

**MAY
2019**

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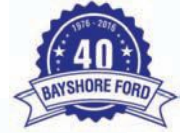


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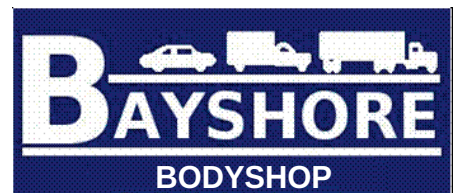
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PUBLISHER'S REPRESENTATIVE:

Seth J. Katzen
Chief Executive Officer

EDITOR:

Jaidy Schweers
Jaidy@ShalomDel.org
302.427.2100



ADVERTISING:

Dana Warwick
Dana@ShalomDel.org
302.427.2100

BILLING:

Terri O'Neal
Terri@ShalomDel.org
302-427-2100

CREATIVE DIRECTOR / DESIGNER:

Carolyn Katwan

j-VOICE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS :

Elisha Caplan and Meredith Rosenthal

j-VOICE COMMITTEE :

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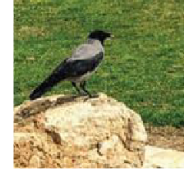
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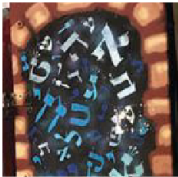
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AM YISRAEL CHAI

By Seth J. Katzen
Chief Executive Officer

Just an hour drive from Jerusalem the Jordanian opposition is silenced and persecuted; a four hour drive to Egypt the opposition is shot in the streets; a four hour drive to the North, the Syrian President won an election after mass murdering hundreds of thousands. We can never take Israel and our sole democracy in this region for granted.

—Amit Segal

I found Israeli journalist Amit Segal's quote profound as well as an unfortunate reality in 2019.

Amit's quote is also an appropriate segue to this month's theme on Israel and how Delaware forges unbreakable bonds with our spiritual homeland.

Jewish Federation of Delaware enhances our connection to Israel through myriad programs and initiatives throughout the year. There is no stronger mechanism than bringing and encouraging Delawareans to visit Israel so they can touch, smell, taste, see, and hear Israel's unique attributes on a personal level.

As many members of our community have not yet been to Israel, another highly successful Federation initiative is our *Shlichut* program where we bring a piece of Israel to Delaware. This year we brought a young Israeli couple, Daniella Buchshtaber as our Community *Shlichah* and her fiancé, Noam Gliksman as the University of Delaware Hillel's Israel Fellow.

Since their arrival this past August, Daniella has visited every synagogue in the First State as well as each of our beneficiary agencies. Working with our Israel & Overseas Committee, co-chaired by Michelle Margules and Gael Szymanski, she builds a living bridge with our community

and touches the lives of thousands of Delawareans through personal exchanges and programs that connect, engage, and inspire. A few program highlights include *Cooking with Our Shlichim*, Fed Talks with various presenters and topics, a Federation Encore! Series of the Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut community-wide programs.

Our *Shlichah* is also reimagining our young adult segment through Federation's *CONNECT: Young Adult Network*. We understand that this segment of our community engages differently than their parents and we must constantly adapt to their changing and evolving needs. Some programming is intentionally being conducted off-site to reach and attract this elusive population through personal coffee exchanges, Shabbat dinners and last month, a Chocolate Seder.

Through your generous support of the 2019 Annual Campaign, Federation also supports Israel through our International partners; the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and World ORT. In addition, we are celebrating our 21st anniversary with our sister city in Arad where Federation directly funds a number of special projects and initiatives including music conservatory scholarships, community programs, and encouraging tourism to the region.

Federation also supports the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) which strives to provide social and educational opportunities to help Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers realize their full potential. ENP programs take a "big picture" view of the cultural, social and emotional challenges faced by Ethiopian-Israeli teens that constrain their advancement.

Taglit-Birthright Israel, also known as Birthright Israel or simply Birthright, sponsors free ten-day heritage trips to Israel for young adults of Jewish heritage, aged 18–32. On a local level, University of Delaware Hillel coordinates two highly successful Birthright trips each year.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we continue to build strong connections to Israel.

Am Yisrael Chai (the Jewish Nation Lives)!



What will your Jewish legacy be?



PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON FULLERTON PHOTOGRAPHY

We are honored to support the Create A Jewish Legacy Program. Our “small but mighty” Jewish Community means the world to us and Create A Jewish Legacy is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to participate to ensure that our community will grow and flourish for generations to come.

Back in the early 2000s, prior to the birth of our first son, we began to look at day care options since my husband and I both work full time. We found the wonderful Early Childhood Center at the Siegel JCC and from there it was a seamless transition to Albert Einstein Academy. Becoming members of this village has given our children a strong sense of community as well as an ethical and academic foundation which they will carry with them forever as they make their way into the world.

Lauren and Tom Martin



Create A Jewish Legacy with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

Create A Jewish Legacy is a program of Jewish Federation of Delaware's Jewish Fund for the Future and is funded in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



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ON SECOND THOUGHT...

Congresswoman Omar's Latest Anti-Semitic Comments Are NOT Surprising

By Rabbi Steven Saks
Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

I was initially surprised to hear that Congresswoman Omar remarked about “political influence in this country” and “allegiance to foreign countries.”



ILHAN OMAR FOR CONGRESS VIA FACEBOOK

These statements clearly play off the anti-Semitic trope that American Jews cannot be trusted because of dual loyalty. I was surprised to hear this offensive language, because in February Omar retracted and apologized for tweeting “It’s all about the Benjamins” and then explaining she was referring to AIPAC’s influence over U.S. foreign policy. However, after rereading her apology for her statement about “the Benjamins,” it’s not surprising that she followed it up with an assertion of dual loyalty.

Omar’s apology for her statement about “the Benjamins” was limited to regret about “the way my words make people feel.” Feeling

charatah (regret) for an *aveirah* (sin) is one of the steps of *teshuvah* (repentance), but Omar’s apology was only a limited form of regret. She only stated that she regrets the way “her words make people feel.” Omar never stated that she regrets the substance of the remarks. On the contrary, she defended them, claiming that she is being condemned for “speaking the truth about, you know, the kind of influences that exist, that determine, you know, our foreign and domestic policies and for that I think, you know, my tweet kind of spoke to it.” In other words, while Omar apologized for the way her tweet made people feel, she stood by the substance of her remarks.

Omar claims that she is being painted as anti-Semitic because she is a Muslim, stating that “a lot of our Jewish colleagues, a lot of our constituents, a lot of our allies, go to thinking that everything we say about Israel to be anti-Semitic because we are Muslim.” Mika Brzezinski on *Morning Joe* said that the issue of Omar’s statements was complicated. Mika’s husband, Joe Scarborough, responded to his wife’s assertion that the situation was complicated with a one word answer, “no.” Scarborough, a former congressman, then explained there was nothing complicated about the issue; it was a simple case of anti-Semitism that needs to be repudiated, as many on both sides of the aisle have done. Scarborough is correct. Omar is not critiquing Israeli policy, which is her prerogative; rather she is demonizing American Jews by invoking anti-Semitic stereotypes.

This disturbing episode reminds us of three things:

First: Differing views regarding policy are legitimate. However, targeting groups for demonization in order to convince the public that your view is correct is not legitimate; it’s hate mongering.

Second: If the U.S.-Israel relationship turns into a partisan issue, both countries lose. A strong relationship between these two democracies is vital for the security of both. Those involved in the newly formed *Democratic Majority for Israel* should be praised for their efforts to counter the voices of Omar and her likeminded colleagues who are intent on weakening the Democratic party’s traditional pro-Israel stance.

Third: When you profess to be repentant, you must actually mean it. Clearly, Omar’s statements following her pronouncements of regret undermined her apology. They make one wonder whether she regretted her statements at all or was just claiming to be remorseful for the purpose of political expediency. *Ta’anit* 16 teaches that whoever confesses but does not repent is like one who goes into the mikveh (ritual bath for purposes of spiritual purification) while holding a *sheretz* (insect) which is inherently impure. The purifying waters will not purify such a person. True *teshuvah* must be genuine.

We are still waiting for Congresswoman Omar to perform *teshuvah*.



ISRAEL: MORE THAN A LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

By John Elzufon
JCRC Co-Chair

In his memoirs, reflecting on the events in then British Palestine in the 1930s, David Ben Gurion wrote:

There should be one place in the world, in G-d's whole world, where we could live and express ourselves in accordance with our own character and make our contributions to civilization in our own way and through our own channels.

The Jewish people now have that nation—Israel.

In 2018, Israel celebrated its 70th birthday. As Jews, we are rightfully proud of how this tiny strip of ancient desert and swamp is now an agricultural, medical, scientific, and “start-up nation” marvel.

Our hearts burst with pride at Israel’s accomplishment and they break when we remember the deaths of almost 24,000 soldiers and over 3,000 civilian victims of terrorism.

Without meaning to diminish the problems, both internal and external, that Israel confronts, the mere fact of her existence and what she has accomplished in 70 years is without precedent in human history.

As Winston Churchill once remarked:

The coming into being of a Jewish state in Palestine is an event in world history to be viewed in the perspective, not of a generation or century, but in the perspective of a thousand, two thousand, or even three thousand years.

When the word “Israel” is mentioned our thoughts go to a land and its people.

But Israel is more than that. Israel is a concept.

Initially, we need to keep in mind that the first use of Israel was not as a name given to a land or a people but to a single person, Isaac’s son, Jacob.

To understand why Israel is a concept we look, as Jews have done for centuries, to our scripture. Specifically, we take a new look at the stories and lives of Isaac and Jacob.

We know Isaac’s story and how he appeared to be a willing participant in his own planned sacrifice. There is no resistance, physical or verbal, by him. Acknowledging that Isaac had faith in his father, Abraham, and G-d, it is still the case that Isaac was unassertive and passively trusted his fate and his life to others.

Isaac’s son, Jacob, was different. He did not passively accept the fate that might await him when wrestling with the angel. He fought

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

back. He defended himself. He did not give in. He was assertive—and earned the name Israel. “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for thou has striven with G-d and with men, and has prevailed.” Genesis 32:29.

After the loss of our people’s homeland in 135 C.E., the world looked on the Jews as a people who could be taken advantage of—a people who were, for the most part, reactive and passive. Without a homeland, the Jews were necessarily dependent on others. To the non-Jewish world we were Isaac—the passive, unassertive and not to be feared “ghetto Jews.”

In the late 1800s we, as a people, changed with the advent of modern Zionism. We traditionally define Zionism as the political movement to re-establish a homeland for the Jewish people. It is more. Zionism was then and still is our people’s proclamation to the non-Jewish world that we, as a people, have transformed ourselves from Isaac to Jacob.

Israel is reborn and we, as a people, are no longer content to be passive and reliant on others to determine our fate. We are now both literally and figuratively Jacob—that is Israel.

We know from our history that Israel was attacked by five Arab armies within hours of Israel’s declaration of independence in May, 1948. The attacking armies expected to drive the Jews into the sea. They expected Isaac but they found Jacob, and against all odds, the Jews prevailed.

Despite all of her enemies’ attempts to destroy her, Israel has not only survived but has flourished. In the 30 years from 1987 to 2017, Israel’s population doubled; its per capita GDP went from \$8,000 to \$41,000; its exports from \$10 billion to \$102 billion; independent energy resources, from 4% to 65%; life expectancy, from 75 to 82 years. Since the year 2000, Israel’s economy has grown 65%, the second best among OECD countries. It is the world’s “start-up” country.

Israel’s unemployment: 4%; the lowest in 40 years.


It is also the one country in the Middle East where peoples of all faiths, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnic background have full rights. It is the one country in the Middle East where the Christian population is growing.

This is the concept of Israel: we are Jacob – not Isaac.

The concept of Israel is the Jewish people assuming again, after 2000 years, our rightful place among the nations of the world –never again to be voiceless.


The concept of Israel is the Jewish people declaring to the rest of the world that we have returned to our ancestral homeland never again to leave.

The concept of Israel is that never again will the Jewish people be powerless.

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AN AIPAC EXPERIENCE

By Oryah Lahijani, Alex Beigelman, and Joyliany Rios
Students, UD Hillel



Delaware delegates PHOTO COURTESY OF RABBI MICHAEL BEALS

At a time that the U.S. is heavily divided along partisan lines, it was refreshing to hear talks of unity at this year's AIPAC Policy Conference.

As small as the Jewish population may be, the conference demonstrated that Israel does not stand alone. Eighteen thousand delegates from all over the United States and beyond and representing all sides of the political spectrum gathered together in Washington to discuss Israel's achievements and challenges and its relationship with the U.S. Four thousand campus representatives, including 10 University of Delaware students, were among the delegates. Additionally, the UD students in attendance stood alongside the Delawareans in the delegation lobbying our representative and senators on the third and final day of the conference.

The conference celebrated several key accomplishments of the past year, including moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and the recent U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. There was also a continuing concern about the rise of anti-Semitism in the U.S. in its various forms, whether through dog-whistles from political leaders, attacks on Jewish communities, or the BDS movement. Above all else the conference highlighted AIPAC's continuing dedication to bipartisanship and active engagement with all different demographics and with the political system as a whole.

Each year, Policy Conference presents an impressive gathering of speakers that includes national leaders, U.S. administration members, congressional leadership, community leaders, policy experts, and more to discuss nearly every issue relating to American foreign

policy, America's relationship with Israel and Israeli current events, partly in preparation for the delegates to lobby their Congressional representatives. In a show of bipartisanship that is rare for Washington, DC, speakers of all political views agreed on their support for the relationship between the two nations and talked extensively about combating anti-Semitism and divisive rhetoric. Among the most memorable speakers were former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Vice President Mike Pence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former candidate for Israeli Prime Minister Benny Gantz, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as well as hundreds of other speakers of diverse backgrounds and ideologies all united in their love of Israel.

The lobbying appointments at the close of the conference focused on several issues relating to the U.S.-Israel relationship, including continuing foreign aid to Israel (according to the Obama-era memorandum of understanding), anti-BDS resolutions, and expanding military and non-military cooperation including scientific, agricultural, and energy production-related cooperation between the U.S. and Israel.

As UD students, many of us attending Policy Conference for the first time, it was an incredible experience to learn about these complex issues, listen to a wide range of speakers, and engage with our elected representatives in the House and Senate. It granted us a unique opportunity to talk to them about issues we care about as pro-Israel Americans and members of the UD and Delaware communities. The presence of UD students added energy and numbers to an already passionate delegation and allowed for many of us to address our elected officials directly for the first time in our lives. Many of us look forward to repeating this very impactful and memorable experience at a future conference.

Speaking from a student perspective, it was empowering to be able to lobby our congressmen/women and encourage change. We saw the impact of expressing our words and our beliefs to our representatives. It was a beautiful way to end a conference that was focused on words—with our actions.

Leaving the conference, one could not help but feel that the continuity of the Jewish nation remains strong. However, the conference was also a reminder of the importance of speaking up and remaining united in order to achieve peace. We, at the University of Delaware, are looking forward to bringing a larger delegation next year and to continuing our involvement in supporting the U.S.-Israel relationship.



PHOTO CREDIT: JNS.ORG

ISRAELI POST-ELECTION BRINGS FORTH A CONVERSATION OF UNITY

By Noam Glikzman
Israel Fellow, UD Hillel

The euphoria at the *Kahol Lavan* (Blue and White) headquarters was palpable.

“We won!” said Benny Gantz, the party’s leader, and the crowd cheered. Both Gantz and his constituents looked at the exit polls that showed *Kahol Lavan* had more seats than the rival Likud party, but they did not see the full political puzzle that unfolded in the polls, which showed the advantage to the Likud party in forming a coalition.

“We won!” said Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu a couple of hours later, and the euphoria at the Likud headquarters was clear - this time with good reason. The results kept pouring in, showing an advantage to the Likud over *Kahol Lavan*. This showed the Likud’s natural allies among the other parties getting stronger, and *Kahol Lavan*’s natural allies among the other parties getting weaker.

This is the main story of the 2019 Israeli elections, Likud vs. *Kahol Lavan*, Bibi vs. Gantz or more accurate – Bibi vs. everyone. Serving as prime minister for almost 10 years, Netanyahu is in a very powerful place, with both a lot of political power and a lot of political enemies.

For his supporters, Bibi is royalty. In their eyes, he is the only one who can lead Israel in these times; he is the only one who has the political experience (13 years of serving as prime minister in total, with his first term in the 1990s), the

security strategy, and the economic knowledge to make Israel safe and prosperous.

For his detractors, Bibi is a disaster. They believe he is leading Israel to the point of no return, to be isolated from the rest of the world, to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, and to make Israel a country which deprives minorities of equal rights.

For better or worse, this election was all about Bibi. And in an election about a personality, the attacks were all personal. All parties were throwing allegations such as, “he is a traitor,” “he is a psychopath,” “he is a liar,” “she is anti-Israel,” and “they want to destroy the country.”

In all, it was one of the ugliest election campaigns Israel has ever seen.

But among the voices, we could hear many people calling for unity, equality, and peace. Israeli society is very diverse, and while

politicians use this diversity to gather power, many among the citizens know that Israel’s strength is measured by our unity, and by our understanding that we are one nation, one peoplehood. We are all Israelis.

Now that the elections are over, those voices calling for unity are surfacing from all sides of the political spectrum. Israel is a democracy, and in democracy the people choose their leaders. The people of Israel chose Bibi again, and the people have spoken. And in democracy, those who want to see a change can go again to the polls in 4 years (or a little less), and those who would want him to be the prime minister longer can go as well.

While the debate about Israel’s future will continue, we know that no matter what, we will use our free will and free thought to choose who we think is better for us. The people of Israel will continue to be a beacon of democracy.

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INDIA: A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

By Suzanne Grant
JFNA National Campaign Chair



PHOTO PROVIDED BY S. GRANT

I have had some wonderful opportunities to travel on Jewish Federation missions.

However, as I prepared for my most recent trip, many asked: You're going to India? With Jewish Federation? Huh?

I am now able to respond with an enthusiastic, YES! It was India and it was extraordinary! 206 people, 10 flights, 8 hotels, 9 modes of transportation... what? Yes, planes, trains, buses (ordinary) but also boats, houseboats, elephants, camels, Tuk-tuks, and rickshaws. We did a deep dive into the history and culture of India. We also heard from diplomats, business people, and academics about how the country is moving forward in science, technology, and global business.

The Jewish aspect of the trip was a key component of this adventure. We learned that there is a history of significant Jewish presence in India. Although many Jews have moved elsewhere over time (largely Israel and the US) Indian Jews were never forced out and never felt threatened. Indeed, there has never been any evidence of anti-Semitism. I visited India to make sure that the 5,000 Jews who remain, feel connected. We visited projects which our overseas dollars support and clearly reflect our Jewish values. Finally we heard the Israeli Ambassador Ron Malka and Dr. Jai Shankar, former Foreign Secretary of India, discuss the many ways Israel and India are working together, including \$6 billion in trade. For example, India faces challenges in the areas of clean water, irrigation and agriculture. Israel has generously provided expertise in these areas and the results have been transformative! The future is bright for more India-Israel partnership opportunities.

One of the most moving experiences was a visit to the Chabad House in Mumbai. In November 2008, 10 terrorists murdered 174 people and injured hundreds more throughout the city. While the attacks happened at various locations, the Chabad House was a major target. The Rabbi and his wife were murdered. Their young toddler son survived, rescued by his Indian nanny. We said prayers in memory of the victims and viewed the memorial—the only memorial for all of the victims of the horrendous attacks. Our visit reminded us all that around the world, in Mumbai, in Paris, in Pittsburgh, and in Delaware... security is on our minds.

We visited projects supported by our overseas dollars, such as Om. Om is a non-profit training center where mentally challenged young adults show up for work, learn creative skills, and receive a stipend. This allows them to live a life with dignity and self-worth. The items they create are available for purchase, and they are beautiful.

We also visited an incredible initiative: The Gabriel Project Mumbai. Here again we saw our Jewish values in action. While the slums of the city have been well-publicized, efforts to reverse the cycle of poverty are not well known. The children where this project operates are from some of the most vulnerable situations. Through this program, they receive education, recreation as well as basic skills: Education, Health, and Nutrition. In this small pocket of Mumbai, they know that a global Jewish community cares about them, teaching them about hygiene, nutrition, and education.

This was an eye-opening experience. We celebrated Shabbat in beautiful synagogues, met interesting community leaders, tasted amazing food and spices and learned about a country rich in culture and history, with a most gentle and kind population.

Why travel to a place like India? Because when we do, our lives are enriched. Mine certainly was. *Namaste.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF I. SCHAHAM

JFD FED TALK IMPACTS WOMEN

Delaware Women Learn about Israeli Women's Issues

By Aida Waserstein and Robin A. Karol
Community Leaders

Idith Schaham, a family mediator and collaborative divorce attorney from Israel, gave a fascinating presentation at the Jewish Federation of Delaware on April 9, 2019.

The core issues in Israel, that influence the social climate were outlined by Idith. They include: State and Religion, the Israeli Security Situation, and Family / Motherhood.

She described parallel legal systems whereby marital issues can be handled either in a civil court or a religious court. The result could be significantly different depending on the forum where the case is heard, and it is not unusual for people to have a race to the courthouse in an effort to obtain the advantage of one court over the other.

Five myths about the status of women in Israel were systematically addressed in areas such as

participation in the armed forces, gender gaps in salaries, and representation in the higher levels of business and government. She also presented comprehensive data about the advances that have been made in remedying previously existing inequities between men and women and highlighted notable women whose more recent achievements have earned them great distinction.

It is clear that Israeli women, like women in the United States and other countries, have not had an equal seat at the table of opportunity, but Israel, to its credit, has made some strides in achieving greater social and economic equality. For example, the CEOs of the three biggest Israeli banks are women.

The Delaware women in attendance learned a lot from the presentation and discussion. They look forward to attorney Schaham's return to Delaware in the future to bring news of new significant advances in this most important area that affects the viability of the Jewish state.

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Israel & Overseas Committee: A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

By Seth J. Katzen
CEO, Jewish Federation of Delaware

If you would like to learn more about the Israel & Overseas Committee or to get involved, please contact Community Shlichah, Daniella Buchshtaber at 302/427-2100 or daniella@shalomdel.org.



The Jewish Federation is part of the global Jewish partnership with Israel at its heart. Our relationship with Israel is not strictly one of donor to recipient, but is one of people to people. Our solidarity with one another is expressed through financial contributions, as well as various mutually beneficial personal exchanges that serve to educate, celebrate our culture and heritage, and develop a strong sense of identity.

The bond between American Jews and Israel is eternal and constantly evolving. Over the years, the Jewish Agency for Israel has paired Israeli cities with communities in the diaspora. The partnerships share human and financial resources to enhance and improve Israel, its people and Jewish communities throughout the United States.

Federation's Israel & Overseas Committee, chaired by Michelle Margules and Gael Szymanski, serves as an active conduit to our community's connection through a number of global activities;

COMMUNITY SHLICHA – A *shlichah* is an emissary, sent to Delaware through a partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel that strengthens our community's connection to Israel and the Israeli people. The *shlichah* provides educational programming for the entire Jewish community and also serves as an advocate for Israel within both the Jewish and broader community.



PARTNERSHIP2GETHER (P2G) – P2G has become the paradigm for successfully partnering global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities—the Delaware/Arad partnership connects us communally, organizationally and personally. The primary goal of P2G is to develop programs that

will build bridges in the area of education, tourism, economic development and volunteerism.

ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL PROJECT (ENP) – The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) impacts the lives of countless advances Ethiopian-Israelis, helping them make the transition to Israeli life and society. ENP provides social and educational opportunities from birth to *bagrut* (matriculation). Federation also supports a Youth Outreach Center in Arad, offering a safe haven to the most at-risk teens.



ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK (IAN) – Initiative to specifically address the urgency of responding to a growing assault by governments and NGOs on Israel's legitimacy. Last year, Delaware was selected as one of nine communities to participate in their *Community Impact Partnership (CIP)* initiative which aims to develop a cadre of superior Israel advocates to represent our community in civil society and engage non-Jewish communal leaders in an effort to operate a network of resistance to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.



BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL – Federation continues to support Taglit-Birthright Israel, a successful program that has provided over 500,000 young Jewish adults with the opportunity to explore their Jewish identity and heritage through a first-time, peer group Israel experience. Locally, UD Hillel coordinates two birthright trips that take more than 100 UD students to Israel annually.



The Israel & Overseas Committee has been engaged in a number of programs and activities the past year including:

- The welcoming of Community Shlichah, Daniella Buchshtaber, and UD Hillel Israel Fellow, Noam Glikzman, to Delaware in August 2018
- A Cooking Program with Our Shlichah on December 16, 2018
- A Facebook Live event on the Israeli Elections on March 26, 2019
- Partnering with the Rehoboth Beach Film Society to screen three films from the sold-out Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival to Wilmington as part of the Federation Encore! Series – March 31-April 2, 2019
- Coordination of a Yom Hazikaron Program on May 2, 2019
- Organizing a festive Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program on May 8, 2019
- Shlichah Shabbatons and presentations at our seven state-wide synagogues



Barbara Blumberg Selected by National Women’s Philanthropy for Board First-Year Class

By JFD Staff

The Jewish Federation of North America’s National Women’s Philanthropy (NWP) has selected 18 incredible leaders from around North America, including Barbara Blumberg from Delaware, for the 2019-2020 National Women’s Philanthropy Board First-Year Class.

NWP celebrates women in leadership in the Jewish world and represents the strongest cohorts of female leaders across the Federation system. NWP Board Members were nominated by their community and selected through a competitive application process.

Over 150 women total from over 60 Federations across North America comprise the NWP Board. Every board member assumes major leadership roles within her community and makes a capacity annual campaign gift. We join together and strengthen our network of like-minded women, top lay leadership, and lifelong friends. Together we empower each other with the tools to enhance our ability to lead the Jewish community through challenges and opportunities in North America, Israel, and around the world.



CREDIT: ELISA KOMINS MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

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Guest Speaker

Janice Kaplan

Author of *The Gratitude Diaries*





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Co-Chairs:

Sue Komins

Elisa Komins Morris

Debbie Komins Ross



by the Halina Wind Preston
Holocaust Education Committee

SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS LATER

By Steve Gonzer
Chair, Halina Wind Preston Holocaust
Education Committee



INSET: Marie Rosenberg in her early 20s PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERRY OLICKER

ABOVE: Interview with Marie Rosenberg and Sherry Olicker PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEVE GONZER

*“If this much evil can be ignored,
if our children forget,
then we deserve oblivion
and the whole world’s scorn.”*

— AVETIS AHARONIAN,
referring to the Armenian Genocide
April 24, 1915

As fate would have it, I first crossed paths with Sherry Olicker on May 5, 2018, at the 85th annual Dover Days event, in Dover, Delaware. Sherry and her husband, Mel had a vendor booth displaying brightly colored tie-dyed tee shirts, that immediately caught my eyes. As I approached the booth, Sherry initiated a conversation with me in her thick “Baaston” accent. We both felt a strong sense of connectivity, after only a few minutes of conversation. I jokingly asked if she was from Brooklyn. We both chuckled. Subsequently, I mustered up the nerve to pop the real question, “Are you Jewish?” Her reply, “Yes I am, are you?” She proceeded to tell me she

belonged to the Beth Shalom Synagogue, in Wilmington. We continued to kibitz for a while. I began to tell Sherry about my passion to interview eyewitnesses to the Holocaust who reside in Delaware and handed her one of my “No Denying” Documentary cards. Suddenly, her laughter and bright smile turned into tears and she was silent. Sherry told me her mother, Marie Rosenberg was a Holocaust survivor from Holland and never talked about what she endured in the Holocaust.

I then gently asked Sherry if her mother might be willing to grant me an interview and gave Sherry all my contact information. Fast

forward, almost a year later. I received a call from Sherry inviting me to her home to chat.

Sherry’s mother agreed to be interviewed shortly after Sherry discovered a large box in her basement during my visit. The box contained a treasure-trove of Holocaust documents and memorabilia that was concealed for decades, among those items was a notebook with Marie’s detailed, handwritten eyewitness account of her journey through the Holocaust.

Marie Rosenberg remained silent for 74 years, never mentioning to her children, the unspeakable horrors she endured as a

Holocaust survivor. Sherry and her sister had no knowledge of the painful memories their mother kept buried deep in her heart and soul. When Sherry was around five years of age, she asked her mother, “what was that on your arm, Ma,” pointing to her tattoo. Marie said, “it was dirt.” Marie was tattooed upon her arrival at Auschwitz. Her number, 81775. Sherry also shared, during the interview, that her mother had nightmares almost every night.

As Marie approached her 93rd birthday, she realized that the voices of those who were eyewitnesses to the Holocaust will soon become silent and wanted future generations to never forget.

Over the years, Marie slowly lost her ability to speak in a clear manner, due to a physical condition brought on by the inhumane conditions she had to bear during the Holocaust. She was forced to work in a dark, cold salt mine and her vocal cords deteriorated from the harsh environment.

The interview took place on March 29, 2019. This is when I finally met Marie Rosenberg for the first time. She was sitting in her room, at a senior assisted living facility, confined to a wheel chair. She appeared frail and had a non-see through black covering over her right eyeglass lens. We positioned Sherry next to her mother and Sherry began to read the text written by her mother decades ago.

As the camera began to roll, Marie had a sudden burst of energy and glared into the camera lens with a piercing gaze and then turned to Sherry. She struggled to speak, “...I didn’t want to talk about it, no, forget it...I didn’t want you kids to grow up and feel bad...”

Marie was born in Amsterdam, Holland on November 22, 1926. In January 1943, when she was 17 years of age, the Nazis unexpectedly broke into her family’s home. The Gestapo and Dutch police had their guns pointed at them as if they were criminals. The family was given 15 minutes to get ready, before being herded into trucks and transported to an Amsterdam movie theater. Marie never forgot that night. Marie and her sister and parents were held at the theater for four days, sitting on the floor. On the 4th day, they were loaded on trains and transported to the town of Vucht, where Marie’s father was separated from the rest of the family. Marie, her sister and mother were placed in small barracks.

Marie recalled one morning she was lined up in a row with other women. The women had to count by fives. The women who ended up being number five, were told to step out of line. They were transported to Germany, never to be seen again. The others, 250 women, were chosen to work at the Philips Electronics Factory. It was in March, when a female representative from the Philips Factory, a Dutch company, came and tried to save as many Jewish women as possible. 250 women were allowed to leave with her to work in the factory. Marie was one of them. These women were known as “Philips Commandos.” In 1995 Fritz Philips, one of the few members of the Philips family to remain in Holland during the war, was honored by Yad Vashem as “Righteous Among Nations.” He was credited with saving more than 382 Dutch Jewish women.

In January 1944, Marie along with several other factory workers were shoved into a cattle car. The train eventually came to a slow halt at Auschwitz concentration camp. Marie was first impressed by the bright red sky

above the camp. Later she found out this was the color of women and children being burned in ovens.

In April 1945, Marie was finally liberated and transported to Denmark, where she was greeted by the Red Cross and sent to a Displaced Persons camp in Sweden by boat. From there she contacted an aunt and uncle who lived in Boston. Her uncle brought Marie to Boston, where she met her husband, settled down and had two children.

“... But you know what, I couldn’t understand how people could do that to a child... They wanted to exterminate us...” Marie Rosenberg, March 29, 2019

“... In this country there is still a lot of hate, my mother told me, don’t hate... That is always with me, why hate... I cannot forget my parents... I cannot forget them... People got to know what happened no matter what...”

— Marie Rosenberg, March 29, 2019

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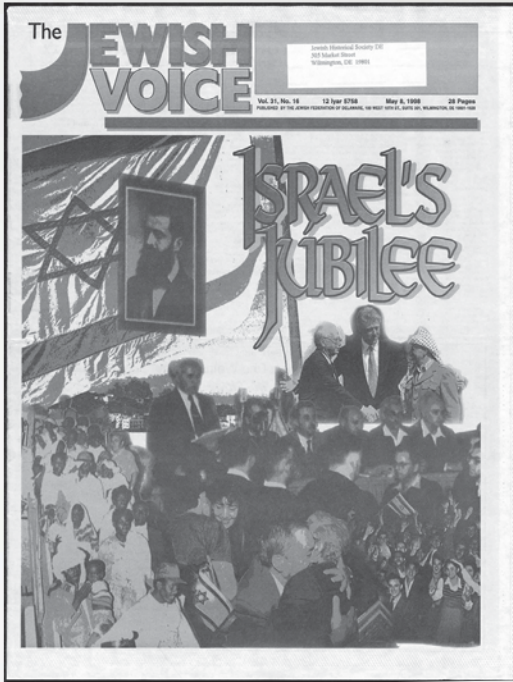
**Jewish Federation
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Throwback Delaware



PUBLISHED MAY 8, 1998 From The Holocaust To Freedom

By TONI YOUNG



The Delaware Jewish community has celebrated each anniversary of the creation of Israel. There are so many wonderful articles in the May 8, 1998 issue of the Jewish Voice commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel! Twenty-one years later, it is nearly impossible to choose. I hope readers will visit our website JHSDelaware.org/jewish-voice to read the entire issue.



Also, May is Jewish American Heritage Month! Visit www.jahm.us/ for more info.

– Gail Pietrzyk
Archivist, Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

“To me, the American flag represents freedom,” says Dorothy Finger. “When I salute the flag or hear a John Philip Sousa patriotic march, I feel emotional. At the same time, when the flag of Israel flies, I cry,” she explains. “The flag and the State of Israel represent the loss of my family and six million Jews.”

Dorothy Kraushar, a young school girl from Chodorow, Poland, survived five years of brutality in two ghettos, a labor camp and the forest. At the end of the war she was taken to Eschwege, a displaced persons camp under American occupation in West Germany. If she had remained at the camp, she would have been sent to Palestine. However, Dorothy who had lost everybody in her family yearned to be with some relatives and remembered that her mother’s brother had emigrated to the United States as a young man. She had heard that America was a wonderful place, with freedom for all people. So she gave a letter with her name and background information to one of the American soldiers at the DP camp and asked him to see if her uncle could be found. When the letter appeared in a New York newspaper, a distant cousin saw it and contacted Dorothy’s aunt and uncle, Anna and Jacob Krause, in Wilmington.

Very late one night two MP’s appeared in the dorm and called out her name. “After all I had been through, I was sure they were going to kill me,” Finger says.

Instead, through interpreters they explained that my uncle had been located. His son Arthur was a captain in the Air Force and had an apartment in Bavaria where they wanted to take me the next day. They asked if I could be packed by the

next morning. When I answered, of course, they kept telling the interpreter to repeat, does she understand? Can she be packed by tomorrow morning? They were the ones who didn’t understand. It wouldn’t take me long to pack. I had two dresses, the one I had on and another one. That was all I had in the world.

During the year she lived with Arthur Krause and his wife in Bavaria, Dorothy had a private tutor in English. By the time the Krauses had to leave Bavaria, Dorothy’s uncle had secured all the proper papers for her to emigrate to the United States, but she still had to wait three months until she was finally permitted to depart for the United States.

On November 17, 1947, Dorothy sailed on the “Ernie Pyle” under the care of the Committee for European Children. In an article, written a few months later, she described her joy at seeing the first lights of New York:

It was at night. The weather was very nice. We went out on the deck and looked at the wonderful light of the free country. Full of life and happiness, which I hadn’t had for so many years. I was really happy. I looked back to Europe. It looked to me so dark, full of tears which I left. And I saw for me that country of my happy future. I didn’t believe it. I thought that it was a Utopia. But I was really in New York. I think that it was the happiest day in my life.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

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After reaching the home of her aunt and uncle, Anna and Jacob Krause, in Wilmington, bashful, scared, Dorothy Krause entered Wilmington High School. She was most fortunate to have a wonderful English teacher, Anna Kane, who treated Dorothy with special care, arranged two English classes a day and allowed Dorothy to work right at her desk. Dorothy found the students very immature. Many of them were only interested in her joining their sorority. Instead she joined the first interracial group at Wilmington High because the issue of treating blacks fairly was one she identified with easily after her experience. I thought I could help people understand a basic truth, "You don't have to like everybody, but you have no right to hurt people." Finger explains. No one asked Dorothy about her experiences during the war, probably because they thought it would be too painful, and they didn't want to hurt her.

In May, 1948 when the state of Israel was declared, Dorothy cried and cried:

I felt that it was the best thing that had ever happened and that it had happened to me personally. Having lost all my loved ones in the Holocaust and understanding

that even after the war many countries wouldn't take Jews in, I thought the creation of the State of Israel would mean a whole new world. I thought it would bring an end to the Jewish struggle. Anti-Semitism would disappear and there would be a new world. I also felt great pride in being part of the United States, the first country that accepted Israel. Mixed with my happiness was a sense that maybe I should have gone to Palestine from the DP camp, but I had wanted so badly to be with family and had dreamed so often about the United States.

In the article written for the Wilmington High School newspaper and quoted in the May 16, 1948 Sunday Morning Star, Finger expressed her joy at being in the United States, "I waited a long time for the day I can land in a free country where it is no difference of what race or religion you are, where everybody is free and happy. All kids are going to school and enjoying life. I am hoping to be a good student and a good citizen."

Dorothy Finger has become a citizen extraordinaire and an inspiration to all who know her.

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BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS BREAKFAST

PHOTO CREDIT: BRADFORD L. GLAZIER PHOTOGRAPHY



On Monday, April 15th, Jewish Federation of Delaware hosted a Business Professionals Breakfast with more than 75 people in attendance. The featured speaker was community member Rodger Levenson, President and Chief Executive Officer of WSFS Financial Corporation. Rodger spoke about the history of WSFS and shared his insights on the future of the banking industry in the digital age, the importance and power of personal relationships, and their impressive growth and performance in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley.

1 Guest Speaker, Rodger Levenson, President and Chief Executive Officer, WSFS Financial Corporation
2 Event Co-Chairs Jesse Miller and Beth Moskow-Schnoll with Rodger Levenson



JHSD ANNUAL MEETING

PHOTO CREDIT: ELLEN MEYER

On Sunday, April 7, 2019, the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware held its annual meeting at the Siegel JCC. The program, *Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue: Delaware's Jewish Judges*, featured a presentation by Richard D. Levin, a member of the JHSD board. We were pleased to celebrate and recognize the members of Delaware's Jewish community who have served in the judiciary over the last 118 years.

LEFT: Attending the event were these serving and retired members of the bench: seated, Hon. Helen Balick, Hon. Aida Waserstein, Hon. Charles Keil, standing, Hon. Bernard Balick, Hon. Robert Coonin, Hon. Peter Bercat. Also attending, but not included in the photo, were Hon. Carl Goldstein and Hon. Peggy Ableman.

AABGU SPECIAL FILM SCREENING

PHOTO CREDIT: CLAIRE WINNICK, AABGU

American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Mid-Atlantic region and the Jewish Federation of Delaware held a special screening of *Ben-Gurion, Epilogue* an award-winning documentary, on Sunday, April 14.



1 Representing both organizations are, (L to R) AABGU Delaware Chapter Chair, Dr. Barry Kayne and Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Claire Winick, joined by National AABGU President, Toni Young, and JFD CEO, Seth J. Katzen

2 Participating in the program are Delaware chapter officers: L to R, Dr. Stuart and Lelaine Nemser, Carol Rothschild, Dr. Robin Karol-Eng, Dr. Barry Kayne, Ruth Ann and Dr. Errol Ger

DELAWARE J STREET



The Delaware J Street Chapter sponsored a program on the Israeli elections to encourage a deeper understanding and greater appreciation of the election process.

L to R, Rabbi Michael Kramer, Professor Ian Lustick, Rabbi Michael Beals and Rabbi Douglas Krantz PHOTO BY RABBI ELLEN BERNHARDT

JCRC FEDTALKS



On April 9th Federation hosted a Fed Talk with the Israeli speaker Idith Shacham who spoke about Women in Israel

PHOTO BY NICOLE TERRANOVA

OUT & ABOUT WITH DANIELLA



1 Daniella Buchshtaber, Madeline Driban, and Rabbi Michael Beals delivering *Mishloach Manot* to the Kutz Home residents

PHOTO CREDIT: BERNICE EDWARDS

2 Daniella voting for the Israeli elections at the Israeli embassy in Washington DC

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAM GLIKSMAN

3 Our *Shlichim* with Hillel students at the AIPAC policy conference in Washington DC

PHOTO CREDIT: RABBI NICK RENNER

4 Our *Shlichim* with Russell and Todd Silberglied at the AIPAC policy conference in Washington DC

PHOTO CREDIT: RABBI NICK RENNER

5 Daniella Buchshtaber and Michelle Margules at Capitol Hill

PHOTO CREDIT: LIRAN ABEKASIS

6 Our *Shlichim* with Knesset member Amir Ohana from the Likud party

PHOTO CREDIT: RABBI MICHAEL BEALS

7 Daniella with Knesset member Meirav Michaeli from the Labor party

PHOTO CREDIT: DANIELLA BUCHSHTABER

8 Our *Shlichim*, Noam and Daniella had lunch with the Israeli Olympic Judo team

PHOTO CREDIT: RAFI GLAZER

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JEWISH SCENE



**HILLEL...
FROM AIPAC
TO ISRAELI
JUDO**

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY UD HILLEL



1



2



3



4

- 1 UD Hillel students represent at AIPAC
- 2 Blue Hens for Israel Board with Israeli Olympians in Judo
- 3 Judo demonstration
- 4 Lindsay Hawtof checks out the bronze medal

FROM PI DAY TO PASSOVER



1 ECC PreK celebrates Pi Day at Einstein's Pi Day Birthday Party

PHOTO BY LISA KORNBUM

2 Einstein Faculty going wild for Purim PHOTO BY NOAM MALKA

3 Noam M., Miriam P., Mirav K., and Adeline H. celebrate Purim on social media

PHOTO BY SIMA MALKA

4 Rafiki, Young Simba, and Mufasa in Einstein's production of Disney's Lion King Kids

PHOTO BY BARRY KRELL

5 Simba is King of Pride Rock in Einstein's production of Disney's Lion King Kids

PHOTO BY BARRY KRELL

6 Skye L., Ryan Y., and Julia G. get ready to make matzah PHOTO BY EINSTEIN STAFF

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JFS CELEBRATES 120 YEARS!

PHOTO CREDIT: RHONDA BOWMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

On April 6, community members and leaders gathered for a spectacular evening to celebrate Jewish Family Services' 120th Birthday.



- 1 Event Co-Chairs Kimberly Ginsberg, Karen Legum, Kimberly Felzer, and Susie Zaslavsky
- 2 JFS Board Members Heather Gibbons, Samantha Lukoff, Tayler Bolton, and Regina Kerr Alonzo
- 3 Generations of JFS leadership reunite! CEO, Basha Silverman celebrates this milestone with former Executive Director, Dory Zatuchni, and current Board Chair, Regina Kerr Alonzo
- 4 Thanks to A.R. Morris Jewelers for sponsoring the fabulous diamond raffle to support JFS' new play therapy program (Bret Morris, Basha Silverman, Avie Silver)
- 5 Gilbert and Sonia Sloan
- 6 Michael Longwill, Michelle Glazier, and Ivy and Donna Harlev
- 7 Chris and Beth Osbourn with Jake and Stacy Weaver
- 8 Patti Berk, Barbara Blumberg, Caryl Marcus-Stape, Lisa Dadone-Weiner, and Bonnie Zahn
- 9 Venkatesh Sundararajan and Jim Zaslavsky

WHAT'S UP AT THE J

PHOTOS BY DONNA HARLEV / J STAFF



- 1 Phili Miller, Taylor Clearfield, and Alexandra Pratz at Brunch & Bubbly
- 2 Playing Bingo at Brunch & Bubbly
- 3 Rachel Burroughs and Katie Goemaat at Brunch & Bubbly
- 4 The Messina Family at the Lion King Breakfast
- 5 Mohammadi Family at the Lion King Breakfast
- 6 JCC Staff celebrating the ECC Purim Parade
- 7 Walking Tour of Colonial Jewish Philadelphia
- 8 Planting flowers for Spring



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COMMUNITY WOMEN'S SEDER

PHOTOS BY MARK LIPMAN

Women in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley gathered at Congregation Beth Shalom to celebrate Pesach and its Jewish heroines.



1



2



3

1 A full seder 2 Sisterhood Committee Members Jessica Imber, Karen Ludmerer Schultz, Pam-Sue Schwartz, Meredith Weiss, Stacey Colton, Sherry Olicker, Karen Moss, and Shulamith Shafer 3 Galina Chadwick, Phyllis Genauer, Cindy DelGiorno, and Marla Norton 4 Suzanne Burcat, Olga Kottler, Sylvia Wagman (Wilmington Hadassah President) 5 Seder Leaders: Jessica Imber and Meredith Weiss



4



5

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM HEBREW SCHOOL FAMILY PURIM CELEBRATION

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RABBI MICHAEL BEALS



1



2



3

1 Rabbi Michael Beals and Whoooo?? 2 Festival goes 3 Minnie shows up at the Purim Festival

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TBE EVENTS

PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON FULLERTON



1 TBE celebrates its 20th year of Basketfest with over 250 participants enjoying a day of food and fun while trying to win valuable baskets 2 Rylie and Logan Gray jam during TBE's talent show 3 The TBE Players did an amazing job with their Purim spiel, Shushanalot, written and directed by Christopher Shelton and Susan Shertok 4 Cyndy Bender makes TBE history as the first woman to play Haman (BOO!) in the Purim spiel 5 Cailah Ogden demonstrates a knitting technique with Rosalie Dior and Cindy Shelton during a Sisterhood event

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 MONTHLY

CROSSING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

By Rabbi Jeremy Winaker
Head of School, Einstein Academy



Maya D. and Ella S. speaking Hebrew in Aunt Leah's Ice Cream shop PHOTO BY SIMA MALKA

Before Jews were the Israelites, they were the Hebrews.

The subtle shift from *ivrim* (“crossers”) to *b’nai yisrael* (“children of Israel”) marked the success of the Exodus from Egypt we just celebrated last month. When Moses and Aaron first face Pharaoh, they speak for the God of the Hebrews; once the plagues start, God’s people are the Israelites. To connect deeply to Israel and to be a part of its people, it helps to be a Hebrew, to speak the language.

At a recent bar mitzvah of an alumnus of Albert Einstein Academy, the thank-you section of the *d’var Torah* mentioned something a bit different. The bar mitzvah thanked his teachers from Einstein who taught him so much. That part was natural enough. His next sentence, though, was much more telling. He went on to say, “Without you guys I wouldn’t be able to understand a conversation in the office or in the hall all in Hebrew, even if I am not supposed to be listening.” His adolescent humor aside, he makes a startling point: his teachers taught him enough Hebrew to understand what they switched out of English to say to each other as if he would not understand. He learned to be on the inside.

This summer, an Einstein student who had just joined the school for 4th grade used Hebrew to be in on what an Israeli family experienced in a store. The Israeli children asked their mother for something and argued about it. The Einstein student witnessed the interaction and was able to give her family a play-by-play of the whole thing. She got the translation and the intention.

Hebrew language is a key to so much of the Jewish world. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people. It unlocks our traditional texts, connecting us across time and space. Hebrew also makes Israel a reality even when one is living outside of its boundaries.

Einstein has invested in creating immersive Hebrew classrooms using the TaL AM curriculum. The results are impressive, and the school continues to develop the program, adding online and hands-on activities to improve learning. We also teach about Israel, having student research cities and understand current innovations. The language, though, is what brings Israel alive and into their hearts.

Hebrews refers to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants crossing rivers to begin momentous journeys. To be free, a free people in its own land, we need to know our own language as the bridge across whatever rivers block our path. Hebrew is that language, that bridge, today. At Einstein, our students learn Hebrew, build the bridge, and cross into a connection to Israel, becoming *b’nai yisrael*, Children of Israel.



Einstein Academy is a
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MORE THAN MEMORIES

By Michele Sands, *Community Member*

When my husband and I walked into the first Memory Café sponsored by Jewish Family Services of Delaware I immediately felt myself relax.

Calming strains of Hawaiian music surrounded us as we found a place at the table with other individuals experiencing memory changes and their care partners. The program about Hawaii, led by JFS Social Work intern and Hawaii native, Keriann Bennett, gave us the opportunity to share experiences and learn fun facts about one another and Hawaii in an accepting and welcoming environment. By the end of the afternoon, I felt like I could just as easily have been on the beach with friends.

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or any loss of memory can be the beginning of a lonely journey for the person with the diagnosis and the individual(s) responsible for his/her care. While the physician who makes the diagnosis (usually a neurologist) may confirm that the patient is experiencing more than typical "senior moments" and will often prescribe a medication to temporarily slow the progression of the disease, doctors may not offer information about the resources available to cope with the changes that will occur. Instead, the care partner and other family members are left to explore the options on their own. This was our experience after my husband Howard's diagnosis.

I first noticed signs that Howard had gaps in his memory and some confusion late in 2012. I gave examples of these episodes to his primary care physician and asked for a referral to a neurologist. After a few visits, Howard was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, which we were told does not always develop into Alzheimer's.

Recognizing the importance of early intervention, I reached out to the Alzheimer's Association's Delaware Valley Chapter in April of 2014 and received information about educational programs, support groups, a 24/7 helpline, and other resources. Equipped with more knowledge, I felt slightly more at ease, but by October 2014, Howard's diagnosis had changed to Alzheimer's Disease and I was determined to find additional resources and a network of support.

Although the Delaware Valley Chapter has an office in New Castle County, it did not offer a sufficient number of programs locally to meet our needs at the time. However, we were able to attend an eight-week information program in Media, PA for those with early stage Alzheimer's, which later evolved into a monthly support group for those with the diagnosis and the care partners; care partners continued to meet monthly to share updates and offer support to one another after the official group concluded in 2017. I also attend

a support group at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute that I have found to be very valuable, especially since it is led by a licensed social worker who has been a care partner herself. Each of these groups and resources were helpful in their own way.

Navigating the care system doesn't have to be difficult because there are so many resources, but it helps to become part of a support system. I became familiar with the Memory Café concept a few years ago and felt it was important to have the program available in our own community. A Memory Café is a meeting place for individuals living with changes in their thinking or memory, mild cognitive impairment, or dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder. It's a place to relax, have fun, and meet others who understand and connect with your experiences; it's an inclusive space and a diagnosis of dementia is not required to attend. Memory Cafés are also a place for care partners to enjoy a change of scenery and routine, meet other care partners, exchange ideas and learn about resources, and experience respite and renewal in their relationship with the person in their life who has dementia.

I suggested this unique program idea to Jewish Family Services last summer and I am grateful to Karen Commeret, JFS' Director of Care Management, for making this a reality for me, for Howard, and for other individuals experiencing memory changes and their caregivers.

It is my hope that this important program will reach all those in our community who need a place to unwind and connect with others who understand the challenges associated with dementia. Building a network of support is essential and I'm pleased to be part of creating this new opportunity in Delaware.

JFS MEMORY CAFÉS

are held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday
from 1:30 to 3pm at Congregation Beth Emeth.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Contact Karen Commeret at 302-478-9411
or kcommeret@jfsdelaware.org for more
information about attending JFS' Memory Café
and how to get involved as a volunteer.



Jewish Family Services of Delaware is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

THE DAY I MET A PART OF ISRAEL

By Matt Moran
Camp & Youth Coordinator



Rotem (left) at Camp JCC 2015 Pie in the Face Day PHOTO BY DONNA HARLEV

I came to our camp later than most.

I had not been to a summer camp before, spending my summers at my grandmothers, and only came to the JCC when I found out about the Teen Travel Program. As those days were spent off campus, it wasn't until the following year when I joined the CIT program that I really spent any time on campus.

It was after a short orientation that I was told to go join a group at the first pavilion up the hill for Israeli Culture. I blinked at the counselor. "For . . . what?" I don't remember the response to my question, but I distinctly recall walking up to the pavilion to music and dancing. I joined the group and quietly let the counselor know I was travelling with them, all the while staring at the person leading the dance. After the dancing, I heard one of the boys call her Tamar. She took a long drink from a military canteen while encouraging others to drink from their water bottles, and said that was her favorite dance from Israel.

I sat on the picnic table, wide-eyed. I had never actually met someone from another country before, and was stuck between wanting to run up to her to ask a million questions and knowing that I should probably be learning how to watch the kids. Thankfully, a lot of questions I had were answered as part of that day's activity. She talked about the music she liked, both the stuff that was popular in Israel and the late '90s punk-pop she had to go out of her way to find in the early MP3 era. She would often carry around a cassette player to record songs that might pop on to the radio on her off days at her base. She then talked about days spent at the beach, and we headed to the volleyball court to play some *matkot*.

After that we were whisked away to kickball, but that first lesson stuck with me. It was a few more days before we would be back, and this time the nerdy, little

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

i **If you are interested in becoming a potential host for an incoming Israeli Shaliach, please contact Camp JCC Delaware at 302-478-5660 or email camp@siegeljcc.org**



Siegel JCC is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

anthropologist in me came with questions to ask before the kids got settled. She was very polite, actually bringing up some of the stuff I asked for the activity for the day, then taught us all a song to sing at flag raising the next day.

The following weeks had me placed with other groups and included more responsibilities around camp (carrying contractor bags full of lunches was not my favorite pastime) but I was always excited every time I got a chance to be at Israeli Culture. To have a *Shaliach* (Israeli Emissary) come to the camp was such a broadening experience in my life, and as I witnessed it was incredible to the campers.

But, I think the most lasting impression of our *Shlichim* came in the following years. There was Bar, who ran the ropes course, who ran around the field (pre-JLoop) before flag every morning. He came from the south, and loved the feel of grass between his toes. There was Adi and Yael, who came from two vastly different regions, had never met before, and couldn't be more different than one another in looks and personality. They spent their free time giggling like sisters over inside jokes. Eden's father was Muslim so she kept both kosher and *halal*, and she ate a bacon cheese burger with her eyes closed saying it "wouldn't count," then called them both on the phone at 1 AM to apologize.

Omer was quiet, but would be the first to make a funny face to a camper with a scraped knee. Rotem proved she had a future career as a mechanical engineer, or a circus clown, or a politician, or whatever she tried her hand at. Marom loved going on hikes, but never understood how it could be 20 degrees cooler than in Israel but feel five times hotter with the humidity.

I have long held that camp, in general, is one of the best experiences a child can have, and part of that is the interactions campers have with the staff. Every staff member is like a doorway for the campers; their time spent together is the camper walking through the door to get to know the counselor's experience. By bringing over our *Shlichim*, Camp JCC Delaware kicks open a series of

doors to whole sets of experiences that would never be open to them before. It is not just that it gives the campers a view of Israel, but that year after year, as each Israeli brings their own personality, their own skill sets and excitement, their own *ruach*, the campers develop a fuller and more well-rounded understanding of a people half the world away.

This summer, we will be welcoming Roe and Or to join us for Guitar/Music and Israeli Culture respectively. And, as terrified as I am for the inevitable time I accidentally switch their name, I am genuinely excited for how they will help shape our camper's experiences for the summer and their views of the world.



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CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM HEBREW SCHOOL FEEDS THE HUNGRY THROUGH THE JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY IN NE PHILADELPHIA



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBS

By CBS Staff

On Sunday March 17, the Hebrew School of Congregation Beth Shalom, including the Confirmation Age Shalom Corps group, participated in a group communal event to feed 6000 of NE Philadelphia's neediest Jewish residents. The event was organized by the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA). Cantor Elisa Abrams Cohn has made it a highlight of the Hebrew School year, making the Jewish community of Delaware the southernmost Hebrew School to participate in this massive *mitzvah* project.

Students and parents alike participated in a massive human assembly line, packing each box with staples like canned vegetables and fruit, tuna, pasta, dates, toilet paper, carrots, and even *hamantaschen* to mark the holiday of Purim. Boxes were then loaded into cars and delivered to houses and mostly apartments of JRA clients.

Shira Beals, daughter of Rabbi Michael Beals, had previously learned a Russian language song as part of her repertoire at the Wilmington Children's Chorus where she has sung as a soprano for many years. As she delivered her large box of food to the resident of Apartment 1106, the grateful Russian resident started singing along and embraced Shira with love.

Cantor Elisa's meticulous planning plus her talented and dedicated teachers allowed the much-anticipated Hebrew school event to come off without a hitch. Students and parents say they could hardly wait until next year to do this again.

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BBYO TOURNIES

By Jayson Alonzo, *Brian L. Dombchik AZA Chapter of BBYO President*; and Brian Dym, *New Member*

It was a winning weekend for Wilmington DE, West Chester PA, and Newark DE teens!

On March 23-24, the Wilmington BBYO chapter swept the Regional BBYO Tournies Convention and was awarded first place in Division II – for the third consecutive year! West Chester BBYO was awarded second place in Division II. And Newark BBYO earned first place in Division III.

Tournies was a three day weekend that included many types of competition for the three hundred teens from Liberty Region to partake. BBYO Liberty Region is comprised of chapters along Eastern Pennsylvania (including Philadelphia), Delaware, and two areas of upstate New York: Binghamton and Elmira with over 20 chapters. Over 800 teens are members of Liberty Region where teens develop leadership skills, participate in local and regional community service projects, take part in athletic and social programming, and are given a safe space to be themselves while connecting with other Jewish teens.

When we arrived at the Allentown JCC we greeted our friends, ate dinner and then held Shabbat services. The mood was set and after services the friendly competition began. We started with a very long spirit contest. Fun Fact, Liberty’s spirit colors are red, white and blue, and our mascot is Captain America! The room was roaring with different types of chants for the different chapters. This was why we were here, for friendship and fun.

The next morning began with competitions between all the chapters in the region included events like swimming, volleyball, singing, dancing, basketball, chess, panel discussion, photography, art, and many more. After a long morning of screaming for your team to win or



LEFT: Brian L. Dombchik AZA Chapter of BBYO at the Liberty Region Tournies Convention

BELOW: Wilmington AZA and Wilmington Tikvah BBG chapter with their first place medals and trophy – threepeat champions!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF REGINA ALONZO



tiring brain usage we went back to our host houses for the afternoon to rest.

In addition to Shabbat dinner and Havdallah, there was lots of time to meet and catch up with teens from the region. Later that night even more athletic competitions continued with basketball, spike ball, table tennis, and swimming. After the night concluded, we were down to the finals of all the sports to be finished the next day.

Sunday morning some PCD (post-convention depression) began to hit some people while the finals were being played. After the long two days’ worth of competing, all people were tired, but the spirit kept coming while we all waited for the results. A Philly chapter came in first for Division I. Newark won first for Division III. Finally our very own Wilmington chapter came in first for Division II. The big

individual winner was Micah Harlev who came home with seven medals! They weighed so much, he could hardly hold his neck up.

After all the results, the PCD began. There was one more tradition and a lot more spirit. All the chapters gather outside for the spirit circles where some people couldn’t wait to start them while others were too sad to say goodbye to their friends. The spirit of Liberty Region roared with spirit one final time for this amazing convention. Everyone appreciated the home hospitality of Allentown’s BBYO parents who welcomed all of us for home visits.

Brandywine Valley teens had a winning weekend and always welcome newcomers, from 8-12th grades. Join us for our local chapter meetings or the next awesome convention which is Spring Convention May 17-19.



UD Israel Fellow, Noam Glikzman, and Daniella Buchshtaber
PHOTO COURTESY OF D. BUCHSHTABER

10 NEW THINGS I HAVE LEARNED DURING MY SHLICHUT IN DELAWARE

By Daniella Buchshtaber, *Community Shlichah*

Over half a year has gone by since I took on my role as *Community Shlichah* for Jewish Federation of Delaware.

In that time I have made many connections and bridged many divides; the curiosity of, and love towards Israel from the Delaware community makes me swell with pride. I am compelled to reflect on the impact we have exchanged with one another, and most notably what has been most memorable to me.

I present to you, the ten things I have learned in my role so far:

1. There are so many ways to worship. In my time here I have experienced so many different and diverse services, each with their

own unique style. This has made me much more connected to and empowered by my Jewish identity. Taking the classic prayer texts and turning them into beautiful songs and melodies is absolutely amazing to me.

2. Consumerism in America. When I entered my favorite place in the whole world (also known as Target) a few days after the New Year I thought: *Ok, now that Christmas is over, we will no longer see all those seasonal things and everything will go back to normal.* Well guess what? Valentine’s day merchandise was next! And it only continued.

3. Speaking of Target. This place is incredible. Someone asked me the other day: “What does Target have that makes you love it so much,” and my answer was “It has everything!” You go in for one thing, let’s say chocolates. You leave the place with a vacuum cleaner, pajamas, and a new set

of headphones. It is just unbelievable! I also find the name Target quite ironic. Target means focus, and yet you totally lose your focus when you get there and buy so many other things! To sum this point up, I like to say that I have diagnosed myself with a love hate relationship with Target; I Love shopping there; I hate looking at my bank account balance after I leave the place.

4. Sports! You Americans and your sports! In Israel, our biggest sport is Soccer and it is mentioned only in passing. In America, complete television networks are devoted to talking about sports and not even all sports, some channels are just for one sport. ONE! In Israel, being Jewish and protecting our nation, brings us all together. In America, sports give people common ground to stand on together and that’s a beautiful thing all by itself. I still don’t get Football though.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

5. Strangers can't become friends if we don't get to know them! Coming from a Jewish country where everyone is in everyone's business all the time, it's weird standing in line or paying at the supermarket without being interrogated by the cashier or a random person in line about my marital status, where I work, and what my plans are for Shabbat.

6. Friday Night. I think what I miss the most is the feeling of Friday night in Israel. When everything slows down, less cars on the road, and sharing greetings of "Shabbat Shalom," with everyone on the street! It feels like here nothing stops, not even on the weekends.

7. This community has a passion for Israel. I really do not take that for granted. Every single person I have had a conversation with and every congregation that I have visited are honored and humbled and appreciative of the fact that I am here as a representative of Israel. I have been asked many questions, some of them were not easy and I like the fact that I can have a

conversation with community members about Israel and realize there isn't always one answer. Although we disagree on certain things, the debates I have had were always respectful and always maintain the principle that Israel is in our hearts and there is no question about it. So thank you for that!

8. Kugel. I learned that ironically, although the majority of the population in Israel is Jewish, the food we eat is not what you will call Jewish food here. For example, I have never had or saw Kugel at a holiday meal in Israel, yet here you have so many different kinds of Kugel! Noodle Kugel, Apple Kugel, Potato Kugel, and the list goes on and on! I find those culinary differences fascinating.

9. Being Jewish here is hard work. What I mean is that in Israel I wake up in the morning and I feel Jewish because I speak Hebrew, because of the very obvious atmosphere of Shabbat, because it's hard not to be Jewish when you are in Israel. Here most of the people around you are not. Most of the people don't know what Shabbat is, or

what Yom Kippur is and therefore nothing stops or changes. If you want to be Jewish and nourish that part of you, you must be ACTIVE, go to shul and in a way go against the mainstream on some matters. That makes me appreciate Judaism here even more, because this community works hard to maintain that strong connection by taking action.

10. In this community, we are family. All people, from different backgrounds, different lifestyles and different generations, have embraced us. Thank you for giving us a home away from home.

So as you can tell I have learned and experienced a lot since I got here, and I still have oceans of knowledge and vast experiences ahead of me. I would like to end this piece by expressing my gratitude for this community. I am grateful for every person I have met so far. I learn so much from you every day, and I am very thankful for that.

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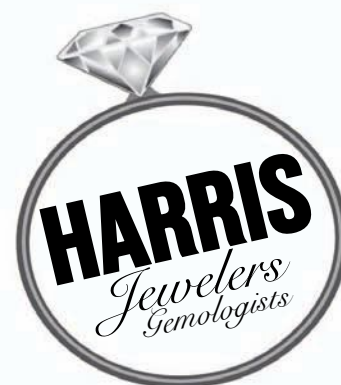


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Q ■ Does Israel mean the same to you today as it did years ago?

A ■ RABBI JACOB LIEBERMAN
Temple Beth El

As a child, I knew Israel as food, climate, and culture. I knew it was the Jewish homeland, but this was all backdrop for me. Israel's climate was like my native southern California, its food unlike my favorite dishes, and its culture Jewish, but somehow more so. Of course, there was Hebrew, local Israelis I knew, and people who'd traveled to Israel and shared their experiences. Most everyone I loved, loved Israel themselves.

As I grew, I learned more about Jewish journeys to Israel after the Holocaust, different settlements, particularly the Soviet and Ethiopian emigrations, and a basic history of the establishment of the State of Israel. I learned that Israel and in particular Jerusalem was a holy place, but also a place of strife, conflict, and war. People spoke of "the Arabs," but I learned little if anything about them.

Growing into adulthood, I felt a religious connection to Israel as our homeland and to its people as siblings in Jewish peoplehood. I grew up cautious about nationalism and its dangers, however, so certain expressions of unconditional support for Israel left me ill at ease. Nonetheless, I was moved by Israel's promise of safety and security for the Jewish

people and its aspirations to be a place where we could live out our highest values. And then I visited and experienced a Jewish renaissance.

From my first visits to my year in Israel, I felt a very strong spiritual, emotional, and religious connection. I fell in love with Israel's landscape, food, and people. I cried unexpectedly at the holy sites. The more I visited, the more history I learned and the more I understood. I gained a better understanding of Israel's complexities and incongruities. In short, even though I lived apart from Israel, I became a part of it. I began relating to it like my own country, the United States.

As a rabbi, I want to help people feel that religious, spiritual, and emotional connection to Israel. I want them to know the pre-1948 history through to now, and understand Israel from a variety of perspectives. I want people to visit, experience Israel and be free to wrestle it as an insider. I want the honesty of open dialogue, even when it hurts and we don't agree. I want to inspire a love for Israel that withstands disappointments but risks aspiring and working for more. *Ken yehi ratzon.*

RABBI PETER GRUMBACHER

*Rabbi Emeritus,
Congregation Beth Emeth*

To say the least this is a difficult question. Knowing that younger generations are far more critical of the Jewish State and, more significantly, just don't have the same emotional attachment as did their parents and grandparents, I feel the need to defend her more rigorously not so much to the world, as it were, but to those in "my" world.

Surely in my first visit to Israel in 1969, just two years after the miraculous Six-Day War, she had been lifted on the pedestal of admiration, viewed as the David who slew the Goliath of Arab intolerance and intransigence. We were a proud people, no longer seen as the victims. In addition, Jews in general gained greater respect and, thus, the Jewish community saw a new day, virtually messianic, in which anti-Semitism would no longer raise its ugly and devastating head. Living there for the year was exhilarating. Our visits to the sites brought to life so many of the events I had studied. Israel was a paradise on so many levels.

Alas, today the victors are seen as persecuting a people under their control, and with so many young liberals unfamiliar with its history, fall under the spell of those who would demonize her. What about the policies of those other countries whose treatment of minorities has resulted in the death of thousands if not millions? But with regard to those countries the world closes its eyes; the intensity of their hatred of Israel results in an unparalleled focus that smacks more of anti-Semitism than anti-Zionism regardless of their self-righteous protests to the contrary.

Understand, I'm no fan of Netanyahu. Indeed I find his decisions - perhaps all for the sake of reelection - to be extremely distasteful. Our prophetic values do not support his pontifications and his actions. I hope that sanity returns to the State of Israel by tossing him out on election day. And yet I will continue to stand up for Israel knowing that the very heart of our homeland beats for all of us as a much-needed refuge and as a major center of our culture and our faith, notwithstanding the influence of the ultra-Orthodox and their violence against liberal Judaism.

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Benjamin Philip Slomich
PHOTO BY HOPE SLOMICH

BAR MITZVAH

BENJAMIN PHILIP SLOMICH

Benjamin will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Congregation Beth Shalom. He is an honor roll student in the seventh grade at Garnet Valley Middle School. Ben has played cello in the school orchestra since fourth grade and currently runs track for the school team. Ben is passionate about the Philadelphia Eagles. He loves to play flag football and basketball for BYC. He is also an avid gamer.

For his mitzvah project, Ben has chosen to honor and support veterans. He has volunteered and participated in various veteran events throughout the past year as well as raised money for the foundation behind the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Ben is the son of Hope and Joshua Slomich, and big brother to Ilan Slomich. His proud grandparents are Lois and Jay Steinberg and Joyce and Michael Slomich.

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019
Light candles at 7:40 PM
Shabbat, May 4, 2019
Shabbat ends at 8:44 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019
Light candles at 7:47 PM
Shabbat, May 11, 2019
Shabbat ends at 8:51 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019
Light candles at 7:54 PM
Shabbat, May 18, 2019
Shabbat ends at 8:59 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019
Light candles at 8:00 PM
Shabbat, May 18, 2019
Shabbat ends at 9:06 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019
Light candles at 8:05 PM
Shabbat, June 1, 2019
Shabbat ends at 9:12 PM



Hadley Eve Eldrich
PHOTO. CREDIT: JADA ELDRICH

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

HADLEY EVE ELDRICH

Jada and Sam Eldrich announce the birth of their daughter, Hadley Eve. She is the granddaughter of Carrie Wenzler Littman and James A. Littman both of Wilmington. Hadley is named after her late great grandmother Helen Wenzler, wife of late Samuel Wenzler.

JFS
DELAWARE
Jewish Family Services

MEMORY CAFÉ

A social gathering for people experiencing memory changes and their caregivers.

For more information, contact Karen Commeret
(302) 478-9411 kcommeret@jfsdelaware.org

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN DELAWARE'S SISTER CITY

By Russell Silberglied
*Federation Vice President
and Board Member*

ARAD



Sculpture art from a Home Hospitality artist

Since 1998 JFD has participated in the Partnership2Gether (P2G) program, which connects a specific Federation community in North America with a “sister city” in Israel.



Off-road

JFD’s sister city is Arad, a city located approximately 15 kilometers from the Dead Sea resort areas, 15 kilometers from Masada and 45 kilometers from Be’er Sheba. Most people are surprised to learn that Arad is the third largest city in Israel by territory, albeit a very small percentage of it is actually used; much of the land is undeveloped in the beautiful Judean hills.

The bond between Delaware and Arad is strong, and many Delawareans have visited Arad. People love the city for its spectacular views, its unique artists of all types and its air quality, which is so pure that it has long been a retreat for asthma sufferers. Anyone who has experienced its “home hospitality” (specialty meals, artists, etc.) participants will appreciate unique experiences, different from the rest of a trip to Israel. Delawareans have also been treated to music from Arad’s top notch student music conservatory.



Home Hospitality Meals Yemenite style



Arad’s Racetrack

Arad was founded in the early 1960s as the very first planned city in Israel, and until the mid to late 1980s it was a major success. Unfortunately, however, until recently the city had been in decline by many measures. Its population was decreasing, and the economic status of its average citizen declined significantly. That, of course, creates a vicious circle, with younger citizens leaving Arad to live in Tel Aviv or elsewhere.

It was with this background that I was asked by Jewish National Fund (JNF) to serve on its national Arad Task Force. JNF agreed to make Arad a key part of its overall vision to bring 500,000 Israelis to

various areas in the Negev (as well as hundreds of thousands to the Galilee and other areas in the North) in an effort to aid the significant overcrowding in the Jerusalem/Tel Aviv/Haifa corridor. JNF realized that it has a true partner in the energetic, highly competent new (since June 2015) mayor, Nisan ben Hamo, who several Delawareans met when he visited JFD in June 2017. With

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

“ The bond between **Delaware** and **Arad** is strong...People love the city for its **spectacular views**, its **unique artists** of all types and its **air quality**...**New projects are progressing** and the results are **transformative** for the city...these are **exciting times** for **Arad**. ”

ARAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

this partnership, JNF agreed to plan and fundraise for projects in Arad, and the City has undertaken other projects as well.

I had the opportunity to visit Arad in November 2017 and February 2019 so that I could see first-hand how these projects are progressing, and I am happy to say that the results are transformative for the city.

Probably the most impressive is the brand new central park that will be opening in June 2019. Amazingly, it will be triple the size of Central Park in New York City. When I first saw the site in November 2017, it was literally just a mound of dirt. I was asked to “picture this” and I’m not embarrassed to say that I simply could not. Fast forward to my visit in February 2019, and the difference is astonishing. I walked over bridges in the park and planted trees that will fortify it. In that short of a time, it no longer takes any imagination at all to see how spectacular this park will be. It also has already attracted people who want to live nearby: 60 high-end apartments overlooking the park sold out immediately after they went on sale, and another 100 and then an additional 100 after that have gone out for bid, with an expectation of being over-subscribed. Put simply, this will be “the place to be.”

In addition, Arad’s Early Childhood Center of its JCC is building a brand new facility that will be located right on the park. Both are expected to open congruently.

Arad also broke ground in February on a complete overhaul to the building that houses the music conservatory that JNF will be partially funding. The building had not had any renovations since it was built in the 1960s, and it was badly in need of more than just a facelift. The project is expected to be complete by Rosh Hashanah, and it will turn the conservatory into an attractive, bright, state of the art facility. The expectation is that parents in surrounding areas are going to want to send their children to study music in Arad.

Another incredible development has been the opening of Israel’s first racetrack in November 2017 -- in fact, Joel Friedlander and I were the very first non-professionals to drive on the track. The racetrack will bring drivers and spectators from all over Israel and from Europe.

Arad also takes pride from the fact that in March 2019 it was awarded the National Education Prize, presented by Minister of Education Naftali Bennet, for its outstanding school system.

The JNF Arad Task Force is now examining other potential projects to further enhance the city.

As a result, these are exciting times for Arad. Given all of these developments, its proximity to other great places to visit like Masada and the Dead Sea, and Delaware’s strong, historic bond to Arad, consider visiting it on your next trip to Israel!

A DRUZE HISTORIC AND

By Scott Tornek
JFS Board Member

CULINARY EXPERIENCE



It was an unassuming drive to a small hilltop town in the Carmel region that was one of the most unique aspects of our family's recent trip to Israel.

Here we spent the afternoon with a local Druze family who conducted a cooking workshop in their home and taught us about their culture, and its special relationship with the Jews, and Israel.

I knew nothing about the Druze until that day, other than it was one of the many Middle Eastern sects in the region. But as the 17 of us, ranging in age from 5 to 75, sat on the large U-shaped couch in their living room,

over snacks and juice, the patriarch of their family provided a history of the Druze culture.

The Druze, he explained, speak Arabic, and while their faith was derived from Islam, they don't consider themselves Muslim; rather theirs is a unique and progressive blend of Islam, Hinduism and even classical Greek philosophy. From what I gathered, it seemed to have some common themes with

Unitarianism. There are about 1 million Druze mostly living in Syria and Lebanon, but roughly 15% of them live in northern Israel. They do not have their own homeland.

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DRUZE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

The Druze, our host conveyed, are strong supporters of Israel, and in fact, before the state of Israel was created, the Druze suffered from discrimination in the region. The Druze sided with Israel in the 1948 war, and have fought for Israel in every war since. They are the only Arab group that serves in the Israeli military, some having risen to high-level positions. They also serve in the Knesset. Women also enjoy equal rights to men, he explained.

Founded in the 11th Century, we were told that the Druze remain a close-knit and relatively secretive community. They rarely intermarry, and while highly spiritual, have no set holy days or formal houses of worship. They are also a welcoming culture, and although we were a large group, we felt right at home in their living room, adorned with family photos and relics of their culture.

The lesson on their history continued in the next room, an expansive kitchen with long tables transformed into informal workstations, as our tour guide continued to translate from Arabic to English. Then the matriarch of the family took over, as she spoke of the Druze culinary history, teaching us about the various spices they used, which she passed around for us to smell, and where to procure them. After all, food is also a strong part of the Druze culture, and during this hands-on, cooking workshop we received in-depth instruction on how to properly line the grape leaves with rice kernels and then wrap them; how to shape the pita dough that ultimately would be baked for us in their wood-fired oven; and how to core mini zucchinis and stuff them with spiced rice.

I wasn't optimistic, given the volume of food us newbies would have to create, but within an hour with expert guidance, we collectively had prepped and cooked a multi-course meal ample for us all, and the food was as good as it gets. Lamb patties, hummus, grape leaves, chopped salad, stuffed zucchini: all delicious, and not surprisingly, very similar to Israeli food.

The activity that afternoon certainly focused on cooking, but what was most important to this family was educating us on this little-known culture, and how much they valued living in Israel as citizens. They were proud of their culture, but equally proud to be Israeli. While one family obviously cannot represent an entire culture's viewpoint, politically or otherwise, it was enlightening to break bread with a different culture from ours, at a time when there are so many contentious issues in Israel.

Perhaps most importantly, while there are no leftovers to share, we did receive recipes of some favorite Druze dishes, which we are now sharing here with you.

PITTA WITH ZA'ATAR

Preheat oven to 425°F

INGREDIENTS:

Dough

7 oz. whole flour and 7 oz. white flour
1 teaspoon instant yeast
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup water

PREPARATION:

- Mix flours together and add sugar and yeast. Mix well.
- Add salt (do not add salt and yeast together. Important to add separately)
- Add oil and mix well.
- Add as much water as needed to make a smooth dough.
- Knead dough at least 15 minutes, until dough is smooth and soft.
- Cover and prove in a warm place. The dough doesn't need a long prove. 15 minutes is enough.
- Divide dough into balls, a little smaller than fist size, cover and allow to rise a second time. 10 minutes is enough.

Topping

1/2 cup za'atar spice mix
1/3 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon salt
Mix all topping ingredients together.

PREPARATION:

Roll out dough balls thinly into a circle. Spread 1 tablespoon of filling on to flattened dough so that it covers the pitta evenly. Repeat with remaining dough.

Bake pitot in a hot, pre-heated oven.





STUFFED VINE LEAVES

INGREDIENTS:

1.5 cups medium-grained rice, rinsed
 2 teaspoons salt
 ½ tablespoon cinnamon
 2 teaspoons *baharat* or allspice
 Pinch cardamom
 Pinch nutmeg
 Pinch cloves
 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
 2 tomatoes
 1/2 cup olive oil
 It is common to add 150 gr/4 oz minced beef, but in the workshop we didn't do this

40 vine leaves

PREPARATION:

Grate 2 tomatoes into rice.

Mix in all remaining ingredients into rice.

Hold 1 vine leaf flat on the palm of your hand. Add 1/2 teaspoon of rice mixture. Fold in the sides and roll up the vine leaf. Repeat with remaining vine leaves.

Line the bottom of a pot with the skins of the grated tomatoes. Pack rolled vine leaves into the pot. Place an inverted plate over the vine leaves so as to prevent them floating to the top and becoming unraveled. Fill the pot with boiling water to the bottom rim of the inverted plate. Cover pot. Bring to boil and reduce heat.

Cook for 40 minutes.

MNAZALEH (eggplant and chickpeas in tomato sauce)

INGREDIENTS:

1 large eggplant, cut in to finger sized rectangles
 1 cup corn oil
 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 1 large onion, sliced thin across the grain
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 4 tomatoes, grated
 2 tablespoons tomato paste
 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
 A pinch (or more) of dried hot chili flakes
 1 teaspoon baharat
 1 can chickpeas, drained
 3 tablespoons chopped parsley, chopped fine

Heat oil in a deep frying pan and fry eggplant fingers, in 2 batches, until soft, about 10 minutes each batch.

PREPARATION:

Meanwhile, make the tomato sauce.

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat. Add the onion. Cook, stirring often, until tender, about five minutes, and add the garlic and a generous pinch of salt. Cook, stirring, until the garlic is fragrant, about a minute.

Add the tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar, cinnamon, baharat, chili and salt to taste.

Bring to a simmer, and simmer uncovered, stirring often, for 15 minutes, until the sauce is thick and fragrant.

Add freshly ground pepper, then taste and adjust salt.

Stir in the drained chickpeas. Add fried eggplant and cook for a further 5 minutes.

Garnish with chopped parsley. Serve at room temperature or a little warmer, but not boiling hot.

SACRED SPACE

By Marla Friedman, *Founder, Community Havurah*



Tel Aviv PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS

My mouth waters, my brain remembers, and my spirit melts as I bite into the dense date.

I'm back at my desk at work, but the sweet taste of the Israeli *tamar* (date) captures the memories of our recent 10-day visit to Israel; *eretz zavat chalav u'd'vash*. A land flowing with milk and honey.

The Israeli journey included a trip to Jerusalem, Tzfat, the Golan, and Tel Aviv. In each of these places, we felt the juxtaposition of peace and strife, trust and fear, and happiness and sadness: everything that makes up life in Israel.

Undoubtedly, we found ourselves at home.

At the Western Wall in Jerusalem, we felt the ancient stones and the social, political and emotional stories they hold. The deluge of rain may have dampened our feet, but not our spirit as we padded carefully to the different prayer spaces for men and women. I felt a kinship with the women inside the little *shul* that abuts the women's section of the Western Wall. Caring glances and whispered prayers surrounded me and I found myself slipping into a meditative prayer of thanks. My husband Bruce, whom I call Benci, prayed a few yards away from me. He felt connected to a greater power: the one that is felt but not seen.

Praying makes us hungry, so, quickly, we found the closest falafel and schnitzel restaurant and spoke to the owner and his son about upcoming elections and how the wet weather helps the country's watershed. And, since I spoke in Hebrew, he asked me why don't we move here. I answered that my family is in America, but he rebutted that we are all Israel, *Am Yisrael Chai*. I couldn't argue with that!

The next morning, on Shabbat, we worshipped at Ramot Zion, a conservative synagogue established in 1979, located in the French Hill neighborhood of Jerusalem. The congregation is led by Rabbi Chaya Rowan-Baker. She, as well as Zelda, a Philly girl who moved here in the 1960s, welcomed us and a few others. There were children, parents and grandparents, and couples and singles who helped lead prayers and chant Torah and Haftarah, and the rabbi's teen son requested that we be honored to raise and dress the Torah after the reading. We felt a seamless presence of love and kindness that emanated from the individuals and the *Shechina* (female presence of The Holy One) in the sanctuary. Psalm 150 was sung to Leonard Cohen's melody of *Hallelujah*: what a peaceful way to approach our Shabbat morning prayers. After Services, we connected in English and Hebrew with other visitors, congregants, and their children and grandchildren, surrounded by a huge spread of food; our hearts were abundant and our tummies were full.

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Bird friends in Yaffo PHOTO BY MARLA FRIEDMAN

SACRED SPACE

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Early the next morning, as the clouds cleared, we left for Tzfat, with the help of our Hebrew GPS whom we named Shoshi. She maneuvered us through East Jerusalem, in and out of the West Bank, and a quick stop at Kibbutz K'far Ruppin. They house a bird observatory and research unit as the fish ponds on the kibbutz are a favorite spot for migratory birds. We met a bird watcher from Afula, Miriam, who invited me to look through her camera to see a rare sighting of one of the 200 species flying over Israel daily. The shiny-flumed beauty she spotted is called a Purple Swamp Hen and migrates between Southwest Europe and Northwest Africa. It was almost strawberry picking season at the kibbutz and I have a feeling more human eyes will be peering at the flocks that visit K'far Ruppin in the Beit Shean Valley, which are well-known birdwatching sites.

Later Shoshi navigated us into the hills towards Tzfat, the center of Jewish mysticism. As we meandered on the curled roads, we saw many doors, rooftops, and burial tombs painted the hue of sky blue, a color that the Kabbalists believe denotes heaven. Due to Tzfat having the highest elevation in all of Israel, warm summers and chilly winters are the norm here.

There are more than 20 synagogues in Tzfat, each with a different flavor. We toured Beit Hameiri, a living museum of the past 200 years of Tzfat, which houses a partially restored Persian synagogue. One of the rooms depicts a typical Tzfat home of the early 1900s: financially poor but spiritually rich. And presently, for many reasons, families in the Upper Galilee struggle. We were



Irene and Azriel Awret, artists and founding members of Tz'fat Artist's Colony PHOTO BY MARLA FRIEDMAN

thankful to see improved infrastructure in this ancient area: a hospital with a teaching college that is affiliated with Bar-Ilan University, and a technical college, Tel-Hai, supports new careers in food and agricultural technology.

We travelled next to Tel Aviv and had picture perfect weather to walk from the northern tip of Tel Aviv's beachfront to Yaffo's southern port and return on rented bicycles that seemed to be everywhere. In between, we ate one good meal after another. The Red Bream at the Tel Aviv Hilton felt like a religious experience. Next door, at the Carlton Hotel, the rooftop restaurant's bartender, Shai, gave us the best service while training a waiter and taking care of a busy dining room's needs. But the best was yet to come when we met the star of the YouTube show *Taste of Israel* and her cameraman Max in the Carmel Market the next day. Adi Gaspi, an American immigrant, interviewed us about our experience in the market that day and it was shown on an episode launched in March. Benci bought an Israeli Army sweatshirt and I found Purim masks to color with my students!

During our final hours in Israel, Benci sat near me on the soft sand overlooking the sea as I practiced meditation and yoga, settling me back down to earth: As I inhale, I feel like I'm floating in a bowl of frothy milk.

And as I exhale, my breath flows like golden honey. *Eretz zavavt chalav u'd'vash.*

MYSTICAL, MAGICAL TZFAT

FEATURE
ISRAEL

By Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

The city of Tzfat has become a spiritual and diverse place.

It has grown and evolved considerably over the past thirty years as a regional center in the green lush mountains of the north of Israel. It was in the 16th century that this town emerged to be a center of Jewish mystical and spiritual life; a small town that would create a distinct tapestry of practices, flavors, melodies, and colors in an isolated geographic location on a hill in the northern part of Israel.

Tzfat expanded in recognition and size with the influx of many kabbalists, the term used for Jewish mystics which itself has many variations. The majority of these Jewish mystics and seekers were fleeing either anti-Semitism in Europe or fleeing the reach of the Spanish Inquisition who travelled their way to northern Israel by the 16th century.

The impact and integration of Kabbalah in Jewish life is immense. The fabric of Friday evening prayers, called in Hebrew *Kabbalat Shabbat*, was created by the kabbalists as a way of welcoming the Sabbath with imagery and metaphor, as well as lyrical beauty, in order to elevate the mood and spirit of the day. Of those kabbalists who went to Tzfat were the famous Rabbi Isaac Luria (called by his acronym *Ha'Ari* or "The Lion") and Shlomo Alkabetz, lyrical composer of numerous pieces including *Lecha Dodi*, a central Friday night prayer.

The Ari and his followers were one of a number of mystical groups who evolved in tandem in Tzfat. One of the most important ideas that Rabbi Luria helped transpire to us is the idea of *tikkun olam* as a way to reflect the Human-Divine partnership.

In a basic manner, Luria taught that Creation could be compared to a series of glass vessels or *klipot*. During the earliest moments of Creation, the vessels shattered. The Divine Sparks which were infused into the vessels became integrated into all of creation. Everything, every particle, every atom. Human beings, Luria taught, are responsible for returning the sparks and for repairing the world. These concepts in Hebrew are *tikkun olam* and *tikunei ha netzitzot*. It is not only with the mitzvot that are "good deeds" and obvious in many ways, but also with each small international act. We are all partners with the Divine in this act. Each person. Luria's concept, born in Tzfat, encourages each human to do their part to make this a better world by returning the sparks each day.

From the small acts to the monumental ones, each act of blessing, each act of kindness, each act of mindfulness, helps return the balance and return the sparks.

Tzfat has been a place of dreams and possibilities, a place on this plane, and also a place that reminds us of the possibilities of mystical dimensions and connections. There are other cities and other locations in the world that have inspired humans of a variety of religious and ethnic expression to find meaning. Places where we as a humans can try to push the boundaries and elevate what the most important values are. These are vital to our development, healing, and growth as we journey through this world. Whether you are blessed to travel to Tzfat physically or you travel virtually, I hope you will find your way to inspiration and reflection.

Tzfat has been a place of **dreams** and **possibilities...**



Clockwise from top:

Gate PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS

Street Market PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS

Kaballah PHOTO BY MARLA FRIEDMAN

Micah Becker-Klein serves as rabbi to the Community Havurah in Delaware and Congregation Beth El, Bennington, Vermont. He is married to Rachel and is father to Sophie and Reuben. For more information, visit rabbimicah.com and roastingrabbi.com.

ISRAEL: MY FOUNDATION OF FAITH

By Rabbi Cantor Lisa L. Levine
Seaside Jewish Community



Reb Lisa Levine leads worship with Women of the Wall at the Kotel in 2014
PHOTO COURTESY OF L. LEVINE

There are a lot of things we might disagree on when discussing the land of Israel.

Politically, socially and from a human rights perspective I don't always agree with what's going on in the government. I always tend to rely on my relationships with family and friends who live in Israel, delighting in what's happening in their lives and supporting them in every way possible. Our homeland is a complicated and diverse place filled with wonderful sights, food, music, and culture and I'll always be grateful for the strong foundation I have been gifted with my time there. Without my connection to Israel and her people I would not have two of the greatest blessings in my life: career and faith.

I grew up in the southern San Joaquin Valley of Bakersfield, California which is an agricultural mecca and the center of the food basket of America. I loved gardening and backpacking and singing and playing guitar. My parents were founders of the Reform congregation there and I got my spark for music and faith from my teacher at camp, the late, great, Debbie Friedman. When I was 16 years old my parents sent me to Israel on the Kibbutz Aliyah summer work program for eight weeks. I lived on Kibbutz Enat near Petach Tikva. I worked weeding cotton fields, cleaning the kitchen, and traveling around the country.

That trip changed my life.

I fell in love with the land, culture, food, and music of Israel and made lifelong friends that summer. While I didn't know Hebrew, my guitar did all the talking and I loved learning

and sharing the Israeli and Yiddish folks songs I learned on the Kibbutz and busking folk music in the streets of Jerusalem. After that summer I made regular trips to Israel to visit my family and friends and decided to spend my junior year abroad studying at Hebrew University and the Ruben Academy of Music. My decision to study in Israel was largely motivated by my goal to apply to the Hebrew Union College—School of Sacred Music in New York City and I had to improve my Hebrew proficiency in order to do that.

This year in Israel was transformative. I spent time in an Ulpan learning Hebrew in Haifa, where my family lives, before moving to Jerusalem and living near my Orthodox cousins in the religious neighborhood of Ramat Eshkol. I was raised in the Reform movement so the world of the ultra-orthodox was both scary, educational, and eye opening for me. While in Israel I had the opportunity to study and sing with the Israeli National Choir and participate in the Jerusalem Opera Workshop which was not only enriching for me but it gave me a window into the art and music scene in Israel. I was immersed in Jewish culture at every turn. My voice teacher was Israeli and I learned the language very quickly! At the same time my Orthodox family frowned upon my musical career and were adamant about me NOT using my voice for prayer, which was my dream. *Kol Isha* is a rule of Jewish law which prohibits women from singing while men are present. They did not encourage that kind of behavior and it made me more determined than ever to pursue my dream of being a *Hazzan*. Once again, I busked on the street, sang in small coffee houses and performed as much as possible for tips. I led

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a bohemian life backdropped by the family expectations of staying within the boundaries of Jewish law. Still, it provided me with the foundation which enabled me to apply to and be accepted to Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City!

When I attended HUC in New York I participated in two national tours around Israel sharing and creating relationships through music. It was during those tours that my interest in Israeli folk and art song were fanned into flame. I began studying the German Art Song of Paul Frankenger who later fled Nazi Germany to Israel and changed his name to Paul Ben-Chaim. My master's thesis was based upon the transition of this very prolific composer from German Art Song to his creation of the Mediterranean School of Composition and the transformation to Israeli Art Song. His music was influenced by the modalities and flavors of the Middle East and surrounding countries where Jews had fled to escape persecution. Needless to say the folk and art songs which have become my passion

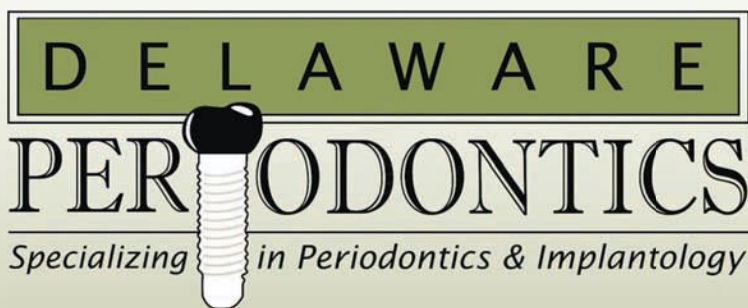
are still very much alive in the music I write today for synagogue worship. In fact, those melodies and folk traditions have inspired and enabled me to not only write, but also to perform and record Jewish folk music from around the world.

The worship in Israel is changing with the influence of the liberal branches of Judaism. Groups like Nava Tehila and synagogues like Beit Daniel in Tel Aviv have transformed the worship music in Israel as well as America. These trends in a more spiritual expression of worship and the movement away from Secular Judaism toward a more open and accepting form of prayer and Jewish life have begun to take hold in Israel. They are influencing my worship style at Seaside Jewish Community and are inspiring and influencing the music I continue to write today.

I'm traveling to Israel this month—my first trip back since 2014—in order to visit my cousins, family, and friends as well as returning to Kibbutz Enat. I expect we will share many

warm memories, eat some delicious food, listen to great music, go to a concert or two and wrestle with all of the subtexts of the day. I will enjoy the Tel Aviv beach, the views in Haifa, the hills of Tzfat, the wonder of the Kinneret and the mountains of Jerusalem! We will argue and share views that are controversial, not only to Israeli's but to Americans as well.

My prayer for our Holy Land at this time of extreme challenge is that we find our commonalities and continue to nurture the civil rights and freedoms of all people within Israel. I really do believe the way forward for lasting peace is through shared relationships and dialogue so that our understanding of others will grow. Knowing and loving our neighbors is what our Torah teaches us and there is no better place to do that than in our holy land of Eretz Yisrael.



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REHOBOTH BEACH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL SPARKS MEANING AND DIALOGUE

By David Udoff

Member, JFD Board & j-VOICE Monthly Committee



In 'Spiral,' filmmaker Laura Fairrie focuses on the 4% of new immigrants that join the settlement movement PHOTO COURTESY COHEN MEDIA GROUP

Dr. Martin Luther King once said that the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

But can the same be said yet for civil and social progress? That may depend as much on what you see as what you experience – as well as who you ask.

A mix of optimism and despair about the state of the world and its impact on the Jewish population was on full display at this year's Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival in Lewes, where Jewish Federation of Delaware was a Premier Sponsor.

On Thursday, March 14, I was part of a sold-out crowd at the Cinema Arts Theater that watched *93 Queen*, which tells the story of Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, a Brooklyn lawyer and mother of six whose efforts to create Ezras Nashim, New York's first all-female ambulance corps, raised eyebrows in her Hasidic Jewish community, where the roles of women have traditionally been confined to staying home and raising the children while the men go to work.

One attendee, Cindy Kruglak, thought the film was appropriate in the context of feminism and the "Me, Too" movement in America. My friend and fellow Seaside Jewish Community Board colleague and co-President Alyssa Simon said, "I was intrigued by the topic of Hasidic women that wanted to help other

women get the medical care they needed, and [so] they started their own ambulance corps."

Ironically, Freier's mission was not about feminism (she even stated as such during the documentary) but providing a basic need, emergency medical care for girls and women for whom modesty in the presence of men is paramount but whose only option for such care was Hatzolah, the all-male ambulance service that had been serving this part of New York for nearly half a century.

And in establishing Ezras Nashim, Freier even encountered difficulties and internal tensions over misgivings about allowing single women to participate in this fledgling EMT venture. This was on top of having to deal with the scorn and ridicule among the men in her community about the venture itself, mostly in the form of nasty online messages and comments. And as the film depicts, things got off to an inauspicious start with the distinct lack of phone calls coming in to its dispatchers.

But (spoiler alert!) the story has a happy ending, as the calls do eventually start coming, Freier punctuates her ambitions by launching a successful campaign to become an elected Civil Court judge, and Ezras Nashim becomes both the city's and the state's emergency service Agency of the Year. The filmgoers in Lewes applauded the documentary and Ruchie Freier as an inspiration.

The film that I saw the following afternoon, *Spiral*, was decidedly less uplifting, as it documented the rise of anti-Semitism in France as well as tensions in Israel among Jews and non-Jews. The film highlights and profiles, among others, a Paris family that has decided to pack up and move to Israel rather

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

than continue to face threats and violence in their home country; a Jewish man from Manchester, England, whose family emigrates to a settlement in the West Bank (amid the suspicions and tensions that this and other settlements cause among a Palestinian mayor and some Palestinian teens); a popular and defiant French comedian who disparages Jewish people in online videos and is taken to court for allegedly sympathizing with terrorists; and a Jewish schoolteacher in France who is doing his best to instill a sense of neighborly compassion in his students towards those not like them.

Spiral turned out to be an eerily timed screening, having taken place just hours after a gunman had opened fire at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 50 people.

Some of the moviegoers expressed dismay after seeing *Spiral*, which appeared to paint a very distressing and frightening picture of racial and interfaith relations in their minds, not only in France, but in the rest of the world.

But Thierry Langer, a French immigrant turned restaurant owner in Rehoboth and Lewes who moved to the US in 2014 and led the post-screening discussion for *Spiral*, attested that there are reasons for optimism, at least on this side of the Atlantic, not the least of which is that Americans have a much greater respect for the different backgrounds and religious differences of others than where he came from.

“This is a very, very bleak picture you saw, but it’s just a dark side of reality,” Langer told the audience, adding that he has never personally suffered from anti-Semitism, but that he left France because he feared – and still fears – that civil war is coming to that nation.

Not everyone shared Langer’s optimistic perspective on social progress in America, including two attendees who told Langer that they often tell people they meet upfront that they are Jewish in an effort to forestall any anti-Semitic slurs those people might potentially say in their presence.

Another filmgoer noted that while the nation of France was at the center of *Spiral*, he found the film nonetheless disturbing because he viewed the disintegrating societal and cultural relations there to be a microcosm of what is happening throughout the world, as well as “contagious,” invoking not only the

mosque shooting in New Zealand but also the infamous 2017 white nationalist march in Charlottesville, Virginia. (Indeed, footage of the Charlottesville event is shown toward the end of *Spiral*, as if to remind American audiences watching the film that they are not immune to the tensions plaguing other parts of the world).

But Langer provided anecdotes of his experience in the US in an effort to prove his point about the unique respect that he believes Americans have for other people’s backgrounds, while also gushing over how united Americans tend to be in the love of their country. “This is what I always answer to my French friends who say, ‘Hey, what’s it like to be a Jew in America?’ and I say, ‘Well, I’ve been introduced to my rabbi by my friend’s priest,’” he remarked. “This is something that would have never happened in France.”

There was an emotional component to this year’s 2019 Jewish Film Festival, as it was dedicated in memory of my former Board

colleague Mike Saltzman, a past president of Seaside Jewish Community and organizer of the Film Festival, who lost his battle with ALS on February 7.

“It has extra meaning this year because it was the brainchild of Mike Saltzman,” Simon said. “So, it’s kind of bittersweet because he can’t be here to see the movies, but I think he’s here in all of our hearts and our minds. It’s just great that we can all come together as a community to view films that we may not get a chance to see on an everyday basis, living in Sussex County.”

No doubt Mike Saltzman would have been proud to know that the Festival’s reach has extended even beyond Delaware. Luanne Stanley of Rockville, Md., said she and her husband Mark have been coming to Lewes for the Festival every year since it began in 2016. “This is a chance to see Jewish films that we don’t always get to see,” she said.

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STREET APPEAL

By Yoni Glatt
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Easy

SOLUTION APPEARS ON PAGE 58

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:
email Yoni at
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

ACROSS

- 1. Gertrude Stein's repeated flower
- 5. Wife or daughter of 48-Across, with "The"
- 9. Advil alternative
- 14. Arm bone
- 15. Poker starter
- 16. King before Solomon
- 17. Ideal street for Israeli soldiers in mid-June of 1967?
- 19. "There you have it!" (in French)
- 20. Best-selling book of all-time
- 21. "And Still ___" (Maya Angelou book)
- 23. "Solaris" author Stanislaw
- 24. Affirmative
- 25. Rand of note
- 27. Hooked with a horn
- 29. Ideal street for Wiesel and Wouk?
- 33. Close by
- 36. Black or green drink
- 37. Letter opener?
- 38. Converses
- 39. "In ___ beginning..."
- 40. 1938 Nobel-winning physicist Enrico
- 41. Booze up
- 42. Tuna, at a sushi bar
- 43. Company heads
- 44. Ideal street for G-d?
- 47. Son two of eight for Abraham
- 48. Hank who was Ant-Man
- 49. ___-fi
- 52. It can come in a spray
- 54. Bearded garden dwarf
- 56. Fat king of Moab
- 58. Emulate Rickey Henderson
- 60. Ideal street for Braun and Bregman?
- 62. Window alternative

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65						66				67				

- 63. Journey
 - 64. Tennis serving whiz
 - 65. Observes the Sabbath
 - 66. "Your Majesty"
 - 67. Tops
- DOWN**
- 1. Football's British relative
 - 2. Comedic partner of Stan
 - 3. Aloof ones
 - 4. Aristocratic title
 - 5. Vietnam or Six Day
 - 6. Make king, perhaps
 - 7. One getting a lead role, often
 - 8. Purebred family tree
 - 9. "-ly" word, usually
 - 10. Language of southeast Asia
 - 11. Haman and Antiochus
 - 12. Awful
 - 13. Dutch cheese
 - 18. Longs for
 - 22. He hit 60+ home runs three times
 - 26. Jew
 - 28. Ishmael, to Abraham

- 29. Roger who isn't exactly a Zionist
- 30. Behavior principle
- 31. Arrived
- 32. "A Star Is Born" star Kristofferson
- 33. Performs
- 34. "... wherefore art ___ Romeo?"
- 35. What Americans are entitled to pursue
- 39. Indy team
- 40. Shaped
- 42. "How many roads must ___ walk down..." (Bob Dylan lyric)
- 43. Purchase
- 45. Golf course "birds"
- 46. Concert starter
- 49. Bit of bread
- 50. Recesses along the shore
- 51. Like some gas
- 52. Russian ruler, once
- 53. End in ___ (come out even)
- 55. Regev of Israel
- 57. Take rudely
- 59. Comp. button
- 61. Just manage, with 'out'

**MAY GOD CONSOLE
YOU AMONG THE
OTHER MOURNERS
OF ZION AND
JERUSALEM**



*Ha'makom yenaheh
etkhem betokh she'ar
avelei tziyonvi'Yerushalayim.*

GLADYS CHERNEKOFF (née BERNSTEIN)

Claymont - Age 90, passed away Friday, April 5, 2019.

Born October 18, 1928 in Philadelphia, PA, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Anna (née Neidelman) Bernstein.

Gladys graduated from South Philadelphia High School for Girls. Originally from South Philadelphia, she moved to Claymont, DE in 1967. Gladys worked for Arthur's in Concord Mall in Fine Dresses and Coats helping customers find the perfect outfit for a fancy event. Later on in life, she enjoyed creating flower arrangements and decorating homes. Gladys always enjoyed her time in Ventnor and Atlantic City walking on the Boardwalk with family.

Preceded in death by her husband, Norman "Lolly" Chernekov and sister, Roslyn Nathans; she is survived by her daughter, Polly Chernekov-Kreisher (Alan); son, Scott A. Chernekov (Milena); sister, Marilyn "Meil" Mark; brother, David Bernstein (Phyllis); grandchildren, Arianna, Noah, and Daniella; and trusted aides, Gloria, Gertrude, and Payal.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) or Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (makingstrides.acsevents.org).

HARVEY COHEN

Baltimore, MD - Age 75, born November 1, 1943 and left this world after an 8 month courageous battle.

Harvey graduated from Forest Park High School and the Maryland Institute College of Art. He worked for several companies in and around Baltimore, MD and Wilmington, DE in his graphic design career, designing (by hand, no computers) everything from wall designs and signage to advertisements and restaurant interiors.

Harvey had many interests. He was a car enthusiast and drove in motocross races.

Harvey loved to travel, especially to Arizona and New Mexico where he collected Native American art, to surfing the "pipeline" in Hawaii, and seeing the sites in Las Vegas. His travels ended on March 30, 2019.

Harvey was an easy-going, strong, independent person who was only stopped by a cruel struggle with disease. He only wanted to be able to work as hard as he could when he was 39 and go back to living independently in his home (that was not to be). Harvey departed life too soon, leaving us wanting for more. He will be greatly missed.

Harvey is survived by his brother, Bill (Cheryl) Niesen and niece, Cynthia both of California; nephew, Gary of North Carolina; and his longtime friend and companion, Garee Lisansky of Wilmington, DE.

In lieu of flowers, please help make someone else's life better in remembrance of Harvey. Offer them the help they need but do not know how to or are too proud to ask.

RICHARD "PETE" MOSS

Wilmington - Age 68, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2019.

Born February 12, 1951 in Wilmington, DE, he was the son of the late Lillian and Harold

Moss. Richard was a kindhearted guy who loved a good party, enjoyed a loyal circle of friends, and had a great sense of humor. His passions included golf, magic, history, politics, technology, playing the piano, and his beautiful family.

Richard is survived by his brother, Stuart Moss; nieces, Jessica Knox (Billy) and Rebecca Moss; his two daughters, Laura Cantagallo (Adam) and Melissa Stewart (James); and his grandson who he adored, Connor Stewart.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to www.fightEHE.org.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE




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THEODORE "TED" C. ZUTZ

Wilmington - Age 86, passed away Monday, April 8, 2019.

Ted was a native Delawarean and a 1954 graduate of the University of Delaware where he was a member of ROTC and the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity. Following graduation, he served for two years in the

US Army as a Second Lieutenant. Most of that time, he was stationed at Upper Heyford Air Base outside Oxford, England.

After his military service, Ted returned to Delaware and joined his brother, Harry David Zutz, in his insurance brokerage. He learned the business and continued there for 58 years as Executive Vice President until his retirement in 2015.

Ted was devoted to family, friends, and his profession. He felt strongly about community service and volunteered his time and energy with many Delaware agencies.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Kutz Home and Rose Court at Maris Grove for their dedicated and compassionate care.

Preceded in death by his parents, David and Dorothy (nee Schultz) Zutz; brother, Harry David Zutz; and son-in-law, John

Tomme; Ted is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sylvia Zutz (nee Hochman); daughters, Donna Zutz-Tomme and Diane Zutz-Cummings (Paul Cummings); grandchildren, Morgan Tomme, Samantha Cummings, Ryan Cummings; sister, Elsie Klein; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service will be 12:00 pm, Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19802. Shiva will be observed 3:00 pm, Thursday, April 11, 2019 also at Congregation Beth Shalom. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or the Resident Care Fund at Rose Court at Maris Grove, 200 Maris Grove Way, Glen Mills, PA 19342.

Please send obituary submissions of 300 words or less to Jaidy@ShalomDel.org

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Visit the Jewish Federation of Delaware website at ShalomDelaware.org for a full, up-to-date listing of community events.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

Yom Ha'zikaron ceremony

6:30–8 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Please join us for our traditional, teen led, Yom Ha'zikaron ceremony. Teens and other community members will be reading texts and singing songs to commemorate the memory of the fallen soldiers and terror victims in Israel. The ceremony is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Daniella Buchshtaber at Daniella@ShalomDel.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 & 15, 2019

JFS Memory Café

1:30–3 PM

Congregation Beth Emeth

A social gathering for people experiencing memory changes and their caregivers. Open to ALL; every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. For more info or to RSVP, contact Karen Commeret at 302-478-9411 or kcommeret@jfsdelaware.org. Interested in volunteering? Contact Joyce Griffith at 302-478-9411 or jgriffith@jfsdelaware.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

Yom HaShoah Program

12 PM

Holocaust Day of Remembrance ceremony in Freedom Plaza, Wilmington, at the Holocaust Memorial sculpture located between the Carvel State Office Building and the City/County Building. The event is sponsored by DERECH: Delaware Rabbinical and Cantor's Association and the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center in partnership with the Jewish Federation of

Delaware. For more information, please contact Gina Kozicki at (302) 427-2100 x820 or Gina.Kozicki@ShalomDel.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

Yom HaShoah Program

Hasia R. Diner guest lecture

7 PM

University of Delaware

Trabant Movie/Lecture Theatre

Program sponsored by the Holocaust Education Committee of Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Delaware. For more information please contact Polly Zavadivker at (302) 831-6467 or pollyz@udel.edu

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019

Challah Shabbat

4:45–6 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Join us as we break Passover at the J, with a Community Challah Shabbat featuring Breakfast for Dinner! This dinner is open to all regardless of religion. Cost: FREE! Space is limited, and RSVPs are a must. To register, please visit siegeljcc.org, or contact bethannshort@siegeljcc.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019

Scavenger Hunt (Grades K-5)

7–9 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Break into teams to go on a scavenger hunt throughout the J. Complete picture and video challenges to earn the most points before the time runs out. Cost: \$25/Member, \$30/Non-member. To register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019

Shalom Baby Shower

9:30–11:30 AM

Siegel JCC Early Childhood Center

Our first annual Shalom Baby Shower. Event will include: circle time, brunch food, raffles, time spent meeting other families, and learning about resources in our community! Come learn yoga with your baby at 10 AM with Courtney Loughney from Petite Yogi. Learn about car seat safety with Jennifer McCue,

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

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YOM HA'SHOAH

Holocaust Day of Remembrance ceremony THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019 | NOON



Please join us in observance of **YOM HA'SHOAH**

Freedom Plaza | Wilmington, DE
at the Holocaust Memorial Sculpture, located between the Carvel State Office Building and the City/County Building (9th & French Streets)

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

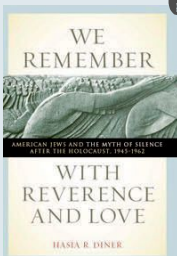
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SILENCE AFTER
THE HOLOCAUST,
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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019 | 7PM

Trabant Theater

17 W. Main St., Newark, DE 19716

University of Delaware (Wheelchair accessible)

LECTURE FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Polly Zavadvivker at (302) 831-6467 or pollyz@udel.edu

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i

the Injury Prevention Coordinator at the Trauma Program from Al Dupont Hospital for Children at 10:30 and check out Zumbini with teacher Alexys Salo at 11 AM. This event is free and open to the community.

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019

One of A Kind Pottery (Fundraiser)

12--4 PM

9 Devon Court

Wilmington, DE 19810

Purchase pottery for a purpose! JFS is grateful to local artist and community member, Eva Weissman, for opening her home to host a sale of her beautiful pottery. All proceeds will benefit RISE (Refugee Integration Support Effort). More details will be posted soon at www.jfsdelaware.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019

CTeen Session - Social and Community Service Program for Teens

7--8:30 PM

Siegel JCC

Find out what the CTeen hype is all about while enjoying a delicious pizza dinner! Come have a great time meeting and hanging out with other Jewish teens, get into great discussion based on the theme of the month, and get community service hours - all in one session! For more information about CTeen and a calendar of events go to www.CTeen.com/Delaware or find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware. Please contact Rochel Flikshtein for more information at Rochel@ChabadDE.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration: Israeli Festival!

7--9 PM

Siegel JCC

Come and celebrate Israel's 71st birthday! We will have a festival with Israeli food, music and many fun activities! For more information, please contact Daniella@ShalomDel.org

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

Caring Group (Widow Support Group)

5:30–7 PM

JFS Wilmington Office

If you have lost a spouse and are looking for support from people who share the experience, please consider joining JFS' new Caring Group. FREE to join, contact Pamela Stearn at 302-478-9411 or pstearn@jfsdelaware.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

Jewish Federation of Delaware Women's Philanthropy Division Presents:

Women of Wisdom Spring 2019 Event!

11:30 AM–2 PM

Siegel JCC - Auditorium

Co-Chairs Sue Komins, Elisa Komins Morris and Debbie Komins Ross invite you to join them for the WOW Spring 2019 Event featuring speaker, Janice Kaplan (New York Times bestselling

author, TV producer, magazine editor)

Janice is an acclaimed and sought after speaker. She will sign copies of her book at the event. RSVP & Cost: \$60 if you register by April 29th, \$75 after. Includes luncheon and a copy of *The Gratitude Diaries*. All dietary laws observed. This event is open to all women making a household gift of \$250 or more for 2019 Annual Campaign, payable 12/31/2019.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

Grub & Give Monthly Fundraiser

Café Riviera in the Concord Mall

Donate while you dine! Visit Cafe Riviera at any time on 5/16, and tell your server you're there for the Siegel JCC. A portion of all proceeds will go directly to the J! No flyer needed. For more information, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact kristinabeard@siegeljcc.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019

Shabbat Dinner for Teens

7–11 PM

The Flikshtein Residence

Enjoy a relaxing and fun gourmet Shabbos dinner! Back by popular demand, the Flikshtein's will be hosting an exclusive teens Shabbos dinner with all the trimmings. Celebrate the gift of Shabbat with friends and peers, see Rabbi Motti rap, ask any question to stump the Rabbi and just have a great time! For more info find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware or go to CTeen.com/Delaware. You can also contact Rochel, CTeen Director at: Rochel@ChabadDE.com. Please RSVP at ChabadDE.com/register.

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SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 Scavenger Hunt (Grades 6-8)

7-9 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium

Break into teams to go on a scavenger hunt throughout the J. Complete picture and video challenges to earn the most points before the time runs out. Cost: \$25/Member, \$30/Non-member. To register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019 Kutz Pergola Dedication

2 PM
Kutz Senior Living Campus

Danna M. Levy and Andrew L. Miller invite you to a dedication for a newly constructed Pergola at the Kutz Senior Living Patio in memory of Leanora Kalcheim Miller.

The Pergola was funded by the family of Leanora Kalcheim Miller and will be used to benefit both Kutz residents and their family members. Refreshments will follow the ceremony.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 Lag B'Omer Party and Field Day for Teens

6:30-8:30 PM
Siegel JCC

There are team-building games that test logic, skill, and strength. In our team building games, teens will be tested in all three, as well as how well they communicate and respect their teammates. Lag B'Omer is a holiday that celebrates Ahavat Yisroel, loving your fellow Jew as you love yourself. Each puzzle, game, or challenge will help teens practice Ahavat Yisroel in one form or another. For more info contact Rochel, CTeen Director at Rochel@ChabadDE.com for more info or to RSVP.

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 Community Lag B'Omer BBQ & Bonfire

5 PM-7 PM
Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Join us for our annual Lag B'omer BBQ, which will feature delicious food, a moonbounce for the kids, a bonfire, festive Jewish music, a basketball game and more! Free Admission: Food will be sold. Please register at ChabadDE.com/register.

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019 CTeen End-of-Year Session and Raffle

7 - 8:30 PM
Siegel JCC

After an amazing year, we will finish the year with a bang with delicious food, prizes, raffles and more! For more info contact Rochel, CTeen Director at Rochel@ChabadDE.com for more info or to RSVP.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019 Pool Party (Grades K-5)

5-7 PM
Siegel JCC Outdoor Pool

End the year with a party on the pool deck! Join us in celebration of the beginning of summer with a Pool Party! Kids will enjoy evening swimming in the outdoor pool with music, games, and snacks. Drop off and Pick up will be on the pool deck. Cost: Member, \$30/Member, \$45/Non Member. To register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019 Musical Celebration of Israel and Jerusalem

6:30 PM
Siegel JCC

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth invites the community to Café Tamar, a musical celebration of *Yom Yerushalayim* and of the 71st anniversary of Israel's independence. An exciting program of music and dance will be performed by the AKSE and AEA dancers, Klezmer band, and outstanding soloists from throughout the community. Adult admission is \$10 paid in advance by May 30, \$12 at the door, and children under 12, \$5. For reservations and information call 302-762-2705 or email office@AKSE.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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The Traveling Daughter Part II: FINDING ISRAEL

By Jaidy Schweers, Editor



PHOTO CREDIT: J. SCHWEERS

It was a consequential whim that landed us in Israel.

It was the venue of our son's *bar mitzvah*, and we planned the event like a t-ball coach might plan practice: about 15 minutes prior, with the dual purpose of having fun and creating meaningful moments.

Never did I think our original agenda would seem so understated.

“ Since I was a child, my father encouraged me to **make friends with the world**. Of the places I've been, I have not found a more **meaningful friend** than with **Israel**. ”

We are a family of five and exploring new ground defines much of who we are. Before and after marrying, both my husband and I crushed our travel bucket lists (if we ever had them).

Then when we had our children, we journeyed to places both stateside and abroad. We avoided overcrowded vacations to amusement parks and instead adventured on kayaks through Bald Cypress-lined canoe trails in Southern Delaware, or created “lizard leashes” out of long sea grass and slip knots down on

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PHOTO CREDIT: J. SCHWEERS

FINDING ISRAEL

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the beaches of Tulum, or leapt from a small boat, bare-skinned into the ice-cold waters of Sweden’s North Sea.

Nonetheless, no voyage can be compared to the otherworldly experience of Israel.

Now why does everyone seem to say that? What does Israel do to people?!

There has not been a person I’ve spoken to, Jewish or non-Jewish, who visits Israel without having laughed and cried, and sworn they were moving there the next instant they won the lottery, turned 40, converted to Judaism, or were invited to live on a *kibbutz*. They return from the visit reeling with emotion and driven by impact. And yet paradoxically, there are those who avoid/boycott/condemn traveling to Israel at all costs—most of whom, have never been there to begin with.

The polarized divide in popularity is puzzling, especially to those of us who have traveled there and experienced such an unearthed gem, not to mention our homeland. Of course, depending on who you ask, it’s due to politics, religion, hate, history, propaganda, or (insert any number of reasons here). The bottom line is, hardly anyone understands Israel. And because of that, who has the capacity to make far-reaching assumptions? The complexities of all that makes Israel, Israel is very easy to *think* you understand especially from afar. But one most certainly cannot assume the role of an expert opponent until he/she gently knocks on Israel’s door, sits down for a drink, and asks direct questions.

A brilliant Israeli tour guide (because who isn’t brilliant and a tour guide in Israel?) said to me:

“If you want to understand Israel and the Middle East, open the window and throw out your mentality. If you leave here confused, you’re on the right track.”

What impacted me most about my visit to Israel? I left on the right track; I was confused and in touch as ever. The surface was scratched, not to mention the itch I was struggling to reach. My relief was my puzzlement.

That first day we hopped on a bus and headed out of Tel Aviv and up through the Golan Heights, our guide gifted us with the permission *not* to understand. For the next ten days in Israel and following our return to Delaware, this gift propelled us to ask relevant questions, listen with purpose, and to look directly at history and artifacts with an appreciation of time and an openness to perspectives.

Since I was a child, my father encouraged me to make friends with the world. Of the places I’ve been, I have not found a more meaningful friend than with Israel. Is my relationship with her perfect? No. There is not a relationship that is. But I continue to get to know her history, her vulnerabilities and strength. Her beauty, and her sense to do what is right (and sometimes wrong).

And I believe. I believe the story she tells and I will listen to the people she meets.

(The Traveling Daughter Part I can be read in the March, 2019 Travel issue of j-VOICE Monthly.)

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