

Shalom

Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Volume XVI
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February 2017

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

By Talia Smolkin

**BARNES
& NOBLE**
bookfair

A Love of Books and the Jewish Story

Books, literature, and learning, are all a critical part of the Jewish people and our community. PJ Library®, One Book Jewish Lexington, Barnes & Noble, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass and The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah share this love of reading. We are coming together for an all-day Bookfair at Barnes & Noble.

Shoppers can stop by Barnes & Noble in Hamburg any time on Sunday, February 12 to make a purchase of your choosing. Mention the Bookfair or submit a voucher so part of the proceeds of your purchase benefits PJ Library in the Bluegrass.

Join one of the exciting programs. We'll start the morning with a get-together for our families with little ones, during a cuddly PJ Playgroup storytime created with Barnes & Noble at 10:15 a.m. PJ Live! at 4 p.m. will be an interactive performance of PJ Library book Bone Button Borscht by Aubrey Davis. Some amazing actors will lead this program tailored to our 4-8 year olds. The informal PJ Café will go on most of the day for kids and kids at heart. There will be a special spot in the Starbucks Café in the bookstore with board games and PJ Library books, so we can come together and enjoy each other's company.

This Bookfair welcomes readers of all ages. Therefore, One Book Jewish Lexington will be during the Bookfair at 2 p.m. in the Starbucks Café in the bookstore. This program is sponsored by Jewish Federation and The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah. Read *The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible* by Matti Friedman. Then come together on February 12 for a discussion of this fascinating story.

Whether you come by yourself or with family, whether you come for (*Continued on p. 2*)

Campaign News

By Tamara Ohayon



The 2016 Annual Community Campaign has closed! Thank you to all who have supported Federation's work both locally and abroad this past year. More information about the close of our 2016 campaign will be featured in the March issue of Shalom.

Looking ahead, our 2017 Annual Community Campaign will launch with Super Sunday on February 26. This phonathon tradition is an excellent way to help us get a strong kick-start to our fundraising year and create a high bar for positive momentum in the months following.

If you see or hear us calling on Super Sunday, please answer with an open heart and open mind. Your friends and neighbors will be asking you to provide emergency assistance to families in need, encourage Jewish engagement and continuity through holiday programming, adult education, books and music from PJ Library, teen Israel experiences and overnight camps, and our local Camp Shalom. And they will be urging you to help us rebuild and strengthen Jewish communities around the globe, and support social programs across Israel.

Calls will be made between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. You are welcome to pre-empt the solicitation by calling in your gift to our office at (859) 268-0672, giving online at www.jewishlexington.org, or emailing Tamara. Remember that pledges made now can be paid at any time through December of 2017.

Interested in volunteering? Super Sunday can be a fun and rewarding experience. Join our team and help us raise funds for our important programs and projects. We typically have two shifts, each beginning with a brief training, and nosh and drinks to enjoy. Contact Tamara@jewishlexington.org or call (859) 268-0672 to sign up!

YOU make this community great, and YOU have the power to make it even stronger. Thank you for all you have done, and will do, to support Jewish life in Central Kentucky and beyond.

Volunteer. Give. Together, let's make 2017 extraordinary!

(*Barnes & Noble Bookfair, continued from p. 1*) a program, to hang out at the PJ Café, or simply to buy your next book or cappuccino, the February 12 Bookfair offers an opportunity to rejoice together in the magic of reading, and show our community's love for Jewish families sharing values and the Jewish story.

Want to volunteer or RSVP for a program? Can't make it on February 12 but still want to show your support? Contact talialia@jewishlexington.org.

President's Message - In Defense of Israel

By Evalyn Block



I am a very fortunate individual, as I have an opportunity most people do not, in that I have been given a platform via Shalom with which to express my ideas, opinions and thoughts on a myriad of topics. I also realize that by virtue of my position as President of the Federation I have a responsibility to avoid controversy or divisiveness. However, there comes a time when a situation presents itself where this may not be possible, especially when one feels so strongly about the future of Israel and the Jewish people. Thus, let me just blatantly state that I cannot find enough adjectives to describe my disdain for the United Nations.

The latest resolution passed by the UN, which the United States voted in favor of, stating that Israel's settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem have "no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law," coupled with UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) resolution which states Israel has no ties to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, its holiest religious sites in Jerusalem's Old City, makes me throw up my arms and yell, "Genug iz genug!" (In Yiddish meaning "Enough is enough").

Since 1955 there have been approximately 90 resolutions passed by the United Nations against Israel, 21 of these in 2013, which saw only 4 passed against the rest of the world: one on Syria, a regime which at that time had murdered 120,000 of its own people, and one each against Iran, North Korea and Myanmar. Astonishing, considering that Israel is a democracy and the UN systematically ignores violations of human rights perpetrated by China, Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

It is not my intent to give a history lesson but perhaps several of the countries belonging to the UN need a refresher course considering that they are pointing the accusatory finger at Israel for destroying the possibility of a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians. This could not be further from the truth when you examine the facts.

November 2, 1917 - **Balfour Declaration** - Statement of British support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

July 24, 1922 - **British Mandate for Palestine** - The League of Nations, predecessor to the UN, mandate established an area, which included the West Bank, to be a national home for the Jewish people.

1937 - **The Peel Commission** - Set up by the British to investigate possible changes to the British Mandate. They proposed an independent Jewish state on 20% of the land and the creation of an Arab state on the remaining 80%, with both given the fundamental right of self-determination. The Arabs rejected the commission's plan.

1947 - **UN Resolution 181 "The Partition for Palestine"** - The United Nations passed Resolution 181, "The Partition for Palestine" which provided a two-state solution, by dividing the region into a Jewish state, an Arab state, and a UN-controlled territory around Jerusalem. Again, the Arabs rejected the plan, and the day after Israel declared her independence in 1948, five Arab armies (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) immediately invaded Israel. (More on that later.)

2000 - **The Middle East Peace Summit at Camp David** - US President Bill Clinton hosted peace talks between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Israel offered to create a Palestinian state with nearly every concession the Arabs wanted: an independent state in all of Gaza and 97% of the West Bank, compensation and right of return for refugees, and control over much of Jerusalem. Prime Minister Barak accepted President Clinton's proposal, while Arafat refused, returned home, and launched a new terror campaign against Israeli civilians, the Second Intifada.

2008 - **Olmert's Plan for Peace** - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and offered to withdraw from almost the entire West Bank and partition Jerusalem on a demographic basis. Abbas rejected the plan.

Occupied Territory – In 1945 when the UN was established it acknowledged the Mandate for Palestine, however, it wasn't until Britain announced that it would leave the area that they proposed "The Partition for Palestine," UN Resolution 181. The partition plan was rejected by the Palestinians thus leaving the borders of the Mandate intact. The ramifications of this decision by the Palestinians had far reaching effects that at the time I am sure they neither foresaw or understood and today would refuse to accept. What I am referencing is how under international law their rejection of the Partition of Palestine is now interpreted in reference to Israeli borders. I am confident the Palestinians would scoff at the interpretation and the UN reject it as it would make them look like the inept institution that they are. But here, give a read yourself.

"Uti possidetis juris is widely acknowledged as the doctrine of customary international law that is central to determining territorial sovereignty in the era of decolonization. The doctrine provides that emerging states presumptively inherit their pre-independence administrative boundaries.

Applied to the case of Israel, uti possidetis juris would dictate that Israel inherit the boundaries of the Mandate of Palestine as they existed in May, 1948. The doctrine would thus support Israeli claims to any or all of the currently hotly disputed areas of Jerusalem (including East Jerusalem), the West Bank, and even potentially the Gaza Strip (though not the Golan Heights)."

Having upset the applecart that pursuant to international law Israel inherited the boundaries of the Mandate of Palestine as they existed in 1948, thus, they have title to the land, let's consider another point in the controversy of the "occupied territories." Recall that in my previous paragraph on UN Resolution 181, I indicated (More on that later). What I want to address is what transpired after Israel declared its independence and was invaded by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. Although Israel won the war of Independence, two of the invading armies Jordan and Egypt annexed the West Bank and Gaza respectively. At that time, the status of Jerusalem also changed as the city was divided for the first time in its history with Jordan controlling East Jerusalem and Israel the West.

The reality is that the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem were part of the territory pursuant to the Mandate of Palestine, and rightfully under Israeli title, but from 1948 until 1967 was occupied by Jordan and Egypt. Interesting that during that time the Palestinians never attempted to establish an independent state in the region and never used the term "occupied territory." Was this because they cooperated with its unilateral annexation, becoming part of Jordan's political system, or was there no outrage over the annexation because Jordan is a state whose ethnic majority is Palestinian Arabs? However, all that changed in 1967.

In 1967, Egypt, Jordan and Syria threatened to attack and destroy Israel which resulted in the Six Day War. In a preemptive strike Israel defeated those armies and regained the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. Now the Palestinians cry foul using the term "occupied territory." It is only the presence of Jews, apparently, that incites this claim. Israel cannot occupy territory it was given in 1948. Occupation is a myth perpetrated by the fact that the UN continually condemns Israel "occupation" and people do not realize that UN resolutions are not internationally binding. However, if you say things enough times, even if they are not true, people begin to believe them.

Much has changed since the Six Day War; Israel has reunited and controls its eternal city Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula has been returned to Egypt and Israel has withdrawn from Gaza, which is now controlled by Hamas. As for the West Bank, various areas are under Palestinian control, some are under Palestinian civil control and shared Palestinian and Israeli security control and other areas are under full Israeli control.

The one thing that remains the same is that peace still eludes Israel, and it is not for want of trying. Peace in the Middle East will continue to be elusive because as much as the Palestinians want their own state they do not want part of Palestine, they want all of it, and they want it free of Jews. If they were really sincere about a two-state solution, why have they time and again rejected every proposal that they have been presented with? Why do they continue to teach generation after generation of their children to hate? The onus is on the Palestinians, the status quo is not sustainable, it is time they, to paraphrase Abba Eban "not miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

In closing I thank you for indulging me. For those of you who may disagree with me, know that I respect your right to have an opposing opinion.

Evalyn Block

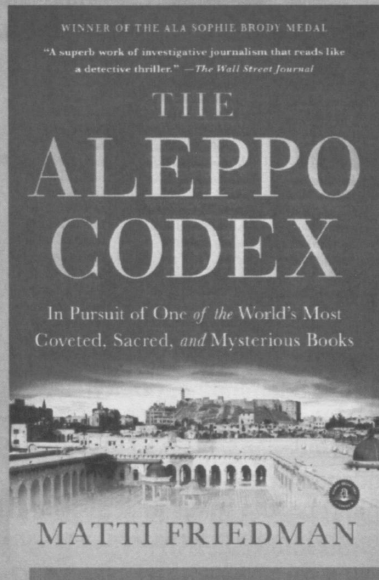
President, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass

ONE BOOK JEWISH LEXINGTON

Sunday, February 12th, 2:00 p.m.

Barnes & Noble

1932 Pavilion Way, 40509



Read the book *The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible*, by Matti Friedman. This non-fiction detective story traces the mysteries of this precious manuscript, considered the most perfect copy of the Hebrew Bible, from Aleppo, Syria, to Israel.

One Book Jewish Lexington, Barnes & Noble, and PJ Library® all share a love of reading. This year, One Book Jewish Lexington will take place during a Barnes & Noble Bookfair benefiting PJ Library in the Bluegrass. Join us for an engaging discussion about this year's book, and while you're there, support and celebrate our children's love of literature and Jewish identity.

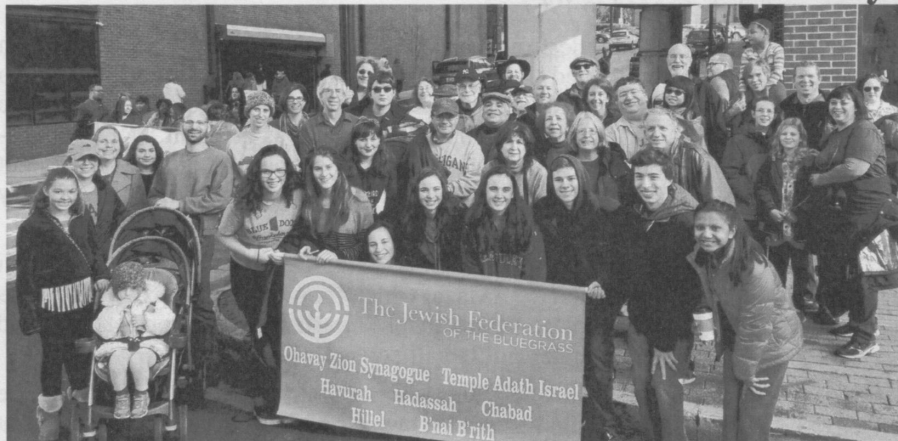
For more information, contact Talia at talia@jewishlexington.org or call 859.286.0672.

One Book Jewish Lexington is co-sponsored by Hadassah.

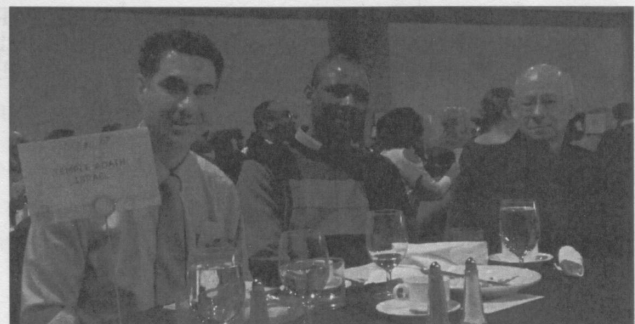


The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

2017 MLK March for Freedom & Unity Breakfast



**Thanks to everyone who joined us for
the annual Martin Luther King, Jr.
March for Freedom on
January 16!**



Ask A Rabbi

By Rabbi Shlomo Litvin



Question: Why was Yosef (Joseph) not recognized by his brothers?

Answer: While teaching a class on the recent portion, a participant asked “How is it that Yosef was not recognized by his brother? Although the rabbis teach us that Yosef had grown a beard, changing his appearance, they also inform us that Yosef greatly resembled Yaakov (Jacob). Certainly, a beard would have made him look even more like their father. Why did none of the brothers recognize him?”

The question is a great one. None of the sons of Jacob were foolish men, and they all knew that their brother had descended to Egypt. While it is true they were in shock, having been arrested and charged with acts of war, the fact remains that they were in a room with Yosef on several occasions, including sharing an intimate meal. How did they not notice in all of this time that the young viceroy of the land their

brother had been sent to bore a striking resemblance to their father?

Let us take a deeper look at Yosef. Yosef is unique in Jewish tradition, as the only person called HaTzadik- the righteous one. While the Torah is filled with the history of our holy ancestors and their pious deeds, none of them were given this moniker. What distinguishes Yosef?

Yosef did not live in the Land of Israel like his brothers did. He did not roam the streets of Jerusalem, our eternal capital, as David and Solomon had. Yosef lived in Egypt, the height of world power; it was a lewd, wanton society, driven by greed, desire and lust. In the Land of Israel, Avraham had been educating his guests about God, Isaac had dug wells for irrigation, and Jacob had raised a tribe of proud Jews. In Egypt, women were kidnapped on a whim, servants were killed over bad bread, and innocent men were imprisoned on false evidence.

However, even in this center of impurity, Yosef remained pure. In a situation where it would have been easy to falter, Yosef rose above. He remained righteous, not in Utopia, but in the house of Potiphar and the palace of Pharaoh.

When Yosef’s brothers entered Pharaoh’s palace, and beheld the Viceroy of Egypt, the antithesis of their homeland, they did not see Yosef. Even though the evidence was plainly before them, their brains could not comprehend what they saw with their own eyes. They could not conceive how a son of Israel could survive in the culture of Egypt and the secular world.

And yet, Yosef did not just survive, he thrived. He rose to the very height of Egyptian society, not through imitating the societal behavior, but while maintaining his morals, and his character as Jacob’s son. And due to this courage, Yosef was in a position to be able to provide food and accommodations to Yaakov and his children, and only through this, the Jewish people survived.

Today we all face the same challenge as Yosef. We all live in a society that does not abide by Jewish values, and does not always accommodate Jewish practice. However, following the example of Yosef HaTzadik, we can indeed continue to grow as active Jews, even in such a secular society.

One Friday night in 1989, a different Yosef, Senator Joseph Lieberman, a proud Jew, was returning to his office following a vote. A friend stopped him and asked him why he was at work on Shabbos. Senator Lieberman replied that he had a duty to cast a vote, and now he was returning to his office to sleep, as he could not drive home. His friend insisted the Senator cross the street to his parents’ apartment, and arranged all the lights as necessary. As Senator Lieberman settled down, his friend, future Vice President Al Gore, continued home for the evening.

Yosef’s brothers would have been baffled. How can a proud Jew, who does not shy away from discussions of Shabbos, Kosher, or Jewish values, serve as a senator, and even be nominated as vice president in the greatest country in the world? How can one serve in that role, and yet remain a committed Jew?

This past week, headlines have been filled by the news that President-Elect Trump’s daughter and son-in-law, proud Jews, bought a house in Washington, DC. Nearly every article regarding their move mentioned that their house was close to The Shul, a Chabad synagogue in DC, and many mentioned how important it was to the couple to find a house near a synagogue.

Following in Yosef’s footsteps, Jews have risen to the very heights of politics in America, and they have done it while remaining proud sons and daughters of Jacob, secure in their heritage. Just recently, a member of our very own community was to attend a conference on Chanukah. Rather than avoiding it, he arranged a Menorah

lighting there, not only for himself, but for fellow Jews and other members of the conference. Like Yosef, he took his Judaism with him when he left his home, and became a source of light for others.

Every day, Jews in our community and around the world face this challenge in their work schedule, deciding where to eat with a client, and doing tasks that might not agree with Jewish values. And every day they stand up, as Yosef did, recognizable as Jews, and not only survive, but succeed. They set an example, and help to provide a future for all Jews. From time to time we all face similar choices. The question becomes, 'When we are challenged, will we be able to stand, recognizable as Yosef was, as proud descendants of Israel our forefather?'

Our local Rabbis write columns pertaining to a variety of topics. We encourage you to submit suggestions for columns you would be interested in reading to shalom@jewishlexington.org.

ASK JFS

By Mimi Kaufman



February has been marked as Jewish Disability Awareness month since 2009. The intent is to remind us that many Jews who live with disabilities still do not have access to the many opportunities to engage in Jewish life. All people have gifts and talents to share. All people want to be loved and be with their families. Most people enjoy feeling like they are a part of a community and can benefit from the support and comfort provided by Jewish organizations as well.

It's important to take time to turn inward and reflect on our successes and shortcomings in achieving inclusion in our communities. Welcoming the Jewish students from the Stewart home in our congregations and community activities with the Federation is a good example of success. From personal experience of making visits to the Stewart Home for Jewish holiday celebrations, I will tell you that the students who come to services look forward to participating in worship services very much.

It is wonderful that the residents at the Stewart Home are able to be involved in Jewish life, but that is in large part because of the support and the advocacy the faculty at the Stewart Home are able to provide for their residents. But what about families in our community who have special needs children or are caring for a disabled adult or relative? Let us not forget about doing our best as a community to create opportunities for inclusion. Often, those who are caring for family members with a disability may be very focused on meeting daily care needs. They may not have the time to research what is happening in the Jewish community that week. Make sure they are involved; don't be shy about reaching out to them.

If being an advocate for people with disabilities is of interest to you, check out the Kentucky Protection and Advocacy agency in Frankfort. They do wonderful work. Their mission is to protect and promote the rights of Kentuckians with disabilities through legally based individual and systematic advocacy, and education. Anyone with a disability-related issue can contact Kentucky Protection and Advocacy. Their toll free number is 1-800-372-2988. You can look them up at www.kypa.net.

ASK JFS is a monthly column covering a wide range of issues. If you have a problem or a concern that you would like addressed in this Shalom column, please send them either by mail to Jewish Family Services at 1050 Chinoe Road Suite 112, or by email to jfs@jewishlexington.org. You can also always call with your confidential questions at (859) 269-8244.

JFS Caregiver Support Meeting

Jewish Family Services is starting a monthly Caregiver Support Meeting. The first meeting will be **February 9, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at Temple Adath Israel Sisterhood Lounge.

This monthly meeting will provide a confidential and supportive environment to allow family members, friends and caregivers to meet regularly for mutual support, education, and exchanging of ideas with one another.

The group will continue to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month and you are open to join at anytime. The group facilitators are Mimi Kaufman and Carla Guthries, Dementia Care Specialist.

For more information, contact Mimi Kaufman, at jfs@jewishlexington.org.

2017 One World Films Festival

CONCUSSION - Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - UK Chandler Medical Center Pavilion A Auditorium
One World Films opens its 2017 film festival series with the showing of *CONCUSSION*. Brilliant forensic neuropathologist, Dr. Bennet Omalu (Will Smith) made the first discovery of CTE, a football related brain trauma in a pro-player, and fought for the truth to be known. Omalu's quest put him at dangerous odds with one of the most powerful and beloved institutions in the world - the NFL. In the film, Omalu consults a noted neurologist with his research. That neurologist is Dr. Steven DeKosky (Eddie Marsan). Dr. DeKosky and his family lived in Lexington in the 1980's (he was a member of U.K. Medical Faculty), and they were members of Ohavay Zion Synagogue.. Steve was president of the OZS Board 1985-1987. He is now professor of Alzheimer's Research at the University of Florida College of Medicine and Deputy Director of the McKnight Brain Institute.

ROSENWALD - Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. - Kentucky Theatre

This film is the story of Julius Rosenwald, son of a Jewish immigrant peddler who grew up in the "segregated South" and never finished high school, yet rose to become head of Sears and Roebuck. He was deeply affected by the plight of African-Americans in the South (especially the poor quality of education for the children). He donated his vast fortune to the establishment of schools for African-American children. Together with the help of Booker T. Washington, they built over 5,000 Rosenwald Schools. (Congressman John Lewis, and the poet and writer, Maya Angelou attended a Rosenwald School). The New York Times once wrote, "At one point in the pre-civil rights era, it was estimated that one in three black youths in the South attended a Rosenwald School." The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah will host a reception in the theater following the film showing.

JOURNEY INTO EUROPE - Thursday, March 2, 7:00 p.m. - Kentucky Theatre

This document was written, directed and filmed by Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, a world-renowned anthropologist, Islamic scholar, and filmmaker. In the film, viewers will hear from some of Europe's most prominent figures, including prime ministers, archbishops, chief rabbis, grand muftis, and everyday Europeans from all walks of life. In Rabbi Reuven Firestone's book, *Who Are the Real Chosen People?*, (Rabbi Firestone was in Lexington in the Fall to deliver the Moosnick Lectures), there is an introductory blurb by Dr. Ahmed. A Muslim-American patron of One World Films will host a reception in the theater following the film showing. Dr. Ahmed is now Chair of the Islamic Studies Program at American University.

DOUGH - Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. - Kentucky Theatre

DOUGH is a comedy/drama about an unlikely friendship of an elderly Jewish baker and a young Muslim boy. It is story about overcoming prejudice and finding redemption in unexpected places.

Save The Date!

JFS Substance Abuse Prevention Workshop

Jewish Family Services presents a Substance Abuse Workshop with a guest speaker on March 12, 4-6 p.m., at the JFB office. Parents of teens and tweens are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact
Mimi Kaufman, at
jfs@jewishlexington.org.

LIFE AFTER CAREGIVING WORKSHOP

Featuring Linda Barrett,
Visiting Asst. Professor of
Gerontology, Miami
University, Ohio Dept. of
Sociology & Gerontology

Once your caregiving duties have finished what will your life be like? Separating yourself from your caregiving identity, readjusting to a world around you, and forming new relationships are an important part of reclaiming your life. Make plans now to join us as we discuss skills and tools to reimagine and transition to life after caregiving.

March 23, 2017

8:30 am - 12:00pm

University of Kentucky
Commons Room
Wethington Building

\$15 registration fee

For more info and to
register visit:
www.uky.edu/hr/worklife

Sponsored by  Elder Care

Israel 21c: 15 Israelis making a mark on Silicon Valley's tech scene

By Viva Sarah Press

(Originally published online January 12, 2017)



More than 10,000 Israelis have chosen to build their careers in the world's largest ecosystem for high-tech.

Silicon Valley may have competition from Tel Aviv and New York today in terms of where a blue-and-white startup should base itself, but that hasn't stopped the Israeli entrepreneurial community in California from growing.

"Now it's easier to make it elsewhere but if you want to be where it's at, that's still Silicon Valley," Moshik Raccach, cofounder of IEFF (Israeli Executives and Founders Forum), tells ISRAEL21c.

"This is where the future is happening. This is where all the big technology companies are, this is where your partners are and this is where the best talent in the world is. Like New York for the money people and Hollywood for the movie industry, this is Ground Zero for tech."

Israel's Consul General to the Pacific Northwest Andy David recently estimated that there are 10,000 to 15,000 Israelis working in Silicon Valley today.

ISRAEL21c is itself a product of Silicon Valley, founded in 2001 by Israeli-American entrepreneur Zvi Alon (founder of the California Israel Chamber of Commerce, NetManage, Netvision and other startups) and later joined by Eric Benhamou (3Com, Palm, Benhamou Global Ventures) to highlight Israel's creativity and innovation at a time when no other website was focusing on broadening public understanding of Israel beyond typical portrayals in the mainstream media.

While many Israeli entrepreneurs start their own businesses, others such as Johny Srouji (senior VP-hardware technologies at Apple), Tomer Cohen (head of content, LinkedIn), Ran Makavy (VP-growth at Lyft) and Noam Bardin (chief Wazer at Google) hold key positions in American companies.

"Some of the best talent from Israel is coming here. They are starting wonderful companies in Silicon Valley and they're collecting talent around them which is not just Israeli," says Raccach, who relocated from Israel in 2001 while working for Amdocs.

Some Israelis arrive with company relocation programs as Raccach did; some attend US universities and choose to stay; and others come specifically to pursue business opportunities.

Investors like Gigi Levy Weiss, who recently returned from Silicon Valley to Israel, nurture the Israeli-California business relationship. Levy Weiss, founding partner of the NFX Guild, introduces investors to blue-and-white startups.

"In the tech world there is a lot of appreciation for Israeli tech people and tech startups," says Raccach. "Israel has a wonderful reputation in tech. We're considered some of the best."

ISRAEL21c presents 15 of the many movers and shakers in the Israeli startup scene in Silicon Valley, in no particular order:

1. Oren Zeev

Oren Zeev and Oren Dobronsky (see next entry) are often mentioned in the same sentence. The two share a sense of responsibility for grooming the next generation of Israelis in Silicon Valley. They're also early investors who take an active company-building role.

Zeev, founder of Zeev Ventures, was an early investor in Chegg, Houzz, Audible, Tipalti and others, and sits on numerous boards of directors. He is also cofounder and chairman of supplier payments automation platform Tipalti.

Israeli entrepreneurs, product managers and engineers interested in moving to Silicon Valley often turn to Zeev for advice.

"Israelis here succeed at all levels, as entrepreneurs and as executives. An Israeli who lands here has a massive advantage over Swedes, Italians — or even Texans — because everyone knows everyone," Zeev told Haaretz, adding that Israelis are represented at every significant company in the area.

2. Oren Dobronsky

Not many high-tech CEOs can claim they own a popular hummus eatery but Oren Dobronsky, cofounder and CEO of virtual shopping mall app Wondermall, sure can. Dobronsky arrived in Silicon Valley in 2008 after eight years in New York.

"Life in the Valley was good, but one thing was missing: a big plate of creamy hummus like back home in Tel Aviv, with fresh pita and Mediterranean salads," the serial entrepreneur, angel investor and Internet veteran explains about his restaurant, which caters to the startup community and is the scene of many business deals.

Dobronsky is a member of TechAviv Angels — a group of 30 Israeli tech stars with combined exits of \$3 billion — who identify, fund and mentor Israeli startups in Israel, New York, Silicon Valley and Boston.

Dobronsky tells ISRAEL21c that one of his "biggest contributions to Israeli high-tech" is securing the first regular non-stop flight from San Francisco to Tel Aviv. In 2014, he launched a petition and 8,500 individuals pledged to buy 35,000 round trip tickets a year. United Airlines launched the new route as a result.

A graduate of Mamram, the prestigious IDF Central Computing Facility, Dobronsky has founded and invested in successful companies including online interior-design startup Houzz.

3. Noam Bardin

Noam Bardin, the chief Wazer at Google, is one of the best-known Israelis in Silicon Valley. In 2013, Waze became the first Israeli consumer-app company to be bought for over \$1 billion.

Bardin also invests in Israeli tech; he recently participated in a funding round for Airobotics, a Petah-Tikva-based maker of automated industrial drones.

Bardin was included on Business Insider's 100 Stars of Silicon Valley of 2013.

Before Waze, he served as CEO of Intericast Networks and cofounded Deltathree, a leading international VoIP service provider. Today Bardin, who has a master of public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is a regular on the speaking circuit and a mentor to new entrepreneurs.

4. Shuly Galili and Gil Ben-Artzy

Shuly Galili and Gil Ben-Artzy are cofounding partners — with serial entrepreneur Liron Petrushka — of UpWest Labs, a Silicon Valley-based seed fund investing in Israeli tech entrepreneurs and startups.

UpWest Labs provides access to key players through mentorships, seed funding and capital for Israeli portfolio companies including SentinelOne, Airobotics, HoneyBook, Neura, Keywee, Apester, Javelin networks and many others.

Galili previously served as executive director of the California Israel Chamber of Commerce, and she writes about entrepreneurship and tech for publications such as Women 2.0, VentureBeat and Forbes. She also serves on the Advisory Board of C100 Canadian Entrepreneurs Network.

Ben-Artzy, who has an MA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School of Business, helped develop Yahoo's first R&D center in Haifa and advised Fortune 500 companies when he worked at Boston Consulting Group in New York.

In 2015, GeekTime included Galili and Ben-Artzy on a list of 100 most influential people in Israeli high-tech.

6. Adi Tatarko and Alon Cohen

Adi Tatarko and Alon Cohen, partners in life and business, are the Israeli brains behind Houzz, a platform for home remodeling and design used by millions of homeowners and more than 250,000 architects, designers, contractors and other professionals. In August last year, Houzz set up shop in India.

The married couple, who met on a bus in Thailand, famously started the award-winning app at their kitchen table in 2009 while deciding how to redecorate their California home.

Tatarko and Cohen ran a short-lived small tech-services company in Israel and then moved to California. Cohen worked at eBay as senior director of engineering.

"They're part of a new generation of Israelis establishing companies here," Raccach notes. "[Their] success is attracting a lot more ... engineers and people from product management, designers and business folks from Israel. And they establish their own companies, so that's the next generation." (

8. Oz Alon and Naama Alon

In 2013, Oz and Naama Alon, together with cofounder/CTO Dror Shimoni and cofounder/Head of Customer Experience Shadia Sigala, founded HoneyBook, an invitation-only platform that has revolutionized the way event professionals and clients connect.

The Alons, a married couple – she studied interactive media at Shenkar College of Engineering and Design; he ran a bar and events company in Tel Aviv — hadn't thought of building a company outside of Israel.

"On the one hand, we love Israel desperately. On the other, we knew that our \$100 billion target market was not in Israel," Naama Alon told ISRAEL21c in 2014.

So they took the bold step of establishing their business in San Francisco, but also maintain a Tel Aviv development center.

10. Dror Berman

There isn't an Israeli startup that doesn't want Dror Berman's attention.

The founding managing partner of Innovation Endeavors, an early-stage venture capital firm backed by Google CEO Eric Schmidt that partners with startups applying cutting-edge technology to transform industries, Berman is always on the lookout for investment opportunities in Israeli technology.

In 2015, GeekTime included Berman on a list of 100 most influential people in Israeli high-tech.

Prior to joining Innovation Endeavors (which has offices in Tel Aviv and Silicon Valley), Berman worked at Yahoo and headed an R&D team at NICE Systems. He also spent three years in an elite unit at the Israeli Defense Forces and received an MBA from Stanford.

11. Nir Zuk

Nir Zuk's name is synonymous with firewalls. An alum of the elite Unit 8200 in the IDF and one of the earliest employees at Check Point Software Technologies, he moved to California in 1997 with Check Point but left in 1999 to start OneSecure, a pioneer in intrusion prevention and detection appliances. Zuk went on to be CTO at NetScreen Technologies, which was acquired by Juniper Networks in 2004. In 2005, he founded Palo Alto Networks, a multinational network and enterprise security company based in Santa Clara, California. One of its overseas offices is in Tel Aviv.

Zuk was raised in Rehovot by a schoolteacher mother and engineer father. He got his first computer in fifth grade and has said that he taught himself to write code and develop software, as well as write viruses for fun. Today, of course, he's keeping viruses at bay.

12. Darya Henig Shaked

Israeli social impact investor-philanthropist-entrepreneur Darya Henig Shaked is on a mission to build an equal-opportunity ecosystem.

As CEO of Stride Ventures, she works with female and African entrepreneurs who have innovative solutions to create social impact while achieving market-rate returns. She helps them tap into the Silicon Valley ecosystem.

Henig Shaked founded Women Entrepreneurs Act (WEACT), a community fostering a business environment in which female founders feel on equal footing.

After earning a law degree from Bar-Ilan University, she worked as a communication specialist in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and as legal counsel to an anti-violence ministerial committee.

13. Moshik Raccach

Raccach works hard on strengthening the Silicon Valley-Israel bond.

In 2007, he cofounded the IEFF (Israeli Executives and Founders Forum) – an active organization for the Israeli entrepreneurial and executive community in Silicon Valley and San Francisco. He has helmed the IEFF's many initiatives – together with co-chair investor-entrepreneur Oded Hermoni — for the Israeli tech community, including meetups, workshops and lectures.

"We started the IEFF for Israelis to help each other find jobs here and just in general with connections and work," he tells ISRAEL21c. (*Continued on p. 11*)

(*Israel 21c, continued from p. 10*) "He is the hub for everything Israeli tech-oriented there," ICONYC Labs cofounder Eyal Bino tells ISRAEL21c about Raccach.

Raccah also is cofounder and CEO of Silo, a professional network for entrepreneurs.

Raccah formerly was managing director at VentureMind, founder/CEO of Winsite, and VP sales and business development at Microsoft Israel.

14. Yasmin Lukatz

Yasmin Lukatz is executive director of the Israel Collaboration Network (ICON), a non-profit organization "that aims to create a Silicon Valley-based community to harness and support Israeli startup technology and innovation."

ICON, located at the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, serves as an entry point for Israeli entrepreneurs and their startups to Silicon Valley, helping them get connected and find funding.

Previously, the lawyer-by-training worked as COO of Evoz, a startup in the cloud-based home monitoring sector.

A TEDx speaker, Lukatz served as an officer in the Israeli Air Force and received an MBA from Stanford University.

15. Zohar Levkovitz

Entrepreneur-turned-investor Zohar Levkovitz is the go-to person for new Israeli startups in need of investments and mentoring.

The founder and former CEO of Amobee, a global marketing technology company sold for over \$310 million in 2012, Levkovitz has been at the forefront of mobile and Internet technology development for over a decade.

Levkovitz grew up on Kibbutz Dafna, near the northern town of Kiryat Shemona. He began his career as a copywriter and planner for advertising agencies. Later he served as CTO of Comverse's 3G, MMS and WAP Push activities.

Levkovitz was named Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 in California, CEO of the Year 2010 in Israel, and Technology Pioneer for the World Economic Forum.

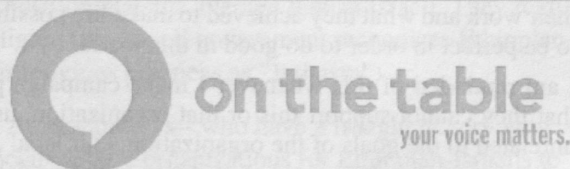
He presently volunteers as chair of the US Board of SpaceIL.

Source: <http://www.israel21c.org/15-israelis-making-a-mark-on-silicon-valleys-tech-scene/>

SAVE THE DATE: March 15

On The Table

Community Discussions



On March 15, Blue Grass Community Foundation is introducing On the Table to Lexington, a community-wide event to discuss not only what makes our city great, but what we can do to make it better.

On that day, volunteers throughout Lexington will host small groups of 8 to 12 individuals over a meal or coffee for informal conversation about the issues that impact our quality of life. On the Table is designed to generate new ideas and cultivate relationships and collaborations that will improve the entire community.

The Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass is proud to serve as a Super Host for this important community event. As a Super Host, we have committed to hosting at least 20 tables, 8 to 12 people per table. We invite you to join us as a host of one of the 20 tables the Jewish Federation has committed to. The time, guests and refreshments are entirely up to the table host.

Hosts are not expected to be moderators or record keepers. Rather, they are asked to provide a welcoming environment, a little guidance and some refreshments. Host Toolkits with complete instructions and useful tips are available online at bgcf.org/onthetable.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, March 15, to be a part of the conversation.

If you are interested in serving as a host, please contact Tamara Ohayon, Executive Director, at tamara@jewishlexington.org or call (859) 268-0672.

In Praise of Ordinary People

By Hanna B. Smith

Noah, one of the ancestors of humanity, gets mixed reviews from the rabbis of the Talmud. The Tenakh (Bible) calls Noah "a man righteous in his generation and whole-hearted. Noah walked with God." Many rabbis take this to mean that Noah was righteous only compared to his compatriots who were so evil that the Almighty lost patience with humanity and brought about the flood that killed all living beings, with the exception of Noah, his immediate family and the animals which he brought into the ark. There are all kinds of suggestions for what Noah could have done better had he truly been a righteous man, say on the level of Abraham or Moses.

I have never been happy with the criticism levelled at Noah. Now, I am not a rabbi but a social worker who has been trained to look for strengths in people who need help in overcoming deplorable circumstances. Here is Noah. He listens to God, already an enormous plus. He builds a boat and keeps it afloat for over 150 days even though there is no indication in the story that Noah was in the building trade or that he had experience in navigation. He keeps his family and the animals alive for all this time so that they are ready to resettle the earth once the flood-waters have receded. Any ship or plane captain, school principal or zoo director will tell you that this was quite an achievement.

Sure, Noah got into trouble with wine once he worked again in agriculture. But the Bible does not say that Noah knew the effects of wine, especially on older people. By then, though, two of Noah's three sons had grown up to be decent men who helped spare their father embarrassment (other than that the story was spread over the whole Bible-reading world).

Let's see about the great men (and women, so often omitted) of later generations who are rightly revered. When Abraham was born, the world had been in existence for quite a long time and there were people from whom Abraham could learn and draw his own conclusions. The Chaldeans among whom he grew up were early astronomers. According to the rabbis observing the sun, moon and stars led Abraham to conclude that there had to be a force in the universe who created all this. There was Sarah, his wife, who supported him in his efforts, and Eliezer, his faithful and far-seeing steward.

Moses had the wisdom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as well as Joseph to draw upon. He was ably assisted by his brother and sister and by his father-in-law Jethro, an experienced leader of people.

These great men were not perfect. Abraham had his faults, just ask Sarah. Moses had an anger-management problem. The Tenakh relates the faults of our leaders alongside their heroic deeds and wisdom. We see the totality of their work and what they achieved to make life possible for later generations. In plain language, one does not have to be perfect in order to do good in this world.

I am reminded of this whenever I make campaign phone calls for our Jewish institutions. People will tell me that they cannot support this or that organization, usually because of misinformation or personal disagreement unrelated to the goals of the organization. Our local Jewish organizations were founded by and are continued by ordinary people who provide Lexington with two full-service congregations and a Havurah; an active chapter of Hadassah some of whose members serve on regional and national boards; a Federation that provides a Jewish summer camp for children, a social worker to help those in need, a monthly newspaper, community events like the Yom HaShoah commemoration and Yom HaAtzmaut celebration, Global Day of Jewish Learning, monthly lunch and learn meetings with the rabbis; financial support of Jewish charities in Israel and world-wide, and numerous other services.

These organizations are mostly run by volunteers, people with family obligations and jobs. Even the few paid employees frequently work above and beyond their employment contracts. Does this mean that there should never be any critique? On the contrary, constructive critique, bringing in fresh ideas and support is important and welcome.

When Moses floundered while trying to administer the Israelite camp, Jethro, his father-in-law, did not saddle his camel and ride away muttering about incompetent sons-in-law. Jethro suggested that Moses involve the tribal heads and their lieutenants in administration, a system that worked well in Midian. So take a hint from Jethro and lend a hand.

**Submissions for the March 2017 edition of *Shalom* are due
February 10!**

Contributor articles are always welcome!

University of Kentucky Jewish Studies Program Spring Events

By Dr. Jan Fernheimer

All events are free and open to the public!

"Decency and Envy: Womanhood and Motherhood in the Israeli National Narrative"

Boone Center Presentation, poet Dr. Marcela Sulak, February 6, 7 p.m.

Dr. Marcela Sulak will read from and discuss two collections of poetry that explore the role of womanhood and motherhood in the Israeli National Narrative. Her own *Decency* uses documentary methods to think through the ways the individual operates in relation to society's mores and harms, from the Sumerian Queen Puabi to contemporary female recruits to the Israeli intelligence's "Honeytrap" operation. *Twenty Girls to Envy Me* revisits the founding biblical narratives of the Jewish people and offers exciting, inclusive new readings as the poems grapple with mothering stepchildren and raising soldiers.

"Translating Ghosts and unborn souls: when love poetry is political"

Niles Gallery, Presentation by poet Dr. Marcela Sulak, February 7, 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Marcela Sulak will discuss her translation of Orit Gidali's *Selected Poems: Twenty Girls to Envy Me*, including the collaborative writing, re-writing, and translation that occurred as the poet and translator revised Gidali's previously published work. She will also discuss her negotiation of sensitive biographical and political material in Gidali's Israeli love poetry, such as suicide, military service during West-Bank occupation, and the gradual change in the fabric of Israeli society. In particular, she will focus on the biological fallacy and the lyric I.

"Black and White and Jews All Over"

Boone Center Presentation. author/illustrator Miriam Libicki, February 16, 7 p.m.

Operation Solomon, when Israel airlifted nearly the entire population of Ethiopian Jews into Israel over two days in 1991, is called a "miracle" and one of Israel's proudest moments. But twenty years later, Ethiopian-Israelis occupy a significantly lower social and economic position than the average Jewish Israeli. They regularly face discrimination in employment, housing, and religion (the Israeli government recognizes Ethiopian Jews as Jews, but does not recognize their religious practices as "Judaism").

Miriam Libicki explores why this came about, and how American Jews-- who have a fraught history with "blackness," but largely financed the airlift, and many social-welfare organizations for Ethiopian-Israelis to this day-- are intimately bound up in the situation. Libicki, a "graphic essayist," uses photos, cartoons, interviews, memoir, irreverent humor, and historical research as rhetoric. This talk constructs an overarching theory of the intersections of Jewishness and Blackness, and a moral course forward.

"A Preacher in Exile: Shemaryahu Levin and the Making of American Zionism, 1914-1919"

Boone Center Presentation, winner of the 2016 Luckens Prize Winner, Judah Bernstein, March 7, 7 p.m.

"It is no exaggeration," insisted one veteran of American Zionism, "to say that he reared a whole generation of informed and devoted [American] Zionists and adoring followers." This referred not to Louis Brandeis, Stephen Wise, or any of the other fixtures in the pantheon of American Zionism, but rather to a European Zionist official who spent the World War I years in America, Shemaryahu Levin. Though largely forgotten today, Levin served as one of the most effective propagandists on the early American Zionist scene. Employing an oratorical style that enraptured thousands, Levin advanced a sharp critique of the project of American-Jewish integration, arguing that only in Palestine could Jews achieve completeness. This lecture will explore Levin's celebrity, his views of America, and the degree to which his critique resonated in American Zionists circles. It will argue that a concerted focus on Levin upends long-held assumptions about the formation of Zionism in America in the early twentieth century.

Sadie's Bat Mitzvah Drash

By Sadie Bograd

September 24, 2016



At the beginning of my "Bat Mitzvah journey," I was - like the stereotypical angsty teen just finding their way away from anime, video games, and, in my case, Victorian literature, classic rock, and the Hamilton soundtrack - all in favor of wealth redistribution. As I stand before you today, I am, well, still in favor of financial equality, albeit that I have no ability to actually vote and, to be perfectly candid, little influence in global affairs.

Many believe that reducing income inequality would be something like the opposite of my early childhood wish of being a princess who owned a farm, mansion, country ranch, and castle or my current dream of having enough money to live in an old yet surprisingly well-kept Victorian house in the middle of London and to purchase front-row seats at the next production of Hamilton. However, this "down with profit" stereotype is completely untrue, which I am glad to say, as it means I'm not quite as much of a hypocrite as I could be, having, in planning for my Bat Mitzvah, decided that my first prerequisite would be a

chocolate fountain at the party. Lowering the wealth gap would simply mean less of a difference between wealthy and bankrupt, not "no millionaires entirely."

Of course, there is no specific passage in my Torah portion, Ki Tavo, that directly states "we should all have about the same amount of money, or at least no ridiculously affluent billionaires." In fact, that line is nowhere in any religious text anywhere, so far as I can tell. But through the Torah itself and the words of well-respected Jewish scholars, it's not a stretch to say that Judaism advocates for at least some redistribution.

Let's start with one of the biggest issues of today and yesteryear: taxes. In the Torah, the nearest equivalent to taxes is tithing, taking some of the "first fruit of the soil" and giving it to the priest as an offering before God. To quote the Torah, "When you have set aside in full the tenth part of your yield - in the third year, the year of the tithe.... You shall leave it before your God and bow low before Him." Thus, you take some of your income, or in this case crops, and give it to the Lord to honor "all the bounty that your God has bestowed upon you and your household," just like you pay taxes so that the government can continue to provide you with roads, schools, and more.

Now, at first glance, the tithing system doesn't seem like a huge issue. In fact, it looks like the poor are benefitting from this rule: if everyone is paying at the same rate, in this case ten percent of their crops, then those in need are actually paying less than the well-off. So what's wrong? This is where something called the diminishing marginal utility of wealth comes into play. Simply put, the more money you have, the less each individual dollar impacts you. Although, to be honest, I have no personal experience with the lifestyles of the very poor or the very rich, it's not hard to see the truth in this: the disadvantaged spend much more on the essentials of life because they're focused on keeping their family alive, while the well-to-do spend more on some frankly pointless luxuries because they have more money than they know what to do with.

Thus, a flat tithing system, no matter the percentage, disproportionately affects the poor. Even in "olden days, if you had, say, one hundred cows, at the end of a tithe you'd still have ninety cows. You and your family will have plenty to eat and plenty to spare. Now let's say you have one cow. First off, how do you determine a tenth of a cow? Most likely, you'll end up either slaughtering the cow and offering some choice bits or you'll just end up without a cow. This means no cattle or dairy for you or your family throughout the long, cold winter. Obviously, this "10% for all" system, while it may seem fair, would be doing no favors for the indigent.

From analyzing rabbinical commentary, I feel it's safe to say that the teachings of the rabbis are consistent with this concern. We are told in this same portion on tithing that, "Cursed be the one who subverts the rights of the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow." Indeed, the portion details some frankly horrific consequences of mistreating those in need, such as our "carcasses becoming food for all the birds of the sky and all the beasts of the earth." Although we do not intentionally oppress the underprivileged through flat taxation, it is impossible not to subvert rights if we try to make people pay more than they can afford. Says Jewish scholar and writer Diana Lipton, "The measure of a just society is at the margins—in the treatment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. If a community does not respond to their needs, then it risks creating the very conditions in which, according to Deuteronomy, even the most privileged are bound to suffer."

And even without these physical consequences, it just doesn't seem fair.

Everyone wants to be the “upstairs” of Downton Abbey. Why do only some get to be? Of course, many claim that the billionaires work harder and thus have “earned” their position. There are a whole bevy of reasons why this isn’t always true, so I’ll bypass the statistics and mention what the philosophers have to say. In Ki Tavo, when one tithes one is commanded to recite the following: “My father was a fugitive Aramean... the Egyptians... oppressed us; they imposed heavy labor upon us. We cried to Adonai, the God of our ancestors, and God heard our plea and saw our plight, our misery, and our oppression. He freed us from Egypt by a mighty hand... bringing us to this place and giving us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Wherefore I now bring the first fruits of the soil which You, Adonai, have given me.” According to Rabbi Jacob Weinstein, “Each Israelite was commanded to recall in the time of prosperity that his father was a... hobo, a sojourner, a rootless and homeless refugee.... The intention of this admonition was to curb... conceit.... He was reminded that it required more than industry, skill, ambition, and contriving to rise from poverty to affluence.” While Weinstein refers to luck and God’s grace as the other keys to high social status, many other concepts can apply, most notably inheritance. While some “self-made millionaires” are really “self-made,” quite a few of those you see making millions now come from families that have been making millions for generations.

On a similar note, Maimonides, the Medieval Jewish philosopher, claims that the offering of the harvest serves to “limit the human appetite for consumption, not only of food, but of property” and to “promote humility.” This brings up two important points. Firstly, it seems to imply that the rule on tithing need not apply to the destitute. Judaism does not take a light stance on poverty. There are none of the “poverty makes you stronger” concepts seen so often in heartwarming movies about heartwarming orphans. In a rabbinic commentary on Exodus, it is said that, “Nothing is harder to bear than poverty; for he who is crushed by poverty is like one to whom all the troubles of the world cling and upon whom all the curses have descended.” Poverty isn’t just lacking one resource, it’s lacking many: insurance and healthcare, adequate shelter and sustenance, the list goes on.

We’ve all been through struggles, myself included. I don’t want to get too personal, but my seventh grade year was essentially a torrential downpour of stress, anxiety, and general “bad things.” A lot of fund-consuming medications were prescribed, a lot of expensive therapy occurred. However, none of the “bad things” involved not having insurance, or a lack of basic resources that would make it impossible to address my personal issues. While working through your struggles can teach you things you can’t learn in a book, combining a lack of clean water, food, and shelter is not just a problem: it’s a tragedy. Thus, going back to Maimonides, it seems that there is really no human appetite to limit with regards to the disadvantaged. There is no reason to tax the poor for that which they don’t have, no need to promote humility when they have already been humbled more than we can imagine.

However, Maimonides’ observations bring up a second issue: not one of having too little, but of having too much. The concept of “limiting the human appetite for consumption and property” suggests that we can reach a point where we have more than we should. Additionally, Maimonides observes that, “People who amass fortunes... often fall victim to self-centered excesses and arrogance. They tend to abandon ethical considerations because of increasingly selfish concerns.” Now, don’t get me wrong. I love vacations as much as the next person. However, American Express claims that for a family of four, an average trip costs around 4,500 dollars. The CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings makes enough to take his family on over six thousand vacations per year and still have almost two million dollars left over: and he probably gets his cruises for free, anyway! I don’t know about you, but I get the sense that he’s not taking his family on even one thousand vacations a year, possibly because there are only 365 days in a year. Yes indeed, it seems that the scholars of olden days were suggesting that we can get by with a few fewer material possessions and a little higher dose of equality and justice. This is not to imply that all billionaires are selfish individuals. Many do a great deal of good for the world. However, the point remains: even if one is generous with their wealth, a good deal of it will still remain, and that good deal will, understandably, go into recreational spending at a level that most will never be able to afford.

Thus, it seems there are two main issues with the tithing system: one, the poor can’t afford to give so much, and two, the rich end up keeping too much. These two issues are obviously related, and there is an even more pressing concern connecting them: that of the difference between rich and poor. None of us want to be destitute, and I’m willing to assume none of us want the destitute to be destitute. But when we’re higher up the “social ladder,” it’s easy to enjoy what we have and ignore those with less.

This concept is especially important in today’s world, given the current issues with wealth distribution and poverty that we’re facing. Those ranked in the top .01 percent have over ten percent of the nation’s wealth: this percentage is the highest it has ever been since the Great Depression. Those on Forbes’ Top 400 List have more money than all African-American and one-third of Latino households combined. Yet almost fifteen percent of the population was still under the poverty line in 2014.

Rodie's Bat Mitzvah Drash

We can't just be passive observers of these startling trends. The ever-growing schism between the fortunate and the fortuneless will continue to grow, and it will affect all of us. Not only will we notice more individuals with practically nothing to subsist upon, we ourselves will be carried along on the tide of the ever-growing wealth gap, with most of us finding that what was once our wealth is suddenly now the property of the top one percent. Something needs to be done, and that something starts here, today, with all of us. In the Torah, that "thing" was donating some of your produce to those in need.

But what can we do today? While reduced inequality won't affect us as much as it will, say, Mr. Cruise Lines CEO of the six thousand vacations, we would all see some changes. Higher taxes on those in higher financial standing is a fairly obvious step in the right direction. Closing tax loopholes so that the outcry that "One in four corporations doesn't pay any taxes" is no longer true is another. Creating maximum ratios between CEO and low-level employee pay, exempting income spent on education for the bottom forty percent: there are many possibilities.

Honestly, there are a multiplicity of problems that need solving, and for many of us, wealth inequality isn't on the top of the list. But that doesn't mean that we don't need to address this problem because we're working on another, just like focusing on wealth inequality doesn't mean ignoring climate change or discrimination. We all have to decide what we're willing to sacrifice and what we're willing to do to solve wealth inequality and all the other difficulties facing the world. Do I know what that solution is? Not really. I'm not even sure what I personally am willing to do, much less what I think everyone else should. But I know that something needs to be done, and that I need to put aside my internal complaints and be the person that helps to do it, and that's definitely a start.

Parents: We would love to feature your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah Drash in our next *Shalom*. Please send the text to shalom@jewishlexington.org. Consider sending a photo of your child along as well!

PJ Library Hanukkah Celebration at Joseph-Beth Booksellers



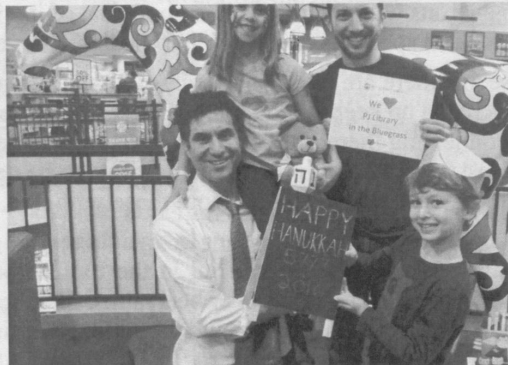
The annual PJ Library Hanukkah celebration at Joseph-Beth Booksellers on December 26, 2016 was filled with light!

Old friends and new came together, with joyous singing, a fabulous original story, a human chanukiah, and fun, hands-on activities led by wonderful volunteers.

Thanks to all of our friends who attended and special thanks to our wonderful volunteers:

David Bardach, Maya Creamer, Janice Newman, Angie Ornstein, Sheinfeld Family, Rabbi Moshe Smolkin, Rabbi David Wirtschafter

Thank you to Joseph-Beth Booksellers!



A Tale of Two Wineries

By Reva Schottenstein



One of Kentucky's greatest treasures are its local wineries. Kentucky has a superb climate for growing wine grapes. You could spend weeks visiting all of the wineries in the Commonwealth. Just outside of Lawrenceburg you will find Rising Son's Home Farm Winery and Lover's Leap Winery. With easily accessible locations in the midst of the Bluegrass, visiting these wineries is a fantastic way to spend an afternoon.

Rising Sons Home Farm Winery - Rising Sons is easy to locate, as it is on US 127 business, only 5 minutes north of downtown Lawrenceburg. The winery is owned and operated by Francine and Joe Sloan. I believe the term "home farm winery" is

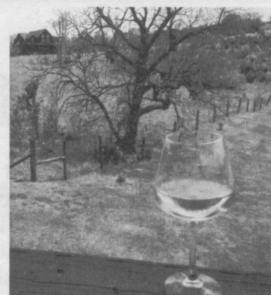
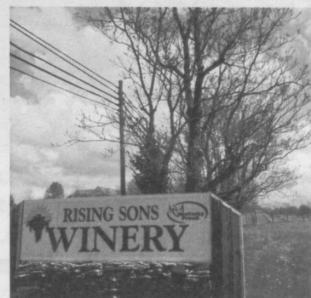
quite appropriate, as they welcome you into their tasting room (attached to their home) as a friend of the family.

Rising Sons offers two tasting options to choose from. Both options include chocolate to pair the wines with, as well as the opportunity to mix different juices with the wines to make sangria. You also get to taste Francine's wine jellies, too. In addition, both options include a wine glass to take home. The first tasting option includes all of the above mentioned treats with 5 samples of different wines. While the second tasting option has the addition of tasting 1 more wine, it also includes the opportunity to pair the wines with 2 different locally made cheeses. I really appreciated the inclusion of both chocolate and cheese with the tastings, as pairing wines with foods can add so much to the ability to experience the variety of flavors in the wines.

Lover's Leap Winery - Lover's Leap is a little bit farther away from downtown Lawrenceburg, but the drive is worth it. It was a beautiful sunny day as I drove down the curvy two lane roads that eventually led me to the winery. Passing the outstretching vineyard as you pull up to the tasting room, you can't help but think what a lovely place this is.

The tasting room is a large space with a walk-up bar where guests can do a tasting of the wines. Lover's Leap Wines are flavorful and diverse, ranging all across the spectrum from dry reds to sweet whites. In the summer, you can also try their frozen wine sangrias, which they make in house.

When it is warm outside you can sit on the wrap-around deck, overlooking the vineyard. Follow Reva's local travel blog at thoroughlykentucky.com.



Save The Date!

Movie Honoring a Righteous Gentile for Yom HaShoah

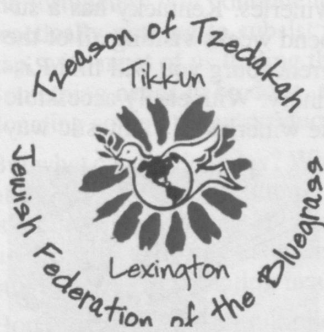
On April 24 (Yom HaShoah) Michael and Gloria Rie and Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass will sponsor a showing of "Disobedience" at the Kentucky Theater in respectful remembrance of Aristedes de Sousa Mendes, a Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem.

In June 1940 this devout Roman Catholic diplomatic consul of neutral Portugal in Bordeaux, France chose to grant 30,000 transit visas to Jews and other "undesireables" to reach Lisbon in direct defiance of his government's directive prohibiting this action. This act of conscience directly permitted Dr. Rie's grandparents and their children to come to the United States. Further details of time and voluntary donations will follow.

Visit www.sousamendesfoundation.org for additional information on the film.

Participating this Tzeason with Kavanah

By Talia Smolkin



Before Tzeason of Tzedakah, there was an article in this newsletter discussing *how* we as a community can participate. We talked about infusing *kavanah*, meaningful intention, into volunteering. Indeed, looking back on Tzeason of Tzedakah this past year, we saw that intention, and the respect people gave to fellow volunteers and those we served. People donated to various causes. Volunteers carpooled and gave each other rides. Participants were respectful and flexible when there were sudden changes in the schedule. In so many ways, this community demonstrated great caring of our Jewish community and our wider Lexington community.

Thank you for bringing light into winter's darkness. Thank you to our incredibly energetic and giving volunteers!

Just as importantly, many thanks to the wonderful partners who were able to sponsor a program this year, and a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers and staff at these organizations who made it happen: B'nai B'rith, Lexington Chapter of Hadassah, The Lexington Havurah, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, Temple Adath Israel, and Young Bluegrass Jews.

This year, we served as a community for Catholic Action Center, God's Pantry Backpacking, Hope Center's HopeMobile, Mayfair Village, Meals on Wheels, Moveable Feast, Ronald McDonald House, Sayre Christian Village, and Stewart Home School. We also donated goods to One Parent Scholar House and The Race for Education. All these organizations have expressed gratitude for our service.

Todah Rabah! With appreciation for our volunteers:

Mike Ades
Diane Arnson-Svarlian
Daniel Ashman and Rebecca Novak Ashman
Shani and David Bardach
Judy Baumann
Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant
Phil Berger and Mary Beth Chrostowsky
Peter and Ian Bourne
Brennan Family
Shirley and Jared Bryan
Austin and Susan Cantor
Diana and Rick Clewett
Gail Cohen
Cohen-Markowitz Family
Cohen-Siegel Family
Ira Cooper
Leon Cooper
Alison Courant and Mike Pugh
Lorne Dechtenberg
Brian Derer
Vinnie Dubilier
Kathryn Anne Dunn and Will Walker
Embury Family
Mary Engel
Eres Family
Sue Ezrine
Mickey and Ron Fleischman
Hallie Forbess
Jenn Garlin
Jon Glixon
Ted Green
Mike Grossman

Josephine Hernandez
Mickey Hernandez
Darcie and Adira Jarman
Odette and Marty Kaplan
Mimi Kaufman
Kathie Kroot
Amia Kurs
Jana LaZur
Connie Loventhal
Richard Milich
Ross Moosnick
Moosnick Family
Linda and Anna Mundy
Nelson Family
Tamara Ohayon
Olbert Family
OZS Religious School classes
Eve Podet
Jill Rappoport
Shelby Reising and Family
Rice Family
Simone Salomon
Lisa and Jon Satin
Judy and Stanley Saxe
Janet Scheeline
Schwab Family
Bobbi and Lou Shain
Steven and Karen Shedlofsky
Rabbi Uri Smith
Paul Tillier
Dawn Vermey
Betsy Wides
Leanne Zimmerman

Participating this Tzeason with Kavanah



Top Left: Tzeason of Tzedakah volunteers at Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass, Inc.

Top Right: Tzeason of Tzedakah volunteers at Catholic Action Center.



Bottom Left: Lorne Dechtenberg plays piano during Tzeason of Tzedakah at Mayfair Village.

Scholarship winning Transylvania student to study in Rwanda

Originally Posted: Friday, December 2, 2016



Riley Bresnahan, a beloved Camp Shalom staff member, is the recipient of a U.S. Department of State Scholarship! This prestigious award is a testimony to this inspiring staff member's passion for learning and peacebuilding.

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Riley Bresnahan, a junior from DeLand, Fla., received the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She will study with the School for International Training's Post-Genocide Restoration and Peacebuilding program in Rwanda during the winter 2017 term.

Gilman scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs. The program offers grants for U.S. undergraduate students of

limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad. Such international exchange better prepares students to thrive in the global economy and interdependent world. Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant from two- and four-year institutions who will be studying abroad or participating in a career-oriented international internship for academic credit are eligible to apply. Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to better understand other cultures, countries, languages and economies—making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

"Study abroad is a special experience for every student who participates," said Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), who retired in 2002 after serving in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chairing the House Foreign Relations Committee. "Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but also adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community."

The program is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). "International education is one of the best tools for developing mutual understanding and building connections between people from different countries," according to Allan Goodman, president and CEO of IIE. "It is critical to the success of American diplomacy and business, and the lasting ties that Americans make during their international studies are important to our country in times of conflict as well as times of peace."

Source: <http://www.transy.edu/news/scholarship-winning-transylvania-student-study-rwanda>

THE LEXINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Dianne Bazell, President

February is Heart Month, and part of my message to you this month is to learn from Hadassah about your heart and how to care for it.

If any of us were still under the illusion that heart disease is more of a man's health issue than a woman's, the death of Carrie Fisher last December at the age of 60 surely put an end to that.

Did you know that a woman is 10 times more likely to die of cardiac illness than she is of breast cancer? Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the U.S. Scientists estimate that up to 82 percent of heart disease is preventable. Every woman owes it to herself and to her loved ones to be aware of how she can take positive steps to protect her heart against cardiac disease.

While many heart-healthy changes read like a list of "Thou shalt nots" (smoke, drink in excess, put on extra pounds, consume needless salt), some are as easy as Hadassah's "Every Step Counts" campaign—get out and walk (or even just stay in and walk), and empower yourself with knowledge.

"Sitting is today's smoking," says Dr. Donna Zfat-Zwas, director of Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO)'s Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center. "We need to aim for fitness, not thinness." While 150 minutes a week is the recommended goal for exercise, even 10 minutes a day is beneficial. Preventive measures, such as getting regular checkups, knowing your numbers (blood pressure, cholesterol counts, blood sugar)—even taking as simple and inviting a proactive measure as experimenting with herbs, spices, and lemon juice in place of salt to season one's food—can make a healthy difference in your life and that of your family.

HMO is advancing research and public policy both in Israel and in the U.S. to improve heart health.

Dr. Zfat-Zwas is in the vanguard of advocating in Israel's Knesset to remedy disparities in medical research. HMO is embarking on two cardiovascular studies to investigate gender differences between perception of chest pain relating to a heart attack and effects of anticoagulant drugs. She also is taking wellness education to elementary schools, including to two Palestinian East Jerusalem schools, to see how the Center's heart health message is playing out among children and their mothers.

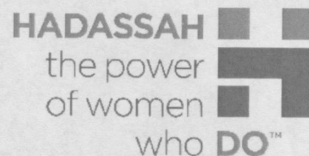
The Pollan Wellness Center has partnered with Dr. Rivka Pollak of HMO's Endocrinology Department to investigate the female heart's response to menopause, identifying the differences in heart anatomy and function in mice once the ovaries are removed.

Dr. Ronen Beeri, Director of HMO's Cardiovascular Research Institute, is collaborating with colleagues at Mt. Sinai (NY) Medical Center to use gene therapy to replace failing heart cells.

Here in the States, Hadassah, with critical support from our Nurses and Physicians Council, has endorsed an array of legislation supporting Gender Equity in Medical Research (GEM) and women's preventive health measures.

"Well, I guess you don't know everything about women yet," Princess Leia famously said to Han Solo. No, we don't, but your support of Hadassah's research and advocacy will go a long way to increase our knowledge of women's health.

From my heart to yours—Dianne



Make a Donation to JFB in Someone's Honor or Memory

Make a donation to the Jewish Federation in honor or memory of someone, or in celebration of a special occasion, and help JFB nurture the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and *Torah* (Jewish learning) within our Jewish community at home and abroad.

Send us your special contributions with a note specifying its intent. Also, let us know if you would like your contribution published in this box in Shalom. You may also make your special contribution online.

Celebrate your loved ones and support our Jewish community by giving a special contribution. Thank you for your support.

THE LEXINGTON HAVURAH

Steve Shedlofsky, President • shedlof@uky.edu

The Lexington Havurah, founded in 1978, is a network of diverse people dedicated to Jewish learning and renewal, community building, and "tikkun olam" (repairing the world). A havurah is defined as a gathering or community of friends. The Lexington Havurah is affiliated with the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism and the National Havurah Committee. Members plan, conduct, and share responsibility for all services. For additional information about services or membership in the Havurah, please contact Steve Shedlofsky at shedlof@uky.edu.

By Steve Shedlofsky

Each new year brings the hope that our lives and those of our loved ones will be happy, healthy, and productive going forward. Although 2017 is no different, the current political and social upheaval in the US and globally have put a damper on these feelings, at least for many of us. It is hard to ignore the divisiveness, hatred, and fear that we see on the news each day, and we wonder what can be done. As Jews, our collective history gives us good reason to be apprehensive. But over the years Jewish communities and organizations have developed great expertise and passion in dealing with discrimination perpetrated by the "majority." The month of January saw the Jewish community in Lexington join with the African-American community on MLK Day to re-affirm our efforts toward a fair and inclusive society. Members of our Jewish community dialogue close with local Hispanic and Muslim community organizations. Opposing discrimination is now an ever more demanding effort that requires our attention and intellect.

The Havurah is a unique Jewish group that has offered non-congregational social interactions in informal venues amongst a relatively small and close group of friends. Most of our members are active and affiliated with all the other Jewish organizations. Contributing to activities/projects that promote understanding has been one of our core principles. But being this unique group has also had its downside, in that our numbers have decreased over the years, mainly due to the expected effects of aging and illness. Just a few months ago we lost another valued member, Trevor Brown, may his name be a blessed memory. His passing came much too quickly and the loss of his sparkling and upbeat personality is felt by all of us. Our heart-felt sympathy and support goes out to his wife, Minna, and the Katz-Brown families.

With decreasing membership and with what can be expected with the passage of time, the Havurah has been discussing what should be the goals of our group going forward. These discussions have not been easy, and as would be expected with a group of older Jewish individuals, there is a wide range of opinions. Our short term goal is to plan events that bring us together at least once each month and to continue our contributions to the Jewish and wider Lexington Communities. But it may be time for us to think "outside the box" about what is the Havurah and what we can do as a group. One of our projects is to gather historical materials, documents and pictures, that can be used for future research about the Jewish community in Lexington and submit this information to UK's Special Collections Research Center in the King Library. Their Director of Digital Services, Ms. Sarah Dorpinghaus, spoke to us last year and requested our help with this project.

In December 2016, we enjoyed our Chanukah party on Tuesday, December 27 at the home of Kathy and David Feinberg, who have unwittingly become the tradition for the Havurah Chanukah celebration. We also hosted our Tzeason of Tzedakah program at the Sayre Christian Village nursing home earlier that day. In January we enjoyed hearing about the history of the Ladinos at Dr. Francie Chassen-Lopez's home, a talk given by her colleague, Dr. Haris Symeonidis. We are planning our annual Tu B'Shevat Seder for February 12 at the home of Beth Goldstein and Rafi Finkel. We will have more information about our March Purim event in the next bulletin. April will likely be very busy with a number of events. There will be Federation-wide Yom HaShoah programs. One of our Havurah members, Dr. Michael Rie, is sponsoring a screening of the film Disobedience that documents the life of a little known Portuguese hero, Aristedes DeSousa Mendes, who in 1940 saved more than 30,000 Jewish lives at the expense of his family and career. So, we remain active and engaged.

Save The Date! **"For Women Only" Event**

Join JFB for a women's only philanthropy event on March 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Details to be announced.

OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE

2048 Edgewater Court • Kathy Grossman, President • (859) 266-8050

WELCOME

Ohavay Zion Synagogue is a warm and welcoming congregation in Lexington, Kentucky. Through the framework of Conservative Judaism, we explore our Jewish identities and form a community. We celebrate our diversity and welcome newcomers. Please join us!

KIDS' SHABBAT

Please join us for this month's Kids' Shabbat service on **Friday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m.**

Kids' Shabbat is our monthly Shabbat Service for younger children. We light candles, drink grape juice, eat pizza, sit together on beautiful carpets, sing songs, and read amazing stories from the PJ Library. Newcomers and friends are always welcome! This year's Kids' Shabbat services will be held Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at Ohavay Zion Synagogue on the following dates: March 18, April 15, and May 20.

For more information or to RSVP, email [Dominique Olbert](mailto:Dominique.Olbert).

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Please join us **Friday, February 24 at 5:30 p.m.** for our Kabbalat Shabbat Services along with our friends from Stewart Home. What a terrific way to begin the weekend, with a brief but spirited service and with beautiful melodies and wonderful friends. Everyone is welcome. Let's bring in Shabbat together!

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Please join us any Saturday morning of the year, as Ohavay Zion Synagogue celebrates Shabbat. We begin at 9:30 a.m., though please feel free to join at any time during the service. Our worship is filled with joyous song and fascinating Torah discussions. The service concludes around noon, and all are invited to schmooze over lunch after the service. This is a wonderful way to celebrate Shabbat and to meet some nice Jewish folks here in Lexington. Newcomers and friends are always welcome!

TUESDAY MINYAN WITH LEARNING FROM REB NACHMAN

Tuesday Minyan is a special time at OZS. During this brief service, students and adults both pray and learn together. There is a warm atmosphere and something for everyone to enjoy. Please join us **Tuesday afternoons from 5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.** All are welcome!

STUDYING THE PROPHETS

Please join us **Wednesdays at Noon** as we explore the book of Ezekiel through the teachings of our Jewish tradition. We have a wonderfully diverse group of learners and terrific conversations. All are welcome!

TALMUD STUDY

The Talmud Study group meets **each Thursday** morning for prayer, food, and study. The morning begins with a brief Shacharit service at **7:30 a.m.**, followed by a light breakfast, and then fascinating study of the Talmud. Newcomers are always welcome!

BACKPACKING FOR GOD'S PANTRY

Join us each month during the school year as backpacks are filled with food that children take home on weekends from Mary Todd Elementary School. All of the food is child-friendly, nonperishable, easily consumed and vitamin fortified. Check weekly announcements & Facebook for date & times.

INTERESTED IN OZS?

Ohavay Zion Synagogue is a warm and welcoming Jewish community. If you are interested, or if you know someone who may be interested in learning more about Ohavay Zion Synagogue, please call the office at (859) 266-8050 or email Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

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124 N. Ashland Ave • Jonathan Miller, President • (859) 269-2979

WHO WE ARE

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation - We celebrate Torah, Justice, Tradition, and Faith. Our mission is to inspire Jews and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing a multi-generational love for our tradition. Our "Community Center" approach to Judaism gives families a host of unique ways in which to love living relevant, soulful, and experiential Jewish lives. Please call the Temple Administrator for more information if you are interested in affiliating with the Temple. The phone number is (859) 269-2979

PJ LIBRARY READING TIME

TAI has dedicated space in our Youth Library and our Anita Mersack Outdoor Reading Garden for families to share in our growing collection of PJ Library Books, before, during, and after religious school. The collection is in our Youth Library and these books provide our young children with wonderful introductions to the magic of Jewish storytelling.

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9:00 a.m. every two weeks in the TAI Library. The group explores cultural, ethical, and its historical aspects of our 4000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. Please join us any time. **Our next sessions will be February 11 & 25.**

JEWISH TEXTS

We explore selected readings in rabbinic literature on alternate Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative and you can join the group anytime. **We will meet on February 4 & 18.**

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for each week. Various Temple members will lead discussions and everyone will take turns. **We will meet on February 3, 10, 17 & 24.**

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Shalom Sisters! As I type this, snow is falling outside, a new year has begun, and I'm filled with a sense of renewal. Perhaps it's a new job, finally taking that trip you've been thinking about, or simply trying a new restaurant. Whatever this year holds, I hope that Sisterhood is a part of it. There is something for every-

one!

In early December we held our annual Lunch and Learn. The lunch portion of the afternoon was delicious as always. Rabbi Wirtschafter led us in study as well. We reflected on two of our matriarchs, Leah and Rachel. As always, the afternoon was filled with good food, good company and wonderful information.

In January a group of us gathered for another fun dinner out. We ventured to MOD Pizza in Hamburg and had a great time.

Traditionally, February was a time when our Sisterhood would invite the young women from The Florence Crittenden Home for a Valentine's Day party. Along with Junior League, we would host this party and give these young mothers an exciting night out. Since The Florence Crittenden Home is no longer open, we are looking to embark on another service project and help out those in need. This month we are holding a cool event that will bring some warmth to some much needed folks. We will be having a blanket making event. Think quilting circle, but with fleece! I hope everyone will join us for this special event.

If you are interested in becoming involved with Sisterhood, please don't hesitate in contacting me by phone at (859) 263-1859 or taisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com.

B'shalom, Elissa

TAI on Rye

February 5, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Temple Adath Israel's TAI on Rye, a New York-style pop-up deli, returns on February 5! The event will feature pastrami and corned beef sandwiches, kosher hot dogs, chopped liver, and more.

Chopped liver must be ordered in advance for \$6 per half-pound container by contacting Mary Engel at kyengels@windstream.net. Be sure to include your name and the amount of containers you would like. Payment is due at pick-up.

Chabad of the Bluegrass

By Rabbi Shlomo and Mrs. Shoshi Litvin

568 Columbia Ave.

Chabad of the Bluegrass

Chabad of the Bluegrass is one of more than 4,000 branches of the Chabad Lubavitch Movement, the world's largest international organization involved with Jewish education and outreach programming. Chabad offers numerous options for Jewish learning on every level, including adult education, youth programs, and young adult activities.

Practical Parsha

This weekly series gives you a concrete lesson from the Torah portion. Join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Chabad. Open to the entire community.

Women, Wine & Wisdom

An evening for women ages 21+. This month's discussion will cover Judaism's take on food. Why do you eat? Join the discussion while, of course, enjoying fine wine and desserts, on February 27 at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Shoshi Litvin via email or at (347) 746-3771

One on One Study

Is there a Jewish subject you were always curious about? Have you always wanted to learn more but never found the time? Call Rabbi Litvin and schedule your very own Chavrusa (partner style) study.

For more information, visit ChabadBluegrass.com or call (859) 813-0770.

SAVE THE DATE - JFNA National GA Mission to Israel October 17-24, 2018

Mark your calendars now for October 2018. That's when the National GA Mission to Israel: October 17-24, 2018 will actually culminate in Federations' annual General Assembly (GA) October 22-24—which will take place for the first time ever in Tel Aviv — Israel's hub for culture and innovation.

Join Federation peers from around the country to see, firsthand, our system's work in Israel. Meet the people whose lives we impact every day. Participate in exclusive briefings with top newsmakers, dignitaries and Israeli officials to gain insight into the complex challenges and opportunities facing Israel in today's

Middle East. And, of course, the finale is also the beginning - when you will join Federations' annual General Assembly (GA), October 22-24, 2018.

This will be a unique and unforgettable journey for all – you will return home inspired and re-committed to Federation and to Israel.

Hannah Schwartz Spitzberg
Senior Director, Missions
The Jewish Federations of North America
(212) 284-6991
Hannah.schwartz@jewishfederations.org

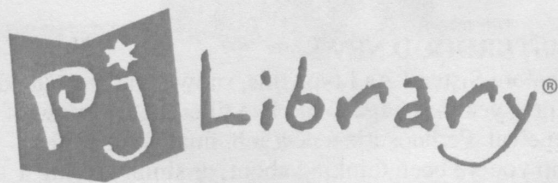
THANK YOU

from PJ Library in the Bluegrass and Jewish Federation!

We are so grateful to our generous donors. Thanks to you and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, we're bringing Jewish books, music and cuddles to more than 140 children, and we're bringing families and friends closer together.

This year, we raised almost \$10,000. We are thrilled, and look forward to an even stronger show of support in 2017.

You are creating Jewish sparks in the homes of our families and strengthening our community.
Thank you!



--- AROUND THE COMMUNITY ---

Please note: Information for Around the Community comes to us from a variety of individuals and Jewish institutions. It's a pretty haphazard arrangement; except for b'nai mitzvah, we do not have the resources or staff to collect information or research each item. If you would like to see an event or life passage in your family acknowledged here, please be sure we get the full and correct information as you would like to see it printed.

Send notices to shalom@jewishlexington.org. Remember, we welcome photos too!

B'nai Mitzvah Announcements

With your upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah, the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass wishes to announce your event in *Shalom*. Please email Barbara Goldman, shalom@jewishlexington.org, the following information by the 10th day of the month prior to the event for inclusion in *Shalom*. Please include the child's name, when and where the event is being held, mitzvah project, names of parents and grandparents, and a photo.

Mazel Tov

Westley Smith, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Karen Shedlofsky, for winning the Havurah dreidel champion competition.

Scooter Stein, the 2016 Captain Jackye Taylor Humanitarian Award Recipient.

Jon Solomon, Patrick Hallahan, and chef Bobby Benjamin on their restaurant Butchertown Grocery making the top ten list of new restaurants in the United States.

Will Crane and Beth Bronner on the birth of their daughter, Betty.

ATTENTION PROUD GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS & STUDENTS

We want to publish any original writing produced by our community's elementary and high school-age children. If you're proud of something written by one of our kids, either fiction or non-fiction, please email it to Barbara Goldman at shalom@jewishlexington.org.

Condolences to:

Darlene and Tim Grossman and their son Thomas, on the passing of Darlene's step-father **Ignatius (Nash) Arellano**.

Sheila Menkus on the passing of her husband, **Ed**.

Robin and Steve Gall, on the passing of Robin's mother, **Susan Adams**.

Stephanie Barrett, on the passing of her grandmother, **Ruth**.

Tim and Susie Magill, and family, on the passing of Tim's father, **Harry**.

The family of **Carl Meyers**.

The family of **Franklyn Donald Cerel**. Franklyn was the brother of Jerry (Janet) Cerel, uncle of Sylvia Cerel Suhl (Jerry Suhl) and Julie Cerel (Ron Philippi), and grand-uncle of Sarah and Adam Suhl and Lucy Phillippi.

Minna Katz Brown and family on the passing of her husband, **Trevor Brown**. Trevor was the step-father of Doug (Linda) Katz and step-grandfather of Noah, Gabe and Rosie Katz.

Abe and Marian Rabiner, on the passing of Abe's brother **Benjamin**.

The family of **Bernie Rosenthal**.

Rita Goldman and children Barbara and David, on the passing of mother and grandmother, **Louise Osborne**.

The Family of **Sylvia Green**, Holocaust survivor and long-time community volunteer.

The Family of **Evelyn Dantzic Geller**, past JFB President.

The Family of **Shirley Rosenberg**.



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Shalom

Newspaper of

The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

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Opinions expressed in *Shalom* are not necessarily those of the *Shalom* editorial staff or the JFB or its constituent organizations.

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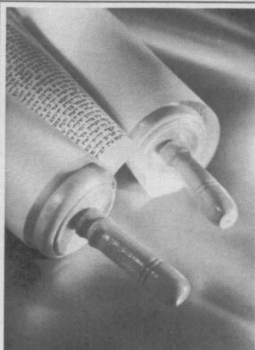
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The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Lunch and Learn with our
Lexington community rabbis

February 28 with Rabbi Moshe Smolkin

At 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month, in the JFB office, rabbis, on a rotating basis, will be discussing the holidays, the Torah portion of the week, and other topics of interest. A dairy lunch is offered at a nominal charge. If you are interested in attending, please call Rabbi Sharon Cohen at 859-268-0672 so we can order lunch for you.