

Shalom

Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Volume XV

Issue 5

Iyyar/Sivan/
Tammuz 5776
June/July 2016

Director's Message

By Judy B. Wortman



Shalom Chaverim

This is my final article as executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass. I am so grateful for my time here. The past seven years have flown by, but at the same time, I hardly remember life before David and I arrived here. I can honestly say that in my career of more than 40

years, this has been my very favorite position and the most wonderful community to serve. My life here has been one of personal highs and lows. I lost my beloved husband almost 18 months ago but was supported by friends and family in so many ways during his long illness and after his death. Three of my seven grandchildren were born since I arrived, and an 8th will be born in Philadelphia around the time I move there. I celebrated births of three children of my colleagues – Tamara's daughter Rebecca, and Talia and Rabbi Smolkin's children Ashira and Lev. I have been blessed to be a part of their lives and feel that in many ways they are surrogate grandchildren. I have also mourned the loss of a number of special people in our community.

This is a time for many thank you's, but I will mention only a special few. The Federation staff is extraordinary. We operate as a team and feel like a family. Tamara Ohayon has been both my right hand and left hand, and I am overjoyed that she will become the next director. She is bright, talented, kind, and generous. She will serve the community with grace and expertise. Mimi Kaufman has been a dear friend as well as a skilled social worker. She is so dedicated to the welfare of JFS clients and serves with great compassion. Talia Smolkin is an outstanding professional and a kind and devoted friend. In her work as the former JFS director and her work in informal Jewish education and as PJ Library coordinator, she brings talent, passion, and dedication. Kathie Kroot is totally committed to our Federation and volunteers for many hours beyond her job requirements. She is dedicated to our entire Jewish community and is a caring, thoughtful friend. I also am grateful to our exceptional Shalom staff - Barbara Goldman, Editor and Kasey Hall, Marketing Assistant. Thanks also go to former staff members Gayle Bourne, Jana La-Zur, Lori Bernard, and Kathy Feinberg.

I also would also like to thank the three (*continued p. 2*)

Editorial

By Barbara Goldman

Working with Federation Director Judy Wortman for the past two years has been an uplifting and motivating experience beyond my wildest expectations. The first time I met Judy I was struck not only by her keen ability to observe everyone and everything in a room, but the compassion and drive she had to be a problem solver.

As far as bosses go, and friends go, Judy has filled my world with constant love and support, through many of life's unexpected curveballs. I had just started working for Federation when my father passed, and shortly thereafter, Judy lost her beloved husband Rabbi David Wortman.

Judy is one of those rare people we hope to encounter, who really pushes you to be your best self and knows when and how to let you know she's got your back. To know her is to respect her motivation and love for the Central Kentucky Jewish Community, and hope to earn her respect.

Her passion has been an inspiration that I personally have needed in my life. I am so thankful I have had the opportunity to work with such an amazing Jewish woman.

Judy leaves Kentucky this July and is passing the torch to vibrant and creative Assistant Director Tamara Ohayon. I am thrilled Tamara will be continuing her work with Central Kentucky on a greater scale. We are lucky to have her talent and love of Judaism in Lexington.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

The Cost of Services Our Federations Provide Overseas

By Judy B. Wortman

The funds we raise for our brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world go to two agencies: the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). I thought it would be a good idea to give you the costs of some of the programs we fund through JAFI. As you know, none of the funds we send to Israel go to the government. They are only for social services like those listed below:

- \$82 will allow one child from the former Soviet Union to attend one day of a Jewish Agency Day Camp during a school vacation. For most of these children, this camp is their first source of Jewish education.
- \$147 will cover the costs for one student to attend one of the JAFI Sunday schools in (*continued p. 2*)

(Director's Message, continued from p.1) presidents with whom I partnered. Linda Ravvin, a volunteer par excellence, has become an adopted sister. She had a significant role in hiring me and will have my love and gratitude always. Bob Grossman served the Federation for many years as treasurer, vice president, and president and working with him was a joy. Mike Grossman has also served our community for many years. He has been a thoughtful and caring partner and a delight with whom to work. I send best wishes to Evalyn Block as she assumes the presidency. A skilled and experienced leader, Evalyn will also serve with distinction. Thank you also to all the board members and officers who have served these years with me.

In addition, my gratitude goes to our congregational rabbis, Rabbi Moshe Smolkin and Rabbi David Wirschafter, both dear friends and extraordinarily talented men. The community is so fortunate to have them both. And thanks also go to my friends Rabbi Sharon Cohen, Rabbi Uri Smith, and Rabbi Shlomo Litvin and their families. How fortunate is this community to have such wonderful rabbis.

There are so many other friends that I have made here, and you know how grateful I am to all of you. Thank you for making these last seven years a joyous time of my life. Finally, thank you to my twin sister Linda Angelo and her partner Larry Porter for being everything to me and for encouraging me to come to Lexington. I have cherished these years we have had together.

I wish only good things for our Jewish community. I encourage all of you to attend the Town Meeting at TAI on June 15 at 7:30 p.m. at which time Dr. Jack Ukeles will bring recommendations from our community study. Please consider these recommendations seriously. Don't let the report lie on a shelf. Do everything you can to ensure that the community remains vibrant and sustainable well into the future.

L'hitraot.

(Director's Message, continued from p.1)

the Former Soviet Union for one academic year.

- \$150 sponsors a child newly arrived from Ethiopia to enjoy summer camp in a Jewish Agency Absorption Center.
- \$400 will provide a new immigrant from France with a one-way ticket from Paris to Ben-Gurion Airport.
- \$693 will send one child in the Former Soviet Union to a 7-day Jewish Agency Sleepaway Camp.

Please consider these critical programs when you make your generous gift to the Jewish Federation. You can change lives.

June is LGBTQ awareness month

By Linda Angelo

Here in Lexington, we are fortunate to have a support organization PFLAG Central Kentucky, a partnership of parents, families, friends and allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. Their mission is to support, educate, and advocate for acceptance, affirmation and equality for LGBTQ youth and adults within families, institutions and society at large.

PFLAG ("P-flag") emerged in the 1970's and the letters originally signified Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays. Now PFLAG's focus has broadened to include diverse sexualities and gender identities and PFLAG members include families who are seeking support in understanding or advocating for their transgender or gender fluid children. Allies who attend include faith leaders, activists, students, teachers and counselors.

PFLAG meets once a month, with a speaker the first hour and the support meeting the second hour. Attendance is free and confidential. You are welcome no matter where you are in your journey or family struggle. One can talk or just listen and learn. Who goes to PFLAG? "Parents and family members – those who are bewildered and distressed, those who just want to get more comfortable or be a better family ally or friend to their loved one by learning all they can. Parents get support from other parents who understand the feelings and the challenges they experience, and gain additional knowledge and perspective from our LGBTQ members and allies. LGBTQ adults who have not experienced acceptance in their own families will find it at PFLAG; others are there to remind us what their positive family experiences have meant to them. PFLAG Central Kentucky is a welcoming family that offers wonderfully diverse perspectives. All of us look forward to a day when families will realize that their child who has come out as LGBTQ is the same child they loved yesterday. We know that acceptance and support from parents is the most crucial factor in the adjustment of LGBTQ youth."

The next PFLAG meeting is on June 14 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive in Lexington. The topic for the meeting is "What Parents Need to Know" about LGBTQ issues. This is a community conversation including parent educators, sex educators, PFLAG families and allies.

Meetings are open to all, and individual support can also be arranged. Volunteers or donations from those who share their vision are welcome. To learn more go to pflagcentralky.org, or contact info@pflagcentralky.org or (859) 338-4393. The website includes free publications available for download.

Jewish Community **Town Hall Meeting**

Wednesday-June 15-7:30 p.m.

Temple Adath Israel

At the beginning of 2016, over 900 individuals in our community were invited to to play a direct role in shaping the future Bluegrass Jewish community by completing a survey, entitled, The Jews of the Bluegrass: Ideas and Interests. An extraordinary proportion of you responded --- 46%!!

On June 15th, Dr. Ukeles will share survey findings and a draft of his proposals for making Central Kentucky a stronger Jewish community. This is another wonderful opportunity to shape the future of our community. Join us.

**Contact jfb@jewishlexington.org
for more information.**



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Ask A Rabbi: Rabbi Sharon Cohen



In the cycle of the major Jewish holidays, one of the holidays least familiar to many Jews is Shavuot, which this year begins the evening of June 12th. Shavuot, however, is actually one of the "big three" -- one of the three pilgrimage holidays, along with Passover and Sukkot, described in the Torah. Shavuot is actually known by more different

names than any other festival on the Jewish calendar. There are five most commonly used: *Hag ha-Katzir* (Feast of the Harvest), *Hag ha-Shavuot* (Feast of Weeks), *Yom ha-Bikureem* (Day of the First Fruits), *Atzeret* (Concluding Festival), and *Z'man Matan Torateinu* (Season of the Giving of the Torah). Our Christian friends might know it as Pentecost.

It is easy to see the agricultural nature of the holiday as described by the first three names which come directly from the Torah. Each of these three names are connected to the offering of the first fruits of the harvest with the observance of a festival celebrating it. The fourth name, *Atzeret* (interpreted as "concluding festival") is not found in the Torah, but in the Talmud. While the precise meaning of the term is uncertain, the Bible associates the word *Atzeret* with the last day of Passover and the final holy day at the end of Sukkot. Similarly, the Rabbis deduced, Shavuot should also be considered a "concluding festival" as it marks the completion of the 49-day period of the Omer (the period of the grain harvest and offering) which began on Passover.

Although Shavuot in Biblical times was purely agricultural in nature, historical circumstances and the mission to make tradition, rituals, and customs meaningful in each generation evolved Shavuot into an historical and spiritual holiday as well. Theologian and scholar, Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, points out that the Pharisees (who gave rise to the Sages of the Talmud) established the holiday as one commemorating the Revelation at Sinai which was said to have occurred on the fiftieth day after the Exodus. This identification of Shavuot with the giving of the Torah on Sinai, although not cited in the Torah, was based on small references found in some of our oldest pieces of liturgy and in texts dating to the period of the Maccabees.

Why did the Pharisees and their predecessors attach such importance to the historical significance of Shavuot -- as a holiday connected to the Revelation? Rabbi Finkelstein teaches that since the Pharisees were essentially city dwellers and not farmers, they feared

that without some additional meaning beyond its agricultural associations, the holiday of Shavuot would soon be lost. They also wondered why there was no specific holiday mentioned in the Torah that celebrates the Revelation at Sinai. The birth of Israel as a nation was marked by Passover. Sukkot celebrates the harvest and the journeying our ancestors did as they wandered through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. Was it possible that the event which established Israel as a divine people would be passed over in silence? The Pharisees, thus, chose to emphasize a connection between Shavuot and the Giving of the Torah while still maintaining its agricultural meaning as well.

Given that Shavuot celebrates such an important part of our history and our Covenant with God, why is this holiday so overlooked by the modern Jew? Perhaps, it is because it often falls during the beginning of the summer when school is out and the modern rhythm of society tends to slow down. Perhaps, it is because, contrary to Passover and Sukkot, Shavuot is a short holiday (observed only one day in Israel, one or two days outside of Israel), and it is easy to overlook it.

I believe, as do many, that, in part, it is because, unlike Passover and Sukkot, Shavuot has no specific mitzva, food, or ritual associated with it. There is no building of a Sukka nor a Seder for us, and especially our young children to enjoy as a part of its celebration (yes, there is a custom of eating dairy foods, but this is merely a custom and not a legal mandate). How is Shavuot observed? In addition to worship services which parallel those of the other festivals, we mark Shavuot by...STUDYING! The custom is to engage in some period of Jewish study on the holiday, (generally on the evening it begins) as a way of commemorating the Giving of the Torah at Sinai and of affirming our Covenant with God and the gifts of our Tradition. Called a *Tikkun L'ayl Shavuot*, this study period often lasts all night. In Jerusalem, the custom by many is to study all night, and at sunrise, to walk to the Old City or Western Wall for the morning service (a very cool experience, by the way!).

While Shavuot may not be filled (*continued p. 5*)

Have a question? Ask a rabbi.

The rabbis write columns in response to questions submitted by the readers. We encourage you to submit your queries on theology, morality, ethics, religious observances, etc. for response by one of our rabbis. If you have an issue you would like to see addressed, please email it to shalom@jewishlexington.org and put "Ask a Rabbi" in the subject line of your email. (It may take quite a while until your question is answered or it may never be answered, if no rabbi selects it.) You will not be identified as the writer of the question to either rabbis or readers, nor will you be asked to specify which rabbi should answer.

ASK JFS: Warning about Scam Artists

By Mimi Kaufman



There has been a recent surge again in phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents.

The IRS has seen a surge of these scam artists who threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation, and other things.

Taxpayers across the nation face a deluge of these aggressive

sive phone scams. Don't be fooled by callers pretending to be from the IRS in an attempt to steal your money" said IRS commissioner John Koskinen. There are many variations. "The caller may threaten you with arrest or court action to trick you into making a payment" Koskinen added. Some schemes say you're entitled to a huge refund. These all add up to trouble. Some simple tips can help to protect you.

Scammers make unsolicited calls claiming to be IRS. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They also leave "urgent" call back requests through "robo-calls" or via a phishing email.

The phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully. They often alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victims name, address, and other personal information to sound official.

The IRS will NEVER:

- Call to demand immediate payment; nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.

CASH for
HOME & CONTENTS

call
JIM MISCHNER **806-1932**

- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount that they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for a credit card or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here is what you can do:

- Do not give out any information; hang up immediately. Contact TIGTA (Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration) to report a call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov and add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

If you think that you owe taxes, you can call the IRS. Stay alert to scams that use IRS as a lure. These scams are especially prevalent after tax time but can happen any time of the year.

JFS: At Your Service 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.

(Ask A Rabbi, continued from p. 4) with exciting rituals, symbols or foods, it is a holiday with great meaning and one well-deserving of our attention. Shavuot provides us a unique opportunity to celebrate Torah, to renew our personal connection to God and to recommit ourselves to learning more about our heritage. It reminds us of our humble beginning as farmers, our desire to expand our minds and hearts through learning, and the unique Covenant we share with God. If you are not able to attend any of the formal Shavuot programs going on in the community, take some time on your own to do some Jewish studying. Open the Bible and read the description of the Revelation and the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19). Read the Book of Ruth which is often studied on the holiday. Choose an aspect of Judaism you wish to learn more about and begin your exploration of it. Thank you Pharisees for helping to keep this important holiday alive and relevant for our generation to observe and enjoy!

Israel21C: Eyes of the nation

Photographers Meir Elipur and Judith Harpaz ask viewers to look into the eyes of Israelis to learn about society.

By Viva Sarah Press

(Originally published online May 9, 2016)



These are the eyes of singer Einat Sarouf. Photo: courtesy

Looking straight into someone's eyes can be disconcerting. But two Israeli photographers believe that it is through the eyes of the country's politicians, celebrities, journalists, athletes and every day people that the nation's story is told best.

In honor of Israel's 68th Independence Day, a photo exhibit of 68 pairs of eyes "representing the mosaic of Israel" will grace the walls of the Jerusalem Theater.

Photographers Meir Elipur and Judith Harpaz say they wanted to show the "real Israel" and chose subjects who represent communities within the multicultural society that makes Israel what it is.

The eyes belong to the likes of President Reuven Rivlin; legendary American-Israeli basketball player Tal Brody; Israeli politician/human rights activist Natan Sharansky; Miriam Peretz, mother of fallen Golani Brigade soldiers Uriel and Eliraz Peretz; Nobel laureate Prof. Yisrael Aumann; Greek Orthodox priest Gabriel Naddaf; singer Einat Sarouf and others.



These eyes belong to Israeli news reporter Sivan Rahav-Meir. Photo: courtesy

reate Prof. Yisrael Aumann; Greek Orthodox priest Gabriel Naddaf; singer Einat Sarouf and others.

"We spoke about how to connect the viewer to the people in the photographs and both groups to our very special country," says Elipur, a press photographer, as to how the new exhibit came about.

"We want the viewers to look into the eyes of our subjects and learn about their stories. We want people to understand how diverse and unique the Israeli society is. And there's no better time than Independence Day."

The exhibit is also interactive. It includes a map of Israel showing the different communities in which people featured in the exhibition live. And the Come-ToArt app will give visitors access to more in-depth explanations of the subjects.

Elipur, who has been behind the camera since the age of 16, says that photography plays a major role in his life. The Jerusalem-born father of three says that for him, photography is all about catching a real moment and letting it tell a full story.

Harpaz, a studio photographer, says taking photos of people is an "exciting activity filled with surprises."

The exhibit will be open to the public for free at the Jerusalem Theater from May 9 through June 9 and then will then travel to other galleries around Israel.

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.

Thank you to:

- Yvonne Goldstein in memory of Celia Flomen.
- Cheryl and Eric Hanson in memory of Celia Flomen.
- Sandy and Henry Tutt in memory of Celia Flomen.
- Judy Worell in honor of Judy Wortman.

B'tayavon: Kreplach

By Babara Goldman

I can still see my father salivating at the mention of the word kreplach. These small Yiddish dumplings are a Jewish staple we all can enjoy.

Kreplach can be stuffed with a variety of fillings and are traditionally served in soup or steamed, or fried and served with a rich tomato sauce or meat gravy.



Noodle dough:

2 large eggs

½ tsp salt

2 cups sifted all-purpose flour

Beat eggs, salt slightly, and add flour (use more if needing to make firmer dough). Knead thoroughly, until soft and elastic (five minutes). Roll out very thin and evenly on a slightly floured surface. Cut into two inch squares. Place one tablespoon of filling onto each square. Fold crosswise into triangles, pressing edges together securely. Drop into boiling salted water or soup. Cook for around 15 minutes, 18 if using a meat filling.

Variation: Boil ten minutes in salted water. Drain and fry in hot schmaltz (chicken fat) until brown and crisp on both sides. Serve in soup or as a side.

Fillings:

Meat: one tsp onion juice, one raw egg, two garlic cloves, one tsp salt, one pound ground beef, salt and pepper to taste. Saute garlic, onion, add beef. Cook thoroughly. Add seasonings and egg to meat. Mix. Fill kreplach.

Chicken: Use cooked chopped chicken meat in place of beef. Add one tbsp minced parsley.

Chicken liver and egg: Combine cooked chicken livers and hard-cooked eggs. Chop together until smooth. Season as above.

Cheese: one pound dry cottage cheese, two tbsp melted butter, one tsp sugar, ½ tsp cinnamon, ¼ teaspoon salt. Mix all ingredients. Fill kreplach. Cook by dropping into boiling milk. When done, kreplach will rise to top. Remove from milk. Serve with melted butter.

SHALOM summer!

Come together for a musical PJ Library summer gathering led by Beth Ellen Rosenbaum, Director of Children's Music Workshop and mom of a PJ Library graduate. Everything is better with music! For additional info and other questions, contact pjlibrary@jewishlexington.org.

Sunday
June 26
at 10:30 a.m.

Wild Fig Bookstore
726 N Limestone
Lexington, KY 40508

Show Your Support

Help us keep Shalom solvent.

You may contribute online or mail a check to JFB, 1050 Chinoe Rd Ste 112, Lexington, KY 40502.

Please make checks payable to JFB and write "Shalom" on the memo line.

GIVING LEVELS

Chai - \$18; Double Chai - \$36; Three Times Chai - \$54; Haboneh (Builder) - \$72; Gibor (Hero) - \$90

CHABAD OF THE BLUEGRASS

Practical Parsha

A new weekly series of classes discussing the weekly Torah portion and how its lessons are applicable to our everyday lives. Classes meet at the Chabad House Wednesdays at 7 pm.

Open to the entire community.

Women, Wine and Wisdom

Led by Mrs. Shoshi Litvin, this social gathering brings fellowship, Torah and fine kosher refreshments. Women ages 21 and over are invited to greet the new month together. Join us in welcoming the month of Sivan on June 6th at 7:30 pm at the home of Betty Nigoff, and the month of Tammuz on July 6th at 7:30 pm, location TBA.

For more information on any of Chabad's programs, please visit chabadbluegrass.com.

JFB Major Gifts Brunch

Sunday, May 22 at the home of Arlene and Harry Cohen



Additional photos of the brunch can be found in the [online version of Shalom](#).

FAREWELL PARTY



Join us any time Sunday, June 26 from 4 – 6 pm
at the Firebrook Clubhouse in Lexington.

We will share nosh, drink and celebrate Judy Wortman's eight
years as our friend & Jewish Federation Executive Director.
This is an opportunity to speak with Judy and share your
thanks and well wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

FOR JUDY WORTMAN

RSVPs not required but MUCH appreciated.

Contact Tamara Ohayon at tamara@jewishlexington.org
or (859) 268-0672 to RSVP or for more information.



JFB Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 26 at the Jewish Federation offices



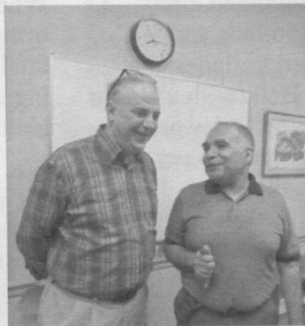
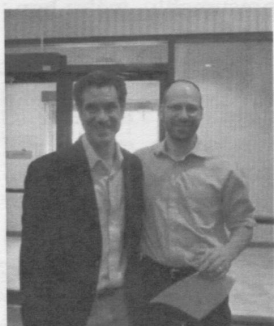
Judy Wortman, left, presented Gayle Bourne with the Cookie Wenneker Volunteer of the Year Award.



Jenn Garlin, left, accepts the Young Leadership Award.



Hanna Smith, left, graciously accepts the President's Award from Michael Grossman.



More photos from the Annual Meeting can be found on our Face-book Page. Click [here](#).

UNION

LIKE MINDS
DON'T HAVE TO
LOOK ALIKE

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2016 | WASHINGTON, DC

THE LEXINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Dianne Bazell, President

By Dianne Bazell

Summer months usually bring a shift in schedules: for some, camp; for others, different jobs; for many of us, road trips. My husband and I both come from families that took meandering trips to all corners of the country. No visit to relatives was complete without one or more side trips—museums, historical sites, natural wonders.

We've continued the tradition. Annual July 4th visits to my in-laws out east (Boston, Washington, and Westchester County) have always involved circuitous side trips to Civil War battle grounds and D.C. monuments. Last summer, we visited Philadelphia's Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell (with a detour to view where Washington crossed the Delaware). Conferences, too, have provided a chance to see first-hand places of national and local significance. This coming July, following Hadassah's biennial meeting in Atlanta, we look forward to stopping at commemorative civil rights museums and sites both there and *en route* through Alabama. Whether at home, or away, we ration sidewalk and roadside markers according to our time frame.

Why do we—and we're not alone—do this sort of thing? Why are memorials built in the first place? The subtlety and complexity of one of the Torah passages (Deuteronomy 25:17-19) read last March at Hadassah's *Shabbat Zachor* service highlight issues of remembering and forgetting, memorializing and accountability, that I find profound and remarkably pertinent today.

Jews are commanded to "Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey after you left Egypt" (linking to the Book of Esther, where Haman is identified as a descendent of the Amalekites, the marauding tribes who harassed our ancestors on their way out of Egypt). At the same time, though, we're also instructed to "blot out the memory of Amalek under the heavens" and, in a final paradox, enjoined not to forget to do this!

The collective Amalek has come to be used by Jews to refer to all our enemies and would-be destroyers. The injunction after the Holocaust to "Never forget" could be read as hearkening back to this *Parashat Zachor* admonition to "Remember (*Zachor*) what Amalek did to you." Hence, we've written and photographed histories, collected eye-witness accounts, by both victims and perpetrators of the Shoah, and built monuments and museums to honor and commemorate its



victims and to ensure that such atrocities never again be perpetrated.

Obliterating the memory of Amalek, or any enemy, erases its victims, too, nor does this deletion offer the instruction and possible prevention of repeated atrocity that historical accountability and collective remembering can provide. Remembering history and recounting it can afford a moral reckoning (hence, the term "accountability"), a chance for "truth and reconciliation," depending on who's doing the remembering, who or what is honored, and what message is communicated.

When we remember Amalek, presumably, we're honoring Amalek's victims, but not honoring (and certainly not sentimentalizing) Amalek. We're admonishing *against* the possibility of Amalek ever again being able to wreak havoc.

We, in our community, in our country, and around the world today are struggling with the conundrum posed in this very passage about Amalek, namely, the meaning of memorials and the significance of what we might term "monumental silence."

At base, monuments and memorials serve as teaching devices: they inform us of "the facts" of an historical event or personage and also guide our moral response to them: to remember past heroes or victims in order to honor them, perhaps even to be inspired by them, or to caution us against repeat repeating them—or both.

Why would we refuse to commemorate, or why would we remove a memorial? To consign the past to oblivion, so as not to grant it honor? Or to consign the past to oblivion, so as to avoid having to confront it, acknowledge it, and repent it? In this broader context, it's important to ask, who's doing the remembering? And who, metaphorically speaking, is Amalek?

Our country, as well as our region, is still contending with the facts and the moral accountability of our national history, not only as we dispute the preservation of statues of generals, the removal of flags from public buildings, and the more recent erection of markers owning up to the sale of slaves (before Emancipation) and subsequent lynchings of fellow citizens; we're also questioning the messages conveyed by countless buildings, sites, institutions, and programs commemorating figures and events under current moral reevaluation.

We honor our *avot* and *imahot* while acknowledging some of their examples as cautionary tales. We also know firsthand the perils of historical denial. Can our national narratives simultaneously (*continued, p. 11*)

THE LEXINGTON HAVURAH

Gail Cohen, President

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 me at gail.cohen@twc.com.

By Judy Goldsmith

My aunt once told me that she found nature (or perhaps Nature) a holier place than synagogue. I don't know whether that was a momentary frustration with the synagogue my uncle had chosen for their family, or whether she always felt that way. As a child of the city, my notion of Nature had a lot to do with Washington Square Park, and I was perplexed.

As a child, I struggled with the lines of the liturgy that referred to "G-d's dwelling place." I think I spent an entire service wondering whether we were in G-d's living room, and what room was the rabbi's study. I was pretty sure that G-d's dwelling place was not Washington Square Park, though perhaps, like me, G-d visited and people-watched.

When I left New York, one of the things that struck me was that the division between inside and outside was less marked. It was easier to step outside, with fewer doors, each of which had fewer locks. Ours was not a neighborhood where neighbors leaned out their windows to chat.

Now, I see neighbors out walking, or sitting on porches, as if the outdoor space of a porch or yard was still part of their dwelling places. We visit and chat. It is easier to see this world, both natural and constructed, as G-d's dwelling place. And perhaps I am not such a literalist as I was as a child. I don't need to match a holy house to the rooms of my own.

My memory is that my aunt was more interested, at least that day, in listening to the wind in trees or the ocean murmuring on the shore, rather than the voices intoning prayers. I feel blessed that I can listen to nature and feel a holiness and can attend services and know that the same holiness is there.

The Havurah, the oldest established permanent floating congregation in Lexington, has always suited me well. The varied spaces where we meet remind me of the ubiquity of mystery.

Our next service will be a potluck dinner and service on June 12th. For more information, contact Gail Cohen at Gail.Cohen@twc.com.

(Hadassah, continued from p. 10) encompass both collective pride and contrition? Could we agree to remove Amalek from a place of honor?

As we encounter memorials in our daily lives and in our travels, and as we engage in acts of commemoration ourselves, we remain challenged to interpret their purpose, the messages and values they articulate and convey, and even whether they reflect what we wish to bequeath to future generations.

But that is what being a thinking and ethical people entails.

**TZOFIM
Friendship
CARAVAN
2016**

Join us for a
Community Concert
July 25 @ 7:00PM
at Temple Adath Israel

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Coast to Coast Caravan>

OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE NEWS

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!

SHAVUOT

Please join us for a Shavuot celebration beginning the evening of Saturday, June 11. Please call the office for details.

There will be a Festival service on **Sunday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m.** including **Yizkor**.

All are welcome to attend.

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 PIRKEI AVOT

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 (JUNE)

Please join us **Wednesdays at noon** as we explore the book of **Jeremiah** 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 Friday** 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!

INTERESTED IN OZS?

OZS 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 at Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

THE ONLY JEWISH DAY CAMP IN CENTRAL KY

Camp Shalom offers a unique and memorable Jewish day camp experience for ages 4-14 with seasoned staff and age-appropriate programming including:

- Summer 2016
- July 25 to August 5
- Archery
- Music
- Sports
- Nature activities
- Water Play
- Shabbat experience
- Arts & Crafts

Camp Shalom
Established in 1968

Registration is now open!

For more information contact Director Tamara Ohayon at (859) 268-0672 or camp@jewishlexington.org or visit www.jewishlexington.org



Sponsored by
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS



TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

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, 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 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 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 June 11 & 25 and July 9 & 23.**

TALMUD STUDY

We explore selected readings in rabbinic literature on alternate Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you can join the group anytime. **We will meet on June 4 & 18 and July 2, 16 & 30.**

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 a.m. in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for each week. Various Temple members will lead some discussions, and everyone will take turns. **We will meet on June 11 & 18 and July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (B'nai Mitzvahs on June 4 & 25).**

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Shalom Sisters! Summer is upon us, and I for one am ready a slower pace and a chance to recharge. We are heading into a planning time for Sisterhood and welcome new ideas that can help us liven things up!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Sisterhood Shabbat such a moving event. The service was held at the end of April. It was wonderful having so many

sisters participate and the oneg afterwards was icing on the cake (Passover friendly of course!)

On June 12 at 4:00 p.m. we will be installing our new Sisterhood leadership. Please join us in not only welcoming all of the ladies to their new positions, but spending an afternoon catching up with Sisterhood friends, old and new.

In August, we will be having our annual Membership kickoff in the evening at the home of one of our members. It is always exciting to come back together after a break for summer and get revved up for the new year. New programs, new friends, and new beginnings!

If you are interested in becoming involved with Sisterhood, please don't hesitate to contact me (263-1859) or taisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com.

Enjoy the summer,

Elissa

GENERATION TAI

Generation TAI is our Chavurah group for young adults. Programming runs the spectrum from worship to social action and from Shabbat to holiday meals. This month we will have:

- June 3 - BBQ Cookout Theme - dinner BEFORE services
- June Event, Date TBD - Legends Baseball Game
- July 1 - Eating Out - American theme

Please contact Daniel Baker at dsbaker7@gmail.com or Lizz Hawkey at emphawkey@gmail.com to reserve your seat, or go to our Facebook page for more information on all of our activities.

MAZEL TOV

To our high school graduates:

Amir Abou-Jaoude, Maya Creamer, Sam Flomenhoft, John Henry Hershinow, Max Kaufman, Kevin LaZur, Carter Levine, Louis Schatzki, Sam Waltman, Jacob Young.

Want to receive Shalom
by First Class mail?
Call (859) 268-0672 or email
tamara@jewishlexington.org.

--- 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!

Mazel tov to:

- Bob Orbach on attaining the chairmanship of The LFUC Human Rights Commission.
- Hanna Smith received the JFB President's Award
- Gayle Bourne received the JFB Cookie Wenneker Volunteer of the Year Award
- Jennifer Garlin received the JFB Young Leadership Award

All Graduates!

OZS Graduates

- Ben Grossman - Graduating from Henry Clay High School. Attending UK in the fall to study engineering. Parents are Jennifer Gripshover & Bob Grossman
- Caitlin Haskett - Graduating from Danville High School. Attending Bryn Mawr College. Parents are Maggie Shapiro Haskett & Chris Haskett.
- Seth Kraman - Graduating from Bryan Station High School. Going to start college at Miami University. Parents are Debbie Aminoff & Steve Kraman
- Maura Moosnick, daughter of Gregory Moosnick & Karen Bacdayan. Graduates from Cornell University with her BS in Industrial & Labor Relations.

TAI Confirmations

- Charles Brennan, son of Tami and Tom Brennan
- Lily Kaufman, daughter of Mimi and Micah Kaufman
- Zachariah Sippy, son of Shana Sippy and Rabbi David Wirtschafter

Condolences to:

- Kim (Rob) Rosenstein and Ross, Kyle and Jamie Rosenstein on the death of their father and grandfather, Dr. D.K. Clawson.
- Debbie (Nick Fain), Dennis, and Addison Masters, on the death of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Jack Joffe.

B'nai Mitzvah Announcements:

Seth Rubin at OZS on May 28. Seth is the son of Barbara & Mark Rubin.



Sophie Amelia Hill, Arielle Shira, at TAI, June 4. She is the daughter of Lauren and William Hill.



Jessalin Archer, Sarit, at TAI, June 25. Jessalin is the daughter of Colby Cohen-Archer and Ray Archer. Jessalin's mitzvah project has included handmade blankets for The Linus Project, which provides handmade blankets for children in the hospital.



Emanuelle Sivan Wirtschafter Sippy, at TAI, August 20, parasha v'etchanan. Daughter of Rabbi David Wirtschafter and Shana Sippy. Granddaughter of Carol and Jonathan Wirtschafter z"l, Roni Sippy, Lachman and Anjali Sippy. For her bat mitzvah, she is working on issues of hunger relief.

ATTENTION PROUD GRAND-PARENTS, 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.

HADASSAH SELLING MACY'S CARDS FOR YOUR GIFT SHOPPING



Make your gift giving easy, plus enjoy saving on gas and time while helping the Lexington Chapter of Hadassah raise funds for its valuable programs here in the US and

in Israel, by purchasing Macy's Gift Cards.

Macy's Gift Cards are available in \$25, \$50 or \$100 denomination. usable at any Macy's stores nationwide. If you need a larger order, it can be done, just contact me to special order the amount you need.

They may be purchased by check payable to Hadassah. Send as gifts for all occasions or use yourself for that shopping you'll do anyway. There is no expiration date on the Gift Cards.

Macy's always has sales and discounts which you will save money.

Contact Odette Kaplan for your Macy's Gift Cards at okmkaplan@gmail.com or 859-271-8332.

HELP WANTED

Extra sitter needed for elderly mother, for about 8-20 hours a week... some weeks less or none, and some weeks possibly more.

A background check will be done; offering \$15/hour.

Contact karen.barnes@uky.edu.

Show Your Support

Help us keep Shalom solvent.

You may contribute online or mail a check to JFB, 1050 Chinoe Rd Ste 112, Lexington, KY 40502.

Please make checks payable to JFB and write "Shalom" on the memo line.

GIVING LEVELS

Chai - \$18; Double Chai - \$36; Three Times Chai - \$54; Haboneh (Builder) - \$72; Gibor (Hero) - \$90



Celebrate LIFE with us

Call to schedule your visit
859.629.1090

Magnolia Springs
SENIOR LIVING

Shalom

Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

SHALOM is published 10 times per year. SHALOM is produced by the staff of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass.

For website or email questions, please contact tamara@jewishlexington.org or (859) 268-0672.

The editorial staff has the right to edit, accept or reject all articles submitted for publication in Shalom. Articles should not exceed 500 words. The appearance of any advertising in this publication does not represent either a kashruth or any other endorsement on the part of the Federation or any other agency or organizations.

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

Shalom is partially supported by the advertisements appearing in this publication.

Copyright © 2016, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass. All rights reserved. For reprint permission contact Barbara Goldman, Editor-in-Chief, Shalom, at shalom@jewishlexington.org.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Barbara Goldman, Editor-in-Chief
Hanna Smith, Chairperson
Susan Cobin
Betty Nigoff

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Linda Angelo
Dianne Bazell
Rabbi Sharon Cohen
Barbara Goldman
Judy Goldsmith
Mimi Kaufman
Viva Sarah Press
Judy B. Wortman

JEWISH FEDERATION STAFF & BOARD

Judy Wortman, Executive Director
Tamara Ohayon, Assistant Director
Mimi Kaufman, Jewish Family Services Director
Talia Smolkin, Coordinator of Informal Jewish Education
Kathie Kroot, Administrator
Kasey Hall, Marketing Assistant

*Evalyn Block, President
*Amy Faust Mayer, Vice President
*Dianne Bazell, Treasurer
*Gayle Bourne, Secretary
*Seth Salomon, At-Large
*Michael Grossman, At-Large
Daniel Baker
Marcia Blacker
Jane Chaput
Lorne Dechtenberg
Jenn Garlin

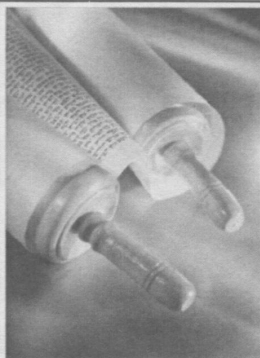
Mickey Hernandez
Angie Ornstein
Linda Ravvin
Ken Slepian
Marty Solomon
Paul Tillier
Elissa Weinstein
Sue Westerman
Judy Worell

** Executive Committee member.*

To join the Federation
email list contact
tamara@jewishlexington.org
or visit jewishlexington.org.

Advertise Your Business!

Click here to download the
rates sheet and see your
ad in next month's Shalom.



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Lunch and Learn with our
Lexington community rabbis

June 28 with Rabbi Moshe Smolkin
July 26 with Rabbi Uri Smith

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 Tamara at 859-268-0672 so we can order lunch for you.