Staci Kennedy, special to the JWN

Jewish Family Services to honor Judie and Jerry Lax on January 24

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County will honor Judie and Jerry Lax with the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award on Sunday, January 24, 2010. The event will take place at 3 p.m. in the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College.

This award is given each year to members of the Ann Arbor area who have demonstrated outstanding community service. Past recipients include Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser and Phyllis and David Herzig; and Marcia Federbush and Gloria Harb. And though the congregants avoid eye contact, they see them, without question. Some, even when parking is at a premium like on the High Holidays, park in the neighborhoods behind the synagogue and walk along the side of the building in order to completely avoid the demonstrators. A crowd of synagogue officials greet congregants at the door to check their tickets for seating, and to make sure the demonstrators are kept at a distance.

In this issue...

Page 2 Bicycling in Israel

Page 8 Chanukah Wonderland

Page 22 Community Photo Album: JCC Book Festival

December 2009/January 2010 Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5770 Volume XXXIV: Number 5 FREE
Community

Save the date: bike trip in Israel, November 4–14, 2010

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor has announced the Ann Arbor Community Bike Trip in Israel to take place November 4-14, 2010. A committee, chaired by Hillary Murt, is working with trip coordinators Rabbi Bob Levy and Eileen Freed to develop an exciting itinerary focused on northern Israel, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

“Cycling trips have become my preferred type of vacation,” said Murt. “This trip will combine my love of cycling with my interest in seeing parts of Israel not usually encountered on a normal tour of the country.” There has been significant participation in organized cycling vacations among many in the community. This trip is designed to offer a similar combination of great cycling, interesting sites, and delicious food. An added bonus will be a stay in Ann Arbor’s Partnership 2000 community, Moshav Nahalal, and the participation of members of Nahalal in some portions of the ride.

The trip provider, Ecobike Cycling Vacations, specializes in bike tours in Israel and the Mediterranean. Its co-founder, Amir Rockman, has cycled across North and Central America and has guided tours in Israel, Turkey, and the United States. During the past two summers, Rockman and Rabbi Levy co-led the Of- Sanger-Ruby Union Institute’s "Wheels Around the Lake" program, a four-week teen bike trip around Lake Michigan. "Amir is an outstanding guide and really knows his bikes," said Rabbi Levy. "His expertise and dedication will ensure our group has an exceptional experience." An introductory meeting about the trip will be held Sunday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. For more information, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

Chaverim B’Shirim to perform at JCC on December 13

Margi Brewer, special to the WJN

Chaverim B’Shirim will perform composer Harold Rome songs at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday, December 13, at 3 p.m.

Chaverim B’Shirim will perform selected songs from Rome’s popular Broadway musical, Call Me Mister, which ran for 734 performances in late 1940s. The musical celebrated the joys of civilian life and gave expression to the post-war spirit. Rome also wrote songs sweeping the United States. Chaverim B’Shirim director Marilyn Krimm promises that the performance will be very enjoyable, especially the choir rendition of “South America, Take It Away.” The choir will also perform excerpts from Rome’s The Zulus and The Zayda, and Fanny at the concert.

Chaverim B’Shirim, Ann Arbor’s first Broadway musical revue, Pins and Needles, was sponsored and performed by members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. It had the longest run of any musical during the 1930s and the production reflected a new socially conscious outlook that followed Roosevelt’s presidency. Rome wrote several other revues and shows following Call Me Mister throughout the 1940s and 1960s, and in 1982, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall Of Fame. Chaverim B’Shirim will celebrate Rome’s musical legacy at both their December concert and their spring concert in April 2010.

Chaverim B’Shirim promises an exceptional afternoon of music and song as they honor the works of an exceptional songwriter. Admission is a $5 donation and refreshments will be served. The event is sponsored by the Marilyn and Sam Krimm Musical Arts Fund. For more information about the concert, call 971-0990 or email lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Plan now for March 2010 AIPAC Policy Conference

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

The AIPAC Policy Conference is the pro-Israel community’s preeminent annual gathering. Register today and join more than 6,000 community and student activists from all 50 states, more than half of the Senate, a third of the House of Representatives and countless Israel and American policymakers and opinion leaders. Past speakers include Hillary Clinton, Newt Gingrich, Steny Hoyer, John McCain, and several other revues and shows following Call Me Minter throughout the 1940s and 1960s.

From March 21–23, 2010, Policy Confer-

eeece delegates will have the opportunity to choose from dozens of informative sessions and participate in the pro-Israel community’s largest advocacy day.

On Monday evening attend the Gala Ban-
quetez with two thirds of Congress, foreign diplo-

dats and staff from the Obama administration. On Tuesday visit your congressional represen-

tative and Senators Levin and Stabenow.

Register by December 31, 2009, to receive a $100 early-bird discount. For more information check www.aipac.org or call Florence Gerber at 973-2593.

In this issue...

Advertisers ........................................ 39
Around Town ..................................... 38
Calendar ........................................... 31
Congregations ................................. 10

Israel ............................................. 14
Kosher Cuisine ........................... 28
On Another Note .......................... 24
Seniors ........................................ 5

Youth ........................................ 16
Vitals ........................................ 39
Women ........................................ 4
World Jewry ................................. 12

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Contributing Writers

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Member of American Jewish Press Association
Noa Guttermann, David Erik Nelson, Saul Solomon.

The Washtenaw Jewish News is a free and independent weekly newspaper. It is published monthly, with the exception of January and July. It is registered as a non-profit Michigan Corporation.

The deadline for the February 2010 issue of the Washtenaw Jewish News is Friday, January 8. Publication date: Friday, January 27. Extra copies of the Washtenaw Jewish News are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.
Jewish Community Center to host Harvey Ovshinsky’s “How to Complete Your First Movie Script in Six Months”  
Sharlan Douglas, special to the WIN

Have you ever dreamed about writing your own screenplay? Do you see yourself as the next Larry Kasdan (Raiders of the Lost Ark), Bruce Joel Rubin (Ghost) or Nora Ephron (You’ve Got Mail and Julia and Julia)? How do you start? Where do you go to learn how to write your first movie script?

The answer is the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor where, starting in January, local aspiring-winning screenwriter and documentary producer Harvey Ovshinsky will host his popular screenwriters support group, “How to Complete Your First Movie Script in Six Months,” co-sponsored by the Michigan Production Alliance.

Ovshinsky’s group has been created specifically for aspiring screenwriters who feel the need for extra direction, motivation, and personal attention. “Although we teach the nuts and bolts, learning how to write a movie isn’t that difficult,” Ovshinsky said. “The real challenge for new or frustrated writers is what do you do, where do you go for support while you’re actually writing your first screenplay? That’s the hard part and that’s where we come in.”

In the past, Ovshinsky has presented his popular “How to Complete Your First Movie Script in Six Months” screenwriters group at Cranbrook, the Community House in Birmingham and The Grosse Pointe War Memorial. The JCC is Ovshinsky’s first Ann Arbor venue.

“Every writer needs an address,” said Ovshinsky, quoting Isaac Bashevis Singer. “So do writing teachers, which is why I’m delighted the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor is our group’s address in Washtenaw county.”

The Detroit News has described Ovshinsky as “one of the country’s finest storytellers.” He wrote the award-winning script, The Keyman, his Movie-of-the-Week script, PJ and the Dragon, was represented by Creative Artists Agency (CAA) and optioned by Longbow Productions (A Langue of Their Own). Harvey Ovshinsky and his Ann Arbor-based video production and story consulting company, HKO Media, have been awarded broadcasting’s highest honors including a national Emmy, a Peabody, a duPont-Columbia University Award and the American Film Institute’s Robert M. Bennett Award for Excellence.

Ovshinsky has won awards at both the Toronto and San Francisco Jewish Film Festivals. His film about Franklin artist Arthur Schneider was honored at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Lenoir Marwil Jewish Film Festival. HKO Media has produced videos for the Jewish Vocational Society (JVS), the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

“Harvey’s gift,” recalls Jeanette Keramedjian, former director of the Cranbrook PM program which first introduced Ovshinsky’s screenwriting workshops and groups, “is that he combines his real world knowledge of the industry with a hands-on teaching style that is nurturing and supportive as I have seen in any classroom.”

“For me, this work is deeply personal as well as professional,” Ovshinsky said. “I believe each one of us has the power to light up the world with our stories. The trick is to find a way to fan the flames of our creativity so that others can see the light that shines inside.”

Ovshinsky taught screenwriting and documentary filmmaking at Wayne State University. He has been a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, Madonna University, School of Craft College and Macomb County Community College. His series of video taped lectures, Letters to a Young Filmmaker, is fast becoming a viral sensation on YouTube and a popular teaching tool in many film schools.

“We’re very excited that the Jewish Community Center can bring Harvey’s screenwriters’ group to our community,” said Leslie Bash, JCC executive director. “With so much interest in the state’s film incentives, more and more people are looking for ways to tell their stories in the form of movie scripts. We may be the people of the book,” Bash adds with a smile, “but I believe history has shown that Jews can also be very adept at putting pen to paper.”

Harvey Ovshinsky’s screenwriting group, “How to Complete Your First Movie Script in Six Months,” will meet at the JCC from 7-10 p.m. on the first Monday of every month, starting on January 4, 2010, and ending on June 7, 2010. Participants will receive a sample script, a complete bibliography of screenwriting books, publications, and contests, plus information about helpful computer formatting software. Also included is the latest version of Ovshinsky’s popular, The Ten Most Important First Rules of Storytelling.

The cost for all six group sessions is $300 for students, and members of the Michigan Production Alliance. General admission is $325. To register call Leslie Bash at 971-0990. For more information, call 996-8011.

Co-founders of Hand in Hand Schools to speak December 9

Lee Gordon and Amin Khalaf, co-founders of Hand in Hand Schools in Israel will speak on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation. While there is no cost for the program, pre-registration is required.

Hand in Hand Schools, founded in 1998, has grown to a network of elementary and middle schools in four locations in Israel. The schools educate Jewish and Arab children and offer a bi-lingual, bi-cultural curriculum. The talk, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, will explore the state of integrated Jewish/Arab education in Israel and its future prospects as the project enters its second decade.

Khalaf currently serves as president of Hand in Hand. Born in the Israeli Arab village of Muqabele in the Galilee, he earned his bachelor of art and masters degrees at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has taught in both Arab and Jewish public schools in Jerusalem and lectures on education at the David Yellin College of Education in Jerusalem.

Originally from the United States, Gordon lived in Israel for two decades, during which he was actively involved in Jewish/Arab dialogue and partnership projects. Gordon earned an masters degree in social work from the Hebrew University and graduated from the Mandel Institute’s prestigious School for Educational Leadership. He currently serves as executive director of American Friends of Hand in Hand which works to raise support and awareness of the schools throughout the United States. The Federation has made annual allocations to Hand in Hand since 2005, and has made several visits to its schools in the Galilee and Kafr Kana. The 2009 allocation provides funding to implement a leadership and social justice program for sixth graders in the Galilee school.

To RSVP, contact Cindy Adams at cindy@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100. For more information, email Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org.
Women

Jewish Women’s Circle meets for friendship, creativity, and learning
Mae Sander, special to the WJN

The Jewish Women’s Circle of Washtenaw County is celebrating mitzvot this fall. At the meeting on December 7 at 7:30 p.m., the group will make candles and talk about candle-lighting in Jewish tradition. Participants will also discuss the role of candles in celebrating Shabbat, Chanukah, and other festivals. The goals of the Women’s Circle are to enable participants to develop friendships, learn about a wide range of Jewish topics, and foster their creativity.

At the two earlier meetings this fall, participants made challah and learned more about its meaning, and visited Ann Arbor’s mikvah and learned about this Jewish tradition and how it is continued today. Each of the first three Women’s Circle topics relates to a particular mitzvah for women.

At the challah-making meeting in September, old and new attendees had a chance to get to know one another while sharing the experience of forming and baking the dough. Twenty-four women came together for this activity, including one who had just arrived by plane that day for a stay in Ann Arbor. Each participant made her own small loaf of challah to take home. Esther Goldstein, one of the organizers, says “As women we have the privilege of making challah and lighting candles—part of the mitzvah of honoring Shabbat.”

To begin the October meeting, the 14 participants introduced themselves by describing a mitzvah (good deed) in her experience. One woman had recently made a major commitment as a volunteer at Jewish Family Services. Others mentioned small things like taking a field trip with a child’s class, telephoning an older or unwell friend, receiving help with leaf-raking, or just giving a hug at the right moment. Esther Goldstein, who led the meeting, then discussed various meanings of the word mitzvah, including ethical and humanistic obligations and religious obligations. She then explained about the mikvah and its relationship to Jewish family life. The group watched a video and toured the mikvah at Chabad House.

Opportunities to ask questions and discuss the topic occurred throughout the evening.

The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. The topic embodies a change of pace: “Reflect, Relax, Renew: Low Impact Yoga and Personal Reflection.” In celebration of the secular New Year, the group will explore a dimension of spiritual and physical activity through an evening’s yoga practice with Ann Arbor yoga instructor Rachel Portnoy. Attendees are asked to wear comfortable clothing in which they can do yoga and to bring a large towel or (if they have one) a yoga mat.

Beth Israel Women’s League news
Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Café
The third Beth Israel Café sponsored by Women’s League will be held on Sunday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at Beth Israel Congregation. Men and women are invited to relax, nosh, and shmooz. Other Beth Israel Cafés will be held on January 17, February 14, and April 18, also at 9 a.m.

December meeting
Vanessa Ochs, research fellow at the University of Michigan Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies will explain her research “Beyond the Menorah and Tzedaka box: How do Objects Make a Jewish Home Jewish?” on Thursday, December 10 at 7:45 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation.

Ochs, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia, is an anthropologist of Jewish life. Ochs will report on research that includes the Ann Arbor community and the households of Beth Israel Women’s League members.

Ochs is the author of numerous works, including Inventing Jewish Ritual, winner of a 2007 National Jewish Book Award; Sarah Laughed; The Jewish Dream Book (with Elizabeth Ochs); and Words on Fire. For her writing, she was awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She was also scholar in residence at the most recent Women’s League Biennial Convention.

Women’s League Chanukah Gift Shop
Do your Chanukah shopping at Women’s League Gift Shop on Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons during religious school. For an appointment, call Doris Miller at 662-5926.

The Gift Shop is selling all occasion cards (milestone, get well, mazal tov, condolences, special occasion, rejoicing, thank you, and new baby) to benefit the Jewish Theological Seminary Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. All cards are $2 each for new baby, which sells for $3. Women’s League member Sherri Peller (994-4013 or sgpeller@comcast.net) will mail cards for purchasers for an extra $1 per card.

ORT Chanukah party
Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its Annual “Chai/Nukah” party on Sunday, December 6, from 3–5 p.m., at the CommUNITY Room at Nature Cove Condominiums, 2115 Nature Cove Court.

The party will feature a Latke Cook-off, with participants sharing their favorite latkes and the latke recipe. There will be prizes for the best latkes. There will also be a “white elephant accessory” exchange. Guests should wrap a favorite, gently-used accessory, such as a scarf, purse, or jewelry, for a Chanukah gift exchange. ORT members and prospective members are welcome to join the fun. In the spirit of “Chai,” all party-goers are asked to make an $18 donation to ORT America. Rides to the party are available to those who need them.

ORT America supports World ORT’s schools and high-tech training programs in 62 countries, empowering 300,000 students and beneficiaries annually. The cutting edge education acquired at ORT schools, colleges, and international programs provide marketable skills that enable students to attain successful careers, become community leaders, and live with dignity. ORT’s global network educates individuals, impacts communities, and improves the world.

For more information or to RSVP, call Jeanne Thomas at 429-5948, or send an email to jthoma25@gmail.com, with “ORT RSVP” in the subject line.

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SPICE* of Life
*Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults

December and January

Tuesdays
11 a.m. – Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10
Noon – Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person
1 p.m. – Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and other card games. “New” Bridge club at 1 p.m.
1:30 p.m. – Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). Open to the public as well as University of Michigan faculty, staff and students, all ages and levels welcome. Beamster’s Cafe, ground floor, Michigan League. Free. For more information, call 936-2367.

Thursdays
10 a.m. – Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10
11 a.m. – Current Events with Heather Dombey. A Jewish perspective on this week’s news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.
Noon – Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person
1 p.m. – Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see box for details)
2:15 p.m. – Literary Group facilitated by Sidney Warszus, Call Merrill Polliner, 971-0990, for more information and the current book.

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

Thursday special events and presentations

December 3
12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with December birthdays. Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake. 1 p.m. Mariko Foulke, social worker at the University of Michigan Turner Clinic, will lead a presentation and discussion on depression and older adults.

December 10
12:30 p.m. A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.)
1 p.m. The first decade after World War II witnessed major changes in how we lived: family, housing, education, music, appliances and work. Join the fun in remembering what you were doing back when.

December 17
11 a.m. Join the children, families and staff of the JCC’s Early Childhood Center for an intergenerational Chanukah celebration including singing, dancing, crafts and discussion.
12:30 p.m. Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker will be available for discussion, questions and assistance.
1 p.m. Rabbi Levy of Temple Beth Emeth joins SPICE for Chanukah.

December 24
1 p.m. Local stand-up comedienne, Paddy Ash, will entertain the group with her healthy humor.

December 31
1 p.m. Come to the JCC for an hour of favorite comedian, Jack Benny, the archetypal ongeblozen tightwad on video.

January 7
12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with January birthdays. Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake. 1 p.m. A representative from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan will illustrate how to get information about one’s ancestors.

January 14
12:30 p.m. A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free. (The second Thursday of each month.)
1 p.m. University of Michigan School of Music violin performance student, Paul Dryden Trapkus will perform a recital.

January 21
12:30 p.m. Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker will be available for discussion, questions and assistance.
1 p.m. Arie Lippsky, musical director of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, returns to the JCC for music and discussion.

January 28
1 p.m. University of Michigan doctoral student, Tam Perry, will facilitate a presentation and discussion on the various ways that the process of moving may affect seniors.

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If you missed our Chanukah Bazaar on 11/21 & 11/22, join us for the best deals in town at a special:
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Sunday, December 6, 3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Chanukah Sale
Sunday, December 6, 3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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JStreet Conference historic event
Clare Kinberg, special to the WIN
“The feeling there was of participating in a historic moment,” says Tamar Weaver, an Israeli American and member of Ann Arbor’s Brit Tzedek v’Shalom chapter. Weaver describes the experience, “The conference began for me with the greetings from Tzipi Livni, representing the largest Israeli political party and from Shimon Peres, Israeli president… the atmosphere was euphoric—finally, American Jews coming together to show an interest in loving Israel and recognizing the different voices in the Israeli public.”
Fifteen hundred people attended the two-day conference, followed by a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. The Michigan delegation met directly with Representatives Sandor Levin and Mark Schauer, and with staff people in the offices of Debbie Stabenow, John Conyers, Dale Kildee and John Kilpatrick. Each member of Congress was asked to make a public statement expressing support for the peace process.

Jewish Family Services accredited by CARF
Robin Little, special to WIN
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for a period of three years. This achievement is an indication of the agency’s dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the clients served. This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

JFS partners with Red Cross for refugee awareness program on December 10
Mitra Sussman, special to the WIN
In celebration of Red Cross Red Crescent’s 150th anniversary, the Washtenaw County Red Cross started a Resettlement Program at Jewish Family Services (JFS) on October 10. Since August 2008, JFS has helped resettlement nearly 100 refugees, mainly from war-torn Iraq, with hundreds more families resettled from around the world since JFS began in 1993.

JCorps founder wins first Jewish Community Heroes award
By Jacob Berkman
NEW YORK (JTA)—After weeks of deliberation and the tally of more than 600,000 online votes, the Jewish Federations of North America has named its first Jewish Community Hero—Ari Tenam, the founder of JCorps.
A panel of judges from outside the federation system chose Tenam, 27, for the $25,000 Jewish Community Heroes prize after whittling down a list of more than 400 nominees.
The Jewish Federations announced the choice Tuesday, at the closing plenary session of its General Assembly conference in Washington. The contest was part of the federation system’s new multimillion-dollar maraFJ initiative to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of persons served. Founded in 1996 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body established consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.
JFS received grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation, that helped to fund the staffing and other agency costs associated with accreditation.

JCorps as a volunteer on a budget that is probably less than the award he will take home. Yet the organization has enlisted 10,000 volunteers for local community service projects in the United States, Canada and Israel.
“Teman was told JTA.
Teman said he started JCorps in 2007 on something of a late-night whim about how he could meet more Jewish people.
The money will help the program expand and perhaps allow Tenam to hire his first professional staff member.
“The first year we started with $300,” he said. “We like to say that if we had no money we could still keep running, which is great, because it means the money we put in is for growth.”
Local couple visits Jewish groups operating in Russia

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

When Sheldon and Geri Markel signed up for a University of Michigan alumni tour of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, they thought they should see and learn more about the local Jewish community. Since this was not a part of the group’s itinerary, they turned to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Federation staff contacted the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), whose staff arranged a variety of visits for the Markels.

The JDC operates a wide range of programs and institutions in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) including Jewish community centers and a network of social service agencies for senior services called Hesed Avot. In Moscow, the Markels visited the Ninitzayka Jewish Cultural Center (JCC) and were impressed with the range and quality of programming. “The center was so busy; there was something happening for every age throughout the building,” said Sheldon of his visit. The center, located in a renovated mansion, offers classes and programs for children and adults of all ages, including senior services called Hesed Avot. In Moscow, the Markels visited the Ninitzayka Jewish Cultural Center (JCC) and were impressed with the range and quality of programming. “The center was so busy; there was something happening for every age throughout the building,” said Sheldon of his visit. The center, located in a renovated mansion, offers classes and programs for children and adults of all ages, including

JDC staff brought the Markels to the home of Bronislava Mikhailvona Roubanova, a 79-year-old woman who is confined to her fourth-floor apartment due to ill health and disability. “From the outside, the building looked fine,” said Sheldon, “but on the inside, the paint was peeling and there was exposed electrical wire. The apartment was a tiny room with a bed and a kitchen sink; not much more.” Roubanova, who survived the German siege of Leningrad (St. Petersburg), never married, suffers from epilepsy and other medical conditions, and has no family to care for her. If it were not for the 80 hours of home care a month provided by Hesed, she would be completely alone and unlikely to survive on her pension of $414 a month.

“This was a very important visit for us. It is important for people in Ann Arbor to be aware of the very difficult situation of the elderly in the FSU as well as the impressive rehabilitation of the Jewish community,” said Sheldon. “A portion of the overseas allocation made by the Jewish Federation goes to the JDC to pay for these necessary services. I’m so glad I had the opportunity to see these projects firsthand.” Geri added that, “in spite of their heavy workload, the JDC staff was able to accommodate us on very short notice. I was very impressed with their professionalism and the care they clearly put into every aspect of our visit.”

To learn more about enriching visits to Jewish communities while traveling abroad, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

JPros offers professional development

Mira Sussman and Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

It may come as a surprise, but Ann Arbor’s Jewish community is home to a group that exists in only eleven other cities in North America. Despite the community’s small size, it is home to something that Toronto, Atlanta, Chicago and Detroit do not have—a group dedicated to the continued education and development of its Jewish professional leadership.

The local organization, Jewish Professionals of Greater Ann Arbor (aka JPros) is open to all professional staff who work for Jewish agencies, synagogues, schools and organizations, and is in its third year as an active group. Members run the gamut of professions; from rabbis to administrators, teachers to development directors, program staff to service generalists. JPros’ mission is to enhance its members’ skills, facilitate communication among colleagues from different organizations, and encourage the highest professional standards and community esteem for its members—all with an eye towards strengthening professional service to the community.

In November, Steering Committee Chair Mira Sussman, represented the Ann Arbor JPros at a professional development conference, “Professional Excellence in Challenging Times,” in Malibu, California. The conference featured keynote speaker Rabbi Mark Charendoff, president of the Jewish Federers Network. Breakout groups included “Negotiating the Multi-Generational Workplace,” “New Approaches to Supervision in the Down Economy,” and “Building Community in a Digital World.” The Jewish Communal Professionals of Southern California organized the conference.

In addition, Sussman participated in programming specifically designed for the fifteen local group leaders who represented their local chapters. They discussed successes and challenges faced in local chapters, networked with peers, and discussed how to better guide the local efforts.

In Ann Arbor, the theme for the year’s programming is “Boundaries.” The group will explore how boundaries serve to protect those working for Jewish agencies, as well as how to overcome boundaries that hinder individuals and agencies from better serving the community. Ann Arbor is blessed with a wealth of Jewish and secular resources, and the JPros Steering Committee looks forward to another year of development for its Jewish professional leadership.

For more information about JPros, become a fan on Facebook, or email Mira at mira@j鞍山arbor.org.

Lullaby on Broadway Concert fitting memorial

Merrill Polliner, special to the WJN

On Sunday, October 25, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor was host to five performers from the Michigan Opera Theatre’s Community Programs Department. For 39 years, the Michigan Opera Theatre, one of the country’s ten largest opera companies, has been regarded as one of the finest cultural resources in the State of Michigan. For 31 of those years, the MOT’s Community Programs Department has brought varied musical programs to many groups in Michigan. What could have been a somber occasion became an afternoon of musical pleasure during the “Lullaby on Broadway Concert” sponsored by the Fishman-DiPietro fund.

The fund was created in memory of Sybil Fishman and Pauline DiPietro, the mothers of Alice Fishman and Michael DiPietro, with the purpose of providing special events for the seniors of the JCC. The concept of a musical afternoon with a Broadway theme was decided in honor of Steve Fishman’s long and successful career as a property master on Broadway. Steve passed away on October 18, 2009, and the concert became his memorial.

The performance, attended by over 110 people, exceeded the expectations of the concert sponsors, organizers and audience with a program that included selections of vocal music by Irving Berlin; Rodgers and Hart; Lerner and Lowe; Biss; and Andrew Lloyd-Webber and a solo piano arrangement of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” The audience participated with a sing-a-long version of “Always,” one of Steve’s favorite songs.

The Fishman-DiPietro family and the JCC are looking forward to another concert in the series sometime in the Spring of 2010.

Lullaby on Broadway
Channukah

Rabbi Ahrom Goldstein, special to the WJN

Channukah! The Festival of Lights. Most of us learned the story of the Maca-bees—how the few overcame the many and the weak vanquished the strong. Most of us learned the story of the miracle of the oil—the oil that lasted eight days. After defeating the Hellenists, when the Jews en- tered the Temple to rededicate it, they found one small jar of oil, enough to light the meno- rah for one day. It would take another seven days to obtain new, pure oil. They lit the me- norah, and the lamps burned for eight days. Most of us learned the story of Hannah and her seven sons. And the story of Judith, whose head was Holier. Yes, there are many stories associated with Channukah, many miracles, many lessons. But the lights themselves tell a story. Or rather, they have something important to say: a lesson that penetrates the darkness, the daily distortions from holiness. As the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe said, "One must listen to what the lights relate."

One of the laws of Channukah is: "The candle of Channukah should be placed by the opening (doorway), close to the outside." The candle: What is the concept of a candle? One takes oil and a wick—physical objects, and a person kindles these physical objects until they catch fire, producing a flame that is visible to the physical eye. This tells us what we accomplish through "a mitzvah (commandment) is a candle and Torah is light" (Proverbs 6:23). The "mitzvah candle" produces a spiritual flame that will be visible to the physical eye in the times of Moshiach.

Of Channukah: This alludes to the double concept of dedication and education—the double meaning of the word chanukah, from which Channukah is derived. There must be a dedication and initiation of something new in the celebration and establishment of holiness, just as occurred when the altar and Temple were dedicated—re-dedicated—in those days at this time. It also alludes to edu- cation and Torah study: the mitzvah of the Channukah candle teaches those who fulfill the commandment and instructs all within one's circle of influence. What is this inno- vative teaching, this new order of Divine ser- vice? Simply that, just as we increase the light of Channukah each night, so, too, we must continuously increase our learning, increase the light of Torah we bring into the world.

Close to the outside: Channukah, the me- norah, its message, Judaism itself must be placed near, made available to, all those who, for whatever reason, are "outside" (albeit temporarily) the concepts of Channukah. This means, those who are yet—momentarily—"outside" Judaism in general.

And may it be the will of the source of life, with His light, His Torah, instruct us about our everyday life, may He give His bless- ings to everyone, in matters internal and spiritual and matters external and public, in the most exemplary fashion. And may we receive the ultimate blessing, in a way visible to all, the complete Redemp- tion through Mashiach, when the menorah in every home will again be lit and send its message—tell its story—to all mankind.

Chanukah lights

Anita Glickstein, special to the WJN

There’s No Such Thing as a Chanukah Bush

I just don’t like them.

First of all, you might want to get your hands on the children’s book by Susan Sassaman called "There’s No Such Thing as a Chanukah Bush" Sandy Goldstein. The situation deals with not precisely the same as yours, but reading the book might be a good way to start the conversa- tion with your kids.

The concern I think most people have with Chanukah bush is that they are too close for comfort to Christmas trees. There’s not much difference between the two, as far as I can tell. Slapping a Jewish star on something and then calling it a Jewish ritual item is like putting a lion mask on your dog, having him run around in your backyard and calling it a safari.

When you’re talking with your kids about this, you can discuss how Jewish holidays aim to keep the traditions and his- tory of the Jewish people alive. You can look at other ritual items you might have in your home—a seder plate, a sidur, a noisemaker, etc. and talk about how all of them are connected to things in Jewish his- tory. Then talk about a Chanukah bush doesn’t have a Jewish history at all.

One thing that I think is helpful in this kind of situation is focusing on the ways that your kids can celebrate with others without necessarily taking on their ideology. Your kids can visit friends who have Christmas trees, and can enjoy the trees that are out in public spaces. But they should do this to be happy for others, not to take on non-Jewish rituals as their own.

The best way to combat Christmas envy is to amp up your own Chanukah celebrations in ways that aren’t purely derivative of Christian traditions. Consider making your own win- dow decorations to help publicize the mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles. Make Chanukah foods from scratch (latkes and suf- ganiyot are Ashkenazi options, or try Sephardic/Mizrahi hamantaschen and atieff), and set up a dreidel tournamen- t. You can even have a contest in your family to see who can make the most interesting chanukiyah from things around the house. The eight nights of Chanukah are also a great opportunity to invite friends to celebrate with you.

I think the key to really getting your children to enjoy all of these holiday activi- ties is to steep the conversation away from direct comparisons to Christmas. Celebrating Chanu- kah shouldn’t be about providing an alternative to Christmas. If you’ll hill that way, you’ll always lose out to Santa and Christmas trees.

Chanukah is about focusing on maintain- ing a Jewish identity even in the face of a strong cultural current that defies that sentiment.

Ask the expert: Chanukah bush

From MyewishLearning.com

Question: My kids (ages 5 and 8) really love Christmas trees. They know I don’t have one in our house because we’re Jewish, but recently someone told them about a Chanukah bush, and they’ve been asking if we can get one of those. How can I explain to them my discomfort with the tradition and say why I don’t want Chanukah bush?

Answer: You: I try to be impartial about these things. Henry, but I’m with you when it comes to Chanukah bushes. I just don’t like them.

For example, your children may want to get their own Christmas tree, and you can explain that there’s no such thing as a Chanukah bush. You can tell them about the Jewish holidays and the importance of celebrating them. You can also explain the history of Christmas trees and how they became a popular tradition.

Another way to focus the discussion is to remind your kids about all of the holidays on the Jewish calendar. After Chanukah we have Tu Bi’Shvat, then Purim and Passover. You can talk about the traditions that go with these holidays, and all the exciting and fun traditions that kids look up to them, whether it’s making small gifts for friends at Purim or searching the house for chanukiyot at Passover.

If your children are interested in the traditions of Chanukah, you can provide them with a Chanukah bush to enjoy as a community. You can also talk about the different types of Chanukah trees and how they differ from Christmas trees.

You can also discuss the history of Christmas trees and how they became a popular tradition. You can explain that Christmas trees are a way for people to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the winter season. You can also explain that Chanukah is a time for families to come together and celebrate the miracle of the oil in the Temple.

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New kids' books hitting the shelves for Chanukah

By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA)—From all corners of the globe, to under the sea and above the skies, a new crop of children's books for Chanukah takes readers on a worldwide spin with delightful and informative books for kids of all ages.

**Hanukkah Around the World**

by Tami Lehman-Wilzig, illustrated by Vicki Wehrman

Kar-Ben; $16.95 hardcover; $7.95 paper; ages 8-11

Move over latkes, make room for pre-cipizi. And sufganiyot, debla cookies and burumels. These are among the traditional sweets eaten in Jewish homes from Italy to Israel, Tunisia and Turkey during the eight-day Festival of Lights. Recipes for the treats are featured in Hanukkah Around the World by Israeli-American children's writer Tami Lehman-Wilzig. The illustrated travelogue takes young readers to eight faraway places around the globe.

First stop, the Israeli city of Modi’ın, the ancient biblical home of the Maccabees where the Chanukah story began 2,000 years ago. Today the city comes alive to celebrate its beloved holiday with a relay race to Jerusalem and eight days of kid-friendly festivities, Lehman-Wilzig writes in an e-mail from her home in Israel. Each of the eight cities featured includes a short fictional story that highlights local customs, historical notes, current events and easy-to-follow recipes. Back pages include Chanukah popoutri from other locales and a glossary. The custom that most impressed Lehman-Wilzig was in Turin, where a custom connects the summertime observance of TuBi’Avo, commemorating the ancient destruction of the Temple, with Chanukah, recalling the receding of the Temple.

"It’s a wonderful way to close the circle and is a custom to be cherished," the writer says. What is the recipient of this thought? This puts the giver on the lookout. confidentially is strictly enforced, "illustrate this concept. As a giver, you know the items are going to someone in need, but they never know you.

No. 7: Anonymous giving and receiving. Anonymity is a tough sell today; we are trained from birth to put our names on everything. Historically, in the Temple in Jerusalem there was a darkened room, called "ishshat chashira'in," literally a "chamber of secrets," where the giver could leave money and the poor would receive it without shame.

A tzedakah box, or pushke, is a related idea. Pick up a box from your favorite Jewish charity, or make one yourself, and join the righteous ranks of the famous unknown.

The highest level, "exceeded by none," Maimonides tells us, is self-sufficiency as a result of outright gifts, loans, partnerships or "finding employment." At a time when every dollar for the poor is debated, Maimonides reminds us to "strengthen" the poor.

At Chanukah, lighting up the tzedakah stairway

By Edmon J. Rodman

LOS ANGELES (JTA)—What lights the Festival of Lights? What really ignites the eight days of kid-friendly festivities, Lehman-Wilzig was in Turin, where a custom

...
Activities at Beth Israel in December and January

**Wednesday Lunch and Learn**
Rabbi Kim Blumenthal will lead Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions from noon–1:15 p.m. on a wide range of topics. Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch with refreshments and desserts being provided free of charge by the congregation. Check the Beth Israel Website (ww.bethisrael-aa.org) for the weekly topics. They will take place on December 2, 9, and 16, and January 6, 13, and 20.

**Walking with God Part II—Medieval Texts through Modernity**
This course, designed by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, presents a wide range of insights and conceptualizations of God. Through exploring sacred texts of various time periods, students will engage in critical study and grow in their own relationships to God. This course includes reading one short essay in preparation for each session, which will include a small group text study and discussion. Texts will be distributed in Hebrew and English. In order to prepare materials in advance, registration is required for this course. Contact Marty, at 665-9897 or email rabbisoffice@tds.net by January 12, 2010, to sign up for the winter series. It is not necessary to have participated in the fall series to join in this course. All classes begin at 7:30 p.m. with Maariv, the evening service. This class is facilitated by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. The dates of the series are January 19, 26, February 2, and February 9.

**Sweatshirt Shabbat with Cholent Kiddush**
This special Shabbat service and kiddush will take place on Saturday, December 5, with the theme of comfort. Participants may wear their favorite sweatshirt from camp, college, or travel while spending the morning in comfort. The reception following features a community candle lighting ceremony. Reservations are required, and there is a charge.

**Beth Israel Café**
On Sunday mornings December 6 and January 10 from 9:30 a.m.—noon, parents (both men and women) are invited to come into the large Social Hall for a few minutes or the entire morning for free coffee and bagels. They may use their lap tops (the entire synagogue is wired). Participants will have their children sit at kiddush with an international array of hot and hearty cholent of more foods, prepared by Beth Israel members and Nikki Klein, the Beth Israel kitchen coordinator. There is no charge for lunch.

**Tot Chanukah Dinner**
On Wednesday, December 16, the Tot Chanukah Dinner will take place at Beth Is- rael starting at 5:30 p.m. Children kindergar- ten-age and younger are invited to celebrate the sixth night of Chanukah with a latke din- ner and dreidel games. There will also be arts and crafts, songs and stories to celebrate the holiday. Plus, all children will receive a small gift. Families are asked to bring a Hanukkah theme for their home for the candle lighting cer- emony. Reservations are required, and there is a charge.

**Junior Congregation/Moadon and Kehillat Shabbat on Saturdays**
Junior Congregation provides a Shabbat morning program for kids in first through fifth grade. It begins at 10 a.m. with Moa- don, an opportunity for children to hang out and play games led by the high school Mad- rhams. At 11 a.m. there is a Shabbat service for children that offers a mixture of teaching and prayer, and a chance for the children to lead their own service. Junior Congregation will meet on Saturdays, December 5, 12, and 19, and January 9, 16, 23, and 30. The in- novative “Kehillat Shabbat” provides an en- riched educational program and service for first through fifth graders exploring themes from the Torah portion and Jewish teach- ing. Kehillat Shabbat is facilitated by Gabe Facher and meets on Saturdays, December and January.

**Saturday Morning Tot Shabbat**
Tot Shabbat is held at 11:15 a.m. the sec- ond and fourth Saturday of most months for children through kindergarten and their famil- ies. Tot Shabbat is led on alternating weeks by Peretz Hibshson and Jeffrey Kander, and features songs and stories in a special Shab- bat celebration for the youngest members of our community.Tot Shabbat concludes with grape juice and challah and the saying of kid- dush and hamotzi. Afterwards, the families are encouraged to join the regular Kiddush reception upstairs at a special tots table. Tot Shabbat will meet December 12, December 19, January 9, and January 23. There is no charge for this program.

**Quiz Night**
Beth Israel’s third annual Quiz Night will take place on Saturday evening, January 16 at 7 p.m. People will compete in teams for fabulous prizes and to earn the coveted title of Quiz Night Champions. The competition includes multimedia trivia challenges, writ- ten puzzles, and friendly rivalries. There will be a dessert break midway through the comp- etition. The cost is $10 for adults, and $5 for high school students.

**Judaism 101: An Introduction and a Refresher**
Judaism 101 is a continuing class meant for anyone who is looking to learn or review some of the fundamentals of Judaism. Four topics are still to be covered through the end of the course: Shabbat, Prayer, Conservative Judaism and Sacred Texts. Each topic will be explored for three weeks. Adults are welcome to sign up for one topic, a few topics, or all four topics. All classes begin at 7:30 p.m. with Maariv, the evening service, and are facilitated by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Sessions on the subject of Shabbat will take place on December 2, 9, and 16. This session on Prayer will take place on January 13, 20, and 27. The session on Conservative Judaism will take place on March 16, 17, and 24. The sessions on Sacred Texts will take place on April 21, 28, and May 5.

**Overnight Homeless Shelter volunteers needed**
Beth Israel Congregation will again par- ticipate in the Ann Arbor Shelter Associa- tion of Washtenaw County’s rotating shelter program. From December 21–January 3, Beth Israel will host up to 25 overflow guests (each night) from the main shelter on 312 W. Huron. Three to four volunteers are needed each night, and two to three drivers are needed each morning and evening to drive the guests to and from Beth Israel.

Participants who commit to participate in the program are free of serious substance or psychological issues. Online signup will be available through the Beth Israel website, ww.bethisrael-aa.org, or offline through Re- becca Kanner at 994-5717. The Shelter Association serves the largest percentage of those experiencing home- lessness in Washtenaw County: single adult men and women. All of the clients share two characteristics: they have no place to live, and they do not currently have the resources to secure and maintain housing. Many of the clients are unable to obtain housing on their own, because they are facing multiple barri- ers that impede their ability to do so.

The Shelter Association offers a variety of services and programs to help individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Services range from providing emergency shelter, re- ferrals for substance abuse treatment, cloth- ing vouchers, transportation, and food to providing health care, housing assistance, and money management.

Award winning author Eileen Pollack
On Sunday, January 10, 7:45–9:15 p.m. Eileen Pollack, Ph.D., will present “What We Don’t Know About the People We Love Could Fill a Book” at Beth Israel as part of Beth Israel’s Current Topics in Jewish Studies Series. There is no charge for this program, which includes refreshments.

Pollack was born and grew up in Liberty, New York, the heart of the Jewish Catskills, where her grandparents owned and oper- ated a small hotel and her father was a town dentist. A graduate of Yale University with a bachelor’s degree in physics, Pollack later earned a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa, where she was awarded a teaching-writing fellow- ship. She is the author of a collection of short fiction, The Rabbi in the Attic and Other Stories, a novel, Paradise, New York, and a work of creative nonfiction called Woman Walking Ahead: In Search of Katherine Mansfield and Sit- ting Bull, which won a 2003 WILLA finalist award. Pollack’s essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in many periodicals; her inno- vative textbook and anthology, Creative Nonfiction: A Guide to Form, Content, and Style, is available through the Beth Israel website, November 2008. A collection of her essays and other works are planned for publication in 2009 by Four Way Books.

**Mayor Hieftje at Beth Israel**
On Friday, January 22, after the Friday evening service that begins at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Hieftje will address the congregation at 8:30 p.m. Mayor Hieftje is the 60th mayor of Ann Arbor, and was elected in 2000. The evening includes refreshments as part of the Ong Shabbat. This is a part of the dy- namic new Shabbat Take the Time series.

continued on next page
Temple Beth Emeth Programs

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

**Movie Tuesdays**

**December 8 and January 12 at 1 p.m.**

**Movie Tuesday** is a free way to explore Judaism and Jewish culture through film and discussion for those with flexible schedules. In December, participants will watch *Trembling Before God*, a documentary that includes interviews and follows several gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews, and also interviews several rabbis and psychologists regarding their views on homosexuality in Orthodox Judaism. In January, participants will watch *The Lemon Tree*, an Israeli drama depicting the lives of Palestinians and Israelis and their struggle to come to grips with family history, political strife, the beauty of the land, and love. All movies are free and open to the public. Child care is available with advanced notice.

**Tot Chanukah-Tot Shabbat—stories, music, crafts and latkes**

**Friday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m.**

The Tot Shabbat Service for the last night of Chanukah will include lighting the menorah and special stories for Chanukah. After the service, all are invited to stay for the Tot Chanukah celebration with crafts, songs, and the normal tot Shabbat dinner ($5) that will include latkes. Reservations are encouraged to help with planning quantities, but are not necessary. To reserve, call the TBE office, at 665-4744.

**Shabbat Chanukah service**

**Friday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrate Shabbat at TBE on this last night of Chanukah, and join in the tradition of lighting dozens of menorahs at the end of the service.

**Renaissance Group activities**

**Temple Beth Emeth’s Renaissance Group, for members ages 55 and up, meets monthly for social gatherings.** On Saturday, December 12, at 7 p.m., the annual Chanukah Party potluck dinner and “white elephant” gift exchange will take place at the Chapel Hill Clubhouse. On January 9, the group will attend the opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*, in the series “LIVE at the MET” on the big screen at Quality 16 Theater. Tickets are $17.50 for seniors over age 62 and $22 for others. Contact Judith Rose or the TBE office, 665-4744, for details.

**Music Man at the Michigan Theater, December 25**

Continuing an annual tradition, TBE will bring the musical, *Music Man*, to the Michigan Theater the morning of December 25. This is more than just a morning at the movies. Doors open at 10 a.m. and bags are available for breakfast. The movie begins at 10:30 a.m., and pauses for a lunch intermission when kosher hot dogs (and veggie dogs) are available for purchase. Door prizes, a sing-a-long, and a morning of community camaraderie are in store for everyone in attendance. Tickets are $7 per person, and are available in advance both in the TBE office and on line at www.templebethemeth.org.

**Bible, Morality, and the 21st Century with Dr. Cobi Sacerdoti**

**Mondays, January 11, and February 8, from 7:30-9 p.m.**

TBE will host a three-part course on Bible, Morality, and the 21st Century. This course is an intellectual look and an emotional journey into the moral wisdom of the Bible where arrogance, pride, jealousy, love, and devotion impact human life. This class will discuss the way Jewish ancestors’ moral faults and strengths can shape present day Jews and be a lesson for the 21st century. Dr. Sacerdoti will discuss three Bible stories; the Tower of Babel (how arrogance diminishes wisdom), The Twelve Spies (seek the truth, do not hide behind a lie), and Absalom’s Rebellion (nobody can acquire honor by doing what is wrong).

Dr. Sacerdoti, an Israeli-born scholar, taught Hebrew language and literature at the University of Michigan and was the department head of Hebrew at the Frankel Academy of Metropolitan Detroit. She has published many books and articles on a wide range of Jewish topics as well as Israeli life.

**Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Robert Levy**

**Fridays, January 8 through February 26, at noon**

“Issues of Israel over Time and Space.” Each week Rabbi Levy will lead a discussion on Israel as a hope, dream, fantasy, power, home, and destination through the lens of Israel as an eternal idea and also a modern nation state. Feel free to stop by for one or all of the sessions with a lunch.

**Spirituality Book Club**

Join Cantor Annie Rose as she leads a journey through nine books over nine months on the first Tuesday of each month, from 7:30-9 p.m.

The class is designed with everyone in mind: firm believers, non-believers, gentle skeptics, or interested seekers. December’s book is *A New Earth*, by Eckhart Tolle. According to Tolle, humans are on the verge of creating a new world by a personal transformation that shifts one’s attention away from one’s ever-expanding ego. Naturally, the author understands his material so thoroughly that he is able to convey it in an enjoyable manner, but Tolle’s gentle tone and dialect brings his audience’s attention simply through its straightforward approach.

January’s selection is *Kitchen Table Wisdom* by Rachel Remen. Remen has a unique perspective on healing rooted in her background as a physician, a professor of medicine, a therapist, and a long-term survivor of chronic illness. In a deeply moving and down-to-earth collection of true stories, this prominent physician shows life in all its power and mystery, and reminds the reader that the things one cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich one’s life.

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

**Mourning and Mitzvah**

This course, offered Thursdays in January at 7:30 p.m., provides an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish mourning customs and practice through reading, discussion, and writing. It is designed for those who have experienced loss as well as those seeking knowledge and insight into this important aspect of Jewish life. The course is free, but there is a charge for the textbook.
Crime, plus politics, propelling Jews out of Venezuela

By Jasmina Kelemen

CARACAS, Venezuela (JTA)—Esther Benchimol de Roffe arrived in Venezuela as a young bride, leaving northern Morocco more than 50 years ago to meet her groom in a prosperous foreign land.

The young couple fit in easily in a country where, as Spanish-speaking Sephardim, they already were familiar with the language and the Jewish community was established. Her husband built a successful business, and Benchimol raised a family and earned international renown singing the ancient Sephardic hymns she had learned as a child in Alcazarquivir.

“It was a rich country, there were a lot of opportunities,” reminisces Benchimol, now 74. “We had many friends and there was a real sense of brotherhood. There was never any racism against us.”

Her tone changes, however, when she considers the futures of her grandchildren and whether she would advise them to stay in Venezuela.

“I wouldn’t stay here,” Benchimol said. “I’m speaking as a grandmother.”

It’s not anti-Semitism that causes her to fear daily for the safety of her grandchildren but “la inseguridad” — insecurity. It’s the general term Venezuelans use now to describe fear daily for the safety of her grandchildren and whether she would advise them to stay in Venezuela.

“Part of my success is not genius, “ he said during an interview with JTA in his office in December 2009. “I have the institutions in which his ideas were dismissed as pipe dreams, “ he said many times during his long communal career in which he feels both as a Venezuelan and a member of the community cannot amass a larger pool of potential immigrants.”

By Ben Harris

VIENNA (JTA)—From a shelf in his office, Ariel Muzicant extracts a weathered copy of a May 1985 community newsletter whose cover sports a graph depicting the Jewish population of Vienna nosediving.

From its postwar peak of about 9,000 in the early 1960s, the graph projected the Jewish population dipping below 3,000 by the turn of the millennium.

Near a quarter-century after that dire prediction, the worst has been avoided: The number of registered community members in Vienna stands at about 7,500 and, according to Muzicant, the community president, it is “technically growing.”

But leaders of the Viennese Jewish community, Muzicant among them, again are warning of disaster unless the community incurs its financial ranks. And the consensus on how to do it can be summed up in a single word: immigration.

“We need people,” said Ian Knapp, principal of a Jewish high school in Vienna and the head of a communal mission working to bring Jewish immigrants to Austria from the former Soviet Union.

“The possibility is to bring Jews from this area.”

Over the past two decades, Jewish communities in Western Europe whittled down by intermarriage and assimilation have sustained themselves with immigration by Jews from the East, where communism had left Jews trapped until the fall of the Iron Curtain.

The largest pool of potential immigrants, from the former Soviet Union, have been migrating West in significant numbers since the fall of communism.

Skeptics in Vienna say it’s a mistake to pin the community’s future on the hope that more Russian-speaking immigrants will arrive here.

“Those who wanted to come, came,” said Rabbi Nechemia Rotenberg, the religious principal of a Jewish high school in Vienna who also works on continuity issues as the director of Zehut (“Identity”).

Current projections show the total population of Austrian Jews declining by half in the next 10 to 30 years—a prediction that appears very largely on the downswing.

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Over the past two decades, Jewish communities in Western Europe whittled down by intermarriage and assimilation have sustai
The change has come to Jewish life in Eastern Europe

In July 1995, a conference was held in Prague to plan strategy for the future of Jews in Europe.

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

REPORTER’S NOTEBOOK: 20 YEARS AGO

Washtenaw Jewish News

By Marissa Bratoff

NEW YORK, (Tablet)—The results are in: the words “bentch” and “klez” have throughout ly absorbed into the American vernacular, while “men’sch” and “jewisheh” remain primarily in the linguistic domain of Jews. A third of Jewish Americans who did not grow up in New York have nonetheless been told that they sound like they’re from that city. Sixty-eight percent of Reform Jews pronounce the word for the annual Jewish harvest festival “s›oo-COM”, as Israelis do, while only 34 percent use the Yid ish pronunciation “SUK-kas”; among the for mently Orthodox, those numbers are basically reversed. And gay non-Jews use more Yiddish than straight non-Jews, though gay Jews and straight Jews use about the same amount.

There are just a few findings of the Survey of American Jewish Language and Identity, the results of which were published online last month by linguist Sarah Burin Benor and sociologist Steven M. Cohen. Dozens of surveys about American Jews have come out the past few decades—but this is a rare one that shows rather than tells. Instead of asking respondents how religious they are or whether their grandparents will be Jewish, Benor and Cohen asked questions like, “When you say ‘Mary’ and ‘merry’ in regular speech, do they sound the same or different?” and “How do you refer to the Jewish skullcap?” By hitting the question of how to approach it at a slant rather than straight on, the researchers have come up with an unusu ally nuanced portrait of contemporary Ameri can Jews.

“Patterns of language use can tell us things about identities and communities that might not even be known to the actors themselves,” said Cohen, who has been conducting Jewish identity surveys of the more direct variety for some decades. “There are things we can see through the side door that we can’t see through the front door.”

Benor and Cohen’s survey technique, like the questions they asked, was untraditional. Instead of using a random sample survey, they engaged in “snowball technique,” e-mailing a survey to 600 friends in July 2008 and asking respondents to forward it in turn. They make clear in the introduction to their report that this approach has both its advantages and its drawbacks. On the one hand, 41,696 people completed the survey just in the first few weeks of its life on the Internet. (You can still take the survey online, though only data from those first 41,696 respondents has already been analyzed.) By contrast, the National Jewish Population Survey, conducted every 10 years by Jewish Federal erations of North America, has a sample size of about 5,000. On the other hand, Benor and Cohen note, “We know it over represents Jews with strong Jewish engagement and social ties”—the kind of people most likely to take such a survey of their own volition.

As Benor expected from her previous schol arship (like Cohen, she teaches at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform movement’s seminary, which sponsored the survey), the data suggests that for the most part, American Jews across the religious spectrum draw from the same “repertoire” of Jewish elements—that is, they are English speakers who use varying amounts of Yiddish or Hebrew phrasing and grammar to distinguish themselves both from non-Jews and from Jews elsewhere on the spectrum. With the exception of those fervently Orthodox Jews who use Yiddish as their primary language, Benor said, American Jews fall somewhere on this “continuum of distinctiveness” rather than being separable into different dialect groups.

“My favorite example is ‘gmar ch’aseh MAH to VAH,’ ” she said, enunciating each syllable of the traditional Yom Kippur greeting: in Eng lish, “May you be inscribed in the book of life.”

“That’s the most modern Hebrew pronuncia tion you can get. Then there’s ‘gmar cha-TEE mah TO-VAH,’ ” and then ‘gmar d’SEEH mah TO-VAH.’ ”

For those in the know, each pronunciation signifies a different spot on the religious con text: a non-Orthodox Jew probably would use the modern Hebrew pronunciation; as you move along the spectrum of observance, the greeting becomes more Yiddish-inflected.

One of the key findings of the survey was that Benor and Cohen call “the growth of lin guistic distinctiveness among the Orthodox.” Distinctive strains of Yiddish-inflected English are not only still in everyday use among younger generations of Orthodox American Jews, their prevalence is growing. Take the phrase, “She’s staying by us,” which borrows a Yiddish gram matical construction to mean, “She’s staying at our place.” Fifty-three percent of Orthodox Jews who took the survey named the phrase; in contrast, 21 percent of non-Orthodox Jews. But a full third of Orthodox Jews between the ages of 18 and 24 use it, compared to 12 percent of Orthodox respondents 75 or older. Accord ing to the report, “such words and phrases are so important for Orthodox identity that many Israeli irshim (newly Orthodox Jews) make a conscious effort to incorporate them into their speech, even when some people consider them to be incorrect English.” (Observer Sophisticed and Mir rahi, whose ancestors never spoke Yiddish in the first place, have adopted Yiddish religious terminology as well.

Benor attributes this to the fact that Ortho dox Judaism represents a sort of political, religious, and social vision of both a more conservative, politically and culturally, in recent years. “Part of that shift to the right is a linguis tic shift: some Jews who used to use less distinct English are now incorporating more Yiddish isms into their English,” she said.

In non-Orthodox Jewish communities, two trends are happening concurrently; the survey found. As members of an older generation die and take certain language patterns with them, younger Jews are using more Yiddish and Hebrew than before (and certainly more than their more assimilationist parents’ generation did). But the words disappearing and those appearing are not always the same words. Though Jews (and non-Jews) of all ages still say “shmitz” and “meatz ten,” seniors are more likely than their grandchildren to use Yiddishisms like “heymish” (far out), “naches” (pride), and “beshert” (predetermined). Where the younger generation is overtaking their grandparents is with religious terminology—Yiddish words like “bentch,” “yom” and “bensch” (for the blessing after meals). You see more Jews now identifying as religious rather than “secular Jew.”

Benor said, “Those Yiddish words that are continued on page 39

Arts and Culture

What the use of Yiddish phrases can tell us about contemporary American Jewry

By Marissa Bratoff

WASHINGTON JEWISH NEWS • December 2000/January 2010

13

13
Jewish support for Israeli-Arab causes goes mainstream, irking some Americans

By Gil Shefler

NEW YORK (JTA)—When the Reform movement passed a resolution endorsing advocacy for Israeli Arabs, it wasn’t the first time an American Jewish group had backed the cause of Israeli-Arab equality.

In recent years, a growing number of American Jews have thrown their support toward Israeli-Arab causes, including civil rights and advocacy organizations, women’s empowerment courses, student-exchange programs and even film festivals.

More than 80 Jewish groups belong to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli-Arab Issues, which works on behalf of equal treatment of Israel’s Arab citizens.

The Jewish federations’ Venture Fund for Jewish and Arab Equality and Shared Society, a role of 21 Jewish family foundations, federations and philanthropists, has raised more than $1 million for Israeli-Arab causes since its launch in 2007. And in 2006, the Jewish Agency for Israel announced it would invest in projects benefiting Israeli Arabs, scraping a policy, in place since its founding in 1922, of exclusively helping Jewish causes.

Last week’s unanimous endorsement of the cause by American Jewry’s largest religious movement, at the biennial conference in Toronto of the Union for Reform Judaism, was the latest sign that Jewish support for Israeli-Arab causes has gone mainstream.

“There’s no doubt that more money has been given to this issue than ever before. It’s become a mainstream issue,” said Rabbi Brian Lurie, co-chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The New Israel Fund, for example, has come under fire for its support of Israeli-Arab advocacy groups that take controversial positions, including calls for eliminating Israel’s Jewish character. Just last week, three NIF-funded Arab Israeli groups were behind a poster for a conference on women’s rights in the Arab world that suggested Israeli soldiers sexually assault Palestinian women, prompting cries to cry foul.

The NIF defended its position even as it criticized the poster. “While we certainly defend the conference as appropriate—and as it always, may disagree with our grantees on some key issues but see no reason to force them into ideological lockstep, there is no question that the poster in question is unnecessarily provocative and missleading,” NIF communications director Naomi Pass told JTA.

Other Jewish organizational officials say the Israeli-Arab community needs to be held to account. “We need to hold the leaders of the Israeli-Arab community or any other community to be responsible,” said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations, which is a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force. “That means that when there are incitements or actions that are detrimental, they need to counter it.”

“Warning that some of the money donated with the intent of bolstering Israeli society by reaching out to Israeli Arabs is used for ‘questionable purposes,’ Hoenlein said donations by Diaspora Jews should be put to use effectively “to counter the Islamist forces, encourage moderates and create conditions that are inductive to it.”

American Jews who support funding Israeli-Arab causes say they do so out of concern for Israel’s democracy and Jewish values.

“Israel’s strength and survival depend on the democratic nature of the Jewish state,” said the Reform movement’s resolution on the issue. “These imperatives require that we be ever sensitive to the aspirations and just demands of Israel’s minority citizens.”

Jessica Balaban, the executive director of the Inter-Agency Task Force, says her mission transcends political and ideological boundaries.

“With better education, people understand that improving the quality of life for the Arab citizens of Israel is in our self-interest, and it’s been well received by the Arab community here,” she told JTA by phone from Israel.

Rabbi Pesach Lerner, vice president of the National Council of Young Israel, an umbrella organization for Orthodox synagogues, said he objects to funding Israeli-Arab causes as a matter of priorities.

“Tradition teaches us priorities, and those priorities dictate that we give to our own families first,” Lerner said. “Israel in Israel have needs, and you don’t need the Arabs giving money to the Jews.”

Rabbi David Ellenson, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, subscribes to an opposing theological view. Quoting the biblical instruction “welcome the stranger in your midst,” Ellenson says it’s a religious imperative—and eventually it will strengthen Israel.

In general,” he said, “I think that people who are treated with respect and dignity tend to re- respond to those who treat them this way.”

Plans for new Palestinian city in West Bank raise hopes

By Dina Kraft

RAWABI, West Bank (JTA)—Dusk has fallen on a terraced hillside and workers clearing the red earth the Israel military uses by Jewish settlers in the twilight, their labor the initial step in the construction of the first-ever planned Palestinian city.

The city, with a construction price tag of some $550 million, is among the largest in the city limits registered, a name—Rawabi, Arabic for hills—and funding from the government of Qatar. It’s located about five miles north of Ramallah.

The project’s Ramallah-based developers, who plan to start building soon, hail the project as a prized and much-needed example of Palestinian economic development. Israeli officials are among those citing it as a symbol of Palestinian progress.

“At the heart of this, it’s about building a nation,” says Bashar Masri, chairman of the board of the Bayt Real Estate Investment Company, which is running the project. “We have dreamed about a liberal, advanced state with a higher standard of living, and this project is part of those aspirations.”

Masri, 48, sits behind a sleek, lime-colored glass desk at his office. He envisions the city as a place of both good living and employment. He talks animatedly about the work opportunities not only in construction but at a commercial center.

Eventually, Masri says, Rawabi will have schools, a hotel, a shopping center, health clinics—serving 40,000 residents.

The sunny plans for Rawabi, despite lingering bureaucratic challenges with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, dovetailed with an increasingly positive picture of economic growth in the West Bank, economists say.

In Ramallah, the most prosperous Palestinian city and its financial hub, high-end restaurants are crowded, a new chain of cafes recently opened, billboards advertise top-of-the-line washing machines and cars buildings rise beside the hillslopes. One building under construction will even feature a rotating rooftop restaurant.

How the unstable Palestinian political situation will impact that growth is unclear.

For the time being, International Monetary Fund officials say economic growth in the West Bank could reach as much as 7 percent in 2009 if Israel continues to relax restrictions, notably the removal of roadblocks. Such growth would indicate a major improvement in living standards in the area in the past three years, although the economy has yet to recover to pre-intifada levels from the summer of 2000. Unemployment in the West Bank is 18 percent, down from 25 percent in 2004.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likes to tout Palestinian economic prosperity in the West Bank paving the way for political peace. Since coming to office in March, Netanyahu has removed a series of checkpoints, helping ease the movement of people and goods between West Bank towns and cities.

By contrast, Hamas-controlled Gaza remains largely blocked by both Israel and Egypt, its economy in shambles.

Pundits say that while some relief has come with the dismantling of checkpoints, the ones that remain—including makeshift ones that move daily—contribute to a fragile situation.

Economic growth is not a substitute for political progress, they say.

In Ramallah, the most prosperous city, the peace process helps and is desperately needed to make peace dividends stick, but you cannot ensure economic stability without political progress,” Masri says. “Political instability can actually show up in our faces.”

In 1995, inspired by the prospects for peace following the signing of the Oslo accords, Masri returned to the West Bank after years living in the United States. When the second intifada began in 2000, the road outside his office was often crowded with Israeli tanks and army jeeps. His offices are in the same neighborhood as the Mukata, the Palestinian Authority headquarters where Yasser Arafat spent time under siege.

Envisioning a different future, Adi Ashkenazi, who directs the economic research division of Israel’s Office of Regional Cooperation under Minister Silvan Shalom, is helping support Rawabi. “It shows Palestinians interest in investing and improving their own standard of living and at the end of the day will be a new example that something is moving towards the future,” Shalom said.

Rawabi was heralded at a conference last month in Jerusalem by British Jewish businessman Sir Ronald Cohen, who heads a nonprofit that encourages political stability through Israeli and Palestinian economic development. The group, the Portland Trust, is helping support Rawabi.

Cohen says he sees the city as part of a larger effort to foster a more moderate Palestinian electorate. “We have to support private sector because it’s the only way to have sustainable growth,” Cohen said. “If people are feeling desperate, it’s very hard to arrive at reasonable negotiations.”

In Rawabi’s promotional video, 3-D architectural images depict people walking in a modern city with gleaming high-rise buildings, green parks and shopping areas. For now, the site of Rawabi remains one of wild sage tacked amid craggy white rocks, rows of new cypress and pine trees, and a bumpy dirt road.

A young civil engineer who is part of its design team looks out at the view and says he hopes one day soon he’ll be beyond planning the city; he’ll be living in it.
Jean-Yves Thibaudet piano
Sat, Dec 12 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

“Every note he fashions as a pearl...the joy, brilliance, and musicality of his performance could not be missed.” (The New York Times)

A master of color, nuance, and interpretation, pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet is recognized for his sophisticated performances and poetic soul. Considered one of the great pianists of our time, he has been praised by the press as “a musical treasure of this age.”

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His absolute artistry, virtuosity, and charisma will be on display in Hill Auditorium just a few days before his Carnegie Hall recital.

PROGRAM
Ravel
Pavane pour une enfante defunte (1899)
Ravel
Miroirs (1904-05)
Brahms
Sonata No. 3 in f minor, Op. 5 (1853)

Co-sponsored by Natalie Matuhićová and Donald Morelock.

Media partners: WDET 90.1 FM.

Dec/Jan Events

Opera in Concert: Bartók’s Bluebeard’s Castle
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Pierre Boulez artistic director
Mathieu Dufour flute
Michelle DeYoung mezzo-soprano
Falk Struckmann bass-baritone

Wed, Jan 27 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and conductor emeritus Pierre Boulez perform a stunning program that includes a rare concert performance of Bartók’s one-act opera, Bluebeard’s Castle, in which the lovely Judith opens the seven doors in her new husband’s castle, discovering something horrible and terrifying behind each. The program is balanced by Ravel’s delightful Le Tombeau de Couperin and a new flute concerto by Marc-André Delébaive.

Sponsored by The Linda and Maurice Binhow Philanthropic Fund and The Charles H. Gershenson Trust, and an anonymous donor.

Media partners: WDET 91.3 FM.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Sun, Jan 31 | 4 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

Since Paul Simon’s Graceland catapulted Ladysmith Black Mambazo to worldwide fame in 1986, the vocal group has remained true to the idea of opening doors to South African culture through music. For more than 30 years, the group has married the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African musical traditions to the sounds and sentiments of gospel music. The result is a musical and spiritual alchemy that has touched a worldwide audience representing every corner of the religious, cultural, and ethnic landscape.

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts as part of American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius, arts Midwest’s Performing Arts Fund, and the MetLife Community Connections Fund of the National Dance Project. Funded in part by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Media partners: WEMU 89.1 FM, ANN ARBOR’S 107ONE, MICHIGAN TIMES, MICHIGAN CHRONICLE, and BETWEEN THE LINES.

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Teens/Youth

Body piercing—kosher or not?

Noa Gutterman, staff writer

Recently, I’ve wondered, is God’s nose pierced? I know practically nothing about God, so why not? Who’s to say that God doesn’t have a pierced nose? Four days ago, I got one too. Even though I had been anticipating it for a long time, getting my nose pierced was one of the most terrifying experiences of my life. Accompanied by two friends and my mother, I found myself in Pangea Piercing. Four days later, the pain has subsided and I could not be happier with my new nose. My interest in nose piercings has been around for years. However my interest was renewed with an experience I had last semester in Israel. I was in line in a small shop to get my ears pierced, and the two young women in line behind me were preparing to get their noses pierced. These young women were also Orthodox Jews.

My nose piercing has elicited many questions about the Jewish ethics behind piercings. And what I found was not at all what I expected. My first biblical find was a section which stated that if a slave chooses to stay a slave, he should get his ear pierced to signify his love of his master and to brand him as a permanent slave. I may be mistaken, but I hope that people who meet me assume that I am not a slave. In fact, even most Orthodox Jews accept ear piercings on women as a social norm, yet they still discourage nose piercings. The second Jewish teaching I found was in regards to humans being created in the image of God. Some Jews argue that God gave us bodies in the image of God and we should not deface ourselves with piercings. However, I know that my nose piercing will now serve as a constant reminder of my belief in God and in Judaism.

For information about Ken Pardes youth group activities, contact Yael Warshai at yaelw07@hotmail.com or Ron Sussman at ronsussman@aol.com. For Camp Tavor information, contact Kate Sandler at registrar@camptavor.org.

Celebrate Chanukah with Ken Pardes

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

Sunday, January 24 • 3 pm

Washtenaw Community College – Morris Lawrence Building

Ken Pardes Youth Group at the group’s Sukkot event in October.

Ken Pardes, the local branch of Habonim Dror youth movement, is off to a great start for the 2009-2010 school year. Ken Pardes, also associated with Camp Tavor, held a wonderful kick-off picnic at Bandemer Park in September. In October, they had a sukkah decorating party, complete with cider, doughnuts and games about Jewish history. Several other well attended events, including a November Shabbat dinner, rounded off the fall’s activities.

According to Yael Warshai, one of the coordinators of the youth group this year, “Coming up on Sunday, December 6th, we welcome everyone to a fun Chanukah party. We are a friendly, fun group and we love meeting new kids! All kids, from age seven and up are invited!” Contact Yael Warshai, at 223-8388, for full details on when and where to meet for the Chanukah party.

Leadership development is a big focus of Ken Pardes. According to Yael, “At the end of December, there will be a Habonim leadership seminar in Philadelphia to be attended by the leadership of Ken Pardes (11th graders and up). Many kids are already starting to look forward to summer 2010 at Camp Tavor as well.”
Home sick? HDS students stay connected through distance learning

Dina Shuill, special to the WIN

The United States and Michigan Departments of Education and the Center for Disease Control have all recommended that schools ensure continuous learning for children who are home sick. They suggest creating virtual classrooms and electronic learning communities where students and teachers interact even though students may not be physically present in the classroom. Hebrew Day School has been doing just that—keeping students with the flu connected with their classmates and their learning while they are at home recovering.

“I felt very honored to be able to talk and do work with my class while I was sick,” says Daniel Zacks, a fifth grader who was out for four days. “I loved being with Skype and learning in the free classroom. It was fun, and I could see my classmates and the teacher and all the students sang together. If laughter, learning, and friendship can help speed up recovery, it did. Zacks and Bamberger came back from the school to the classroom. It was fun, and I could see my classmates and the teacher and all the students sang together. If laughter, learning, and friendship can help speed up recovery, it did. Zacks and Bamberger came back from the school to the classroom. It was fun, and I could see my classmates and the teacher and all the students sang together.”

“The student in the classroom and the student at home were both learning while they were at home recovering. It was a unique opportunity for the students to engage in their learning remotely and maintain connection with their peers and teachers,” said teacher Carol Gannon. 

The class was reading an historical novel, Behind Rebel Lines, as part of their study of the Civil War. Zacks and Bamberger followed along and participated in the class reading. A school day includes lighter moments such as recess or a snack break. Students at home did not miss those moments either. When it was time for a break, teacher Carol Gannon put the words to the class song on the SMART Board, and all the students sang together. If laughter, learning, and friendship can help speed up recovery, it did. Zacks and Bamberger came back to school as if they had never been “home” sick. “I loved being with Skype and learning in the classroom. It was fun, and I could see my classmates,” said Bamberger.

Behind Rebel Lines, as part of their study of the Civil War, Zacks and Bamberger followed along and participated in the class reading.

HDS student participates in classroom lesson from home

The student in the classroom and the student at home together discussed and documented their observations. Literature class was next. The class was reading an historical novel, Behind Rebel Lines, as part of their study of the Civil War. Zacks and Bamberger followed along and participated in the class reading.
Early Childhood Center goes green

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WIN

After lunch in the Kangaroo room of the JCC Early Childhood Center, a preschool-aged child picks up her plate, cup, and utensils, walks over to a bucket labeled with one of Ann Arbor’s ubiquitous “Compostable” stickers, scraps off her plate, and then proceeds to rise her plate, cup, and utensils in a wash bin of soapy water. Then she takes the yogurt container she brought from home and places it in a recycling bin. Later, the bucket will be emptied into a large compost bin, and the cup, utensils, and plate will be sanitized and used again, and again, and again. In the spring, the compost will be used as planting resumes in the ECC’s vegetable garden. A similar scene is played out in each ECC classroom after every mealtime.

This environmentally friendly mealtime routine, with all that surrounds it, originated with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I really had a vision of teaching children with the ECC’s director, Noreen DeYoung, who said, “I 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I wanted to see us engaging in Tikkun Olam every day." Slowly but surely, over the last eighteen months, the JCC’s early childhood program has integrated green practices into the daily life of the program, and its students. Some green practices started small, but grew over time. The worm box in the hallway that transforms relatively small amounts of organic waste into rich soil led to full-fledged composting that accommodates a large amount of the ECC’s daily waste. The use of durable drinking cups for the children many years ago led to the introduction of durable plates in the classrooms last school year, and then real, metal, child-sized utensils this school year.

An environmental consciousness exists not only in the mealtime routines that reduce waste and preserve resources. It also manifests itself in many of the learning materials that are manipulated by the children in the various interest areas of their classrooms. During large group time in the Zebra room, a group of two-year-olds bring materials together in time to the beat of a song. While some of the children use egg shakers and drums devised for this purpose, another child uses the grate from an air conditioning vent and a stick, while another child uses a washboard, an old-time favorite. During Work Time in the Giraffe room, a group of preschool-aged children playing “family” sets the table in their “house” area with real plates and real utensils, and pretends to cook food in a real skillet with a real spatula, all procured at the Ann Arbor PTO thrift shop. During group time in the Duck room, a small group of older infants engages in sensory-motor exploration of interlocking metal rings and tin cans, all found at Recycle Ann Arbor’s Re-Use center.

The increased use of these “found,” real materials began a number of years ago, when some of the ECC’s teachers began to re-use common household items to equip the parts of their classrooms devoted to children’s pretend play. Two years ago, however, the ECC adopted a curricular approach that demanded a re-evaluation of all classroom materials. The High/Scope approach utilized by the ECC places great emphasis on materials that reflect the real lives of children, that appeal to more than one sense, and that can be used in any way a child can imagine. Now, every classroom regularly uses “found” materials not only for children’s dramatic play, but also as music materials, sensory materials, and art materials, which provide a greater opportunity for exploration and imagination.

While green routines around mealtimes have reduced the ECC’s daily waste dramatically, and the use of “found” materials in all areas of the classrooms have enriched children’s learning, these practices have also led to the growth of children for whom the first reaction is not going to be to throw things in the trash. While many children understand the need to recycle and re-use, the development of green habits is critical to making a real connection between the ideal of Tikkun Olam and actions that repair the world every day.
JCC Camp Raanana earns rave reviews for Summer 2009 programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

It is not even winter yet, but many local children are already counting the days until summer begins so they can return to Camp Raanana. Located on a beautiful private beach front at Independence Lake, Camp Raanana is the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor’s outdoor summer day camp for children entering grades K-8. The camp offers nine 1-week sessions each summer and provides swim lessons, arts & crafts, judaics, nature exploration, music, sports, free swim, weekly special events or field trips, and Shabbat celebrations.

Campers enjoy the outdoor camp experience

Other parents also point to the importance of Camp Raanana’s staff and the presence of nature male and female role models. Jodi Reel, whose daughter attended Camp Raanana for the first time last summer, had this to say about camp: “Our daughter really blossomed this summer and it is all happened so quickly... the independence, the maturity, the connection, all thanks to the camp director and staff. Through the positive leadership of the delightful young women who were her counselors, she has decided at the age of almost seven that she wants to be a counselor one day! Camp Raanana truly exceeded our expectations and was one of the best five week investments we’ve ever made.”

JCC Camp Raanana hiring staff for 2010

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Assistant director sought

Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor’s outdoor summer day camp, is seeking an experienced and dedicated individual to serve as assistant camp director for the 2010 camp season. The assistant director position is a salaried position that is vital to Camp Raanana’s success and smooth operation. The assistant director works closely with the camp director in the development, implementation, and supervision of all key aspects of the camp program. In addition to the salary period from June-August, the assistant director will be paid an hourly basis for assisting with pre-camp preparations in the spring.

Applicants for the assistant director position must be at least 21 years of age by the start of camp, have previous supervisory experience, and have extensive familiarity and experience with judaics and camp programming. Applicants also must have a minimum of eight weeks of full-time experience working with elementary or middle school aged children, including at least four weeks of full-time administrative experience in a camp or similar program (unit head, program coordinator, head counselor, etc.). Applicants should have or be working toward a bachelor’s degree in a related field (education, Judaic studies, social work, camp administration, etc.) and have special certifications (lifeguard, health officer, C&U license, etc.) or willingness to attain certification preferred.

Now hiring new counselors, specialists

Camp Raanana has several staff openings for next summer. Counselor-in-Training positions are available for teens who have completed 8th or 9th grade, Junior Counselor positions are available for teens who have completed 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, and Head Counselor and Specialist positions are available for college and post-college students.

The Counselor-in-Training program is a fun and supportive program for teens who have completed 8th or 9th grade and are making the transition from camper to counselor. CITs receive training and hands-on experience in child development, leadership and team-building, conflict resolution, program planning, and first aid. CITs also get to participate in social activities and special field trips.

Teens may register for one or both four-week CIT sessions ($360 for the initial four-week session, $60 for a second four-week session) and will receive an honorarium for their work upon successful completion of the program. Teens must fill out an application and meet with the camp director to receive approval to enter the program. Accepted applicants will be required to attend several pre-camp training sessions in June. Interested teens should contact the camp director in December or January to request an application.

Camp Raanana is also seeking mature and talented individuals to fill several eight-week Head Counselor and Specialist positions. Applicants for these positions must have completed at least one year of college (or equivalent), have previous experience in a camp setting, and be able to attend several pre-camp training sessions in June. Positions available may include lifeguard, arts and crafts specialist, Judaic programs specialist; sports specialist; nature specialist; special needs coordinator; afterschool coordinator; general counselor; and middle school travel group counselor. Applications will be accepted beginning in December; interested individuals should contact the camp director as soon as possible to request an application and obtain details about the available positions.

Win a Family Furniture Package

Promoting Kavanah

For more information about working at Camp Raanana or to request an application, contact Camp Director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.
When infants and toddlers arrive for school each morning at the Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center, their day promises to hold much more than simple daycare routines. Through interactions with teachers and other students, activities centered on the children’s interests and skills, and an age-appropriate Jewish curriculum, even the youngest of children gains important social, emotional, communication, and self-help skills throughout their time in the program.

Supporting the exploration and discovery central to a young child’s life is one of the primary responsibilities of a successful infant/toddler program. In the infant/toddler program at the JCC, the support is offered in numerous different ways. Much of the day is devoted to free choice time, where children have the opportunity to explore the array of classroom materials. The interests expressed by the children during free play also form the basis for teacher-initiated small and large group activities. Many of these materials and activities pose challenges and questions for the children: How does this string of beads move through this tube? What will this sponge feel like in my hands, on my face, or against my tummy? What will happen if I bang these spoons together? Through their play, the children not only discover the answers to these questions, but also gain important problem solving skills and a sense of independence. Additionally, exploring with these materials in the presence of peers and caregivers provides the foundation for developing early social skills. Watching and interacting with others triggers a whole different set of questions: What is that child doing with her blocks? Can I mimic that action? How can I communicate to my friends or teachers that I need help solving this problem?

In addition to these life skills, at the Jewish Community Center children also get a sense of what it means to be Jewish from the very beginning. Celebrating Shabbat is an important part of the week for infants and toddlers. The Jewish holidays are the basis for many special activities throughout the year, including making and tasting traditional foods, learning new songs, and community-wide programs and celebrations. Words like “torah,” “challah,” and “shalom” are a part of the children’s vocabulary from the time they begin to speak. The Jewish Community Center offers a sense of Jewish identity for even the youngest of children.

Infant/toddler care is about so much more than just care. It is about interacting with others, solving problems, and developing a sense of self. A successful infant/toddler program provides young children with the foundation for developing a sense of personal identity and skills that will last a lifetime.

The Washtenaw Schools Millage did not pass. As a result, the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation is asking for your immediate donation. We have a 17-year history raising private donations for the Ann Arbor Public Schools – and today we’re pleading for your help on behalf of our community. Our kids. And our collective future. We’re asking you to donate the amount you were willing to pay through a Millage “Yes” vote as seen below. It won’t solve the budget shortfalls. But it will take us one step closer to keeping our schools innovative and excellent. And 100% of your money will stay in Ann Arbor.

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<th>Home value (in $)</th>
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Note: Taxable value is estimated at 50% of home value.

To be part of the solution, visit www.supportannarborschools.org/urgentneed or call Christy Perros at 734.355.8997

Youth

Building life skills and Jewish identity for the youngest

Susan Horowitz, special to the WJN

As one infant explores a textured material, another watches intently.

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To be part of the solution, visit www.supportannarborschools.org/urgentneed or call Christy Perros at 734.355.8997
Learning what is Jewish about a moose (and much more!)

Cindy Saper, special to the WJN

The Jewish Educators Council of Ann Arbor recently hosted Jewish Naturalist Gabe Goldman as Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Goldman is the Director of Experiential and Environmental Education at American Jewish University. He is well known for his unique teaching style that blends his love of Jewish text with his knowledge of nature and the environment. During his visit to Ann Arbor, he led a workshop for area teachers, and visited the Early Childhood Center of the ICC, Hebrew Day School, Temple Beth Emeth Religious School, Beth Israel Religious School, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah Beit Sefar, and Jewish Cultural Society School. Rounding out his visit were two Shabbat family Nature Walks. Teachers and students alike had many “wow” moments as they engaged in hands-on learning during the workshops. Following are just a few comments:

“[I found a lamed in the bush!”] JCS student.

“I loved Gabe’s open, welcoming and encouraging teaching style.” BIRS teacher.

“Who knew that the moose is the world’s largest kosher animal?” TBE teacher.

“Wow, ink from wasps?!” JCS parent.

“What fascinated me the most was seeing, for the first time, a gall nut and learning how it is used to make the ink used for the writing of the Torah.” BIRS teacher.

“As all these comments show, Gabe was able to connect in a very unique way with the entire community. Teachers were so impressed with his ability to engage everyone in the study of nature from a Jewish perspective. From the relatively simple idea of having students look up to find the shapes of the Hebrew letters in the trees to the more complicated halachic discussions of why various animals are considered kosher, teachers were inspired to continue exploring our Jewish connection to nature with their students. The Jewish Educators Council’s annual Scholar in Residence program is made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.”

Gabe showing students how ancient heroes made fire

“Gabe’s presentation was perfectly pitched to my students. The next week students were still talking about how exciting it was to hold the moose antler.” Havurah teacher.

“My students who are studying Jewish heroes learned about survival skills needed back in biblical times. Learning how to make a fire with flint and stone, and how to make tea from sumac, gave them a whole new perspective to their classroom learning.” TBE teacher.

Jewish educators test the strength of rawhide

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
12 PM, 202 S. THAYER ST., 1022
AHARON OPPENHEIMER, TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY
“MONOTHEISM AND MUTINY: HOLY WAR IN ANCIENT JUDAISM”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
12 PM, 202 S. THAYER ST., 2022
VANESSA OCHS, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
“The Stories Jewish Homes Tell”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14
12 PM, 202 S. THAYER ST., 2022
NAOMI FEUCHTWANGER-SARIG,
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
“ON READING ART: TEXT, IMAGE AND INTERPRETATION IN EARLY MODERN ASIKHENAZ”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
12 PM, 202 S. THAYER ST., 2022
MICHAL KRAVEL-TOVI, HEBREW UNIVERSITY
“RITE OF PASSING: CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX CONVERSION IN ISRAEL”

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1. The Local Authors Brunch celebrated the community’s creativity
2. Author Judith Endelman
4. Book sales were brisk throughout the week
5. Author Karen McGinity
6. The nine Lunch and Learn programs were enjoyed by many
7. Debra B. Darvick read her book Love Jewish Faces with the aid of Fran Martin
8. Author Dan Senor signing at JCC Book Festival
9. Brunch at the Local Authors Fair was a big success
10. The book sale continues at the JCC through Chanukah
11. Sammy Margolis, Cammy Brown, Elaine Margolis, Julie Brown, and Helen Brown at the American Girl Doll Tea
A2SO CD release party, December 17

Sander Slimovits, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Symphony’s first ever recording has been available via electronic download from the Naxos label since September at www.naxos.com, but beginning on the 15th of this month, the physical CD will be available at Borders Books, Barnes and Noble, and at other music outlets and from the Naxos Record Company.

I recently sat down with A2SO Music Director, Arie Lipsky, after one of his Afternoon Delights chamber music concerts at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and asked him about the new recording.

WJN: How did you decide that the A2SO’s first recording would be all Paul Fetler’s music?

Lipsky: Some things are bashert. (Yiddish word meaning “destined, inevitable, or meant-to-be.”) Something happens and you have no idea why and twenty years later you go… oh wow, now I understand.

I joined the Buffalo Philharmonic as their principal cellist in 1984. The music director then, Seymour Bychkov, liked the music of Paul Fetler. I’d not heard his music before, or of him. This was sometime in the late 1980s, and Paul at that time was in his late 60s. The Buffalo Philharmonic used to play lots of new music and, as a player, you always treat anything new with a little suspicion. You know, because it’s hard to compare to Brahms and Beethoven and Mozart and Bach and all those great geniuses of history. And when you read also about new music during the time of Mo- zart and Beethoven, you realize that there was so much more than these names, but somehow history has a way of….

WJN: Distilling?

Lipsky: Yes. The good stays, the rest just goes. And I see my role… I’m supposed to give everything a chance, and, as do my best to present new music to audiences, and then history will decide. That’s the way it is in theory anyway, [laughs] but in practicality after you play some new pieces a couple of times, you figure out very fast whether they’re likely to survive or not. In any case, I don’t know how Bychk- kow was introduced to Paul Fetler, but the first piece we played in Buffalo were these three poems of Walt Whitman that Paul set to music. (It is those settings that be- gin the A2SO’s recording.) Right after the introduction, I said to myself, “Oh, this is a person who knows what he’s writing.”

We played it on a tour even, including at Carnegie Hall. And it stayed with me for a long time. We played the violin concerto as well, and some other pieces by Paul. But then the years went by and I forgot about them—until a couple of years ago. It was right after a performance we gave of Lin- coln Portraits by Copland. (Former Uni- versity of Michigan football coach, Lloyd Carr, and former U-M basketball coach, Tom Izzo, both served as narrators for that piece.) After the concert I had dinn- er with the Blakes, as I often do, because we’re just family. [Tom Blake, who is the chairman of the U-M Whitman poems on the new A2SO recording, coached the two coaches for their roles in the Lincoln Portraits performance. Blase, who is a prominent local attorney, is also a Whit- man scholar and an accomplished poet whose work has been published under a pseudonym in The New Yorker. He is married to A2SO Executive Director Mary Stephak Blase.] We started talking about the Copland work and the fact that there are not many pieces with narration. Then, somehow we began talking about Tom’s favorite poet, Walt Whitman, and I said, “Bingo!” And then the bashert happened.

[Laughter] I said, “Tom, you know, there is a piece by Paul Fetler that uses Whitman poems, and I’ll try to see if I can resurrect it.” I was able to get, from the Buffalo Philharmonic archives, a recording of the per- formance of this music. I listened again, this is many years after, and it was still very appealing to me. I played it for Tom and he said, “Oh, wow. This is a real treasure.”

So we contacted Paul, who at that time was already retired and living in Sarasota. He had been the composer in residence of the Minnesota Orchestra for ten years, and he was also professor of composition at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. I contacted him and told him we would like to perform it and he was so excited. Brought back a lot of memories for him; he remembered the Buffalo performances very well. He said he would like to attend our performance. And so three years ago he did. The audience received the piece very warmly, Tom did a wonderful job, and the orchestra played fantastically. So, then we started talking about the possibility of re- cording. That used to be a very touchy is- sue because of union regulations. But the policies have changed and it’s much easier now to record. Especially if it’s a live con- cert, rather than a whole recording session, where you do each section again and again till you get it right. So, we were able to raise the funds and at that point we thought maybe it would be a good idea to have a CD that presented Paul’s music. I asked him about his “Second Violin Concerto” and he told me that that has not been re- corded either, and also this little chamber orchestra piece, the “Capriccio.” And, even though he was at the time in his late 80s, he said about the Capriccio, “I’m not comfort- able with that. Let me do a little revision.”

WJN: Like Brahms. [Laughter] (In the Af- ternoon Delights concert, Lipsky, along with A2SO concertmaster Aaron Berofsky and pianist Joel Schoenhals, played the “Brahms Piano Trio No. 1.”) And Lipsky told the audience that Brahms originally composed the piece as a very young man, but late in his life he rewrote it because he was not satisfied with it.

Lipsky: Yes, and so Paul also rewrote his “Ca- pricco.” And I think he achieved the same results. It got much better. And then, since we could not do one whole program of Fetler, because not many people know of him, we decided to record each piece in a different concert over two seasons. It was very exciting, because people in the audi- ence were told that they were going to be featured, with their clapping….

WJN: And hopefully not their coughing. [Laughter]

Lipsky: Right. So we recorded these three pieces. At each concert, as part of this new agreement with the musicians, we were able to stay an- other half an hour after the concert and just work on specific spots that might need a little correction. And we recorded the dress re- hearsal as well. Then after we had all the ma- terial, we had a producer, Thomas Gerdon, and we worked together and came back with something that we’re very, very proud of.

continued on page 30

Former Ann Arborite Lea Grossman, Yiddishe Cup’s biggest fan

By Bert Stratton

she got us into The Ark. She kugled the former program director, Dave S disillusion. She delivered a noodle kugel to his office on Pauline Road. He liked it and he hired us. (Hopefully our music had something to do with getting us into The Ark too.)

I had been avoiding Ann Arbor un- til then. I had attended the University of Michigan during the hippie era and hadn’t learned much. There had been a quasi-ban on book learning then. The foreign language requirement had been oppressive according to protestors, and the psych teaching assistants—leading T- Groups—gave everyone A’s, in protest of grading. Until I signed up. Then it went to pass/fail.

When my own kids started looking at colleges, I told them Michigan was a swamp. Too big, too impersonal.

I rooted for Ohio State over Michigan. I had a problem! I told Michigan to stop sending me alumni mail. But for $75, I hedged and sent a donation every year. You never knew… I wasn’t sure. Thanks to super-fan Lea Grossman, I wound up back in Ann Arbor, big-time. Lea was 60—something and got around like a chode. The woman could dance, party, and cook. She knew every Jewish dance and sang “Tumbala laika” on stage with Yiddishe Cup at The Ark.

Lea lived near North Campus in a univer- sity-affiliated retirement community. It was like a dorm for seniors—real seniors.

North Campus—the last time I had been there—had been a music school, a smatter- ing of grad student housing, and one under- graduate dorm. It had been the end of the earth. The dorm was Bursley— as in “brrr,” why am I standing at a campus bus stop, freezing my ass off?

For Yiddishe Cup’s Ark gig, I picked Jan- uary 2005. Not too many rational Cleve- landers scheduled weddings in January, so we had an opening. Ann Arbor’s weather was just like Cleve- land’s. Crappy. And we got a huge crowd at the club. That was weird. The difference between Ann Arbor and Cleveland was Ann Arbor had a puffy coat brigade. The worse the weather, the more the puffy coats came out. It was almost an Upper Midwest can-do—like something from the Progressive Era—a bunch of Jews in puffy coats.

On that first Ark trip, my youngest son stayed in the North Campus dorm, Bursley. He was in eleventh grade. He liked it and wound up at Michigan.

So I returned to the swamp—to see him, and play gigs. (My other kids went to small liberal arts colleges.)

I couldn’t get the Michigan Daily to write up Yiddishe Cup. Ever. I tried. The reporters wouldn’t return calls. Maybe the reporters weren’t too busy talking to a klezmer guy.

When I had been a Daily reporter, I had enjoyed the John Lennon and Miles Davis assignments, not the one where I profiled the Discount Records clerk who played sax. (That sax player, Steve Mac- kay, turned out to be pretty good. He cut some records with the Stooges.)

Lea didn’t know who to kugel at the Daily; the young Daily reporters were always rotat- ing in and out. They missed a good dish.

Lea moved to New Jersey in early 2009. Yiddishe Cup has played The Ark yearly since 2005.

Upcoming show: Saturday, January 23, 2010, 8 p.m. at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., for tickets, call 761-4511 or go to wwwtheark.org. Tickets are $20 or $10 with a student ID.

Lea with Yiddishe Cup and friends

Chic—like something from the Progressive Era—a bunch of Jews in puffy coats.

Yiddishe Cup has played The Ark yearly since 2005.
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False witnesses’ “vigil” continues into seventh year.

continued from page 1

Aimee Smith of the Huron Valley Greens Party amplies her objections to Celebrate Israel Day outside the JCC on May 17, 2009. Though not Muslim, Smith who wears a hijab, scolded the crowd, “Stop pretending you're from Arabia. Be proud of your European roots.” At a previous JCC event she chanted, “Defecating on children's drawings will not bring peace.” The crowd responded, “Stop pretending you're from Arabia. Be proud of your European roots.” At a Day of Solidarity with Palestinians in Michigan, on May 17, 2009. Though not Muslim, Smith who wears a hijab, scolded the main sanctuary to worship their God.

Herskovitz, 63, is a long-time Ann Arbor fixture with his signs outside the Federation’s main entrance. “I've heard a pretty wide range of opinions about the Middle East [in the congregation] including, no lack of people very critical of the Israeli government,” said Dan Cutler, an Ann Arbor resident and Beth Israel member. But the picketers don't care about actual opinions among people in the congregation, he contends. They use the Jewish families simply as a backdrop to denouncing opinions they imagine congregants hold. Cutler cites a disturbing encounter when the picketers first showed up. One told him, “Jewish prayers should be disrupted. You pray for genocide.” A white-haired woman holding a sign denouncing Israel rushed over to add, “It's true! It's true!” and when he turned to enter the synagogue she yelled, “Come back here. I'm not through with you yet!”

Cutler’s disdain is shared by many, including those who have no connection to the synagogue, but who respect the congregation's right to worship free of outside disturbances. “The thing that twinges me is that it’s the impropriety of doing it in front of a place of worship,” said Stephen Pastor, a retired anthropology professor at the University of Michigan, with an Islamic world focus that causes him to be particularly irked by distortions of historical/cultural fact. Pastor has created his own custom-made t-shirts with caricature depictions of the protesters, whom he likes to call “Herskovitzes.” They tend to label Herskovitz and other members of the group as “self-hating” Jews and honestly question some members' sanity.

Herskovitz acknowledges regularly attending sessions with a therapist over the years, but insists he isn’t crazy. “I think that critics always want to find a real personality flaw and try to exploit that and that’s the reason,” he said. “What that does is create a cheap diversion of the public's attention. Pay no attention to the Israeli atrocities, but focus on Henry so nobody wants to take up the issue.”

If Herskovitz is the captain, then Sol Metz is his first mate in the protest effort. Metz is known to be scrappy and frothy.“He's hard to miss, and he isn’t hiding from anybody. Sometimes of a throwback from Ann Arbor’s counter-culture and anti-war movements, Metz often spoke his mind on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through frequent letters to the editor submissions to the Ann Arbor News, and has attempted rational dialogue with opponents.

But don’t expect much objectivity on the topic. The retired computer programmer said he grew up in a Jewish home with blind love for Israel instilled by his parents. But his disillusion with the Vietnam War spread to the Arab-Israeli conflicts of that time and provided a new line of thinking about the Jewish state.

In 2003, he says, out of frustration from being denied a forum to discuss his particular view of the conflict, which he said was shaped greatly by a visit to Palestinian refugee camps in 2002. He said he hoped to appeal to the Jewish consciousness after the suffering he saw, after the congregation members’ course of action and have them question their support of Israel. If those motives were true, the extreme tactics backfired, delegitimized their mission and instead galvanized a Jewish community against them, Jewish and non-Jewish observers of the situation said.

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The wingman
If Herskovitz is the captain, then Sol Metz is easily his first mate in the protest effort. No longer right by his side, Metz, co-founder of the group, typically stands two to three feet from Herskovitz each and every week, carrying his own signs and blown-up photo he took of a Palestinian woman weeping over the rubble of her demolished home. His long white hair and frothy, proclaiming beard make Metz hard to miss, and he isn’t hiding from anybody.

Somewhat of a throwback from Ann Arbor’s counter-culture and anti-war movements, Metz often spoke his mind on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through frequent letters to the editor submissions to the Ann Arbor News, and has attempted rational dialogue with opponents. But don’t expect much objectivity on the topic. The retired computer programmer said he grew up in a Jewish home with blind love for Israel instilled by his parents. But his disillusion with the Vietnam War spread to the Arab-Israeli conflicts of that time and provided a new line of thinking about the Jewish state.

Decades later, his own journeys to disputed territories after the second Intifada solidified his desire to take his ex-hippie ways to a new cause.

But Metz’s story is replete with contradictions. He married his first wife, Rosemary, in Detroit in 1967, but only after she converted to Judaism, he said. “I had already pretty much rejected [Judaism] at that point and I didn’t really want her to, but she did, for me,” he said recently when confronted with facts from court records.

Their marriage lasted nearly 20 years and took almost another two years to dissolve, according to divorce records. Though not specifically detailed in legal briefs, diverging views on Judaism had become a factor in the marriage, he said. They settled on joint custody, but Metz had physical custody of the couple’s four children, ages 4 to 17, at the time of filing.

Though he is now a Quaker, Metz — after a long pause —acknowledges that two of his four children are practicing Jews today and don’t have much respect for his efforts.

It was right before and during that period of transition through the divorce that finances became a stymie challenge, he said. He insists that at Rosemary’s urging, he turned to the local Jewish Federation for help with clothing and other needs for his family.

Along with the Shabbat protests, Metz is a fixture with his signs outside the Federation’s larger gatherings and planned to picket this year’s Main Event, featuring nationally syndicated radio talk show host Peter Sagal.

He said groups like the Federation are what need to be stopped because of the money they raise for Israel. He is convinced the majority goes to military projects and settlements rather than humanitarian causes, despite his own experience with them.

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He's aware of the hypocrisy, but remains un-fazed by it.

"That's fair to say, but I don't see a big prob-lem with it," Metz, 66, explained. "The U.S. government helps me too, but I don't have any problem criticizing them either."

"I didn't want the (Federation's) help and I didn't think they [his children] needed it," Metz said after he recently remarried to some-one not as active in the cause, but a believer who stands firmly behind him.

The others

Also protesting is Gloria Harb, a resident of Glencoe Square Apartments in Pittsfield Township. She said she participates because she believes the United States' political system is corrupted by Jews intent on furthering Israel's agenda be-fore America's. Though a staunch liberal, Harb said her greatest concern is that the pro-Israel lobby is so prevalent and powerful in Wash-ington D.C., that President Barack Obama will cave to pressure on the Middle East peace pro cess and allow harmful concessions.

On most Saturdays, congregants and pass ersby will also see Marcia FederBush holding signs. Though the smallest in height and the oldest at 75, FederBush brings some noteworthy stature to the group.

In 1988 she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for her pioneering work. Herskovitz and his group's actions have disrup ted, sometimes the safety, raising money for American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA, website http://www.afmda.org/) to help fund Israel's national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance, and blood bank service. They chose Magen David Adom because it is a humanitarian organiza tion serving all victims of violence without regard to ethnicity or religion.

"I speak for myself, but if they take the flag down from the bima, I'm gone," he said. "Show the rest of the world that you are truly a place of worship and not a place of national support for the State of Israel. Take the flag down, and Henry's gone."

Magen David Adom

beneficiary of picketers persistence

WIN staff writers

SPURN (Syngogue Protest UNACCEPT ABE! Respond Now!) was created as a grassroots campaign by Beth Israel congregants as a way to alleviate the frustration caused by the picketing outside their shul. Congregants chose to respond by doing good deeds; specifically, raising money for American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA, website http://www.afmda.org/)

"I think, I hope, that we're humble enough to see if there is another group reaching a syna gogue or a Jewish community somewhere else using tactics different than ours, we'll follow their tactics. But I haven't seen it."

In the meantime, the congregation will re main resolute.

"What I tell people is to join us inside," Rabbi Dobrusin said. "We live in a great country where people have the right to free speech and where we can gather as a people to celebrate who we are. And that part is not going to change."

"I don't bet on it," said Metz, reveling in the Don't bet on it, said Metz, reveling in the Don't bet on it, said Metz, reveling in the irony of his group's actions having been very disruptive in the community. He's heard people at a rally organized by the Muslim community, and I've seen him protest and a candlelight vigil for peace in Gaza and southern Israel."

"I'll speak for myself, but if they take the flag down from the bima, I'm gone," he said. "Show the rest of the world that you are truly a place of worship and not a place of national support for the State of Israel. Take the flag down, and Henry's gone."

"I think it's unrelated to the tactics," he said. "Though not a religious symbol, the flag has a place in the synagouge in order to represent a sovereign state, recognized by the world as the Jewish homeland, he added. Dialogue with any religious, political, or humanitarian group is predicated on mutual respect and acceptance of the legitimacy of the State of Israel."

"I don't bet on it," said Metz, reveling in the supposed momentum gained by the group last year when Hitler's Market made a minor change to some print advertisements after a feeble boycott attempt.

"I'm confident them will be a resolution to the conflict in the Middle East," he said. "I'm not sure it will happen in my lifetime but I think it's happen ing quicker now because of the work we're doing."

"It's accurate, we threw him out of the group," he said bluntly about a rumor circulated about Coleman's departure. "I won't say much else about it other than people have to be responsible for their own decisions. But he's on the right side of the issue as far as I'm concerned."

Pastach ended up watching most of the pro testers on area blogs, said he knows Coleman's written after years of engaging in it via one-line chatrooms and mes sage boards, and does not think the Jewish community needs to address Coleman's inactivity.

Not just a Jewish problem

What has become increasingly clear over the years is that the group's furor, in terms of swaying mainstream Jews to their cause has not prevented them from being as ineffective outside the local Jewish community.

Their members have been removed by police from Ann Arbor City Council meetings and their behavior forced changes to Council's public comment policies. The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice decided to close down its Middle East Task Force and disruptive behavior has been banned from ICP meetings and gatherings. According to Chuck Warpehoski, "Earlier this year the Interfaith Roundtable had Henry es corted out of their meeting by the police. Since then the Roundtable has changed their format to invitation-only, in part to promote deeper shar ing, but I think also to stop Henry's disruptions. Henry's actions have been very disruptive in the community. I've heard people at a rally organized by the Muslim community, and I've seen him protest a candlelight vigil for peace in Gaza and southern Israel."
New York (JTA) — Several Chanukahs ago my husband came home with an electric deep fryer that accommodates a 12-pound turkey. I’d heard of suburban folks frying turkeys in their garages, but because we live in a Manhattan apartment I was less than thrilled with the gigantic appliance — which I had no room to store.

That first Chanukah, however, I acquiesced to deep frying a turkey, which turned out to be more delicious than you can imagine. The bird was moist on the inside and crisp on the outside, an achievement that anyone who has roasted a turkey can tell you is no easy feat. Surprisingly, the bird didn’t taste greasy.

Better yet, the preparation time was reduced from several hours to 45 minutes. Since that first fried turkey has become one of our most treasured holiday traditions. Of course on the first night of Chanukah, we fill four skillets with latkes. Nothing is crunchier than grated potatoes browned in spattering oil. But how did fried foods become entwined with Chanukah history?

It started more than 2,100 years ago when the Greek king of Syria, Antiochus, occupied Israel. During his reign, the Jews and their customs fared poorly. When one of his officers arrived in a town outside of Jerusalem, he demanded the Jews take part in a Greek ceremony before seeking other foods to fry. This energized the Maccabees, who rallied to the cause of freedom and independence.

The story of Hanukkah is one of observing the holiday by frying foods in oil.

During the Maccabees’ time, cheese pancakes were a popular fried food. Latkes weren’t added to the Chanukah repertoire until centuries later. Jews from various countries now fry many kinds of foods, including donuts, fritters and pancakes.

My husband’s family hailed from the Jewish community of Trieste, Italy, so every Chanukah we also deep fry rice balls. An Italian delicacy, these crunchy balls, held together with ricotta cheese, are a sensational hors d’oeuvres or side dish.

While frying around in my kitchen, I’ve successfully fried some unexpected foods from Jewish cuisine into a wash of new idenity. Slices of sour pickles undergo a crusty transformation when they hit hot oil.

Chopped fish, eggs and matzah meal are usually mixed together to form patties that are simmered in broth to produce gefilte fish. But instead of boiling these large oval patties, I roll the batter into small balls and deep fry them. After one taste, you’ll never settle for bland gefilte fish again.

Frightened by the thought of dealing with raw fish? Forget the stories about your bubbe who tackled a live kepi in her bathtub every time she cooked gefilte fish. Instead, ask your fishmonger to grill the haddock, whitefish or pike you order. From there, handling the fish batter is as easy as forming hamburger patties.

On the theory that you can fry anything, I suggest widening your Chanukah repertoire.

Here are some ideas:

• Submerge any kind of pitted black or green olives (but not bottled or canned) into hot oil, where they will develop a delicious pucker within a minute or two.
• If pressed for time, slide thinly sliced potatoes or florets of broccoli and cauliflower into a pot of hot oil until they turn delightfully brown. After placing them on paper towels and sprinkling with kosher salt, you’ll savor every crisp mouthful.
• Canned chickpeas can be fried into a sensational hors d’oeuvre or snack. Fry them on paper towels. Put a mixture of curry powder, cumin, flour, paprika, and a dash of cayenne pepper into a plastic storage bag. Place the chickpeas into the bag in batches, seal, and shake them until they’re coated. Deep fry them in oil, drain on paper towels, sprinkle with kosher salt, and serve them immediately.

In spite of these other delicacies, I have to admit that I wait all year for Chanukah because of the cradding texture of potato pancakes. But I find I can eat latkes for only so many days in a row before seeking other foods to fry.

Deep frying turkeys

Getting started:

1. While some people fry turkeys by rigging up garbage cans on barbecue grills or above open fires, this is a dangerous practice. A safer route is to purchase a deep fryer from a reputable company, such as Masterbuilt. You can contact Masterbuilt online at http://www.masterbuilt.com, or by phone in Columbus, Ga., at (800) 489-1581.

2. For safety sake, it is imperative to follow all instructions that accompany a deep fryer.

3. When deep frying, you must use fresh (not frozen) turkeys.

4. Use an oil with a high smoking point (preferably 450°). Afticionados recommend peanut oil as it imparts the most marvelous flavor. However, corn oil, safflower oil and canola oil are also safe for frying. Keep the quantity of oil required, about 2 to 4 gallons, I suggest purchasing the oil at Costco or another of the big box stores.

The brine:

Non-kosher turkeys must be brined before deep frying them. However, because kosher turkeys have already been salted, they should not be brined.

Ingredients:

• 1/2 pound kosher salt
• 1 quart dark brown sugar
• 4 quarts of hot water

Brining bag (available at Williams Sonoma) or unused tall kitchen trash bag

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, stir salt and sugar in hot water until dissolved. Add ice cubes to cool down the brine. It’s still warm, chill it in the refrigerator.

When cooled, pour the brine into a brining bag or line a pot deep enough to hold a turkey with an unused tall kitchen trash bag. When the brining bag is stiff enough to hold its shape, the trash bag is flimsy so it must be kept inside the large pot during brining.

2. Place the turkey into the bag and seal it. To keep the turkey submerged, cover the outside of the bag with weights, such as unopened cans of food. Do not brine the turkey in the deep fryer.

Refrigerate for 8 to 16 hours.

3. Thoroughly rinse off the brine before deep frying the turkey. Pat the turkey dry completely with paper towels because water can cause a flare up when exposed to hot oil.

4. Before deep frying the turkey, follow the manufacturer’s instructions for technique, timing, and amount of oil needed.

Beer battered sour pickles

2 or 3 sour or half sour pickles, sliced 1/8-inch thick. Discard ends and tiny pieces.

1/4 cup flour
1 egg
1 cup beer
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup panko
Japanese-style breadcrumbs

Can be purchased in most supermarkets, many gourmet food stores, and Asian groceries.

1. Drain pickle slices on both sides on paper towels. Place flour on a plate and roll slices in flour.

2. Place corn oil to a depth of 3 inches in a medium sized deep saucepan. Heat oil on a medium flame to 375° on an oil and candy thermometer, or until a drop of water sizzles in oil.

3. Using an electric mixer, whisk together egg, flour, and baking powder. Add panko and blend until well incorporated.

4. Immediately dip floured pickle slices into batter. Let excess drip off. Using a long handled slotted utensil, submerge a few slices into the oil. Fry for 2 to 3 minutes, or until batter puffs and turns crunchy. Remove slices with long-handled utensil and drain on paper towels. Serve immediately.

Yield: Approximately 30-40 pickle slices

Fried rice balls Italian style

1 egg
2 cups of cooked rice of any kind
1 tablespoon flour
3 tablespoons ricotta cheese
3 tablespoons olive oil, or more, if needed

1. Beat egg in a large bowl. Add the cooked rice. Stir to blend. Add the flour and ricotta cheese. Blend until well combined.

2. With your fingers, form rice mixture into balls 1 inch in diameter. Your hands will be sticky but manipulate rice mixture until you form perfect tight spheres or they will fall apart while frying.

3. Cover a cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Place balls on the foil. Cover balls with plastic wrap and refrigerate them for 1 hour, or until they are firm.

4. Place olive oil in a large skillet, rolling it around until bottom surface is well oiled. Place as many rice balls as will fit comfortably in the skillet, leaving room to turn the balls with a wooden or plastic spoon. When bottom of balls brown, roll them around until another surface browns. Continue frying until balls are completely brown all around. With a long-handled slotted spoon, move balls to a plated line with paper towels.

Yield: 20 rice balls
Happy Chanukah

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LOCATED AT U.S. 23 & WASHTENAW - ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN (IN THE ARBORLAND MALL)
Lipsky: Of course, I didn’t know Paul when he was in his 20s. I’ve known him for a little over 40 years. He’s been a partner at Bodman, LLP. In addition to Jerry’s professional career, he has also lent his many talents to a wide array of important causes. Jerry has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth, Performance Network and Planned Parenthood.

How have Judie and Jerry managed to find so much time for volunteer work while still balancing their professional lives? Their choices and decisions arise from the causes which most align with their personal interests and to the needs of the community. “In a community like Ann Arbor,” Jerry noted, “there are so many worthwhile organizations that I would find it difficult not to make the time for participating in their work.” Judie summed it up well, “You get back more than you give”—words of true philanthropists.

The Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award was established to honor the founding members of Jewish Family Services. In 1977, Claire and Iz (z”l), organized a resettlement committee to assist Russian Jews who came to Washtenaw County and these activities led to the creation of JFS in 1993. Today, JFS remains the primary Washtenaw County resource for resettlement of immigrants and refugees. JFS also assisted with the temporary resettlement of families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and is currently helping to resettle hundreds of local refugees.

But this is only a part of JFS’s mission. The agency also provides crucial support to families in crisis, at-risk children and teens, isolated and low-income older adults and their caregivers, career services for unemployed individuals, as well as services for refugees and émigrés. Last year’s award recipients, Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein, established an Emergency Aid Fund to assist individuals and families impacted by the current economic crisis. Since September 2008, JFS has served 800 clients in crisis, providing more than $20,000 in direct cash assistance for eviction prevention, utility shut-off and unexpected bills (medical, auto repairs, home repairs, etc.).

JFS has leveraged gifts from individual donors and rabbis, as well as a $15,000 Community Emergency Fund established by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, to apply for and obtain additional funds on behalf of clients. FEMA and the Washtenaw Home Builders Association Foundation have provided an additional $13,300 in funding for emergency aid. These gifts and grants, along with support from United Way and other community partners, also partially subsidize the part-time crisis intake social worker who is the point-of-entry at JFS for crisis calls, information and referral, and case management.

Judie and Jerry have requested that proceeds from the January 24 event, as well as gifts in their honor, be earmarked to the Emergency Aid Fund. This request is another example of their commitment to the community at this time of need.

To register, or for more information about the event, visit the JFS website at www.jfsannarbor.org, or contact Robin Little at 769-0209 or robin@jfsannarbor.org.

A2SO CD release, continued from page 24

WIN: It’s a wonderful recording. At our house, we’ve been listening to it constantly.

Lipsky: You know, you wonder why a person like Paul is not more recognized. I’ve asked myself that many times. And if you have a chance to talk with him, you’ll understand. You know, in this age, you have to know how to market yourself. He is so shy… he needs to be. Because I think he’s one of the United States most important composers, on the same level as the great founders of the 20th century American scene, like Copland and Barber. I hope that this CD will contribute to this understanding, and that, as a result, more orchestras will perform these pieces and his other important pieces.

And I hope that he will be able to join us. I think next year he turns 90. That’s a big one.

WIN: Are you planning more recordings?

Lipsky: I hope we can do more of these. The orchestra has proved it can really go through that. Because it’s such an undertaking. It’s an expensive and musically challenging experience—for any orchestra. I imagine, once we had the first one done, that it would be easier to do another one, but then, with the economic climate… I guess we’ll have to wait to do the second one. But, you know, once you have the first baby, the second is easier.

WIN: That’s what they say; I wouldn’t know. [Laughter]

Lipsky: That’s right. [More laughter]

The Ann Arbor Symphony will host a celebratory CD release party on Thursday, December 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theatre.

Paul Felter, Arie Lipsky, Aaron Berofsky and Tom Blake will all be there. For more information, check the A2SO’s website, www.a2so.com.
Tuesday 1

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

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with birthdays in December for family and friends. Lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. followed by presentation and discussion on depression and older adults led by Mariko Fukui, social worker at the University of Michigan Turner Clinic. 1 p.m.


Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law. Shabbat. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 2


Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Judaism 101: BIC. Shabbat. 8 p.m.

Thursday 3

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

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

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Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law. Shabbat. 8 p.m.

Saturday 5

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

Swartz/Rebbitzen Shabbat: BIC. Followed by Choson Kiddush. 9:30 a.m.

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

Family Latke Hop: JCC. Games, crafts, havdalah, dinner and live music. Special mystery guests will headline the event. $12/adult members; $5/children over age two. $14/adult non-members; $6/children over age two. RSVP at 971-0990. 6–9 p.m.

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

Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Sunday 6

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

Beth Israel Cafe: BIC. Women’s League. Open to parents of religious school students, both men and women. 9:30 a.m. Beth Israel Social Hall.

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

Tanya—Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and gain a new perspective on this week’s news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffalo Lunch, noon. Weekly special events and guest presentations (see description below). Light refreshments served. 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Chamakah Party: ORT. The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its annual “Chai’Nukah” celebration. A New Jewish Crafts Fair. Fun, festive, and family-friendly. 5–7 p.m. Store open through December 16.

Men’s Torah Study: BIC. Bi-monthly men’s study group. 7:30 p.m.

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

Topics in Jewish Law. Presented by Rabbi Glogower covering various topics treated over a period of one to several weeks. Material is presented in English and Hebrew. 8 p.m. at 617 Foulke.

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

Wednesday 9


Judaism 101: BIC. Shabbat. 8 p.m.

Thursday 10

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

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

Health Check and Discussion: JCC Seniors. At 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: BIC W omen’s League. Open to parents of religious school students, both men and women. 9:30 a.m. Beth Israel Social Hall.

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m. on Mondays–Fridays. From 9 a.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0210 or email andrew@jfsannarbor.org. Ongoing

Women’s Torah Study: BIC. With Cantor Annie Rose. 7 p.m.
Calendar

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

Friday 11
Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2763 for information.
Tot Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Dinner, songs and popsicles. 5:30–7 p.m.
Human Rights Shabbat: TBE. 7:30 p.m.
Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 12
Torah Study: TBE by Rabbi Levy at 5:45 a.m., followed by morning Minyan at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.
Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 1st through 5th graders. 9 a.m.
Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.
Mythical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn minyan in the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.
Channah's Party: TBE Renaissance Group. Dinner and white elephant gift exchange. The Renaissance Group is a social group for members ages 55 and up. 6 p.m. at Chapel Hill Clubhouse. For details, call TBE office at 665-4744.
Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Sunday 13
Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.
Tanya-Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.
Concert: JCC. The Chaverim B’Shirim choir will present a concert featuring the music of Harold Rome. Songs from the musical Call Mr. Mister will be featured. $5 donation requested. Refreshments will be served. 3 p.m.
Latkepalooza: BIC. Latke dinner with games, crafts, stories and lighting of the Hanukkia. 5 p.m.
Basic Judaism: TBE. Led by Rabbi Lisa Delson. 7:45 p.m.
Jewish Concepts—for Women: Chabad. Learning the practical meaning of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. Every Sunday.

Monday 14
English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 9 a.m.–1 p.m. on Mondays at Washtenaw Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email ann@washtenaw.org. Ongoing.
Women’s Study Group: BIC. Contact Rabbi Blumenthal at 665-9897 for meeting place and more information. 8 p.m.
Tuesday 15
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Faquhar, 11 a.m.; $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, weekly Bridge Club, 1 p.m. Every Tuesday.
Shabbat Baby Class: JCC. One-time class for moms and babies (newborns to crawlers) featuring “Post-Baby” Strength and Body Sculpt exercises and parenting discussions. For information or to register, contact Hayle Aisner at 971-0990 or email hayleaisner@jccfed.org. Register by December 11. 9:30–10:30 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–8 p.m. at the JCC.
Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster’s Cafe, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2527.
“Waves with God Part L–Tannach and Rabbinic Literature” BIC. Presented by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. 8 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.
Wednesday 16
Tot Channukah Dinner: BIC. 5:30 p.m.
Meditation: TBE. 7:30 p.m.
Judaism 101: BIC. Shabbat. 8 p.m.
Thursday 17
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. No exercise or current events session today. Interpretation Chanukah Celebration at 11 a.m. (see details below). Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warszacky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.
Prayer: Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. Every Thursday.
Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 19
Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. followed by morning minyan at 9:30 a.m.
Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.
Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Sunday 20
Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.
Tanya-Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.
Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. Every Sunday.

Monday 21
Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. During school breaks, the JCC Youth Department offers full day field trips and special activities for JCC members only in grade K-5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Bring nut-free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothing for outdoor play. $36/day; $32/additional siblings. $10/aftercare. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; Aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Deborah Hurta at 971-0990. December 21–31.

Tuesday 22
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Faquhar, 11 a.m.; $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, and weekly Bridge Club, 1 p.m. Every Tuesday.
SoulQuest: Jewish Learning Institute. “The Journey Through Life, Death, and Beyond.” Fall semester course examines the twin mysteries of life and death that have fascinated philosophers and laymen since the dawn of life. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–8 p.m. at the JCC.
Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster’s Cafe, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2527.
Men’s Torah Study: TBE. Bi-monthly men’s study group. 7:30 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.

Thursday 24
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Faquhar, 10 a.m.; 8 a.m. or 3:30 p.m.; Current Events with Heather Dorsey, a Jewish perspective on this week’s news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warszacky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.
Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. Every Thursday.

Friday 25
Movie: TBE. Showing of The Most Man at the Michigan Theater. Doors open at 10 a.m. Film shown at 10:30 a.m. $7/ticket per person. Concessions for breakfast and lunch, from bagels to kosher hot dogs. Prizes. Dress in costume, if desired. Tickets in advance at www.templebethel.org or in the TBE office, 2309 Packard, Monday through Thursdays, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Friday evening services: See listing at the end of calendar.

Saturday 26
Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m., followed by Morning Minyan at 9:30 a.m.
Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.
Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.
Sunday 27

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

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

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

Monday 28

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

Tuesday 29

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

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

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

Thursday 31

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish philosophy–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.

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

Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Sunday 3

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

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

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

Monday 4

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

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

Tuesday 5

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

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

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month’s selection is Kitchen Table Wisdom, by Rachel Naomi Remen, who has a unique perspective rooted in her background as a physician, professor of medicine, therapist and long-term survivor of chronic illness. 7:30 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Class led by Rabbi Glogower covering various topics treated over a period of one to several weeks. Material is presented in English and Hebrew. 8 p.m. at U-M Hilllib.
Wednesday 6
Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 7
Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. or 3/31; Current Events with Heather Dombery, a Jew- ish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m. or 3/31; Homemades Daisy Buffet Lunch, noon. Weekly special events and guest presentations (see de- scription below); Literary Group with Sidney Wachsursky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.
Birthright and Presentation: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for those born with January birthdays. Family and friends invited to join for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1:50 p.m. by a representative from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan who will illustrate how to get information about ancestors.
Mourning and Mitzvahs: TBE. First session of series with Cantor Anne Rose. 7:30 p.m.
Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discus- sions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a compos- ite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. Every Thursday.

Friday 8
Lunch and Learn: With Rabbi Levy. Discussion of “Issues of Israel over Time and Space,” examining Israel as a hope, dream, fantasy, power, home and destination through Space, “examining Israel as a hope, dream, fantasy, power, home and destination through the lens of Israel as an eternal idea and also a modern nation state. Noon.
Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 763-2785 for information.
Tot Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Dinner, songs and popsicles. 5:30-7 p.m.
Friday evening services: See listing at the end of the calendar.

Saturday 9
Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m., followed by Shorning Minyan at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.
Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 1st through 5th graders. 11 a.m.
Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.
Opera “Love” TBE Renaissance Group. See the opera Der Rosenkavalier live at the Met on the big screen at Quality Theater. The Renais- sance Group is a social group for members ages 55 and up. $17.50 members over 62; $22/ others for details, call TBE office at 665-4744. Noon.
Kol Halev Cabaret: TBE. Evening of music by members of Kol Halev. 6 p.m.
Mytical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical di- mensions of the Torah. 7:30 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.

Monday 11
English as a Second Language Daily Classes/JS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.-noon on Mondays–Thursdays. 1 hour before Shabbat. Contact for more information. JS at 789-0209 or email andrea@JFSC.org.
Adult Education: TBE. “Bible, Morality, and the 21st Century,” with Dr. Colet Sacerdoti. Three- part course providing intellectual and emotional journey into the moral wisdom of the Bible, where arrogance, pride, jealousy, love and devotion impact human life. Also January 11, January 25 and February 8.
Women’s Study Group: BIC. Contact Rabbi Blumenthal at 665-8897 for meeting place and more information. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 12
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. or 3/31; Current Events with Cantor Anne Rose, 12:30 p.m. and or 3/31; Homemades Daisy Buffet Lunch, noon. Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, projects and card games, weekly Bridge Club, 1 p.m. Every Thursday.
Movie Tuesday: TBE. This month’s selection is The Lemon Tree, an Israeli drama depicting the lives of Palestinians and Israelis and their struggle to come to grips with family history, political strife, the beauty of the land, and love. 1:30 p.m.
After school Classes Begin: JCFF Youth. A variety of enrichment classes begin this week for el- ementary students during the January–Febru- ary break. Classes run 4:20-5:30 p.m. and are open to both JCC members and non-members. Snack and supervision in the JCC’s afterschool programs before each class are included for all class participants. Registration due by January 1. Class fees vary. For information or to regis- ter, call Deborah Huerta at deborahhsler@ jccfd.org of phone 971-0990.
Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beas- ter's Cafe, ground floor of UM Michigan Union. For information, call 936-2467.
Shabbat Service honoring Teachers: BIC. Honor- ing BBS teachers followed by dinner. 6 p.m.
Shabbat Service with Kol Halev: TBE. 7:30 p.m.
Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Wednesday 13
Judaism 101: BIC. Prayer: 8 p.m.

Thursday 14
Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. or 3/31; Current Events with Heather Dombery, a Jew- ish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m. or 3/31; Homemades Daisy Buffet Lunch, noon. Weekly special events and guest presentations (see de- scription below); Literary Group with Sidney Wachsursky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.
Health Check and Recital: JCC Seniors. At 12:30 p.m. a registered nurse from Care Responsa will take and record blood pressures and ad- dress questions. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.) Followed at 1 p.m. by a performance by UM School of Music violin student, Paul Dryden Trapiak.
Mourning and Mitzvahs: TBE. Second session of series with Cantor Anne Rose. 7:30 p.m.
Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharp- en your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discus- sions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. Every Thursday.

Friday 15
Lunch and Learn: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. Dis- cussion of “Issues of Israel over Time and Space,” examining Israel as a hope, dream, fantasy, power, home and destination through the lens of Israel as an eternal idea and also a modern nation state. Noon.
Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beaster’s Cafe, ground floor of UM Michigan Union. For information, call 936-2467.
“Walking With God Part II–Medieval Texts Through Modernity.” BCH. Presented by Rabbi Ron Blumenthal. 8 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but under- standing it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.

Saturday 16
Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m., followed by Shorning Minyan at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.
Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical di- mensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.

Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Wednesday 17
Beth Israel Cafe: BIC Women’s League. Open to parents of religious school students, men and women. 9 a.m. in the Social Hall.
Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.
Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. Every Sunday.
Basic Judaism: TBE. With Rabbi Lisa Delson. 7:45 p.m.
Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn- ing the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. Every Sunday.

Monday 18
MLK Day Performance and School's Out Day: JCC Youth. Free community afternoon perfor- mance featuring the group Singers of Unit- ed Lands (time TBA), plus full day program for JCC members only in grade K-5. Middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Bring nut-free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothing for outdoor play. $36/ day, $32/additional siblings. $10/aftercare. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aftercare from 4–6 p.m. RSVP for the performance and registration for the School's Out Day are requested by January 14. Contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990.
Women’s Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor An- nie Rose. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 19
SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. or 3/31; Current Events with Cantor Anne Rose, 12:30 p.m. and or 3/31; Homemades Daisy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, weekly Bridge Club, 1 p.m. Every Tuesday.
Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beaster’s Cafe, ground floor of UM Michigan Union. For information, call 936-2467.
“Walking With God Part II–Medieval Texts Through Modernity.” BCH. Presented by Rabbi Ron Blumenthal. 8 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but under- standing it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.

Wednesday 20
Mediation: TBE. 7:30 p.m.
Judaism 101: BIC. Prayer: 8 p.m.

Thursday 21
Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.
Celebrate the Festival of Lights
with Traditional Jewish Foods

Here are some of our favorite things for holiday feasting or gift-giving with food-loving family and friends.

Olive Oil Cake
Made with toasted almonds, lemon zest and lots of great extra virgin olive oil. It has a great balance of sweet, savory and tangy that lingers long after the slice is sent south. Makes a great gift, or serve for dessert! Available at Zingerman’s Deli, Bakehouse or at www.zingermans.com.

Latkes from the Deli!
We’re hand-making 2000 latkes—that’s 16 batches of our big, thick potato pancakes—in one week. Pre-order by calling 734.663.3354.

Chanukah Foods Gift Box
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Calendar

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

Discussion and Music: JCC Seniors. Jewish Family Services: Geriatric Social Worker Alison Pollock, MSW, will be available for dis- cussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. At A. Arie Lipsky, Musical Director of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, returns to the JCC for music and discussion.

Mourning and Mtzvahs: TBE. Third session of series with Cantor Annie Rose. 7:30 p.m.

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

Friday 22

Lunch and Learn: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. Dis- cussion of "Issues of Israel over Time and Space," examining the beauty, dream, fantasy, power, home and destination through the lens of Israel as an eternal idea and also a modern nation state. Noon. 

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

Saturday 23

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

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

Tu B'Shevat Kids' Night Out: JCC Youth. Fea- turing games, crafts, dinner and a movie. This year's theme is celebrating trees and taking care of the environment. Participants will make crafts with recycled materials, plant seeds and watch Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest. Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K-5. $25/mem- bers ($18/siblings), $25/non-members ($23/ siblings). Register by January 28. For informa- tion, contact Deborah Hirtta at deobear@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.


Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Sunday 24

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

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

Library Book Club: BIC. 10 a.m.

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

Award Reception JPS: "Delightful, Delicious, De- laux." Jewish Family Services presents the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award to Jodie and Jerry Lax. Reception at 3 p.m. at Washburne Community College. $10/person. For informa- tion, phone Robin Little at 769-0299.

Back to Judaism: TBE. With Rabbi Lisa Delson. 7:45 p.m.

Monday 25

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact IFS at 769-0299 or email andy@jewish-annarbor.org. Ongoing.

Adult Learning: TBE. "Bible, Morality, and the 21st Century," with Dr. Cohl Sacks. Second of three-part course providing intellectual look and emotional journey into the moral wisdom of the Bible; where arrogance, pride, jealousy, love and devotion impact human life. Also February 8.

Tuesday 26

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

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

"Walking With God Part II–Medieval Texts Through Modernity" BIC. Presented by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understand- ing it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 9:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.

Wednesday 27

Judaism 101: BIC. Prayer. 8 a.m.

Thursday 28

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philos- ophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

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

Presentation: Frankel Institute. Michael Krev- el-Tovi of Hebrew University presents, “Rite of Passage: (Ex)change of Identities Between the State and the Subject in Contemporary Orthodox Conversion in Israel.” Room 202, 202 South Thayer Street. Noon.

Discussion: JCC Seniors. UM doctoral student Tam Perry will facilitate a presentation and discussion on the various ways that the process of moving may affect women. 1 p.m.

Mourning and Mtzvahs: TBE. Fourth session of series with Cantor Annie Rose. 7:30 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing dis- cussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a com- position of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the origi- nal Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. Every Thursday.

Friday 29

Lunch and Learn: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. Dis- cussion of “Issues of Israel over Time and Space,” examining the beauty as a dream, dream, fantasy, power, home and destination through the lens of Israel as an eternal idea and also a modern nation state. Noon.

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

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

Sisterhood Shabbat Service: TBE. Sisterhood. 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday 30

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

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

Tu B’Shevat Kids’ Night Out: JCC Youth. Fea- turing games, crafts, dinner and a movie. This year’s theme is celebrating trees and taking care of the environment. Participants will make crafts with recycled materials, plant seeds and watch Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest. Kids’ Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K-5. $25/mem- bers ($18/siblings), $25/non-members ($23/ siblings). Register by January 28. For informa- tion, contact Deborah Hirtta at deobear@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.


Shabbat services: See listing at end of calendar.

Sunday 31

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

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

Basic Judaism: TBE. With Rabbi Lisa Delson. 7:45 p.m.

Tu B’Shevat Seder: Chabad. Featuring full Seder dinner of the special foods and drinks of Is- rael, a study session on the meaning of the day, and the Jewish perspective on ecology. 8 p.m.

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

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. 4:45 p.m. Call 994-9238 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by Shira at 6 p.m.; Shira. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 865- 4744.

Shabbat Services: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by potluck Shabbat. Meet with option- al kid’s pizza dinner at 6:00 AM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarcon.org or visit www.aarcon.org.


Phone numbers and addresses frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodoxy Minyan (AAOM) 1429 Hill Street 994-5821
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH) PO Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705
Beth Israel Congregation (BIC) 950 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897
Chabad House 715 Hill Street 995-3276
EMU Hillel 956 Washtenaw Ave, Ypsilanti 48192-0456
Jewish Community Center (JCC) 2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-0990
Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) 2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872
Jewish Family Services 2245 South State Street 769-0229
Jewish Federation 2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100
Pardes Hannah 2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324
Temple Beth Emeth (TBE) 3109 Packard Road 665-4744
UM Hillel 1429 Hill Street 769-0500
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**Around Town**

**Going out in the cold**

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

Despite intermittently frightful weather, there are many great opportunities to bundle up, brave the storm, and enjoy an evening of theater, comedy, or music. In West Bloomfield, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre (6600 West Maple Rd., (248) 788-2908, www.jetttheatre.org) will have two new shows opening in December and January: The Big Bang is a “spirited and downright goofy” (Douglas J. Keating, Philadelphia Inquirer) 80-minute musical overview of human history, and will run from December 8–January 3 (with two New Year’s Eve performances). At the end of January the JET will open its production of Charles Busch’s The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife, a multiple Tony Award-nominated comedy following the Manhattanite’s mid-life crisis.

Closer to home, the Ann Arbor Civic Theater (971-0605, www.a2ct.org) offers Nine, Arthur Miller’s (the same performer of his quasi-autobiographical 1963 film 8 1/2, from January 14–17. Meanwhile, alongside their ever-excellent selection of new and classic films (including the January 28 Sundance Film Festival USA, a one-night nationwide extension of the Sundance Film Festival), the Michigan Theater (608 E. Liberty, 688-TIME, mictheather.org) will have several new live performances. The first part of their Not Just For Kids series, will be Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing, adapted from the classic Judy Blume coming-of-age story of the same title (Sunday, December 6, at 1:30 p.m.). In January the Michigan will host the popular four-woman comedy Menopause The Musical (Tuesday, January 26 and Wednesday, January 27 at 8 p.m.)

MSU’s Wharton Center (517) 353-1982, www.whartoncenter.com) will bring two notable stand-up acts in December. On Sunday, December 13, Jeff Foxworthy (who, incidentally, has authored 11 best-sellers and nominated three Grammies) will perform the MSU Auditorium at 7 p.m. Four days later, Jerry Seinfeld will grace the Cobb Great Hall (Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m.). Little seen on screen since the final episode of Seinfeld, the actor and comedian has spent the last several years back on stage; as he told Jess Eagle of Time magazine: “To actually do your creative thing right in front of an audience and have them judge it right there—that’s exciting.”

January and December likewise offer music for any palate. At the end of January, the Tecumseh Center for the Arts (400 N. Maumee, Tecumseh, 517-423-6617; www.theca.org) will host an evening with the Monkees’ dreamy front-man Davy Jones (Saturday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.) Invariably numbered among the top-ten teen idols of all time, Jones and his seven-piece band continue to impress audiences. The TCA has made special arrangements to have the Monkees’ official band for the event, and rumor has it that ever-affable Jones will be available to chat and sign autographs after the show.

The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra (944-4001, www.aaso.com), under the baton of Arie Lipsky, will perform two shows celebrating Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s birthday (January 27, 1756). On Saturday, January 23, at 8 p.m., the Mozart Birthday Bash at Hill Auditorium will include Mozart’s incomparable “Requiem,” as well as “Divertimento K136” and the demanding “Horn Concerto No.3.” The following day (Sunday, January 24, 4 p.m.) the A2SO will perform the Mozart World Tour: Ann Arbor at the Michigan Theater as part of their Family Series. Tickets for either performance start as low as $6.

Finally, in January and December the University Musical Society will offer several notable performances. On Saturday, December 12, at 8 p.m., UMS will host pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet at Hill Auditorium. Renowned for his “extraordinary technical facility,” the New York Times has called Thibaudet “an exquisite interpreter of music by Debussy, Ravel, [and] Satie.” Thibaudet’s Saturday program will include two pieces by Ravel (“Pavane pour une enfant de rune” and “Miroirs”) and Brahms’s “Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 78.”

In contemporary world music, UMS has two excellent shows scheduled for January: On Friday, January 8, at 8 p.m., singer/song-writer Souad Massi will perform at the Michigan Theater. A native of Algeria, Massi first distinguished herself with the Algerian polka-rock band Aïtok. The band’s inflammatory popularity lead to death threats, and Massi fled to Paris, where she developed a personal, acoustic style influenced by American country, roots, and rock traditions, as well as Portuguese fado, and traditional Middle Eastern melodies and instruments. Her songs often weave Algerian Arabic, French, English, and Berber lyrics over a single melody. At the end of the month, on Sunday, January 31, at 4 p.m., Ladysmith Black Mambazo will make their UMS debut at Hill Auditorium. The group—first popularized by their supporting vocals on Paul Simon’s Grammy award-winning 1996 album Graceland—continues to powerfully blend traditional South African rhythms, American gospel, and isicathamiya, the folk a cappella music of South African mine workers.

UMS shows aren’t limited to the purely musical. In late January UMS will offer a new production by the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (at the Power Center on Friday, January 22, Saturday, January 23, 8 p.m.; youth performance on January 22, 4 p.m.) Jones’s new production, Fondly Do We Hope... Fervently Do We Pray, explores the life and evolving impact of Abraham Lincoln, as well as speculating on what might have happened if Lincoln survived to complete post-Civil War Reconstruction.

To make your evening complete, stop by the Blue Nile (221 E. Washington St., 998-4766) for family style Ethiopian cuisine before or after your show. All weekend diners with a University Musical Society or Performance Network ticket in hand receive a 20 percent discount (not including alcohol).
Mazel Tov

Emilie Weisberg on her bat mitzvah, December 6.

Scott Lieberman on his bar mitzvah, December 6.

Benjamin Shapiro on his bar mitzvah, December 6.

Tova Vaknin on her bar mitzvah, December 20.

Mark and Sharon Weiner on the birth of their twins, Shayna and Aaron Moses, on September 22.

Chuck and Sharon Newman’s son and Dorothy Newman’s grandson, Michael Newman, on his marriage to Patricia Cavuto, on November 7.

Jason and Rachel Robinson on the birth of their son, Benjamin Jacob Robinson, also grandson of Carol and Joseph Brown.

Gilla and Ami Wiesel on the birth of their daughter Ayelet.

Condolences

Jodi Wollo on the death of her great uncle, David Vaneck, October 10.

Lolita Fisher on the death of her husband, Robert, October 14.

Lisa Ensfield on the death of her aunt, Linda Burchman, October 23.

Steven Rusman and sons Daniel and David, on the death of their wife and mother, Rochelle Kostant, November 8.

Arthur Riba on the death of his brother, Leonard Riba.

Yiddish, continued from page 13

increasing [in use] have to do with religious life.” Thus, the phenomenon one survey respondent reported: “When I was growing up, I called it synagogue. I now call it shul. I am not sure why.”

Though Jews across the religious spectrum said they would be likely to consider Hebrew names for their children, baby names are “an important resource for Jews to indicate intra-Jewish differences.” Less observant Jews, they found, are most likely to prefer anglicized biblical names such as Jacob, Ethan, Hannah or Abigail. Modern Orthodox Jews were most likely to choose modern Hebrew names such as Ezra, Ari, Tali or Eliana, often substituting them for the equivalent Yiddish names of deceased relatives (so, for example, they might name a daughter Tova, meaning “good” in Hebrew, after a grandmother named Gittel).

For the most part, only fervently Orthodox Jews said they would consider giving a child a Yiddish name like Moshe, Mendy or Basya. In one of the survey’s least surprising findings, only two percent of Jews said they’d consider giving a child a Yiddish name like Moyshe, Mendy or Basya. (Reprinted from TabletMag.com, a new read on Jewish life.)

Advertisers

Afternoon Delight ........................................... 2
Amadeus Cafe/Patisserie .................................... 31
Amer’s & YogurtRush ........................................ 39
Ann Arbor Educational Foundation .................... 20
Ann Arbor Symphony ....................................... 33
The Ark ......................................................... 22, 25
Ayes’s Café ...................................................... 23
Bank of Ann Arbor ........................................... 33
Biovac ............................................................. 30
Blue Nile Restaurant ......................................... 36
Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery ........ 38
Chelsea Flower Shop ......................................... 25
Craig Claunche ................................................ 38
Dennis Platte Graphic Design ............................. 31
Fawzi’s Westgate Auto Repair ............................ 35
Frankel Center .................................................. 22
Georgetown Gifts ............................................. 31
Gold Bond Cleaners ......................................... 4
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum; mohel ..................... 30
Haffa Falafel ..................................................... 23
Hiller’s Market ................................................... 29
iSodai ............................................................. 4
JET: Jewish Ensemble Theatre ............................ 36
Jewish Community Center ................................. 40
Jewish Cultural Society ...................................... 18
Jewish Family Services ..................................... 16
Joe Cornell Entertainment .................................. 33
Josephson & Fink ............................................. 18
Ken Lussenden ................................................ 3
Kenville Studios ............................................... 33
Lewish Jewelers ............................................... 33
Mediterrano/Carlyle .......................................... 2
Modern Closets ............................................... 38
Modern Mechanical .......................................... 30
Paper Station .................................................... 4
Peoples’ Food Co-op ......................................... 36
Polo Fields Golf ............................................... 36
& Country Club ................................................
Probity Physical Therapies ................................ 23
Christopher Servick, PLC ................................ 30
Simply Scrumptious ......................................... 36
Studio K40 ....................................................... 25
Summers-Knoll School ..................................... 16
Temple Beth Emeth .......................................... 5, 18
Trusted Loving Care ......................................... 5
University Musical Society ................................ 15
Village Apothecary .......................................... 31
Woman Safe Health .......................................... 23
Zingerman’s ................................................... 35

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