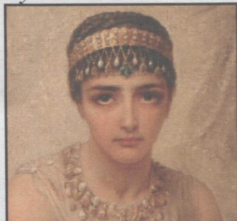




Why I Give to Federation

By Esther



Recently, you may have heard from dedicated Federation volunteers during Super Sunday. The Annual Campaign has begun, and you are probably aware of how important it is to the success and vitality of our community. I'd like to share just one reason for why I donate to Federation and encourage you to consider giving a first gift, or increasing your previous gift, this year.

Long ago, before moving to Kentucky, I reluctantly became Queen of Persia. Though I enjoyed many of the luxuries that came with the title, I never truly wanted any of it. I simply wanted to be able to live my life the way I pleased without fear of what others might think. You see, as you may already know, my husband and one of the King's loyal subjects, were both quite anti-Semitic. If they had even a shred of suspicion that I was Jewish, they might have hung me on the spot. So, I kept my true identity secret for quite some

time until I eventually had to stand up and support my people. I risked my life, but I did what I had to do to ensure a bright future for the Jewish people.

I won't bore you with the story, but one thing you must know is that I was given the strength and power to be a proud Jewish woman and stand up for my beliefs because of the support of my community. Before then, and ever since, Jewish communities around the world have empowered Jewish women in so many different ways. Locally, I have had the luxury of seeing amazing Jewish women leading and supporting others – through Hadassah, through congregational life, and even through the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass. Our community is strong because of these women. We've come quite a long way from Shushan, but our values remain the same: we are a dedicated community, honest and adhering to our principles, and we must never change.

I give to Federation to continue to support the things we do to empower everyone, especially young Jewish women. Jewish women often tell me that they look up to me and my bravery back in Persia, but it is I who look up to these women in Kentucky for their strength in being exceptional leaders dedicated to the future of the Jewish people.

I haven't saved much money over the years—the trip from Persia cost a fortune!—but I have pledged to give to the Federation's Annual Campaign once again. I encourage you to give whatever you can! Anything you can do is sure to go directly into supporting the great things these women, and so many others, do for our community. Please give generously!

This "gag" article was written by Daniel Baker. Cropped Photo: Painting by Edwin Long, 1878.

Persian Rug Showcase

By Morty

2017 is the year for designing with Persian rugs, according to a recent article published in Southern Living. The unique accents and patterns bring rooms of all sizes and colors to life while creating an elegant and sophisticated flare.

Chief Design Specialist Deco Ration spoke to us about how Persian Rugs could add special style to any home. "Adding a beautiful Persian rug straight from Shushan will bring elegance to your living or dining areas. The modern Shushan collections come in a variety of shapes and sizes, are kid-friendly, and can be customized to include some of your favorite Bluegrass flair, like horses or UK wildcats."

The Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass will be welcoming rug weaver Percy Rugstein, who was recently featured in Southern Living, to Lexington on World Interiors Day, May 28. Rugstein, renowned in the Jewish community for his work with Persian-inspired rug designs, will showcase his "From Shushan to Kentucky" collection, featuring a bourbon-themed area rug, an Ashley Judd-inspired runner, and an eccentric horse mosaic perfect for accenting your Derby-themed decor.

Special guest John Calipari will be available to sign a special handmade area rug designed using his face as inspiration. Tickets will be made available in April, along with further details.

This "gag" article was written by Daniel Baker.

Lexington Hamantaschen Week

By Chef Ha Manta Schen

Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass has been working with several local restaurants to coordinate Lexington Hamantaschen Week. For 7 days, March 32-39, you can visit various establishments to try an assortment of unique and delicious cookies!

"This is a great opportunity to showcase Jewish culture in Lexington while enjoying delicious treats we find every year around Purim," said Chef Ha Manta Schen, master Chef at the local Bagel and Schmear. "You'll be able to find some unique flavors, as well as traditional favorites, at restaurants all over the city, including McCarthy's Irish Pub, which will have a corned beef and cabbage flavored option, and at the Kentucky Fried Chicken location on Richmond Rd., which will have a fried chicken and gravy flavor."

For those with dietary restrictions, the options available at all establishments should be a problem. Rabbi Eats A Lotstein has confirmed that the hamantaschen at all establishments are certified glatt Kosher, pareve, and gluten free.

Hamantaschen will be available in small, medium, large or family size boxes and come with a mini grogger for the kids to enjoy.

For more details and a list of participating restaurants, visit lexingtonhamantaschenweek.oy.

This "gag" article was written by Daniel Baker.

Campaign News: Say goodbye to the US Dollar. We're joining Federations everywhere in the switch to using only Shekels. Read more on page 400!

Scooter Stein: Winner of the 2016 Captain Jackye Taylor Award

By Hanna B. Smith

Scooter Stein, Director of Public Affairs for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, is the 2016 winner of the department's Captain Jackye Taylor Humanitarian Award. Scooter, whose real first name is Edward, is the son of Alan Stein, former president of Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and Judge Kathy Stein. He is the grandson of the late Ed and Ann Stein of Lexington and the late Erle Wright and Vivian Barker Wright.

Captain Jackye Taylor, after whom the award is named, was a law-enforcement officer in the Fayette County Sheriff's Department who represented the best in community policing. The Fayette County Sheriff's Department is very concerned about developing and maintaining good community relations in order to provide effective services. This is especially important today when so many communities in our nation experience a growing mistrust between citizens and law-enforcement personnel.

In his job, Scooter is the media contact for the Sheriff's Department, and he is very involved in the local community. Lexington/Fayette County, as small as it is, is home to a very diverse population. There are 128 languages spoken in the area, 89 of them by the children in Fayette County schools.

It helps that Scooter is proficient in Spanish, and he is frequently asked to translate for people who contact the Sheriff's Department or who appear in court. Part of his job is to explain local law to people who come from different cultural backgrounds and see that they do not get lost in the system. It is not unusual for immigrants to come from countries where the citizen has to fear police. While the role of police in the U.S. is to maintain public order, this task is combined

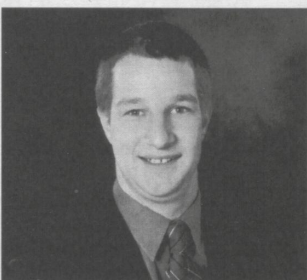
with assisting people in various ways.

For example, the Sheriff's office helps homeless people locate needed services, such as shelter or more permanent housing, food, and medical care. Some of the local homeless rely upon the Sheriff's office for help with paperwork, keeping track of medications, and getting to doctor's appointments.

In order to help the Sheriff's staff and law enforcement officers relate well to this diverse population, Scooter recommended and helped initiate a training program called "Diverse Voices." Representatives of the various population groups in Fayette County speak to the assembled officers about their own cultural backgrounds and how police are viewed by the citizenry in their countries of origin. This gives the officers insight into why people respond in certain ways when seeing a local police officer and helps the officer adjust his or her response accordingly. For example, one African lady related how women in her country fear police because in Africa a large number of police have been involved in rape. The "Diverse Voices" program has been well received, and Scooter is rightly proud of this achievement.

Scooter has a master's degree in international relations and Spanish, and he has travelled extensively in South America. He has also worked as a teacher and as an intern in Honduras and Costa Rica. These experiences have given him an understanding of different cultures and mindsets.

We are proud to have an accomplished and compassionate employee like Scooter Stein in the Sheriff's office, and wish him continued success in his work.



Campaign News

By Tamara Ohayon

FOR WOMEN ONLY: JFB's Annual Women's Philanthropy Event

Calling all mothers, daughters, sisters, and girlfriends for a High Tea (or "Chai" Tea) at Ohavay Zion Synagogue on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Throughout the event we will enjoy a musical performance by Lauren Hill, Jerry Suhl, and Lorne Dechtenberg. Cost is \$54 per person (\$3 off if you bring your mother-in-law!) and includes dinner, drinks, and a minimum gift to JFB. At the event you will be asked to make an additional pledge to the Jewish Federation's Annual Women's Philanthropy Campaign.

RSVP required by Friday, March 24 to tamara@jewishlexington.org or (859) 268-0672.

Additional thanks to all who volunteered and answered our call on Super Sunday!

Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass is now hiring!

Part-time and seasonal positions currently open.

For more information contact
Tamara Ohayon or visit
jewishlexington.org/career-center.

Ask JFS: Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention

By Mimi Kaufman



Substance abuse, particularly the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs along with heroin and illicit fentanyl, remains one of the most critical public health and safety issues facing Kentucky. Over the past decade, the number of Kentuckians who have died as a result of a drug overdose has steadily increased to more than 1,000 each year. According to the CDC, there were 33,000 overdose deaths in 2016, and 1,003 of them were in Kentucky.

We read about it in the paper, and we hear it on the news. There are many reasons for the increase; it is multifaceted and complex, fascinating, and eye opening. Our local law enforcement and health care professionals are working diligently to battle the problem, to educate the public, and help people to get treatment. The reality is that the increase has had a devastating toll on families, communities, social services, and economic stability and growth.

To give you an idea of how overwhelming the current opioid epidemic is, I attended a conference on the topic this past December; it was advertised to social workers and nurses in Kentucky, and sponsored and organized by The Ridge. They typically have a conference every winter, usually with about 100 people in attendance. A few days before the conference the venue had to be moved to Quest Church because the turnout was close to 1,000 in attendance. It was a free workshop and they did not want to have to turn folks away, especially since the purpose was to educate us on what is new with treatment. Professionals from all over Kentucky were in attendance. I believe that the number of professionals who wanted to travel to hear what is new about the opioid problem reflects just how prevalent it is these days, especially in our home state of Kentucky. The more you talk to people about it, what you find is that the addict is not the stereotyped junkie on the street anymore—it is also the middle-aged man or woman checking out in front of you at the grocery store. The statistics are astounding. For example, according to the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, the number of drug overdoses in Fayette County have gone from 54 in 2012 to 63 in 2013, from 84 in 2014 to 106 in 2015.

On March 12 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Jewish Family Services will host an educational program on Substance Abuse Prevention as part of our Jewish Family Life Education Program. Catherine Martin, who is a treatment professional at the University of Kentucky, will be our guest speaker. The program is aimed for parents of teens and tweens and will take place at the Jewish Federation office.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Mimi at jfs@jewishlexington.org or call (859) 269-8244.

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

Join the Conversation! March 15

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

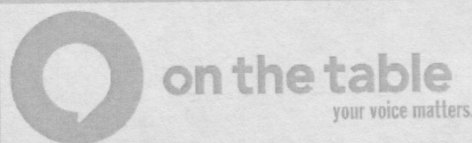
On that day, volunteers throughout Lexington will host small groups of 8 to 12 individuals over a meal or coffee for informal conversation about the issues that impact our quality of life. On the Table is designed to generate new ideas and cultivate relationships and collaborations that will improve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

The Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, as a Super Host, has committed to hosting at least 20 tables, **8 to 12 people per table**. We invite you to host one of the tables. The time, guests and refreshments are entirely up to you.

Hosts are not expected to be moderators or record keepers. Rather, they are asked to provide a welcoming environment, a little guidance and some refreshments.

Host Toolkits with complete instructions and useful tips are available online at bgcf.org/onthetable.

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



Feel free to RSVP to join in on one of these community conversations throughout the day:

Jewish Family Services Committee - 2:00 p.m.
Temple Adath Israel

Mimi Kaufman, jfs@jewishlexington.org

PJ Library & Camp Shalom Parents - 6:00 p.m.
Bardach Home

David and Shani Bardach, drbardach@gmail.com

Young Bluegrass Jews - 6:30 p.m.
Mirror Twin Brewing

Daniel Baker, daniel@jewishlexington.org

Gan Shalom Parents - 7:00 p.m.
Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe

Katie Kirkland, katiekirkland@yahoo.com

Jennifer Gripshover Group - 7:00 p.m.
Ohavay Zion Synagogue

Jennifer Gripshover, jgrip_6@hotmail.com

From the Director: Putting Hanna's advice into action

By Tamara Ohayon



This past month Hanna Smith, Committee Chairwoman for Shalom, in her usual eloquent and humorous way, offered some important advice for all of us. Her article, *In Praise of Ordinary People*, charged us with a simple, yet sometimes challenging, task. Get involved, lend a hand.

She reminded us that Federation, and our other local organizations, are run by volunteers, not just the few staff we employ. For that reason, it's so important that everyone connected to Federation take a turn at doing their part to help. The quality and variety of our programs depends on you and your time helping the team.

You may be able to commit to joining a committee on a regular basis, or helping with a particular event or program. You might be able to sell ads for Shalom, or read a story to our Camp Shalom kids in the summer. Or perhaps you only have the time to be an ambassador for us on social media and share our posts and event announcements regularly from your phone. Whatever it is, we want and need your help.

Here is a list of Federation's committees and a little bit about each. If you see something that fits your skill set or interests and you can find a few hours a month for us, please contact the staff person involved and we will get you tapped in.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee obtains an estimate of the anticipated expenses and income for the next fiscal year from all committees and divisions of the Federation. With Tamara and Kathie, it then drafts a tentative budget including projected amounts for contingencies and reserves. It consults with the Board for its approval at the January board meeting. It can also present to the board recommendations for budget revisions on matters not included in the current approved budget. The Treasurer, who chairs the committee, oversees the budget throughout the year. This group meets twice per year. Our current Board Treasurer is Dianne Bazell. Contact Tamara Ohayon if you would like to join this committee.

Campaign Committee

The Campaign Committee organizes and implements the annual fundraising campaign. The committee is responsible for organizing campaign events, including Super Sunday. Members of the committee are expected to participate in solicitation efforts and to recruit other solicitors. The committee is also responsible for the promotion of endowment and legacy giving efforts. This committee meets several times per year. Our current campaign chair is Linda Ravvin. Please contact Linda or Tamara Ohayon to join this committee.

Community Relations Committee

The Community Relations Committee promotes dialogue and understanding among the diverse populations of Central Kentucky and promotes awareness and social action to improve the living conditions for everyone in our area. It promotes efforts to fight anti-Semitism and all forms of racism and discrimination. The committee is also responsible for developing programs related to Israel advocacy and Holocaust commemoration. This committee meets quarterly. The Co-Chairs are Ken Slepyan and Larry Kant. Contact Tamara Ohayon or Rabbi Sharon Cohen if you would like to join.

Jewish Family Services Committee

The Jewish Family Services Committee works in an advisory capacity to the Jewish Family Services Director and advises the Federation Board about the operations, planning, evaluation and administration of JFS. Committee members are involved in planning the programs, such as the Jewish Family Life Education series, and may serve on a scholarship sub-committee. This committee meets monthly. Chair is Connie Loventhal. Contact Mimi Kaufman for more information or to join this group.

Community Activities Committee

The Community Activities Committee coordinates all pro-

grams assigned to it by the Board of Directors and may suggest to the Board new programs which do not duplicate programs which already exist within the Jewish community. The committee also coordinates Federation's participation in joint social, educational and cultural communal activities. Some of these programs include the Winter Dinner, Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day), Global Day of Jewish Learning, Tzeason of Tzedakah, and One Book Jewish Lexington. Meetings may be quarterly, and event sub-committees may meet throughout the year. This committee currently has no chairperson. Please contact Rabbi Sharon Cohen or Talia Smolkin to join this fun group.

Camp Shalom Committee

The Camp Shalom Committee oversees the operations, planning, administration and evaluation of Camp Shalom and advises the Board of Directors as to these concerns. This committee meets quarterly. Our current chair, Elissa Weinstein, will be retiring from many dedicated years at this post this summer. Please contact Tamara Ohayon or Rabbi Sharon Cohen if you are interested in joining.

Shalom Editorial Committee

The Shalom Editorial Committee serves as the editorial board and proofreaders for the Shalom newspaper. The committee also seeks and encourages community involvement in Shalom. This committee meets ten times per year. Our current chair is Hanna Smith. Please contact Daniel Baker or Editor-in-Chief, Barbara Goldman, to join this committee.

Marketing and Website Committee

The Marketing and Website Committee is an ad hoc committee that oversees cohesive marketing and outreach strategies for the Federation. Current chair is Paul Tillier. This group will meet, at most, quarterly. Please contact Daniel Baker if you are interested in joining this committee.

PJ Library Advisory Committee

The PJ Library Advisory Committee helps develop programs and outreach for PJ Library children and their families. The committee is also responsible for Shalom Baby Baskets that JFB gives to new newborn babies and their parents. Please contact Talia Smolkin for more information.

Young Bluegrass Jews Committee

The YBJ Committee is responsible for outreach to young professionals and students in the Jewish community who range in age from 21 to 45. They also plan events and programs throughout the year. The Chair for this group is Ilana Kline. Contact Daniel Baker for more information or to join this team.

Ask A Rabbi

By Rabbi H. D. Uriel Smith



Re: Ask a Rabbi: How do we bring more sophisticated thinking to Israel?

- a) How can we convince the Israelis that the Haredi suppression of women's religiosity is endangering Israel and Israel's relations with the Diaspora?
- b) How can we convince the Israelis and Palestinians to start a peaceful dialogue, saving themselves by stepping out of the web of hatred strangling them today?

When Ambassador Judith V. Shorer recently came to Lexington from the Atlanta Israeli consulate members of our community asked her several pointed questions about Israel and our local relations with that land and people. Several of these questions could be summarized as I formulated them above. The ambassador responded in several ways, but her main thrust was that we here in Kentucky should not rely on others to do what we can do here.

The first question arose because of several bad decisions, in Israel, whereby the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) community is expanding *sin'at hinam* (baseless hatred) within the Jewish community.

In February, 2007, the Israeli government had worked out an agreement with the different branches of religious Judaism that the ultra-Orthodox could continue guiding the rules of prayer at the central, "classical" sector of the Kotel (the Western Wall), while to the south, at an archaeological park section of the Wall, the Robinson's Arch sector, the egalitarian sectors of Judaism (Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform) could conduct egalitarian services. Members of the Haredi community, including Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, who oversees the proceedings at the Kotel and other holy sites, have blocked the implementation of that agreement, so that nine years after Sharansky had worked out that agreement the Haredi community still blocks it.

The Ministry of Education is headed by Naftali Bennett (right wing Bayit Hadash politician) with the Deputy Minister being Meir Porush (representing a Hasidic wing, Shlomei Emunei Yisrael, of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael). They are trying to push a narrow Orthodox perspective in Israeli education. The drafts of the newest edition of the civics education book they are promoting, downplays the democratic nature of Israel, emphasizing instead the Jewish (i.e. ultra-Orthodox) nature of Israel. As a result a strong backlash opposition has risen in Israel to this text. This civics book incidentally is extra harmful for the non-Jewish citizens of Israel. It pretends that the biblical injunction, "There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you" (Exodus 12:49; cf. Leviticus 18:26; 19:34; Numbers 15:15-16; Ezekiel 47:22) applies only to the *ger tzedek* ("convert"), even though Leviticus 18:26 and 19:34 show that the law applies also to the non-converting *ger toshav* (resident alien) dwelling among the Israelites. Actually, Judaism is fully compatible with democracy.

A Jerusalemite woman who till recently went each month to the mikvah was blocked last December from two mikvaot in her neighbourhood because she wished to immerse herself without the presence of a *balanit* (woman bath attendant) appointed by the chief rabbi. Even though she had paid for the use of the Mikvah, she was unable to immerse herself, and was escorted out of the Mikvah buildings by the police. The problems faced by that woman are examples of what any Masortit (Conservative) and Mitkademet (Reform) woman would face in Israel, since the *balanit* is told by the Chief Rabbinate that she should ask any woman coming to immerse herself various questions about her background.

In all these decisions the Haredi community believes that their narrow point of view overrides everybody else's wants and wishes, and they are paying no attention to the long-term effects of what they are doing. We can see that in a thieving land-grab law they forced through the Israeli Knesset last month. They are calling it by the seemingly neutral title, "The Regularization Law" (*Hoq ha-Sidrah*). It rules that Israeli settlers in Judah and Samaria can grab Palestinian lands, even though the Palestinians can show papers giving them full title to the lands. The government is hoping that the Israeli Supreme Court will declare the law to be illegal. And then "reluctantly" they will implement the Supreme Court rules. The arrangement is one whereby Bennett's Bayit Hadash party and the Haredi movement can blame the Israeli Supreme Court for stopping that thievery. They do not recognize that the prophetic call, "Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and its returnees by righteousness" (*Tziyon b'-mishpat tippaddeh, v'-shaveyha bitzdaqah*); Isaiah 1:27), applies to them.

This is not the first time that the Haredi community have created problems, forcing others to clean up the mess, and then blaming the benefactors for saving them from the consequences. Israel has separate schools for the ultra-Orthodox (*dati*) and the moderate larger community (*mamlakhti*). The *dati* schools focus so much on traditional activities such as studying the Talmud, fulfilling rituals, and prayers, that the students gain insufficient knowledge of math and science. When they graduate the students often cannot find work because of these deficiencies. The Haredi movement claims that the male graduates should continue studying in *kolelim* and *yeshivot* (religious academies), but many of the graduates do not have the ability to continue with such intensive studies. (*Continued on p. 5*)

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

Contributor articles are always welcome!

(Ask A Rabbi, continued from p. 4) The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) has arranged a special hesder system for the Orthodox, and has created a Nahal Haredi battalion, the 97 Netzah Yehudah Battalion, which follows strict Orthodox practices. However, many ultra-Orthodox rabbis oppose any service in the IDF, and their followers have attacked members of the IDF who have entered their municipal districts wearing their uniform. Israeli conscription law allows deferment from the Armed Forces if the adult is a full-time student in a religious academy. The IDF leadership has stated that if the ultra-Orthodox individuals do not want to enter the army, they do not want them, since such people just create problems, and Israel has neither the time nor the money to deal with them. So, the yeshiva dropouts remain in limbo, unable to study properly, unable to find work, and reluctant to join the army. Three years ago, under the influence of Yair Lapid, leader of the Yesh Atid party, the Knesset passed a law requiring that such individuals should be conscripted, helping them to enter the twenty-first century. After the March 2015 elections the present government, retaining the ultra-Orthodox parties, has overridden that conscription law. The haredi community still demands that Israel pay for the upkeep of such people, since they cannot earn enough to look after themselves and their families.

The inability of these ultra-Orthodox and right wing party people to understand the long-term consequences of their demands arises at least in part from one-step thinking. Unfortunately, most of us do not recognize the dangers of such immature thinking.

Children, before they can speak are egocentric simply because they cannot understand that others are acting outside their own will. Children then are at a zero-step stage of thought.

Jacques Lacan elaborated on the individual's recognition of the self by identifying a Mirror Stage, developed by a child between six and eighteen months. The child then recognizes that the mirror image is an image of its own body. When well developed this gives rise to a person recognizing other persons' selves, and helps a person to have empathy with others. The full change from the original zero-step thinking to a one-step thinking occurs when the child begins to refer to itself with 'I' or 'me', instead of just using its name, 'Johnny' or 'Betty', the way its parents had spoken to it, "Does Johnny want some ice-cream?"

Many adults never advance beyond the one-step stage to the two-step awareness. In order to advance the individual has to be able to put oneself into the shoes of another person, walking a mile in his moccasins. Once a person takes the stance of the other, he can look back at himself, and work out how the other person perceives the originating two-step thinker, oneself.

The difference is seen in the change in language between that in the Hebrew Torah, Leviticus chap. 19, and that used in the New Testament, Luke 10:29-37. Lev chap. 19 was written by the authors/editors of the Holiness-Code, a document produced near the end of the First Temple period (ca. 700-600 BCE) by a priestly faction who had recently discovered two-step thinking. They found it a revelation. The writers revelled in it, writing, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Lev 19:18), and "The stranger living with you shall be treated as a native among you: love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev 19:34). Both verses automatically use this two-step formulation. Luke,

however, was written for a community that was not as sophisticated, and therefore did not think in an "as yourself" formulation

The Judeans and Samaritans at the time were fierce religious opponents: often they refused even to talk with each other. The idea of a "Good Samaritan" then, sounded for Judeans like a "Good Commie" would during the Korean War or Viet-Nam War. Jesus favoured Jerusalem. He celebrated Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, at the Temple in Jerusalem (John 10:22). But, he showed compassion also to Samaritans (John 4:4-42). In his parable, given in Luke 10:29-37, Jesus showed that a Samaritan could be practically more of a neighbour than a Judean priest or Levite. The parable tells the listeners to look at the deeds of the Samaritan in a one-step fashion on the one hand, and at the priest and Levite also in a one-step fashion on the other hand. In terms of the practical morality the New Testament agrees with the Old. Both state: have compassion on others, and take care of them. Only a careful structural analysis identifies the difference in structural sophistication of the language used.

Since one-step thinkers cannot recognize how others see them, they are liable to think that their ideas are perfect, and so they search for someone else to blame for their own shortcomings. We all grow through one-step thinking, and thus such one-step thinking permeates most cultures. In the Holy Land it permeates a large proportion of the Israeli adults on the one side and a large proportion of the adult Palestinians on the other. Thus, each side blames the other for the tensions between them.

If the blame leads to anger, as it often does, this anger easily spreads against others who do not agree on spreading the blame. This anger often attacks people who should be allies, leading to sin'at hinam ("baseless hatred"), Jews against fellow Jews and Palestinians against fellow Palestinians. Such angry people feel insecure. They become what psychologists call "authoritarian" personalities.

The more sophisticated Jewish communities, whether Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox, will educate women in a more sophisticated fashion to recognize the wider range of two-step thinking. Jewish mothers in all denominations can guide their children to think (Continued on p. 6)

Save The Date!

JFS Substance Abuse Prevention Workshop

Jewish Family Services presents a Substance Abuse Workshop with a guest speaker on **March 12, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**, at the JFB office. Parents of teens and tweens are encouraged to attend.

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

(Ask a Rabbi, continued from p. 5) in more sophisticated ways. This can give the children greater security to deal with ideas from other communities without fearing them.

Last month an Israeli bar in Haifa, Libira, which each month offers different brews of beer to their customers, featured a beer from the Shepherds Brewery in Ramallah, across the Green Line. The owners received angry posts from many one-step shortsighted Israelis. One person wrote, "We don't want any beer made from Jewish blood!!!" The owners decided to disregard such prejudice, recognizing that the only way to support peace is to continue communications across the green line. If we stop communicating, our children will have to continue fighting, spilling each other's blood for generations to come. The owners stated that they would continue to feature beers from other parts of Israel, from Palestinian areas, and from abroad. They are two-step thinkers.

At college, students of psychology, sociology, and cultural anthropology add another step to their thinking, making them three-step thinkers. News reporters must be two-step thinkers, putting themselves in the shoes of their readers. People studying news media, literature, artistic production, and education learn at college to be three-step thinkers.

Once we study higher-step thinking we have to realize that in the present Middle Eastern maelstrom of fighting Israel has to remain strong. It desperately is trying to keep out of the surrounding wars. In doing so it saves the lives of Israeli citizens. But it also is saving the lives of the Palestinians living in the shadow of its protection. In order to maintain its Jewish character Israel has to maintain control also of the Temple Mount (Har ha-Bayit in Hebrew, Haram esh-Sharif in Arabic). It cannot cut out its own soul. Anybody demanding that Israel abandon its most holiest place should also demand from Catholics to abandon the Vatican, Saudi Arabia to abandon Mecca and Medina, and the United States to give Washington DC back to the native Americans. Such demands can never bring peace.

Many of us may be unable to make our thinking more sophisticated, involving two or more-step thinking. But we all can follow the first Israeli Chief Rabbi, Avraham Kook, who said that we should overcome our fears, and replace baseless hatred with ahavat hinam ("baseless love"). And we may be able to have a glass of beer together with our opponents.

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

What's In Your Medicine Cabinet? It's a Family Issue!

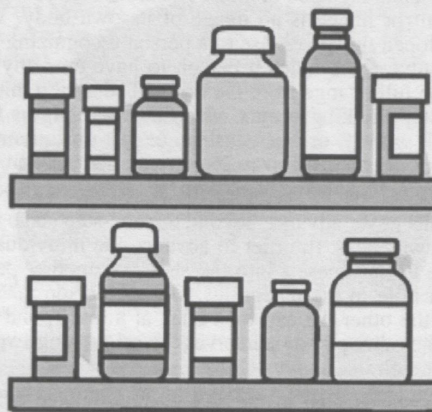
*Jewish Family Life Education Program
Substance Abuse Awareness & Prevention*

**March 12th 4:00pm-5:30pm
at JFB 1050 Chinoe Rd. Suite 112**

Join us as we discuss the opioid epidemic and Kentucky's response as well as prevention strategies that all families should know at any age. We will be joined by expert panelists:

Catherine Martin, MD
*Professor Department of Psychiatry
University of Kentucky College of Medicine*

Erin Salomon, LCSW
*Child Therapist
University of Kentucky College of Medicine*



Contact info and RSVP to Mimi Kaufman at
jfs@jewishlexington.org or call 269-8244
RSVP by March 9th



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Cove Spring Park

By Reva Schottenstein



Nestled in between the hills that make up Frankfort, you will find Cove Spring Park. There are two sections to the park, one offering a wetland trail and the other with additional trails and a meadow.

At the front of the main section of the park, there are two beautiful waterfalls to welcome you. Standing at these waterfalls for a few moments, listening to the sound of the flowing water, is the perfect way to transition from the outside world from which you came to the serenity of Cove Spring Park.

Just beyond the entrance to the park, you will find the meadow. I love the meadow. When I imagine a place of harmony and relaxation, I imagine the meadow at Cove Spring Park. One side of the meadow is lined by trees, and the other is abutted by the creek.

As you pass through the meadow, you will exit by way of a foot bridge over the creek. Just past this bridge you will find two paths separating out into the individual trails. An afternoon can be spent exploring the trails through the woods and hills that make up the park. There is the "Cove Spring" trail, which is a short, easy path leading to the start of the spring which feeds the creek and gives the park its name.

For a little bit of a challenge, I recommend the "Holly Loop" trail. This trail is a climb up and down the park's main hill. It is also a wooded trail, with greenery providing relief from the sun, as well as many lovely plants and flowers to discover. As you near the top of the hill you will come upon the option to extend the journey by adding on the "Osage" trail. The "Osage" trail will bring you right up to the top of the hill, which features a lovely vista of Frankfort.



Across the road from the main section of the park is the wetland trail, which makes for a great leisurely hike. This trail, which makes a loop through both marsh and forest, can be completed rather quickly. However, I recommend you take your time. Enjoy the sun on your face as you walk among the tall grasses and wild flowers.

The park is easily accessible from Lexington, providing a great opportunity for a getaway that will feel like an escape from the rest of the world.

Follow Reva's local travel blog at thoroughlykentucky.com.

JFS Caregiver Support Meeting

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

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

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

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

2017 One World Jewish Films Festival

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

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

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

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

Reflections on Bringing Back Civility

By Richard V. Sandler

Published February 14, 2017

Fifteen months ago, I was given the honor of becoming chair of The Jewish Federations of North America. This position has given me the opportunity to listen to and learn from leaders throughout the Jewish world, and to see the Jewish community from a broader and more informed perspective. I have had the privilege of working with Natan Sharansky and his colleagues at The Jewish Agency for Israel; Alan Gill and now David Schizer and the leadership of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; and the leadership of World ORT. I have been able to interact with leaders from almost every major Jewish organization in the U.S., from the Conference of Presidents to AIPAC to JCPA, Hillel to J Street. And I have gained a new appreciation for the complexity of issues affecting the Jewish world, from pluralism and politics in Israel to the relationship between Diaspora and Israeli Jewry to educating the next generation on the beauty of our heritage.

As a result, I have identified the following three issues as critical to our community:

The loss of young Jews through assimilation, not because they don't care about Judaism and Jewish tradition, but because they don't know;

The lack of understanding between Jews in Israel and Jews in North America; and

The lack of civility around controversial issues within our own community.

With respect to the first point, we are working to engage young Jews through several successful programs conducted by a number of Federations, and through a reexamination of our National Young Leadership Cabinet.

As to the second point, we are building bridges between our Jewish communities in several ways. We work directly with the Government of Israel on several issues, including that of prayer at the Kotel, and we have brought members of Knesset on missions to Federations across North America, connecting them face-to-face with our community. We partner with The Jewish Agency and oversee iREP (Israel Religious Expression Platform), which brings together leaders from a number of communities to support organizations in Israel. And, of course, we are very active on college campuses and beyond as we fight BDS through our Israel Action Network (IAN).

However, because of the rhetoric, anxiety and concerns that exist in our community today, the balance of this message will address the third issue — civility.

In all my years with Federation, I have never received so many requests or demands to make statements, or as much criticism, as I have since November. People are turning to their Federations for guidance, and we have a responsibility to respond in a thoughtful and constructive manner consistent with our mission.

Let me digress and briefly discuss what that mission is. I believe that Federations should be like think tanks. We convene thought leaders from inside and outside the community. We are the one organization that touches all others, from synagogues to agencies and beyond, in an effort to address the most serious issues affecting our communities today, from taking care of Jews in need to supporting the State of

Israel. We act based on the values of our religion — values that come from our Torah and that have sustained us for more than 3,000 years. Of course, these values also include taking care of the “other,” the “stranger,” because we were once strangers in Egypt. At the same time, let us not forget that even today we are a small minority, less than 2 percent of the U.S. population and 0.2 percent of the world's population. We, too, are still the “other.”

Note that nowhere in my discussion of Federations' mission or responsibilities do I mention making statements or getting involved in political issues, either in the U.S. or in Israel. There are organizations whose mission it is to take political positions, to issue statements on a regular basis with respect to events or decisions of concern to them and their constituents, and to otherwise influence government decisions. Federations work on behalf of the whole community on a non-partisan, non-political basis. JFNA works with Congress and the administration principally on matters affecting quality of life, such as healthcare and communal security. On issues regarding the welfare of Jews in Israel and Diaspora relations, we take action.

JFNA rarely makes statements about government decisions. We, like Federations, represent the entire spectrum of the American Jewish community, which mirrors the diverse political views of Americans overall. Unfortunately, that means we also mirror how greater society today discusses serious matters.

Our responsibility is to promote understanding of complex issues. What concerns me most is disrespect and vitriol around difficult decisions. It used to be that when people found something wrong with a point of view, they would argue about it in a civil and respectful manner. As a result, those engaged in the argument would learn from one another and hopefully work toward a solution or at least a better understanding of the problem. Today, people find something wrong with anyone who holds a different point of view and therefore have no interest in having a discussion with them. Instead, they attack and even outright delegitimize the person or organization with which they disagree. There is no chance to learn about different points of view, or to try to reach consensus about serious and complex problems. This is inappropriate, dangerous and just plain wrong.

To address this problem, we intend to work within the Federation system over the next year to create a way for our community members to engage civilly with one another around serious and controversial issues, from Israel and the peace process to the actions of the U.S. government. We need to listen to and understand different points of view, and work together to try to find solutions. At times like these, it is Federations' responsibility to be the adult in the room.

Most of us really do care about the same things and want positive results that benefit everyone. Please join me in a concerted effort to respect different points of view, to learn as much as we can about issues before we reach conclusions, and to make sure we stay focused on the important work our Federations do each and every day.

I will close with text from the Babylonian Talmud that we read with Rabbi Doug Kahn at our Board meeting last week:

"For three years there was a dispute between the School of Shammai and the School of Hillel, both contending, 'The law is in agreement with our views.' Then a voice from heaven announced, 'These and those both are the words of the living G-d, but the law is in agreement with the rulings of the School of Hillel.' Both were the words of a 'living G-d' but the law was in agreement with the School of Hillel because they were kindly and modest, they taught their own rulings as well as the rulings of the School of Shammai and they taught the latter before their own. This should teach us that one who humbles oneself is exalted by the Holy One and one who exalts oneself is humbled by the Holy One."

Sincerely,
Richard V. Sandler
Chair, Board of Trustees
The Jewish Federations of North America

Israel 21c: Arab, Jewish Israeli youth leaders to teach Syrian kids in Greece

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Originally published online February 12, 2017)

Hashomer Hatzair and Ajyal raised enough money from fellow Israelis to work with refugees on Lesbos island for three and a half months.

Educators and counselors from Jewish Israeli youth movement Hashomer Hatzair and the Arab Israeli youth movement Ajyal soon will embark on a joint voluntary mission to set up a community center and school for children who arrived on the Greek island of Lesbos in the current refugee crisis.

The first delegation of two from each movement, plus coordinator Yair Leibel from Hashomer Hatzair, expects to leave Israel February 19 and stay for three weeks. The second delegation will be accompanied by Rnin Kahil, the Ajyal coordinator.

Members and leaders of the two youth movements have been meeting periodically for almost a decade, usually for informal dialogues.

"The problem is that after we sit and talk, we go our separate ways," Leibel tells ISRAEL21c. "In one of our last meetings the Syrian situation arose ... and there was the thought to do something together to help people who are suffering in a nation in our area, even though Syria is considered an enemy country to Israel."

Kahil tells ISRAEL21c that the goal is to establish a community center that will function as a school in the mornings where the volunteers from Israel will teach math, Arabic, English and general subjects, and as a center for informal activities in the afternoons.

Though the numbers change as refugees move off Lesbos in search of more permanent accommodations, the island shelters about 3,500 refugees at any given time, and many are 18 or younger.

"We are two educational movements and we know how to work with youth," says Leibel, 28.

Individual Israelis donated NIS 200,000 (about \$53,000) through a crowdfunding campaign to cover all the costs of the mission for three and a half months. Leibel hopes to raise another NIS 50,000 to extend it to five months or even more. "The Israeli public really wants this project to succeed," says Leibel.



The suffering in Syria over the past few years of civil war, and especially in the last year, has resulted in an outpouring of grassroots and governmental Israeli goodwill.

Youth groups and private citizens have collected money and supplies to be sent through Israeli nonprofit organizations, sometimes at great risk. The Israeli military has organized the transfer of some 2,500 wounded Syrians for treatment in Israeli hospitals since February 2013. The government plans to accept up to 100 Syrian orphans as well as more casualties from Aleppo.

A group of Jewish and Arab restaurateurs recently donated all proceeds from sales of Syrian-inspired dishes over a two-week period to the Karam Foundation for assisting refugees.

Several NGOs, including IsraAID and Natan International Humanitarian Aid, have volunteers in Greece, Serbia and other parts of Europe to tend the physical and emotional wounds of the thousands of refugees fleeing Syria.

Natan's field coordinator in Lesbos, Einav Levy, and his staff will oversee the Hashomer Hatzair and Ajyal volunteers, providing orientation, support and guidance for the community center project.

"We work with a Swiss organization there that will help us find a place for the center," says Naama Shilo, COO of Natan. "Each delegation will have two and two and later three and three from each youth movement,

and they'll join our assessment and evaluation station in Lesbos."

Leibel says a secondary goal of the humanitarian mission is to foster a deeper sense of fellowship among the participants from the two youth movements through working and staying together in Lesbos.

Kahil, who lives in Ramla, a city with a mixed population of Israeli Jews, Arabs and Christians, says she is excited about that possibility. "We hope the connection they make will continue for later on and leads to building other programs and projects together."

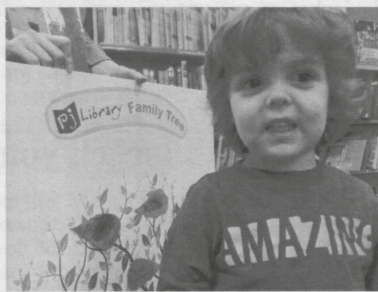
Source: <http://www.israel21c.org/arab-jewish-israeli-youth-leaders-to-teach-syrian-kids-in-greece/>

Barnes & Noble Bookfair Benefiting PJ Library

Thanks to everyone who joined us at Barnes & Noble on February 12 for the Bookfair benefiting PJ Library! The day kicked off with PJ Playgroup in the morning, One Book Jewish Lexington in the afternoon, and PJ Live! closing out the day. We had a great day full of reading, play, and fun with our whole community!



Participants enjoyed a discussion during One Book Jewish Lexington led by Dr. Beth Glixon.



Jonah poses with our PJ Library Family Tree during PJ Playgroup!

We had a blast crafting food for PJ Live!



The talented and fun PJ Live! cast which performed an interactive play based on *Bone Button Borscht*.

Save The Date!

Movie Honoring a Righteous Gentile for Yom HaShoah

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

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

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

Shop on Amazon? Support JFB!

Support Federation by using Amazon Smile every time you shop online.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select "Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass" as your charity of choice.

Every time you make a purchase, Amazon will give a percentage to JFB!



Contact Tamara@jewishlexington.org with questions!

**Summer
2017**

NEW SESSIONS!

June 19-30
(grades Pre-K thru 5)
at Temple Adath Israel

July 24-28
(grades 6-8)
mini overnight camp!
at Camp Showano

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
- Pool time *new!*
- Arts & Crafts
- Field trips! *new!*
- Music
- Nature activities
- Shabbat experience

**Camp
Shalom**
Established in 1968

**Registration
opens April 1st !**

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



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



pj playgroup

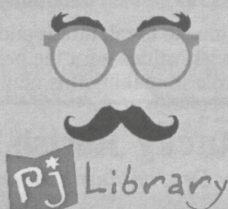
For families with young children
to get together

Purim!

March 12th

**Ohavay Zion Synagogue
10:15 - 11:30 am**

**Please RSVP to
pjlibrary@jewishlexington.org**



Playgroup is a special time for families with young children to get together in an informal setting. We come together as a community each month (mostly) during the school year.

We play, have a snack, and sometimes enjoy a special activity or read a PJ library book. PJ Playgroup is a joint endeavor of TAL, OZS, and PJ Library.

Locations rotate each month.

Israel Scholarships Available!

Jewish Family Services is currently offering significant scholarships for Jewish overnight camps and youth Israel trips.

Contact Mimi Kaufman at
jfs@jewishlexington.org or
(859) 269-8244 for more
information.

Application deadline is
April 3, 2017.

THE LEXINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Dianne Bazell, President • dbazell@qx.net

"Every society honors its live conformists and its dead troublemakers." So says Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Hadassah member and founding editor of Ms. Magazine. "Each Jewish woman should strive to become a live troublemaker and a strong activist on behalf of gender justice."

We are living in times that demand activism on many fronts, activism that requires us to recognize who we are and the principles for which we stand: in our case, as Jews and as women. Hadassah, the largest Jewish women's organization, is taking stances on behalf of women, children, refugees seeking safe haven from perilous circumstances in their native countries, and victims of human trafficking, in addition to policy matters pertaining to the State of Israel.

Hadassah's president, Ellen Hershkin, has called on us to contact our congressional representatives to assure them that "we will continue to fight for the empowerment of ALL women regardless of gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or party affiliation.... [P]reserving and protecting women's health, well-being, access to opportunity, and safety are not negotiable."

Among related bills, Hadassah supports bipartisan legislation—the Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Act—to repeal the recent executive order that reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy (global gag rule), denying U.S. federal funding to non-governmental organizations that provide abortion counseling or referrals, or advocate to decriminalize abortion or expand abortion services.

Hadassah's National Board passed a new Refugees & Immigration Policy Statement, which has been shared with all congressional offices. Among other provisions, Hadassah "expresses deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Syria and for the plight of Syrian refugees...., commend[s] the generosity of the people and government of the State of Israel for organizing aid, sending medical teams, and arranging transport for the injured to Israeli hospitals for treatment, including Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO)...., call[s] upon all countries to provide sanctuary and the opportunity for Syrian refugees to flee political upheaval and violence...., [and] applauds community-driven and interfaith efforts to help resettle and support Syrian refugees and other immigrants here in the United States." You can be proud that Israel is in the process of granting asylum to 100 Syrian children orphaned in Syria's civil war, arranging to place them in foster or adoptive families.

Hadassah continues to advocate for the sovereignty, safety, and security of Israel, denouncing recent United Nations actions regarding the holy sites in Jerusalem and settlements on the West Bank. At the same time, Hadassah has pressed for recognition within Israel of the Reform and Conservative, as well as Orthodox, movements of Judaism and strongly supports the accommodation of egalitarian worship at the Kotel as a site of "cohesion for world Jewry, rather than one of division."

March is the time of Purim, when Esther, Hadassah's namesake, spoke out, risking her life, to save the Jewish people. Like other Hadassah chapters across the nation, our Lexington Chapter of Hadassah will be holding Hadassah Zachor services on the Shabbat preceding Purim, March 10-11. Members of Temple Adath Israel and Ohavay Zion Synagogue will lead these services jointly, aided by our combined choirs, and I invite the community to participate.

Our congregations and our Jewish community continue to break molds and work in new ways together—worshiping, studying, and engaging in social action expressive of Jewish values—for the benefit of our own community and the wider world. Our Hadassah chapter is pleased to play an active role in making this new history.

HADASSAH
the power
of women
who **DO™**

University of Kentucky Jewish Studies Program

By Dr. Jan Fernheimer

Free and open to the public!

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

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

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

THE LEXINGTON HAVURAH

Steve Shedlofsky, President • shedlof@uky.edu

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

By Steve Shedlofsky

The month of February (Shevat) saw the Havurah celebrating the trees and plants (and their delicious produce) at our Tu B'Shevat Seder at the home of Beth Goldstein and Rafi Finkel. This event always requires a great deal of food preparation and thanks goes to Kathie and Lou Kroot who obviously spent many hours on an impressively organized and beautifully presented bill of fare. Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant led the Seder and everyone enjoyed the songs and discussion. We were asked to share stories about our favorite trees and plants. Beth Goldstein pointed out that we were sitting under a 37-year old indoor 10 foot ficus tree that she had kept alive in increasing sized pots over the years. So it's not always genetics when you talk about your family tree.

At the Seder we also reminisced about two of our dear Havurah members who had recently left us. Trevor Brown and Evelyn Geller, may their names be for a blessing, were remembered for their long friendships and contributions to the Jewish Community in Lexington. They, and many others who have passed, left behind a rich history that the Havurah is getting ready to document with photos, newsletters, and other memorabilia that we may have saved over the years. Sometime in the next few months we plan to meet and organize this information in order to submit it to Sarah Dorpinghaus, an archivist with the UK Libraries, whose project to gather historical data on Lexington's Jewish Community is now under way.



For the month of March, the Havurah will be having some type of Purim celebration on March 12 – details to follow. That Sunday is the beginning of daylight savings. That means one less hour to eat hamentaschen, which I have found are perfectly fine with coffee for breakfast and go well at lunch and dinner, too. In April, we will be having some type of Pesach event and there will be Federation-wide Yom HaShoah programs. As mentioned in last month's letter, one of our Havurah members, Dr. Michael Rie, is sponsoring a screening of the film *Disobedience* that documents the life of a little known Portuguese hero, Aristedes DeSousa Mendes, who in 1940 saved more than 30,000 Jewish lives at the expense of his family and career.

Author of antiwar and Holocaust literature, journalism to speak March 7 at UofL

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Acclaimed Israeli author and peace activist David Grossman will speak at the University of Louisville March 7.

His free, public talk — "An Evening with David Grossman" — is the third annual Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence lecture at UofL. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. in Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library, with a book-signing session afterward.

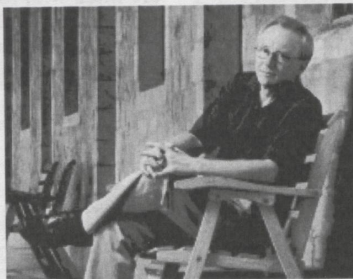
Grossman also will lead a free, public master class at 3 p.m. March 7 in Room 300, Bingham Humanities Building, as part of the university's Axton Reading Series.

Grossman's internationally noted novels and journalistic works have been translated into more than 35 languages and have earned several Israeli literary prizes.

His fiction includes the 2017 release of "A Horse Walks into a Bar," set in a small Israeli town. His antiwar novel "To the End of the Land" appeared on more than a dozen Top 10 Books of 2010 lists. His drama-prose-poetry work "Falling Out of Time" about parents' grief stemmed from the killing

of his soldier son in the Second Lebanon War.

Other fiction includes the Holocaust work "See Under: Love," "Someone to Run With," The Book of Intimate Grammar" and "The Smile of the Lamb." His nonfiction includes "Writing in the Dark: Essays on Literature and Politics," "Death as a Way of Life: Israel Ten Years after Oslo," "Sleeping on a Wire: Conversations with Palestinians in Israel" and "The Yellow Wind."



Other support for the College of Arts and Sciences event comes from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, Hillel of Louisville, Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, Office of Diversity and International Affairs, International Student and Scholar Services, Liberal Studies Project and the English and comparative humanities departments.

Source: <http://www.lanereport.com/73248/2017/02/author-of-antiwar-and-holocaust-literature-journalism-to-speak-march-7-at-uofl/>

OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE

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

WELCOME

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

HADASSAH SHABBAT

Get ready for Purim, and join us on **Saturday, March 11** for Hadassah Shabbat. This is a great way to show your support for Hadassah and to celebrate Shabbat as a community. The service will begin at **9:30 a.m.**, and the Torah service will begin around **10:30 a.m.** If you have any questions please call the OZS office at 266-8050 or email at office@ozs.org. Everyone is welcome!

EREV PURIM CELEBRATION

Please join us for our evening Purim Celebration on **Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** We'll do Havdallah, read the Gantze Megillah, and party like it's Purim! OZS will provide the nosh, and you can bring your favorite wine to share. If you have any questions please call the OZS office at 266-8050 or email at office@ozs.org. All children and adults are welcome!

PURIM CARNIVAL

Please join us as we continue our celebration of Purim on **Sunday, March 12. At 9:00 a.m.**, we'll read the Gantze Megillah for the last time this year. At **10:00 a.m.**, we'll read our fun kid-friendly Megillah. And at **10:30 a.m.**, we will begin our Purim Carnival, with games and prizes and lots of fun for everyone.

As in previous years, it is very important to wear your very best costume as additional prizes will be given out based on what we wear. Please call the OZS office at 266-8050 or email at office@ozs.org if you have any questions. All children and adults are welcome!

INTERFAITH TRILOGUE

The Lexington Christian Muslim Dialogue group will be holding a trilogue on **Sunday, March 26 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Ohavay Zion Synagogue**. Rabbi Smolkin, Dr. Aiyub Palmer, and Bishop Calwell will be speaking at the event, and there will be a **vegetarian pot-luck afterwards**. To RSVP, please call the OZS office at 266-8050 or email at office@ozs.org. All are welcome!

KIDS' SHABBAT

Please join us for this month's Kids' Shabbat service on **Friday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.** Kids' Shabbat is our monthly Shabbat Service for younger children. We light candles, drink grape juice, eat pizza, sit together on beautiful carpets, sing songs, and read amazing stories from the PJ Library. Newcomers and friends are always welcome! This year's Kids' Shabbat services will be held Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at Ohavay Zion Synagogue on the following dates: April 15 and May 20.

For more information or to RSVP, email Dominique Olbert at domino456@aol.com.

KABBALAT SHABBAT W/ STEWART HOME

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

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

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

TUESDAY MINYAN WITH LEARNING FROM REB NACHMAN

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

STUDYING THE PROPHETS

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

TALMUD STUDY

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

BACKPACKING FOR GOD'S PANTRY

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

INTERESTED IN OZS?

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

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

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

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

WHO WE ARE

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

PJ LIBRARY READING TIME

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

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9:00 a.m. every two weeks in the TAI Library. The group explores cultural, ethical, and its historical aspects of our 4000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. Please join us any time. Our next sessions will be March 11 & 25 and April 8.

JEWISH TEXTS

We explore selected readings in rabbinic literature on alternate Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative and you can join the group anytime. We will meet on March 4 & 18 and April 1.

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for each week. Various Temple members will lead some discussions and everyone will take turns. We will meet on March 4, 11 & 25 and April 1 (no Parsha on March 18 due to a Bar Mitzvah).

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Shalom Sisters! It's hard to believe that Spring is knocking

on our door! In Judaism, as you know, we have an abundance of springtime holidays. It begins with celebrating Purim and generally concludes with the celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). Even with the mild winter that we've experienced, I'm ready to move on to sunnier days and sunny celebrations!

Just a couple of weeks ago, a group of us gathered in the Temple library to socialize and create some fleece blankets for a very worthy cause. It was so great gathering with these women. There were yummy snacks, and I'd say that we all left with some new skills as well. Who knew that blanket making could be so easy and fun?!

This month we are planning on getting together in celebration of Purim! Sisterhood is hosting a Vashti's Banquet. There will be delicious Middle Eastern food, festive music and some one-of-a-kind entertainment. Please check your inboxes for an Evite to this fun program.

March is also Mitzvah Crib month for Sisterhood. Faith Erdmann is heading up this program and has picked Baby Health Services, Inc. as a very worthy recipient for our donations this year. Keep an eye out for more information in the March Temple bulletin, as well as an email or flyer letting you know more about this month of service.

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

B'shalom,
Elissa

Save The Date! "For Women Only" Event

Join JFB at Ohavay Zion Synagogue for a women's only philanthropy event on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$54/person. RSVP to Tamara@jewishlexington.org

ATTENTION PROUD GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS & STUDENTS

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



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CHABAD OF THE BLUEGRASS

568 Columbia Avenue • (859) 813-0770 • chabadofthebluegrass@gmail.com

CHABAD OF THE BLUEGRASS

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

PRACTICAL PARSHA

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

WOMEN, WINE & WISDOM

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

SHMURAH MATZAH

Shmurah Matzah is handmade matzah, guarded from the moment it was cut to prevent leaven contamination. It is the Rolls Royce of matzah. Would you like Shmurah Matzah for your Seder table? Chabad would be happy to fill your request.

ATTENTION PARENTS!

We would love to feature your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah Drash in our next *Shalom*. Please send the text to shalom@jewishlexington.org.

Consider sending a photo of your child along as well!

CHOMETZ (LEAVEN) SALE

The Torah commands us to have no leaven in our possession during the holiday of Pesach or Passover. Rabbi Litvin would be happy to help you carry out this unique Mitzvah, by facilitating the sale of your leaven.

SEDER NIGHT

Do you have Seder plans? If you don't, Chabad would be happy to welcome you to their community Seders, on April 10 at 7:45 p.m., and April 11, at 8:45 p.m. Please call the Chabad office for reservations.

Wishing you a Joyous Purim, and a Happy and Kosher Pesach.

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

Young Bluegrass Jews Purim Party on the Town!



All Young Bluegrass Jews are invited to attend the community Purim celebration at Temple Adath Israel on March 11, at 7:30 p.m. After the event, YBJ will head out for a night of fun in downtown Lexington.

If you can't make the community celebration, join us at any point after 9:00 p.m. downtown!



For more details, contact
Daniel@jewishlexington.org



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

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

Join Federation peers from around the country to see, firsthand, our system's work in Israel. Meet the people whose lives we impact every day. Participate in exclusive briefings with top newsmakers, dignitaries and Israeli officials to gain insight into the complex challenges and opportunities facing Israel in today's Middle East. And, of course, the finale is also the beginning - when you will join Federations' annual General Assembly (GA), October 22-24, 2018.

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

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

--- AROUND THE COMMUNITY ---

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

B'nai Mitzvah Announcements

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

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to **Lily Embury** for being selected for the All-State Women's Chorus of the Kentucky Music Educators Association's 2017 All-State High School Chorus. Lily is a student at Lafayette High School and the daughter of Michael and Dusty Embury.

Congratulations to **Marvin Krislov** on his appointment as president of Pace University in New York City. Mr. Krislov is the son of the late Joe and Evelyn Krislov of Lexington.

Congratulations to **Abe Nelson** on his Bar Mitzvah on March 18 at Temple Adath Israel. Abe is the son of Peter and Deborah Nelson.

Mazel tov to the **Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission** for its selection by The Plantory for the Lauren K. Weinberg Humanitarian Award. - From Bob and Sheila Orbach

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

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.

Donations can be mailed to:
Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass
1050 Chinoe Road, Suite 112
Lexington, KY 40502

Thank you to these generous donors:

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Shalom

Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

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For website or email questions, please contact daniel@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.

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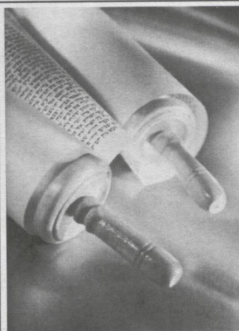
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The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

Lunch and Learn with our
Lexington community rabbis

March 28 with Rabbi Uri Smith

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