



THE GREATER DES MOINES  
**JEWISH**

**PRESS**

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**חנוכה שמח!**

*Happy Hanukkah  
 From The Jewish  
 Federation of Greater  
 Des Moines*

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# Jewish Press

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# Depending on Our Community



Jarad Bernstein  
President

Your support and involvement are important now more than ever.

As you are aware, our community is facing increased security needs. You only have to look at a newspaper or turn on the news to see threats and violence directed towards the American Jewish Community. What happened in Pittsburgh is horrific. The FBI just this week announced that anti-Semitic hate crimes increased 37 percent in 2017. The leadership of the Federation is not sitting by idly but rather we are investing in education, security and strategic plans to keep our children and our community safe. We have met with local and national law enforcement agencies both before and since last month's tragedy.

Our security efforts thus far include: funding guards at community events, glass and motion sensors, new secure doors (including 13 at Caspe Terrace and a card access door system at Drake Hillel), cameras and ongoing training. It should not surprise you that these efforts, although critical, cost a significant amount of money. These efforts are shifting our resources, and creating budget deficits within our existing programs.

Let me be crystal clear: securing the community is our top priority right now and we will be expending funds to make this happen. Unless we are able to raise the appropriate funds in this current campaign ending in December, the amount and quality of programming and services we offer will decrease at a time we are experiencing record demand for our services.

At nearly 77 acres, Caspe Terrace

poses its own challenges. The facility is beautifully spread out and programming is successful. In fact, Beit Sefer Shalom has more students now than at any time in more than two decades and Gan Shalom preschool has 43 enrolled children. This success and momentum also leads to increased security costs, which we are committed to funding.

We need your help!

Given the national situation, we are speeding up plans to make needed improvements, but the fact remains that these are expenditures which were not planned for in the current budget and as a result, resources are being taken away from areas that are critical to maintaining our vibrant community life. These expenditures are also coming during a time in which our campaign is lagging significantly from previous years.

Many of you have already fulfilled your pledges for the current campaign, and we thank you for that.

We humbly ask that in the current situation you consider contributing additional funds to the campaign. The entire board has already made this commitment. If you have not given, please do so now. Your contribution is critical to the success, growth and survival of the Jewish community in Des Moines. Now is the time to be a part of the incredible momentum we are experiencing despite the challenges we face.

Time is of the essence as we bring the 2018 All-in-One campaign to a close. You may contribute in the following ways:

Online: [jewishdesmoines.org/giving](http://jewishdesmoines.org/giving)

Call: (515) 987-0899

Text: (515) 400-0410

Mail: 33158 Ute Ave. Waukee, IA 50263

# Defining Your Neighbors and Loving Them



Sharon Goldford  
Executive Director

Who is your neighbor? Is it the person who lives next door? Is it the person you sit next to at work?

Is it the person you always speak to when you walk into the store, or the postman, or the dry cleaner?

Most of us don't define who might be our neighbor, but we speak to all of those people and we give them a smile, and we ask, "How are you?" But do we ever listen, truly listen, to that person? If that person actually started telling you how they really are, most of us would be saying to ourselves, "I don't have time for this. I was just being sociable."

Do you know who does listen to the people in our community? I can give you names.

Jody Ingersoll, Director of Jewish Family Services.

Sophie Homonoff, Director of Education.

Anissa Deay, Director of Gan Shalom.

All of our Gan Shalom teachers.

Do you know who looks out for your interest in Israel and fights anti-Semitism?

Mark Finkelstein, Director of Community Relations.

Do you know who cherishes your family's artifacts and maintains our Jewish history?

Sandi Yoder, Director of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

My list could go on and on, reminding you that the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines has a definite purpose. We are the over-arching umbrella of our Jewish community. We are here to provide the services to our children, families and elders that no one else can always provide.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines has built partnerships with Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Ames Jewish Congregation, Chabad, the Beth El Congregation and our college Hillel students. We work with you, and we work for you. None of us can do this alone. If a piece is missing in the puzzle, it becomes harder and harder to maintain. We must support each other.

A few examples of how our neighbors have asked for our help: I lost my job last week and need help with food, I need help with buying gas to get to work, I don't have quite enough to pay my rent, or I need a ride to the doctor.

Most days and weeks involve phone calls like these.

The most precious comments of thanks come from the youngest members of our community. They are the little ones who want to hug your leg. They need a little help with their coats and they ask so very nicely. They just give you a great smile.

Our work at the Federation covers the youngest among us to the oldest, who are also very dear to us.

We understand that there is only so much to go around in finances. We know all groups need financial support, but, please, whatever you do, think of the importance of being a Jew in Des Moines, Iowa and our common wish for a strong Jewish community that thrives.

Before you give to another charity or non-profit, remember your Jewish neighbors that need you. They are so grateful you listened.

Shalom,  
Sharon Goldford

## The Margo and Don Blumenthal Jewish Student Scholarships 2019 - 2020 Academic Year

Application forms for the next academic year will be available online and through the Jewish Federation in March of 2019.

The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to Jewish students from Central Iowa who will attend or are attending post-secondary schools within the State of Iowa.

Donations to the Blumenthal Scholarship Fund may be earmarked and sent to:  
The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263

For additional information, contact [jrcr@dmjfed.org](mailto:jrcr@dmjfed.org)



# Community Report

## Engman Camp Shalom

- Engman Camp Shalom offered 10 weeks of camp at Caspe Terrace this summer
- 67 new campers enjoyed camp during the summer of 2018
- ECS had 243 total registrations in the summer of 2018 (compared to 223 in 2017)
- Winter Break Camp is being planned for December 26-28

## Beit Sefer Shalom

- Beit Sefer Shalom has 123 students registered for the 2018-19 school year
- 28 teenagers are participating in the Madrichim Program this year
- Beit Sefer Shalom offers weekly transportation to and from Tifereth Israel Synagogue
- The Student to Student Program presented at North Polk High School in September

## Gan Shalom

- Gan Shalom began the 2018-19 school year with 42 students and more students are projected to begin throughout the year
- Gan Shalom participated in the Healthiest State Annual Walk on October 3rd, 2018
- Gan Shalom teachers attended the Iowa AEYC Fall Institute on October 5, 2018

## Jewish Community Relations

- Hunger Committee held a discussion with panelists from the Iowa Hunger Coalition, Iowa Food Bank, and DMARC Food Pantries
- Participated in coalition work and media interviews about the antisemitic fliers found locally
- The Iowa Council for Holocaust Education issued its resource document to coordinate state standards and materials
- Racial Justice Committee held a public discussion with Valley High School principal David Maxwell

## Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- On exhibit for the first time: stained-glass windows from the entrance to Beth El Jacob Synagogue in Des Moines plus a pew and yarmulke stand from the recently-closed B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Ottumwa, Iowa
- Honoring Iowa's Jewish Veterans –The IJHS continues to seek out the names and other information about Iowa's Jewish veterans. If you are or know a veteran, please call 515-987-0899 ext. 216 or email [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org)
- Recording Information from Iowa's Yahrzeit Boards – The IJHS is collaborating with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to record the information on Yahrzeit Boards from across the state
- The IJHS is exploring the possibility of forming a Jewish genealogical group in central Iowa. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sandi Yoder at [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org) or call 515-987-0899 ext. 216

## Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- In September, the senior luncheon was held at The Iowa Jewish Life Center where we enjoyed lunch with the Life Center staff and played some fun games
- On October 23rd, Federation staff volunteered at Meals from the Heartland and packed over 800 meals to serve the hungry
- If you'd like your child age newborn – age nine to receive a free monthly Jewish themed book, please go to [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) and click on "Sign Up." PJ Library, funded by The Larry S. Pidgeon Endowed Fund for Books, allows all central Iowa Jewish children to participate

# Ways to Give: How Your Donations Keep Caspe Up and Running

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines we count on our community for support, just as our community counts on us for support. Together, this partnership allows for great things to happen in the Jewish Community.

Your dollars go to feeding our children, families and elderly, purchasing a wheelchair for a community member, keeping the lights and heat on at Caspe Terrace and more. Your dollars count, and we are reaching out to ask for your continued support. However you choose to give, please consider the following:

- Donations to the Federation by cash, check or credit card. These

options can be done through our website, sent in the mail or call the Federation offices

- Text a donation to us by sending a donation amount to 515.400.0410
- Donate through United Way with your employer, many of whom match donations
- Sell stocks through your broker or bank
- Endow your yearly gift through the Foundation Endowment Fund, contact Federation office for more information
- You may also want to do an IRA rollover, avoiding tax implications. You

must be 70 1/2 years old. We must receive the gift by December 31, 2018 to receive tax benefits in this calendar year. If considering to do this please contact your plan administrator for the appropriate form and guidance

When you think about giving, don't forget your Jewish Community.

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## To find investing-life balance, work with a professional

You know what you want retirement to look like, and leaving a comfortable legacy for your loved ones is a priority. But free time feels a lot less free when you spend more time than you'd like managing your investments. Working with a professional portfolio manager can help you find the right balance between living life and investing for the future.

**Call for a complimentary portfolio consultation.**



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# Des Moines Community Stands with the Tree of Life Congregation

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor/Judaic Specialist

There are no words that can be said, or actions that can be done, to mend the hearts of thousands after the mass murder at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh.

October 27, 2018 was a sad day for the world, and even sadder for Jewish communities. The reality is, this horrific attack during a peaceful Shabbat morning service did not come as a surprise to many Jewish people. Jews across the world are all too familiar with tragedies like that of Tree of Life. An unfortunate burden that is a real and relevant in everyday life. And although there will always be bad people in this world, there are a lot of good ones, too. Many of whom were in attendance at the vigil held at Tifereth Synagogue on October 29.

In times of fear and sadness, it is important to come together as a community to try and rebuild broken pieces. Eleven candles burned on the podium as leaders from different religious communities across Des Moines spoke from the bimah. From Jews to Muslims, Christians and Catholics, hundreds were in attendance, to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community. Each leader that spoke from the bimah emphasized the importance of being one large family, even if we do not come from the same religious background. The want for peace was repeated and the promise to not stand idly was repeated. When it comes to hate,



everyone agreed to stand against it.

To say the synagogue was full is an understatement. Those who arrived early enough were able to find a seat inside and those who came later stood outside. Many of those in attendance were not aware of what was happening outside Tifereth at the time of the vigil. The overflow of people held hands encircling Tifereth with their support and protection.

The Jewish people are resilient. With the support of others from different communities acting as a backbone, the fight against anti-Semitism will persevere. Since 2017, anti-Semitism has seen a significant increase, part of which has been created by white, anti-Semitic nationalists.

The fight against anti-Semitism and any form of bigotry may seem difficult. But there are very simple ways to fight back. For starters, listen to one another. Listen to those who are different from you; try to understand how they are different and how they are similar to you. Majority of the time, those who listen will find their neighbors are not all that different from themselves.

## Speakers Included the Following Members from the Interfaith Community

- Rabbi Emily Barton
- Rabbi David Kaufman
- Rabbi Yossi Jacobson
- Rev. Matt Mardis-Lecroy
- Rev. Sarah Trone Garriott
- Deacon Francis Chan
- Bishop Scarfe
- Connie Ryan
- Imam Nijaz Valjevivic
- Pastor Mike House Holder

The vigil was organized by Rabbi Barton and Rabbi Kaufman in cooperation with the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, with assistance from the Jewish Federation and staff of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Music was provided by cantorial soloists Laura Sparks and Ira Lacher, and Sam Miller of Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

## The Following Names are Those Who Passed in the Tragedy at Tree of Life Congregation

- Cecil Rosenthal, 59
- David Rosenthal, 54
- Irving Younger, 69
- Melvin Wax, 87
- Rose Mallinger, 97
- Bernice Simon, 84
- Sylvan Simon, 86
- Jerry Rabinowitz, 86
- Joyce Fienberg, 75
- Richard Gottfried, 65
- Daniel Stein, 71

May their memories forever be a blessing



## UN Secretary-General: “Anti-Semitism Should Not Have a Place in the 21st Century”

*UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed a UNESCO conference, The Power of Education for Countering Racism and Discrimination: The Case of anti-Semitism, on September 26, 2018. Below is his speech.*

“I thank UNESCO and its Director General, Audrey Azoulay, for bringing us together to focus on anti-Semitism and education.

Jews continue to be attacked for no other reason than their identity.

And anti-Semitism is not a problem for the Jewish community alone.

Where there is anti-Semitism, there are likely to be other discriminatory ideologies and forms of bias – feeding each other in a cauldron of contempt.

Today, hatred also targets religious minorities, migrants and refugees is particularly virulent.

Anti-Semitism threatens all people’s human rights.

It is a menace to democratic values, to social peace and stability.

It spreads through social media, the Internet, and through hate speech and conspiracy theories.

Anti-Semitism has often been called “the oldest hatred.”

Prejudice against Jews can be found in the earliest chapters of recorded history.

Within recent memory, anti-Semitism culminated in genocide.

Today, it is on the rise in all parts of the world where Jewish communities live.

But it is also present in countries where there are no Jews at all.

Anti-Semitism has evolved, grown more complex and adopted new guises.

It is abetted by public discourse that stigmatizes minorities, refugees and foreigners.

It traffics in distortions of history and attempts to deny or diminish the

fact and horror of the Holocaust.

In more recent times, it is expressing itself in attempts to delegitimize the right of Israel to exist, including calls for its destruction, using the pretext of the situation in the Middle East to target Jews and Jewish symbols.

The world is also seeing an alarming proliferation of neo-Nazi and white supremacy groups, and of those seeking religious and ethnic domination. This is tribalism run amok. Not only are their vile views coming into the mainstream, but the mainstream unfortunately, sometimes, is coming to them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since anti-Semitism always tends to come back, all of us have a duty to fight back.

Member States have the primary responsibility to protect their citizens’ human rights and address the root causes of intolerance.

Education is one of our most powerful tools. Allow me to highlight four possible priorities:

First, to recognize anti-Semitism as a problem to be addressed internationally. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the 31 member countries of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to agree on a common definition of anti-Semitism. Such a definition can serve as a basis for law enforcement, as well as preventive policies.

Second, develop education programmes that address anti-Semitism in a framework of human rights and global citizenship.

Third, build the capacity of educational systems to address anti-Semitism, conspiracy theories and all other forms of hate speech.

Fourth, we must see diversity as a richness. As societies become more multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural, we must invest more in social cohesion.

The United Nations, including UNESCO, is leading important work to prevent anti-Semitism and discrimination, including through Holocaust education and guidelines for educators and policy-makers. I call on all Member States to join this crucial effort.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Jewish boys should not be afraid to wear yarmulkes in the streets of our cities.

Jewish youth should not have to travel to school under the protection of armed military or police.

Jewish cemeteries should not be desecrated.

Anti-Semitism has survived across the millennium but should have no place in the 21st century.

The origins of the United Nations itself are rooted in the need to learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

Being true to our Charter means combatting anti-Semitism and hatred with all our energy and will.

I have fought against intolerance for my entire civic and political life, and you can count on me to continue to be in the forefront as Secretary-General.

Thank you very much.”

---

## Resources for Talking to Children About Anti-Semitism

*Due to the recent events happening across the world targeting the Jewish people, many of our children will have questions. Please consider visiting the following websites for helpful information on how to appropriately talk about this with children.*

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/how-to-talk-to-children-about-anti-semitism>

<https://forward.com/life/family/413255/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-the-pittsburgh-shooting-and-anti-semitism/>

<https://forward.com/life/family/412985/dont-avoid-talking-to-your-kids-about-the-pittsburgh-shooting/>



# Who Shall Lead: How Jewish Tradition Provides Guidance

Dr. David Friedgood  
Torah Commentator

To paraphrase Kohelet, son of David, King in Jerusalem: "There is a time for being born and a time to die; A time for planting and a time for uprooting; A time for tearing down and a time for healing; A time for war, and a time for peace," (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Now is a time for voting, or a time to decline responsibility. But: "Utter futility! All is futile! What real value is there for a human being in all the gains he makes beneath the sun?" (Eccl. 1:2-3) Why bother? One politician is like another. Better to sit home and watch football on TV.

As Jewish Americans we live in a world of endless choices and possibilities. So much to do and so little time. Whom to choose to lead us can be one less problem to worry about. After all, Kohelet may be right. All is futile.

Our tradition addresses this dilemma and provides us guidance on what to look for and how to choose a leader. Several personal qualities are felt particularly desirable in leaders. These include: responsibility, unification, planning, belief, timing, and stress management.

We expect our leaders to take responsibility for their actions and those of their constituents. Our father Abraham was told about God's plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah as they were evil places. Lot, Abraham's nephew, lived in Sodom. Our Patriarch stood before his Lord and argued for mercy regarding his fellow human beings. Back and forth they bargained until finally God agreed to spare the town if only 10 good people could be found there. Sodom and Gomorrah were then destroyed, but Holy Angels led Lot and his family to safety. Jewish parents are not responsible for the actions of their grown children. It is their responsibility, however, to see to it that children are taught right from wrong and proper behavior by their age of maturity (12 for girls and 13 for boys).

As human beings we have more in common with each other than

differences. An effective leader recognizes the need to unify disparate elements of their constituency. Moses, the first leader of our people brought his brother Aaron along when he approached Pharaoh. Later he wisely divided the leadership with Aaron becoming High Priest and Moses the secular leader. After passing through the Red Sea, Miriam was brought in to organize woman in joyful celebration with music and dance. Each of these three leaders helped unify different groups of former slaves as they faced the strenuous trek from bondage to freedom in their new home.

We choose our representatives based on past performance but expect them to be future driven. They need to be cognizant of changing circumstances and be able to plan for change when necessary. Moses was overwhelmed by the demands placed on him to judge his people and settle their differences according to God's law, as outlined in Torah. His father-in-law Jethro recognized the problem and outlined a common sense Judicial system for the Israelites in the desert. A series of courts were established with Moses only required to rule on the most complex cases.

All of us are imperfect with good and bad inclinations. Effective leaders bring out the best in their people as they effectively deal with transgression. After receiving the Ten Commandments, Moses was confronted by the Golden Calf, fashioned by disbelievers and Aaron. God was ready to destroy the new Israelite nation and start all over with Moses' offspring. Moses however saw the potential of his people. He believed in them, and pleaded with the Deity on their behalf. Ultimately only the most wicked were destroyed and the Nation of Israel proceeded on to the Promised Land.

Various problems require different solutions. Some need immediate action and some are best handled by dialogue and deliberation. Jacob served his father-in-law Laban 7 years as a bride-price for each his wives, Rachel and Leah, as he slowly built his fortune. Later he fought overnight with God's Angel at the ford of the

river Jabbok, earning the name Israel (literally - wrestled with God). Shortly afterwards Jacob diplomatically reconciled with his brother Essau who approached his camp with 400 armed men, presumably with nefarious intention. Timing was everything for our forefather. Perseverance is also a valuable attribute for a leader. As Rabbi Tarfon said, "You are not obligated to finish the task, neither are you free to neglect it." (Pirkei Avot 2:21)

Leadership roles are often overwhelming and stressful. When confronted with an angry mob in the wilderness Moses gathered 70 elders of the people to help him. They confronted the mob and with God's help were able to provide for Israeli sustenance. Moses also told his people that they all had the potential to be prophets and experience the Spirit of the LORD. (Numbers 11:29) Stress relieved. Of course, on another occasion Moses lost control in a rage, striking a rock twice with his staff, bringing water to the thirsty people - contrary to God's instructions. Even Moses was not perfect.

In this season when we go out to pick our representatives remember what it is we the people require from our leaders. Remember Moses' final injunction: "Be sure to set a king over yourself, one of your own people; not separate from the people. He shall not keep many horses and he shall not have many wives, lest his heart go astray; nor shall he amass silver and gold to excess. When he is seated on his royal throne he shall have a copy of this Teaching written for him on a scroll. Let him read it all his life. Thus he will not act haughtily towards his fellows or deviate from the Law to the right or the left, that he and the people shall long live in the midst of Israel." (Deuteronomy 17:15-20) With a little effort we can strengthen our Democracy and show Kohelet that all is not futile. It can be glorious and wonderful to be a human being. With some planning and foresight we can all live in a country governed wisely, under the guidance of the Source of all Life, inspired by His teachings as passed down to us over the millennia.





## In the Kitchen for Hanukkah: The History of Sufganiyot

Karen Engman  
Food Columnist

Hanukkah begins on December 3 this year, so it's time to start thinking of all the different recipes we make that require oil for frying. The origin of serving fried foods during the celebration of Hanukkah dates back to the time when the Greeks drove the Jews from the Temple and out of Jerusalem. After our people battled for their religious freedom for three years and won, they wanted to rededicate the Temple. They needed oil to light the Temple's lamp but there was only enough oil to keep the lamp burning for one day. It has been called the Miracle of Hanukkah when the lamp burned for 8 days allowing the Jews enough time to produce more oil to then keep the eternal flame of the lamp burning. And so, it became a tradition to serve foods fried in oil for Hanukkah, reminding us of the miracle of the Temple oil.

Latkes, which are potato pancakes that are fried in hot oil, are very popular during Hanukkah festivities around the world. In Israel, though, the sufganiyah, a jelly filled fried donut rolled in powder sugar, is the favorite sweet treat of Hanukkah. The story of how these donuts reached epic production there starts with a folktale and some baking history.

The name sufganiyah might come from the Hebrew words sof-gan-yud-hey, meaning the "end of the Garden of the Lord," a reference to the Garden of Eden. The folktale is about the Lord feeding Adam and Eve sufganiyot after he expels them from the Garden to

cheer them up.

In the 12th century, Rabbi Maimon ben Yosef, the father of Maimonides, wrote "one must not make light of the custom of eating sofganim (fried fritters) on Hanukkah. It is the custom of the Kadmonim (the ancient ones)." Thus, reporting that fried pastries have been a favorite of the Jews for centuries.

The first recipe for jelly donuts appeared in the cook book *Kuchenmeisterei* (Mastery of the Kitchen), which was printed on Johannes Guttenberg's printing press in 1485. The recipe described frying a jam sandwich made from two circles of dough. Traditionally, donuts were savory, filled with mushrooms, cheese or meat, so the addition of jelly was revolutionary. In the 1500's, the Polish Jews began to add jam to their donuts after they read the recipe in the newly translated Polish version of the *Kuchenmeisterei*. They also could better afford the jam now that the price of sugar declined with the introduction of slave labor in the Caribbean. According to food historian Gil Marks, the Polish Jews brought the tradition of frying donuts, called *ponchiks* in Polish, with them wherever they immigrated.

The name sufganiyah means "spongy dough" and was mentioned in the Talmud as *sofgen*. The Hebrew word *sfog* means "sponge" and the Arabic word for donut is *sfenj*.

In the late 1920's, the Histadrut, Israel's national labor union, declared the sufganiyah the official food of Hanukkah. Their reasoning was that a jelly donut takes too much time (the yeast dough has to rise) and

labor to fry at home so the demand for these donuts would create more jobs for Israelis. I visited with two members of our Des Moines Jewish community, who originally came here from Israel to discuss their experience with sufganiyot. Ronit Simon said she had never heard about the role of the labor union in creating a new donut industry in Israel. She loves the traditional Israeli donuts that are filled with delicious jelly and is sorry to see the proliferation of so many other "fancy" kinds that are much like the donuts in U.S. bakeries. She doesn't make these sufganiyot at home but Bruria Kaufman's husband Benni does. He would fry them every night of Hanukkah when their kids were young. She said he would make the dough in the morning and then fry the sufganiyot in the afternoon. Now they just prepare them on the first and last day of Hanukkah. She agreed with me that whether frying sufganiyot or latkes, the smell lingers in your house for days!

I was delighted to find that even Martha Stewart had a recipe online for Sufganiyah, along with many fine Israeli bakers. After reading the recipes, I have a confession to make: I'm not afraid to bake with yeast, but I don't deep fry, and I have never used a pastry bag to fill a ball of dough with jelly, so I will remain content to buy my donuts in a bake shop.

Thank you for reading this column and please remember to call (515-229-4447) or email me ([karen.engman@gmail.com](mailto:karen.engman@gmail.com)) with your questions or suggestions. I would love to interview you and feature your favorite recipes.



### Upcoming Senior Activities

Thursday, December 6, we will have our annual Hanukkah celebration at Temple B'nai Jeshurun at 12 p.m. Please join us for Hanukkah food and entertainment provided by Abe Goldstien and Laura Sparks.

Tuesday, January 8, we will travel to Prairie Meadows for food, music, and gambling. We will leave Tifereth Israel Synagogue at 11 a.m. and return by 3 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jody Ingersoll, Jewish Family Services, at 987-0899 ext 210.



Federation staff members gathered on October 23 to pack meals for hungry in Iowans at Meals from the Heartland. Together, the Federation staff team packed over 800 meals.



Attendees of the senior luncheon at the Senior Life Center enjoying great food and company. Life Center staff members joined for an afternoon of fun games.



### Toda Raba!

The Board of Directors and staff of the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center would like to thank you for your support and contributions for a successful Fall Fundraiser.

A special thank you to Hy-Vee of Windsor Heights, Mercedes Benz of Des Moines, Gloria Bernstein, Noah's Ark, Joyce Chapman, Heide Warner, Des Moines Community Playhouse, La Mie, Sheila Beavers, Starbucks, Cookies by Design, Orange Leaf, Iowa Cubs, Mar's Café, Martin Brothers Distributing Company, Ankeny WineStyles, Learning Tree, Artis Studio 28, Catch Des Moines, Drake University IMG, Des Moines Embassy Club, Downtown Des Moines Marriott, Fumy Bone, Des Moines Performing Arts, Waterfront Market, Iowa Stage, Jethro's, Des Moines Symphony and Iowa Culinary Institute. Your contributions made our silent auction a success!



Wishing our friends  
 a  
 Happy Hanukkah and  
 Happy New Year  
 On behalf of  
 The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center



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# A Reusable Keychain Device Detects Contamination in Water

Lishtot's TestDrop Pro reusable keychain device detects contamination in water. Aidoc develops healthcare-grade, AI-based decision support software.

Abigail Klein Leichman  
Adopted From Israel21c

The Kiryat Gat-based Lishtot (Hebrew for “to drink”) and the Tel Aviv-based Aidoc appear on the TIME list beside mega brands such as Amazon, Apple, Disney and Nike.

Lishtot developed and patented new sensor technology for detecting contamination (such as E. coli, lead, PFOA, arsenic, mercury, copper, chlorine, and protein) in water, based on a phenomenon associated with electrical fields.

Its first commercial product using this award-winning technology is TestDrop Pro – a reusable keychain device that can detect contamination in water in less than two seconds without touching the water.

Mass market shipping of TestDrop Pro (\$49.95) began in July and is already being used by thousands of people all over the world, says CEO and cofounder Netanel Raisch.

The devices are manufactured in Israel by people with disabilities. Tests take two seconds and give a blue or red light indicating the presence or absence of contaminants.

The TestDrop Pro connects via Bluetooth to the dedicated Lishtot mobile app where users can track their test history, view more data on their water including a percentage likelihood of contamination, and



distinguish between bottled water, tap water, and natural water from rivers and streams.

The next Lishtot product will be the TeStraw, a personal device to improve the taste of drinking water.

Aidoc brings artificial intelligence to radiology, saving lives by immediately analyzing scans before a patient has even left a CT machine. It flags critical conditions like bleeding in the brain. These scans are moved to the top of the pile to be inspected by a doctor.

“CTs and MRIs used to be rare, but now they’ve become much more common, and hospitals take more every year. The workload for radiologists has rocketed up, so it

can sometimes take an hour or more before a doctor sees the result of a scan. In some cases, a CT will show a critical condition but nobody will see the picture until it’s too late,” says a company spokesman.

Aidoc is being used in 50 medical facilities around the world. It has FDA clearance and European CE certification, with more approvals on the way.

The company was founded in 2015 by Elad Walach, Michael Braginsky and Guy Reiner, who all served together in the elite military Talpiot program, where Walach was in charge of AI for the Israel Air Force.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.lishtot.com/>

## Valley High School Principal: ‘Be alert to Pre-Judging Others’



David Maxwell, principal of Valley High School in West Des Moines, was the guest speaker at a program presented at Temple B’nai Jeshurun in October by the JCRC Committee on Racial Justice. Mr. Maxwell spoke openly about the implicit biases, including racial biases, we all have when it comes to pre-judging people different than ourselves and gave a number of thought provoking examples from his own experience. Relating the topic to the high school environment, he explained how studies have shown that even unconscious bias produces hidden inequities. The program was well attended.

# Fighting Together to End Hunger in Iowa



From left: Deirdre Farr (Jewish Federation Hunger Committee), Rev. Sarai Rice (E.D., DMARC), Rabbi Emily Barton (Tifereth Israel Synagogue), Sharon Goldford (E.D., Jewish Federation), Michelle Book (Pres/CEO, Food Bank of Iowa), Mark Finkelstein (Dir., JCRC of the Jewish Federation), Regenea Hurte (E.D., Iowa Food Bank Association, Iowa Hunger Coalition).

## Mark Finkelstein JCRC Director

You wouldn't think a state that "feeds the world" would have a problem feeding its own people. But that is apparently the sad reality. Reports state that about 11 percent of Iowans have a problem putting food on the table during each week. Hunger is an issue in every one of Iowa's 99 counties, with estimates of food insecurity ranging from 7.5 to 15 percent. Food insecurity, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the lack of consistent access to food.

There are dozens of entities across the state, including a variety of non-profits and corporations, that help raise awareness about hunger, provide food to be dispensed, or distribute food directly to those in need. And atop that road map are several agencies and an advocacy coalition, about which we hear relatively little, who systematically address hunger needs in cooperation.

The directors of three major agencies came as panelists to describe what their organizations do, and shared their insights about hunger in Iowa to the Jewish Federation's JCRC/JFS Hunger Committee in early October.

The panelists were Regenea Hurte, executive director of both the Iowa Hunger Coalition and the Iowa Food

Bank Association, which serves Iowa's 99 counties; Michelle Book, president and CEO of the Iowa Food Bank, serving 55 counties including Polk County; and Rev. Sarai Rice, executive director of the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC), which oversees the Polk County Food Pantry Network, the largest partner within the Iowa Food Bank's local area of operation. All of the panelists participated together within the Iowa Hunger Coalition.

On the statewide level, the Iowa Food Bank Association is comprised of six Feeding America food banks. Feeding America is a national program that networks 200 food banks that feed 46 million people. The Iowa Food Bank operates the Food Assistance Hotline, which assists Iowans in applying to the Iowa Department of Human Services for food stamps (SNAP). The Iowa Food Bank Association serves between 340-500 Iowans.

The Iowa Food Bank, with offices in Des Moines and Ottumwa, is one of six Feeding America food banks in Iowa. It serves 55 counties, among them, Polk County. In Polk County, the Iowa Food Bank works with 155 agency partners, including the 14 food pantries operated by DMARC, plus an additional 34 local food pantries. Few know that the Iowa Food Bank feeds 65 school partners and many other

venues, such as the Central Shelter.

Fifty five percent of the food distributed by the Iowa Food Bank comes from food donated from the wholesale world, 25 percent comes from the USDA's The Emergency Food Assistance Program and 20 percent is purchased with funds contributed by donors.

Within Polk County, there are 14 food pantries and several mobile food pantries operated by the Des Moines Area Religious Council. There are no income guidelines to receive food from the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

About 20 percent of the Network's food is obtained from the Iowa Food Bank. Monetary donations to the DMARC pantries are used to purchase food on a wholesale basis. Food products donated, as collected by both Temple B'nai Jeshurun and Tifereth Israel Synagogue, are provided to the pantries for distribution. The DMARC Network serves 48,000 different individuals each year, in conjunction with a points system that enables clients to spend their points over the course of the month.

It is worth noting that DMARC has begun using some very sophisticated software to analyze the basic, anonymous data they collect from individuals who avail themselves of the services of their food pantries. DMARC is sharing the correlation analyses that identify trends with elected officials to help our legislators assess the impact that food insecurity might be playing in their districts.

All this leads to the role played by The Iowa Hunger Coalition. The Coalition brings together a broad set of constituencies to work together on education and advocacy. The group conducts a lobby day at the State Capitol each year.

Executive director of the Coalition, Regenea Hurte, sums up the challenge confronted by the agencies working to alleviate hunger as follows: "Hunger is not a simple issue. It doesn't have a single answer. It doesn't occur in a vacuum. It needs to be addressed from various angles."

On a national level, we should



not neglect to mention the highly esteemed anti-hunger organization, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. MAZON advocates for policy changes on behalf of all who are hungry in both the United States and Israel.

In meeting with the directors of three important anti-hunger organizations, the Jewish Federation's Committee on Hunger has taken but an initial step. In time, the Committee hopes to develop its potential of becoming the central point of information and activism on hunger for the Jewish community — not to reinvent the wheel, but to promote the work already being shouldered by our congregations and to channel the community's support into the existing agencies, notably the food pantries, the food banks, and the Iowa Hunger Coalition.

But for the Hunger Committee to gain traction, community members who have an interest in this area are needed to volunteer to serve on the committee. If you are inclined to participate in the effort to help eliminate hunger in Central Iowa or need additional information, please contact the Jewish Federation at (515) 987-0899 or email [jrcr@dmjfed.org](mailto:jrcr@dmjfed.org) and let us know of your interest.

## Promoting Iowa-Israel Trade



Jewish community leaders had an opportunity to meet Gerry Stoch (second from left) during his visit to Des Moines. Shown here accompanied by staff members from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Gerry is assisting Iowa develop trade relations with Israel.

## Recognition Given to Participants in IOWA SHARES Project



The 2018 Robert D. Ray IOWA SHARES Humanitarian Awards were awarded at the Iowa Hunger Summit to individuals and organizations that helped raise funds in 1979 to save victims of the Khmer Rouge genocide. Among those honored were Rabbi Jay Goldberg, then rabbi of Temple B'nai Jeshurun (award accepted on his behalf by Rabbi David Kaufman) and Sheldon Rabinowitz, who served as treasurer for the IOWA SHARES campaign. Also honored were the late Gil Cranberg for his work on this project with the Des Moines Register, the late A.Arthur Davis for his work with the Davis Brown Law Firm, and the late Dr. William Rosenfeld from Mason City on behalf of the medical professionals who volunteered to serve in Cambodian camps through Iowa SHARES.

## Iowa Jewish Leaders Summer Meeting

Mark Finkelstein  
JCRC Director

The annual meeting of leaders from Jewish communities in Iowa was held this summer at Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Des Moines, Iowa. Most years, the group convenes at the Hillel in Iowa City and only periodically does the group meet at a congregation in another city. In the past, meetings have been held in Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Davenport and Des Moines. This was the third time over the years, dating back to the late 1990s, that the group has met in Des Moines.

The meeting is always interesting, say the participants. It's an occasion for individuals involved in the life of their communities to meet counterparts, to share news and discuss matters of common interests. The meeting provides an opportunity to have a leader from a different ethnic or religious community address the group.

This year, the date was chosen so that Temple B'nai Jeshurun's Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin,



could be shared with the group. In addition to the annual communities update, this year's speakers included the Imam from the local Bosnian community, Nijaz Valjecic, and the Hillel director at the University of Iowa, David Weltman, who spoke about "Millennials and Jewish identity."

Representatives at this year's meeting were from the Jewish institutions in Council Bluffs/Omaha, Sioux City, Des Moines, Ames, Iowa City, Waterloo and Davenport.

With input from several of the state's veteran Jewish leaders, JCRC planned and implemented the program. Thanks are extended to Temple B'nai Jeshurun for all their help and to the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines for providing lunch from Maccabee's Kosher Deli.





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# Promoting Peace After Experiencing Hate

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor/Judaic Specialist

“We look pretty pathetic, don’t you think?” he says with a chuckle. Sitting in a second floor office in Grinnell, Iowa, Harold Kasimow shares a photo of himself and his family from after World War II. This is the first picture Kasimow has of himself; it was taken soon after his family was liberated at the end of 1944. Photos taken before the war were lost in the rubble of the life he once knew, the life that he and his family had before the arrival of the German Army.

## We Thought the War Would Last Only a Few Months

Kasimow was born in 1937 in Turmantas, a small village eighty-four miles north of Vilnius, which at that time was in Poland. “My parents had two houses, one in Turmantas and the other in Drysviaty,” Kasimow says. “My father, Norman, was a fisherman. He was the richest poor man in those little towns.”

The Kasimow’s were living in Drysviaty when the German army took over. Soon after, all but five families were taken away and, we now know, were shot in a nearby forest on August 26, 1941. The five families who could work for the Germans were left in the town, including the Kasimows. “I don’t know what my parents knew,” Kasimow says. “But I don’t think they knew much.” After living under traumatizing conditions for nearly a year, a local priest informed Kasimow’s father that the family was now also in danger of being killed. They fled their home in the middle of the night on April 2, 1942.

This was the beginning of a long period of uncertainty. Luckily, because of his father’s profession as a fisherman, he knew the area well. Not quite five years old, Kasimow’s memory begins with the first place they hid, an attic. They were there for several months, until it wasn’t safe to stay anymore.

The family then lived in the forest for five weeks, moving from place to place. Finally, Kasimow’s father



Photo taken in Turmantas circa 1945. This happens to be the earliest known photo of Rita (right) and Harold (middle). Abraham Kasimov (second from right) is Harold’s father’s youngest brother who was a partisan with a Russian group throughout the entire war. The other older gentleman is believed to be a distant cousin who was in the Russian Army. The younger girl Harold’s sister Miriam (left). (Photo Courtesy of Harold Kasimow)

made a deal with a farmer to dig a hole—called a grube in Yiddish—under a cowshed in which the family lived for nineteen months and five days. The family could only whisper to one another, but mostly they did not speak at all for fear of being found. They had no sunlight and little food. “We got a little bit of food from the peasant who was hiding us,” Kasimow says. “My father would leave the hole at night to forage and to ask the neighbors for food. We were always hungry. If I ever had a piece of bread, I would kiss my mother’s hand.”

Hiding in the grube was risky for both the Kasimows and for Vladislav Kazimierovich Pivorovich, the peasant who owned the land. Kasimow’s father promised him both of their houses. If the family was ever found, everyone, including the Pivorovich and his family, would have been killed.

“We only survived because of my father’s determination,” Kasimow smiles. “My father, who was in his late thirties at the time and was physically strong, was determined to save his family. In Poland, there were one million children before the war, but only some 5,000 survived. My father saved three of them.”

## They Made the Sign Of The Cross When They Saw Us

After nineteen months and five days, the family was finally able to leave the grube, after being liberated by the Russian Army. Kasimow was then about seven years old and, not surprisingly, very small for his age. “My sister Miriam couldn’t walk at all, and my other sister, Rita, crawled as we came into the sunlight. When the Russian soldiers saw us, they crossed themselves.”

At that point the war was still going on. German and Russian soldiers continued to shoot at each other, putting Kasimow and his family in danger as they fled to their hometown, Turmantas. They stayed there for about a year before making their way to a displaced persons (DP) camp under American control. They spent a short time at a camp in Ulm and then three years in Bad Reichenhall near Salzburg, Germany. “We didn’t have any money or really any other place to go,” Kasimow says. “But the camp was big and we had enough food.”

When he came to America on August 23, 1949, Kasimow was nearly twelve and had no formal schooling and only learned some Hebrew prayers. His education in America began at Salanter Yeshiva in the Bronx, where he learned his first few words of English. In 1952, Kasimow



went on to Yeshiva University High School, where for the first two years, he studied Talmud every day. Realizing he did not want to become a rabbi, Kasimow switched to the teaching track where he could study history and other aspects the Jewish tradition. After graduating from high school, Kasimow attended The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York and spent his junior year abroad at the University of Jerusalem. He graduated from JTS in 1961 with a Bachelor of Hebrew Literature.

At JTS Kasimow met Professor Abraham Joshua Heschel, who served as his advisor and who would later become the greatest influence in Kasimow's life. "Although I enjoyed most of my classes, I wasn't a very committed student during the years I was in seminary," Kasimow says. "But there was something about Heschel that captivated me. I used to stay up all night preparing for his class. My highest grades were in his classes. I was especially drawn to Heschel's stress on the ethical dimension of Judaism, and I became enamored with him, even though we didn't have many conversations at that point."

Later Heschel wrote Kasimow's letter of recommendation for graduate school at Temple University. Kasimow wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on Heschel and has since devoted much of his academic work to writing and teaching about Heschel.

### **Discovering the Midwest**

"In 1972 Grinnell College was looking to create an independent religion department, which didn't exist at the time," Kasimow says. The College wanted someone who could teach world religions. "Both the chair of the department and the director of graduate studies at Temple submitted my name as someone who was ready to teach religious studies."

"I don't think I had ever heard of Iowa before receiving this letter," Kasimow laughs. "I really missed the mountains and waters of the coast, but the students were so good." After being on one-year contracts for a few years, he received tenure in 1979. In 1989 he was selected as the first holder of Drake Professorship in Religious Studies and in 2008 was honored with emeritus status.

### **Working in Interfaith**

Kasimow has just completed co-editing a book called *Pope Francis and Interreligious Dialogue: Religious Thinkers Engage with Recent Papal Initiatives*. "I thought it would be interesting to see how members of different religious traditions see Pope Francis and his views on interfaith dialogue," Kasimow says. The book contains seventy pages of Pope Francis's own writings on interreligious dialogue, the environment, the poor, justice, ecological sustainability and peace. The fourteen contributors write from the perspectives of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Humanism. Kasimow says that he is especially pleased that Rabbi Abraham Skorka, a great friend of Pope Francis, agreed to write the foreword to this book.

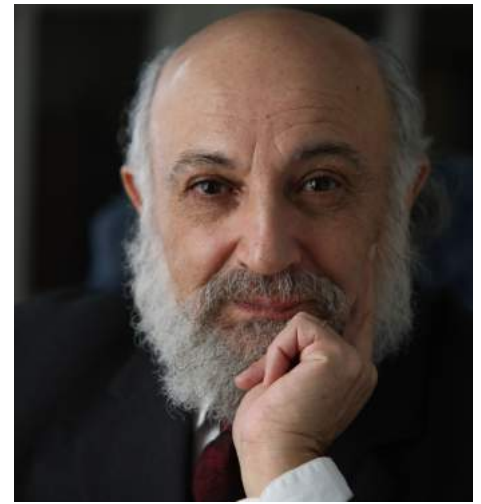
Along with co-editor Reverend Alan Race, chair of the World Congress of Faiths, Kasimow worked with each contributor for close to two years to create this book. After dozens of emails back and forth, the book has just been published.

On August 29, 2018, Kasimow and Race had the opportunity to briefly meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican. During the informal meeting, Kasimow presented the Pope with a framed copy of the book's covers. "He spent about two minutes with us," Kasimow says. "He was studying the covers very closely. His presence made me feel warm, as if the sun was shining from his face."

### **No Child Should Have to Lose Their Childhood**

Kasimow's parents would speak of their time in hiding only with other Holocaust survivors. And for a long time Kasimow and his sisters did not share their story with other people for fear of not being believed. It wasn't until 2001 that Kasimow began speaking about his Holocaust experience. Before that he had always thought that there were others still alive who had been older than he was at the time and who could remember more. They should tell their survivor stories, not him. But then he began to realize that he was becoming one of the few survivors still alive.

"A good friend of mine, the Catholic



**"The hope is, and I believe it, that authentic dialogue between members of different religious tradition can bring healing in the long history of the conflict between the different religious traditions."**

monk Wayne Teasdale, asked me to write about my Holocaust experience to be included in his book. This was the first time I actually wrote a little piece about myself." The book, *Awakening the Spirit, Inspiring the Soul: 30 Stories of Interspiritual Discovery in the Community of Faiths*, was published in 2004.

Kasimow stresses the serious responsibility he feels towards sharing his survivor story. His experience as a Holocaust survivor has influenced his work in interfaith dialogue. Throughout his life, he has been devoted to bringing people of different religions together. "Although religion is often a cause of violence, it can also be a path to friendship and even love," he says. "Interfaith dialogue can be a path towards helping us to appreciate the differences and to see the humanity in members of different religious traditions."

It is obvious that misunderstandings of different religious traditions and hate toward people of certain religions played a key role in the Holocaust. If more people held Kasimow's view on accepting others, there would be a greater chance for peace, and less hate.

"I feel the most important thing I can do now is to share my Holocaust experience with others," he says. "I don't want any more children to lose their childhood."



# A Message From the Beit Sefer Board President

Randi Carr  
Beit Sefer Shalom Board President

Beit Sefer Shalom, Sophie and our amazing teachers and staff have many exciting, fun and educational activities planned for the 2018-2019 school year. We know that this will be our best year yet! Our Jewish education system here in Des Moines has no equal in Iowa.

Our High School program has been revitalized. We are so excited for all the amazing programming scheduled for this year. Recently, I spent some time with the high school students while they were preparing food to donate to a shelter. Relatively speaking, we have so few Jewish kids in Des Moines, and it is nice when they can all get together in a social situation, like our High School Program.

Our big event at Beit Sefer Shalom this half of the year is The Global Jewish Day of Learning. This event is for the entire community, students and adults. Over 500 Jewish communities across the globe have the same theme and learn all together, no matter where they are in the world.

In light of recent events that have targeted Jewish gathering centers,

we want you to know that at Caspe, we take security very seriously. Our building is secure both inside and outside to ensure the safety of the children and staff we house every day. If you have any questions regarding security at Caspe, please reach out to Sophie or myself and we would be happy to answer your questions.

Now, to another very serious, very important topic, which affects all of us. Jewish education is expensive. It doesn't matter where you live or where your priorities lie, if you place importance on Jewish education, it will be costly. At Beit Sefer Shalom, we try to make education affordable for all; however, sometimes that just is not possible. The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines covers sixty five percent of the tuition cost for each child who attends Beit Sefer Shalom. You as the parent, grandparent or contributor to tuition cover thirty five percent of the cost to educate your Jewish student.

Our goal is for your student to attend Beit Sefer Shalom. Jewish education is important and I want your child to be at Beit Sefer Shalom. If you are having difficulties paying tuition for Beit Sefer Shalom, please

apply for tuition assistance. We are here to help you in any way we can. We do not want money to be the reason your child is not attending Beit Sefer Shalom.

The process for tuition assistance is very easy and completely confidential. We (staff, board and community) have no idea who needs help. I know that raising a family is very expensive and, at times, a struggle. Many families in our community struggle and I certainly do not want Jewish education to be another source of stress. Please reach out to me or Sophie and we will connect you to the person that can help.

If you have know of children ages 2-18 that are not yet part of Beit Sefer Shalom, we want you! If you are a community member with no children or grandchildren and would just like to come check out this great school we have at the Federation, we want you! Please stop by anytime to check the school out. If you would like a formal tour, that's easy to arrange. Please let me, Sophie Homonoff, or anyone on the board know and we would be happy to help.

Shalom,  
Randi Carr

## Tzedakah Wars: Raising Money for Kids

Have you noticed the poster on the board right when you walk into the school wing of Caspe? Curious about what it is? It's TZEDAKAH WARS!

This year, classes are competing in friendly competition to see who can raise the most tzedakah each month. Our fourth grade class, lead by Morah Rebecca, is helping lead this knew program by collecting and recording tzedakah for every class, each time Beit Sefer Shalom meets. Our poster is updated weekly so classes can visually see where each stands.

The class that raises the most tzedakah each month wins a prize. Whether it be a slime party or a really awesome snack, the winning class will be recognized for the day.

The fourth grade class is also in charge of deciding where our tzedakah will go at the end of the year. They have chosen to split our tzedakah; half will go to the Iowa City Children's Hospital and half will go to the RamBam Children's



Hospital in Haifa, Israel.

Please send your child with any amount of tzedakah so that Beit Sefer Shalom can raise the most tzedakah to date! We have already surpassed the \$400 mark and continue to go strong.



# Global Day of Jewish Learning

Thank you to everyone who joined us for The Global Day of Jewish Learning. We had a very busy morning studying this year's theme, Extraordinary Passages: Texts and Travels. Each class moved through the building to take part in different activities like art, music and visiting the museum. Our adults visited the museum, studied Torah, took part in a live stream with Partnership2Gether and heard stories about traveling from our community members. And, a huge thank you to the Copelands for catering a delicious lunch.

## Ending Hunger in Iowa, One Step at a Time

One in five children in Polk County are food insecure. If we were to compare this to the number of children at Beit Sefer Shalom, it would total 25 kids. That number represents just one small community.

Food insecurity is defined as not having reliable access to affordable and nutritious food. Nutritious food is essential to a child's physical and mental growth. Each year, the Des Moines Area Hunger Hike takes place in the fall. The hike is an effort to raise funds to help end hunger in our communities. The hike also aims to bring awareness of how present hunger is in the lives of many.

The Jewish Community took part in the 50th anniversary Hunger Hike, and this year we beat our goal of \$1,300. Together, we raised over \$1,600, \$600 of which came from Beit Sefer Shalom Tzedakah contributions from the 2017-18 school year. It is a huge mitzvah to give to those who need a helping hand, and this is a Jewish value we teach each day in our classrooms at Beit Sefer Shalom.

The weather may not have been ideal with the mist and cold, but many of us put on our hats and gloves and walked the 2.5 miles from the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates and back again. Each one of us sported a custom t-shirt, made special for the members of the Jewish Community. Thank you to Frank Marcovis at G&L Clothing for donating these custom shirts.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause and to those who came out to walk with us. We took just a few more steps—close to 10,000 to be exact, if you were keeping track on a smart device—to ending food insecurity and hunger within our communities.





# Staying Healthy, Trying New Foods and Learning Together

Anissa Deay  
Gan Shalom Preschool Director

Gan Shalom children and teachers, along with Federation staff participated in the Healthiest State Walk. We were lucky to have a beautiful day for our walk on Caspe Terrace. This was a big day for promoting overall well-being. Over 800 organized walks in all 99 counties in Iowa happened on October 3, 2018. Being physically active is one of the most important steps people of all ages and abilities can take to improve their health. It's also one of the best ways to connect with others.

Children sampled locally grown red and white radishes for Iowa Local Food Day on October 11, 2018. But it seemed radishes will take some time to get used to. The goal is to bring together all sectors of Farm to School in networking, making local food procurement, engaging growers to grow and sell to schools and raise awareness of Farm to School across the state. Gan Shalom connected with LT Organic Farm CSA to plan on adding locally grown produce to the 2018-2019 Gan Shalom menu. The more we introduce new foods on the menu the more likely radishes will become popular among the preschoolers.

Gan Shalom teachers attended the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children's Fall Institute in Altoona, Iowa. The powerful keynote Dr. Adolph Brown, III, PhD inspired educators to be present for students. Remembering to keep things fun and fair, but firm, being flexible, get to know families and keep the faith. By connecting these dots we can see the bigger picture in the lives of children. Our teachers understand and value relationships and their importance in supporting young children.



Gan Shalom teachers at the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children's Fall Institute.



All of the Federation staff joined us to take part in the Healthiest State Walk.



At Caspe, we get to explore all sorts of things, especially corn.



We found a lot of furry friends this Fall, many became class pets.



The Waukee Fire Department visited and taught us all about fire safety. We even got to sit in the fire truck!



A little bit of rain can't stop us from going outside!



For Simchat Torah, we paraded with Torahs and sang songs then danced with our flags and Torahs around the Aron Kodesh (Holy Ark).



# Celebrating the End of Summer at Engman Camp Shalom



Popcorn and fruit pops and candy, oh my! The end of the summer celebration for Engman Camp Shalom was full of smiles. Campers bounced high in the bouncy houses, took a swing at the home-made pinatas and conquered the obstacle course. We can't wait for another summer full of fun at Caspe.



DECEMBER 24-26, 2018

## ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM WINTER BREAK CAMP

Caspe Terrace  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CONTACT SOPHIE HOMONOFF FOR MORE  
INFORMATION | [SOPHIE@DMJFED.ORG](mailto:SOPHIE@DMJFED.ORG)

# Yaya and Yoyo Series: The Story Behind the Author

*Author Dori Weinstein spent a weekend in Des Moines for Jewish Book Month in November. The fourth and fifth grade classes at Beit Sefer Shalom have been reading two of her novels. She spent time with students at Tifereth Synagogue during Shabbat before visiting Caspe on Sunday to share her author story with the students.*

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor/Judaic Specialist

Reading is a way of escaping from reality, at least for a little while. Books offer this whole new world the reader can insert himself or herself into. From board books to lengthy novels, everyone can find a book to get lost in. But, for as many books as there are in the world, there is a very niche genre that was missing, until now.

“I wanted to write something my kids could picture themselves in,” Dori Weinstein says. “I wanted to write current, funny and enjoyable books for Jewish kids in third grade and up. I wanted them to be relatable.”

Weinstein, who grew up in Queens, New York, began her career as a teacher. Majoring in psychology, with a minor in Hebrew, Weinstein first found her love for teaching while in school working at The Children’s Unit for Learning Disabilities. “I actually started college studying French,” she says. “But I thought the only thing I could do with a French major was teach and that’s something I never planned to do. But then I ended up being a teacher anyway and loved it.” After graduating from Binghamton University (known as SUNY Binghamton when she attended), Weinstein immediately enrolled in graduate school at the Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City.

She went on to teach eight years in the classroom; four years at a public school in the Manhattan and then four years at The Talmud Torah Jewish Day School in St. Paul, Minn. “I never thought I was going to leave the New York,”

Weinstein says. “I certainly never thought I was going to leave the East Coast. But then I met this wonderful man from Minneapolis, who is now my husband, and we decided to live he had family. And now I can’t imagine not living in the Midwest!”

When Weinstein began having children, three to be exact, she decided to put her life on hold to focus on being a mom. She had every intention of going back to teach and stored all of her “teacher things” at Talmud Torah. “Everything changed when I volunteered one day at a Scholastic Book Fair and was asked to set up and manage the Jewish Book Table,” Weinstein says. “I noticed a lot of great picture books for young Jewish children, but nothing really for older kids — except biographies and other nonfiction books, including many about the Holocaust.” Having one child in first grade and another in fourth grade, Weinstein was already on the hunt for Jewish books that tailored to kids of their ages.

There were very few fiction chapter books for Jewish kids set in today’s world. And this is where the idea sparked: Weinstein would write contemporary, fiction chapter books for Jewish kids that celebrated all the wonderful



aspects of Judaism.

“Growing up, I read the series All of a Kind Family, which was about five sisters in a Jewish family in the early 1900s,” Weinstein says. “I couldn’t get enough, I must have read the series five times. But the series took place a long time ago.” This series was just one of the many inspirations she had. Mary Pope Osborne, author of The Magic Treehouse Series proved how well received having both a male and female protagonist was. Another inspiration, Judy Blume, showed the power of writing in first person with her dozens of books.

And so Ellie and Joel Silver were born. “Ellie, whose Hebrew name is Yael, and Joel, whose Hebrew name is Yoel, became known as Yaya and Yoyo,” Weinstein says. “They are twins in the fifth grade and are very opposite. I



wanted to create characters that readers could relate to and see the similarities in personalities or ways they do things.”

Writing the first book was no problem for Weinstein. She had the idea right away to write about the Rosh Hashanah and title the book, *Sliding Into the New Year*. She wrote a manuscript and gave it to kids of all ages, including her own, to read. “I didn’t put my name on it because I wanted them to be comfortable giving honest feedback,” she says. “I gave each kid stickers; smiley faces for places they liked in the story and stars for places they didn’t. When I met with the kids who agreed to read and critique the story, at the end of the discussion asked if they wanted to meet the author. They were excited and of course said yes; then I said ‘Here I am!’ It was funny because some knew it was me and others were surprised.”

Manuscript in hand, Weinstein sent her work off to a publisher. With high hopes, it came back

with a rejection letter. But she didn’t give up. She sent her manuscript to a second publisher and again was rejected. She didn’t let this dissuade her and sent the manuscript to a third publisher and was finally accepted.

“From my first idea to finally getting my first book published, it took five and a half years,” Weinstein says. “Three and half years I spent finding a publisher. I never let the rejection letters keep me from getting my work into the hands of Jewish children.” *Sliding Into the New Year* hit the shelves of several Barnes & Noble stores.

Since her first book, Weinstein has published two others and is currently working on a fourth book that will be about Hanukkah. “I’m really writing for two audiences,” Weinstein says. “Jewish kids who know the different parts of Jewish tradition and non Jewish kids who don’t know much about Judaism—yet, but would like to learn. In each book, I add a Jewish value so that the reader gets more than just the

holiday.”

Since starting her writing career in 2005, Weinstein has devoted 13 years to developing Yaya and Yoyo’s story, growing up Jewish and navigating life as a tween. Today, Weinstein runs her own publishing company called Five Flames Press where she brings her ideas to life.

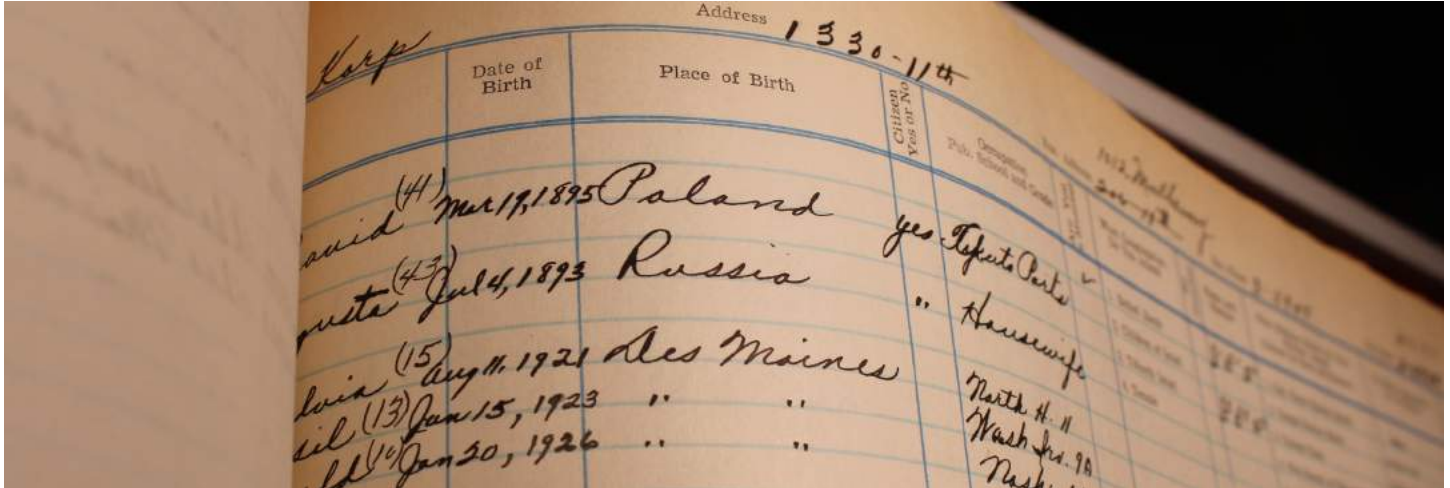
Because she runs her own business of writing and publishing her books, getting her name into the world is mostly done by word of mouth. You can like Weinstein’s Author Facebook Page to keep up to date with when books will be published, where she is in her writing process and which cities she is visiting next for book tours and writing workshops. If you would like to purchase her books, visit her website [yayayoyo.com](http://yayayoyo.com) and she will personally autograph each book purchased. Yaya&Yoyo books can also be found on Amazon.



Each book alternates who tells the story between Yaya and Yoyo. *Sliding Into the New Year* is told from Yaya’s point of view, *Shaking in the Shack* is told from Yoyo’s point of view and *Hoopla Under the Huppah* is told from Yaya’s point of view.



# Census from 1937 of Des Moines' Jewish Community



In 1936, Des Moines had a population of approximately 145,000. The 1937 Jewish survey revealed that Des Moines' Jewish population totaled 3,420 individuals in 1,015 families. The summary stated that this figure was disappointing as a previous survey in 1923 showed a Jewish population of approximately 4,000. The decrease was attributed to the number of smaller families registered. The earlier survey estimated four members to each family. The 1937 survey found that "three and a fraction comprise a family unit."

Tucked into census was a handwritten note comparing the figures from the 1923 and the 1937 surveys in the terminology of that time period. We have not yet located a copy of the 1923 census to verify the 1923 data.

Throughout its history, the Jewish Federation has undertaken a series of surveys of Des Moines' Jewish community, sometimes concentrating on demographical information—who is a part of the community—and other times asking for opinions on issues facing the Federation and the Jewish community as a whole.

In the winter of 1936 and 1937, the Jewish Welfare Fund—the precursor of the Federation—undertook such a census. The study was prompted by the desire to secure intelligent information about the Jewish population with regard to their interests in Jewish religious, culture as well as social activities and their affiliations.

According to Mrs. Samuel Weinstock, Superintendent of the Federated Jewish Charities and one of Des Moines' most active social workers, she worked from a membership list of every Jewish organization in Des Moines. We used the city directory and telephone book and made a house-to-house where we were unable to secure the information by telephone or were not listed in the directory. To be sure we had the new-comers, we contacted all the mercantile houses for the Jewish

people connected with them.

What is so fascinating about the census is that in addition to the names and addresses of individuals living in the household, the census frequently lists the person's country of origin, business affiliations, and the Jewish organizations to which the adults belonged—which synagogue they attended, social organization such as the Brotherhood, Hadassah, and more. The pages paint a detailed picture of the daily lives of Des Moines 1930s Jewish community and there is a wealth of information that can be extracted from these pages.

As part of our 20th Anniversary Fund Drive—How Beautiful is Our Heritage—the Iowa Jewish Historical Society hopes to raise funds to digitize the census and make the information available to researchers, genealogists, and the general public rather than being able to just show one page on display.

Come see it! The museum is open Monday through Friday from 1 – 4 pm and at other times by appointment. We are in a secured building, so it's helpful to call ahead so we can greet you at the door to let you in.

## Summary of Comparison of the 1923 and 1937 Surveys of Des Moines' Jewish Community

1923 Census	1937 Census	
823	761	"Normal" Families (both parents living)
945	1015	Total Families
3913	3420	Total Population
37	34	Inter-Marriages
396	201	Children Under 5 Years Old
58	89	College Students
554	361	Salesmen, Clerks
431	486	Merchants, Businessmen
12	50	Government Employees
208	139	Skilled Workers
68	167	Professional Men and Women
98	65	Peddlers
55	49	Laborers

Additional Information from 1937 Census  
 163-Widows  
 58-Widowers  
 63-Retired Men  
 33-Unemployed Husbands  
 709-Children from five to eighteen years of age  
 273-Single young women over 18 years of age, 177 of whom were employed, 83 were unemployed and 13 were in college  
 394-Single men over 18, of whom 284 were employed, 52 unemployed and 58 in college  
 2131-Members of the Jewish community of Des Moines who were citizens

# Artifacts From B'nai Jacob Synagogue

On May 19, 2018, B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Ottumwa, Iowa held its last Torah service. Established in 1898, B'nai Jacob was originally an Orthodox congregation. In the 1950s, the congregation joined the Conservative movement.

The synagogue was constructed in 1915 at a time when several hundred people regularly attended services and were active in the congregation. During the last decade, the number of people in the congregation decreased to just a few who were able to attend services on a regular basis. In May, the decision was made to dissolve the congregation. The building, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, is being donated to a local civic arts group. The Yahrzeit boards are now on display at Iowa City and the Torahs have been donated to other congregations, including a new congregation in Paraguay.

To save other parts of its history, the B'nai Jacob board donated numerous items to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, including the 1915 curtains for the Ark, a pew, yarmulke stand, menorah, prayer books, school desk and chair, historic photos and more.

The pew, yarmulke stand, and student desk and chair are now on display in the museum.



# Historic Stained Glass Now on Display

Four historic stained-glass windows from Beth El Jacob Synagogue in Des Moines are now on display at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. The windows were donated to the IJHS in 2016 when the building was sold.

Originally designed and made for the synagogue by Marty Grund and his business partner/artist, Alan McDermott, the windows are an integral part of the building's history now being preserved at the IJHS.

We are deeply grateful to the Beth El Jacob congregation for donating the windows and to Marty for donating his time to clean and stabilize the windows for display in the museum.

Beth El Jacob was founded in 1885, with the congregation first meeting in a rented hall above a business at East 2nd and Walnut Street. In 1893, the congregation bought the Evangelical Church at East 2nd and Des Moines Street, which served as their home for thirty years—until they moved to 5th Street and University Avenue in 1923.

After a fire gutted the building in 1956, the congregation moved once

more, this time to Cummins Parkway, with the new synagogue opening on April 25, 1957.

In 1983, Ron "Uby" Rabinovitz approached Marty about designing stained-glass windows for the sanctuary. This commission was the catalyst for Grund to start his own business, The Stained Glass Store, with co-founder Alan McDermott. Marty continued designing and installing stained-glass windows in the synagogue until the building was sold.



## Preserve Iowa's Jewish Heritage

Join online now at [www.ijhs.online](http://www.ijhs.online) or complete this membership form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

Membership Year: July 2018 through June 2019

Lifetime	\$5,000	_____
Benefactor	\$1,000	_____
Sponsor	\$500	_____
Supporter	\$180	_____
Institution	\$100	_____
Patron	\$100	_____

Individual or Gift Membership \$36 \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, I want to make a donation to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make your check payable to the IJHS and send it to

33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263.

For more information: (515)987-0899

ext. 216 or [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org)



The museum is open Monday-Friday from 1 – 4 p.m. and by appointment. Call ahead at 515-987-0899 ext. 216 so we can meet you at the door, as the museum is in a secured building.



## Religious Leaders of Our Community: Rabbi Emily Barton

*This Q&A is the second of a series of interviews with the rabbis of our community. The second is with Rabbi Emily Barton of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Rabbi Barton is originally from a town called Essex in Northern Vermont.*

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor/Judaic Specialist

### **How would you explain your attraction to Judaism before becoming a Rabbi?**

I grew up in a really non-religious house. My parents were not religious people and didn't really know what to do about me, who was a pretty spiritual kid. Ever since I was little I was attracted to the rituals of Judaism and the structure religion offered, even though I did not have that foundation growing up. I was always reading stuff. I read the Bible in high school and was amazed by it. In college I became known as somebody who was spiritual but not religious. When I became an adult and was able to do things on my own, my attraction to Judaism became the want for a vocabulary for God. And Judaism gave me that vocabulary.

### **What are some of the rituals you enjoyed both then and now?**

I like the holidays and how there are lots of different entry points to observe and celebrate them. I also like Shabbat because it forces me to stop, it forces me to think; to think about God and God's world and where we are at as people and Americans. I enjoy all the music and the way Judaism tells time through music, which is really beautiful. You can be anywhere in the world and if you know your tunes and how they relate to the day or the year, you can walk into a synagogue and be able to know where you are at.

### **When did you realize you wanted to become a Rabbi?**

When I was a kid, I used to marry my sister off to the neighbor boy for fun! Most little girls dream of playing bride, but I wanted to play officiant. I think that is where it started. When I was an adult and more active in Judaism, I would attend weddings and my friends would say they can't wait for their own weddings, and I would respond I couldn't wait to for the day I could perform their weddings. So that's where my heart has always been.

I was also phasing out of my love

for being a pastry chef and was trying to figure out another career plan. I wanted my dream career to be based on three things: I wanted to use music as much as possible in my life, I wanted to teach and study religious texts and I wanted to build community. When I put those things together, I realized these were things a Rabbi did.

### **What did your path towards becoming a Rabbi look like?**

I stepped down from my management position as a pastry chef at Whole Foods and applied for a chaplaincy internship at a hospital, which is backwards because most people don't do chaplaincy until after they have been ordained, but I was lucky. After three weeks they asked if I would work at the job full time, and I stayed for about a year and a half. Then I went to a summer Hebrew program at Middlebury College and then went to rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary of American in New York City.

### **What was one of the most difficult tasks of becoming a Rabbi?**

At first, it was Hebrew but when you are using it all the time, every day it became a lot easier. Overall, the hardest part was balancing my desire for learning text with working as a Rabbi in the field. I had a congregational internship for five of the six years I was in school. Trying to figure out how to balance the learning in the classroom with the learning I gained in synagogue life was demanding. It was hard to be in school four or five days a week for six hours



plus every day, complete homework and then also work my internships.

### **What are some of your favorite memories from rabbinical school?**

One of the things that was more powerful for me than I ever expected from Rabbinical school my class, was that with the 12 of us who started together, in a way it was like having 11 siblings. You saw each other literally every day for the first three years of school. Half of my time in school was spent with these 11 other people. Sometimes, it was really annoying because you did see them every single day, but I have a lot of fondness for this now. Being scattered all over the country now, it means a lot when I do get to see my classmates and catch up. It feels sweet. I might not have picked some these people as friends, or even known them otherwise, but by pure luck, we all ended up together.

My year spent in Israel is my best year of rabbinical school. This is when





I grew the most, personally. All of my classes but one were in Hebrew. Though I already knew how to lead Shacharit, I was able to do this in an Israeli congregation. I was able to read Torah and lead services in front of a bunch of Israelis, which was a little nerve-racking but a great experience.

While in Israel, I lived with two roommates and we had a 50-minute walk each way to school, uphill both ways! I remember with a lot of fondness our walks to and from school together. The two women I lived with were already good friends but we were able to grow even closer because of that experience.

**What is something most people don't know, but should know, about rabbinical school?**

I think a lot of people want to become a Rabbi because they really like Jewish learning, which is great. But even if you aren't serving a congregation full time, being a Rabbi is more than just learning. I spend a lot of my time doing organizational things and visiting with congregates, and not as much time on studying Torah and Talmud.

Being a Rabbi is a lot about listening and working with people of all ages. Many of the people I went to school with seemed to think that when they become a "real Rabbi" they would work mostly with adults and not kids, but that isn't true. My bread and butter is working with families and kids. You have to be able to work with and be there for adults but also get on the floor and have a dance party every once and a while with the kids.

**What are some of the difficulties of being a Rabbi right now?**

Judaism is changing fast in some ways and slowly in others. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is here to stay and anyone who thinks there is a quick solution to the problem isn't paying attention. If we are looking for peace, then we need to look at taking

baby steps in a long-game approach. I think because of technology, many don't think that way easily and want things quickly. One of the reasons Judaism has lasted so long is because it played the long game well. If you look at other large civilizations from world history, they are all gone and we are still here.

Closer to home, another difficulty is wanting to do so many things and not having enough hours in the day to do so. Between everyone's activities, wanting to grow our community, wanting to grow people's love for Judaism, being present for the hard stuff and trying to find time for myself and my family in the midst of all of that, it's hard. I wish there were more time.

**Do you have a favorite part of the Torah and why?**

I love reading and chanting Torah, that's probably the thing I love most. My favorite book of the Torah is Leviticus, which is incredibly unpopular. Whether you believe in God as a character in the Torah or as the writer of the Torah, in the book of Leviticus, God recognizes we need structure in a world of chaos. God offers that structure and I think that is really astute. I also like this book because there is a lot of blood and other bodily stuff and it might seem strange, but that reminds me God is present even in the messy places, and that is important.

**What sets you apart from other Rabbis?**

I am lucky to be where I am today because 11 years ago, someone like me would not have been able to be ordained. The Conservative movement only began ordaining gay and lesbians ten years ago. On its face, that makes me unique. I'm probably one of the few pastry chef Rabbis in the world that actually has a degree in pastry.

I think one of my greatest strengths is meeting people where they are and

**Columns**

trying my best to do so. Coming from a minority and having been someone on the outside, wanting to get in, I try to notice when others are doing the same, and meet them where they are.

**How is your place of worship unique or special?**

Tifereth Israel Synagogue is a very welcoming place, no matter who you are or where you come from. We have different people becoming members and wanting to be involved. Something special Tifereth did when I was interviewing was it didn't make a big deal out of the things that make me unique, everyone was just happy to see me, as a whole person. I feel that is the case for anyone who comes through the door that wants to be seen. The people inside are just happy to see you. I think that's also what makes the Des Moines Jewish Community so nice; if you want to be engaged, there is a place for you and an emphasis on meeting you where you are.

**How would you define what being a Rabbi is?**

A large part of being a rabbi is being a campaign manager for God and the Jewish people. A large part of my job is logistics of trying to figure out how to manage the parts of the campaign that is Judaism and yet, the campaign manager also has to be able to do leg work. You are the representative of Judaism and the one who has to uphold it for the community and help it continue.

**What does being a Rabbi mean to you?**

Being a Rabbi is a really big gift that I take very seriously. It is something I never take for granted. It is an incredible honor to do the work that I do. I feel grateful to do this work, I feel honored to be with people and have people let me be in their lives as their leader. Even the days that are hard, I can't picture myself doing anything else. Some days I feel I was handed the moon and I don't know exactly what to do with it, which can be really hard. When I feel I don't know what to do with it, I do know that I can figure it out with my faith in God, the Jewish people and the Des Moines Community. I want people to know the gratitude that I feel, this is really a gift and it is something I feel I was called to do.

## Eric Schmalz Speaks on American Newspapers During The War



Speaker Eric Schmalz (top row, middle) with members of Hillel.

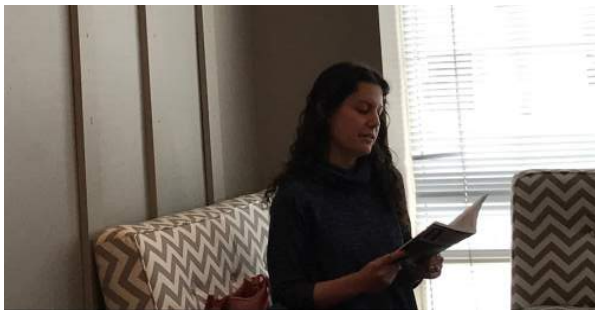
A speaker from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's research wing, Eric Schmalz,

presented a lecture at Drake University, November 8, about how American newspapers included op-eds and reader responses to antisemitism expressed during the period prior to the US entry into the second world war. Prominent at the time were the publication of antisemitic materials by Henry Ford, the expression of vitriol by Fr.

Charles Coughlin, and the accusation by Charles Lindbergh, in a speech given in Des Moines, that Jews, along with others, were pushing the US into war. (The Des Moines Register blasted Lindbergh's antisemitic speech.)

The program was sponsored by the Jewish Federation along with the Principal Center for Global Citizenship, Drake University School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Drake Hillel, the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education, and the Campus Outreach Lecture Program of the United States Holocaust Museum's Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, supported by the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund.

## Jamie Wendt Visits Hillel



It's not every day a former Drake Hillel President visits as a published author. Jamie Wendt was kind enough to do a poetry reading for Drake Hillel students on Sunday, November 11 in Hillel HQ. Wendt's book *Fruit of the Earth* explores her identity as a Jewish woman both on Drake's campus and off. She writes about her grandmother, her husband and her children. A number of Hebrew and Yiddish terms are sprinkled throughout her writing— many of which she has to define for non-Jewish audiences.

During her time at Drake, Wendt served as Hillel president from 2007-2009. She graduated in 2010 with a B.S. in Secondary Education and a B.A. in English, with a minor in religion. After the hour long reading, Wendt kindly donated a copy of her book to Hillel's growing library.

Wendt currently lives in Chicago with her husband and two children. She teaches high school English.

**DRAKE HILLEL HANUKKAH PARTY**

**DECEMBER 8, 2018**  
**MARS CAFE, DOGTOWN**  
**6:30-8:30 P.M.**

Join us for snacks, music and good company as we celebrate the Festival of Lights together

For more information, please contact Rebecca Perl  
rebecca.perl@drake.edu.





Rabbi led Shabbat services  
Rabbi Nina Mizrahi will be in Ames to lead services  
and adult ed on the following dates:  
December 7, 9 a.m.  
February 1, 3 p.m.  
March 1, 3 p.m.

Her schedule will be similar for all weekends:  
Friday, 7:30 p.m., Shabbat services

**Local Congregation Information**  
Saturday, 10 a.m., Shabbat morning services with  
Torah study  
12 p.m. Adult education (visit [www.ajciowa.org](http://www.ajciowa.org) for monthly topics)

Lay-led Shabbat services  
One to two lay-led Shabbat services will be  
scheduled each month on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Tu b'Shevat Party, Saturday, January 19, 8 p.m.  
Details to follow

Please go to [www.ajciowa.org](http://www.ajciowa.org) or email [ajciowa@gmail.com](mailto:ajciowa@gmail.com) for more information.

**The *Jewish Press* is going digital!**  
We are happy to announce *The Jewish Press*  
will now be released primarily in digital  
format. If you would still like to receive a  
physical copy of *The Jewish Press*, please fill  
out the survey here [bit.ly/2KngwWW](http://bit.ly/2KngwWW) or fill in  
this form and send it by mail to:

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Des  
Moines, 33158 Ute Ave. Waukee, IA 50263**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_



## Local Congregation Information



**Come Join Our Growing  
Synagogue**  
[www.tifereth.org](http://www.tifereth.org)

### Recurring Events

Minyan:

- Tuesdays, 7:15 a.m.

Services:

- Shabbat Evening Services, Fridays, 6 p.m.
- Shabbat Morning Services, Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.
- Shabbat Cafe, 11:30 a.m.
- Shabbat Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Emily Barton, 12:30 p.m.

### Special Events for December 2018, January and February 2019

#### *December 2018*

- Saturday, December 1, 11:30 a.m. Women's League Latke Shabbat Café
- Sunday, December 2, Tikkun Olam Project with Kadima & USY
- December 2 – December 10, Hanukkah
- Saturday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Service
- Saturday, December 8, 10:15 a.m. Torah Service
- Saturday, December 8, 6 p.m. YAD & Community Hanukkah Party
- Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. Erev Nashim at Urban Grill
- Friday, December 14, 6 p.m. Acoustic Shabbat

- Saturday, December 15, 12:30 p.m. Gabbai Training
- Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. Chai Mitzvah Class at TIS with Rabbi Barton
- Monday, December 24, 6 p.m. "A Very Jewish Musical Stroll" & Chinese Dinner

#### *January 2019*

- January 6, – January 10, Men's Trip to Vegas
- Wednesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. Erev Nashim at Waterfront, West Des Moines
- Saturday, January 12, 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Service
- Saturday, January 12, 10:15 a.m. Torah Service
- Saturday, January 12, 6 p.m. Sweetheart Dance
- Thursday, January 17, 5 p.m. Tribe Happy Hour at Beer Styles, WDM
- Saturday, January 19, 6 p.m. YAD Disco Party and Dinner
- Tuesday, January 22, 6:30 p.m. Chai Mitzvah Class at TBJ with Samantha Kemp-Carlin

#### *February 2019*

- Friday, February 1, 6 p.m. Mishpacha Shabbat
- February 1 – February 2, Camp Ramah Weekend with Jewish Musician, Eliana Light
- Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Service
- Saturday, February 9, 10:15 a.m. Torah Service
- Sunday, February 10, Kadima

**Tifereth Israel  
SYNAGOGUE**

- Event, Jewish Shark Tank
- Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. Erev Nashim at Chef's Kitchen
- Saturday, February 16, Date Night at Flix Theatres
- Sunday, February 17, USY Event, Jewish Iron Chef
- Thursday, February 21, 5 p.m. Tribe Happy Hour at St. Kilda's Café
- Saturday, February 23, 10:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat & Junior Congregation
- Sunday, February 24, 5 p.m. Chili Cook Off
- Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m. Chai Mitzvah Class at TIS with Christine Dietz

#### **Adult Education**

- Shabbat Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Emily Barton, Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.
- S.T.E.P. (Sunday Torah Education Program) with Michael Kuperman, Sundays at 10 a.m.
- Introduction to Judaism, Class for Conversion with Christine Dietz & Rabbi Barton, Sundays 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



**Worship and Special Events Schedule**

**Recurring Events**

Services:

- Erev Shabbat Service, Fridays, 6 p.m.
- Weekly Text Study, Saturdays, 9 a.m.
- Traditional Torah Study (TTS), Saturdays, 9 a.m.
- Shabbat Service, Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Family Events:

- Wine and Cheese Social, Fridays, 5:30 p.m.

**Special Events for December 2018, January and February 2019**

*December 2018*

- Sunday, December 2, 12:30 p.m. TYG Board Meeting at Panera
- Friday, December 7, 6 p.m. Hanukkah Family and Classic Shabbat
- Friday, December 7, 7 p.m. Shabbat Potluck Dinner
- Friday, December 7, 7 p.m. Youth Group First Friday Gathering
- Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m. Jew-cy Issues
- Sunday, December 9, 1 p.m. TYG at Climb Iowa

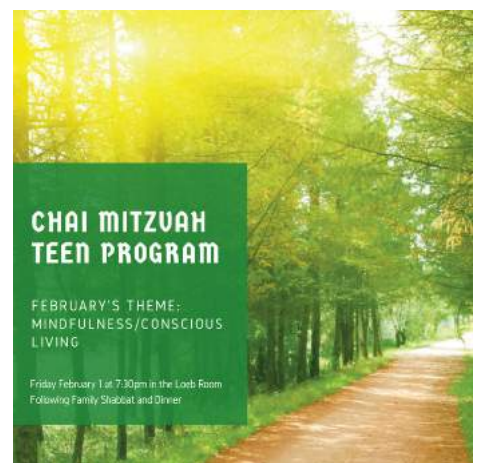
- Sunday, December 16, 11 p.m. Joanne's Short Story Book Club
- Sunday, December 16, 12:30 p.m. Junior YG Movie
- Friday, December 21, 7 p.m. Mahj & More!
- Monday, December 24, 4 p.m. Dinner at Hibachi Grill
- Saturday, December 29, 6 p.m. TYG Lock In

*January 2019*

- Friday, January 4, 7 p.m. Shabbat Dinner and Potluck
- Friday, January 4, 7 p.m. Youth Group First Friday Gathering
- Sunday, January 6, 12:30 p.m. TYG Board Meeting at Panera
- Friday, January 18, 7 p.m. Mahj & More!

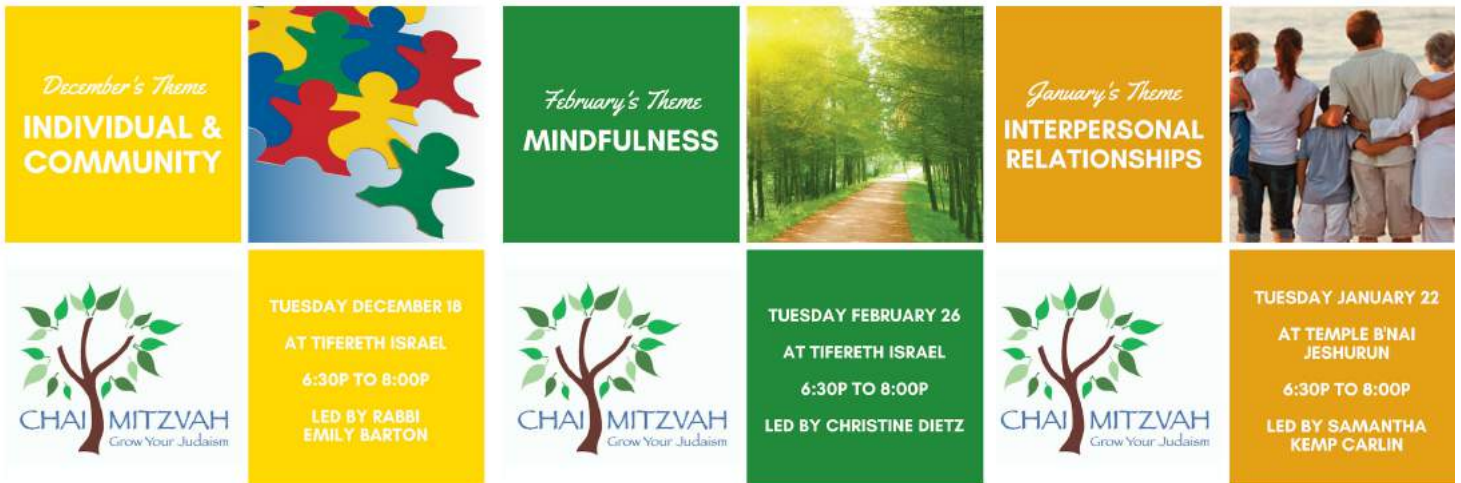
*February 2019*

- Friday, February 1, 7 p.m. Shabbat Dinner and Potluck
- Friday, February 1, 7 p.m. Youth Group First Friday Gathering
- Sunday, February 3, 12:30 p.m. TYG Board Meeting
- Friday, February 15, 7 p.m. Mahj & More!





# A Message from TBJ Sisterhood and Chai Mitzvah Schedule



Well, it's chai time! "Chai Mitzvah" time, that is. At Sisterhood we've been working hard toward offering our members, and congregation, activities that reach all aspects of our lives: fellowship, entertainment, tzedakah, spiritual and Jewish growth.

Our newest adventure is to embark on the Chai Mitzvah study program, jointly sponsored with Tifereth Israel Synagogue. This series of study offers a program of twelve study topics. The students meet together once a month,

to learn and discuss. Our evening meetings provide a guest leader/speaker to facilitate learning and discussion. The goal is to deepen our Jewish lives, as well as our work in the greater community

We think the Chai Mitzvah series will enrich our lives and compliment our current programs: Breakfast Club, WEDO lunch, Book Club, Mahj and More (Game Night), special events ie. Rosh Hodesh/Havdalah, Hanukkah Happening; and tzedakah projects

(plan ground covers for homeless family, library for correctional facilities).

We have room for more ideas and more warm bodies for work, fellowship, fun, and charity. Every member has made us better and more active. Please join us at our monthly meeting (first Tuesday evening We need and want your talents and support.

Love, Wendy, Nancy, and Jody

<b>When</b>	<b>Where &amp; Presenter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Tues., Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m.	Tifereth Israel, Rabbi Emily Barton	"Individual and Community"
Tues., Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.	B'nai Jeshurun, Samantha Kemp-Carlin	"Interpersonal Relationships"
Tues., Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.	Tifereth Israel, Christine Dietz	"Mindfulness"
Tues., Mar. 26, 6:30 p.m.	Tifereth Israel, Eleanah Siepmann	"Passover"
Tues., Apr. 23, 6:30 p.m.	B'nai Jeshurun, Rabbi David Kaufman	"Israel"
Tues., May 21, 6:30 p.m.	Tifereth Israel, Christine Dietz	"Modim Anachnu Lach"
Tues., June 25, 6:30 p.m.	B'nai Jeshurun, Josh Mandelbaum	"The Environment"
Tues., July. 23, 6:30 p.m.	B'nai Jeshurun, Sally Frank	"Leadership"
Tues., Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m.	Tifereth Israel, Robin Karney	"Death and Loss"
Tues., Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m.	B'nai Jeshurun, Ryba Epstein	"Arc of Fall Holidays"

# Chabad Lubavitch of Iowa's Judaic Resource Center

**LUBAVITCH OF IOWA'S JRC**

# MENORAH WORKSHOP

**AT THE HOME DEPOT**

10850 PLUM DR. URBANDALE, IA 50322

**CHANUKAH**  
**WEDNESDAY DEC. 5TH**  
**5:00PM - 7:00PM**

**BUILD YOUR VERY OWN MENORAH**

**LATKAS AND DONUTS**

\$25.00 GIFT CARD RAFFLE FROM HOME DEPOT

**PARENTS ACCOMPANY CHILDREN**

\$3.00 PER PERSON

Sponsored by: **THE HOME DEPOT**

For more information or to RSVP please call: 515-277-1718 Email: Jrcspark@amazon.com

In Loving memory of Yaakov Ben David Bassman

## GRAND MEMORAH LIGHTING

MACCABEE'S KOSHER DELI  
 1150 POLK BLVD., DES MOINES

Sunday, December 2, 5:00 PM | Thursday, December 6, 5:00 PM  
 Monday, December 3, 5:00 PM | Friday, December 7, 2:30 PM  
 Tuesday, December 4, 5:00 PM | Saturday, December 8, 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday, December 5, 5:00 PM | Sunday, December 9, 5:00 PM

**HOT LATKES OR DOUGHNUTS SERVED EVERY NIGHT!**

# Chabad of Ames/ISU

**Grand Menorah Lighting @ Ames City Hall**  
**Sunday December, 2**  
**5:00 pm**

For more Info. Email: [Chabadames.isu@outlook.com](mailto:Chabadames.isu@outlook.com)

**Chabad Of Ames**

**CHABAD AT ISU**

## MENORAH LIGHTING

*On Campus*

Followed by a Chanukah Party at Carver Hall, Floor 4 Rm 400

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
**5:00 PM @PARKS LIBRARY LAWN**

MENORAH LIGHTING · DREIDELS · CHOCOLATE COINS







Steven and Rachel Wilke-Shapiro are happy to announce that their son, Jonah David Wilke-Shapiro, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 2, 2019. A Havdalah service will be celebrated at Temple B'Nai Jeshurun with a reception immediately following. The Jewish community is invited to share our simcha!



Congratulations to Emma Kirschner, who was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 10 at Tifereth Synagogue. Emma is an 8th grader at The Timberline School in Waukee. She is a member of En Fuego show choir, plays clarinet in her school band and enjoys playing tennis. For her Mitzvah Project, Emma raised funds for the Anne Frank Connection, home to the Anne Frank pen pal letters in Danville, Iowa as well as supported the museum's "Postcards: a Memorial for Children" project. Emma is the daughter of Ellen and Matthew Kirschner and adored by her proud big sister, Paige.

## In Memoriam

Steven Alan Miles  
 Peggy Altman  
 Edmund Louis Scarpino  
 David Morgenstern  
 Simon Pugach  
 Joanne Katanick Canavan  
 Wayne Dietz  
 Eli Levy  
 Ronald T. Long  
 Adelaide Sostrin Krum  
 Jason Lewis Blank  
 Rosa Rabinovitz

**Celebrating something in your life or remembering someone who has passed? Consider submitting simchas and memoriams to the Jewish Press. From births to weddings, B'nai Mitzvot and awards, we want to celebrate all of life's achievements and cycles.**

**All submissions should be sent to [jp@dmjfed.org](mailto:jp@dmjfed.org)**



**The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and The United Nations  
Association of Iowa Presents**

**Dr. Emile Schrijver  
Director of the  
Amsterdam Jewish  
Museum**



**Sunday, December 9, 2018  
3:30 p.m. at the Caspe Terrace**

Prof. Dr. Emile G.L. Schrijver is General Director of the Jewish Historical Museum and the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam, as well Professor of the “History of Jewish Cultural Heritage, in particular of the Jewish Book” at the University of Amsterdam. Join us to hear him speak on the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.