian Universalist Building, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road. 7–9 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Services: Chabad. Afters at 8 a.m. Shabbat Services at 9:30 a.m. Family Shabbat Services: Chabad. Shabbat Services at 10 a.m. 

Ever Rosh Hashanah Services: BIC. Ma'ariv Services at 8 p.m., followed by dessert reception from 9:15–10:30 p.m.

Ever Rosh Hashanah Services: TBE. 8–10:30 p.m.

Thursday 21

Rosh Hashanah Services: BIC. Shaharit Services at 8 a.m. Children’s Programs K-5 and 6th–8th Grade at 10 a.m. Teen Lunch and Discussion at Noon. Mincha followed by Tashlich at 5:15 p.m. Maariv at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Services: TBE. Family Service, offsite from 9–10:30 a.m. 

Traditional
CONSIDER THIS YOUR CALL TO ACTION. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur provide us with an opportunity for reflection on the previous year. But the year ahead is still an open book, full of opportunity to make the world a better place. Begin the New Year with an act of tzedakah. Volunteer. Donate. Make a difference.

www.jewishannarbor.org
Tuesday 26
Yiddish tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). See first Tuesday of month.
TheraPaws Visit: JCC. Bi-monthly visit of dogs from TheraPaws to reduce stress and bring joy. Therapaws offers canine assisted therapy dogs to schools, hospitals, and other sites throughout Washtenaw County. For more information or to RSVP call (734) 971-9990 or visit www.jccannarbor.org.
Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 1–2 p.m.

Wednesday 27
Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 28
Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1–2 p.m.
Guys Night Out: TBE Brotherhood. Offsite. 6–7:30 p.m.
Back Door Food Pantry Coordinating Committee: TBE. 7–9 p.m.
Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Tuesday of month for details. 8 p.m. Thursdays.
Men’s Torah Study: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday 29
Kol Nidre Service: TBE. 8–9 p.m.
Kol Nidre: AARC. Held at Unitarian Universalist Building, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road. Gathering and candle lighting at 6:45 p.m. Service begins promptly at 7 p.m.
Kol Nidre: BIC. Kol Nidre at 6:50 p.m. 9th-12th Grade Service at 6:50 p.m. Opportunity for meditation follows ten minutes after conclusion of Kol Nidre at CSAC, 2010 Washtenaw Avenue.
Kol Nidre: JCS. Kol Nidre provides further opportunities for individual reflection and an opportunity to listen to the haunting melody of Kol Nidre. Register at jewishteachercollaborative.org. For information, email info@jewishteachercollaborative.org. 7 p.m.
Yom Kippur Evening Services: Chabad. 7 p.m.
AARTY Yom Kippur Pre-Service Reception: TBE. 7–9 p.m.
AARTY Kol Nidre Service: TBE. 8–9 p.m.
Kol Nidre Service: TBE. 8–10 p.m.
Friday evening services: See listing at the end of the calendar.

Saturday 23
Caring Community Event: TBE. 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Kever Avot: BIC and TBE. Offsite at Arborcrest Memorial Park, Noon.
Opening Tea–Deserts of South Africa: ORT Ann Arbor. Members and prospective members welcome. Guest Speaker: Annie Rose. Cantor Emerita of Temple Beth Emeth, will present “Music: Healing Our Hearts, Soothing Our Souls.” At the home of Linda Greene. Rades available, if needed. RSVP to Joan Levitt at jflevitt@gmail.com by September 15. 2–4 p.m.

Sunday 24
Rosh Hashanah Morning Services: Chabad. 8:30 a.m.
Happy Birthday to the World: BIC. At Gallup Park. 10 a.m.
Kever Avot: BIC and TBE. Offsite at Arborcrest Memorial Park, Noon.
Opening Tea–Deserts of South Africa: ORT Ann Arbor. Members and prospective members welcome. Guest Speaker: Annie Rose. Cantor Emerita of Temple Beth Emeth, will present “Music: Healing Our Hearts, Soothing Our Souls.” At the home of Linda Greene. Rades available, if needed. RSVP to Joan Levitt at jflevitt@gmail.com by September 15. 2–4 p.m.
I make the best challah in the world

Lonnie Sussman, staff writer

Of course, everyone I know who makes challah says the same thing. While there are many recipes for making challah they all include the basics: yeast, sugar, flour, salt, egg, water, and oil. Many people make challah without using one or more of these ingredients. Maybe they use honey or another sweetener. Maybe they use spelt flour, wholewheat flour or a combination of flours. But these are the basic ingredients.

On Wednesday, September 13, over 100 women from the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area will gather at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor for the first Mega challah event in this area. Sure there will be recipes, entertainment and laughter, but there will also be an opportunity to learn more deeply about the true reason or mitzvah of making challah.

I learned how to make challah over 40 years ago in Israel at Kibbutz Gesher Haziv. Just like the children at the JCC Early Childhood Center do, the children in the pre-schools there made challah for their families every Friday. The dough was very sweet and also doubled as coffee cake for aruchat arbah (afternoon tea).

This recipe has gone all around the world—literally. My friend Sue’s daughter lived in Singapore for some years. She made it there and also taught the Phillipina terrace living there how to make challah for their families every Friday. The dough was very sweet and also doubled as coffee cake for aruchat arbah (afternoon tea).

This recipe is the same as the copy of the recipe, as do friends all over this country. While there are many recipes to achieve a circle, there is a tradition to make the challahs round rather than braided. There are a number of explanations for this. I love the idea of the circle representing the continuation of life, time, and the cycles of the year.

For round challahs I use six “snakes” of dough, three horizontal and three vertical. Then, I weave the six strands. Finally, I take the ends and wind them around circularly. If this sounds confusing, look again on YouTube. There are probably many methods to achieve a circle.

Shana Tova to everyone. Here’s to a sweet, joyful and healthy new year.
Mazel tov

Debra and Lev Linker on the birth of their granddaughter Loni Rita on Saturday, March 25, to parents Evan and Rita.

Jonah Botkin on his bar mitzvah, September 2.

Halle Rochman on her bat mitzvah, September 9.

Ilana and Ari Gafni on the birth of their grandson, Eitan Caleb Ehrlich, son of Orna and Josh Ehrlich.

Shira and Steve Klein on the birth of their granddaughter, Jordyn Alexis, daughter of Ariella and Ian Monson.

Errol and Pat Sokolne on the birth of their grandson, Lincoln Jack, son of Mark and Julie Sokolne.

Condolences

Liz Kirshner on the death of her father, Seymour Bodner, May 29.

Sally Brieloff on the death of her father, Robert Graham, May 30.

Steven Leber on the death of his mother, Pauline Leber, July 16.

Shoshana Mandel-Warner on the death of her uncle, Paul Fox, July 18.

Janice Alexander on the death of her mother, Sylvia Pomerantz, July 18.

Barry Nemon on the death of his father, John Nemon, August 1.

Karla Goldman on the death of her father, Marshall Goldman, August 2.

Sarah Steingold on the death of her husband, Fred Steingold, August 8.

The family of Jean Fine on her death, August 11.


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L‘Shana Tova

introducing babka!

Start your new year off with sensational sweet dark chocolate babka from the Bakehouse. Rich buttery brioche dough, painted with dark chocolate, sprinkled with chocolate crumble and orange syrup soaked raisins, twisted up, and carefully placed in a pan. The loaf is baked to a golden brown with a fragrant cinnamon sugar top. Available all month in September.

You really can taste the difference!

Send a babka to your bubbe!

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Join us to celebrate the fall Jewish holidays!
New for this year...
  • Bake Off
  • Petting Farm
  • Cakewalk

APPLES & HONEY & Lots, Lots More

Sunday, September 17, 2017
2-5PM @ the J
Entrance is Free*
Register at jccannarbor.org!

*Some food, baked goods, and other items will be available for purchase.

Organizations Anticipated:
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Beth Israel Congregation, Chabad, Hebrew Day School, Jewish Cultural Society, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, PJ Library @ the J, Temple Beth Emeth.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor
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