



# SHALOM



The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community. Published as a community service by the Jewish Federation of Reading, Pa.

Volume 44, No. 6

JUNE 2014

SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5774

## Holocaust Library at Albright named after Lakins

Former Albright College trustees Edwin Lakin and the late Alma Lakin '51 were honored in May for their exemplary leadership, service and support of Albright College.

The Lakins' names were added to the list of outstanding visionary leaders engraved on the College's Founders Wall. Albright has also renamed its Holocaust Library and Resource Center to honor the Lakins' lifelong commitment to Holocaust education and support of the center.

"For decades they have shared their time, talent, and treasure with Albright, in the process playing important roles in helping to lead the College's development and growth," said Albright President Lex O. McMillan III. "The Edwin & Alma N. '51 Lakin Holocaust Library and Resource Center will stand as a fitting tribute to their tireless advocacy and outreach in raising awareness and increasing educational opportunities relating to the Holocaust."

Housed in Albright's Library, the center is a joint partnership between the College and Jewish Federation of Reading. Its mission is to provide community awareness, information, audio-visual support and education about the Nazi Holocaust to prevent this tragic event and other genocides from happening again.

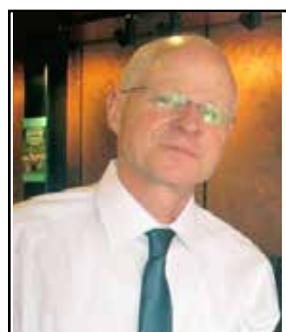
The center, which marked its 20th



anniversary in 2013, carries out this mission by sponsoring workshops, seminars and lectures, providing educators with resources to teach the Holocaust and other modern genocides, and coordinating survivor visits to schools. Open to the public, the center features more than 2,300 books, 300 videos, CDs, and DVDs, wartime artifacts, pictures and recorded testimonies of local survivors and liberators.

Edwin and Alma Lakin spent nearly 50 years together as residents, community leaders and philanthropists in Berks County. They have supported higher education in Berks County; provided advocacy and outreach through several organizations; and have worked tirelessly to increase awareness and educational opportunities relating to the

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**2014 totals as of May 15**

**Jewish Community Campaign \$258,715**

**\*Includes transfers from Donor Advised Funds**

## Federation Annual Meeting June 8 at the JCC

**Breakfast nosh, 9:30 a.m. Meeting, 10:30 a.m.  
 followed by meeting and entertainment by folk singer and Reading native  
 Les "Doc" Rachlin**

*Rachlin plans to offer a folk singer's take on popular Jewish-American music from Gershwin and other standards to rock and roll favorites.*

*Expect to hear a wide range of styles, keys and moods, all written by Jews*

### Proposed 2014-2015 Officers and Board Members

#### PROPOSED OFFICERS

<b>Chairman</b>	Larry Rotenberg, MD	<b>1st Vice President</b>	Robert Oppenheimer
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Andrew Wernick, CPA	<b>Treasurer</b>	Janine Ure
<b>Secretary</b>	Robert Caster, CPA	<b>Immediate Past Chairman</b>	Alvin Katz

#### PROPOSED DIRECTORS\*

Cynthia Balchunas	Rabbi Yosef Lipsker	Sheila Bornstein	Haia Mazuz
Jeff Driben, MD	Rabbi Brian Michelson	<b>Susan Gelb</b>	Jay Moyer, CLU, ChFC
Sam Goodman	<b>Gordon Perlmutter, MD</b>	Neil Hoffman, MD/Judith Kraines**	
James Rothstein, Esq	Neal Jacobs	Howard Saidman	Kenneth Lakin
VeeVee Scott/Jan Simon***	<b>Michelle Leisawitz</b>	<b>Emanuel Wittels, MD</b>	Lisa Levine, OD

*\*Bolted names are new members to be elected at the Annual Meeting.*

*\*\* Neil and Judith are co-Chairs of the 2014 Jewish Community Campaign and therefore are Ex-officio members of the Board. They have one vote between them.*

*\*\*\* Jan and VeeVee are JCC co-Chairs and therefore are Ex-officio members of the board. They have one vote between them.*

# Federation News

## Needs don't take vacations!

By Paul L. Landry



Memorial Day has just passed and summer is almost upon us! I remember when I was in grade school and the advent of summer was particularly wonderful. The whole summer off! Then came high school and the need

to save money for college. So summer just meant going from part-time working to full-time working. The magic was gone, and still is. And if you are the parents of grade school children, the main feeling of summer is probably how wonderful it will be when school starts again!

For the Federation summer doesn't cause much change. With the exception of whatever time people take for vacation,

things are pretty much normal.

Jewish Family Service continues to help our seniors and others who are in need. The visits to home, hospital and care centers continue unabated. The monthly Food Pantry days continue, as do the phone calls, Friendship Circle, Bereavement Group and more.

The JCC program goes forward as usual with art exhibits, movies, lectures,

seminars, trips, etc.

Because, while people may take vacations, needs don't. And the Federation is in the business of meeting needs. So, over the summer, please keep the Federation in mind. And when that first solicitation of the fall season arrives in September, please be generous. Because you may be writing your check to the Federation, but you will be providing support for people who are in need!

## Noam Shalit shares painful reality of his son's kidnapping

By Tammy K. Mitgang

Noam Shalit, father of soldier Gilad Shalit, spoke at Bernardine Lecture Hall on Alvernia University's Reading Campus on May 4 – the eve of Yom Hazikaron. Gilad Shalit, an IDF soldier, was captured by Hamas in 2006 and held captive by the terrorist organization for more than five years. Noam spoke on his efforts and that of his family that helped to launch an international effort to secure the release of their son. Jewish Federation of Reading was the first community to host Noam Shalit as part of a monthlong speaking tour throughout the U.S.

Soft-spoken and unassuming, Noam candidly shared the frustrations of dealing with two administrations over the course of Gilad's captivity and how his family's life changed overnight with media trucks lining their street and their ultimate move to a tent in front of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's home on day 1,000 of the kidnapping. The tent became their home for months. He also spoke about the uncertainty of his son's health, knowing that Gilad had been wounded during the attack on the tank patrol. Compounding the concerns was Hamas' refusal to allow even the Red Cross to visit their son to confirm he was receiving medical attention and basic care. Noam was clearly appreciative of the outpouring

of support he and his family received from communities in the U.S. and around the world. He spoke about the painful reality other families faced when more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners including murderers and terrorists were released in exchange for his son. For those families, their loved ones would not be returning.

The crowd was appreciative of the openness that Shalit displayed when he answered questions regarding his son's thoughts on the prisoner exchange, the hardships and challenges that Israeli families face when they send their sons and daughters to war and how Gilad is doing today. A successful sportscaster in Israel, Gilad has begun to move forward with his life but struggles to recount his time in captivity.

Noam also reminded the audience of the phrase, Kol Yisrael arevim zeh la-zeh (all Jews (or all the people of Israel) are responsible for one another), the teaching of the Talmud that addresses responsibility to community and to each other. Based on this teaching, Israel, its people and its government ensure that every effort is made to have IDF soldiers returned home. This was not the first time that Israel had exchanged prisoners for its captured soldiers, alive and deceased.

Noam Shalit was introduced by Don



Noam Shalit with Betsy and Al Katz at Shalit's recent appearance at Alvernia University.

Fox. Don and his wife Tali honored their daughter, Sgt. Mika Fox, IDF by sponsoring the speaker for Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. He is a past Federation President and grew up in Reading.

The program ended with Rabbi Minna Bromberg, Keshet Zion Synagogue, leading the audience in reading Natan Alterman's poem, "The Silver Platter," lighting candles

and reciting the Mourners' Kaddish in memory of Lt. Hanan Barak and Staff Sgt. Pavel Slutzker, IDF soldiers killed during the attack that resulted in Gilad's kidnapping. The candles also were a memorial to those who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for all military personnel who were killed while in active duty in Israel's armed forces.

Senator Pat Toomey  
proudly recognizes and honors  
Yom Ha'Atzmaut 2014  
6th of אִיּוֹר 5774

I join Israel in celebrating the 66th anniversary of its independence and in remembering the many men and women who have lost their lives in defense of Israel. For over six decades, the Jewish State has been a symbol of democratic courage in the Middle East and around the world. Without question, Israel is the United States' closest ally and friend in the region and among its best allies in the world.

Presented to the  
Jewish Federation of Reading.

Pat Toomey  
United States Senator



### Toomey pays tribute to Israel

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey presented a certificate to the Jewish Federation of Reading in recognition of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, which was observed May 6

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"It's so easy to make friends here."

-Ruth



"Don't wait! There are new friends (and so much fun) waiting for you, too!"

-Hilde

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# As the year ends

By Alvin Katz  
Chairman

This will be my final article as my term as Chairman of the Federation Board will be ending. It has been a very busy and eventful two years with a number of changes taking place. In addition to my term expiring, a new Chairman being elected and a number of new Board members



being installed, our President, Tammy Mitgang, has elected not to renew her contract, and we are in the process of interviewing potential candidates. The search committee is co-chaired by Bob Caster and Jim Rothstein. This process should be concluded shortly and a candidate selected by the time this edition goes to print. Tammy has been a stellar leader these last six years, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors. She will be difficult to replace.

Your Board of Directors has worked

diligently to address several important matters this past year with a great deal of heavy lifting by the Finance Committee, chaired by treasurer Andrew Wernick.

One shared initiative is the transfer of the Lakin Early Education Center from the Federation to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. The Federation will be supporting RCOS for a two year period with office and financial support while they become familiar with running the Pre-school.

In addition, a multi-year study was

conducted by the Finance Committee to determine the best avenue to protect the endowment funds, part of which was a substantial amount received from the sale of the Jewish Community Center on Hampden Blvd. There was a special board meeting held on April 24 at which time the committee presented its recommendation for discussion and vote.

It has been my honor to serve as the Chairman, and I wish our incoming Chairman, Officers and Board a successful and fruitful term.

## LAKINS



Ed Lakin, seated, is joined by, from left, son Peter Lakin; daughter-in-law Maralyn Lakin, wife of Kenneth Lakin; Federation President Tammy Mitgang and Albright President Lex O. McMillan III during a tour and overview of the Holocaust Library and Resource Center that honors Ed Lakin and his late wife, Alma.

### Continued from Page 1

Holocaust through the center at Albright, the Lakin Early Education Center, Jewish Federation of Reading, the Jewish Cultural Center, and through their fundraising efforts for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. The Lakins' generous gifts will help fund a significant renovation of the Holocaust Library and Resource Center as part of an overhaul of the Albright Library.

Ed Lakin graduated from Brooklyn College and later studied for his graduate degree at New York University. In 1943, he enlisted in the Armed Services. After completing a tour of duty in the Philippines, Ed returned to Brooklyn to work at an accounting firm while attaining his CPA. He moved with his family to Reading and joined Solomon and Albert Boscov as a partner at Boscov's.

Ed is a life member of the board of directors of the Reading Hospital and Medical Center. He is a past director of Jewish Federation of Reading, the Jewish Community Center and the United Way of Berks County. He also served on the boards of the Highlands at Wyomissing, the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts and Our City Reading.

As a student at Albright, Alma flourished as a member of the Domino Players theatre group, the student newspaper and the yearbook staff. She graduated with a degree in English.

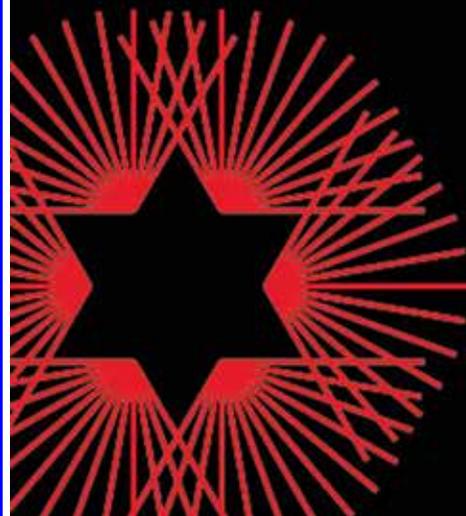
Alma's service to her community was immeasurable. She was president of Keshet Zion Sisterhood, served as the first female president of Jewish Federation of Reading, and was a board member of Fellowship House. She was instrumental in establishing the Lion of Judah Division of Reading, which she co-chaired with her daughter-in-law Maralyn in 2006. That same year, Alma was nationally honored with the Lion of Judah's Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland award, which recognizes extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism in their communities. Alma also received a lifetime achievement award from the Reading Chapter of Hadassah. She worked part-time at Boscov's Travel Center from its inception.

**For further information on what materials are available at the Holocaust Resource Center or for assistance in finding specific items, please contact center Coordinator Amanda Hornberger (hrc@alb.edu or 610-921-7214), <http://library.albright.edu/hrc>.**

## Edwin & Alma N. '51 Lakin Holocaust Library and Resource Center

Established by the Jewish Federation of  
Reading in memory of those who perished  
and dedicated to those who are our future

APRIL 19, 1993-28 NISAN 5753



*In honor of Edwin and Alma  
N. '51 Lakin in recognition of  
their loyalty to Albright College.  
This sign is donated by the  
Gernsheimer family in loving  
memory of Carl, Selma and  
Ilsa Simon.*

The sign for the newly named Edwin and Alma Lakin Holocaust Library and Resource Center features a logo by Jack Gernsheimer of Partners Design. Jack offered his thoughts on his work:

Of the many hundred logos I've designed over the past 45 years, none is as significant to me than the mark for the Holocaust Library at Albright College. My mother is a survivor who lost her mother, father, 14-year-old sister, and around 39 other family members.

The logo, designed in 1995, consists of six groups of 13 lines. Converging at 10° increments, they suggest an overhead view of pages in six opened books. Each "book" rotates 60°, and the resulting negative space is the six-pointed Star of David. Color plays a significant role in this logo because the red converging "page" lines radiate a sense of intense heat while the black background in the negative star appears ominously morbid.

I'm pleased to see that the logo seems to have held up well over the years, and that it is being used in and around the new Ed and Alma Lakin Library.

## SHALOM

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### Jewish Federation of Reading

Chairman: Alvin Katz  
President: Tammy K. Mitgang  
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor  
Proofreaders: Federation staff  
Member: American Jewish Press Association

The opinions expressed in Shalom are of the writers and not the Jewish Federation of Reading

**Last regular issue until September. Next deadline, Aug. 5**



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# Our 2014 graduates



**Anna Balchunas**, daughter of Cynthia and George Balchunas, is graduating from Wilson High School. She is on the county champion Girls Tennis team and won a doubles county championship. She is a vice president of National Honor Society. She will be attending New York University.



**Tessa Cohn**, daughter of Paul and Jo Cohn, is graduating from Temple University with a bachelor of science degree in public relations and communications, and a minor in Business Studies.



**Jessica R. Faller**, daughter of Lori and Scott Faller, Ephrata, graduated from Shippensburg University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. She is a granddaughter of Elaine and Paul Safir.



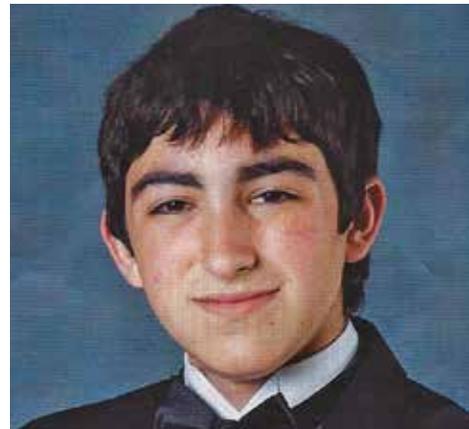
**Casey Fromm**, daughter of Susan and Michael Fromm, is graduating from the University of Michigan in May with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. In September, Casey will attend Columbia University to earn a master's degree in social work.



**Daniel Gavigan**, son of Mimi and Thomas Gavigan received an MBA from the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago. He will be working for UBS as an Investment Banking Associate within the Technology, Media & Telecommunications group in New York. He is a graduate of Penn State University and Reading High School.



**Ian Gavigan**, son of Mimi and Thomas Gavigan, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Haverford College with a bachelor of arts degree in history. His thesis focused on the development of racial thinking in Berlin around 1900. He was president of the Jewish Student Union at Haverford. Ian has been awarded multiple fellowships, including a major grant to do independent research in Berlin.



**Cory Jeffers**, son of Gerald and Susan Jeffers, is graduating from Daniel Boone High School. He really enjoys music and had been an active member of the DBHS marching band percussion team and winter indoor percussion group. Cory is majoring in Computer Science and will be attending Millersville University in the fall to become a programmer.



**Melanie Lisa Kauffman**, daughter of David (Reading High '75) and Jody Kauffman and granddaughter of Bob and Shirley Kauffman, is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in computer science from the College of Engineering of Cornell University. After graduation, Melanie will be working for Verizon Wireless in Warren, N.J.



**Raquefette Kilchevsky**, daughter of Eitan and Laurie Kilchevsky, Newtown, Conn. received her master's degree from New York University in mental health counseling and wellness. Raquefette lives in NYC and resided in Tel Aviv for six years, attaining a master's from Tel Aviv University in Tesol and teaching English to children in Israel.



**Emily Levine**, daughter of Alan and Lisa Levine and granddaughter of Gerald and Elaine Levine and Charles Lock, graduated with honors from Elizabethtown College in May 2014 with a degree in special education and early childhood education. She was inducted into the education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi.



**Lydia J. Safir**, daughter of Amy and Jay Safir of Matthews, N.C., will be attending North Carolina State University, Raleigh. She is a granddaughter of Elaine and Paul Safir.



**Joshua Lee Sherman**, son of Lori and Barry Sherman and grandson of Berna Sherman, graduated cum laude from Temple University with a degree in sociology. He spent last summer studying in Rome and is enrolled in Temple University's graduate program seeking a master's in education.



**Zach Simon**, son of Jonathan and Jan Simon, graduated from the University of Michigan, Ross School of Business. He will be employed as a health care consultant for Huron Consulting, based in Chicago. He will be starting the end of July.



**Sam Sodomsky**, son of Allan and Robin Sodomsky, graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science in Music and the Entertainment Industry and a minor in English and Textual Studies



**Elizabeth Vaysman**, daughter of Elina and Vladimir Vaysman, graduated from American University Washington College of Law. She plans to work in Washington.



**Jamie Weisberg**, daughter of Alan and Susan Weisberg, is graduating from Wilson High School. She was an active member of student government and the girls tennis team. Jamie will be attending Widener University in the fall and plans to pursue a career in **hospitality management**.

# B'nai Mitzvot 5774



**Eli Rotenberg**, son of David and Stephanie Rotenberg, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah June 7 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Eli is completing sixth grade at Wilson West Middle School. He loves sports, especially football and basketball. Eli is a talented singer and enjoys music.



**Sheila Bornstein, Pru Precourt, Susan Sellgren, Ruth Spillerman, and Judith Kraines** were called to the Torah in an adult Bat Mitzvah ceremony May 24 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom.



**Jenna Schwartz, Logan Kramer and Mckenna Clausman** also are celebrating B'nai Mitzvot in 5774.



Majlinda Myrto. Photo by Susan Keen, courtesy of Reading Eagle



Rabbi Bromberg led the Yom HaShoah memorial service. Candles were lit by Majlinda Myrto, Larry Rotenberg, Sid Bratt, Mariette Jacobson and Esther Bratt

## Community gathers once again to remember Holocaust

By **Anthony Orozco**

*Courtesy of the Reading Eagle*

In the shadow of the atrocity that was the Holocaust, there were also profound acts of heroism.

People gathered April 27 at Alvernia University to remember both for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

At an event dedicated to Eugene Abramowicz, a Reading man and Holocaust survivor who died April 16, people of many faiths united to observe the solemn day.

Dr. Joseph J. Cicala, Alvernia vice president for university life, opened the Community Yom HaShoah

Remembrance ceremony emphasizing interfaith cooperation.

He spoke of the efforts of Pope John XXIII, who was elevated to sainthood Sunday, to reconcile Jews and Christians during the Second Vatican Council.

Rabbi Minna Bromberg of Keshet Zion Synagogue and an Alvernia chaplain spoke next.

"Today is to remember the 6 million people created in your (God's) image," she said. "And to remember that we are all created in your image and those who were human in the face of inhumanity."

The audience of about 70 watched the documentary "Besa: The Promise." The film

chronicles the stories of Albanian Muslims who unquestioningly gave refuge to Jews during World War II in accordance with their culture's code of besa, or protecting and honoring guests in need of help.

Following the film, Majlinda Myrto, daughter-in-law of besa rescuer Shyqyri Myrto, told the audience about Albanian culture and interfaith efforts to save Jewish refugees. She also gave brief accounts of how Shyqyri Myrto accepted, helped and hid Jews among Albanian Muslims.

Bromberg then led a candle-lighting ceremony alongside Holocaust survivors.

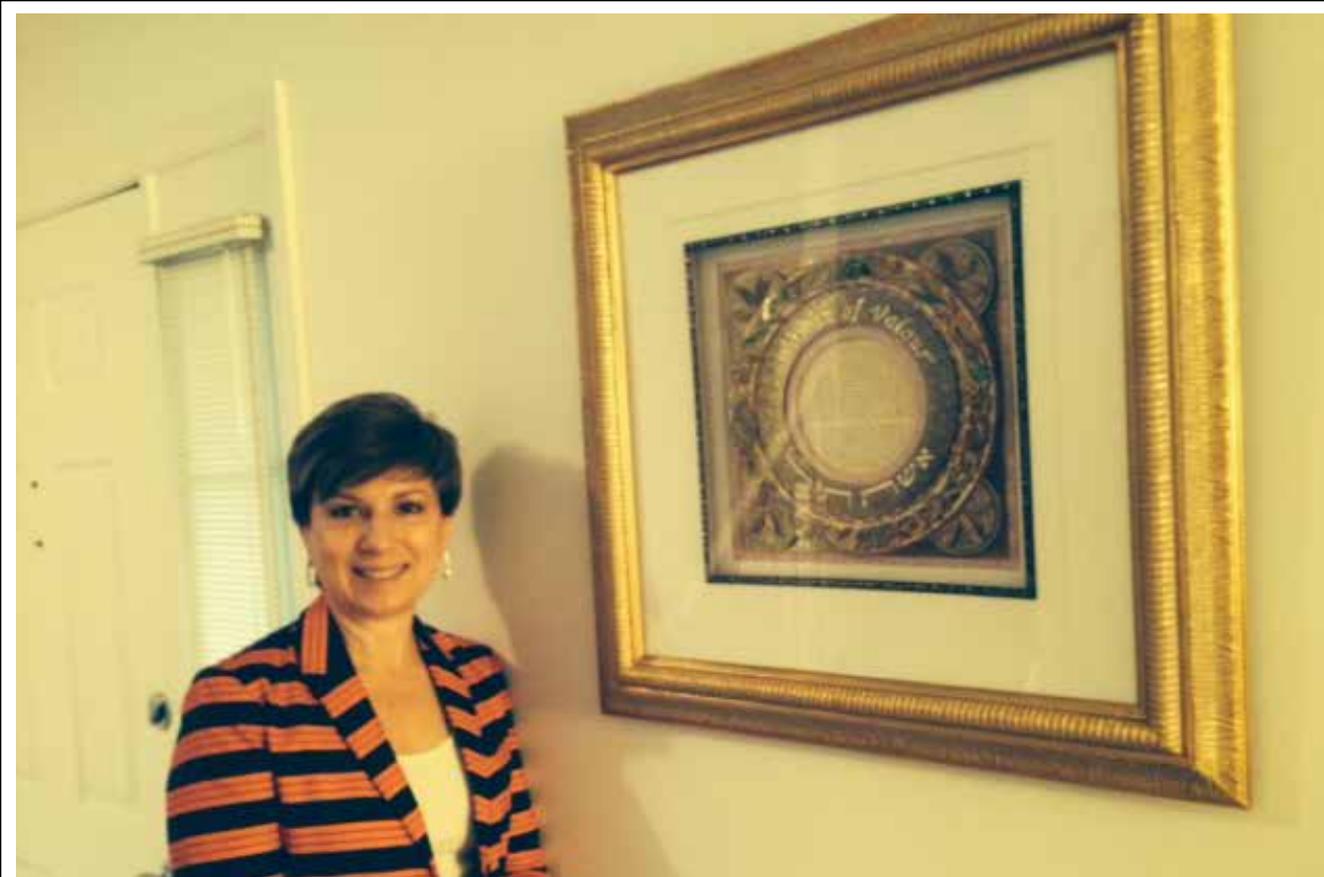
Survivors who took part were Larry Rotenberg, Mariette Jacobson, Hilde

Gernsheimer and Esther and Sid Bratt.

Bromberg also sang and read memorial prayers and poems, paying respect to the many who lost their lives through religious and ethnic persecution.

Esther Bratt, who survived the Vilna Ghetto in Lithuania, and Sid Bratt, who was rescued in Kindertransport — the British effort to save children from the Holocaust — said the ceremony was excellent and essential for today's generation.

"It is very important for future generations to know what happened," Esther Bratt said. "It is important they know so they can make sure it never happens again."



### A special gift for Tammy Mitgang

Departing Jewish Federation of Reading President Tammy K. Mitgang was presented with a work of art by the Federation Board of Directors in honor of her service.

The original hand-crafted wall hanging "Woman of Valor Lisbon", is based on motifs found in the ancient "Lisbon Bible". The multi-dimensional framed decoupage is based on The Woman of Valor from The Book of Proverbs, Chapter 31.

"It is beautiful and graces the entrance hall in our home," Mitgang said of the gift. "I was humbled to receive this beautiful gift that will be a treasured reminder of my time as Reading's Federation President."

# Community News

## All Around the Town

**Jesse L. Pleet, Esq.** has become a Shareholder at the Law Firm of Leisawitz Heller, Wyomissing. He will practice with the Firm's Personal Injury & Litigation Group. He brings over 30 years of experience to the firm in a multitude of areas.

\*\*\*

**Amichai Kilchevsky**, son of Eitan and Laurie Kilchevsky, is getting married this August to Lindsay Madson from Omaha, Neb., at Candlelight Farms in New Milford, Conn. Lindsay is a dietician and met Ami at Yale, where he is a fifth year resident in urology. Ami will be starting a urology-oncology Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Washington starting in January. Rabbi Joel Weintraub will be performing the ceremony.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Wilson junior **Marissa Missan** for being a winner in this year's Young Poets competition. The Young Poets contest is sponsored by the Reading Public Library and open to Berks



*Amichai Kilchesky and Lindsay Madson*

County students in grades 1 through 12.

\*\*\*

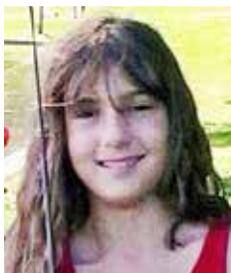
Mazel tov to grandparents **Margie and Alan Leisawitz** on the birth of Anna Melody daughter of Ali and Scott.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to **Marty Goldstein and Ed Lakin** on the birth of their great-grandson Levi Abram, born to Jonathan and Stephanie Goldstein of Ann Arbor, Mich.

## Another happy camper

Congratulations to Sarah Flynn, daughter of Suzanne Flynn, Douglassville, our newest recipient of a Jewish Federation of Reading Student Camp and Education Award. A sixth grader, Sarah



attends Amity Elementary Center, Daniel Boone School District. She will be a first time camper at Camp Harlam in Kunkletown, PA.

\*\*\*

For more information on Student Camp and Education Awards, visit [www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org](http://www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org) or contact Tammy Mitgang at the Federation office-610-921-0624.

## Kenneth Lakin named Albright College trustee

Kenneth Lakin of Exeter Township has been appointed to a three-year term on the Albright College Board of Trustees.

Lakin served as director of operations at Boscov's Department Stores until his retirement in 2012. In this position, he supervised the departments of information technology, risk management, logistics, visual display, maintenance and website development. Lakin joined the Boscov's team in 1984 and has served as executive vice president, regional director of stores, store manager, special projects coordinator, buyer and chief executive officer and chairman. Prior to that, he completed Federated Stores' executive management training program with Foley's Department Stores in Houston, Texas, where he participated in store management and buying in men's clothing.

Lakin received his bachelor's degree



in journalism from Boston University in 1976, and a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University School of Business in 1982. Lakin is a former president of Jewish Federation of Reading.

## Tackett accepts job in West Virginia

Joe Tackett, executive director of the Reading Symphony Orchestra since 2010, has been hired as the president of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra effective June 1.

During his time in Reading Tackett served on the Jewish Federation of Reading Board and played a key role in organizing the performance of "Brundibar," a Holocaust-era opera performed with RSO musicians in 2012.

Previously, he served as the Executive

Director of the Lexington Ballet from 2009 to 2010. He also was Director of Education and Musician Services for the Lexington Philharmonic from 2005 to 2009.

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is West Virginia's premier performing arts organization, presenting more than 50 concerts annually to audiences throughout the Mountain State.

Reading's Jewish community wishes him well in his new endeavor.



James P. Restrepo, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Charles K. Lutz, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Jeffrey S. Driben, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Rosemarie Montgomery, MS, APRN, CRNP, FNP-C

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Rob and Sue always marveled at how close their parents were throughout their marriage. So when their father's early-stage memory loss threatened to separate him from their mother, they feared what it would do to each of them. They visited us, and we discussed our shared living options, allowing spouses with different care needs to stay together. Now, their parents are still together, and Rob and Sue are still admiring their strong union.

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# Widespread anti-Semitism found in global ADL survey

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in May released the results of an unprecedented worldwide survey of anti-Semitic attitudes. The ADL Global 100: An Index of Anti-Semitism surveyed 53,100 adults in 102 countries and territories in an effort to establish, for the first time, a comprehensive data-based research survey of the level and intensity of anti-Jewish sentiment across the world.

The survey found that anti-Semitic attitudes are persistent and pervasive around the world. More than one-in-four adults, 26 percent of those surveyed, are deeply infected with anti-Semitic attitudes. This figure represents an estimated 1.09 billion people around the world.

The overall ADL Global 100 Index score represents the percentage of respondents who answered “probably true” to six or more of 11 negative stereotypes about Jews. An 11-question index has been used by ADL as a key metric in measuring anti-Semitic attitudes in the United States for the last 50 years.

“For the first time we have a real sense of how pervasive and persistent anti-Semitism is today around the world,” said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. “The data from the Global 100 Index enables us to look beyond anti-Semitic incidents and rhetoric and quantify the prevalence of anti-Semitic attitudes across the globe. We can now identify hotspots, as well as countries and regions of the world where hatred of Jews is essentially non-existent.”

Made possible by a generous grant from the New York philanthropist Leonard Stern, the ADL Global 100 Index constitutes the most comprehensive assessment ever of anti-Semitic attitudes globally, encompassing 102 countries and territories in seven major regions of the world and accounting for about 88 percent of the world’s total adult population.

Available through an interactive web site at <http://global100.adl.org>, the survey will give researchers, students, governments and members of the public direct access to a treasure trove of current data about anti-Semitic attitudes globally and how they vary widely along religious, ethnic, national and regional lines. The survey also ranks countries and territories in numerical order from the least anti-Semitic (Laos, at 0.2 percent of the adult population) to the most (West Bank and Gaza, where anti-Semitic attitudes, at 93 percent, are pervasive throughout society).

“The level of anti-Semitism in some countries and regions, even those where there are no Jews, is in many instances shocking,” said Barry Curtiss-Lusher, ADL National Chair. “We hope this unprecedented effort to measure and gauge anti-Semitic attitudes globally will serve as a wake-up call to governments, to international institutions and to people of conscience that anti-Semitism is not just a relic of history, but a current event.”

At the same time, there are highly encouraging notes in the ADL survey.

In majority English-speaking countries, the percentage of those with anti-Semitic attitudes is 13 percent, far lower than the overall average. Protestant majority countries in general have the lowest ratings of anti-Semitic attitudes, as compared to any other majority religious country. And 28 percent of respondents around the world do not believe that any of the 11 anti-Semitic stereotypes tested are “probably true.”

ADL commissioned First International Resources to conduct the poll of attitudes and opinions toward Jews. Fieldwork and data collection for this global public opinion project were conducted and coordinated by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research. The data were culled from interviews conducted between July 2013 and February 2014 in 96 languages and dialects via landline telephones, mobile phones and face-to-face discussions. Respondents were selected at random and constituted a demographically representative sample of the adult populations.

Respondents were asked a series of 11 questions based on age-old stereotypes about Jews, including classical stereotypes about Jewish power, loyalty, money and behavior. Those who responded affirmatively to six or more negative statements about Jews are considered to hold anti-Semitic attitudes. The margin of error for most countries, where 500 respondents were selected, was +/- 4.4 percent. In various larger countries, where 1,000 interviews were

conducted, the margin of error was +/- 3.2 percent.

Among the major findings of the ADL Global 100 Index:

- More than one-quarter of those surveyed, 26 percent, harbor anti-Semitic attitudes, representing an estimated 1.09 billion adults around the world;
- Only 54 percent of those polled globally have ever heard of the Holocaust. Two out of three people surveyed have either never heard of the Holocaust or do not believe historical accounts to be accurate.
- The most widely accepted anti-Semitic stereotype worldwide is: “Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country/the countries they live in.” Overall, 41 percent of those surveyed believe this statement to be “probably true.” This is the most widely accepted stereotype in five out of the seven regions surveyed.
- The second most widely accepted stereotype worldwide is “Jews have too much power in the business world.” Overall, 35 percent of those surveyed believe this statement to be “probably true.” This is also the most widely held stereotype in Eastern Europe.
- Among the 74 percent of those surveyed who indicated they had never met a Jewish person, 25 percent harbor anti-Semitic attitudes. Of the 26 percent overall who harbor anti-Semitic attitudes, 70 percent have never met a Jewish person.

Three out of 10 respondents, 30 percent, believe Jews make up between 1 to 10 percent of the world’s population. Another 18 percent believe Jews make up more than 10 percent of the world’s population. Sixteen percent responded less than 1 percent. (The actual number of Jewish people as a percentage of the world’s population is 0.19 percent).

“When it comes to Holocaust awareness, while only 54 percent of those polled had heard of the Holocaust — a disturbingly low number — the numbers were far better in Western Europe, where 94 percent of those polled were aware of the history,” Foxman said. “At the same time, the results confirm a troubling gap between older adults who know their history and younger men and women who, more than 70 years after the events of World War II, are more likely to have never heard of or learned about what happened to the 6 million Jews who perished.”

## ADL Global Index: Anti-Semitism by Region

The highest concentration of respondents holding anti-Semitic attitudes was found in Middle East and North African countries (“MENA”), where nearly three-quarters of respondents, 74 percent of those polled, agreed with a majority of the anti-Semitic stereotypes that comprise the 11-question index. Non-MENA countries have an average index score of 23 percent.

Outside MENA, the index scores by region were as follows:

- Eastern Europe: 34 percent
- Western Europe: 24 percent
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 23 percent
- Asia: 22 percent
- The Americas: 19 percent
- Oceania: 14 percent

“While it is startling to see how high the level of anti-Semitism is in the Middle East and North African countries, the fact of the matter is even aside from those countries, close to a quarter of those polled in other parts of the world is infected with anti-Semitic attitudes,” Foxman said. “There is only a three-point difference when you take world attitudes toward Jews with the Middle East and North African countries, or consider the world without.”

Curtiss-Lusher added: “We are especially troubled that the stereotypes about Jews which received the most support worldwide were those generating dangerous political anti-Semitism, including the beliefs that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own countries, that Jews have too much power in the business world, or that Jews have too much influence in finance. These stereotypes are fueled by conspiracy theories on the Internet, and in some countries it is still politically expedient to scapegoat and blame Jews for social, economic and political ills by accusing them of having ‘dual loyalties’ or even of being a foreign enemy in their midst.”

## Highest and Lowest Countries

The ADL Global 100 Index found anti-Semitic attitudes vary widely by country and by region. The 16 countries with the highest index scores of anti-

Semitic views are all in the Middle East and North Africa. Greece, with 69 percent of the adult population falling into the anti-Semitic category, was the highest country outside MENA. In other countries in the index anti-Semitism was found to be virtually nonexistent, particularly in the Scandinavian countries and in Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines.

Levels of anti-Semitic attitudes are particularly low in English-speaking countries. According to the ADL Global 100 Index, only 13 percent of people living in English-speaking countries harbor anti-Semitic attitudes, which is half the worldwide average.

## The top countries/territories in the ADL 100 Global Index are:

- West Bank and Gaza – 93 percent of the adult population holds anti-Semitic views
- Iraq – 92 percent
- Yemen – 88 percent
- Algeria – 87 percent
- Libya – 87 percent
- Tunisia – 86 percent
- Kuwait – 82 percent
- Bahrain – 81 percent
- Jordan – 81 percent
- Morocco – 80 percent

## The lowest-ranked countries in the ADL Global Index are:

- Laos – 0.2 percent of the adult population holds anti-Semitic views
- Philippines -- 3 percent
- Sweden – 4 percent
- Netherlands – 5 percent
- Vietnam – 6 percent
- United Kingdom – 8 percent
- United States – 9 percent
- Denmark – 9 percent
- Tanzania – 12 percent
- Thailand – 13 percent

“We were profoundly disappointed about the resilience of anti-Semitism in many countries where we had hoped to see lower numbers, particularly some in Eastern Europe that experienced the war and the Holocaust firsthand,” Foxman said. “On the other hand, there is a silver lining in countries such as Denmark, the U.K., the Netherlands and Sweden — all Protestant majority countries — where we found incredibly low levels of anti-Semitic beliefs. The Czech Republic stands out as well as being one of the lowest-ranked countries in Eastern Europe, with only 13 percent of the population manifesting anti-Semitic views. This is a testament to the high levels of tolerance and acceptance in Czech society.”

## Religious Beliefs and Anti-Semitism

Nearly half of all Muslims surveyed around the world responded “probably true” to at least 6 of the 11 index stereotypes in the ADL Global 100. Likewise, Christians in Eastern Orthodox and Catholic countries are more likely to harbor anti-Semitic views than those in Protestant countries. Key findings:

- Among Muslims, which comprise 22.7 percent of the world population, 49 percent harbor anti-Semitic attitudes. In MENA, the number of Muslims holding anti-Semitic attitudes is 75 percent.
- There are substantially lower levels of anti-Semitic beliefs among Muslims outside of MENA: with Asia at 37 percent; Western Europe at 29 percent; Eastern Europe at 20 percent; and Sub-Saharan Africa at 18 percent.
- There were substantially higher levels of anti-Semitic beliefs among Christians in MENA, at 64 percent, compared with Christians outside of MENA.
- Overall, 24 percent of Christians fall into the anti-Semitic category.
- Other religions polled included Hindu, at 19 percent anti-Semitic; Buddhist, at 17 percent anti-Semitic; and “no religion,” at 21 percent anti-Semitic.
- Christians in Eastern Orthodox and Catholic countries are more likely to harbor anti-Semitic views than those in Protestant countries. This was true of non-Christians in these countries too, so there are likely larger factors at work.

*Editors Note: More information on the ADL Global 100 Index is available online at <http://global100.adl.org>.*

# Family establishes fund in honor of Barbara and Bernie Fromm

The following was published in the *Jewish Community News* published by the Jewish Federation of the Desert in Rancho Mirage, Calif., regarding our own Fromm Family.

When Tzedakah (righteousness) and the commitment to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) are the guiding principles of a couple's life, it should be no surprise that special milestones would be celebrated with generosity for those less blessed. But even with that mindset and lifetime of commitment to these principles, Barbara and Bernie Fromm never envisioned the gift from their children and grandchildren in honor of this year of special birthdays.

On behalf of her brothers, Michael and Lou, their daughter Davida set the stage when she told her parents at a birthday lunch: "We know how important it has been to you to pass on your love of Jewish tradition and values. And you did 'good.' We are all community leaders and synagogue members. We all love getting together to celebrate the holidays. We are all connected to and committed to the state of Israel. And we have you to thank for bringing us up to know that we do these things because it is our responsibility and our privilege to

be able to do so.

"You taught us what Judaism teaches, which is that Tzedakah is not a matter of compassion but of implementing a just vision for the world... And you have lived what Judaism teaches, which is that Tzedakah begins at home. Your generosity to us and our children is unparalleled. From there, Tzedakah moves in concentric circles outward – your own community (which includes Israel) and your country. You've taken care of every community lucky enough to have you as a resident. And according to the Talmud, greater than doing a mitzvah is one who causes others to do a mitzvah. If you really want to be effective, wake others up to the problem and mobilize their efforts. You've been doing that since I can remember – with Federation meetings often taking place in our home when I was a young child. These gifts you gave us – by how you've lived your lives – are greater than all the material things in the world.

"We wanted to do something significant to honor your lifetime commitment to Jewish philanthropy through Federation. We also wanted to incorporate your work on Jewish education and your work on behalf of children and families."



Barbara and Bernie Fromm

Davida then invited Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation of the Desert CEO, to announce the family's gift in honor of their parents, the establishment and initial endowment of the Barbara and Bernie Fromm Jewish Youth Enrichment Fund at the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

"The most gratifying thing for us was

to do this while our parents are still alive and involved in Jewish communal work," Michael Fromm said later. "Too often we wait until people are gone to create these tributes. It's a heck of a lot more fun to tell them how much they mean to us and how their influence has shaped our own Jewish activism."

## Extreme fun for kids plentiful in Israel's north

Israel21c.org

Israelis are always looking for adventures. The country's varied topography, coupled with great weather year round, make Israel an extreme-sports destination. And the cornucopia of adrenaline-filled activities is not only for adults.

Israel is a haven for the younger generation of adventure-seeking, extreme-sports nuts. The unwritten rule in Israel is that if you haven't done something extreme, you haven't been on vacation.

From ice skating to kite surfing, alpine slide rides to off-road biking, bungee trampolines to dune-buggy rides, horse trekking to climbing walls, there are dozens of thrills waiting to be had.

Starting up north in Metulla, the Canada Center keeps visitors and residents of this picturesque town entertained with a handful of extreme options including Israel's first Olympic-size ice rink – there's another in Eilat.

The Canada Center houses a swimming pool, bowling alley, shooting range and the country's second 7D Max Cinema – screening 10-minute films that take your mind on an extreme adventure via a sensory explosion that mashes a 3D movie experience with extra theatrical effects including simulated rain and wind, seat vibration and movement.

While families can most definitely spend a day at the Canada Center indoors, feeling the wind while mountain biking/riding in an open jeep/ziping down an omega line is a thrilling experience you can only get outside.

### Clippity-clopping across the land

The Galilee and Golan Heights — with their hilly and open areas — have become synonymous with jeep tours, ATV rides, tom-cars, quad runners, and buggy treks. Dozens of operators in the area are ready to outfit families (there are even some with baby car seats) with guided and self-guided tours into the heart of nature.

Horseback riding is a popular way to get a feel of the land. A few



Kayaking at Klar Blum, just one of countless adventure activities available in Israel.

places offer hour-long or half-day rides, but the Dubi Ranch at Kibbutz Ramot Menashe takes it up a notch with its riding-and-camping trips of a few days. Children ages 5 and up can take part.

The fast-growing trend of cycling is alive and well in Israel. Off-road trails wind throughout the country. Families can rent single bikes, tandem bikes or even unicycles on marked trails and guided tours. HaGoshrim Resort's bicycle center is considered a main authority in this field.

Climbing walls and outdoor ropes courses are also trendy. The Top Rope adventure park at Kfar Blum lets kids climb over rope bridges, up its 40-foot-high climbing wall, and then zip-line into the Jordan River.

Or head up to the Hermon Ski Resort, regardless of the season. If there's no snow, Israel's only ski site also boasts a bike park (downhill, mountain), extreme mountain sleds, canoeing and a cable car.

And don't overlook the Manara Cliff attraction park. Although it might not look like much from the road, the site — located at the southern entrance to Kiryat Shmona — will get

your kids' blood pumping and stretch their smiles from ear to ear.

The site also boasts the country's longest, user-controlled Mountain Slide along a panoramic course (there's another big slide at the Hermon Ski Resort) bungee-trampolines; a 200-meter omega drop suitable for adventurous children and adults alike; and a rappelling site. For younger kids, a slow moving Cliff train comes with a recorded guide of the area.

### Splashing extreme

With the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea easily accessible, water-based extreme sports in the north of the country are also popular.

Kids wanting to try out kite-surfing, sail boarding, waterskiing or windsurfing have come to the right place. Both the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) and Mediterranean are calm enough for beginners but still offer a taste of the extreme.

Feel the whoosh of the giant slides at the water amusement parks around the Kinneret. The Luna Gal-Hof Golan is Israel's biggest water amusement park (open April through October).

The Galilee is also known for its kayaking. Kayak season depends on

the winter's rainfall but usually runs April through October. Children ages 5 and up can take part in a family river run. If the Jordan River is high enough, the companies will also offer short floating options for ages 2 to 5.

If paddling is not for you, then head over to Achziv National Park to Trek Yam for a thrilling Tornado rafting ride along the Israel-Lebanon sea border. The high-speed motorized rafts reach 45 knots as they glide past the Galilee hills and gleaming white cliffs of Rosh Hanikra.

### Take to the air

And finally, free-falling through Israel's skies is one of the most fun adventures anyone willing to do it could experience. However, most air sports — flying, skydiving, hang-gliding — aren't geared for the younger set.

Megido Aviation, an aviation school and a provider of aerial services, gives youngsters a taste of flight. Its "pilot for a day" option includes taking off, ascending, turning, gliding and landing a real plane with a licensed pilot.

The cherry on the top: The flight routes give exclusive aerial views of the breathtaking landscapes below.

# Congregational News

## A Traveler's Prayer

By Rabbi Minna Bromberg  
Keshar Zion Synagogue

Transit can be treacherous. This is definitely the impression you'd get from reading the Talmud. And this impression is likely a reflection of how much more treacherous travel was in the days



of our Sages. The roads were full of bandits, the open spaces between walled cities and towns were lawless, and the ruins of Jerusalem just might have held people lying in wait to do you harm.

We are blessed to live in a time and place where actual highway robbery is relatively rare. However, throughout Jewish tradition, one still gets the sense that transit and transitions of all kinds

are fraught with potential peril. Our Havdallah service, which marks the transition from Shabbat to the rest of the week expresses this as a poignant plea for redemption. And every day during the evening prayers, we offer a special prayer for protection as the day turns to night. Any change brings with it questions of what will be.

We know this feeling of danger in transitions from our own lives as well. Even very good and welcomed changes are often sources of stress: just ask anyone who is moving to a new home, expecting a baby, or wishing their child well as she graduates from high school. Sadder turns in our lives make our fears of change even more painfully clear.

As Alan and I prepare for the journey of making Aliyah, I am keenly aware of the resources our tradition provides to help us cope with saying goodbye to

what is familiar and embarking on a new adventure. In particular, I find myself drawn to Tefilat HaDerech, the Traveler's Prayer.

Instituted by those same Talmudic Sages who worried about safety on their journeys on bandit-filled roads, the wisdom of this prayer speaks to any of us who are setting out for parts known or unknown. I offer the Traveler's Prayer to you here as a smallest token of my gratitude for allowing me to share your lives' journeys in my five years here. I will miss hearing your stories, celebrating with you, mourning with you, and most of all, learning with you. The Jewish community of Reading/Berks has truly taught me how to be a rabbi, and I will always have a place for you in my heart.

So, here is a translation of the traditional text of the Traveler's Prayer. You can use it whenever you next have

the occasion, whether you're traveling on vacation, going on a business trip, sending a child or grandchild off to college, or coming to visit me and Alan in Israel:

"May it be Your will, Lord, our God and the God of our ancestors, that You lead us toward peace, guide our footsteps toward peace, and make us reach our desired destination for life, gladness, and peace.

"May You rescue us from the hand of every foe, ambush along the way, and from all manner of punishments that assemble to come to earth. May You send blessing on our handiwork, and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us.

May You hear the sound of our humble request because You are God Who hears prayer requests. Blessed are You, Lord, Who hears prayer."

## Purim visitor impressed by Berks Jewish community

By Moshe F.

I am a yeshiva student studying in a city a few hours away. From time to time we like to spend our weekends in outlying Jewish communities within driving distance to our school. When one of my buddies offered me the chance to join him for Shabbat and Purim in Reading, I was slightly surprised. I had not known there were Jews there.

If I was surprised then, I was even more surprised when I arrived to note that not only is the Jewish community in Reading alive, but it thrives. We were graciously hosted by the Chabad rabbi and his family for the weekend. It was incredible! Friday night the Lipsker house was packed with Jewish people

from all walks of life. Everyone came from somewhere else and had their own story to share. But despite our different backgrounds and upbringings, it felt like one big family, like we had known one another forever. The singing, laughing, talking and food were all wonderful! Everything felt natural and homey. The dinner table felt like a comedy show at times, as the rabbi has a unique way of flavoring his talks with humor. So we all got to learn and laugh all night long. I loved it! On Saturday night, my friends and I headed out with the rabbi and his family to read the Megillah for different groups of people. One stop was at the Caron Foundation treatment center, which I found to be a fascinating and

rewarding experience. I was able to help provide holiday spirit for people who otherwise would not have had it!

Sunday morning we guys woke up bright and early to help the Lipsker family prepare their synagogue for "Purim In the Shtetl"! We headed to a farm about a half hour away with the rabbi and his sons and helped the farmer board some animals into our big van for the Shtetl Petting Zoo. Back at the synagogue, the big social hall had been transformed by Chana Lipkser and some of her daughters to look and feel like we had traveled back 100 years in time! It was very cool. One minute it was 2014 in Reading, the next 1914 in Russia. From Reading to Russia in only moments. During the party my friends and I helped man some Shtetl booths, such as challah baking, pickle making, and the black and white photo booth, and we also got to help out with the JCC carnival games, along with some really cool kids from the local BBYO chapter. It was awesome to see the community get so in to the great "shtetl" life, down to their costumes!

After our whirlwind weekend I can say that I will be back to visit the lovely Jewish community here in Reading. I found it to be so nice, warm, and gracious,



and I was truly inspired by the Lipskers' dedication to the Jewish community.

Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County presents <sup>BSD</sup>

# Top 10

reasons to come hear the

## Ten Commandments

- 1 CHOCOLATE
- 2 VANILLA
- 3 Strawberry
- 4 Mint choc chip
- 5 SUGAR CONES
- 6 Chocolate Fudge
- 7 Colored Sprinkles
- 8 Strawberry Syrup
- 9 CHOCOLATE SYRUP
- 10 Cherry on top!

Shavuot

# ICE CREAM PARTY

& Dairy Buffet

**Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 5:30pm**

at Chabad Center • 2320 Hampden Blvd. Reading

AN EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, FOR ALL AGES

KINDLY SPONSORED BY DR. JEROME MARCUS

### LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

**REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034**  
 Tuesday, June 3: Shavuot service and movie, 8 p.m.  
 Friday, June 6: Shabbat service at 6 p.m.  
 Saturday, Jun 7: Eli Rotenberg Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.  
 Fridays, June 13, 20 and 27: Shabbat services at 7:45 p.m.  
 Saturday, June 14: Logan Kramer Bar Mitzvah, 5 p.m.

**CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881**  
 Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763**  
 Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
 Friday Evening Service – Please call for service information  
 Babysitting available upon request with one week's notice

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

### Healing Service at Keshar Zion

*Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.*  
 in the KZ Chapel.

*This will be the last healing service*

# Southern charm

By Anne Seltzer

Alan and I have gotten hooked on a show called "Southern Charm," which takes place among a very elite group of Charlestonians. It's a reality show but is so far from most people's realities as to make it ridiculous. In fact, many people in Charleston are offended and embarrassed by the show.



The reason we started watching the show was because it snowed too much this past winter and we decided to buy a vacation/retirement home in Charleston. Seriously, that is what happened. Alan has been saying for awhile that he needed a plan in place so that he could look to retiring at some point down the road. I was going along with the program but was not seriously looking enough to waste much of a Realtor's time. Maybe a little, but not a lot. That all changed with January's and February's weather. We looked across the dinner table and said "let's do it". After a few phone calls with a Realtor, time on the computer with Southwest, and finding a hotel on Valentine's Day/President's Day weekend, we were set to go. Mother Nature had other ideas. She cancelled our flight. We were slightly put off but changed our plans to the next weekend. Now, I do not believe in making plans because they just don't work for me. Alan does make plans, so the next weekend we went to Charleston and fell in love with a townhouse on Daniel Island.

In May we settled on our townhouse and are now the proud homeowners of a three-bedroom home. It's actually very exciting, and our kids, who have no desire to visit us in Wyomissing, are all excited to spend time there. Fortunately the former owners had lots of spare keys.

The South is very different. When I went to the Publix supermarket to get

cleaning and paper supplies, they not only insisted on checking me out, they took the cart out and unloaded it into the car! Also, everyone "yes maam"s you. There is a friendliness that I have not encountered anywhere else, though Pittsburgh and Minneapolis were close. Your neighbors actually rush out their front door to meet you. The people at Bed, Bath & Beyond check out your two carts worth of stuff (and coupons galore) with a smile. Then they load it in your car and smilingly make an exchange when the one bag they drop is the one with the coffee mugs in it. You won't find a friendlier wait staff then the ones you find in Charleston restaurants. Maybe they are a little slower, but with the heat (90s in May) they need to move slower.

We are very blessed to be able to do this. So here is a recipe for a Southern cookie from the cookbook "The Lee Brothers Charleston Kitchen", which Jonathan gave me for my birthday.

### Groundnut Cookies\*

- 1 c. raw peanuts or roasted, shelled and skinned peanuts
- ½ c. all purpose flour
- 3 large egg whites    ½ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 c. tightly packed brown sugar

If using prepared peanuts, coarsely chop the peanuts, reserve, and skip to next step after raw peanuts. If using raw peanuts, roast at 350° for about 20 minutes until the peanuts are fragrant and gently browned. Transfer to colander or strainer to cool, and if they have skins remove them. Whisk the egg whites to soft peaks and fold in the brown sugar, flour, salt, and peanuts. With a teaspoon, drop the batter onto parchment-lined cookie sheets. Bake at 350° for about 20 minutes until firm and gently browned. Remove from oven and cool. Enjoy y'all!

\*Groundnuts are another name for peanuts.



**Come Celebrate Shavuot at Kesher Zion!**

**Tuesday, June 3rd**  
 7:30 p.m. Shavuot Services  
 8:00 p.m. Study Session:  
 "Torah, Halakhah, and Walking in God's Ways"  
 Followed by Cheesecake and other Desserts!

**Wednesday, June 4th**  
 9:30 a.m. Shavuot Services  
 Kiddush to follow

**Thursday, June 5th**  
 9:30 a.m. Shavuot Services (including Yizkor)  
 Kiddush to follow

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 27th to**  
**610-374-1763 or kzsecretary@entermail.net**

There is no charge. Reservations are recommended and would be helpful in order to accommodate everyone who is attending. Thank you!

**Common Chords Concert**

**June 22 from 2 p.m. to 5 pm**  
**at Kesher Zion Synagogue**

*Open free of charge to all people*

This concert will feature diverse styles of music and musical guests.

All musicians are donating their time and talent to further the cause of peace and unity in our community.

# EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



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# Looking back, looking forward as Gratz concludes school year

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Another successful year at the Reading Branch of Gratz Jewish Community High School ended with a flurry of activities.

To mark Yom HaShoah, Rabbi Dov offered his remembrances of an early visit to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the story of a school class in Israel taken to view the Eternal Light in memory of those who perished. The students were reminded of the purposes and mission of Yad Vashem which has been committed to four pillars of remembrance: Commemoration; Documentation; Research; and Education.

We then lit a memorial yahrzeit candle inscribed with the name of a child who was lost in the Shoah and whose memory is recorded in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names at Yad Vashem.

We recited the Kaddish created by Rabbi Jules Harlowe, z"l, including the names of

17 of the hundreds of concentration camps and centers of destruction. Why only 17, he was asked, given that there were so many. He suggested that it would be one less than "chai," "18," another symbol of the horror of the Shoah.

On Yom HaZikaron we paused at our break to remember those who died in Israel's Defense Forces from 1948 to the present, more than 23,000, and those who have been the victims of terrorism within Israel. We then enjoyed a snack provided by the Federation/JCC of Reading of Israeli products — hummus, babbaganush, eggplant salat hatzilim and pita with orange drink, a recollection of Israel's famous Tempo soda.

### Getting ready for next year

The students have already voted that they want for next year a College Credit class in Western Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Other possible courses to be offered include (a) the ever-popular Video Values-Messages

in Media but with a new twist for 2014-2015; (b) Confronting the Shoah: Holocaust and Resistance; (c) Authority and Rebellion as recorded in Jewish Literature; (d) Rhythm of Jewish Time; (e) The American Jewish Experience. We are always open to suggestions. Send requests to [bdlerner1@gmail.com](mailto:bdlerner1@gmail.com).

To enroll a child in Gratz JCHS, go to [www.gratz.edu/page/s/jchs-application-for-admission](http://www.gratz.edu/page/s/jchs-application-for-admission). Parents will complete an application, then get 'a confirmation "pop-up". They then will receive an e-mail with a secured link/password to pay the registration and activity fee. Payment can be by e-check (tied to a bank account or credit card (service fee of 2.598%) . For seniors, there will be a senior fee of \$99.

We plan on classes beginning Sunday, Sept. 7, at 6 p.m. at the JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing. Our calendar is available at [www.gratz.edu/jchs](http://www.gratz.edu/jchs). Rabbi Dov will be here early, with coffee and snacks for students or parents who want

to visit, ask questions, or just to discover the warmth of the JCHS family and our style of teaching.

### New opportunities

We are about to have what looks to be our largest student body in Reading ever, and we hope to collaborate with other Jewish youth programs in the community, — NFTY, USY, BBYO, Young Judea, Habonim as well as Jewish summer programs at Camp Harlam, Ramah, Galil and others.

Students can receive some additional class credits for these informal ed experiences during the year, which will be included in each student's Gratz College JCHS transcript, which can significantly add to any college application.

In the past, JCHS has had wonderful participation in Gratz weekend experiences, AIPAC in Washington, Gratz Shabbaton, visit to National Museum of American Jewish History and collaborative programming with ADL and other communal agencies. More are being planned.



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[gratz.edu/jchs](http://gratz.edu/jchs)  
[facebook.com/gratzjchs](https://facebook.com/gratzjchs)

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Parents can enroll children in JCHS by using this link:  
<http://www.gratz.edu/page/s/jchs-application-for-admission>

Parents will complete an application, then get a confirmation "pop-up". They then will receive an e-mail with a secured link/password to pay the registration and activity fee. Payment can be by e-check (tied to their bank or by credit card (service fee of 2.598%). For seniors, there will be a senior fee of \$99.



# Jewish Family Service

## Jewish Family Service honors dedicated volunteer

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

On June 8 at the Jewish Federation's annual meeting, Jewish Family Service will thank Marjorie "Tootie" Moyer for her years of service to Friendship Circle.

Tootie collects the lunch money, runs the 50-50 raffle, helps serve seniors who need help and is always willing to lend a hand whenever it is needed. This winter the staff especially appreciated her assistance in contacting Friendship Circle members when meetings needed to be cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions. Tootie is always there when you need her. Join with us on Sunday, June 8, when we can all let her know how much we appreciate all that she does. A light breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m., followed by the meeting at 10:30. Congratulations Tootie!



Tootie Moyer

**Grocery Shopping Program**  
Do you need help with grocery

shopping? Berks Encore and Redner's Warehouse Markets are proud to offer the service of grocery home delivery. If you are over the age of 50 and have difficulty

getting to a grocery store or doing your own shopping, Berks Encore will try to find a volunteer who will do your shopping and deliver the groceries to your home on a regular basis.

The process is simple:

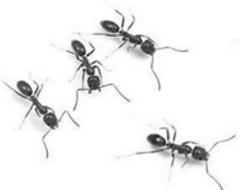
- Call the Berks Encore office to place an order on Monday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to receive delivery sometime Tuesday through Sunday.
- Your volunteer shopper will call you to schedule a delivery time.
- The volunteer will purchase the groceries at a local Redner's Warehouse Market using a Berks Encore charge card.
- When your groceries are delivered, you will need to pay for the groceries with a check made out to Berks Encore, along with a \$5 handling fee.
- You can place an order weekly, or less frequently.
- Each order will be limited to 25 items.

**How to register:** Call 610-374-3195 ext. 206 for an application. If you have access to a computer the application can be downloaded from the Berks Encore website. The Grocery Shopping Program is now able to accept SNAP (food stamps) payments.

### Living with Loss

Mondays, June 2 and 16, 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the JCC  
For more information, call Sari at 610-921-0624

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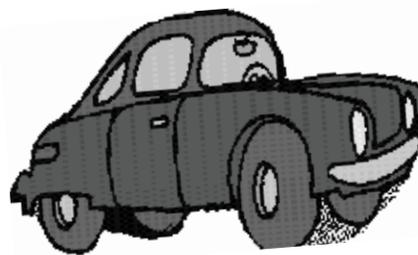
610-372-4500  
www.jcehrlich.com

### Summer Youth Volunteer Opportunities

Would your teenager like to find some activities that would be enriching and help others at the same time? If so, the United Way's 2014 Youth Volunteer Reference Guide could help. The guide has a list of local agencies That need teen volunteers.

For more information call the United Way- 610-685-4550 or Sari Incledon at JFS- 610-921-0624

Enjoy Tax Benefits While Contributing to Jewish Family Service Vehicle Donation Program



Call Sari at 610-921-0624, e-mail sari@jfreading.org or go to www.charitableautoresources.com

Still Proud to be a Red Knight!  
**Congratulations to the RHS Class of 2014!** from the RHS Alumni at Manor at Market Square



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Join us for Music, Cocktails and Appetizers at our **Everybody's Class Reunion**  
Friday, June 20 • 1 to 3pm  
Please RSVP to Nicole at 610-790-1707 by June 17!

**Did You Know Jewish Family Services:**  
• offers discounted taxi transportation to seniors and the disabled?  
• has a monthly need-based food pantry?  
• offers counseling and information and referral services?

Jewish Family Service Food Pantry Collection



We are serving more families each month! Please bring donations of canned tuna, soup, fruits and vegetables to Keshar Zion or the JCC. Thank you!

We also need plastic and paper grocery bags!



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**Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information**

Please mail your payment with complete information to the Jewish Federation, PO Box 14925, Reading, PA 19612-4925 or bring to the Jewish Cultural Center, 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing. You may set up a **“savings account”** for the purpose of sending cards. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 610-921-0624 for further information.

**Contributions as of May 16**

**Holocaust Library and Resource Center**

**In memory of:**

Eugene Abramowicz – Neil Hoffman and Judith Kraines, Sid and Esther Bratt, Roy C. Reider Jr., Avago Technologies Cyoptics, Carol and Bernie Gerber

**Jewish Family Service**

**In honor of:**

Thanks to Carole Robinson for her guidance and caring – Mae Mushlin  
 Paul Safir’s special birthday – Louise Zeidman  
 Birth of Sid and Esther Bratt’s great-grandson Adam Isaac Leisawitz – Bettina Najer and Ann Orr  
 Birth of Jay and Evelyn Lipschutz’s grandson Adam Isaac Leisawitz – Bettina Najer and Ann Orr  
 Birth of Ben and Michele Leisawitz’s son – Adam Isaac – Bettina Najer and Ann Orr  
 Zach’s Simon’s college graduation – Betsy and Al Katz  
 Marjorie “Tootie” Moyer as JFS volunteer of the year – Wendy Neuhs

**Federation Jewish Community Campaign**

**In honor of:**

Paul Safir’s special birthday – Marlene and George Weiss  
 Renee Lichter’s special birthday – Marlene and George Weiss  
 Zeldi Lipsker’s engagement to Mendel Rosenfeld – Kevin Horowitz  
 Birth of Esther and Sid Bratt’s great-grandson Adam Leisawitz – Ellen and Don Abramson, Carol and Bernie Gerber  
 Birth of Doris and Elliott Leisawitz’s grandchildren Rose Leisawitz and Adam Leisawitz – Ellen and Don Abramson, Carol and Bernie Gerber

**Honorials and Memorials**

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

<b>Federation Jewish Community Campaign</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Jewish Family Service</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Leo Camp Lecture Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>JFS Food Bank</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>JFS Taxi Transportation Program</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Holocaust Library &amp; Resource Center</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Doris Levin Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>

Birth of Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz’s grandson Adam Leisawitz – Ellen and Don Abramson

Al Katz’s retirement – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

**Get well/speedy recovery:**

Cheryl Farber – Sue and Mel Blum  
 Sandy Miller – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

**In memory of:**

Clara Seymour – Rosa and Raymond Lauzano

**Harry and Rose Sack Fund (adult programming)**

**In honor of:**

Birth of Ensley Elizabeth Sack – Albert and Nancy Sack

**Get well/speedy recovery:**

Cheryl Farber – Albert and Nancy Sack

**Friendship Circle Fund**

**In honor of:**

Birth of Gaye and Glenn Corbin’s granddaughter – Marcia Gross

**In memory of:**

Eugene Abramowicz – Marcia Gross

**Hamas deal with Palestinian Authority poisons peace talks**

*The following was published May 1 in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.*

**By Yaron Sideman**

A prominent Israeli philosopher once taught me that one should be able to discuss any issue, no matter how complex, in simple, though not simplistic language. Allow me to try to explain, in simple terms, the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and what makes it so difficult to resolve.

At the heart of the dispute are two diametrically opposed national movements and narratives, both claiming

ownership to the same piece of land. Questions of who came first or who has stronger religious, emotional and historical ties to that land further deepen the divide and complicate the task of reconciling the two narratives.

In order for reconciliation to occur and a path toward peace to be forged, both sides need to make painful compromises that include giving up parts of their narratives.

This is an excruciatingly difficult and long process. In order for it to succeed, it needs to be constantly fueled with

confidence-building measures that instill in the peoples on both sides a clear sense that the other party’s intentions are genuine, and that difficult measures which they are required to take today will pay off in the future.

Long before maps are unfurled and borders discussed, it is critically important that a basic pillar be firmly established on both sides: recognizing the fundamental right of the other side to exist, whatever the final borders.

That recognition must start from the top, but it has to trickle down and become embedded in the collective mindset of the people. It is the basis that will support any future agreement. Without it, no agreement can hold.

This is why when one party chooses to align itself with a terrorist organization that does not recognize the right of the other to exist, and which openly calls for its destruction, it deals a death blow to attempts at reconciliation and to any prospect of peace.

That is exactly what Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, with whom Israel has been negotiating, did last week when he entered into an agreement to form a unity government with Hamas, a

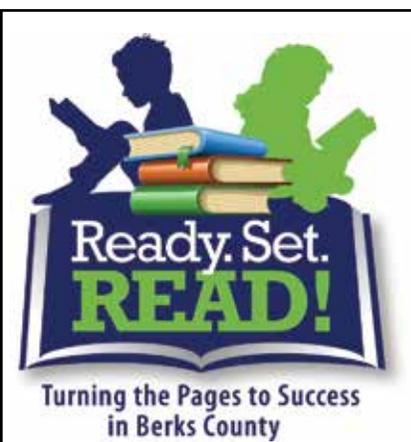
terrorist organization that calls for Israel’s destruction and that has, regrettably, an impressive track record of raining down thousands of rockets and missiles on Israeli civilians in towns and cities, proving it means what it says.

How can Israeli citizens be seriously expected to feel comfortable with Palestinian leadership and have confidence that it really wants peace, when it teams up with an organization that repeatedly calls for their death?

For the past week I have been grappling with this question and searching for an answer that can be conveyed straightforwardly. Here’s what I have come up with: Confidence is measured in deeds and not words. Let President Abbas disassociate himself from Hamas, stop celebrating murderers as heroes and begin to teach his people the need for co-existence and mutual respect. He, and the world, will then see Israeli citizens ready and willing to meet him halfway.

\*\*\*

*Yaron Sideman is Consul General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States, which includes Pennsylvania. He is based in Philadelphia.*



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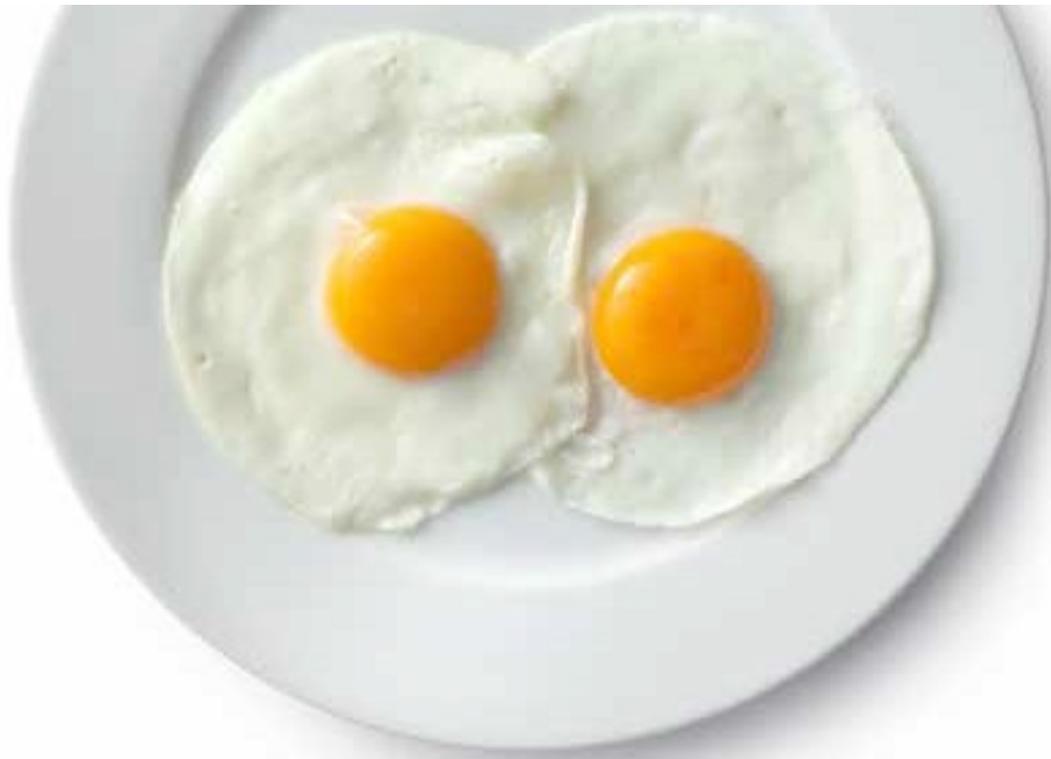


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I want to help Federation make wishes come true this year. Here's my tax-deductible gift to support Jewish Federation of Reading's 2014 Annual Campaign and make a world of difference both near my own home and beyond:

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