

Shalom

February 2013

Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS



SHEVAT/ADAR 5773

Temple Adath Israel Wins Golden Apple Award

The Community Partners Leadership Team and Fayette County Schools presented 6 Golden Apple awards on November 13th during Commerce Lexington's Good Morning Bluegrass breakfast at the Hyatt Regency. The awards are given to community partners who have a distinguished record of service to the district or to a particular school. TAI won the 2012 award in the category of Faith Based Organization - School Partner for its partnership with Ashland Elementary School.

For over 10 years, TAI volunteers have given their time, talents, energy and expertise to improve the lives of students and families at Ashland. Rabbi Marc Kline led the effort, working alongside Principal Shuronda Morton. Because of Rabbi Kline's commitment to community involvement, he urged Temple members to make Ashland a priority. TAI's Social Action Committee coordinates volunteers, programs and activities. These efforts have contributed to a rising academic success story and the development of relationships that change children's lives.

In addition to tutoring students, helping with the annual Science Fair, coordinating the Blessings in a Backpack program, and providing school sup-

plies and clothing for children in need, TAI volunteers serve as mentors and as teacher "aides" in the classroom. One volunteer mentors a single-parent family, providing a sympathetic ear and encouragement. Another volunteer has made possible several opera theatre performances at the school and educational field trips. Students from Ashland and TAI have been working collaboratively in the Temple's garden since the fall of 2010. Each semester 15 4th and 5th graders from Ashland select "Garden Club" as a Friday morning elective. Students help in every capacity: planning the garden, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, and - of course - eating! They learn about life cycles, ecosystems, weather and nutrition. They learn what plants grow in which zones, when to plant them, and keep a record of what they have done. Other classes from Ashland occasionally take field trips to visit the garden.

The Golden Apple award is the second such honor awarded to TAI for its involvement with Ashland Elementary School. In 2007, the Temple received a Fain Award for its work with Ashland. The Fain Awards, established in 1983, are given every two years to Reform

see **Golden Apple Award**, page 7

Camp Shalom gears up for its 45th Anniversary summer

By Tamara Ohayon, Director

We all know that change is inevitable and 2013 will be no different for our community. This year brings a significant staff transition; I have been entrusted with the Camp Director position after Kathy Feinberg's resignation this past Fall. I am saddened by the change after her many years of dedication and love put into the program, but I am also personally thrilled to be working more intimately with Federation's camp program in addition to my other roles at the Jewish Federation.

see **Camp Shalom Gears Up**, page 5



CAMPAIGN NEWS

The 2013 JFB Annual Campaign to be launched on Sunday, February 10

Super Sunday 2013 will be held this year on February 10. Super Sunday is the official start of the 2013 Annual Community Campaign. From 10 am to 2:30 pm, volunteers will be calling community members for their pledges to the new campaign. Donors can pay these commitments any time from the day the pledge is made until the end of December. We hope that you will answer the call generously. We are still looking for additional volunteers to make solicitation calls and for other

administrative tasks. If you have several hours to give, please call Judy Wortman at 268-0672 or send an email to jfb@jewishlexington.org.

The next event on the campaign schedule is our women's night out *Viva Margarita*, which will be held on Monday, March 18 at 5:30 pm at Durango's Mexican Restaurant, 2121 Richmond Road. All the women in our

see **Campaign**, page 26

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Shalom

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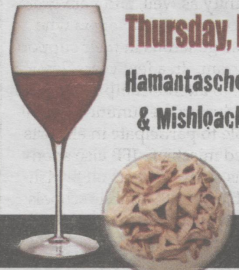
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The PJ Library is a national program offered locally, which mails free, high-quality and age appropriate Jewish children's literature and music to families on a monthly basis.

All families raising Jewish children ages six months to eight years are welcome to enroll. JFB is proud to offer your family, through our partnership with local donors and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, this opportunity to explore the timeless core values of Judaism through books and music.

Enroll your children or grandchildren today! Call us at 859.268.0672 or visit www.pjlibrary.com and visit our Lexington community page.



Thursday, February 21 - 7pm

Hamantaschen Baking, Cocktails, & Mishleach Manot Exchange

at Ohavay Zion Synagogue

RSVP to tamara@jewishlexington.org or on Facebook by February 19.

Sunday, March 24

Pre-Passover Pasta Dinner Out





The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS

YBJ is a gathering of local Jewish adults, ages 21 to "40-ish", who get together monthly for social events. Join our mailing list. Contact Tamara Ohayon at tamara@jewishlexington.org, (859) 268-0672, or find our group on Facebook.

If you are not receiving Jewish Weekly email and would like to, please send your name and email address to lexadmin@jewishlexington.org

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Shalom Deadline

Deadline for articles for the March *Shalom* is February 10.

Email articles to shalom@jewishlexington.org



President's Message

Bob Grossman, JFB President

Barbara and I received big news in early January. More than six years ago, we sent a request to the China Center of Adoption Affairs

to adopt a baby from China, and last week, we received a referral of a beautiful toddler girl. Her name is XiaoXiao (shee-OW shee-OW), which means "tiny," and she just turned 2 years old in early January. We are especially pleased that she has lived with a foster family for the past year. We hope to travel to China to get her in about 3 months. If you'd like to see pictures of her, send me a friend request on Facebook.

Picking a new name for her has been an adventure. We had to navigate contradictory Jewish and Eastern Kentucky traditions on naming, plus our own personal preferences. We finally settled on Jessica Deane Xiaoxiao Grossman.

The prospect of having a young child in the house again is a little scary. When we started this process more than six years ago, I was almost young enough to be in Young Bluegrass Jews. Now I'm getting solicitations from AARP. Still, I know of enough older mothers and fathers that I know that we will be able to parent.

The arrival of a new Jewish young'un gets the whole community excited, and I am reminded of all of the programs that JFB has on offer to help the children of our community develop a strong relationship with the Jew-

ish people. Even before we travel to China, Jessica is likely to receive our first Jewish-themed book from the PJ Library, and she can expect to continue to receive age-appropriate books every month until she turns 9 years old. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation underwrites this program, but it requires a significant financial contribution from the community as well, and I am grateful to our community members who have been so generous in their support of this program. In a few years, Jessica will be able to attend Camp Shalom for two weeks during the summer, where she'll be able to participate in all sorts of organized mischief. JFB also sponsors various essay contests on Jewish-themed subjects in the public schools that Jessica will be able to enter. And when Jessica is older still, she will be able to benefit from camperships and scholarships that JFB offers. Throughout this time, of course, she will also be able to benefit from the day care and religious school programs offered by our Jewish congregations.

I hope you will forgive me if I remind you that all of the JFB programs that I just mentioned require the financial support of the community. We have just completed our 2012 Campaign. I hope that this coming year, when you receive a phone call or a letter from JFB, you will support us again, maybe with even a larger contribution. As always, if you have any questions about how JFB uses your money, please call the JFB office or stop and ask me, Judy Wortman, or any of the JFB Board members, and we'll be happy to share with you all of the information that we have.

The year 2013 will be a year of big, positive change for us. May it be a wonderful year for all of you as well. ✪

Editorial

David Wortman

As I write this brief editorial, it is exactly one month since the horrible, earth-shaking, events happened in Newtown, CT. Despite there being only one Jewish child among the 20, all Jewish hearts and souls mourn together with our brothers and sisters of all faith communities. No excuse can justify or even explain what happened at that school.

It did not take long for the terrors of Sandy Hook to become a political football. The NRA suggested arming teachers and administrators, arguing that the solution to protecting our children from this happening again is to put weapons in more hands. Others have recommended that every school have an armed guard at the entrances to the building.

Where would the funding come from? We already cannot get sufficient allocations for teachers, supplies, and textbooks. Must we further spread a diminishing investment in our children's future in order to fund the extra armed personnel?

I believe that assault weapons with a large capacity clip should be banned. How many of us, even committed gun owners, hunt with a semi-automatic Army assault rifle? How many lives of children and adults would be saved with such a ban?

My feelings aside, there is no one solution that will suffice. Among the possibilities are:

1. Close loopholes in purchase and sale of all guns
2. Enforce existing laws
3. Require gun owners to keep their guns inaccessible from children
4. Add and reinforce anti-violence segments in the school curricula
5. Give sensitivity training to teachers
6. Provide resources with which a teacher can begin to deal with possible mental health aberrations
7. Disallow youth, the mentally disabled and criminals from having guns

These are only a few ideas that come to mind. I am certain that there are many others.

The only way for us to even try to resolve the question of school violence lies in the hands of elected officials. They must put aside partisanship and come together, left and right, and commit to make America safe. ✪

SALES TEAM NEEDED FOR SHALOM NEWSPAPER!

The Jewish Federation is in need of new sales associates to bring in advertising for *Shalom*. Set your own hours—earn your commissions.

Contact Tamara Ohayon at the JFB office if you are interested in joining our team. (859) 268-0672 or tamara@jewishlexington.org



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

ATTENTION proud grandparents, parents, and 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 shalom@jewishlexington.org

Chanukah PJ Library Style

By Lori Bernard, Coordinator of Informal Jewish Learning

On a cold, dark, December evening, PJ Library families and friends were bright eyed, excited, and smiling as they gathered together to celebrate Chanukah. For the second year in a row, Joseph Beth Booksellers graciously hosted a PJ Library Chanukah party for the Lexington community. Over 20 children and their families joined together to welcome in the fifth night of Chanukah. Rabbis Kline and

Smolkin led the group in songs, lit the chanukiah, and read PJ Library books. After the stories, children made their own dreidels to take home and snacked on sufganyot or in this case, fried doughnut holes graciously donated by Krispy Kreme. At the end of the evening, all ventured back out into the cold night twinkling with the lights of the chanukiah reflected in their eyes and filled with the warmth of sharing Chanukah with family and friends. ☆



PJ Library families enjoying Chanukah Stories.



Rabbis Smolkin and Kline lighting Chanukah candles at Joseph-Beth.



Decorating dreidels at Joseph-Beth.

JFS: At Your Service

Mimi Kaufman, JFS Director



Many people worry about their aging parents, and bringing up the topic of future care needs can be very difficult. But if you, the adult child and/or

your siblings, can create a living plan based on your parents' wishes before they need care it can make the road a bit less bumpy. In other words, having a frank and productive conversation ahead of time can be so helpful in the long run. This sounds easy enough, but it can be a challenge. Here are just a few tips on how to set the stage for the needed conversation.

1. Keep the conversation relaxed and as low key as possible.
2. Ideally, siblings are present as well so everyone hears what is said.
3. One way to start your conversation is to bring up aging family friends or public figures that have had life changing events, such as a stroke, talk about how they are handling the changes in their lives. This can be the natural segue into a productive conversation about your parents' wishes.

4. Next, let your parents decide how long that the conversation lasts. Remember that your family members may have differing perspectives, and a calm discussion, although ideal, on these matters may be unrealistic. You may need to take a break from your conversation and come back to it another time. It's never time wasted because the idea or thoughts about these matters have been planted in everyone's minds. If your family has difficulty communicating you may need a third party to mediate. Did I already mention, keep the conversation relaxed and low key?

5. Last but certainly not least, there are resources on line that are very helpful such as the *ElderCareLink* website. You can download a printable checklist that lays out the concerns of all parties. Sometimes looking at everyone's concerns on paper can be a way to start talking about what to do if...and topics can be prioritized.

If your conversation goes well you can get a good feel for what your parents' wishes are if the time comes that they need some help. ☆

Source: *ElderCareLink*

For personal and confidential requests for services, contact Mimi Kaufman at the JFS office, 1050 Chinoe Road, Suite 112, or call 859-269-8244.

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For more information about this program visit
www.itnbluegrass.org or call 859-252-8665.

Camp Shalom Gears Up (from page 1)

As many of you know, I have had a small role at Camp Shalom over the years as an extension of my Communications job with JFB. My own background, which may not be as widely known, includes many cherished childhood years of attending and working with day camps and Jewish resident camps. Beginning in 1998, after five summers as a pre-teen and teen camper at Camp JCA Shalom in California, I began my summer and seasonal career as a staff person moving my way up from Counselor-In-Training to eventually become the Director of the Counselor-in-Training program in 2003. All in all, it was an amazing six years of camp experience that has provided me with many of the skills and love of Jewish community that I carry today.

Thank goodness we have an amazing camp committee this year to help with the transition. Elissa Weinstein, who was also Assistant Director at camp a few years ago, has passionately led the committee for the past two years. This year's committee members include Karen Gedaly Lisa Martin, Lisa Miller, Beth Yelowitz, -camp parents - and Minna Katz-Brown, a camp grandmother. All have been fantastic volunteers and are personally invested in seeing the success and continuity of Camp Shalom.

Most of our changes at camp this year will be reflected in the application process, staffing, and programming. First, the application will reflect a change in group organization from age to entering grade level. We will keep the *Gesher* program, but it will now be a camp unit rather than a separately identified entity, and will only be for youth entering grades 6 and 7. *Habonim*, a new group focusing on social action, volunteerism, and community building will be our new teen leadership program for youth entering grades 8 and 9. Ninth graders may still apply for the CIT program if they do not wish to participate in *Habonim* for a second year. Our beloved Ofarim group will be for children entering grades Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1st. *Tsofim* will be for entering

2nd and 3rd graders, and *Chalutzim* will be for entering 4th and 5th graders.

Programmatically, there will be a greater emphasis on Jewish values and identity woven throughout each day and session. With our weekly themes, Torah portion texts, and other curriculum pieces used by JCC camps, we hope to inject and tie together the most essential aspects of being Jewish with a fun, safe, and fulfilling experience for each camper.

Relating to both programming and staff, we are reaching out to high school and college students to help us expand our team of activity specialists who have the potential to bring their own love of arts and crafts, science, nature, Jewish learning, sports, music, cooking, creative writing, volunteerism, and much more to each day. If anyone is interested in applying for a staff position, they can do so online at <http://bit.ly/TGXJYD>

To put our parents' minds at ease, the Camp staff will be participating in mandatory 3-day training over the weekend before camp. This will serve as a chance to celebrate Shabbat, really dive into the nuts and bolts of their jobs, and give them an opportunity to bond and prepare for camp as a team. Additionally, we will be certifying archery specialists, attending CPR and First Aid trainings, and be reaching out to local law enforcement to help create more comprehensive emergency plans to cover all possibilities.

Additionally, the camp committee is exploring options for transportation to and from camp during the week. This was a request of many parents in feedback sessions held this past Fall. There will be a necessary fee associated with this service.

We are also excited to announce several opportunities to show support for Camp Shalom in the coming months. Puccini's Restaurant in Chevy Chase will be hosting a Camp Shalom Day on Monday, February 18. A portion of the day's sales will be sent to the Fed-



eration for Camp Shalom. Bring your family and friends and show support for our community camp program.

The other event is a Camp Reunion at AirTime on Sunday, March 3rd from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. AirTime is located at 108 Bradley Drive in Nicholasville, just a couple of minutes outside Lexington. We will eat cake, hang out, and bounce. Parents welcome. Cost will be \$8 per child to bounce for over one hour on their room full of inflatables. A special early registration rate for camp will also be available for those in attendance.

Finally, I want to again extend my thanks to Kathy Feinberg. She has

been a tremendous asset to camp over the seasons bringing her creativity, compassion, and warmth to each summer and we have been blessed to have her with us. She guided us through more than a decade of our precious community program with grace and love and I hope you will all express to her the gratitude felt for that dedication. In her honor, I hope all of you will consider a small donation to our Camp Shalom scholarship fund or our Dil Darlington camp supply fund, set up by Kathy in memory of her father, to help grow our program to allow even more children to share in this special experience in the future. I am looking forward to an amazing 45th summer at Camp Shalom! ☆

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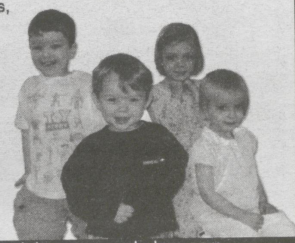
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Ask A Rabbi

Rabbi Moshe Smolkin



Q: Why is it important for me to become a member of a synagogue?

A: Jewish tradition has a wonderful phrase: *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh BaZeh*. Because the Hebrew can take more than one meaning, this phrase can mean both 'all Jews are interconnected' and 'all Jews are responsible one another.' Joining a synagogue allows us to manifest our connection and a caring for other Jews. And, when we join together, we can create beautiful caring communities.

The Hebrew for synagogue is *Beit Keneset*, a house of gathering. A synagogue is a place where all Jews should be welcome to gather together. Whether Jews are from different backgrounds or observances, whether they are old or young, whether they are homosexual or straight, whether they are Black or White, Asian or Hispanic, whether they are single or married, whether they have a Jewish partner or are in an interfaith relationship, whether they are poor or wealthy, whether they are working or not, whether they are ardent atheists or whether they have a deep belief in God, whether they are Republicans or Democrats, Libertarians or Socialists, whether they are outgoing or shy, whether they have studied Judaism for years or are just now entering the Jewish world, all Jews should be welcome within a

synagogue. By joining a synagogue, we show our support for the Jewish community, with all its wonderful diversity.

As Rabbi Jack Reimer shared, "I want to be a part of a synagogue because I want to be a part of the Jewish people, and there is no other institution that unites the Jews as well, across the centuries and across the borders. The synagogue is not only a bond to my past. It is also a bond to the Jewish people of the present, the ones with whom I live. During the week, I may bump into them somewhere, as a neighbor, as a friend, as a client, perhaps even as a co-worker or as a competitor. But when we meet together in this place, we meet as partners. We stand here with a sense of being connected to each other, and of being responsible for each other."

Another way to describe a synagogue in Hebrew is a *Beit Midrash*, a house of learning. Learning is so central to being a Jew. For thousands of years we have carried with us a book called Torah, the teaching. The diversity found within a synagogue gives rise to wonderful teachings, for each person has their own unique perspective. There is a famous phrase in tradition, *Shivim Panim LaTorah*, there are 70 faces to the Torah. Everyone's perspective is important, and if we are missing

anyone's perspective, our understanding will be incomplete. We need to join a synagogue because we need to share our important and unique ways of seeing the world. Each member has something to teach, and all of us have so much we can learn.

Synagogues encourage learning for all ages. When we are young, we must have the support of others. By joining a synagogue, we demonstrate our support for the education of the next generation, through teaching, encouraging students, and/or financially supporting the religious school. God willing, each of us will have lives filled with learning. By joining a synagogue we can join a community of people who *Mechadedin Zeh Et Zeh BaHalakhah*, who sharpen each other intellectually on the Jewish path.

Yet one more way of defining a synagogue in Hebrew is a *Beit Tefilah*, a house of prayer. Synagogues provide us with a sacred space where we can share our innermost dreams and feelings. Within Judaism, our prayers are filled with the language of 'we/us/our' rather than 'I/me/my': "Hear O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is one;" or "Praised are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Who has kept us alive, and sustained us, and helped us to reach this time." Judaism is filled with a sense of com-

munity, and joining a synagogue helps us to be part of the communal Jewish voice.

When we join a synagogue, we form a sacred community where we can pray together through the difficult times, where we can celebrate joyous occasions, and where we can pray with our feet, as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, by working as a community to make this world a better place.

Here in Lexington, Kentucky, we are blessed with incredible Jewish synagogues, with wonderfully caring people. This is our community, and by joining a synagogue, we can both enjoy the benefits of this vibrant Jewish community and give this gift to others as well. When we join a synagogue, we show our caring and commitment for our community and for the Jewish people. ✨

[ed. note: In the preceding article, synagogue is used in a generic fashion and does not signify a specific Lexington congregation.]

Have a question? Ask a rabbi

The rabbis write columns in response to questions submitted by the readers. We encourage you—whether you are a member of the Jewish community or not—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.com 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.

Tzeason of Tzedakah: A Season of Blessings

By Lori Bernard
Coordinator of Informal Education

Light a Candle, Light a Life was the motto for Tzeason of Tzedakah this year. If this motto held true, the Jewish community of Lexington lit a lot of lives this tzeason. Over 115 people volunteered at eleven different events filling over 130 "jobs" throughout the month of December. This figure does not include the numerous doctors in our community who volunteer to be on call or work in emergency rooms and hospitals on Christmas day - as well as others who annually volunteer for organizations at this time of year - so their fellow co-workers can celebrate Christmas with their families.

Along with sending out a general request for volunteers, this year we

asked the various Jewish community organizations to "sponsor" volunteers to work at an event. The response to the new program was extraordinary. Thanks to the positive responses from these organizations: B'nai Brith (Leon Cooper - coordinator), Hadassah (Judy Saxe - coordinator), the Havurah (David Wekstein - coordinator), Ohavay Zion Synagogue (Lisa Satin - coordinator), OZS Youth Group (Ilona Szekeley - coordinator), and Temple Adath Israel (Tammy Brennan and Rabbi Kline - co-coordinators) and TAI Social Action Committee (Karen Patrone), we were able to expand our volunteer outreach. In addition to sorting food at God's Pantry, delivering Meals-on-Wheels for three different churches, delivering meals for Moveable Feast, entertaining residents at Mayfair Village, and cooking and serving dinner at both

the Catholic Action Center and Ronald McDonald House, volunteers set-up and helped people shop at the Catholic Action Center's Community Christmas Store. Sayre Christian Village volunteers celebrated December Birthdays with residents and served refreshments after a residents' choir concert. *Todah Rabah* to all who helped to make this Tzeason of Tzedakah so meaningful to those we were able to serve.

Next year we hope to expand our reach even further into the Lexington community by offering additional volunteer opportunities, and increasing our donations to God's Pantry and the Humane Society. ☆

See pictures on pages 16 & 17

Golden Apple Award (from page 1)

congregations that involve large numbers of their members in social action or that have created new and effective projects. Through the Lexington African American Coalition's Adopt-A-School program, TAI adopted Ashland Elementary and continued providing an array of services.

As Rabbi Kline wrote in one of his Shabbat Shalom messages, "We stand in God's shoes as we work with people to heal the world." In working with children and families at Ashland Elementary School, TAI volunteers are mending the world and creating blessings in our community. ☆

THE LEXINGTON PHILHARMONIC *Beethoven* + eighth blackbird

Friday, March 1, 2013 | 7:30 pm
Singletary Center for the Arts | Tickets: \$25-60

LexPhil welcomes two-time Grammy-winning ensemble eighth blackbird performing the groundbreaking composition *On a Wire* by Pulitzer Prize winning composer, Jennifer Higdon. The concert concludes with Beethoven's powerful *Symphony No. 7*.

859.233.4226 | www.lexphil.org

KICKED BACK CLASSICS

Thursday, February 28, 2013 | 7:00 pm | Downtown Arts Center
Tickets: \$15

Members of eighth blackbird and Music Director and Conductor, Scott Terrell, share a first-hand look at their musical inspirations.

Tickets are available through the Downtown Arts Center by calling 859-225-0370. Box Office fees apply.

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This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts

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Photo: eighth blackbird

Modern Technology Helps Preserve Ancient Culture

By Hanna B. Smith

The Samaritans are an ancient community claiming descent from the Israelite tribes of Ephraim and Menashe, the sons of Joseph. Their high priest claims his descent from Moses' brother Aaron of the Levite tribe. According to Samaritan tradition the group split from the main Jewish branch at the time of the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. Instead the Samaritans chose Mount Gerizim as their holy place.

Throughout the centuries the Samaritans remained in the Holy Land, carefully guarding their tradition. They speak and write an ancient Hebrew and they celebrate only holidays that are based upon the Torah. Today the Samaritan community is split between Nablus in the West Bank and Holon, south-east of Tel Aviv.

(For detailed information about the Samaritans, start with Wikipedia.org.)

Not surprisingly, given the politics of the Near East, conversions and persecutions, the fortunes of the Samaritan community have fluctuated over the centuries. In its heyday in the fifth century the community numbered over a million people. At the beginning of the 20th century only 100 Samaritans were left. Yitzhak Ben-Zvi (1884-1963), Israel's second president, actively helped the Samaritan community. Also, Samaritan elders permitted

marriages between Samaritan men and Israel-born Jewish women. Today the community stands at 750 people.

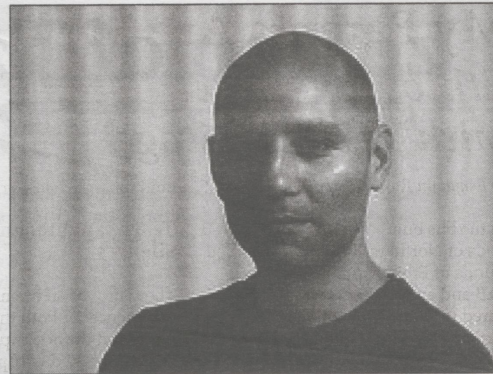
Dire poverty forced the Samaritan community to sell many of their precious manuscripts, especially during the 18th, 19th, and early 20th century. Scholars and private collectors acquired these manuscripts, many of which were eventually given to universities around the globe. The Karaite scholar of religion Abraham Firkovich purchased 1,300 documents in 1864. He transferred the documents to the Czarist library in St. Petersburg, Russia. Today this is the National Library of Russia. In the early 20th century a wealthy philanthropist from Michigan, Edward Warren, visited Palestine. There he discovered the ancient community of Samaritans, learned of their plight, and decided to help. In response to his kindness, the community gave Edward Warren ancient manuscripts of the Torah for they had nothing else to give. In addition, Mr. Warren also purchased manuscripts. His plan was to store the manuscripts and to allow the Samaritans to buy them back as their fortunes improved.

Edward Warren died in 1919, and in 1950 his children donated the collection to Michigan State College, which later became the University of Michigan. Other manuscripts found their way into libraries in Oxford and Manchester in England, Paris, France, Australia, Israel, and into private hands

in other places. Some manuscripts remained in the ancient synagogue in Nablus.

Because of their great age many of these documents are fragile, and their preservation has become urgent. Enter digitization, a process which converts information into a digital format.

Dr. Jim Ridolfo, a member of the Lexington Jewish community, has been working on creating a digital archive of Samaritan texts since 2007. A rhetorical scholar, he is assistant professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. In 2008 Dr. Ridolfo and Professor William Hart-Davidson of Michigan State University earned funding for the project from the National Endowment of the Humanities. In addition, Dr. Ridolfo received the 2011-2012 Middle East and North African Regional Research Fulbright scholarship. This scholarship enabled him to spend seven months in Israel and the West Bank, working and meeting with Samaritan elders and their community, including Benyamin Tsedaka, head of the A.B. Institute for Samaritan Studies in Holon, Israel. Mr. Tsedaka



Jim Ridolfo

Photo by Udi Tirosch

is an advisor to the project. Another partner is Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

Dr. Ridolfo reports that the digitization project has been well received by the Samaritan community because this process will give them access to manuscripts once lost to them. Also, in contrast to former secretiveness many Samaritans favor opening their ancient texts to the wider public. The feeling among Samaritans is that the world needs to be educated about their community in order for them to survive as a people, according to Dr. Ridolfo. ☆

(Information based upon: Haaretz, May 26, 2012, "Using Cutting-edge technology, researchers unearth the history of Israel's Samaritan community". University of Cincinnati, McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, "English Professor Earns Fulbright to Study Samaritans.")



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My Parents Are My Heroes: Ethiopian-Israeli Teens Connect with Their Heritage

By Benjamin Rutland exclusive to eJP

As the bus bumped along the unpaved roads of Northern Ethiopia, the varied sounds of Ethiopian pop, American R&B and an occasional Israeli classic blared from the smartphones of the participants. The soundtrack reflected the multi-layered identities of the 15 outstanding Ethiopian-Israeli teens who participated in a roots tour of Ethiopia during Hannukah this year. I had the privilege to join the group as a representative of The Jewish Agency for Israel and Keren Hayesod in order to help document the experience.

Ethiopian Jews began to arrive in Israel in significant numbers from the mid 1980's. Although there are many successful Ethiopian-Israelis who have made an important impact on Israeli society, the community as a whole has suffered from low educational and socio-economic achievements.

The roots tour pilot program was the brainchild of the veteran Ethiopian-Israeli journalist Danny Abebe, who writes for the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahronot*. Abebe felt that many of the community's problems resulted from the difficult relationship between Ethiopian children and their parents. The children, who pick up Hebrew relatively quickly, often have to look after their parents, act as translators and help them to navigate Israeli society. As a consequence the children are often embarrassed by their parents and feel alienated from them.

While serving at *Galei Zahal* (Army radio), the commander of the station Col. Moshe Shlonsky told Abebe that he should visit Ethiopia to reconnect to his roots. After his service, Abebe delayed a planned visit to South America and visited Ethiopia without telling his parents. When he returned to Israel and told his father about the trip his father broke down in tears, the first time that Abebe had seen him express

emotion, much less cry.

Tears, laughter and thoughtful silences

The tour was an intense emotional experience for both the teenage participants and the accompanying adults. During the 12 day trip, the group was based mainly in Gondar in Northern Ethiopia where The Jewish Agency runs a community center, school and synagogue for those waiting to make *aliyah* (a process which is due to be completed by 2013). From Gondar, the teens visited villages where their parents came from and sites of significance to Ethiopian Jewry. They also volunteered at The Jewish Agency facilities with the children who are waiting to make *aliyah*. The Jewish Agency also organized the ground component of the tour.

The tour had too many emotional highs to list, but one of the peaks was the visit to the village of Jenda. The grandparents of one of the participants, Zahava Aregito Zagaya's came from Jenda. Upon arrival at the village we began to ask the residents on the street if anyone knew Zahava's grandparents. It didn't take long to find someone who said that Zahava's grandparent's house was only 10 minutes away and that he would take us.

After a 45 minute trek through the fields, accompanied by dozens of local children who were excited at the arrival of the strange group, we arrived at a group of wooden houses. An elderly lady said that she remembered the Zagayas well and explained where Zahava's grandfather's house used to stand and where his fields were located. Zahava listened politely, but was not convinced that the man she had heard about was really her grandfather. Then another woman called her over and began to recite the names of her aunts. A wave of emotion visibly swept over Zahava's face and her eyes



Photo courtesy Michal Shmulovich/ Times of Israel

A group of children at the synagogue in Gondar.

filled with tears as she realized that she was indeed standing in her grandfather's village. Prior to her selection for the trip, Zahava's father had told her little about his life in Ethiopia. On the walk back to the bus, the organizers gave Zahava a phone to call her father. For the first time in her life, Zahava told her father "I love you Dad" and he replied that he loved her too.

Amongst the many other highlights of the trip included: cleaning up the memorial at Wolleka to those who were killed on the way to Sudan, and singing *Hatikva* during the ceremony to honor them; waking up at 4 am to escort *olim* to the bus that would take them to the airport before flying to Israel; praying in the synagogue of Ambovar, a former center of Jewish life in Ethiopia; and climbing the hill near Ambovar where the *Sigd* (a unique Ethiopian Jewish holiday) was celebrated.

The participants' experience volunteering with the children and teens who are being prepared for *Aliyah* in The Jewish Agency's school and synagogue was particularly significant. The students ran a series of educational activities on Hanukkah, told their personal stories, and ran games for the children. For the local children, seeing a group of confident well-dressed Hebrew-speaking Ethiopian-Israelis sent a message that they too would integrate into Israeli society after their arrival in Israel. After *Havdalah* on the group's last night in Gondar (a Saturday), a

group of local teens gathered around the boys in the group and began to sing with gusto "*Le'shana Ha'ba Be'yerushalaim*" (Next year in Jerusalem). For them it was a reality, even if they had only a limited conception as to what lay ahead of them. Throughout the week each member of the group had bonded with the children. As they said their goodbyes and prepared to board the bus, the children broke into tears, followed by almost all of the teens. One teen, Nati Wote bent over a seven year old child, holding him tight as he hugged him. "Don't lose this. Look after it with your life" he said as he handed him his contact details, "and when you get to Israel, you find me!" The little boy clenched the piece of paper tightly and ran off, crying.

Almost all of the participants met close relatives whom they had never met before or had not seen for many years. Many of the relatives were waiting to make *aliyah* and would soon be reunited with their families, but some were not entitled to make *aliyah*. These reunions, which largely took place in the small one room houses without plumbing where the relatives lived, were bittersweet with neither side knowing when they would next see the other.

On each of the buildings at The Jewish Agency school an Ethiopian proverb in Amharic and Hebrew is painted. One of them read "a bird can't fly

see *Children at the Synagogue*, page 10

Children at the Synagogue (from page 9)

without wings and honor cannot be gained without work". The tour had a significant impact on all of the participants. The participants felt that their Ethiopian identities were strengthened and that they could return to Israel with heads held high. Many, such as Zahava Aregito, have chosen to start using their Ethiopian names in addition to the Hebrew ones they were given in Israel. The participants learned to value what they had in Israel and, in particular, their parents. The interactions with both the residents of the villages and the children being prepared for aliyah reminded the teens of what their parents had left behind and what their own lives would be like had their parents not left Ethiopia. During the tearful farewell at the synagogue, they all saw themselves reflected in the young children.

In summing up the tour, one of the organizers, David Mihret, Head of the Steering Committee for Ethiopian Immigrants in the Educational System, said, "Our Ethiopian identity is a central element of our personal and communal identities. During the tour, the teenagers connected to their Ethiopian identities, which also allowed them to strengthen their connection to their Jewish and Israeli identities. As one of the participants, Gila, said 'I returned more Ethiopian, more Jewish and more Israeli'. The participants learned to appreciate and respect their parents. I think that we achieved our goals."

From a personal perspective, I was deeply moved on the tour. Standing in the synagogue at Ambovar and looking at the teens around me, I thought that our great-grandparents had no idea that the other existed, yet here we were, proud citizens of the State of Israel praying together. One evening toward the end of the program, the teens were asked who was their hero? They almost all responded that their parents were their heroes. It was then that we the adults, knew that the program was a success.

Lessons learned

The tour presented logistical and educational challenges for the orga-

nizers. The participants were a mix of two groups with different histories: 1st generation immigrants born in Ethiopia (*Shearit Yisrael* or more commonly known as *Falash Mura*) and 2nd generation (*Beta Yisrael*). As noted, many of the participants had relatives who are not entitled to immigrate to Israel, which caused some of the participants to be frustrated.

Many of the elements of the program worked and are likely to be retained in the future. These included the volunteer work with the children, cleaning up the monument (in future visits cemeteries will be cleaned up), and the phone calls to parents from the villages. On future tours, I hope to see greater use of informal education tools, the inclusion of younger (Ethiopian-Israeli) counselors, and a greater focus on the link between the participant's Ethiopian and Israeli identities.

The use of a roots tour to enhance Jewish identity is not a new idea. For many years Jewish organizations have run roots tours to Europe and North Africa. In recent years, small groups have also begun to visit Ethiopia, including school groups, but these have been isolated cases. Currently, there is no central body to organize tours to Ethiopia for larger numbers, to build a logistical infrastructure, or to integrate educational lessons. The partners to this project are currently engaged in an evaluation of the pilot before deciding on future steps to expand it. At this stage, a second tour is being planned for another 15 teens with the objective of ensuring a 50-50 split between those born in Israel and those who immigrated as young children.

The project was supported and organized by The Jewish Agency, Keren Hayesod, the Rashi Foundation, the Society for the Advancement of Education, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, The Ministry of Education, the Ariella Foundation within the framework of Samai, and The Centre for Media and Excellence for Ethiopian-Israeli Youth. ✧

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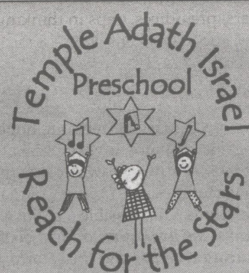
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"25 Years of Excellence"

German Chancellor Angela Merkel helps to "make the impossible possible" with the Leo Baeck Education Center's Jewish-Arab co-existence musical project

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was recently awarded the Heinz Galinski prize from the Jewish Community of Berlin in recognition of her belief and commitment to the development and promotion of Jewish life in Germany and for public advocacy for Israel issues. Chancellor Merkel decided to donate the prize money of 5,000 Euros to the Jewish-Arab co-existence musical project "Step by Step - Sauwa-Sauwa" – a joint project between Leo Baeck Education Center's Carmellin Troupe and the Ein Mahel School in the lower Galilee, which promotes cooperation between Jewish and Arab youth.

Chancellor Merkel wins and donates the Heinz Galinski award

The Heinz Galinski award is named after the late Heinz Galinski, former Chairman of the Jewish Community of Berlin and the Central Council of Jews in Germany. After WWII, he devoted his life to the memory of a world that had been destroyed and reestablishing the Jewish community in Germany. In her acceptance speech, the Chancellor said that this prize has "a very, very deep significance" to her, and she reiterated her commitment to the Jewish community in Germany and to the State of Israel. She said: "The new vibrant Jewish life in Germany is in the truest sense of the word wonderful." The Chancellor chose to donate the prize money, to "Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa", a unique Arab-Jewish musical and multimedia project, further exemplifying her commitment to Israel, pluralism, and social responsibility.

Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa

"Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa" is a modern and exciting musical loosely based on the musical and movie Chorus Line. The idea was inspired by ten teens from the Leo Baeck education center, Haifa, and the Ein Mahel school, lower Galilee, who participated in Friends Forever project in the summer of 2011 and includes forty Moslem and Jewish-Israeli teens. These young people live in the same country and are worlds apart; the project showcases their commonalities, their differences, and how they view their futures. The encounter brings to the surface fears, prejudices, gaps in thinking and enormous confusion – a mirror of Israeli society as a whole. Through the auditions the similarities between the teens become more apparent – the universal issues of freedom, hope, social acceptance, love, families. "Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa" contains a powerful message of hope, of making the impossible possible – as such, it represents the values of the Leo Baeck education center and the reform global movement every step of the way. The participants, who previously had shown little interest in coexistence programming, have learned from this project and have the potential to become young leaders, role models and messengers of coexistence.

Step By Step teens

The show opened the 2012 Haifa Young Artists Festival on 10th March 2012 to a mixed audience of 1,300 Arabs and Jews, then traveled to Zurich and London in April 2012, and will be performing in Germany this month. For more information about the project



Photo by Bundesregierung/Steins

German Chancellor Angela Merkel receiving the Heinz Galinski Prize

visit the Leo Baeck web site and Facebook page. For a documentary on the project, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7j-M3kmBDqE>.

Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa: bringing it together at "Connections 2013"

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) will be showcasing Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa at the Connections 2013 conference in Jerusalem, May 2013, as part of the Leo Baeck Education Center 75th anniversary celebrations, on Thursday, May 2 2013. The Center was opened as a kindergarten for 18 children of Holocaust survivors in 1938 and has grown to its current enrollment of over 2500 students, touching the lives of over 25,000 families in the area through its many programs. Conference delegates will help celebrate the success that is Leo Baeck Haifa and the role it plays within our World Union family, through learning, music and prayer; the Step By Step - Sauwa-Sauwa performance will be a special highlight of this event.

Save the Date

June 2, 2013

Gala Tribute Dinner

Honoring Linda and Dr. Leon Ravvin

Hilton Studies at Lexington Green

HELP!

By Betty and Lowell Nigoff

I am told I have 45 seconds to get to the bomb shelter after I hear the siren alerting us to a missile attack. The problem is my barrack is much further than 45 seconds away, even at a fast run. The four other women in my room are not runners, so it will take them much longer to reach safety. My roommates and I decided to sleep in our clothes, so at least we would be dressed when/if we heard the siren. We were fortunate - we did not hear a siren that night or the next day, and then we left the base for Shabbat.

The above happened on our last week volunteering on an army base in Israel, located about 20 miles from Gaza. Our trips to Israel are never boring, and this trip had its excitement.

Lowell and I arrived in Israel in mid-October for the centennial Hadassah convention, along with 9 other Lexingtonians. The convention was wonderful, with highlights (or lowlights depending on your politics) of speeches given by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres, and US Ambassador to Israel, Daniel Shapiro. Following the weeklong convention in Jerusalem, we toured northern Israel for 3 days. We stayed at a very plush kibbutz located about 8 miles south of Lebanon, 25 miles west of Syria, and 50 miles south of Damascus. We toured the Golan, Tzfat, Tzipori, Metula, Hula Valley, Naot shoe factory, and Caesarea.

Following this whirlwind tour of the Northern Galilee, we spent a week in Tel Aviv, staying in a wonderful 2 bedroom apartment near the Azrieli Towers, walking to the beach, discovering new restaurants, enjoying old ones, and living like Israelis (at least for a week).

Following these first two weeks of being pampered in nice hotels and kibbutz, we joined the army. Our first week of volunteering with Sar-El, was spent in the Negev, almost an hour south of Be'er Sheva. Our fellow volunteers were from Austria, USA,

and Canada, and were a relatively small group of 9. We did office work, swept, cleaned, sorted bullets, got to know our fellow workers and soldiers, enjoyed army food including bourekas Gedara (the army cook's speciality), and learned more about Israel in our nightly meetings with our madrichot (IDF female leaders). Our group was taken to Rehovot the last day of the workweek to tour the Ayalon underground bullet factory, after which we said goodbye to our new friends, and spent Shabbat in Rehovot. The city of Rehovot is 17 miles south of Tel Aviv, and 25 miles northeast of Gaza.

That Sunday, we met a new group of Sar-El volunteers (from Canada, Morocco, USA, Germany, and Hungary), and we were moved to a different base, this one close to Rehovot. This would be our home for the next two weeks (except for weekends.) At this base, we unpacked and repacked duffel bags, repaired and cleaned guns, painted boxes, and cleaned and swept. The USA reelected President Obama during this week, and tension with Hamas was building in Israel. At this base, we also started a new tradition (at least to our knowledge). Every morning following breakfast, we attend flag raising, and then went to work. Lowell spearheaded an effort to sing HaTikvah immediately following flag raising. Some of the soldiers who also lined up for flag raising joined in with us, and we were revved up to go off to another day of work. The last week on this base we saw the beginning of "Operation Pillar of Defense," officially launched on November 14, 2012 with the killing of Ahmed Jabari, chief of the Gaza military wing of Hamas. We watched as the missiles of the Iron Dome intercepted Kassam rockets from Gaza - the result was a puff of white smoke, much like a cloud, to our west that dissipated with time. For me, the white cloud may have disappeared but the missile threat did not. We were shown where the bomb shelters were on the base, and it was imperative to get there as quickly as possible. We heard the missiles and felt the windows shake during lunch, as well as during work time, and at night. We saw reservists arrive at our base, grab

their duffel bags, night vision gear, guns, and wait for further orders. This gave meaning to our work as we watched the soldiers pick up the duffel bags we had just packed and the guns we had just cleaned.

We finished our volunteer work after three weeks, and moved closer (20 miles) to Gaza to stay with our friends at Kfar Aviv. Here we heard many sirens, and ran to the bomb shelter in the basement of their home. The shelter had been equipped with toys and games to keep the children busy, and hopefully to keep them unafraid of what was happening around them. Our host family had planned to take a short vacation south and had asked us to join them, but roads south were off limits, and Israelis were encouraged not to travel south. Our friends (13 including us) decided to go north to a kibbutz by Nahariya. The kibbutz offered a discounted rate to those coming from the south to give them a safe haven from the missiles. Another kibbutz close by offered free dinners to people from the south, and we enjoyed a wonderful Shabbat meal. We spent Shabbat visiting, playing games, talking, walking, and just enjoying not hearing sirens and having to run for the shelter. We left to return to Kfar Aviv after Havdalah, and the traffic headed south was bumper to bumper. We arrived back at

the moshav late, but safe.

Early the next morning, the siren went off, and we ran to the shelter. Seven more missiles were heard in rapid succession aimed at Ashdod 4 miles southwest, but no siren was sounded. We bought snacks and pop and other goodies, and drove to the Iron Dome temporary site near Ashdod to show support to the soldiers. No missiles were launched while we were there, but many news crews from all over the world were interviewing those in

see **HELP: Lowells in Israel**, page 24



Shalom Achshav

By Marty Solomon

Does anyone seriously think about the future of Israel? Does anyone really believe that the status quo in Israel is sustainable? I, for one, do not.

One future view envisions Israel as an Arab state. Today, in December of 2035, the Knesset voted to change the name of Israel to Palestine. The vote was 70 in favor and 66 against. The new law also includes restrictions on Jews that include a curfew of 10PM, no mixing of men and women who are not married and a prohibition of wearing the Star of David in public. This is the result of the changing demographics in which Arab citizens now outnumber Israelis. The Prime Minister, Ali Abud said that these changes were required to ease the memory of the tyranny that Israelis had inflicted on Palestinians in the past.

A second future view is provided by Avraham Burg, a former speaker of the Knesset, who says that Israel's future is in jeopardy. He says, "It will not be possible to define Israel as a democracy when a Jewish minority rules over a Palestinian majority between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea — controlling millions of people without political rights or basic legal standing." This would result in an apartheid state, quite similar to what existed in South Africa where the minority whites subjugated blacks to second-class citizenship. The international community, as was the case with South Africa, will not be friendly to another apartheid state.

A third view is one in which a Palestinian state and a Jewish state exist, side-by-side, in peace, with a vigorous exchange of students, workers and commerce.

It is this third view that I believe most people prefer, but one that becomes less likely, day-by-day. But over the last decade, the Israeli government has spent billions of dollars to pay Jews to relocate in the West Bank. Every year, more and more settlements are built.

Now, there are over 130 settlements in the West Bank where 350,000 Jews live. As you can see, settlements are scattered all through the West Bank. Another 260,000 settlers live in East Jerusalem, outside the green line.

As settlement development continues, it will become progressively more difficult to carve out a contiguous area to comprise part of a Palestinian state.

To make matters worse, you can see that the security wall that was built to separate Israel proper from terrorists has been dramatically extended to snake around West Bank Jewish settlements.

And a new Israeli plan for even more settlements comes only days after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reiterated his commitment to a negotiated two-state solution, based on parameters that are widely recognized by Israelis, Americans, and the international communities. Prime Minister Netanyahu's immediate response was to dismiss it out of hand and say that the offer is not credible. Unfortunately, the powerful right wing in Israel has never believed in a two-state solution, but instead believes that God willed the territory to the Jews.

It seems clear that without peace, one of the first two future views will almost surely emerge and that peace talks could begin tomorrow. Recall that in 2009 Israel declared a moratorium on new settlements and the Palestinians came to the bargaining table. They stated that they would continue the talks as long as new settlements were halted. But shortly afterward, Israel restarted settlement construction and the Palestinians walked.

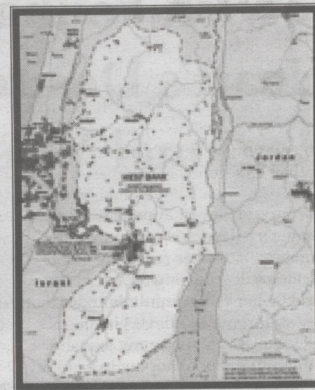
New peace talks appear attainable if Israel places another moratorium on new settlements. Unfortunately, while Abbas now asks for peace talks to begin, Netanyahu ignores his plea. Even Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz, Israel's staunchest ally, is urging a settlement moratorium to restart peace talks. Tzipi Livni, Israel's former for-

eign minister says, "Israel lives on the mouth of a volcano, the international clock is ticking, and the existence of a Jewish, democratic state is at threat."

Both former Prime Ministers Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert, warn that Israel cannot escape becoming an apartheid state if it does not relinquish "almost all the territories, if not all," including the Arab parts of East Jerusalem. Olmert says that under Binyamin Netanyahu's government, negotiations have been frozen and there has been an ill-conceived effort to prove to the Israeli public that there is no partner for peace. But Defense Minister Ehud Barak defended Abbas saying, "you can't say we have no partner [for peace]."

Peace is long overdue. The lack of peace is costing both Israelis and Palestinians human life and untold treasure—money that could do so much to enhance the lives of citizens in both camps. We know that military power did not solve this conflict and never will. Settlement development is the stumbling block, it must stop now so that peace talks can begin. Those who care deeply about Israel's future need to loudly speak up and insist on Shalom Achshav (Peace Now). ☆

Dr. Solomon is a retired Professor at the University of Kentucky and can be reached at mbsolomon@aol.com



Settlements in West Bank



The Wall



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Lunch and Learn with our
Lexington community rabbis
February 26 with Rabbi Moshe Smolkin
(There will not be a class in March.)

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

February 2013 Shalom | 13

Jewish Young Professionals Might Meet Their Heart's Desire at Access' Regional Valentine's Party

February 14th is fast approaching! For many it's a day filled with fun and romance. However, for many others who are still searching for Mr. or Ms. Right, it can be a painful reminder that they still haven't found their special Valentine. But now, for any Jewish young professional hoping to be hit by Cupid's arrow, there's the Fifth Annual Regional Jewish Singles' event, where some of the most eligible Jewish young professionals, ages 21-35, from Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Indianapolis, Louisville and Lexington will convene in Cincinnati for a chance to fast track dozens of first dates all in one evening, when Access, an initiative of The Mayerson Foundation aimed at helping Jewish YPs connect with one another, presents: *You've Got Mail, A Valentines Card Party* on Saturday, February 9th at 8:00pm in a private room at Betty Bar, in Downtown Cincinnati.

"Each Valentine's Day weekend, nearly 100 participants from all over the region take part in this event. Over the years it has resulted in numerous matches, many of which turn into serious relationships, and even marriage, like it did for Bree and Michael Bergman, our very first Speed Dating couple to tie the knot!" says Access Coordinator, Rachel Plowden. "In the past we have hosted 'speed dating' events in which participants got three minutes to meet one-on-one with a

new person before moving on to the next one until they had about 50 mini dates," she adds. "However, this year, we're switching things up and will be putting a whole new spin on the old school tradition of exchanging Valentines. First, attendees can mix and mingle with as few or as many of the participants as they wish, all at their own pace," she explains. "Then, we'll arm everyone with a stack of personalized Valentine's calling cards. So, if a connection is made, they can drop their cards in the boxes of those special people, which will hopefully results in lots of matches made in heaven!"

"The concept for this year's event sounds simple and unimimidating," says a 28-year-old Access participant who wished not to reveal his name. "I'm pretty shy and every year I've found an excuse not to attend the Access Speed Dating event. The idea of having to strike up a conversation with that many women in one room was overwhelming to me. But this program seems more like a low key happy hour where I can choose who to talk with and for how long! I'm ready for a serious relationship and hope I'll meet someone great!"

"As anyone who's single knows, meeting someone you like, let alone someone you want to go out with again, is a very difficult task," explains Bree



Bergman. "Thankfully, I decided to open myself up to trying something new and that's how I met my husband, Michael! It was Access' Speed Dating event that enabled us to find each other, because in all honesty, I don't think we would have met each other any other way," she shares. "We will always be grateful to Access and The Mayerson Foundation for that."

While Access is not intended to be a "singles program" numerous committed relationships and marriages have occurred over the years as a result of hundreds of Jewish young professionals having repeated opportunities to see one another at parties and events throughout the year, in addition to the annual singles' event.

Alex Dal and Leigh Sorkin have been together for nearly a year. "Alex and I met at an Access JGourmet cooking class making bagels. He came over to my table and we talked for a bit, but we didn't exchange phone numbers

so I didn't think much of it," explains Leigh. "It wasn't until I saw him about a week later at an Access focus group when, like any 21st century gentleman, he 'Facebook Friendened' me and asked me for my number. I joined Access to meet new people, make new friends, and explore Cincinnati, and got a little added bonus when I met Alex. I can't believe we'll be celebrating our one year anniversary soon!"

This event is FREE and is strictly limited to Jewish men and women between the ages of 21-35, and advance reservations are mandatory. Space is limited and will be allotted on a first come first served basis. Light bites and the first drink is on Access. ☆

For more information about discounted hotel rates, and other general inquiries, or to RSVP for this event, please contact Rachel Plowden at info@jypaccess.org or 513-373-0300 or www.jypaccess.org. Access is an initiative of The Mayerson Foundation.

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Want to give your child a cherished Jewish camp experience?
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JFB's Jewish Family Services is now accepting confidential applications for camperships to not-for-profit Jewish summer camps in the region (including our local Camp Shalom) and scholarships toward not-for-profit Israel educational programs. Income is one of the criteria used to evaluate eligibility for camperships.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2013.

They can be requested from JFS or downloaded from the Jewish Family Services page at www.jewishlexington.org. For more information, contact Mimi Kaufman, Director of Jewish Family Services, at (859) 269-8244 or via email at jfs@jewishlexington.org.



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For more information or to
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or (859) 268-0672.



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS
Women's Philanthropy

"United States of Shabbat" series brings together young professionals from across the Region

It was an all-American celebration with a traditional Jewish twist this past November when Access, a program of The Mayerson Foundation for Jewish young professionals (YPs) introduced its newest "Got Shabbat" Dinner series, *The United States of Shabbat*, aimed at showcasing the best regional culture and cuisine our country has to offer... from sea to shining sea! Nearly 250 YPs participated in this event from across the region, including a group from Lexington.

The first city to be featured in this series was Cincinnati. Known as the birthplace of the Reform movement in America, it is home to many important Jewish businesses such as Manischewitz and Fleischmanns, and organizations such as the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, and of course, one of the most iconic Jewish buildings in the country, the magnificent Plum Street Temple built in 1866.

Reva Schottenstein, a Jewish YP from Lexington, made the trip to Cincinnati to participate in this event. "As the founder of Generation TAI, Temple Adath Israel's Young Professionals group, and a member of various other committees, I am very involved in the Lexington Jewish Community and participate in many Young Bluegrass Jews events. It was only natural for me to make a fun, mini road-trip when I heard about the Cincinnati-Style Shabbat event," she explains. "Access went above and beyond to welcome out of town guests from the region and even reserved a block of rooms at a hotel close by. The event offered a great opportunity to network and see

what other Jewish YP communities are doing. I am awestruck by the amazing programs that Access offers and appreciate any opportunity for the small group of us here in Central Kentucky to join together with other Jewish YPs in the region to celebrate our religious and cultural bond."

"While hundreds of YPs from Cincinnati attend our events throughout the year, it's important to us to include other Jewish young professionals from around the region in all our programs," explains Rachel Plowden, Access Event Coordinator. "We want everyone to feel welcome and take advantage of the opportunities Access affords this demographic to get to know people from a variety of cities within driving distance of one another. We are so happy that our neighbors to the south in Lexington participate in so many of our events. It's fun to mix it up with people from other cities!"

This event, like all the Shabbat Dinner Series events, and the majority of Access' other programs, was completely free. It included a brief and engaging Shabbat service just for YPs, led by Rabbi Lewis Kamrass and accompanied by the Shir Chadash band. Afterward, guests headed to the Temple's social hall for a full sit-down dinner featuring Montgomery Inn's famous barbecued chicken and brisket (kosher and vegetarian options were available), and desserts from popular Cincinnati establishments such as Busken Bakery.

The Cincinnati-Style Shabbat was the first in the new *United States of Shabbat* dinner series, which will focus on the



iconic tastes and traditions of the country's many unique cities and regions. Like Access' past International Got Shabbat dinner series, which included, Indian Summer Shabbat, Mexican-Style Shabbat, CelebRussian, Tuscan Summer Shabbat, Mid-East Feast and others, this event offered the perfect chance for guests to wind down their work week with other Jewish YPs while they enjoyed a taste of what makes Cincinnati such a unique and interesting city. The next two Shabbat dinners in this series will take place in 2013 and include NYC Shabbat and Southern Comfort Shabbat.

Access is an initiative of The Mayerson Foundation, a private family foundation in Cincinnati, and offers 4-6 programs a month designed to help Jewish young professionals get connected to one another and to the Jewish community. Access' next regional event, *You've Got Mail: Valentine Card Party for Singles*, will take place on Saturday, February 9th in Cincinnati. Discounted hotels rates have been arranged for out of town guests. ☆

To learn more about Access or any upcoming events, please visit www.jypaccess.org or contact Rachel Plowden at info@jypaccess.org.



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Charity – Or Not....

By Hanna B. Smith

Charity, giving tzedakah, is central to Judaism. Our sages have been discussing tzedakah since time immemorial, and all of us are familiar with Maimonides' levels of giving. The lowest acceptable is form is giving grudgingly and the highest level is helping a needy person become self-sufficient. But did you know that no one, not even a needy person, is exempt from giving tzedakah? According to Mar Zutra "even a poor person sustained by tzedakah should give tzedakah" (Gittin 7b).

The idea that everyone, without exception, must contribute to charity is an empowering concept. If no one is exempt from contributing to the common good then everyone has a share in society. However small the contribution is, it is needed and acceptable. People of small or even no means are players after all.

I do not know to what extent this was ever carried out, but it changes one's view of a certain segment of society. We laugh at the cheeky schnorrer whose role it is to help Rothschild fulfill the mitzvah of giving charity. However Mar Zutra's statement puts the poor man on the same level as Rothschild.

There is another rabbinic statement that a hungry person must accept a gift of food. Implied is that we should not let pride stand in the way of our survival. Life is a sacred gift. If treasured, life always has meaning. Just ask people who have supported one another through trying times.

As practical people the rabbis also discussed pitfalls inherent in giving charity. Here are two examples:

A beggar once asked King Solomon for alms. In response the king gave him a whole city. As their overlord, the citizens expected the beggar to minister to the city's needs, grant petitions, judge their law suits, etc. The beggar, unused to meeting any of these demands,

was completely overwhelmed. In anguish he went before King Solomon and beseeched the king to take back his gift. "I only asked for a few coins to buy bread," the beggar complained. "I gave according to my means, not according to your needs," was the king's reply.

The second tale comes from a collection of early 20th century short stories. Unfortunately I do not recall the author or the title of the story. The setting is the house of a rabbi, a legal authority, who daily sees petitioners asking for advice. The rabbi's wife, mindful of the mitzvah of hospitality, spends her days cooking soup. Every visitor is served a bowl of soup before leaving the house. Unfortunately, the rebetzin is a poor cook, and secretly she resents the time spent in cooking.

One of the visitors refuses to accept the soup. He is not hungry, and he is pressed for time. The rebetzin will not accept his apologies and impresses upon the visitor the obligation to eat in order to help her fulfill the mitzvah of hospitality. Their exchange results in annoyance for the visitor and agitation for the rebetzin.

In both stories the intended mitzvah creates difficulties for the receiver and, therefore, is no mitzvah at all. The king is out of touch with his subjects' lives for whose wellbeing he does not care. His intent is to look good by handing out lavish gifts.

This rebetzin seems out of touch with herself, and out of touch with her role as a community leader. The reader is not told why she sees her husband's clients in need of charity or why she spends her days lonely and in onerous work or what her thoughts are.

Our sages, old and new, remind us that even the weak have strengths and the strong are not without needs. Giving without understanding becomes wasteful and perhaps damaging. Consistently neglecting one's own needs tends to backfire. May we meet each other's needs with wisdom. ✽

Israel 21c: *Training paramedics from Jordan and Israel*

By Viva Sarah Press

Every graduation ceremony is moving. The recent paramedics commencement at an Israeli university, however, was particularly poignant as the graduating class was an unlikely mix of **Jordanian** and **Israeli students**.

Though Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994, relations between the countries have been minimal. And this makes the first-ever Jordan-Israel Academic Emergency Medicine Collaboration, at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), all the more notable.

The three-year course granted a bachelor's degree in emergency medicine to 55 students — 14 Jordanians and 40 Israelis. BGU provides the only university-based academic degree for paramedics in the Middle East.

"I would like our graduates to feel very proud to have had their education at this noble, high-ranking and humanitarian university," said Dr. Mohammed al-Hadid, head of the Jordanian Red Crescent, in his address to the first graduating class.

"Ben-Gurion University is very active in the local communities and plays a central role in development in the fields of industry, agriculture, education and in building relations with its neighbors," he continued.

Al-Hadid was one of the program's initiators in collaboration with Prof. James Torczyner, founder and director of the McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building, and former BGU Rector Jimmy Weinblatt (now president of Sapir academic college).

"It was a big success academically, socially and in terms of integration," Dr. Bruria Adini, program director, tells ISRAEL21c.

In addition to fostering mutual respect, the initiative assures that in the event

of a natural disaster in the region, Israel and Jordan will work together to save lives.

Regional cooperation

Seismologists warn that fault lines along the Syrian-African Rift could cause an earthquake in Israeli and Jordanian cities. That's why BGU organized the Joint Disaster Management Project as part of the emergency medicine program.

Jordanian and Israeli students, with officials from Magen David Adom (Israel's Red Cross equivalent) and Jordanian Red Crescent, set up a mock earthquake disaster scene in the middle of the Timna Valley to check regional preparedness among first-responders.

"We're not going to wait for something to happen," said al-Hadid. "We have started to do something before it happens and that is get to know each other, know what we are good at, exchange expertise and experience, because then our joint effort will be for saving as many people as we can in case something does happen in this region."

"It gave us all a great feeling of achievement," says Adini about the training exercise. She would like to see the program continue and include not only Jordanians and Israelis but also Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and Egyptians.

The EMS program was funded by the Israeli Ministry for Regional Cooperation, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and private donors.

"Medicine is the bridge to working together. We're all people and there's absolutely no difference between us," Adini said. "We hope this becomes a regional teamwork [project] so that we

see Training Paramedics, page 22

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Temple Adath Israel seeks people to join in Week of Generosity

"Love your neighbor as [you love] yourself."

Leviticus 19:18

"That which a person gives to another person is never lost. It is an extension of his own being. He can see a part of himself in the one to whom he has given. This is the attachment between one person and another which we call 'love.'" *Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler*

We know that there are a great many people seeking a relationship with God in this community. We also know that too often, people offer them "religion" as the answer. We believe that one finds God by showing up in people's lives.

In cooperation with the Mussar Institute Project, Temple Adath Israel will be observing the week of February 17-23 as "Generosity Week." Each night we will publish thoughts for discussion and opportunities for service... for engagement, and we will dedicate Shabbat to the study of Torah through the eyes of our ethical and spiritual teachings.

It is a part of our Jewish soul to give of ourselves to all in need. Our lives center on relationships and our hearts meet in moments when we are open to giving and receiving. Rabbi Eliezer Papo taught us, "How goodly is this good trait of a generous spirit. It is

good for Heaven and good for people, good for himself and good for others, good for this World and good for the World to Come. It is a gift from God and ingrained in humanity."

We are taught that the world is sustained upon three virtues: Torah, worship, and deeds of compassion. Torah teaches us that everyone matters. Torah teaches us to see God's reflection in the eyes of every human being. Our worship and liturgy remind us that we hold the world's future in our hands, and that we are responsible for the care and dignity of all life. Each day, we are to live as though we are praying; compassionately focusing on caring for the world.

These are not pipe dreams, these are prophetic statements, and the day that they become true, the Messianic age will vest for the world. There is a movement within Judaism that helps us remember that this Messianic future is in our hands, and if we grow to appreciate life's blessings, we can make this hope real. I refer to the study of Mussar; our ethical tradition. Mussar teaches us that the fate of the world rests in each of our hearts. Where we turn to each other with appreciation, we leave no room for derision.

Join us this week. Details will be found on the front page of our Temple Website: LexTAL.org or by calling the office and asking to receive that week's nightly email. ☆

Jewish Federation is Now Hiring!

See the Job Listing on page 3 for details or contact Judy Wortman, Executive Director for more information at jfb@jewishlexington.org or 859-268-0672.

Training Paramedics (from page 21)

can really respond in the most effective way to dealing with potential accidents in region."

Personal acquaintances change perceptions

During the first two years of the EMS program, the 14 Jordanian students lived in the dormitories at BGU. In the third year, some of the students returned to Jordanian hospitals while others did their practicum in Israeli hospitals.

While in Beersheva, they took part in campus life, social gatherings and a competency course together with their Israeli peers. The courses were taught in English.

"It's not the first time we have hosted Jordanian students, but it's the first time we have had Jordanians studying emergency medical technology at BGU," says Adini.

BGU's long history of working with Arab academics has included a Jordanian-Israeli program to restore the Red Sea's coral reef; proposed treaties for water conservation and use; enrollment of students from Arab countries in the Albert Katz International School

for Desert Studies; and outreach to Bedouins through a range of business, educational and agricultural activities.

BGU awarded al-Hadid an honorary degree for his humanitarian work with the Red Crescent and helping to establish the EMS program.

"All through my life I have been an optimist and a believer in peace and I believe in the impact of humanitarian relations on building bridges of understanding, love and respect between nations. I and my colleagues have chosen the humanitarian path to peace prepared to face all challenges and to overcome hurdles along the way," said al-Hadid.

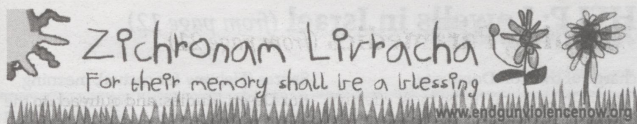
Adini said she hopes new funding will be found to continue the academic collaboration.

"I'm sure the Jordanians who have returned are all good ambassadors of the country, of the Israeli population and of BGU, specifically," says Adini. "Personal acquaintances change [preconceptions]. Peace is made between people. It's such a good experience and I feel privileged to have been a part of this heart-warming program." ☆



Photo by Yoav Galai/BGU

14 Jordanians and 40 Israelis finish a groundbreaking three-year bachelor's course in emergency medicine at an Israeli university. From left, Jordanian Red Crescent director Dr. Mohammed al-Hadid (with assistant Mohd Hadid), signing diplomas with BGU Rector Prof. Zvi Hacohen.



The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass voted to be a co-sponsor of JCPA's petition along with dozens of other Federations and Jewish Community Relations Councils.

On Friday December 14, a gunman armed with three high-powered firearms and high-capacity magazines walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Hundreds of shots were fired and twenty first-graders, ages six and seven, and six educators were killed.

This violent and horrific event aimed at children shocks our conscience and country. Our hearts are broken, our souls weep, and our arms are outstretched to the families of the victims, the survivors, the first responders, and the entire community of Newtown, Connecticut. In just the last few months, we have seen shootings at schools, malls, theaters, and houses of worship. We are pained and dismayed by the pandemic of gun violence, far exceeding other western nations, and we will not accept it.

Our tradition teaches us of the sanctity of life and how each and every person is created in the divine image. We must directly confront gun violence so that our nation is not marked nor the years measured by senseless massacres. We will not allow the intense emotion we feel now to return to a place of complacency where we become desensitized to the atrocities that unfold around us daily. We must come together to build a society worthy of those lost and a culture that represents our best virtues.

We stand committed to working with our local, state, and national leaders to squarely address these issues and honor the victims, survivors, and their families. We recognize the right of Americans to own guns, but we do not accept the current state of affairs. We stand united and call on our leaders to support comprehensive action, including meaningful legislation to limit access to assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines, aggressive enforcement of firearm regulations, robust efforts to ensure

that every person in need has access to quality mental health care, and a serious national conversation

about violence in media and games.

We, the undersigned, ask that President Obama, Congress, and every citizen to take direct and unequivocal action to stop the outrageous and unacceptable violence that is destroying the fabric of our society.

The online petition, should you care to view or sign it, can be found at www.EndGunViolenceNow.org. ☆

While the Federation should not take political positions or engage in partisan endorsements, our Community Relations Committee will, by its very nature, engage in some political issues. We do recognize that no community is monolithic in its views, and those with dissenting opinions are welcome to express them.

ATTENTION proud grandparents, parents, and 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 shalom@jewishlexington.org

Sim Shalom news

By Jesse Weil, from Budapest, Hungary

Sim Shalom held its annual congregational Hanukkah celebration on the seventh day, along with Friday night services. Everyone brought their own menorah, and it was a brilliant sight to see them all lined up on a row of tables down the middle of the synagogue with our giant menorah at the end near the Ark. The evening started with the lighting of the menorah and Shabbat candles, followed by the service, dinner and then party time with much conversation and dreidel playing. The Israeli Ambassador, Ilan Mor, was the guest of honor. He spoke briefly about the need for the Hungarian government to do more to quell the recent rise of anti-semitic acts in Hungary, and the importance of Israel as a place of refuge for Jews who were living in anti-semitic places. Many new people showed up for the evening, since festival celebrations are a very attractive way for them to check out what the congregation is like without getting too involved.

The next night, for the lighting of the 8th candle, Sim Shalom organized a special ecumenical Festival of Light, combining the lighting of the candles of Hanukkah with those for the third week of the Christian Advent season.

It was done in conjunction with the Bakats Square Roman Catholic Church three blocks down the street from us, and our old colleagues in interfaith programs at a nearby Unitarian Church, together with whom we've done several other programs over the years. With the permission of the local district government, the program was held outdoors on one of the large public squares only a block away from the synagogue, at the other end of our street. Our Rabbi and the two other Pastors recited the prayers associated with their own faith for the candle lighting, and told something of the meaning of their observance. Our Cantor was too sick to sing, but a Catholic theologian/musician who frequently attends Sim Shalom services offered a musical contribution. Members of all three congregations attended, as well as some passersby who were attracted to the event. Then since it was cold and raining, everyone walked the block to our synagogue to continue socializing in a most agreeable environment. We hope this will be the first in a series of such annual celebrations to build ties to the other religious institutions in our district, since interfaith programs are one of the main interests of many of our congregants.

Cheers and Happy New Year! ☆

Jewish Studies Spring Events

Sunday February 17 Carrick Theatre
(Transylvania Campus) 7pm

"Gospel Dynamics": When the Jewish Jesus Isn't Enough

Monday February 18 Ohavay Zion Synagogue 7pm

"Judaism, Christianity, and the Crucifixion: Coexistence versus Anti-Semitism on Parchment"

April 21-23 W.T. Young Library 7pm (more details to follow)

"The Making of an Icon: Black Harlem and the Jewish Lower East Side"



B'tayavon (Hearty Appetite)

By Ruth Poley

A Treat for Winter (or summer, spring, or fall)

The doldrums are upon us. The days are short and dark and generally cold (although as I'm writing this we are in an uncharacteristic warm spell). Here's a treat that takes no great skill to make and will certainly cheer you up. Although the recipe calls for a springform pan, and that's how I've always made it, I know lots of people do not own springform pans; I'll bet it would work just as well in a bundt pan (if you do this, you'll probably have to increase the cooking time). Instead of brewed coffee, I always take the shortcut and make this part from instant coffee. This cake comes out very rich, dense and chocolaty. What's not to love?

Chocolate Whiskey Cake Serves 8 to 10

Ingredients

12 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 1-inch pieces, more for pan
¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
1 ½ cups brewed strong coffee
½ cup whiskey
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup light brown sugar

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
¾ teaspoon fine sea salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
3 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup mini semisweet chocolate chips
Powdered sugar, for serving (optional)

Preparation

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Butter a 10-inch springform pan. Dust with 2 tablespoons cocoa powder.

In a medium saucepan over low heat, warm coffee, whiskey, 12 tablespoons butter and remaining cocoa powder, whisking occasionally, until butter is melted. Whisk in sugars until dissolved. Remove from heat, pour into a large bowl, and cool completely.

In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, pepper and cloves. In another bowl, whisk together eggs and vanilla. Slowly whisk egg mixture into chocolate mixture. Add dry ingredients and whisk to combine. Fold in chocolate chips.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Transfer to oven and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center emerges clean, 55 to 65 minutes. Let cool on a wire rack, then remove sides of pan. Dust with powdered sugar before serving, if you like. ☆

NOTE: If you have an appropriate food story you'd like to share, or a recipe you think others in the Jewish community might enjoy, please email me at rgp@insightbb.com



HELP: Lowells in Israel (from page 12)

charge of the Iron Dome site.

That evening, as we waited for our taxi to take us to Ben Gurion airport, a siren sounded for a longer time than usual, and for one last time we headed to the shelter. After leaving the shelter, we said goodbye to our hosts, and I hoped we would make it to the airport safely. We checked our bags at Ben Gurion, and relaxed with a beer and a glass of wine. We chatted with our server and she asked us what we had done while visiting Israel. When we told her about our experiences volunteering on an army base, she began to cry. She just couldn't believe we paid our way to come to Israel to help the Israelis. I gave her a hug, and I too began to cry. The Israelis are called

Sabras (Hebrew for cactus), meaning prickly on the outside but sweet on the inside, but they feel and hurt like we all do.

On the plane ride home, we heard a cease-fire had been arranged. But 11 hours later as we landed in New York, we heard there had been a bus bombing in Tel Aviv. There may be a cease-fire on one side, but Israel has so many sides against her, she has to always be vigilant and pray for the best. ☆

If you have any questions about volunteering with Sar-El, please contact Betty or Lowell Nigoff, 533-4957 or 533-4014. We'd be glad to tell you about this wonderful program.



UANI Speaker Visits Lexington

United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, advocacy group that seeks to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to obtain nuclear weapons. UANI was founded in 2008 by Ambassador Mark D. Wallace, the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Former CIA Director Jim Woolsey and Middle East expert Dennis Ross.

Bob Feferman of United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) spoke to community on January 9.



The Lexington Havurah

Stan Saxe, 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 Synagogue 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 sabastanley@insightbb.com.

By Judy Goldsmith

I am writing this soon after the news of Terry Wilson's passing. His loss made me think about the nature of friendship.

Terry and I weren't friends in the sense I usually think of friends. We didn't hang out. I didn't know much about him, except through the Havurah. But he was someone I looked forward to seeing at events. His sense of humor sat right with me. His smile included me. When we asked "how are you" of each other, we both listened to the answer.

I don't know whether Terry knew that he was important to me. This thought leads in a direct line to the usual self-promise to tell people when I notice that they matter to me. But it also leads to musing about how we see each other.

Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* was all about the effects we have on people without our noticing. What is much more interesting to me are the relationships where we think we know the role we play in the other's life. For example, when I

was a postdoc, I hung out with a grad student. We went on long bicycle rides together, talked, and danced together. We even vowed to give up mathematics, at one point. (The next day, I solved a math problem that had bothered me for months; he's now a successful math professor.) When I left, he thanked me for changing his life by introducing him to folk music. I had no idea that I had, or that it had been important.

I've learned that people don't usually see me as I see myself. Often, that's a good thing: I can be critical of myself. I wonder, sometimes, what God sees of me. I try not to dwell on that, because it's not something I'll know in this lifetime.

Terry's not the only person I've enjoyed in the Havurah. I show up at services, events, board meetings sometimes just because they're on my calendar, but so often there's a moment of sitting next to someone I like, sharing a smile or a conversation, that makes me feel connected to the world. Strange, perhaps, that a religious organization- a potential gateway to religious experience and transcendence- is such an anchor for me in this world, but it is. And for many of us, I'm sure.

There's so much we don't know about our place in the world. For some, ambiguity is a source of anxiety. In this case, for me, it's oddly reassuring. I hope that Terry knew- and that so many of you know- that he brought, and you bring, joy to me. But the joy comes whether or not you know.

May Terry's family be comforted among the mourners of Israel. ☆

Upcoming Havurah events includes a Sunday, February 24th Purim event. Contact us for times and places.

For information about the

next social/educational/playful event, contact me (goldsmith@cs.uky.edu). I'm open to suggestions. For information about services, contact Stan Saxe.

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jfs Jewish
Family
Services

Upcoming Programs

Leisure Club will celebrate Purim

Tuesday, February 19
12 noon
at Ohavay Zion Synagogue

Lunch and fun included!
Door prize for the best costume!



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For more information about these events, to RSVP, or to arrange transportation to the event location, please contact Mimi Kaufman at (859) 269-8244 or jfs@jewishlexington.org.



The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah

Jane Chaput, President

By: Leah Stern Reicin
Chair Jewish/Zionist Education

In Spielberg's movie, Lincoln, Tommy Lee Jones plays Thaddeus Stevens, a radical Republican abolitionist, who spent his life arguing that black men were equal to white men in the eyes of God.

Stevens is beset with a conundrum. Lincoln desperately wants to pass legislation, which would insure equality before the law for the black man. Thaddeus Stevens supports this legislation. Stevens wants more than equality before the law. He wants a statement included in the legislation which would acknowledge the innate equality of the black man to the white man. Lincoln knows that if such a statement is inserted, the resolution will fail.

Stevens must decide if it's more important to have the black man declared innately equal or more important that the black be regarded as equal under man's law. In the end, Stevens compromises and subdues his ego. He opts for the equal before law clause, which ultimately guarantees the black man's equality in the United States of America.

Parsha Yitro, which includes the Ten Commandments, addresses a similar dilemma. When the Torah and the Ten Commandments were given to the Jewish people, they stated "na'aseh v'nishmah. We will obey these laws and then we will intellectualize and

understand them. To the Jew the deed of action is far more important than the creed.

For centuries Jews have been called legalistic. It's true—but it's not a negative! The world has theology, religious theory and dogma. Jews do indeed have laws! We know that good and honest laws tempered with compassion (which the Torah commands) insure equality and justice for all no matter who one is or what one has.

The Torah states that when Moses related God's laws to the children of Israel, "the people answered with one voice na'aseh" (we will do; we will act.) However, later when Moses merely read to them the books of the Torah, they answered "nishmah" (we will hear and clarify the laws) The words "one voice" is missing, because from our very beginning, Jews were already divided over the interpretation of the laws. Jewish history is replete with arguments. Two Jews, three opinions! But the Torah, the book of laws remains constant. That's been our strength.

Hadassah is a unique organization. We include so many different types of women. All of us are committed to building and furthering the renaissance of the Jewish people in our homeland, the State of Israel. Like Lincoln, we have a country to build and we devote ourselves to that task. Like our ancestors at Sinai "we do" and "we hear" May it continue to be so. ☆



**Community Yom HaShoah
Commemoration**
Sunday, April 14

**Community Yom
Haftzmaut Celebration**
Sunday, April 21



Campaign (from page 1)

community are invited to an evening of vegetarian Mexican delights, margaritas or beverages of their choice, and entertainment by special guests, Elvis and friends. The covert is \$18 per person and participants will be asked to make a commitment of at least \$18 to the annual campaign. The committee members working on the program are Janice Newman, Chair, Marcia

Blacker, Jane Chaput, and Linda Ravvin. For further information or to register, please call Judy Wortman at 268-0672.

Our Tribute Dinner, An Evening to Honor Linda and Leon Ravvin, will be held on Sunday, June 2 at the Hilton Suites at Lexington Green. Please save the date: more information to follow. ☆



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Bookclub

**Hadassah Bookclub of Lexington, KY will
meet for our annual Book Brunch at
Joseph Beth's Cafe on Sunday, March 3
from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**The book we will discuss is
The Hare with Amber Eyes
by Edmund de Waal.**

**For more information or to reserve a place,
please RSVP to Peggy Leep
at mgleep@gmail.com.**

Ohavay Zion Synagogue

2048 Edgewater Court • President, Jonathan Glixon • (859) 266-8050

KIDS' SHABBAT AND PJ LIBRARY

Please join us for this month's Kids' Shabbat service on Friday, February 22nd at 5:30pm with special musical guest star, Adam. This service will be a combined Kids' and Youth Shabbat Hanukkah celebration.

Kids' Shabbat is our monthly Shabbat Service for 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 pm at Ohavay Zion Synagogue on the following dates.

February 22
March 15
April 26
May 17

For more information or to RSVP, email Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com.

YOUTH SHABBAT AND STEWART HOME

Youth Shabbat, geared for ages 8 through 18, is a wonderful way for the oldest PJ library participants to transition from Kids' Shabbat to a Youth Service. We begin by welcoming in our friends from Stewart Home

School with a dinner. Then we all celebrate Shabbat with our students and the fantastic Penina Goldstein helping to lead services. This is a wonderful program filled with music and joy.

Please join us for another exciting year of Youth Shabbat and Stewart Home Services, Fridays at 5:30pm at Ohavay Zion Synagogue!

February 1
March 8
April 12

For more information or to RSVP, email Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com.

YOUNG OZS-ERS' SHABBAT

Join in as Jews in their 20's and 30's celebrate Shabbat with Fabulous Friday Nights Filled with Food, Fun and Festivities. This is a great way to meet other young Jews and celebrate Shabbat. Newcomers and friends are always welcome!

Please join us for another exciting year of Young OZS-ers, Fridays at 6:00 pm at Ohavay Zion Synagogue!

February 23, Saturday (special Purim community adult celebration)

March 22
April 5
May 3

For more information or to RSVP,

email Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com.

OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Please join us any Saturday morning of the year, as Ohavay Zion Synagogue celebrates Shabbat. Our worship is filled with joyous song and fascinating Torah discussions. 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

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. Please join us Tuesday

afternoons from 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm.

FRIDAY MORNING 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 am followed by a light breakfast and study. Newcomers are always welcome!

INTERESTED IN OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE?

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 our membership chair Ricki Rosenberg at 221-2121 or email Rabbi Smolkin at Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

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*.

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

Thank you for your support.

Thank you to:

Linda & Leon Ravvin for their gifts in memory of Al Strauss and Terry Wilson.

Judy and Rabbi David Wortman for their gifts in memory of John Perel and Terry Wilson.



The Jewish Federation
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Planning on leaving town for a few months? Going on a long vacation? Moving any time soon?

Help Federation save money. Inform us of your plans and prevent the U.S. Postal Service from charging us for returned mail and address change notices.

Before you go, contact the office and let us know if you would like your mail held or sent to a different address temporarily.

Contact Tamara at (859) 268-0672 or tamara@jewishlexington.org

Are you on the Jewish Federation's email list?

We send announcements and special event details to those who wish to receive them.

Send Tamara Ohayon an email if you would like to join the list.

tamara@jewishlexington.org



The Jewish Federation
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Temple Adath Israel

124 N. Ashland Avenue | President, Judy Engelberg • (859) 269-2979

WHO WE ARE!

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation. Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives past, present, and future. Please call the Temple administrator for more information if you are interested in becoming a member.

Our Shabbat services for February 1, 8, 15, & 22, & March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 are at 7 PM.

Our lively Family Shabbat takes place on the second Friday of each month at 7 PM. Our Youth Choir (Kol Atid) sings and our young Religious School classes participate in leading services. We sing songs and enjoy great stories geared to our youngest children, but with valuable messages for all. This year we will have a Potluck dinner at 6 PM immediately preceding services. Join us!

February 8
March 8
April 12

Our Tot Shabbat Friday night service is held on the last Friday of each month. Our youngest children and parents welcome Shabbat together singing songs, creating Jewish craft projects, and eating pizza. Rabbi shares a PJ Library book each month. Dressing for the theme of the featured holiday is always a plus! It is a wonderful way for families with young children to celebrate Shabbat. We begin at 5:45 PM. The upcoming dates are:

February 22 - Purim - Bring home your own megillah.
March 29 - Passover - Eat matzah pizza and make your family "Omer / Mitzvah" calendar.
April 26 - Shavuot - Let's visit Sinai and make our own 10 Commandment Magnets!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DR. RICHARD GREENBERG

The Victoria Greenberg Rabbinic Intern Fund is once again going to sponsor a rabbinical student from UHC for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Thank you Rick Greenberg for your most generous gift. It is greatly appreciated. (No General Fund money is used for this purpose)

GENERATION TAI DINNER FOR FEBRUARY

Please join us for the monthly Generation TAI Dinner on February 1, 2013 following Shabbat services. The cost is \$12. Please contact Reva Schottenstein at rschott86@hotmail.com or call her at 859-537-1064 to reserve your seat.

100 YEARS OLD AND DON'T WE LOOK FABULOUS!

Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), of which our Sisterhood is a member is the women's affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, the central body of the Reform Movement in North America. Established in 1913, WRJ now represents more than 65,000 women in nearly 500 women's groups in North America and around the world.

Throughout 2013, we will be celebrating our Centennial in various ways and invite the entire Jewish community to celebrate with us. To recognize and support the important work of Sisterhood, we are asking the congregation to join us in collecting 100 (or more) items for various local organizations throughout this year.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 10 Florence Crittenton Valentine's Dinner. Contact Mimi Kaufman or Elissa Weinstein for more information.
March 1 Sisterhood Shabbat. WRJ Centennial Celebration Service

Check the temple's weekly email, website, and bulletin board for updated events.

If you would like to join Sisterhood, please contact Christy Roth at crickie21@gmail.com or 219-3238. We are Stronger Together!

CHAVURAT CHOCHMA PROGRAM

(A Friendly Gathering of Wisdom)

We will meet again on February 22nd, 2013 at 11:30 am in the social hall for a delicious lunch and to hear Dr. David Shraberg speak. Dr. Shraberg's topic will be "Seasonal Affective Disorder and The Winter Blues". Cost is \$6. per person. While this program is designed for those sixty years old and over, all are welcome. Please RSVP to Sandee at 269-2979 by February 19th.

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 AM every two weeks in the TAI Library. The group explores cultural, ethical, and historical aspects of our 4000-year tradition. Its emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. Please join us any time. February 9 & 23

TORAH STUDY

Rabbi Kline conducts the study of the Tanakh (Bible) using the Jewish Study Bible on alternate Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Library. The discussion is always lively and informative and you can join the group anytime. February 2 & 16

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 AM to take a look at the Torah portion for each week. Rabbi will lead some discussions and everyone will take turns on February 2, 9 16, and 23. We will have Parsha with worship on February 16. See you in the library!

SAVE THE DATE...

Rose Rita's Valentine's Dance

A Valentine's Dance will be held in memory of Rose Rita Wurmser on Saturday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the Temple Social Hall. Come out for great music, dancing and schmoozing with friends old and new! A variety of heavy hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served, along with coffee, tea and soft drinks. The ticket cost is \$20.00 by February 12th or \$25.00 at the door.

Please call the Temple office to reserve your ticket in advance. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact Judy Engelberg at judyeng@windstream.net or 859-266-2653 for more information about being a sponsor. All proceeds will benefit the Temple Adath Israel General Fund.

TAI PRESCHOOL NEWS

Temple Adath Israel Preschool registration has begun for the 2013 - 2014 school year. Our preschool program is for children ages 2, 3, and 4. Our hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 to 12:00. We will be offering a Lunch Bunch Program on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:00 to 1:00 for all ages and possibly Extended Day from 1:00 to 2:00 for our three's and four's. If you need more information or would like to stop by for a visit please call Katherine Henry at 269-1915.

A VERY SPECIAL EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCE WITH THE CINCINNATI KLEZMER PROJECT



The Cincinnati Klezmer Project (<http://klezmer-project.com>) is returning to Lexington for an evening of Klezmer and Israeli folk music!

Where: Temple Adath Israel Social Hall
When: Sunday, March 3, 2013, 7-9 pm
Cost: \$9/person (i.e. ½ Khai)

Sponsored by TAI Adult Education Committee

PURIM CARNIVAL

Make plans to join Temple in celebrating at the Purim Carnival. The Megillah reading will be at 10:30 AM and the carnival will begin at 11 AM.

Games, prizes, food and fun for all. Sunday, February 24, 2013 at Temple Adath Israel.

Leisure Club Hanukkah Party



Barbara Barr, Jack Nigoff, and staff member Lori Bernard enjoy Hanukkah celebration.

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Our 2012 Shalom Contributors

Thank you for your generous donations to keep Shalom solvent.

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**In memory of Ned Rosenbaum—
for the enjoyment he
provided in his Shalom articles.*

***In honor of her father, Ernest
Guter.*

****In memory of Isabel Russotto.*

*** B'nai Mitzvah ***



Andres Gedaly will become Bar Mitzvah on February 9th at OZS. Andres is the son of Roberto and Karen Gedaly and the grandson of Jose and Evelyn Weisinger, Regina Gedaly.

Andres' mitzvah project included the collection of blankets, jackets, sweaters, scarves, gloves, and hats – for children and adults. He took these items to give to the homeless at the Hope Center in Lexington.

Parents... Please send a photo and information about your bar/bat mitzvah to Shalom for publication.

Questions and submissions may be sent to
shalom@jewishlexington.org.



The Lexington Hadassah delegation posed for a picture in King Solomon Hotel lobby October 18, 2012.

Here is my contribution to help keep Shalom solvent

☐ \$18 Chai

☐ \$36 Double Chai

☐ \$54 Three Times Chai

☐ \$72 Haboneh (Builder)

☐ \$90+ Gibor (Hero)

Name _____

You ☐ may ☐ may not publish my name

Mail to:

JFB, 1050 Chinoe Rd., Suite 112, Lexington, KY 40502

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

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!

Mazal tov to:



Elizabeth Grossman graduated with honors from the University of Michigan Law School on December 21, 2012. She is a 2004 graduate of Lafayette

High School in Lexington, KY and a 2008 graduate of Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, CA. Elizabeth has accepted a position with the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton & Garrison in New York City. Elizabeth is the daughter of **Kathy & Michael Grossman** of Lexington, and the sister of fellow lawyer **Andrew Grossman** (Ashley) of New York and musician **Jon Grossman** of Austin, Texas.

Mike Ades as the new OZS Treasurer.

Condolences to:

The **Markowitz** family on the death of **Richard Markowitz**.

The **Perel/Crane** families on the death of **Johnny Perel**.

The **Haber** family on the death of **Samuel Haber**.

The **Broudy** family on the death of **Oda Bargo**.

The **Fox** family on the death of **Jean Fox**.

Judy & Lou Hersh, on the death of Judy's sister, **Roberta Novick**.

Cindy Ellsworth, on the death of her father, **Harold Brenner**.

Sandee Wildes, on the death of her daughter, **Theresa Marie Wildes Findley**.

Marc Plavin & Toni Reiss, on the death of their mother, **Dorothy Plavin**.

Jan & Dave Doctrow, on the death of Jan's mother, **Rosalind Weisenberg**.

Sarah Liebman and Stuart Lowenthal, on the death of their uncle, **Joseph**.

Ralph & Elayne Crystal, on the death of Ralph's aunt, **Ruth Edelman**.

John W. & Joy McDonald, on the death of John's mother, **Kathleen McDonald**.

Irving Trachtenberg on the death of his mother, **Sylvia Potter**.

First and third Sundays of the month Yiddish Drop-in!

10:30 a.m. at the JFB office. An hour of Yiddish with Refoyl Finkel (Rafi Finkel). Beginners welcome, fluent speakers welcome, and those who remember "a por verter fun der heyim" also welcome. We'll adjust what we do to the levels of those who come. No long-term commitment necessary. No charge. Worth every cent, at least!



The Jewish Federation
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Now Hiring for Summer 2013



Camp Shalom is a Jewish day camp open to children age 4 thru 14. While camp is non-denominational, Jewish learning is woven into all aspects of the day making this a special experience for our area.

Camp will be in session from July 29 to August 9, 2013.

Applications are now being accepted for staff positions.



Staff positions, by age

Group Leader.....	18+
Counselor.....	16+
Jr. Counselor.....	15+
(based on age & prior experience)	
C.I.T.....	14+
Specialists.....	16+

Responsibilities include:

Engaging, supervising, & ensuring well-being of campers; assisting with & leading activities; and having fun! Individuals who feel they have expertise or experience in a particular specialty area should mention these abilities on their application.



Interviews will begin in February. We will contact you to arrange a time.

Applications may be completed online at <http://bit.ly/TGXJYd>

Call 859.268.0672 or send an email to camp@jewishlexington.org for more information.



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS



CAN ANYONE REALLY PUT A PRICE ON HOPE AND DIGNITY?
ACTUALLY, YES.

Everything has its price. \$250 covers emergency utility bills for a client in crisis. \$100 will buy groceries for one family in need. \$50 provides transportation services for a senior to doctors' appointments and a social program. When you can't afford to take care of your most basic needs, it's easy to feel hopeless. **This Super Sunday when the phone rings, make a generous gift to Federation and restore hope.**

Super Sunday is February 10, 2013.



The Jewish Federation
 OF THE BLUEGRASS



Community Calendar

• **JFB - Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass - www.jewishlexington.org**
 • 1050 Chinoe Road, Suite 112 • 268-0672 • Robert Grossman, President

• **OZS - Ohavay Zion Synagogue - www.ozs.org**
 • 2048 Edgewater Court • 266-8050 • Jonathan Glixon, President
 • Minyan Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:45 p.m. Tuesdays are D'vine Minyan: wine at 5:00 p.m., service follows. Friday evening rotating Kabbalat
 • Shabbat 5:45 p.m., Kids' Shabbat 5:15 p.m., Shabbat dinners 6:00 p.m., Young OZS-ers' Shabbat dinners 6:00 p.m. Check OZS Google calendar for
 • monthly schedules. Shabbat Services Saturdays 9:30 a.m.

• **TAI - Temple Adath Israel - www.lextai.org**
 • 124 N. Ashland Avenue • 269-2979 • Judy Engelberg, President
 • Shabbat Services first & second Friday at 6:30 p.m., remaining Fridays 7:30 p.m.; Worship Service Saturday 10:30 a.m.

• **HAD - The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah - www.centralstates.hadassah.org**
 • Jane Chaput, President • chaput1@windstream.net

• **HAV - The Lexington Havurah - www.lexhavurah.uscghost.net**
 • 338-5725 • Stanley Saxe, President • sabastanley@insightbb.com • Shabbat Services monthly, call for schedule.

• **BB - B'nai B'rith Mid-America Region, Stanley Rose Lodge #0289**
 • 1050 Chinoe Road, Suite 112 • Leon Cooper, President • leon@gedisit.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hadassah Book Club		Lunch and Learn with our local rabbis				
Lexington Jewish Film Series						
27	28	29	30	31	February 1	2
JFB Yiddish Class		JFS Advisory Committee Meeting (Members only)			OZS Bar Mitzvah	OZS Bar Mitzvah
JFB Board Retreat						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TAI Sisterhood Crittenden Home Dinner		Chabad-Rabbi Litvin visits				TAI Valentine's Ball
JFB Super Sunday						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
JFB Yiddish Class	Camp Shalom Day at Puccini's	JFS/JFB Leisure Club		YBJ Cocktails & Cookie Exchange		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		JFB Lunch and Learn with our Local Rabbis	JFB Board Mtgs	Hadassah sponsors "Footnotes" in the One World Film Festival		TAI Kugel Cookoff
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8