



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

SUMMER 2014

Executive from Ohio tapped to lead Federation

By Mark Nemirow

The Berks County Jewish community has a new president.

William D. Franklin comes to us from Columbus, Ohio, where he served as vice president of community services and finance for the Jewish Federation of Columbus.

Prior to working for the Columbus Federation, he spent 17 years as president of Mazer Corp., a Dayton, Ohio-based printer and content developer for educational publishers. During that time he served as an officer and board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton.

In Dayton he spearheaded efforts to improve senior services, develop a long range strategic plan and raise funds for some major Federation initiatives.

Franklin has a bachelor's degree

from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both in chemical engineering.

He succeeds Tammy K. Mitgang, who elected not to renew her contract as president after six years of tremendous dedication leading the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Franklin was hired after an extensive search led by a committee co-chaired by Jim Rothstein and Bob Caster.

Rothstein and Caster said they are excited about the considerable talent and experience Franklin is bringing to the Reading Jewish community. They issued the following statement about the hiring:

"Bill Franklin comes to us with a strong background in the private sector as a businessman and in the Jewish



Federation world as a lay leader for many years in Dayton, Ohio, and then as a

professional, serving as a vice president of the Jewish Federation of Columbus, Ohio. We believe that Bill will lead us well and be a valued part of JFR.

"As co-chairs of the JFR Search Committee, we feel that we can speak for the entire committee in expressing our excitement at having Bill and his wife, Andi, join our community."

Franklin said he is eager to get started in his new post.

"My wife and I are looking forward to becoming active members of the Reading Jewish and general communities," he said. "I welcome the opportunity to continue the Jewish Federation of Reading's fine work to ensure a vibrant, healthy community with strong ties to Israel, world Jewry and the non-Jews of Reading and Berks County."

Stop the Sirens

Federation announces emergency campaign to aid Israel's most vulnerable



An Israeli family takes cover as a siren sounds warning of incoming rockets. 2014/The Jewish Federation of North America. All other rights reserved.



An Israeli policeman inspects a kibbutz building damaged by a rocket. 2014/The Jewish Federation of North America. All other rights reserved.



Israelis take cover near their cars while sirens sound over Tel Aviv. 2014/The Jewish Federation of North America. All other rights reserved.

Jewish Federation of Reading launched an emergency campaign, Stop the Sirens, in solidarity with Jewish Federations of North America and Federations across the U.S. and Canada in support of the State of Israel. Shortly after the Israeli government announced the necessity to begin Operation Protective Edge to protect its citizens from attack, the devastating effects of the months of escalating rocket attacks across Israelis became more evident.

Hospitals, emergency centers, schools and neighborhood centers were flooded with children and families exhausted, traumatized and weary from the months of indiscriminate and terrifying attacks. The escalations of the rocket attacks were devastating. It was the breaking point for many. For the sick and elderly, many had to be treated in the bomb shelters because they were unable to return within the 15 seconds needed to find safety from incoming missiles.

The government of Israel reached out to Jewish Federations of North America and asked for its collective emergency assistance.

JFR Development Director Paul Landry said, "Federation was asked by the government of Israel for help in providing humanitarian support to the people of Israel during this time of conflict because if the past is any guide, the majority of charitable contributions that will help the Israeli people during times of crisis come from Jewish Federations across North America. WE are Israel's lifeline."

The Federation system is being

asked to raise \$13 million toward immediate needs. Those needs may change, but every day brings greater urgency. JFNA has already forwarded \$5 million, the first stage, to Israel to support this important effort.

Reading's Federation leadership is challenging YOU, our community, with a match campaign, Stop the Sirens, to raise \$18,000. For every dollar you give, JFR will match it dollar for dollar up to \$9,000. Together, the community will send life — *chai* to Israel's most vulnerable populations — children, elderly and the sick. They are our responsibility. Monies will be sent as collected due to the urgency of the situation.

When a Hamas missile hit Haifa this summer, we were reminded that virtually all Israelis are in range of rocket fire. For more than 37,000 children who live within 25 miles of Gaza, the current situation is not a flare-up. They have spent the last 13 years under fire.

Today even more children are traumatized, as other areas of the country have to adjust to a new daily reality — missiles with increased range and accuracy. Israel's children need relief — a day in a quieter region of the country including specialized programs to provide much needed diversion activities.

Israel's elderly and sick need food, medicine and comfort. With physical restrictions and only 15 seconds to reach a shelter, for now, they must live in them.

Israel's new immigrant families adjusting to a new environment and language barriers are even more traumatized living through the

constant barrage of attacks.

For most people, the damage is not physical. It is impossible to know the extent of the psychological impact on residents of the south who have lived through 8,000 rocket attacks over the last 13 years. And now, because of the expanding geographic scope of affected areas, people living in the center of the country are also facing this extreme stress.

Federation's partners on the ground in Israel will perform the first level of triage for the needs of individual communities. Federations have a long history and deep connections with communities and people who have borne the brunt of terror attacks. With this new outburst of violence they are facing dramatically increased needs.

Bill Franklin, the Federation's new president, reinforced the importance of the Stop the Sirens campaign. "The money we send not only provides humanitarian aid but shows our Israeli family that we care and that they are not alone. The Talmud reminds us — all Israel is responsible one for another. Please help us in sending this important message"

Contributions may be made online at www.readingjewishcommunity.org or by responding to the mailing you received in the mail. And, Federation welcomes your call — 610-921-0624 where your gift may be made using your MasterCard or Visa. A minimum gift of \$118 would be appreciated; if you are able — please give more.

If you have questions, please call Paul Landry or Bill Franklin at the number above.

Federation News

Duck and cover

By Paul L. Landry

"Duck and cover." I admit to being old enough to remember the heyday of that phrase. Throughout the 1950s and early '60s, every worker and schoolchild heard it regularly. It all came back to me in the last few weeks as Hamas rockets rained down on Israel and forced Israelis to take shelter. And it reinforced in me just how lucky we are to live in a place where that isn't necessary.

While deaths and injuries are small, thanks to the Iron Dome system and a good civil defense effort including adequate bomb shelters, we shouldn't overlook the psychological harm that is

being done to millions of Israelis. The constant worrying — the need to always know where the nearest shelter is, the incessant need to listen for the siren — all take a toll on the human psyche. To say nothing of the economic toll of having so much of the population sitting in shelters for so many hours per day.

Israel and Israelis need help. And the majority of that help will come from US, the U.S. And it will come from the Jewish community of the United States.

I urge you to be generous in support of the "Stop the Sirens" campaign which has just kicked off. You should have received the materials recently. Please make as generous a gift as you can!

If you haven't received the materials, you can give through the Federation's

web site, or send your check to: The Jewish Federation of Reading, P.O. Box 14925, Reading, PA 19612-4925. Just indicate "Stop the Sirens" in the memo section of your check. To give by credit

card, please call Brenda at 610-921-0624. She can process the transaction.

However you give — please give!

"Kol Yisrael arevim zeh le zeh. All Israel is responsible for one another."



Departing Federation President Tammy Mitgang presents a hand-engraved plate to outgoing Board Chairman Al Katz as a token of the board's appreciation for his service

Annual meeting marks transitions in community

The community celebrated another successful year and prepared for a new era at the Jewish Federation of Reading and Jewish Cultural Center's annual meeting June 8.

Board Chairman Al Katz and President Tammy Mitgang were thanked for their service as they leave their leadership roles, and each had an opportunity to address the community.

Judy Synnamon, director of the Lakin Early Education Center, thanked the Federation for its many years of support for the preschool, which is now operating under the auspices of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom.

Much of the meeting was devoted to

reports on the state of the organizations. Treasurer Andy Wernick discussed the successful financial strategies that are helping the Federation make the most of the money it has, and Development Director Paul Landry discussed the state of the annual campaign, which will be led this year by Dr. Neil Hoffman and Judith Kraines.

Jewish Family Services Director Sari Incledon presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Marjorie "Tootie" Moyer, a mainstay of the JCC's Friendship Circle.

The morning was capped off with a performance by Les "Doc" Rachlin, who offered a lesson in Jewish popular music that featured lots of fun surprises.



Volunteer of the Year Marjorie "Tootie" Moyer, center, with Sandy Sigal, left, and Aileen Endy.



Rabbi Minna Bromberg with Board member Dr. Gordon Perlmutter



Treasurer Andy Wernick offers an update on the Federation's financial situation



Pauline Goldberg and Judith Hartman with Les "Doc" Rachlin, who provided the entertainment for the meeting.

Mourning our lost teenagers

Members of the community gathered at Keshar Zion Synagogue July 8 to mourn the deaths of Eyal Yifrach, Naftali Fraenkel and Gil-ad Shaar, the three Israeli teenagers who were abducted and murdered. The powerful service, led by Rabbi Minna Bromberg, included a series of deeply moving prayers and readings reflecting the community's mourning and yearning for peace.

Photo by Natalie Kolb courtesy of Reading Eagle

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Moving forward toward a better future

By Larry Rotenberg
Chairman

Before we start the new term, we have some unfinished business with the old. Al Katz has done a great job in the last two years as chairman of the board. We are grateful to him. What is particularly noteworthy about Al is that this was his second time around as Chairman. And this is a measure of his devotion to the Jewish community of



Berks County. We also bid au revoir to Tammy Mitgang as president. I particularly use the French term, because it denotes what hopefully will be her continued investment in our community and her invaluable counsel and availability. In this edition of *Shalom* we also welcome our new president, Bill Franklin. At the Federation, we have a devoted staff consisting of Paul Landry, Director of Development; Jayne Kleinman, Program Director; Sari Incledon, Jewish Family Service Director; Carole Robinson,

Social Worker, Mark Nemirow, *Shalom* Editor; Amanda Hornberger, Holocaust Library & Resource Center Coordinator; Fame Brubaker, Office Manager; Brenda Seidel, Administrative Assistant and Peter Alvarez, Maintenance. We will continue to rely on their hard work, and their professionalism. We wish Judy Synnaron, Director of Lakin Early Education Center and her staff well as they make the transition to new management under the auspices of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom along with the continued funding and

professional assistance of Federation. We face a future of both challenges and opportunity. The challenge of maintaining and augmenting Jewish life in this area will be uppermost. The challenge of unifying the Jewish Community in a constructive way will continue. The challenge of supporting Israel, in its time of need, is also at the top. And so, we will move forward, and in cooperation with the leadership, both spiritual and temporal, we will work for a better future for all.

BDS, MLA and One Rockin' Shavuot Night!

By Asaf Romirowsky
and Gabriel Noah Brahm

Originally published in The American Interest
The Rolling Stones' first concert in Israel began as the holiday of Shavuot ended, and quite fittingly, too. When better for rock-n-roll royals to journey to the Holy Land than during one of Judaism's three festivals of pilgrimage? Moreover, when better to affirm Israel's identity as a Jewish state and homeland? The Stones' performance in Israel was an implicit rebuke to artists — most notoriously, Roger Waters, formerly of Pink Floyd — who have chosen to boycott Israel selectively. While a slew of acts have canceled performances—among them Elvis Costello, Snoop Dogg, Carlos Santana, and Gil Scott-Heron — the Stones enthusiastically embraced their gig in the Jewish state, with all the panache that has made them the longest-running rock act in the world.

Around the same time as the Stones' gala night in Tel Aviv, the Modern Language Association (MLA), the premier association of literature scholars in the United States, was releasing the results of yet another anti-Israel initiative. It put the pro-BDS (Boycotts, Divestments, Sanctions) measure to a vote of its nearly 30,000 members — who rejected it decisively. Fully 94 percent of MLA members proved unwilling to endorse bigotry, dishonesty, and the shameful wish (albeit expressed by only 6 percent of its members) to single out the Jewish state for opprobrium.

Though the MLA ruled in favor of Israel, the episode revealed that such poisonous beliefs have quite a toehold in an organization supposedly devoted to fair-minded inquiry. To provide an opportunity for members to debate the resolution, the MLA set up a members-only listserv on which opinions for and against it could be posted. The comments on that listserv have been made public and show the true colors of some of the groups members — who prove to be paranoid, obsessed with conspiracy

theories, virulently anti-Israel, and even anti-Semitic. While every organization has its kooks, these are academics charged with teaching our country's young people. That they are willing to spew such hatred should alarm anyone who expects scholars to place a premium on truth. One commenter alluded to "Zionist attack dogs" who put pressure "on universities by Zionist funders and lobby groups to quell any dissent." A similar conspiratorial comment on the listserv made use of that traditional anti-Semitic trope: that Jews control the media, government, and academia and use their influence to suppress criticism of Israel. The individual who posted this dreck also decried the "humongous influence that Jewish scholars have in the decision-making process of Academia in general." Clearly, to this worthy professor, opponents of the initiative were not simply in honest disagreement with it, but outsiders gunning for control. It never seems to have occurred to the faction that challenges Israel's right to exist that the fault may lie with the weakness of their argument, not with the tactics of their ideological opponents.

But on or near the joyous Jewish holiday, both American academics and Israeli music fans — applauding Jagger and company loudly — had their say. The pro-Zionist events on or near this holiday were just one or two victories in a larger war of words, ideas, and emotions. It is a battle to decide: Will Israel be held to the same standards as other UN member-states or to special ones just for Jewish states? Will the Roger Waters of the world hold sway, or will other groups who have lately swung through Israel — like the Stones, Ozzy Osbourne, Metallica, Anthrax, Elton John, Megadeath, Lamb of God, Deep Purple, Macy Grey, Guns N' Roses — prove that true "rock gods" smile upon Jew and gentile alike? We hear Lady Gaga is coming soon! Who knows? Maybe her next dress will be made of kosher meat.

As heartened as we are by the endorsement of these influential pop idols, the threat of creeping anti-Israel sentiment is hardly over, especially in the academy. As Russell Berman, one of the founders of the anti-boycotts group, MLA Members for Scholars' Rights, said, it is "important to focus on the real issue here: how academic boycotts poison academic life." Furthermore, "Scholars as citizens have a right to engage in politics, but much less so in the classroom... However, in the case at hand, the issue is not whether scholars should engage in civic life at all but rather the specifically bad quality of BDS politics. BDS is the problem, not civic engagement. One has to be willing to make qualitative distinctions like this." Cary Nelson, another leading member, put it this way, "what has been the most troubling aspect of the MLA's effort to delegitimize the Israeli state [has been] its clear component of anti-Semitism. All the countries that restrict faculty travel need to be pressed to improve access for research and teaching, but a rag tag group of English and foreign language professors is ill-equipped to judge how any country's security needs shape its visa policies. What is clear from the anti-Semitic comments scattered through the MLA debate is that some of those promoting the MLA resolution singling out Israel are doing so for reprehensible motives.

All who support[ed] the resolution [were] tarnished as a result." Nor are the supporters of the resolution too discouraged. Bruce Robbins, one of the Boycott Lobby's chief spokespersons, and backer of the defeated resolution, said "I think it's a moral victory and maybe a practical one." Well, if this was the BDS supporters' idea of winning, then we can only wish them many more such victories. Meanwhile, voting with their feet that holiday night, Israelis danced to the music of a few of rock-n-roll's patriarchs — just one more affirmation that Israel is indeed a normal country. And voting with their heads, for once, the MLA professors turned away in disgust from the attempt to apply double standards to one country, and expressed no "Sympathy for the Devil" this time. Rock on. *Gabriel Noah Brahm is Associate Professor of English at Northern Michigan University, a Research Fellow in Israel Studies at Brandeis University, and a Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME) Fellow. He is a contributor to Fathom: For a Deeper Understanding of Israel and the Region, where his critique of the philosophy behind BDS now appears in the current issue (free online). Asaf Romirowsky is the executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME) and co-author of Religion, Politics, and the Origins of Palestine Refugee Relief.*

SHALOM

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Wyomissing, PA 19610
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Web site: www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Jewish Federation of Reading
Chairman: Larry Rotenberg
President: William D. Franklin
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor
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Next deadline, Aug. 5

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Community News

Congress supports defense of Israel

The Jewish Federation of Reading would like to thank our congressional delegation — U.S. Reps. Jim Gerlach, Charlie Dent, Joe Pitts and Patrick Meehan — for backing a resolution in support of Israel as it defends itself

against Hamas. The resolution passed unanimously. A similar resolution was introduced in the Senate, where Sens. Bob Casey and Pat Toomey have a long record of supporting Israel.

All Around the Town

Congratulations to **Samara Blum and Matt Jacobs** on the birth of their son Charlie Samuel and to grandparents **Judy and Neil Jacobs** and **Sue and Mel Blum**.

Congratulations to **Corey Jeffers** and **Anna Balchunas** for being nominees in the *Reading Eagle* Berks’ Best section featuring outstanding graduating high school seniors. Corey, son of **Gerald and Susan Jeffers**, was nominated for excellence in computer science and Anna, daughter of **Cindy and George Balchunas**, was nominated for excellence in mathematics.

Dr. Glenn S. Corbin has been selected as the recipient of the Albert Fitch Memorial Alumnus of the Year Award by the Salus University Alumni Association. The award recognizes graduates of the university’s Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) who have provided extraordinary service and contributions to the profession of optometry, bringing honor and prestige to

the college. Corbin, a 1982 graduate of PCO, is a private practice optometrist in Berks County with a strong commitment to community service and the advancement of optometry.

Christina Marie McHugh and Daniel Jeffrey Pardo were married May 24 at The William Penn Inn in Gwynedd. Chrissy is a daughter of Dr. James and Mrs. Cristina McHugh of Kintnersville. Dan is the son of Mike and Eve Pardo. The couple resides in Brooklyn.

A daughter, Aoife Geraldine, was born to **Sarah Pardo O’Donnell** and her husband, Niall, on June 30. Sarah is the daughter of Eve and Mike Pardo. Niall is the son of Barney O’Donnell of Derry, Northern Ireland. Sarah, Niall and Aoife reside in Baltimore. (Aoife is pronounced “Ee-fa”)

Until next time: Shalom!
Please e-mail all your simcha news to joaniedecorating@comcast.net



Community well represented at camp

The Reading Jewish community sent a record number of children to URJ Camp Harlam in Kunkletown this summer, where they enjoyed a wide variety of fun experiences with a strong emphasis on Judaism throughout.. Back row, from left: Chase Weizer, Rabbi Brian Michelson, Brandon Missan, Brett Driben, Eli Rotenberg, Gabrielle Levine, Molly Nemirow. Front row, from left: Will Levin, Easton Weizer, Ruby Nemeroff, Elianna Alweis, Danielle Radosh, Rachel Radosh, and Sarah Flynn.

Spiegelman to deliver Leo Camp Lecture

Renowned artist Art Spiegelman has been named the 35th annual Leo Camp Memorial speaker. This year’s lecture will be held April 21 at Albright College. The event is being moved to the spring to accommodate Spiegelman’s schedule. Spiegelman is a Pulitzer Prize-winning artist and illustrator best known for “Maus,” his 1992 Holocaust narrative that portrayed Jews as mice and Nazis as cats. The story continued with “Maus II,”

telling the remarkable story of his parents’ survival of the Nazi regime and their lives later in America. In his lecture, “What the %@*&! Happened to Comics?” Spiegelman takes his audience on a chronological tour of the evolution of comics, all the while explaining the value of this medium and why it should not be ignored. Watch for more details on the lecture later in the year.

Obituaries

Jerome Toney, 87, of Wyomissing. Jerry was an avid tennis player. He belonged to the Berks County Tennis Club as well as the Island Walk Tennis Club in Florida. He is survived by his wife Patricia, and his daughter Harriet and her husband Richard Dormer. Other survivors include three stepchildren and four grandchildren.

Robert H. Lindy, of Boca Raton Fla., and formerly of Reading. Robert was an influential pioneer in Berks County Real Estate and a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. He is survived by his wife, Renee, and his daughters Diane and Kathy and his three grandchildren. Other survivors include his two stepsons, Steven and Scott and his brother Dr. Jacob Lindy of Ohio.



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David Rotenberg assumes new role at Caron

David Rotenberg has been named executive vice president of the Wernersville location of Caron Treatment Centers, a leading and nationally recognized nonprofit provider of alcohol and drug addiction treatment. “David’s commitment to the smarter use of technology to improve research and long-term treatment outcomes extends Caron’s leadership in substance abuse treatment,” said Dr. Robert L. DuPont, president of the Institute for Behavior and Health. “His new vision is critically important nationally to the evolution of addiction treatment.”

Rotenberg joined Caron in 1996 as a therapist. He has served in several positions since then, including executive director of adolescent services and most recently, vice president of treatment. He has managed and provided clinical oversight to adolescent and adult treatment, psychology and spiritual care. He led the development of Caron’s Adolescent and Young Adult programs, and for the last several years has been providing oversight of the adult programs as well.

Jewish voices heard in Harrisburg

Pennsylvania’s leaders in Harrisburg have addressed several issues recently of concern to the Jewish community. In June Gov. Tom Corbett signed a bill that encourages Pennsylvania schools to teach about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations. The bill was supported by the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition and our own Sen. Judy Schwank, who made the following statement in support of the bill: “We are demonstrating not so much that we understand the devastation of the most tragic events in human century have wrought —not only the Shoah, but genocides committed against humanity — but that we understand how important it is that our children know this, as well. “As a child, I learned about the Holocaust through first-person accounts from family and neighbors. I can recall those conversations vividly. The horrific events they described left lasting impressions. I don’t think I’d be too dramatic to say that they are engraved upon my soul. “The opportunity [to hear those firsthand accounts] is almost closed to

today’s students as elderly Holocaust survivors are passing away. The opportunities to talk directly with them are slipping away. We have no time to waste. “I can tell you that there are very good examples of how Holocaust and genocide education can be integrated into our school curriculum. Fleetwood School District, in my senatorial district, produced a full-length documentary, ‘Misa’s Fuge,’ about an individual Holocaust survivor that they met online. Not only did they write the screenplay, they wrote the music, they played the music, they did the artwork. This film has been seen not only all over the United States but worldwide. These are high school students who were able to do this.” “Misa’s Fugue” was produced with support from the Jewish Federation of Reading. Also this summer, the state Senate issued a resolution of condolence in memory of Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaar and Naftali Fraenkel, who were abducted while they traveled home from school and later murdered.

The PJ Library: Pajamas and books!

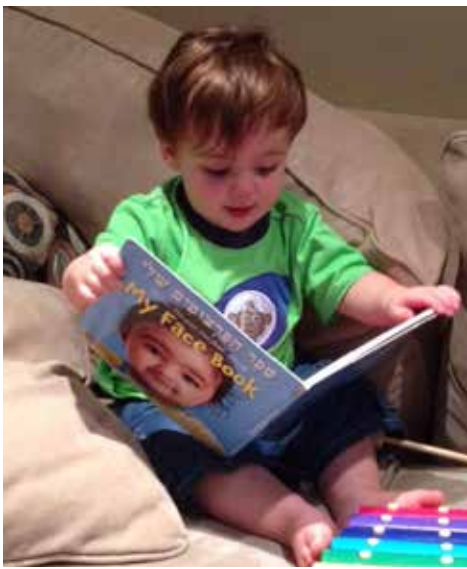
The PJ Library program offers free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months to 8 years all across North America. By sharing timeless stories of Jewish traditions, values and heritage, The PJ Library is helping to build a stronger Jewish people, one book at a time. Fundamentally, we believe that when parents and children read together, it changes the world.

There are some fantastic Jewish children's books out there — books that are as wonderful as the classics you may be reading to your children already. We also know high-quality Jewish books can be expensive and difficult to find. We participate in PJ Library because we believe these stories and songs will enrich your family life.

Books are chosen by a Book Selection Committee composed of expert Jewish educators and reading specialists. The initial book group category is determined at registration. During the second year of the program, participants move on to the selections for the next book group.

The Jewish Federation of Reading contacts the parents of newborns and of families new to the community with children of appropriate ages and, with their consent, registers their children for The PJ Library. Parents are also able to sign up their children online through the program's website.

In Berks County, the Jewish Federation provides PJ Library books for 72 children who range from 6 months to 8 years old. The program is underwritten by George and Sue Viener.



Lior Ages, son of Beth Anne and Gad and grandson of Al and Betsy Katz, "reads" his PJ Library book.

Potluck Tot Party with Gabrielle Gurwitz

Every Jewish child under 3 years old in Berks County is invited to a Potluck Tot Party with Gabrielle Gurwitz and her Lakin Preschool Little Stars classmates on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 3:30 pm until nap-time. Parents, grandparents, and siblings are also welcome.

You can park in the Oheb Sholom parking lot at 555 Warwick Drive in Wyomissing and walk across Tewkesbury Drive to the rear deck area of the house displaying balloons.

Please RSVP at JennGurwitz@gmail.com to confirm your attendance and to coordinate dish preparation.



“Come Together”

Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm

The Miller Center for the Arts at Reading Area Community College, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Reading, will present Koresh Dance Company as part of its Downtown Performing Arts Series and annual Celebration for Education Gala.

An Israeli-influenced contemporary dance company, Koresh is known for its engaging performances and technically superb dancers. It brings to stage...”exciting lifts, athleticism that borders on gymnastics and plenty of passionate partnering.” *-Philadelphia Inquirer*

For tickets and information, contact the Miller Center Box Office at 610.607.6270 or visit www.racc.edu/millercenter.

Koresh Dance Company will visit Congregation Oheb Sholom

Sunday, October 19 at 10:30am

to conduct 2 workshops -- one for children and one for young adults and adults. They will teach Israeli folk dance and discuss how it is infused into their contemporary style. Following the workshops, Israeli artistic director Ronen Koresh will show video and talk about how his Israeli roots have influenced his choreography.

About Koresh Dance Company

Koresh Dance Company was founded in Philadelphia in 1991, and is widely recognized for its superb technique and emotionally-compelling appeal. It presents bi-annual home seasons as the resident dance company of the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, and has toured in over 38 states and 7 countries. The Company's interdisciplinary foundation promotes high-speed attack and gestural diversity drawn from Graham technique, Luigi jazz, classical ballet, hip hop and Israeli folk dance. Guest choreographers including Donald Byrd (Spectrum Dance Theater), Ohad Naharin (Batsheva Dance Company), Robert Battle (Battleworks/Alvin Ailey), Itzik Galili (Galili Dance) and Paul Selwyn Norton have produced works for the company. The company currently consists of dancers Shannon Bramham, Fang-Ju Chou Gant, Joseph Cotler, Jessica Daley, Micah Geyer, Krista Montrone, Kevan Sullivan, Robert Tyler, Asya Zlatina, and Melissa Rector, who also serves as the Company's Assistant Artistic Director. The company is supported in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Dance/USA Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the William Penn Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

Ronen (Roni) Koresh was born and raised in Israel. He received early dance training from his mother, a folk dancer in the Yemenite tradition, and from teachers Alida Gera, Micha Deri, Nira Paz and Moshe Romano. Koresh joined Martha Graham's Batsheva 2 Dance Company before enlisting for 3 years in the Israeli army. In 1983, he moved to New York to study with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He began performing with Shimon Braun's Waves Jazz Dance Company in Philadelphia, and in 1991, founded Koresh Dance Company in Philadelphia, followed by the Koresh School of Dance in 1993.

About the Koresh School of Dance, Outreach, and Community Development

The Koresh School of Dance, established in 1993, welcomes over 20,000 students every year to classes at all levels and for all ages. In 2013, Koresh Dance Company reaffirmed its commitment to Philadelphia by purchasing a property in the heart of Center City. There, the school extends dance education and performance resources to its community by presenting emerging artists in bi-monthly Koresh Artist Showcases and providing professional training and performance opportunities to the exceptional dancers of the Koresh Youth Ensemble. In 2013, Koresh launched the now annual Come Together Festival, which in its first year presented 27 companies in 11 performances over 9 days.

Koresh Dance Company is committed to community-building and outreach. While on tour, the company provides post-performance discussions, residencies, open rehearsals, lecture demonstrations, master classes and video discussions to its audiences. At home, Koresh Kids Dance brings arts education to economically disadvantaged elementary-school students by partnering with Philadelphia public schools to provide free weekly dance classes, promoting children's creativity as a conduit for non-violence and life goals.



A PJ Library success story



Abraham, son of Vicki and David Graff, received the book "The Shabbat Box" in the mail from PJ Library. According to his parents, he has become obsessed with the idea of a Shabbat Box. They reported: "He made one himself with a box from the mail, filled it with candles, some squares of cloth, and a bunch of toys. Then I found a small cloth-covered box for him and we filled it with the things we actually use on Shabbat — our candlesticks, wine glasses, and a challah cover. He keeps it in his room, and now it's his job to set the table on Friday nights as we get ready for Shabbat. He shows it to everyone who comes over to our house."

**The High Holidays
are coming!
Don't forget to wish
your family and
friends Shana Tova
with a greeting in the
September Shalom.**

Deadline is Aug. 8

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 July 14

Holocaust Library and Resource Center

In memory of:

Birth of Sid and Esther Bratt’s great-grandson Adam Isaac Leisawitz – Kevin Horowitz

Get well/speedy recovery:

Sid Bratt – Rosalye Yashek

In memory of:

Eugene Abramowicz – Amanda & Jason Hornberger

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:

Zach Simon’s college graduation – Andy and Corinne Wernick

Tessa Cohn’s college graduation – Andy and Corinne Wernick

Birth of Gaye and Glenn Corbin’s new granddaughter –Andy and Corinne Wernick

Carole Robinson’s birthday – Ethel Engel

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:

Anna Balchunas’ graduation from high school – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Birth of Alan and Margie Leisawitz’s granddaughter Anna Melody – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Sid and Esther Bratt

Birth of Sue and Mel Blum’s grandson Charlie Jacobs – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Birth of Samara and Matt Jacobs’ son Charlie – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Birth of Judy and Neal Jacobs’ grandson Charlie Jacobs – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Marriage of Marc and Marcia Filstein’s daughter – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

Honorials and Memorials	
Contributions may be made to the following Funds:	
Federation Jewish Community Campaign	\$10
Jewish Family Service	\$10
Leo Camp Lecture Fund	\$10
JFS Food Bank	\$25
JFS Taxi Transportation Program	\$20
Holocaust Library & Resource Center	\$18
Doris Levin Fund	\$10

Paul Safir’s special birthday – Kevin Horowitz

Birth of Glenn and Gaye Corbin’s granddaughter – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Marriage of Amichai Kilchevsky and Lindsay Madson – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Tammy Mitgang’s dedication to the Jewish Community and all her non-profit work – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Sue Schlanger

Joseph Tackett’s service to the Reading Symphony and best wishes in his new position in West VA – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Larry Rotenberg’s new position as Chairman of the Federation Board – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

Eli Rotenberg’s Bar Mitzvah – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Judith Kraines’ Bat Mitzvah- Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

College and Other Graduates

Tessa Cohn – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Casey Fromm – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Raquefette Kilchevsky – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Al and Betsy Katz

Emily Levine – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Joshua Sherman – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Zach Simon – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Sue Schlanger

Sam Sodomsky – Al and Betsy Katz

Evelyn Thompson Nursery School Fund

In honor of:

Birth of Alan and Margie Leisawitz’s granddaughter – Jay and Evelyn Lipschutz

Naming of Gaye and Glenn Cobin’s granddaughter Claire Marie Corbin – Laurie and Jim Silverstein

Sam Barrer’s wedding – Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz

IT’S YOUR TURN!



In every family, each generation takes steps to insure a bright future for the next generation. Members of previous generations of the Jewish family of Berks County established estate gifts to insure that their descendants would enjoy the benefits of a vibrant Jewish Federation. And they do!

The present Federation offers a host of programs that enrich the lives of today’s Jews in Berks County. Now it’s time for you to help insure that future generations continue to benefit from the Federation’s programs.

It’s your turn to establish an estate gift for the Federation. Whether it’s a beneficiary designation, a bequest, a trust or some other arrangement – you can provide for the Federation’s programs that will benefit your descendants!

Contact Paul Landry at the Federation to find out how!

610-921-0624 / paull@jfreading.org/ 1100 Berkshire Boulevard, Wyomissing, PA 19610

IF WE DON'T TEACH
OUR CHILDREN WHO
THEY ARE . . .

OTHERS WILL.

As they grow up, young Jews will face challenges to their beliefs and identity. We believe the best way to protect our children against ignorance and hate is to educate them. From the pride of a preschooler learning his first Hebrew words to the confidence of a college student prepared to grapple with anti-Israel sentiment on campus, we're strengthening Jewish identity and inspiring a life-long connection to Jewish values. But we need your help.



Jewish Federation®
OF READING

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

www.readingjewishcommunity.org
Jewish Federation of Reading
PO Box 14925, Reading PA 19612
610-921-0624

Please detach and return with payment to Jewish Federation, PO Box 14925, Reading PA 19612

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:

Name _____ Address _____
\$ _____ amount enclosed Checks payable to Jewish Federation of Reading
Credit Card: ____ Discover ____ Mastercard ____ Visa Card # _____ Exp. date _____ Security Code _____
Name on Card: _____ Signature _____



THE CENTERPIECE

www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

For Programming & Early Education news of the Jewish Cultural Center
1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125, Wyomissing PA 19610 (610) 921-0624

MID-SUMMER 2014

Jill Skaist Art Exhibit

New & Past Work: 1970-2014



September 11 thru October 30, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, Sept. 11, 5:00-7:00pm

Stephen Axelrod

New York actor and playwright,
will be performing again
in Reading on

Sunday, October 26 at 1:00pm at the JCC



An afternoon of short stories written and performed by the inimitable Stephen Axelrod. Last year he delighted his GoggleWorks audience with his gritty autobiographical one-man show Blue Collar Bay and the charming reading of some of his short stories.

In his writing, Steve has his finger, or rather his heart, on the sorrows and dreams of those in American society whose lives haven't been an easy ride. His work makes us think of the writing that illuminated and enriched the thirties, and now in hard times again, becomes tellingly revelatory.

LAKIN PRESCHOOL



Limited spaces available
2014 to 2015 school year

For information or a tour contact Judy Synnamon at
484-332-5981 or school@ohebsholom.org

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 2: Parent Orientation (9am or 6:30pm)

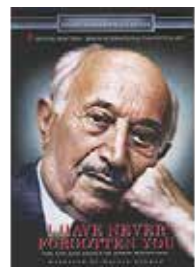
Wednesday, September 3: First Day of School

Tuesday Summer Film Festival at the JCC 2:00 to 3:30pm

August 12: I Have Never Forgotten You:

The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal

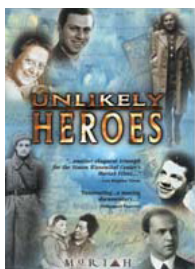
Narrated by Nicole Kidman



Simon Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor who lost 89 family members, helped track down over 1,100 Nazi war criminals and spent six decades fighting anti-Semitism and prejudice against all people. Watching the early efforts of the US government to prosecute Nazi war criminals he realized, "There is no freedom without justice," and initially decided to dedicate a few years to that quest. A few years turned into the rest of his life.

August 26: Unlikely Heroes

Narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley



Unlikely Heroes documents unknown stories of resistance during WWII including:

- * a rabbi's son who disguised himself as a Major in the SS to save Jews;
- * a young woman involved in the plot to blow up the crematorium at Birkenau;
- * a Jew who defied Eichmann, devising an extraordinary scheme for 40,000 Jews to get to Palestine.



Looking for a Canasta teacher and students. Would you like to teach others how to play Canasta? Are you interested in playing Canasta? Please contact Jayne 610-921-0624 or JayneK@JFReading.org



Join us for **Bridge** at the JCC Duplicate Bridge Club
Wednesdays at 12:30pm. All players are welcome.
If you need a partner call Sue Wesner 610-972-5327
or Greg Kiddy 484-332-6871.

Sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League
\$3 JCC members \$6 Nonmembers



Mah Jongg is played at the JCC every Monday at noon.
Everyone is welcome to join the games.
Contact Jayne Kleinman, jaynek@JFReading.org

Jewish High School of Gratz College

begins on Sunday, September 7
at the Jewish Cultural Center.

If your child is entering grades 8 to 12 in September
please contact Jayne Kleinman
at JayneK@JFReading.org

Sunday, September 14 JCC Youth Event

For kids entering 2nd to 7th grades in September



220 North Park Road, Wyomissing

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

1:00 pm -- Luncheon catered by Boscov's Ala Carte*
1:45 pm -- Program/Speaker. Varied programs are
informative, educational and fun.

1st Thursday each month: Blood pressure screening at 1:00 pm
*Optional luncheon (\$6). RSVP to Carole at the JCC by Monday.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SUMMER PROGRAMS

July:

31 -- Our favorite doctor will present a fun and informative program "Your Skin Care with Dr. Harriet Comite." Bring your questions & concerns.

August:

7 -- Join Linda from the Pagoda Writers for fun with creative writing.
Please bring a favorite photo!

14 -- Thursday Film Festival "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy"

21 -- You are invited to Everybody's Birthday Party! Bring a wrapped
\$3-\$5 gift (surprise us with anything)...Games and Fun!

28 -- Joan Fisk from the First State Greyhound Rescue, a non-profit
dedicated to the rescue of ex-racing Greyhound dogs, will discuss the
fate of these dogs when they can no longer race.

Thursday Film Festival



August 14: "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy"

This engaging documentary examines the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the modern American musical. This film mingles cultural history with perspectives on the origins of Broadway's most beloved songs and shows. Taxi pick up at 3:30.