

An Announcement for the New Year

By Judy B. Wortman



Rosh Hashana has always seemed like the real New Year. It is when school starts and when the Federation's program year begins. It has always seemed to me as if January 1 comes in the middle of the year, not at the beginning. Nevertheless, this New Year comes with news of a major change in my life. After quite a bit of soul-searching and

exploration, I have decided to retire this summer. I will be moving to suburban Philadelphia to be near my family. My daughter, step-son, and step-daughter and their families live in the Philadelphia suburbs, and my son and his family live in Brooklyn – only 90 miles away. And the joys of my life – six grandsons and one granddaughter – will be geographically very close. I can become a regular fixture in their lives, not just the Bubbe who arrives with hugs, kisses, and goodies three times a year.

My almost seven year tenure here in Lexington has been a great joy. Working in our small Jewish community was a big change for me professionally, but with its size came a closeness and real family feeling that rarely exists in larger communities. The relationships that I have established with the Federation staff, our rabbis, and our volunteers have brought me great joy. I know these friendships will last for years and while I will miss everyone, I will visit often. My twin sister Linda is here, and after living apart from her for decades, we have loved the time we spent together. I won't be able to stay away for very long.

I will be leaving soon after we get the results of our community study, and it will fall to another executive director to implement changes that will be recommended by our consultant and approved by the Boards of the Federation, OZS, TAI, The Lexington Havurah, Hadassah and B'nai B'rith. It was the President's Council who initiated the study and these boards that approved the project and contributed to its costs. It is my hope that this will not be a study whose report ends up lying on a shelf or in a dusty filing cabinet, but that it will be used as a means to ensure our sustainability as a creative, dynamic, supportive community.

I ask that once I leave, you support the transition team
(continued on page 2)

Chabad of the Bluegrass

By Hanna B. Smith

On November 30, 2015, I met with Rabbi Shlomo Litvin and his wife Shoshi to learn about the new Chabad House in Lexington and to gain insight into Chabad's outreach work to fellow Jews.

Conventional wisdom has it that the University of Kentucky was never particularly attractive to Jewish students. Not true, asserts Rabbi Litvin. During the early and mid-twentieth century when most American universities had quotas for Jewish students, the University of Kentucky was quota-free. As a result UK attracted a number of Jewish students.

The first Hillel at UK was founded in 1938. In 1942 Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity was formed, followed by Phi Sigma Sister Sorority in 1946.

(continued on page 2)

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Super Sunday Launches 2016 Community Campaign

The 2016 Community Campaign will be launched on February 21 with our annual Super Sunday. The 2015 campaign ended with results close to what we had projected. Most of the gifts lost from donors who moved away, passed away or became ill, were made up with new or increased gifts. We are grateful for all our donors who made it possible for us to continue to serve our Jewish community here and abroad.

Please expect to be called on Super Sunday by our volunteers who may be your friends or neighbors. Calls will be made between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. You are welcome to pre-empt the solicitation by calling in your gift to our office at 268-0672. Remember that pledges made now can be paid at any time through December of 2016.

We are very much in need of volunteers for Super Sunday. There will be two shifts of workers. The first will be 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The second will be 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Each shift will begin with a training session and a nosh. Don't worry if you haven't done this before. We will teach you. If you can join us, please call Judy Wortman at the Federation.

Kudos to our donors and our volunteers. You make our community great.

(Chabad, continued from page 1)

Coincidentally, not long after my interview with Rabbi and Mrs. Litvin, the Jewish Studies Program at UK presented research about Jewish life on campus in mid-twentieth century. Students in the Jewish Studies Program were interviewing Jewish alumni and alumnae, most of whom were living in Lexington and were active members of the local Jewish community.

It is true that Jewish life at UK waned once the quota system was abolished and Jewish students had a wide choice of schools. For the last several years Jewish students and faculty are again coming to UK in significant numbers and for entirely positive reasons. UK is well on its way to becoming a top tier school in its academic fields: cancer and Parkinson's disease research, the dental school, research into the disabilities of aging, to name just a few. In addition, UK has an active Jewish studies program. UK's new president is Jewish. Dr. Capilouto and his wife are reaching out to the local Jewish community and are welcoming a Jewish presence on campus. These developments have motivated Chabad to open a facility in Lexington, which happened in July 2015.

The Chabad House of the Bluegrass is located close to the UK and Transylvania University campuses. Rabbi Litvin says that students from as far as Morehead, Northern Kentucky University, and the University of Pikeville have contacted him. While the focus of this Chabad House is mainly on services to college students, people of all ages are welcome.

"Chabad House is your Jewish home away from home", explains Rabbi Litvin. Staples include: a traditional Friday night dinner, Shabbat services and lunch on Saturdays, a Wednesday night Bible study class, as well as events around the Jewish holidays. Once a month, following the end of Shabbat before each New Moon, Chabad has a bonfire, with singing, story-telling, and discussions.

Other programs, some specifically directed at women, are still in the planning stage. Chabad also offers one-on-one, individualized study programs, depending upon the student's interests and needs.

Rabbi Litvin stresses that he and his wife are co-directors and that all Chabad Houses are led by husband and wife teams. This is in line with family and societal dynamics where both genders contribute their unique perspectives. There was not enough time during this visit to pursue the theme of women's roles in Chabad.

In addition to working with college students and Jews isolated from their community, Chabad also provides services to populations with special needs, such as people with physical and mental disabilities, those

with substance abuse issues, and prisoners.

Why does Chabad concentrate its energies on reaching out to Jews of all stripes while most orthodox communities prefer to segregate themselves from those they deem inconsistent with their values? I asked this question of an older Chabad rabbi before asking the same of Rabbi Litvin. Both referred me to the work and teachings of the 6th and 7th rebbes, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson (1880 – 1950) and Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902 – 1994).

A survivor of the Shoah, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak dedicated the remainder of his life to rebuilding the Jewish community through an ingathering of all Jews, not only members of Chabad. His successor, Rabbi Menachem Mendel, built upon and enlarged Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak's work. In Chabad philosophy the Jewish people is one unity, no matter where individual Jews or communities stand geographically or intellectually. Many negative influences weigh upon Jews in the diaspora: assimilation, ignorance of Jewish teachings, isolation, oppressive regimes, and exploitation, to name just a few.

Chabad members are taught to love one's neighbor, no matter who or where s/he is. Being open to one's community means being open to the whole Jewish community. This extends also to non-Jews who can contribute to the betterment of the world by observing the seven Noahite laws.

If Jews improve the world through mitzvot, Chabad members teach by example, never by proselytizing, and by appreciating the positive in every human being. It is an idealistic concept, optimistic, and requires maturity if it is to be successful.

Directors of Chabad houses learn their craft through apprenticeships in established houses. The Chabad community also provides support in a variety of ways, though each Chabad house has to be financially independent and do its own fundraising. There is no central fund that finances outreach.

Chabad of the Bluegrass wants to be a partner with the already established Jewish institutions and appreciates the friendly welcome extended by the Jewish community. We wish it success.

(An Announcement for the New Year, cont. from page 1)

of staff and lay leaders with your patience, your time, and your financial contributions to the 2016 campaign. A Search Committee is now working on finding a replacement, and hopefully that will happen months before I leave. Times of flux are always challenging, but with a roadmap now being developed, the future promises to be an exciting adventure.



ASK JFS

Mimi Kaufman

There is a new buzz-word in elder care. You may have heard it, "Creative Aging." Creative aging is a field that promotes artistic expression in the lives of older adults in order to improve health and well being. According to the National Center for Creative Aging, studies have

shown that people over the age of 65 who are involved in weekly art programs have fewer doctor visits and take less medication than those without creative outlets. Additionally, art has been shown to foster connections between those who have Alzheimer's and dementia with their caregivers, whether family or professional.

The National Center for Creative Aging hosted their first annual conference and exchange on how the arts help older adults lead healthier lives in June of 2014 in Washington DC. Leaders in the creative aging field, from around the world met to exchange best practices and ideas.

So the message from buzz about creative aging is that we need to stay engaged or get engaged with creative programs or find a creative outlet of some kind.

There are all kinds of arts activities at the Lexington Senior Citizen Center. They have monthly movies, painting classes, and craft classes. No prior experience necessary and classes are very affordable.

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

February is Jewish Disability and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)

By Mimi Kaufman

Here are two featured books that the JDAIM is highlighting this year as well as a description of the books from the Association of Jewish Family and Children Agencies:

Unique Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism by Barry M. Prizant, PhD with Tom Fields-Meyer

Essential reading! Dr. Prizant casts a spotlight on behavior and how it can be a way of communicating feelings and needs. This book is not just another autism book. It's a book about what being human really is – sharing stories and providing insight about how we treat each other.

Following Ezra: What One Feather Learned About Gumbo, Otters, Autism, and Love from His Extraordinary Son by Tom Fields-Meyer

This book will have you laughing and crying as the author engages you with his compelling memoir. The book is not about autism. It is about learning to adapt to the unexpected changes and gifts when raising a child with a disability.

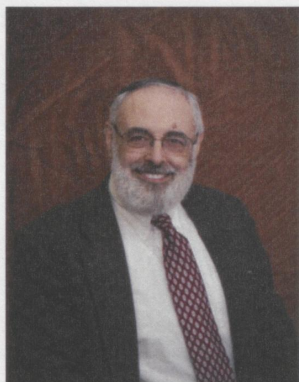
There will be a discussion guide especially developed for the books as a part of the JDAIM. To find it, go to www.JDAIM.org

If you are interested in gathering for a book discussion for either of these books, please contact me, Mimi Kaufman, at jfs@jewishlexington.org or call (859) 269-8244.

ATTENTION PROUD GRAND-PARENTS, PARENTS, & STUDENTS

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





Ask a Rabbi— Rabbi H.D. Uriel Smith

Required Learning for Israelis and Palestinians

Question: We are in a generation that thinks a core curriculum of math and science is most important, or religious texts (e.g. Bible and Talmud) are most important, or arts (e.g. musical instruments

fundamentalist religious, and the artistic groups, with our country splitting into groups that cannot understand each other. How can we heal, and increase mutual understanding quickly?

Answer:

Within our secular culture, whether Israeli or American, we are told that we need to start with tolerance and compassion. These are extremely important. But you cannot be tolerant of something completely unknown, especially when we are threatened by cults writ large, like ISIL, who are completely intolerant, with no compassion for people other than themselves. You cannot transmit tolerance and compassion to them merely by osmosis.

Jewish traditions

Jewish tradition starts with understanding. In our weekday Amidah prayers the first petitionary blessing is *honen ha-da'at*, a blessing for gaining knowledge and understanding. In the Kabbalistic Tree of Life the first differentiated *Sephirot* are of *Hokhmah*, "Wisdom", and *Binah*, "Understanding". Our Jewish tradition does not believe in sacred naïveté or holy ignoramuses. Ignorant good intentions are not enough. Through our long history we have learned to our sorrow that the way to hell is paved with good intentions.

So, what type of knowledge should we cultivate? In our multicultural community each group has its own narratives. We should learn our own narratives first (of course!). In Judaism these include at least a smattering of Bible, Mishnah, and the Siddur, and how to be a *mensch*. We should learn of Abraham, who was willing to argue even with God. Abraham showed us that one person can change the world. We should learn that a lowly people, starting off as slaves, on the wrong side of the track, could become the teachers of the whole world. Too many of us are (as Anne Riophe said) a "Generation Without Memory." From within the community, we do not perceive its power. We do not understand the influence of our traditions among

our neighbors. We do not understand that we are a Holy People connected with a Holy Land. So our interactions with others are magnified, and can easily lead either, Heaven forefend, to Armageddon, or, with Heaven's help, to a dynamic Shalom. Jews with no knowledge of our traditions are prey to any seemingly kind group distorting our heritage, whether they are Jews for Jesus or BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) supporters.

American culture

Simultaneously, we should learn the traditions of the community within which we dwell. Here, in the USA, this means we should have some knowledge of the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, with something of sports (football, basketball, and baseball), and an acquaintance with Bluegrass and computers. Our individualistic culture tends to separate an individual's spirituality from the religious communities' religion. So, we should appreciate different Christian perspectives of their religious denominations. We also should learn of the American love of liberty: "Don't tread on me." American culture leans towards being adventurous, creating new entrepreneur paths. But it also follows Proverbs 22:6, which states, "Train a child according to his manner," discovering and supporting during the training the propensities and capabilities shown by the child.

Our Talmud (*Qiddushin* 29a) states:

Concerning his son, a father is obligated to circumcise [a boy] and redeem him [if he is first], to teach him Torah, to get him married, and to teach him a trade. Some say also, to teach him to swim.

Nowadays, young men and women show greater individuality, becoming more responsible for following their own capabilities. But, though parents should not become helicopter parents, yet they should be supportive and teach their children not just to swim, but also the suggested Jewish and American traditions.

Doppelgänger forces

But, beyond that, where in our multicultural universe should we turn?

Through my work on cultural and psychological analysis I have discovered that till recently, over the generations, as our cultures became more sophisticated the sense of the sacred has attenuated. But now, as we reach the most sophisticated cultural levels, the sacred suddenly again has become very important. I am not just talking about the "Clash of Civilizations" where religious communities, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, and Materialist, are interacting violently in a world war. The world has become a dangerous place where sacred beliefs have become demonic. The

analysis tells us that unfortunately the present world war of Sunni-Shiite and Western, Marxist, and Muslim conflict will last about a generation. By the time the conflict peters out, the world climate will have changed and the sea levels will have risen enough to create millions more refugees. Human compassion will be severely strained.

We should learn that Israel is physically in the heart of the Middle East conflict. Its options are limited by the demands of all the stakeholders, Christian, Muslim, and Marxist, who have entangled it in a web of contradictions. Still, if it acts proactively, showing open understanding of the dangers confronting it, it can pull through. My analysis tells us that when you have a holy community in power, after a time it automatically engenders a Doppelgänger community. In our case the Palestinians have become the Doppelgänger of the Israelis. Doppelgänger mirror the original individuals or the original community. Thus the Palestinians want the same land that Israel has, and they want their capital to be Jerusalem. Doppelgänger analysis shows that if you try to destroy your mirror image, your action automatically reflects back on you, and you harm yourself. And if the twin tries to harm you, the twin harms itself. The only way to overcome this destructive path is to find a way to harmonize with your twin, much as Jacob tried to harmonize with Esau (Genesis 32:3-33:17) and the Gemini twins in Greek mythology harmonized with each other.

Such harmony demands mutual communication. The BDS movement tries to destroy such communication, which in practice means that they want to fight Israel to the last Palestinian. Since so many stakeholders are inserting themselves into the conflict, they should

know that once they enter the sacred sphere the blessing to Abraham applies, "I will bless those that bless you, and he who curses you shall be cursed" (Genesis 12:3). Those who think merely on the materialist level are blind to these dangerous forces. They should ask themselves why and how so many of them have become stakeholders, and how the new cultural forces influenced them. Stakeholders become intertwined with the web of Doppelgänger forces. The European Union has refused to recognize the Middle-Eastern forces delimiting Israel. Now that the Middle East is invading them with myriads of refugees, they are forced in a practical manner to see how unreasonable were their demands.

Israeli-Palestinian relations

Nevertheless, the Doppelgänger forces continue to apply. To overcome the present miscommunications between the Doppelgänger, the Israelis and Palestinians have to learn each other's languages, learn each other's narratives, and learn to talk with each other. Dialogue already exists in maintaining electricity, water, and sewage among the different communities. The leaders and scholars in those communities have to learn more advanced humanist techniques. Such learning has begun at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, and to a certain extent at the other Israeli universities, including the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Haifa University, and the Technion. For several decades several bilingual (Hebrew and Arabic) primary and secondary schools have functioned in Israel. Several groups such as the international Bereaved Families Circle, various Israeli sports groups (playing within the Israel Football Association, with several teams from Arab majority towns such as Nazareth and Sakhnin, or under the Israel Association of Baseball, *Baseball I'kulam*), and musical groups such as the YMCA Jerusalem Youth Chorus and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, working with Israeli and Arab musicians, are developing new means of communication.

(continues on page 6)



**yom
hashoah &
yom haatzmaut**

april 10, 2016 • april 17, 2016

save the dates

 The Jewish Federation

Spring/Summer 2016 registration is now open!

Taglit-Birthright Israel provides the gift of first time, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26. Birthright is a unique partnership between the Israeli government, leading Jewish philanthropists, and local Jewish communities and Federations. Contact Tamara Ohayon at the

Federation office with general questions or for suggestions on trip organizers at (859) 268-0672 or tamara@jewishlexington.org. Visit their website for more info!



תגליט • תגליט
birthright israel
www.birthrightisrael.com

(Ask A Rabbi, continued from page 5) However, the Middle East has set up strong emotional resistances to such communication. Even ordinary Israelis and Palestinians ask, "Why should we talk with our enemies?"

The Jewish tradition includes major forces to overcome such extremism. Our Bible proposes that we should learn not only to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18), but also to "love the stranger as yourself" (Lev 19:34). It states that, "there shall be one law for the native (*ezrah*) and for the stranger (*ger*) sojourning among you" (Exodus 12:49). In the Pentateuch the term *ger* includes both *ger tzedek* (convert) and *ger toshav* (non-Jewish sojourner, citizen). So, our tradition supports the first steps to such harmony. Similarly, Christianity has the parable of "the Good Samaritan", which in modern terminology is equivalent to "the Good Commie" or "the Good Taliban". Islam has a similar tradition forbidding harm not just to fellow believers. The Qur'an (4:93; 5:32) states that killing a single human is equivalent to killing all humanity. The more sophisticated Muslims know that once you become a citizen, promising to uphold its laws, you must fulfill that promise, and support all fellow-citizens, Muslim and non-Muslim. On last New Year's Day, an Israeli Arab gunned down two Israelis and injured seven others at a central Tel Aviv bar, and then murdered the Israeli Arab taxi driver who drove him to north Tel Aviv. The young man's own father, who is an Israeli policeman, was the one who identified him to the Israeli authorities, and ordered his lawyer to reveal where his son was hiding. He had fled back to his village, where others helped him hide, and he died in the shootout with the authorities, who came to arrest him. (My heart goes out to his parents. I can only imagine how hard it is for a father to uphold the law against his own son. It is time that the Israeli authorities acknowledged this. On the other hand, I find that the fellows in his village who hid that son, think that they are martyr witnesses, *shahîdûn*, but actually they are fools, *majânîn*. They caused the death of that son, and are supporting suicide tendencies that percolate their whole village.)

Palestinian-Israeli Doppelgänger history

So we should learn a smattering of our twinned history and culture. We can Google a lot of history, and search the Wikipedia for further information. When we search for "Haj Amin al-Husseini", "Abd al-Qadir al-Husseini", and "Hasan Salamah" in Wikipedia it should become clear that, from the Palestinian perspective, Haj Amin was the worst person to lead them. His and Hasan Salamah's continued Nazi connections made the Israelis shun any group supporting them. The Palestinian Muslims bore the brunt of this shunning. Furthermore, the Arab leaders around Palestine

refused to accept his self-promotion, community manipulation, and his tendency to assassinate his opponents. The Arab League blocked the recruitment of Palestinian forces, and limited any arms sent to them. As a result, Palestinian Muslims went into exile, the Jordanians took over the West Bank, and the Egyptians governed the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians are frustrated by the limits forced upon them, limits that continually anger them and narrow their vision of the range of paths before them. Emotionally, they find only resistance, whether active or *sumîd*, "steadfastness". They have not found or formulated honorable paths to communication with Israelis. Still, they will have to develop their own range of narratives. Nobody else can develop communication narratives for them. Till then they will remain frustrated. Still, the interactions with the other Arab armies and countries around them should eventually percolate through. The Palestinians will come to see that Israeli Arab citizens, especially the Druse, Circassian, and Christian villages, are integrated into Israeli society. They will find that the counterforces to the Arab Spring in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq, and Iran, have become bloodier than the Israeli responses. They will find better communications with Israelis, through their mutual cooperation over water, electricity, sewage, and business transactions. It will be difficult to overcome the mistrust and hatred permeating the Middle East. But our traditions of study and peacemaking can guide us. And, as long as the Israeli society does not allow fear to override our Jewish traditions, the increased knowledge of the other societies on all sides will eventually lead to a sustainable peace.

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.org and put "Ask a Rabbi" in the subject line of your email. (It may take quite a while until your question is answered or it may never be answered, if no rabbi selects it.) You will not be identified as the writer of the question to either rabbis or readers, nor will you be asked to specify which rabbi should answer.

Terror Strikes Our Family

*Jewish Agency for Israel Blog Post from
January 7, 2016 / 26 Tevet 5776*



Last week's terror attack, at a bar in the heart of Tel Aviv, was a tragedy that struck close to home.

We received an email from our beloved Jewish Agency colleague, Danielle Mor. Danielle, among other responsibilities, works with the Fund for the Victims of Terror, which provides Israel's terror victims with direct, immediate financial assistance after an attack.

Danielle's sad and eloquent words speak for themselves:

"My Safta (grandma) Turan – left side, wrapped in a scarf sitting next to a paramedic, crying at the funeral of Alon Bakal – her grandson

I want to share with you a terrible tragedy that happened to my family less than a week ago.

My amazing cousin Alon Bakal, 26 years old, was shot dead by a terrorist last Friday afternoon while working as a shift manager at a Tel Aviv café. Out of nowhere, without warning, and in one second, Alon is gone. Alon was about to graduate from law school and start interning at a prestigious Tel Aviv law firm. He was the best young man you could imagine, the kind you would want to be friends with – served in the Golan combat brigade, volunteered in a poverty prevention organization, cheered his favorite Hapoel

Jerusalem basketball team and called his mother every morning. Though I have been working closely with our Fund for Victims of Terror for years, I never really thought my family would be one of those eligible to receive assistance.

The news stories speak a lot about Alon, show images and recordings of his grieving mother Nitza. I want to tell you about my Safta, Alon's grandmother. My Safta (grandma) Turan came to Israel from Iran at age 18 with my late grandfather and my father who was an infant at the time. It was 1949, they left everything, and arrived with nothing to the Maabara (tent town) The Jewish Agency built for olim like them. My Zionist grandfather made the decision for the three of them – as she told me "I couldn't say a word, he told me – after 2000 years Am Israel Chai, we are going!"

She became the mother of 12 children, the Safta of 50 grandchildren and she doesn't want to count the great grandchildren for fear of the evil eye.

Though to this day, at 84 years of age she cannot truly read or write, she is the strongest most courageous and smart woman I know. This Sunday, she buried her grandchild – Alon Bakal who was murdered by a terrorist in the Tel Aviv café where he worked.

Safta has a nickname for many of her grandchildren – Alon was "the model" due to his good looks but more so, for his good heart and ambition. Our family is strong, we get our strength from my Safta. We are here to keep Alon's memory alive, to try and strengthen his mother, father and siblings, although we all know the wound will never heal and that the personal road and the road for us all as a people, as a society, is long. But we are here to stay. As my Safta quotes my late grandfather – "Am Israel Chai"

This post can be found online at <http://www.jewishagency.org/blog/1/article/43441>

**Want to give your child a cherished Jewish camp experience?
Looking for your next adventure in Israel?
Worried about the cost?**

JFB's Jewish Family Services (JFS) 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 a criteria used to evaluate eligibility for camperships.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2016.

Applications can be requested from JFS.



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

For more information, contact
Mimi Kaufman, JFS Director,
at (859) 269-8244 or
jfs@jewishlexington.org.



Israel Institutes National Jewish Refugee Day

By Hanna B. Smith

In 2014, the Knesset (government) of the State of Israel passed a law designating November 30th as national Jewish Refugee Day. This day commemorates the suffering of Jewish refugees forced to flee their homes in the Arab states and Iran. The law was proposed by a member of Knesset Shimon Ohayon, whose family originates from Morocco.

I was not aware of this memorial day even though the English language Jewish publications have written about the event both in 2014 and 2015. Many thanks to Rabbi Shlomo Litvin for filling this gap in my knowledge.

This article, though late, intends to inform those who, like me, missed hearing about this day. Also, it may serve as a challenge to the local Jewish community to observe November 30th in the same manner as Yom HaShoah, the day in spring commemorating the destruction of European Jewry.

About half of the population of Israel consists of descendants of the Jewish communities of the Middle East, North Africa, and Iran. Many of these communities had been in existence for millennia. Their Moslem host countries took out their displeasure at Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel on their own Jewish population. Those Jews who survived the murderous attacks fled, mainly to Israel, leaving their possessions behind.

Germany at least has acknowledged its responsibility in the Holocaust and has made reparations as far as that was possible. By contrast, the Moslem nations have never acknowledged their responsibility in the murder and displacement of their Jewish populations.

While Israel has honored and memorialized the victims of the European Holocaust since its inception, there has been nothing comparable for the victims among the Middle Eastern, North African, and Iranian Jewish population until November 2014. Israelis of Middle Eastern descent have felt this lack strongly as an indication that the European-descended power structure viewed them as second class citizens.

An article in 'Forward' of November 29, 2015, by Shayna Zamkane, describes the establishment of Jewish Refugee Day as "justice from Israel over its historic neglect of its Middle Eastern Jewish population" and of "a constructive new beginning for a multi-ethnic Israel." Another article in the 'Jerusalem Post' of June 26, 2014, by Lyn Julius quotes Member of Knesset Shimon Ohayon saying: "Today, we have finally corrected an historic injustice and placed the

Hadassah Celebrates Hanukkah with Mitzvah Project

On December 10, 2015, the lovely home of Dr. David and Kathy Feinberg was filled to overflowing with Hadassah women, great food and good cheer and loads of toys and other gifts for the patients at Kentucky Children's Hospital. Hadassah's ongoing relationship with the Child Life Department at KCH includes this annual mitzvah, staffing the unit library and the Doll Project, where members and friends of Hadassah sew and stuff dolls for the hospital personnel to give to the young patients. Judi Martin, Child Life Specialist at KCH, attended the party as she has several times in the past and voiced her gratitude for Hadassah volunteers and especially for the dolls. Over 400 dolls are needed each year by the hospital. If you are interested in making dolls for KCH, please contact Ruth Scott at rascot0@yahoo.com or lexhadassah@gmail.com.

Photos of the Hadassah Hanukkah party can be found on page 9.

(Israel Institutes National Jewish Refugee Day, continued) issue of Jews who were expelled or pushed out of the Arab world in the last century on the national and international agenda."

The establishment of Jewish Refugee Day is also a reminder to Israel's neighbors that many of its citizens have firm roots in the Middle East. The State of Israel is not a foreign entity that the West imposed upon Arab lands, as Israel's detractors will have it.

I urge our readers to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with the history of Jews in Arab lands and the background for this memorial day.

FOR WOMEN ONLY

Tuesday | March 22 | 5:30 pm | OZS

Guest Speaker, **Jane Weitzman**, author and Executive Vice President of Stuart Weitzman, the designer shoe company. Wine and light dinner served. Couvert \$18 and a minimum gift of \$18 to the 2016 Women's Philanthropy Campaign.



 The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

**Hadassah Hanukkah Party & Mitzvah
Project on December 10, 2015**



B'NAI B'RITH

Stanley Rose Lodge #289
Invites you to our brunch meeting on
Sunday, February 14th at
Ohavay Zion Synagogue
2048 Edgewater Court

Featured Speaker:
Tom Eblen
Award-winning Lexington
Herald-Leader Columnist



Topic: "The Best Job in
Kentucky Journalism."

You don't want to miss this interesting presentation!

Come at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy a tasty brunch
featuring lox, eggs, bagels, etc.
The cost is \$15 per person, payable at the door. If you
wish to forgo the brunch, come at 10:45 a.m. to hear
Mr. Eblen's presentation and there will be no cost.

For those coming at 10:00 am for the brunch, please
RSVP by email to ahcantor@twc.com or call Austin
Cantor (859) 608-4770. Our chef wants to make sure
he prepares enough food for everyone. The brunch
and presentation are open to all.

THE ONLY JEWISH DAY CAMP IN CENTRAL KY

Summer
2016
July 25
to
August 5

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

- Archery
- Sports
- Water Play
- Arts & Crafts
- Music
- Nature activities
- Shabbat experience

**Camp
Shalom**
Established in 1968

Registration opens
February 15th

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



Sponsored by
**The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS**



Tzeason of Tzedakah 2015

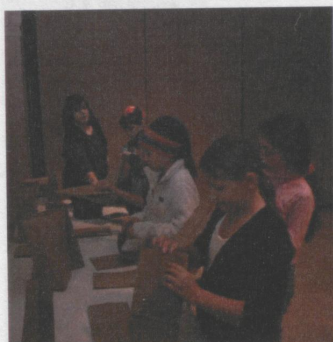
Thank you to the many volunteers and donors for Tzeason of Tzedakah 2015.
And thank you to the incredible sponsoring organizations, and their lead volunteers from
B'nai B'rith Stanley Rose Lodge #0289, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, Lexington Chapter of
Hadassah, The Lexington Havurah, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and Temple Adath Israel.

Please excuse any inadvertant errors or omissions.

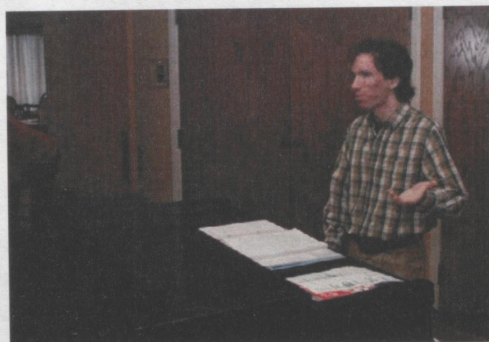
Mike Ades
Aminoff-Kraman Family
Kathy and Mike Grossman
Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant
Phil Berger and Mary Beth
Chrostowsky
Sandra Block and Friend
Pete and Ian Bourne
Tricia Bowdidge and Dennis
Heskel
Tom, Tami and Katie Brennan
Shirley Bryan
Susan and Austin Cantor
Diana and Rick Clewett
Elisia Cohen
Gail Cohen
Cohen-Archer Family
Leon Cooper
Maya Creamer
Critchfield Family
Lorne Dechtenberg
Brian Derer
Cindy Derer
Vinnie Dubilier
Judy and Joe Engelberg
Ronit and Tomer Eres
Jay and Kelly Fischbein

Jon Glixon
Judy Goldsmith and Andy Klapper
Mickey Hernandez
Josephine Hernandez
Odette and Marty Kaplan
Kaufman Family
Kathie Kroot
Amia Kurs
Ryan LaZur
Connie and John Loventhal
Howard Markowitz
Pat and Michael Marx
Nathan and Aaron McKee
Susan Miller
Ross Moosnick
Moosnick-Schatzki Family
Morris Family
Morris-Mandel Family
Nelson Family
Betty and Lowell Nigoff
Dominique Olbert
Ohavay Zion Synagogue Religious
School Students
Karen Petrone
Eve Podet
Howard Rackmil
Jacob Rackmil

Rice Family
Gloria and Michael Rie
Ricki Rosenberg
Marion Rust
Judy and Nat Sandler
Lisa Satin
Janny Scheeline
Mark Schneider
Bobbi and Lou Shain
Steve Shedlofsky
Shayna and Ely Sheinfeld
Pat Shraberg
Joshua Starr
Paul Tillier
Trader Joe's
Tina Trent and Ira Cooper
Joseph Tyler
Olga Vulakh
Sue Westerman
Betsy Wides
Justin Wides
Wirtschafter Family
Judy Wortman
Maureen Wrobel



Religious school students and other volunteers at OZS package lunches for the Hope Center.



Lorne Dechtenberg plays piano for the residents at Mayfair Village.

More photos from Tzeason of Tzedakah can be found in the *Shalom* online. Click [here](#).



Volunteers serve dinner at the Hope Center.



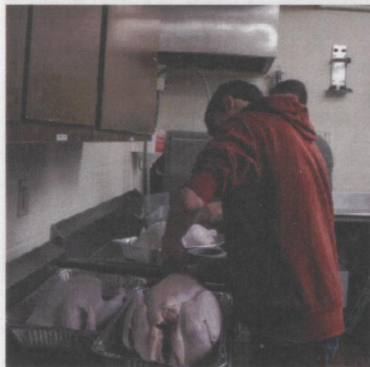
Hadassah volunteers cook dinner at the Ronald McDonald House.



One of our Meals on Wheels delivery fleets.



Getting ready to deliver for Moveable Feast.



Volunteers preparing turkeys to bring to the Catholic Action Center.



Preparing stuffing for the Catholic Action Center.



Serving a meal to those in need at the Catholic Action Center.



Miss Creamer provides light entertainment for the Jewish residents at the Stewart Home.



Volunteers from The Lexington Havurah assist with bingo at Sayre Christian Village.

More photos from Tzeason of Tzedakah can be found in the *Shalom* online. Click [here](#).

JFB Community Winter Dinner
Sunday, December 13 at OZS



One Book Jewish Lexington
Wednesday, January 13 at JFB



PJ Library Hands on Hanukkah Story Time
Thursday, December 10 at Joseph Beth Booksellers



Israel21C: Ethnic harmony in an Israeli city you never heard of

Lod, home of Ben-Gurion International Airport, wants to show the world its peaceful mosaic of cultures living side by side with history and high-tech.

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Originally published online January 5, 2016)



Deputy Mayor Aviv Wasserman, second from right, joins officials and visitors at Lod's St. George Greek Orthodox Church on the festive St. George Day. Photo by Ester Ochigava Moshe

Can Jews, Muslims and Christians live side by side peacefully in Israel? It's a question many people ask themselves.

But they can, and they do, in cities such as Haifa and in less well-known Lod, whose slogan is "A mosaic of cultures."

The municipality is working hard to raise the profile of this mostly working-class city of 77,500. It recently invited a group of journalists and diplomats to help spread the message that coexistence is alive and well in Israel — even in the climate of heightened fear and mistrust engendered by stabbing and shooting attacks by Arabs in various parts of the country lately.

"In the past few months, as a Jew I have not felt any tension here, and most of the people I speak with agree that regardless of whether they are Jews, Christians or Muslims, people here feel very, very safe," said Deputy Mayor Aviv Wasserman, a graduate of the London School of Economics and a major force in the turnaround of Lod from hardscrabble to hopeful in the past seven years.

"I don't think this has to do with me or any other politicians," Wasserman added. "I think it comes from the people, who have been together here for so long and have forged social and economic ties. Lod can really serve as a model, a symbol of sanity in Israel today."

Nobody claimed that Lod is entirely free of friction, just that interracial strife is the exception rather than the rule.



Archaeologist Hagit Torgé and Deputy Mayor Aviv Wasserman speaking with reporters at the unveiling of the newest Lod mosaic. Photo by Ester Ochigava Moshe

Mosaics old and new

The November 16 tour of Lod's mosaic of cultures began, aptly enough, with the unveiling of a 1,700-year-old mosaic floor discovered last year by the Israel Antiquities Authority.

This and a previously uncovered mosaic — which has been traveling to museums including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Louvre in Paris and the Cini Gallery in Venice — are to be displayed permanently in the Shelby White and Leon Levy Lod Mosaic Center planned on the site of the long-gone Roman-Byzantine villa that encompassed both mosaics in antiquity.

Before getting a closer look at the mosaic, each visitor was greeted by a pair of local Arab and Jewish high school students. "They are your hosts today," announced Wasserman.

ISRAEL21c's assigned hosts, 15-year-old boys Amer Mgarbh and Amit Shoham, had never met before but both go to mixed schools and live in mixed neighborhoods of Jews and Arabs.



The latest mosaic find in Lod. Photo courtesy of Israel Antiquities Authority

Muslim and Orthodox Christian Arabs, including Bedouins, comprise more than a quarter of Lod's population. Nearly half the Jews in Lod are immigrants from the former Soviet Union, many are from Ethiopia, and the rest are a hodgepodge of religious and secular Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

What everyone shares is equal status as Israeli citizens, and a growing sense of pride in their shared city. "We are like brothers," said Amer, who enjoys playing soccer with Arab and Jewish buddies on his block.

Amit and his friends are members of Young Ambassadors, a government-sponsored program that groom teenagers to travel the world speaking to groups of students and communal leaders about real life in Israel.



Visitors listening to a panel of Lod "champions" at a luncheon in the Chicago Jewish-Arab Community Center. Photo by Ester Ochigava Moshé

Writing a new story together

Over a lunch of traditional Mideast dishes at Lod's recently reopened Chicago Community Center — so named because it was funded by the Jewish Federation of Chicago — Wasserman introduced Arab and Jewish achievers from a range of communities and disciplines.

Lod's "champions" include Eitan Hermon, who lost a leg in the 2006 Lebanon war and this year was crowned International Paralympic World Champion of the London Marathon; a champion debate team from the Atid Lod High School for Arts and Sciences; and world-ranked wrestlers and boxers.

Faten Zenaty, the female Arab-Israeli director of the community center, said the community center had no Arab programming until the administration of the current mayor, Yair Revivo, oversaw the upgrade of the building and its offerings a couple of years ago.

"It is not easy to be an Arab living in a Jewish country," Zenaty said, sitting beside the city's director general, Aharon Atias, a religious Jew.

"We don't have the same stories, we don't have the

same viewpoints, yet we must accept them as one another's truth," she said. "And we have now a new story together, a story we will continue building."



Lod teens with Indian Embassy official Eldos Mathew Pannoose outside the Chicago Community Center in Lod. Photo by Juliana Hashoul

Doing business together

One new initiative is a monthly Night Market organized by Jewish, Muslim and Christian women in Lod. With an emphasis on the cuisine and music of each culture, the coexistence project provides a sensory opportunity to experience the diversity of Lod.

On a more high-tech note, the Bank Leumi Computer Center opened in Lod several years ago and includes a fin-tech startup accelerator.

Corporate CTO Ilan Buganim, a Lod native, explained that when the center was established, the bank's Tel Aviv employees did not like having their jobs moved to Lod.

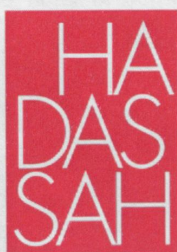
"And now that we opened our first digital bank initiative in Tel Aviv, surprisingly it was very difficult for us to convince people working here that they need to move temporarily to Tel Aviv. This is because Lod is a great location, very close to the airport, and it's not crowded," said Buganim.

CASH for
HOME & CONTENTS

call **806-1932**
JIM MISCHNER

THE LEXINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Dianne Bazell, President



It's a pleasure and honor to write my first "President's Column" in *Shalom*. I couldn't come to this position at a more exciting time. Hadassah, as an organization, and its Lexington chapter specifically, are engaged in a wide array of initiatives having worldwide, national, and local effects.

As was widely reported, groundbreaking stem cell research to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), began seven years ago at the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Jerusalem. It recently received FDA approval for Phase II clinical trials here in the U.S. Less than a month before this breakthrough was announced, a new immunotherapy drug was designed to treat lymphoma based on technology developed by Hadassah researchers. It was approved by Israeli regulatory authorities for clinical trials in Israel. The HMO continues pioneering use of virtual reality technology to treat stroke victims and developing protocols to improve the chances of recovery from transplant and other types of surgery. It remains renowned for its commitment to care for all, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, or even combat status.

Perhaps lesser known is Hadassah's active and non-partisan judicial and legislative advocacy agenda here in the U.S. Since 1979, Hadassah has drafted or signed onto over 100 "friend of the court" (*amicus curiae*) briefs at the federal and state appellate and U.S. Supreme Court levels—over 20 in the past three years on cases pertaining to health care, gender equity, separation of church and state, and the State Department's designation of Jerusalem on U.S. passports.

In the Supreme Court, Hadassah sided with Edith Windsor in overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). When Lilly Ledbetter lost her case against Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Hadassah advocated for the namesake legislation that passed Congress in 2009, the first signed into law by President Obama. Hadassah Members and Associates advocate for legislation guaranteeing gender equity in medical research, women's preventive health, affordable childcare, pay equity, and support for victims (and the prevention) of human trafficking. Members of our Lexington chapter recently met with Congressman Andy Barr to thank him for his support of Israel and to advocate for the above legislation.

In Lexington, we supply books for children and their families at the Kentucky Children's Hospital, as well as diagnostic dolls (over 500 a year) to help physicians

explain to their young patients what they're about to undergo. We'll hold our third *Hadassah Shabbat*, planned and led jointly by both congregations, this coming March 18th and 19th, followed by a community-wide women's seder after Passover. We've also held some memorable events this past year while supporting local Hadassah businesswomen, and we're aiming for more.

Hadassah cultivates what the sociologist, Robert Putnam, in his book, *Bowling Alone*, calls "social capital"—that is, the constellation of benefits we all enjoy by being involved in our communities and with each other. "Social networks have value," he writes, resorting to a couple of *yiddish* terms to make his point: "More important than wealth, education, community size, age, family status, and employment...by far the most consistent predictor of giving time and money is involvement in community life. Social recluses are rarely major donors or active volunteers, but *schmoozers* and *machers* typically are."

It's not only good and pleasant, but also powerful, to be together. Our Lexington chapter is becoming known for its levels of engagement, philanthropy, membership growth, and even travel to Israel. We're programming in ways that enhance, rather than infringe on, the lives of busy, working mothers, augmenting support of the Hadassah's Medical Center with meaningful application of Jewish values to the many challenges here at home. Our entire community, nation, and world are better off because of Hadassah members who *do*. It's an exciting time to be part of Hadassah, and I'm looking forward to the coming year.

Please join us for these exciting programs presented by and for members of the Jewish community. And of course, there will be a nosh between the two speakers!

SPRING SCHEDULE

FEB. 3 & 10 (WEDNESDAYS)

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

7-7:50 BECKY KATZ - THE DEATH PENALTY AND

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A JEWISH APPROACH

8:10-9:00 JONATHAN GLIXON - WHAT IS JEWISH

MUSIC? MUSIC IN THE BIBLE

MARCH 2 & 7 (A WEDNESDAY AND A MONDAY)

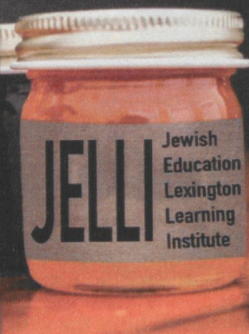
OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE

7-7:50 SHANA SIPPY - SEX, JEWS AND GENDER

8:10-9:00 JEFF SIEGEL - IF I WERE A RICH MAN.

THE JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY, WORK,

AND ACHIEVING GOALS



THE LEXINGTON HAVURAH

Gail Cohen, President

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

By Judy Goldsmith

The approach of Tu B'Shvat has me thinking about trees. And about the difficulty of writing about trees without falling into clichés. They're grounded. Hug-gable. Etc. You get the idea.



It seems strange at this point in the year to be celebrating fruit, when (barring freakishly warm winters) the tree limbs are empty. But no stranger, perhaps, than all the festivals of lights (Hanukkah, Diwali, Yalda, ...) celebrated around Winter solstice. In fact, the Iranian festival of Yalda is also associated (according to the Wikipedia article on Winter solstice, as of Winter solstice '15) with the eating of fruit.

We are told to be fruitful. Clearly, that can refer to our children, but it can mean other things as well. To be productive, to create that which is sweet and nourishing.

One of the joys of the Havurah movement, for me, is the opportunity to create new forms of worship, to adjust what we know so that it works for us. Perhaps we all do so in how we choose to practice our Judaism; in the Havurah, the expectation is more explicit. And Tu B'Shvat, a non-canonical observance, is an excellent choice for that. We celebrate the mysterious workings of the universe through metaphor. A pomegranate is not a stand-in for our self-protectiveness, nor a representation for the attribute of action. It is simply a fruit, one that reminds us of ourselves and our place in the universe. And it tastes good.

Eating the fruits at a Tu B'Shvat seder reminds us that winter does not last forever, and that there are mani-

fold ways to grow and be fruitful. We visit what has, at least for me, become familiar, and sometimes we are surprised by a new reading, new insight, or a taste that is new, at least for this year. And in our surprise, a seed of delight is planted.



Our February event is the Havurah's Annual Education Retreat: Sunday, February 28, 2016. Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Ph.D. will be our scholar. The topic will be, "Talmud Uncensored: Ethical Problems and Possibilities in Rabbinical Literature."

For more information, contact Gail.Cohen@twc.com.

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

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

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

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

Thank you to:

- Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant in memory of Irma Rosenstein, David Wekstein, and Rabbi David Wortman.
- James Levenson, Sr. in memory of Irma Rosenstein.
- Nancy and Carey Smith in memory of Floyd Morris.

OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE NEWS

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

WELCOME

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

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Please join us in **February on the 12th and the 26th at 5:30 p.m.** for our Kabbalat Shabbat Services. What a terrific way to begin the weekend, with a brief but spirited service and with beautiful melodies and wonderful friends. Everyone is welcome. Let's bring in Shabbat together!

KIDS' SHABBAT

Please join us for this month's Kids' Shabbat service in **February on the 19th at 5:30 p.m.**

Kids' Shabbat is our monthly Shabbat Service for younger children. We light candles, drink grape juice, eat pizza, sit together on beautiful carpets, sing songs, and read amazing stories from the PJ Library. Newcomers and friends are always welcome!

This year's Kids' Shabbat services will be held Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at Ohavay Zion Synagogue on the following dates.

March 18 • April 15 • May 20

For more information or to RSVP, email Dominique.Olbert

STEWART HOME KABBALAT SHABBAT

Please join us for a brief but spirited Shabbat service **February 12th at 5:30 p.m.** as our friends from Stewart Home come for a visit. For more information please call the OZS office at 266-8050 or email at office@ozs.org. All are welcome!

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

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

TUESDAY MINYAN WITH LEARNING FROM PIRKEI AVOT

Tuesday Minyan is a special time at OZS. During this brief service, students and adults both pray and learn

together. There is a warm atmosphere and something for everyone to enjoy. Please join us **Tuesday afternoons from 5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.** All are welcome!

STUDYING THE PROPHETS

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

TALMUD STUDY

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

BACKPACKING FOR GOD'S PANTRY

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

INTERESTED IN OZS?

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

Major Gifts Brunch

Save the Date

Sunday, May 22 at a private home.

Speaker Jerry Silverman,
President of the Jewish
Federations of North America.

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

124 N. Ashland Ave • Pat Shraberg, President • (859) 269-2979

WHO WE ARE

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

KIDS' SHABBAT

Our **Kids' Shabbat** service is held on the second weekend of each month during the school year and is geared towards children 7 years old and younger and their families. **Our next Kids' Shabbat is February 13th.**

PJ LIBRARY READING TIME

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

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. every two weeks in the TAI Library. The group explores cultural, ethical, and historical aspects of our 4000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. Please join us any time. **Our next sessions will be February 6th and 20th.**

TALMUD STUDY

We are studying the *Pirke Avot*, a section of the Talmud on alternate Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative and you can join the group anytime. **We will meet on February 13th and 27th.**

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 a.m. in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for each week. Various Temple members will lead discussions and everyone will take turns. **We will meet on February 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th.**

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Our Sisterhood is not a destination, but a journey.

Sisterhood had a busy month of December and slowed down a little in January. Thank you so much to Rabbi Wirschafter for leading a very informative Lunch and Learn - we now know a lot more about Judith! We would also like to thank Jessica Sandler, our generous donor, for the Hanukkah dishes. We had a wonderful time at Travinia for our "Supper with Shana" - we all got to know Shana Sippy a little better. Look for your invitations to our Sisters in the Hood Dinners for February and March!

Starting in January 2016, all PAID up Sisterhood members will receive a 20% discount in the gift shop on regular price items (excluding cards, books, and candy). Also, the Sisterhood gift shop is now accepting credit and debit cards for your shopping convenience (Minimum \$10.00 sale).

If you are interested in membership, please contact Laura Creamer at 269-2979 or lcreamer1@hotmail.com.

GENERATION TAI FOR FEBRUARY

Generation TAI is our Chavurah group for young adults. Programming runs the spectrum from worship to social action and from Shabbat to holiday meals. We meet each month on the first Friday for services and dinner. Please contact Daniel Baker at dsbaker7@gmail.com for more information.

Show Your Support

Help us keep Shalom solvent.

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

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

GIVING LEVELS

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

Our 2015 Contributors

Thank you for your generous donations.

CHAI

Anthony Davidson
William Deehan

DOUBLE CHAI

Lynn Furness
Bobbi and Lou Shain

GIBOR

Marianne and Larry Fox

PJ Library: 2015 Year in Review

2015 was a banner year! More beautiful story books, more family bedtime moments, more fun PJ Library programs and events. Here's a quick review of what YOU made possible...

PROOF



1,753,921 books read in the United States and Canada.



250,000 Hebrew language books gifted monthly to preschoolers in Israel by PJ Library's sister program, Sifriyat Pijama.



35,153 books mailed internationally. Including Australia, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Singapore, and Russia.



More than **2,000** events engaging current and potential PJ Library families in their local community.



301 unsolicited manuscripts received from aspiring writers hoping to become PJ authors.



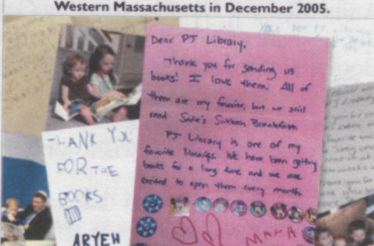
10 years of PJ Library. PJ Library books began arriving in homes in Western Massachusetts in December 2005.



2 issues of PROOF magazine.



1 community.



Join the Shalom Editorial Committee

Committee members meet monthly to edit articles, and occasionally write them as well. If you enjoy journalism or just staying current with Jewish events locally and worldwide, bring your enthusiasm to the Shalom team!

Contact Barbara Goldman, Editor-in-Chief
shalom@jewishlexington.org

Shalom welcomes submissions from freelance writers. Please submit a full pitch that includes a detailed description of what you'd like to write. Do not submit a completed piece. Shalom is a non-profit newspaper.

If you're interested in volunteering your articles please contact Barbara Goldman, Editor-in-Chief
shalom@jewishlexington.org

Interested in Freelancing?

--- 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:

- Congratulations to Shoshi and Rabbi Shlomo Litvin on the birth of their daughter, Rivka Menucha.
- Congratulations to Luke Smith and his parents, Brent Smith and Katy Miller, on his Bar Mitzvah.
- Congratulations to Graham Waller and Carolyn Sutton on their recent marriage. Graham is the son of Robin Waller and co-owner of Winchell's Restaurant.

Condolences to:

- The family of Benjamin Lookofsky.
- David and Cheri Rose, and family, on the passing of their daughter Alicia Rose.
- Rabbi Sharon Cohen and family on the passing of her brother, Philip Cohen.
- Valentina Goloborodko, and daughters Irina and Larisa, on the passing of husband and father, Vladimir.

ATTENTION PROUD GRAND-PARENTS, PARENTS, & STUDENTS

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

pj playgroup 

February 28, 2015
Ohavay Zion Synagogue
10:15–11:30 am
Please RSVP to
pjlibrary@jewishlexington.org

PJ Playgroup is best for kids under 4.
We'll have time to play, eat a light snack, and perhaps sing a song, create a craft, or read a PJ Library book.

PJ Playgroup is a joint endeavor of Temple Adath Israel, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and PJ Library. Locations rotate each month.

Gan Shalom Preschool
An Early Childhood Program for
Toddlers & Preschoolers
at Ohavay Zion Synagogue
Now enrolling for the 2016-2017 school year
Hurry... Registration ends February 16th

"Creativity & Learning through Diversity"
* Flexible Full Day and Part-time Programs
* Warm, Nurturing Environment
* Special Enrichment Programs

Ages 12 months to 5 years (pre-k)
Quality, Licensed **CHILDCARE** and **PRESCHOOL** Programs
Included in our wonderful curriculum is a weekly fitness program and music program

Real Life Activities, Hands-on Learning, Cultural Awareness Highly Qualified Teachers, Small Child/Adult Ratios



Jewish Identity is explored through integrating Judaic experiences into a child's life through song, story, art, cooking and movement. Jewish traditions are enriched through additional holiday and Shabbat activities.

For a tour of our school or for more information please
call 335-9922
www.ganshalom.com

Shalom

Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dianne Bazell
Vivian Bitensky
Austin Cantor
Judy Goldsmith
Mimi Kaufman
Abigail Klein Leichman
Melanie Shapiro
Hanna B. Smith
Rabbi H.D. Uriel Smith
Talia Smolkin
Judy B. Wortman

JEWISH FEDERATION STAFF & BOARD

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

*Michael Grossman, President
*Evalyn Block, Vice President
*Dianne Bazell, Treasurer
*Gayle Bourne, Secretary
*Amy Faust Mayer, At-Large
*Seth Salomon, At-Large
Daniel Baker
Marcia Blacker
Jane Chaput
Gail Cohen
David Feinberg

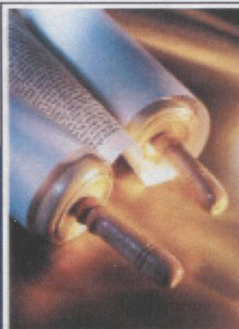
Jenn Garlin
Mickey Hernandez
Angie Ornstein
Linda Ravvin
Ken Slepian
Hanna Smith
Marty Solomon
Elissa Weinstein
Sue Westerman
Judy Worell

** Executive Committee member.*

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

Advertise Your Business!

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



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Lunch and Learn with our
Lexington community rabbis

February 23 with Rabbi Sharon Cohen

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.