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EDITION 10 - Summer 2011



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A Summer of Synagogues

By Susie Davidson

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*The Yom Hashoah musical commemoration took place at Mishkan Tefila on May 1st
Above: event Co-Chairs Steve Handler (Left) and Sid Lejfer. Below: Holocaust survivors at the ceremony, David Dembling on the Right*



Members of the Post presenting the check to Mr. Leeman are, left to right: Past CDR Milton Kline, Sr. Vice CDR Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, CDR Herbert Shostek, Quartermaster Paul Maltzman, and Trustee Sherm Palan.

The Jewish War Veterans Post 735 of Sharon, MA, present a check to Mr. Richard Leeman, Assistant Chief of Voluntary Services at the Brockton Veterans Administration Hospital. The funds were collected at Shaw's Market in Sharon during the Post's annual Memorial Weekend Fundraiser and presented to the VA on June 1, 2011. The members of Post 735 take this opportunity to thank all donors that gave so generously to this most worthwhile cause. Mr. Leeman designates where the funds are most needed to support veterans at the VA Hospital of Brockton.

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Shalom Magazine 2011
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Summer is here, and it is time to travel and see new places. If you are like me, you cannot help but look for a Jewish presence in every new town you visit. For the Jewish traveler and explorer, Susie Davidson has prepared a guide of selected Synagogues and Jewish activities in New England. She communicated with synagogue staffpeople, who provided information on events that are taking place from Cape Cod to Pittsfield, Mass. and far into New Hampshire. Although a lot of information can be found on the internet, many organizations do not update their sites regularly, so this guide informs us about the latest summer events in various communities. It can help you to plan an enlightening, informative and enjoyable schedule before you go,

especially since if you did not know about the events to begin with, how would you have searched for and found them on the Web?

On our recent trip to Poland Spring Resort, we found more Judaism that we were looking for. As we learned, the resort has been owned and operated by two separate Jewish families for many years. We also found out that their first bottle was created in the shape of "Moses," and inspired by the Biblical scene of Moses getting water out of the rock!

When you travel this summer, please send us pictures and notes about Jewish places that you, too, found along the way.

Our contributors find Judaism in every aspect of our lives. In this issue, Dr. Rebecca Housel describes the Jewish roots of this summer pop culture hit X-Men, and Rabbi Katy Z. Allen explains how we connect to Judaism as we spend time with nature.

Usually our summer edition is full of photos of events celebrating Israel's Independence Day. Unfortunately, the event that I have attended for many years, CJP's Israel Day, was not a large event this year as it has been in the past.

Now is the time that we need to show our commitment to Israel and our great relationship between the Massachusetts Jewish community and our Holy Land. Now more than ever, it is time to learn about Israel, show support, understand a little of the country and of course, visit if you are able to do so. Our contributor Steve Schuster tells us about his experience at the AIPAC Conference in Washington. In his article, you will learn more about what the people that attend this annual conference do for Israel. Contributor Daniel Pomerantz defines J Street, and discusses his views on this organization that has been so much in the news this past year.

You are also welcome to share your opinion with our thousands of readers by emailing us your articles. Our Rosh Hashana edition will be coming out at the end of September - please contact us if you would like to participate, either by advertising or by contributing with ideas. Remember that our magazine is distributed free of charge, thanks to our generous advertisers. Please remember to tell them that you saw their ad in Shalom.

Hope you have a wonderful, healthy and safe summer.

Shirley Nigri Farber - Editor

Magazine Cover: Photo by Nir Landau shows Ariel Adler (left) and Channah Barkhodari at the Amazing Israel Race in Boston.

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500 Attend Tribute to Education Visionary

Jane Taubenfeld Cohen Helped to Found South Area Solomon Schechter Day School 22 Years Ago

By Stanley Hurwitz

Some 500 people attended a recent community tribute to the Founding Head of the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Norwood, Jane Taubenfeld Cohen. The gala, named 'B'Yachad' (Hebrew for 'Together'), attracted families, alumni, students, teachers, friends, relatives, colleagues, and donors from across the country to celebrate the visionary educational pioneer's passion, vision, and legacy through a multi-media production with photos, videos, and songs. The presentation conveyed Jane's impact on the community and the field of Jewish Day School education over the past 22 years. Among the speakers was Marc Medwed, Associate Head of the school and Head of School-elect.

A mosaic in Jane's honor, designed by a local artist and students, was unveiled and now adorns the school lobby. Shown at the mosaic are left to right: Stu Salzberg, Board Member; Jane Taubenfeld Cohen, Head of School; her husband David Cohen; and Scott Lopez, a past President.

Jane Taubenfeld Cohen recently discussed her philosophy on Jewish day school education on the Educational Talk Radio with host Larry Jacobs. To listen, visit www.educationtalkradio.wordpress.com and click on the right at 'Jewish Education.'

It was also announced this past week that the school will change its name this summer to Kehillah Schechter Academy. 'Kehillah' is the Hebrew word for 'community.'

'Kehillah Schechter Academy' is new name for SASSDS

"Our new name simply reflects the extraordinary school that we have already become."

By Stanley Hurwitz

The South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Norwood is changing its name to Kehillah Schechter Academy. 'Kehillah' is the Hebrew word for 'community.'

It was also announced that the campus is being named for retiring Head of School Jane Taubenfeld Cohen who helped build the school in Stoughton from a handful of students in 1989 to an award-winning 250-student school on a modern campus in Norwood.

The school has gained a national reputation for its commitment to differentiated instruction, its nurturing environment, its integrated general and Jewish curricula, its long-tenured faculty, and its strong math and science programs.

The letter to the community said, "The name is a reflection of the remarkable community we have become ... a kehillah that is far broader and more diverse than the South Area geographical location for which we were previously named. Our new name simply reflects the extraordinary school that we have already become."

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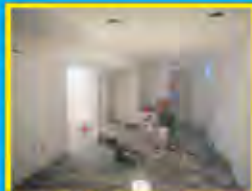


Director Jason Slavick

All photos by Nir Landau 617-838-9883



Wanderings and Wonderings, a pilot program of CJP and Hebrew College, brought 40 young adults together for a 6 week interactive Jewish learning series. On May 24th the group met with director Jason Slavick and his cast of the Indie Musical Song of Songs: a Love Romp. Participants interacted with the ancient Biblical text Song of Songs, which the play was inspired by, and watched the cast perform their modern adaptation.



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Amazing Israel Race!



Over 170 people attended Boston's third annual Amazing Israel Race! Students, young adults, and Taglit-Birthright Israel alumni ran around Boston with clues leading them to different places having to do with the State of Israel.

Action stations activities included: making hummus, lighting a candle in memory of Jewish heroine Hannah Shenesh, and writing raps about Governor Deval Patrick's recent trip to Israel.



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Governor Deval Patrick at the Israel Independence Celebration hosted by the Israeli consulate in Boston



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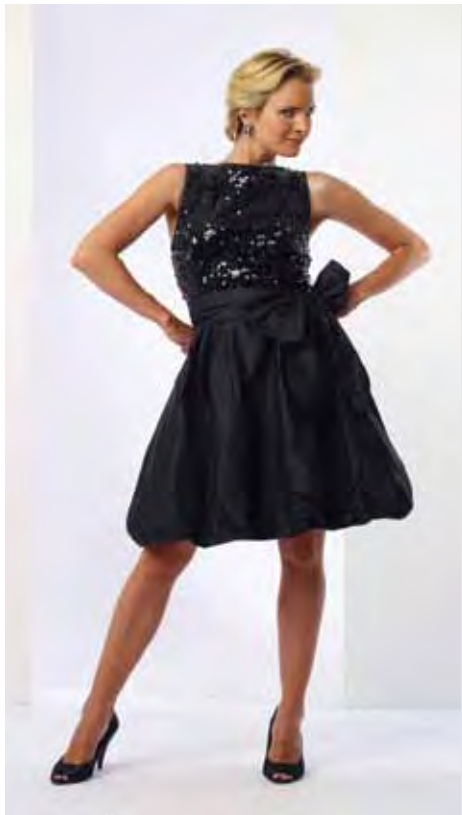
PresenTense Boston Fellowship



The PresenTense Boston 2011 took place on Thursday, May 26th at City Year Boston. CJP's PresenTense Boston Fellowship provides young Jewish social entrepreneurs with the tools and connections to transform big ideas into ventures that will engage, inspire, and support Boston's Jewish community. For more information, please visit www.bostonfellowship.com.



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What is J Street?

By Daniel Pomerantz

What is J Street? What does it advocate? Is it really “Pro-Israel Pro-Peace” (as members claim) or actually anti-Israel (as others accuse)? J Street is, indeed, a somewhat confusing (and perhaps also a confused) organization, but here is some clear background:

J Street is an American lobbying group that touts the slogan “Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace,” and states a goal of peace through a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. J Street’s members include Jewish Americans, as well as supporters from the Arab American Institute (a powerful lobby organization) and also many individual Americans of Arab descent. So...what’s the problem?

The problem many Israelis and Americans have with J Street is not its broad position statements, but rather its specific actions. Here are a few examples:

The Israeli Ambassador on J Street:

“They claim they’re pro-Israel. ...[yet] they are calling for Israel to be condemned in the [United Nations] Security Council for the settlements, and they are condemning some of our best friends on [Capitol] Hill.” - *Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren*

J Street founder questioning the existence of Israel:

“Maybe, if this collective Jewish presence [referring to Israel] can only survive by the sword, then Israel really ain’t a good idea.” - *Daniel Levy (one of JStreet’s founders) at J Street’s national conference, Washington, D.C., February, 2011.*

President of Israel to J Street:

“As president I don’t love the way in which you are working... Your activities have aspects that hurt the state of Israel.” (He further explained that J street “delegitimizes” Israel). - *Israeli President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shimon Peres, May 2011.*

(Walla [a major Israeli online news source] later removed, but never officially retracted, this story.)

Support for UN Condemnation, and reaction of Congressman Ackerman:

J Street urged President Obama to support a Palestinian and Lebanese sponsored resolution condemning Israel in the U.N. Security Council over the issue of settlement construction in the West Bank. (The United States vetoed, saying the parties must

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What is J Street?

work together, not through condemnation in outside bodies.) Liberal Congressman and former J Street supporter Gary Ackerman (D-NY) reacted with "I've come to the conclusion that J Street is not an organization with which I wish to be associated. . . . The decision to endorse the Palestinian and Arab effort to condemn Israel in the U.N. Security Council is not the choice of a concerned friend trying to help. It is rather the befuddled choice of an organization so open-minded about what constitutes support for Israel that its brains have fallen out."

As people begin to understand J Street's positions and methods, attendance at its most recent conference shows that its support in Congress is continuing to decline.

Operation Cast Lead:

Hamas fired about 12,000 rockets at Israeli towns. Israel explained that its response (called "Operation Cast Lead") was a precision effort to disable Hamas's military machine. On the first day of the operation, J Street called for "an immediate cease fire," condemned Israel for "disproportionate response," and, ignoring Israel's explanations, concluded, "There is nothing 'right' in punishing a million and a half already-suffering Gazans." J Street referred to itself as, "a constituency for sanity and moderation," thus implying that Israel's supporters are both immoderate and insane.

Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hamad admitted in the London newspaper Al-Hayat (September, 2010) that (as Israel had explained all along) most casualties were indeed Hamas military personnel. JStreet did not retract its condemnation.

J Street lobbied the United States to condemn Israel in the U.N. by supporting the hastily compiled "Goldstone Report," a document that claimed Israel had intentionally targeted civilians. After more thorough reports were published, Judge Richard Goldstone concluded (in a Washington Post op/ed, April, 2011) that his commission had not reviewed sufficient information and was indeed mistaken: Israel had not targeted civilians and had in fact taken great care to AVOID civilian casualties, despite Hamas's use of human shields. Once again, J Street did not retract its condemnation.

My opinion?

It is Jewish tradition to debate and disagree, especially over matters of morality. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaches out to Jewish communities through international conferences, events, and email groups where they encourage our input. We all have the opportunity to engage directly in the Israeli decision-making processes, if we so want to. When we criticize Israel TO Israel, the Israeli government will weigh our ideas against real-world physical consequences to Israeli citizens.

J Street misleadingly claims to care about Israel, even as it encourages unfair condemnations and crippling outside pressure. J Street approaches foreign governments to blast Israeli decisions on matters of safety, while its members live thousands of miles from the physical consequences of those decisions: Such is not "caring" behavior. Consider one analog: If you disagree with your senator, will you write to Congress . . . or will you write to some other country and ask it to condemn the United States at the U.N.? Which behavior demonstrates "caring" about America? I express my ideas, my support and even my disagreement directly to the Israeli government, even as I encourage the United States to support Israel's democratic decision-making processes. To me, this is what it means to truly care about Israel!

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Frozen Memorial on Holocaust Remembrance Day

Photos: Nir Landau



David Stamp



Matt Seltzer and Stacy Seltzer

As the generation of Holocaust survivors dwindles in America, a new generation is coming of age. The grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, otherwise known as the third generation or '3G's, are beginning to organize in cities across the country. From New York to San Francisco, Boston, Washington DC, Minneapolis and Cincinnati, organizations dedicated to keeping alive the stories of the Holocaust and exploring shared history through unique educational outreach and programming are becoming prominent.

On Sunday, May 1, immediately following the 2011 Greater Boston Holocaust Commemoration, Boston 3G made their own impact in the community and called attention to the 1.2 million children lost in the Holocaust through a unique and modern twist on a "moment of silence." As part of the tribute, 3G members froze in place, on cue, for five minutes during the busy weekend bustle to spread the message of remembrance to a population of people that may view the Holocaust as simply a part of history.

"Using our personal family stories, Holocaust Commemoration Day and this five minute 'Frozen Memorial', we hope that each person that passes will take a moment to pause and reflect on the events of 70 years ago, the events of today and the opportunities each of us has to impact our world and future genocide," said Boston 3G co-founder Matt Seltzer.

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X-Men: Jewish at Heart

By Dr. Rebecca Housel

X-Men, a comic created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby in 1963, has become a superheroic entertainment phenomenon that includes 48 years of comic book history, as well as several animated cartoon series developed for television, countless videogames, and a Hollywood movie franchise that's leading summer 2011's blockbusters with X-Men: First Class. And although X-Men is part of a billion-dollar industry today, its humble beginnings were quite different.

Stan Lee (born Stanley Martin Lieber) began working for Martin Goodman at Timely Comics, a company that would later evolve into Marvel Comics, where superheroes like X-Men, Iron Man, Spider-Man, and Thor were born. Jack Kirby (born Jacob Kurtzberg) was an illustrator for Goodman. Lee and Kirby were both the children of Jewish immigrants, as was Goodman. In fact, the comic book industry itself is a child of Jewish parents.

Goodman's Timely Comics was one among many comic book publishers started by Jews—including Jack Liebowitz (born Yacov Liebovitz) and Harry Donenfeld of National Comics (now DC Comics) and John Goldwater and Louis Silberkeit of Archie Comics. Comic books today may be a billion-dollar industry, but when men like Goodman and Liebowitz started out, comics were considered "low-culture," similar to early Hollywood film, also developed by Jews like Paramount's Adolph Zukor and MGM's Louis Mayer and Sam Goldwyn (born Samuel Goldfish). Jewish immigrants coming to America were all fleeing persecution, regardless of their country of origin. But anti-Semitism didn't stop at the American borders. And though Jewish people today make up a high percentage of medical doctors, attorneys, college professors, writers, and financial professionals, it was the "low culture" spheres (deemed less influential and therefore more available to Jewish immigrants and their children) where Jewish Americans began to flourish in the early-mid decades of the 20th century.

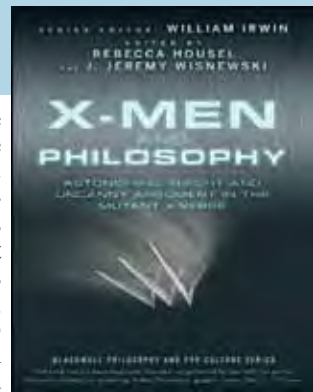
X-Men is particularly representative of Jewish struggle. The premise of X-Men is based on a group of humans who are genetically different called "mutants". Throughout the storyline, societal fear and anxiety over that difference manifests in a myriad of ways, including "Days of Futures Past" (Uncanny X-Men #140-141, January-February 1981), part of the comic book series that finds mutants locked away in dystopian-future concentration camps during a mutant genocide. One of the original characters in X-Men, Magneto, is a Holocaust survivor. Magneto's birth name was Max Eisenhardt which, like his comic book forebears, he later changed

to Erik Lehnsherr. Magneto's early life is the main influence that shapes the character's overall goals. Magneto is considered a villain because of his severe distrust of humans. His struggle is representative of the two very different attitudes that emerged amongst Jews post-Holocaust: Do we try to assimilate, helping non-Jews to understand us, or, do we aggressively protect ourselves from other humans? Magneto's caveats issued in early X-Men comics were validated 20 years later in the 80's with the mutant genocide of "Days of Futures Past." That same caveat is repeated in four of the five X-Men films, including X-Men: First Class, which has earned more than \$150,000,000 in its first week of release. The film begins with Magneto as a boy in Germany, being studied by a Nazi doctor. It's no coincidence that the film officially opened one month after Israel's Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. All four of the film's producers are Jewish, including Bryan Singer, who directed the first two X-Men films as well as having a hand in writing the most recent release.

Jewish comic book writer, Chris Claremont first called attention to Magneto's struggle in 1978 with Uncanny X-Men #113 where Magneto refers to his time in Auschwitz. Prior to that, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby were restricted by the 1954 Comic Code Authority, essentially censoring the literature of comic books. In 1971, the code was amended. And that's when Magneto's rage against humanity was finally able to find true form. Magneto seemed less like a criminal and more like Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, who strongly believed there was to be a second Holocaust in the United States and urged an emergency mass-exodus of American Jews to Israel.

As audiences continue to take in X-Men: First Class this summer, few will understand the Jewish heritage in X-Men's past, present and future...because, yes, more X-Men films are on the horizon. And though a seemingly unlikely place to find Jewish struggle, that's where the comic book industry began. Whether you're a fan of superhero-escapism or not, comic books are a strong part of Jewish history. One we should be proud of.

Dr. Rebecca Housel is known as "The Pop Culture Professor"; her books X-Men & Philosophy, Twilight & Philosophy and True Blood & Philosophy are translated in 7 languages and sold in more than 20 countries. Read more from Rebecca Housel on her website and blog: www.RebeccaHousel.com.



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Poland Spring Resort, Poland Spring, Maine

By Shirley Nigri Farber

When I told a friend that I was going to spend the weekend at the Poland Spring Resort, the first thing he said was, "the last time I was there I think I gained some weight. Every day, there is the all-you-can-eat buffet." However, I am sure that while some people go for the food, others go to relax, and others to enjoy nature or to play golf.

As I arrived with my family at the Maine Inn, one of the three hotels that are part of the resort, we noticed a sign that said "Stress Free Zone," as well as the beautiful green land all around us. Our first night, Friday, was the only dinner not included on the package, and it was recommended to us that we eat at Cyndi's Dockside. There, we had a chance to enjoy a delicious fish dinner, and at the end, we were greeted by the owner Cyndi Robbins. When we mentioned that we were from Shalom Magazine, she was very proud to say that she had prepared the all-Kosher for Passover Seder for 150 people at Temple Shalom, a local synagogue. She added that her late husband, Mel Robbins (who changed his last name from Rubinski), taught her how to prepare Jewish dishes like kugel.

On Saturday, we woke up to a buffet-style breakfast that reminded me of my time at a kibbutz in Israel. Everything was simple, clean, and fresh, and in great quantity, so that you do



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"And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also." Exodus 20:7-11



Cyndi's Dockside Restaurant

not feel uncomfortable getting up for refills. That morning, the resort was getting ready for the Heritage Day Event, a full-day event with kids' attractions, music, rides and exhibits, that raised funds for the Poland Spring Preservation Society. Throughout the day we had a chance to learn more about the history of the place, and about the famous Poland Spring water.

Poland Spring began as a stagecoach stop in 1794 and was owned by one family, the Rickers, for nearly 150 years. The famous Poland Spring Water began being bottled there in 1845, and is now the largest spring water company in America. At the Poland Spring Museum, we had a chance to see the "source," where, in earlier times, guests would be served the special water believed to be healthy for them, and received similar treatment to that seen today at modern spas. There we also found the first glass bottles used, including a very interesting one called "Moses." By walking through one of the many trails at Preservation Park, I made sure that I would not come home with any extra pounds.

From there we walked to the Maine State Building, an historic house build in 1893 for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and brought in pieces to Maine, by train and ox cart. Today it holds exhibits and a miniature of a grand hotel that brought the rich and famous to Maine, but was unfortunately destroyed by a fire in 1975. One of our tour guides introduced himself as Mike Feldman, a member of the Poland Spring Preservation Society. We got to listen to the story from someone who actually lived there. He is the grandson of Saul Feldman, who owned the propriety from 1961 to 1972, when the bottling company was sold to Perrier and the Resort to Mel Robbins. Later, Perrier was bought by the Nestle company, which still owns it today. As we learned about the history of the resort, I started to imagine the place filled with carriages, ladies in their long dresses and hats, and all the servants it surely took to maintain the site.

Cyndi started working as a waitress in 1971, working for her future husband, Mel, who was leasing the hotel at the time. They married at the resort in 1975. Today the resort can host 425 guests and employs 130 people. When I mentioned that her resort is one of the few places I've seen where the whole staff speaks English as their first language and knows the area very well, she said that some families have been working at the place for three generations. She pointed to an employee: "the girl at the front desk - her grandmother worked here."

The most relaxing moment was after dinner, sitting in the rocking chair in the porch while watching the sunset. While some of the guests were talking about their knee replacements and health treatments, I sat down to chat with Cyndi. After her husband passed away, she began taking care of the three hotels,

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two restaurants (Cyndi's Dockside and Mel's Hilltop), a golf course, and some cottages. The hotels are open from May to Columbus Day, as they are not winterized for the cold weather. The only exception is the newly renovated Lodge (formerly the Motor Court Inn) that is open year-round, and is getting ready to receive guests who travel to the area in order to enjoy the new casino, to be built in nearby Oxford, just six miles away.

We took advantage of the very knowledgeable front desk people and asked them about everything that we could do while in the region. We would go to the desk and ask them "what can we do today, where can we go for fun?" One day, we found ourselves with fishing poles, sitting at the dock and relaxing. There is no cost to use equipment for fishing or tennis. We didn't catch anything, but being able to relax as a family and teach my son how to be patient and quiet so not to scare the fish away was priceless.

While we were there, we could not find other kids for my son to play with. This was possibly because visitors may think that the no kid's policy established in 1978, to ensure the quietness of the resort, is still in practice. However, since 2001, children are welcome; in fact, to make sure they will have their own share of fun, a miniature golf course is to be completed this summer.

I asked Cyndi if she thinks that the Casino will take away any of her business. She replied that she not only thinks that it will add to and enrich the area, she went on the radio to promote the casino and hosted a Q&A with local residents and the casino developers. She said she is friendly with them, and also said that they do not plan to build a hotel right away - so for the first few years, gamblers will have to stay at her place.

The resort has a very easygoing and carefree atmosphere, where people sit in the lobby making new friends and talking about life. In the dining room, people are seated with others, which forces them to get to know the other visitors. Most of the nights there include entertainment such as Karaoke and live music. We were lucky that on Sunday night, they had a magician who could entertain adults and children. On Monday morning, we spent some time at the golf range, and then headed to Old Orchard Beach, a former Jewish resort destination that was recommended by one of the front desk attendants.

Poland Spring is an environmentally-friendly hotel. Guests are asked to conserve water by reusing the towels that do not need to be washed, and to use the recycling basket found in each room. There was a time where guests had to bring their own towel and soap; today the hotel provides these items, but you still need to take your own luggage to your room, and there is no phone inside the room. But hey, the whole point is to relax, so why do I need a phone in my room?

Service

Poland Spring Resort, 543 Maine St, Poland Spring, Maine 04274. Phone: 207-998-4351 www.polandspringinns.com
The Maine Inn and the Presidential offer packages from Friday to Sunday and from Sunday to Friday that include breakfast and dinner every day, except for Friday dinner. The Lodge takes reservations without the package.

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Annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington

By Steve Schuster

The From May 22 to 24, 2011, I attended the annual AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Policy Conference in Washington, DC, with my teenage son, Jacob Silverman, a sophomore at Westborough High School. With over 10,000 delegates, the 2011 Policy Conference was the most well-attended in AIPAC history, including more than 1500 student delegates from high schools, universities, and colleges around the country. Our lobbying contingent of over 200 Israel activists from Massachusetts met with Senators Scott Brown and John Kerry in a large meeting room in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Constitution Avenue where delegates from all fifty states conducted more than 500 lobbying meetings with members of Congress and their staffs. The main points of emphasis in our meetings were the need to pass the Foreign Aid Bill (which includes three billion dollars in security aid for Israel), the need to

impose further sanctions against Iran and that country's nuclear weapons program, and a reiteration that the recent inclusion of the terrorist group Hamas in the Palestinian Unity Government with Fatah was an unequivocal obstacle to peace.

During the conference, the entire assembly was addressed by such luminaries as President Obama, Majority Whip Eric Cantor, Senator Harry Reid, Speaker of the House John Boehner, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. President Obama clarified many of the remarks he had made in his Mideast Policy address just days before the AIPAC event, focusing particularly on the intentions of his call for "the borders of Israel and Palestine [to] be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps." The President noted that his position had "been misrepresented several times" and that his goal is "the parties themselves--Israelis and Palestinians--will negotiate a border that is different than the one that existed on June 4, 1967, account[ing] for the changes that have taken place over the last forty-four years [to create] two states." Obama also affirmed that the United States "will continue to demand that Hamas accept the basic responsibilities of peace, including recognizing Israel's right to exist and rejecting violence and adhering to all existing agreements," and called upon Hamas to release kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Prime Minister Netanyahu also spoke at the Monday night Gala and thanked President Obama for restating his "ironclad commitment to Israel's security" and more importantly, for "backing those words with deeds" by "providing Israel with vital assistance so that Israel can defend itself by itself." The Prime Minister specifically referred to America's support for Israel's new Iron Dome missile defense system, one which in early May successfully repelled eight Hamas rockets fired from Gaza at Ashkelon and Beer Sheva from Gaza. Netanyahu told the AIPAC gathering that he would speak to a joint session of Congress the next morning, and there he would "describe what a peace between a Palestinian state and the Jewish state could look like." He concluded by avowing that such a peace "must leave Israel with security."

The main purpose of the AIPAC Policy Conference was the lobbying efforts (AIPAC describes itself as "America's Pro-Israel Lobby"), but the conference also provided enormous opportunity for education about Israel from a wide variety of perspectives-- its economy, innovation, politics, security, public image, US/Israel cooperation, and more--in breakout sessions throughout each day. The days were long and very full, but the experience was undeniably exhilarating and exhausting; the power of the Washington environment pulsed in every moment.

One could certainly not come away from the lobbying meetings without having an almost tangible feeling of having done something meaningful and specific in support of Israel. If such was true for the adults, the impression on the student delegates in participating in act tivedvocacy by meeting delegates face-to-face with members of Congress was ever so much more indelible, not as an experience of a lifetime, but simply as the first of many experiences. Jacob and I are already registered for the 2012 Policy Conference: I encourage you to attend also!

As CEO of Westborough-based Rainier Communications, Steve Schuster travels to Israel four times a year in his work to promote Israeli technology companies in the U.S. market. Steve is a long-time AIPAC activist, a frequent speaker about Israel, and is a past-president of Worcester's Temple Sinai. He and his wife Julie have four children. The family's four cats and two dogs are all rescued strays from the streets of Israel.



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AIPAC Conference in Washington



Steve Schuster and his son Jacob Silverman

Photos: Steve Schuster



Senator John Kerry



Senator Scott Brown

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Boston Jewish Film Festival

**Award-Winning: *The Names of Love (Les noms des gens)*
July 21, 8:15 p.m. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

The Names of Love (Les noms des gens) is a semi-autobiographical film about the life of a young, liberal woman who uses sex as a weapon to influence right-wingers to convert to her views. She is successful...until she meets Arthur Martin, a Jewish, middle-aged, middle-of-the-road scientist. The two are bound by common tragic family histories--the Algerian War for her and the Holocaust under the French Vichy government for him. The film won three Cesar Awards in 2011, including best female lead for Sara Forestier and best writing. Presented by the Boston French Film Festival and Boston Jewish Film Festival. In French with English subtitles. Tickets on sale @ www.mfa.org.



The Names of Love

of knowing their “enemies” as human beings met the realities of their lives back home. Directed by Massachusetts native Lisa Gossels and co-presented as part of the Roxbury International Film Festival. Tickets on sale at Coolidge Corner Theatre box office, or www.coolidge.org.

**Big Israeli Hit: *The Human Resources Manager*
July 26, 7 p.m., West Newton Cinema**

The Human Resources Manager of Jerusalem’s largest bakery is separated from his wife, distanced from his daughter, and stuck in a job he hates. When one of his employees, a foreign worker, is killed in a suicide bombing, the bakery is accused of indifference, and the HR Manager is sent to the victim’s hometown in Romania to make amends for a woman he didn’t even know. He rediscovers his own humanity and acquires the ability to truly care for

“human resources.” The Human Resources Manager won five Israeli Ophir Awards (including Best Picture and Best Director) and won the Locarno Film Festival Audience Award. Directed by Eran Riklis (*The Syrian Bride*, *Lemon Tree*). In Hebrew and Romanian with subtitles. Purchase tickets at www.bjff.org. Tickets are \$12 for Boston Jewish Film Festival members, students, and seniors; \$15 for general admission.

Insightful Documentary: *My So-Called Enemy*

Winner, BJFF Audience Award, Best Feature Documentary
July 25, 7:30 p.m., Coolidge Corner Theatre

Some lost friends and family members all bear the psychological and emotional scars of living in a war zone. In July of 2002, twenty-two Palestinian and Israeli teenage girls traveled to the United States to participate in a women’s leadership program. *My So-Called Enemy* is the story of six of those girls and how, over the following seven years back in the Middle East, the experience



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The New Front in Israel's Global Struggle for Survival

**Robert Leikind, Director
American Jewish Committee, Boston Office**

For much of its history, the prime danger Israel faced was Arab armies intent upon her destruction. Today, many of Israel's neighbors still remain implacably opposed to her existence, but whereas the military threat is diminished, rockets and other forms of terror can cause great harm to lives and property. In the foreseeable future, a military threat to Israel's existence would only arise if Iran were to develop a nuclear weapon capability.

But over the last decade, a new type of warfare has emerged, one that poses a different yet still very real threat. With the support of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference and non-aligned countries (e.g. Venezuela and Cuba), there has been a sustained campaign coalesced to make Israel into an international pariah. These countries have successfully turned international bodies like the UN Human Rights Council into instruments that are heavily devoted to demonizing Israel. The Human Rights Council, for example, has devoted significant energy to passing resolutions and launching inquiries that obsessively spin events in the Middle East into occasions for attacking Israeli actions. Very notably, this organization includes among its members Cuba, Libya, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, and numerous other nations that have distinguished themselves as being among the most notorious abusers of human rights; the Human Rights Council, however, has been nearly silent about such perfidious conduct.

Over the past year, this global campaign to delegitimize Israel has taken an even more ominous turn. A Palestinian-led campaign is now underway to have a Palestinian state unilaterally declared at the 2011 Session of the UN General Assembly this coming September. The measure appears to be part of an effort to avoid both the direct negotiations and hard bargaining essential to arrive at a final and just peace agreement. Instead, the Palestinians see an opportunity to isolate even further Israel by using such a declaration to heighten international pressure on the Jewish state. This reckless strategy threatens to bring an end to the security agreements that currently bring both stability and security to Israel and the West Bank. Should this happen, there is a great danger that the area will again erupt in violence, thereby bringing an end to prospects of a negotiated settlement.

AJC has encouraged President Obama to speak out against the proposed unilateral declaration of independence, and he has made clear that the US will not support such a measure. Although other countries (Germany, for one) have also indicated their displeasure, others--such as France and the United Kingdom--remain non-committal.

We have now entered a period of intense diplomacy aimed at preempting this very dangerous initiative. AJC diplomats in the US and around the world are fully engaged in conversations with national leaders and representatives from the foreign ministries of many key countries. We are also involved in widespread educational efforts to ensure that all concerned Americans understood this issue properly.

Central to these efforts is an appreciation that the key contests in Israel's struggle for survival are increasingly located in diplomacy, a new arena for many of us. Whereas traditional diplomacy has been the province of people who wear dark suits and speak for governments, such is no longer their exclusive venue. In our age of highly efficient and readily available communication tools, concerned, articulate, and dedicated citizens can have an enormous impact on diplomatic processes: They must be ready to step-up and speak out.

Now is time for lovers of Israel to join the struggle and be heard. We can all start by signing an open letter to French President Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Cameron, a letter that demands that they speak out against Palestinian unilateralism. To do so, go to <http://www.kintera.org/TR.aspx?m=jRl5PNik11KkJ&s=gvlZJkNOKjKTLdOXKtF&m=frIRIWPDKmKUJa&af=y>

Learning to Feel:

A story of recovery from childhood sexual abuse



By Daniel Pomerantz

The beaches at Habonim in northern Israel are isolated, rugged, and completely beautiful. One weekend, nine of us fled our jobs and daily lives in Tel Aviv to pitch tents and swim in the Mediterranean. Upon arriving, we performed that (almost) timeless ritual of applying bug spray; the scent of artificial pine mixed with the rich aroma of kabobs, onions and campfire smoke. The sun set, the stars came out, it was all terribly peaceful . . . so naturally, I felt just awful.

My mother had sexually and emotionally abused me throughout childhood, and, as an outdated survival tool, the living memory of that behavior stayed with me into adulthood. I was the only bachelor in this group of couples, and in my mind that night, my former abuser raged like a malicious rant from one of those Mel Gibson tapes--insisting that I deserved to be alone, that I ought to be ashamed of my own sexuality, and that I was disgustingly sub-human. Mine was a feeling called "trauma," a kind of terror so intense that it pushes all normal thoughts and feelings away. Although it is common among survivors of war, natural disaster, rape, and child abuse, most humans never experience trauma at all. Years of practice had taught me to hide mine behind an appearance of calm; no one knew that even on this beautiful beach, I was in my own private hell. Suddenly, even as my body remained on the beach, my mind went back to high school.

Once a year, the girls of Niles North High School in Skokie, Illinois, asked the boys of their choices to the annual "Turnabout Dance." Whenever I had conveyed interest in a girl, my mother would respond with screams, tears, and shrieks of, "How could you do this to me?" My father would add such helpful queries such as, "What did you do to your mother?" My body and my feelings became the property of my abusers. So, back then when Rotem--that beautiful, soft-spoken girl from Israel--asked me to be her date, I was simply terrified. My muscles froze as if I had just received a massive electric shock; my brain stalled like a car in the wrong gear. With extreme effort, I forced myself to break the paralysis of trauma and mumble some vagary about why I would be "unavailable" on the evening of the dance. Rotem found another boy . . . and somewhere deep inside, I came to understand that I was missing out on my childhood and adolescence, one experience at a time. By the time I came to Habonim, my life in hell was all-too familiar.

It is difficult for children to recognize domestic abuse; children depend on their parents to learn the meaning of "normal." Nonetheless, I had sometimes questioned my circumstances, and occasionally I had even attempted to reach out for help. After one particularly scary and violent day, I begged my father to speak to my mother, to reason with her, to make her stop. My father admonished me for "talking back," and though usually a soft-spoken man, he unleashed a stream of angry profanity and demanded that I leave the house immediately. My mother warned me that if I ever caused another such disturbance, the Illinois

Department of Family Services would take me away, and I would never again have a family or a home. I was only seven years old.

I did not leave home, but I had learned my lesson: In order to have access to clothing, food, and shelter, I would have to give up control of my body and keep my mother's behavior secret. This was how I learned "denial"--the act of forgetting, rationalizing, and ignoring horrific events in order to survive. It was not until I was in my early thirties that I developed the sense of distance and safety necessary to face my own terrifying childhood.

It began with a book. Despite intense denial, I knew that I felt unhappy and found reading about psychology to be helpful. I devoured Bradshaw on the Family by John Bradshaw, and Drama of the Gifted Child by Alice Miller. I then read Charles Whitfield's Healing the Child Within. The book contained a chapter on sexual abuse, one which, believing that it didn't really apply to me, I was at first tempted to skip. As I skimmed through those pages, however, I noticed a list of a dozen or so factors that an adult might use to identify the effects of personal childhood sexual abuse . . . and I was shocked: Almost every factor on this list applied directly to me! I approached a trusted therapist who was an active member of my local Jewish community and asked her to help me explore the possibility that I had been sexually abused. At the age of 32, I finally began to break through denial, to learn, and to heal.

Aside from my Bar Mitzvah in a conservative congregation in the suburbs of Chicago, my childhood included little exposure to Hebrew and certainly no visits to Israel. As I grew out of my abusive past, I began to visit Israel, first as a lawyer at conferences for the World Zionist Organization and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then eventually for my own enjoyment. I began to improve my Hebrew and to build Israeli friendships that led me to that isolated beach. We swam, we cooked dinner over the campfire, and we shared coffee and stories. At that moment a new authority entered my thoughts: It was strong but patient and "felt" like a close friend. It posed a new question: "What if the universe is not a dangerous place, but actually a helpful place?" Like a spectator at a boxing match, I observed this idea of a "helpful universe" fighting against my sense of trauma for control of my mind. Trauma did not "lose" this fight--it was not defeated or banished from my mind--but for just one and incomprehensible moment, trauma stepped aside. Normal sadness, normal loneliness, and normal pain settled upon me . . . emotions so gentle compared to trauma . . . that I, for the first time ever, was looking away from the sun to see starlight: I was happy to feel sad.

I may never know why I felt my first "real" emotions on that particular evening at Habonim. It would be like asking why a child speaks his first words at one particular moment: The human mind follows its own mysterious schedule. What I did know for certain was that after years of hard work and therapy, I was on a beautiful Israeli beach, full of food and wine, and in the company of good friends. I wiped away tears of pain and relief, came in toward the fire, and later that evening, fell asleep . . . peacefully.

Daniel Pomerantz is an adult survivor of childhood sexual abuse and a business lawyer. He lives in Chicago and Tel Aviv; he frequently shares his thoughts on Israeli society and politics on his blog: <http://israelreview.blogspot.com>



A Woodland Path



By Rabbi Katy Z. Allen
The Boston chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club has more than 16,000 members. On web sites such as Meetup, tens and hundreds of people arrange to meet for hikes and walks, bike rides, kayak trips, and other outdoor activities. Why

do so many people want to get out into the woods and onto the rivers and lakes?

People often speak of their experiences in the natural world as spiritual: The awe of a stunning sunset or the view from a mountaintop often leads people to express a sense of God's presence. Such expressions are universal and not limited to people of a single faith. It may very well be that the spiritual experience of the natural world, whether named or not, is one of the reasons we feel pulled outdoors. Walking down a woodland path is very different from walking on a treadmill, but is walking down that path a specifically Jewish thing to do?

Are our experiences in the woods and fields Jewish experiences? It all depends on how you look at it.

In our ancient sacred texts, the psalmist reminds us in numerous

ways that God is the creator of all and that all that is created is sacred. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it," (Ps. 24:1) and "The heavens declare the glory of God." (Ps. 19:1) These and many other phrases with similar and related themes connecting God and the created world appear throughout the psalms.

Several millennia later, the modern Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai connects God and the Earth in totally different ways, questioning God. He begins: "The fate of God is now like the fate of Trees and stones, sun and moon Which they stopped believing in When they began believing in Him." His is a very Jewish voice connecting a struggle with understanding God to the natural world.

Our ancient texts are rich with imagery of, and commentary about, the Earth; after all, until a century ago, most rabbinic and poetic writers lived much closer to the Earth than do we today. In an ancient midrash, the rabbis remind us, "do not corrupt or destroy My world, for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you."



(Kohelet Rabbah 7:13)

On a totally different note, from the turn of the 19th century, a prayer of the Hasidic master Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav reminds us of the importance of getting outdoors: "Grant me the ability to be alone, may it be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and grass, among all growing things and there may I be alone, and enter into prayer, to talk with the One to whom I belong." Are walking and hiking and kayaking Jewish experiences? Most certainly, yes: They can enrich our spirits and renew our connection to the Divine; they can reconnect us to our responsibilities to care for the earth; and, if we take the time to name them as such, they can also remind us of our connection to the Divine. They can remind us that we are Jewish.

Rabbi Katy Z. Allen lives in Wayland, MA, and is a chaplain at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA, and the founder and leader of Ma'yan Tikvah - A Wellspring of Hope, a congregation without walls based in Wayland that has services outdoors all year round. She leads interfaith programs connecting Earth and religion through the Ruah Spirituality Institute, a program of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries of Newton, MA.

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When we plan a day trip to the beach these days, we certainly consider how much we will spend on gas. The family discusses whether to go to the local pool where the kids attend day camp or possibly travel the distance to the beach for a complete change of scenery. If you do not have the money to travel, the wiser choice is probably one of the excellent local pool facilities.

My parents, however, could afford neither a car nor a vacation! Their solution was to pay a neighbor for gas and have us kids ride in an open truck once or twice on a Sunday during the summer so that my siblings and I could go to the beach 75 miles away. It would take two hours on the road. You have to understand how we small children were packed into that truck like sardines, certainly in a way that would not be allowed today; we even had to shlep blankets to sit on in back there!

We always brought a shopping bag filled with towels and bathing suits, and the night before, mother would have filled an insulated jug with her special juice punch made from freshly-squeezed oranges and lemons mixed with sugar and water. We also lugged along a beach umbrella and a satchel which looked like a large gym bag. It was full of delicious kotletan, beef burgers which my mother made early Sunday morning, packed in a stainless steel bowl, and wrapped in a heavy towel to keep them warm. And, of course, we also had a container of half sour pickles, a bag of bulkie rolls, paper plates, cups, napkins, and plenty of fruit and cookies!

The enjoyment we had going in the water with the waves splashing up against us and playing in the sand made the long trip worthwhile. Tired, happy, and sunburned, we would come home just before dark and leave everything--absolutely covered with sand!-- on the back porch. Monday morning my mother would run the washing machine and then hang everything on the clothes line to dry . . . so that we would be all ready for the next time!

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer. (And do try my Bubbe Burgers!)

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Bubbe has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, on ABC World News, and in The Boston Globe. Her show can be seen online or on TV on JLTV Comcast Channel 196 in Boston. Check out the exclusive behind-the-scenes video of the photo shoot for their new book at www.bubbebook.com. Used with permission from Chalutz Productions.

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Mix all ingredients together. Form 5 or 6 patties. Pre-heat a slightly greased fry pan (or grill) on medium heat. Cook 8-to-10 minutes on each side, as desired. Notes: Serve on a bulkie roll. Add ketchup and mustard, and/or sliced onions. Serve with a side of a half sour pickle and/or vegetarian baked beans. Meal can easily be packed for a picnic to enjoy later.

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A Summer of Synagogues



By Susie Davidson

Are you guilty of seeking out Jewish areas while traveling? You're not alone. We may be on a mission to discover other regions, get away from it all, enjoy scenic beauty and explore unfamiliar surroundings, but let's face it, even on a day trip, we can't escape that longing for connection. It's ingrained. Anywhere and anytime we see Jews walking to shul, it gives us a warm and homey feeling.

So how about following them in? Jewish experiences can only enhance a vacation, and provide a chance to mingle with new people, touch base with familiar songs and prayers, maybe even taste oneg and Kiddush offerings from other locales. Kids can burn off steam while doing what they do best, instantly introducing themselves and playing with new friends. They, and you, could even make new social networking friends who might travel to Boston themselves one day.

You might wish to observe a holiday or Shabbat. And if you need to recite Kaddish, you couldn't find a more empathetic and supportive gathering of people who truly understand how you're feeling, and what you need to do.

For all of these reasons, why not make time to add some haimische touches to your sunny days, starry nights, sightseeing treks, shopping sprees, oceans, lakes and pools, festivals, barbeques and other vacation indulgences and enjoyments?

We queried some synagogues located in popular New England traveling destinations on their summer offerings. Turns out, there's a lot going on, and not all that far from home. For further out, just Google and then contact them yourself. You just might receive a friendly, detailed invitation.

You can help Temple Ahavat Achim celebrate their new home in Gloucester. The Conservative shul's building was destroyed in an eight-alarm fire in 2007, but they have relocated to 86 Middle St., with new Rabbi Steven Lewis beginning on Aug. 1. "On Sunday, July 24 we are holding an Open House to thank the Jewish Community on the North Shore and beyond who were so supportive at the time of the fire," said spokesperson Amy Farber. The event is 11 a.m.-2 p.m., with welcoming remarks at noon. Email office@taagloucester.org or call 978-281-0739.

On your way to the Cape, stop at Congregation Beth Israel of Onset, which has a long and proud history at 7 Locust St. Once the summer synagogue of Maimonides School founder and renowned Rabbi and Talmudist scholar Joseph B. Soloveitchik, the Orthodox

shul is run by Eli and Wendy Hauser of Sharon. They open their 62nd season on July 1 with Mel Greenbaum as Religious Director. Rentals are available in the seaside village, and there are two daily minyans as well as daily morning, evening, and Shabbat services that include a Kiddush. Email ehauser@capecodshul.org or call 508-295-9185 or 781-784-7153.

Once you've crossed the bridge into the state's summer paradise of Cape Cod, you've got many options to connect with, share and enjoy your Judaism. The Falmouth Jewish Congregation is a Reform shul led by Rabbi Elias J. Lieberman, located at 7 Hatchville Rd. in East Falmouth. Services run throughout the summer, such as regular Thursday "Deck Discussions." Email falmouthjewish.org/contact or call 508-540-0602.

In Hyannis, the Reform Cape Cod Synagogue is located at 145 Winter St., and led by Rabbi David Freeland. Email office@ccsynagogue.org or call 508-775-2988. Chabad Lubavitch of Cape Cod is at 745 West Main St. Hyannis; email Rabbi Yekusiel Alperowitz at info@chabadcapecod.com or call 508-775-2324.

On the Islands, the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, led by Rabbi Caryn Broitman, is a Reform synagogue (Reconstructionist prayer books are used) on Centre St. in Vineyard Haven. According to First Vice President Sally Cohn, Friday evening and Saturday morning services are held, as well as services on the beach. Office manager Max Jasny cited the MVHC Summer Institute, which screens films of Jewish interest on Sunday evenings at the Center's Harriet B. Freedberg Learning Center. The Center also hosts a lecture series with prominent speakers on Thursday evenings. Guests have included Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize-winning writers, and political leaders. Cultural, religious, educational and social programs are conducted throughout the year as well.

The speaker series will feature Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns, who has served three presidents, on July 7. Global economist, forecaster and strategist Allen Sinai and Harvard Business School professor and corporate strategy expert Joseph L. Bower will address the audience on July 14. Congressman Barney Frank will be the July 21 speaker, discussing American politics and national security. Oscar-nominated filmmaker and noted author Sebastian Junger will appear on July 28; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson on Aug. 4; and concert pianist and psychiatrist Richard Kogan will discuss the mind and music of Leonard Bernstein and West Side Story on Aug. 11. Saxophonist and ethnomusicologist Leonard Brown will speak on August 14; and on Aug. 21, the series will feature American theatrical critic, producer, playwright and educator Robert Brustein for a book signing and talk. Brustein, who received a National Medal of Arts from President Obama in March, will discuss the attack on high art "from the left, right and center of the political spectrum."

Actor and comic Marty Nadler, who wrote for television series that included "Happy Days" and "Laverne & Shirley," will present his one-man show, "Very Vineyard 2011," on Aug. 25. On Aug. 28, "Sabbatical in Jerusalem," a slide show, will be presented with Elizabeth Langer and Richard Chused. The film "Pretzniks" will be shown on Sept. 1, with commentary Director/Producer Slawomir Grunberg and a Q&A period with Anita Hotchkiss. On Oct. 16, Lehman Lectures will present a panel discussion.

"Please note that we will have Joshua Nelson, 'the Prince of Jewish Gospel,' for a concert on August 16," said Jasny. As if all this wasn't enough!

The Hebrew Center was founded in 1940, and has grown to 350 family units. A religious school meets on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Email mvhc.office2@verizon.net or call 508-693-0745.

On the island of Nantucket, Congregation Shirat Ha Yam, a "pluralistic Jewish Congregation," celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008. Weekly Shabbat services are held in season at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Orange Street, officiated by visiting Rabbis, cantors or local laity. An oneg Shabbat follows. "We have ticket-free high holiday services, led by Rabbi Judith Edelstein, and a communal Break the Fast," said President Susan Bloom. Rabbi Edelstein, the Rabbi-in-Residence of Nantucket, is a native New Yorker who holds a B.A. and an M.A. from The City College of New York, CUNY, and received her Rabbinic ordination from the Academy for Jewish Religion in 1997.

Shirat Ha Yam sponsors a public series, also with notable speakers. Bloom said that Emmy-winning news and documentary producer

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Jon Entine will discuss his book "Abraham's Children: Race, Identity and the DNA of the Chosen People" at Shabbat services on July 8, which will be led by Student Rabbi Jessica Shimberg. On July 15, Daniel Ben Natan, who is the V.P. of Development and International Relations at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem will discuss the Museum's collections. On July 17, Ben Natan will display private and commercial collections and discuss the Museum's acquisition and exhibition processes; the evening will conclude with a cocktail reception at a private home.

Shabbat services on July 22 will feature Rabbi Edelstein discussing: "Divided We Stand, United We Fall: Not Much Has Changed Since Biblical Times." Rabbi Edelstein will also speak about "Jewish Ethics: Their Role in Your Life" on July 23 at an island location.

August is a full month, with a "Klezmer & Beyond" concert at the Egan Institute on 4 Winter St. featuring pianist/composer Simon Sargon and clarinet soloist Jonathan Cohler, followed by a wine and desert reception. On Aug. 5, Jean Chatzky, the Financial Editor of NBC's Today Show and author of personal finance books, will speak on the economy at the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat services.

Award-winning MAD Magazine cartoonist Al Jaffe will speak at Shabbat Services on Aug. 12, and on Aug. 19, Rabbi James Rudin, former National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, will discuss his book "Christians and Jews - Faith to Faith." Rabbi Rudin will also lead a Saturday study session on the 20th. Shabbat services on Aug. 26 will feature Student Rabbi Samantha Safran Bodner of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College of Philadelphia. She will lead the following day's study session as well.

On Sept. 2, the speaker will be Daniel Lubetsky, Director of Peaceworks, An Israeli-Palestinian manufacturing collaborative that produces KIND brand snack foods. Sept. 9 will be a Shabbat on the Beach. A dessert reception and service will be held at a private home on Sept. 23. High Holiday services begin on Sept. 28; joining Rabbi Edelstein will be Cantorial Soloist Elliot Levine, and Children's Services will be included.

If you haven't yet visited this charming island, any one of the

above events is certainly a good reason to board the ferry. Email shayam@comcast.net or call 508-228-6588.

Western Mass., a green and precious jewel of our state with unmatched natural and cultural attractions, also has a vibrant Jewish community. There are shuls in Great Barrington, North Adams, Northampton and other Western sites. But you might be surprised by the significant Judaic presence in Pittsfield, located just above the cultural mecca of Lenox. The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, located at 196 South St., has an informative web site with a Berkshire community guide and a 2011 Berkshires' Jewish Summer guide, chock full of concerts, classes, talks, services, outings, films and

other events. Held in concert with The Berkshire Hills Hadassah, Chabad of the Berkshires, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Kneset Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and Temple Anshei Amunim, the very full slate includes the Miami Boys Choir on July 17 at Lenox High School; a "Follow The Thread: America's Jewish Immigrants and The Birth of the Garment Industry" multimedia print exhibit at the Berkshire Historical Society at Herman Melville's Arrowhead in Pittsfield; "Nosh and Dros" every Wednesday at Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Great Barrington; Wednesday "Torah Thoughts" at Chabad of the Berkshires, 450 South St., Pittsfield.

The Jewish Family Service of Western Mass. is located at 15 Lenox St. in Springfield. Visit www.jfswm.org or call 413-737-2601. Chabad of the Berkshires is also producing the July 10 Challapalooza: Berkshire Jewish Music Festival featuring the Kapelye Klezmer Band, at Lenox Memorial High School's Duffin Theater. Email Jewishberkshires@gmail.com, visit www.jewishberkshires.com, or call 413-499-9899.

Rabbi David Weiner of Congregation Kneset Israel, a Conservative synagogue at 16 Colt Rd. in Pittsfield, says that the shul offers a wide range of religious and cultural activities each summer, and will host a concert with Jewish gospel singer Joshua Nelson on Monday evening, Aug. 22 and an Aug. 31 dinner-and-theater event which will include the Barrington Stage Company's production of Chaim Potok's "My Name is Asher Lev." "Community Shabbat



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A Summer of Synagogues

dinners, with seating by reservation, will take place the first Friday night in July and August, following a participatory musical service at 5:30 p.m.," said Rabbi Weiner. Knesset Israel also hosts the only egalitarian daily minyan in Berkshire County.

This year, according to Rabbi Weiner, will be the 25th anniversary of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (<http://berkshirejewishfilmfestival.blogspot.com>), which is open to the public and occurs on Mondays at 4 and 8 p.m. at Lenox Memorial High School, from July 11-Aug. 15. One of the longest-running Jewish film festivals in the U.S., the series will screen 12 movies from the U.S., Argentina, Germany, Israel, and France. The concert with Joshua Nelson and his Kasher Gospel, preceded by a 6:45 p.m. reception, will close out the Festival. For information on the film Festival and other Congregation Knesset Israel programs, visit www.knessetisrael.org, email Office@knessetisrael.org, or call 413-445-4872.

Summer services and events are also hosted at Temple Anshe Amunim, a Reform shul at 26 Broad St. in **Pittsfield** led by Rabbi Joshua Breindel. According to Communications Committee Volunteer Jackie Browner, the community is welcome to come and enjoy all services, which are held on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays. "We have many summer events, and a partial list includes a Wednesday series held on July 6, 13, 20 and 27 on 'Exploring Jewish Identity: Plays by Arthur Miller and Alfred Uhry,' presented by Dr. Barbara Waldinger," said Browner. She also cited Sat. July 16's presentation by Rabbi Breindel of "The Golem: Part II - To the Stars"; a July 31 "Shake, Rattle and Roll" dance party and dinner; a Sun. Aug. 14 "Finding the Past in Surprising Sources - An Interactive Jewish Genealogy Research Session" presented by Keren Weiner; a Sunday, Aug. 28 - Trash to Treasures, Tag Sale and food court; and the 44th Annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture on Sunday, Sept. 18 with speaker and former Ambassador to Israel Martin S. Indyk. Email templeoffice@rnetworx.com or call 413-442-5910.

In nearby, beautiful **Lenox**, we came upon not one, but two downtown shops displaying antique Judaica. "After the 4th of July is when things pick up," said Marcy Cohen of Past and Future Fine Antiques at 63 Church St. "Our population goes from maybe 2,000 to 20,000 Jews in the summer," she continued. "We have Jewish overnight camps, and parents come through," she said.

On Cohen's shelves are an ample collection of exquisite vintage Judaica, and several antique maps of Israel adorn a wall. How does she acquire her pieces? "The estate dealers go in, and they don't really get it," she replied. "A lot of times, I feel like I'm just rescuing them," she said, admitting that many times, she sells the items for what she paid.

The Pittsfield resident has operated her store for over ten years. Her collection includes 19th and early 20th Century antiques, made of sterling, porcelain and other materials. She also displays women's vanity items and desk items. It's a cheery, airy place, far from the stereotypical gloomy and dark environs of antique shops. This is especially true as one wanders out the side door and encounters the whimsical sculpture garden of local artist Tom Fiorini, a

biker-looking, muscle-shirted genial man who wears both a cross and a Jewish star around his neck. "I can't make up my mind," he explains, leading us to a patch among the animals, birds, furniture, signage and other large objects, to a section of Judaic structures that include a wrought-iron Shalom and a Star of David.

Next door at 65 Church St., Linda Strauch operates "Lenox Judaica," an elegant shop with a colorful and beautiful selection of jewelry, ritual objects and unusual items such as Ellis Island dolls, tallitot, apple and honey boards, Challah knives, and simcha gifts. "Judaica of Exceptional Beauty" states the web site, and we believe it. "I started collecting, and opened the store 23 years ago, when my children were three and five at the time," explained Strauch, a Pennsylvania native. "I had converted to Judaism when I was 15," she said, "and I wanted my kids to have a Jewish foundation." She explained her motivation of "*Hiddur Mitzvah*," which is a beautification of the *Mitzvah* - in her case, "owning beautiful Jewish ceremonial objects."

Strauch also owns the remarkable Wit ("Wonders in Time") Gallery at 27 Church St., where a sculpted dog, one of many works she features by artist Stanley Marcus, beckons out front. She said she began her collecting by talking with artists who design. After parting company with these three fascinating purveyors of Jewish art, we backed up the car after noticing a street corner embellished with more of Marcus' simply amazing figurines of classical musicians.

Head up north to **New Hampshire** to enjoy the Lakes Region, White Mountains and other scenic areas. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is located at 698 Beech St. in Manchester. Email: office@jewishnh.org or call 603-627-7679. Other **Manchester** Jewish sites include Temple Israel, a Conservative shul at 66 Salmon St. (Email office@templeisraelmht.org or call 603-622-6171); and Temple Adath Yeshurun, a Reform synagogue at 152 Prospect St. "We have Shabbat services in the summer at 6 p.m. on the first Friday of the month, and at 7 p.m. on the remaining weeks," said Rabbi Beth D. Davidson. Torah Study is held most Saturdays at 10 a.m. It's Adam Sandler's family's home synagogue. Email templeadathy@comcast.net or call 603-669-5650.

Chabad/Lubavitch of New Hampshire is also in Manchester, at 7 Camelot Place. Email info@lubavitchnh.com or call 603-647-0204.

Congregation Betenu is a Reform synagogue at 5 Northern Blvd. in **Amherst**. Rabbi Joshua Segal, a former engineer with a doctorate in his technical field, retired in 2001 after a 28-year career with the MITRE Corporation. He is also a Certified Alpine ski instructor with 30 years experience, and currently teaches at Crotched Mountain.

"Our congregants are eager to meet new people and welcome them into our cozy New Hampshire community," said spokesperson Rahel Limor, who extended an invitation to join them every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., "as we usher in Shabbat in song and prayer and enjoy a scrumptious *oneg* treat." This summer, their events will include a June 19 World Coffeehouse with Israeli musician Bruce Burger, a/k/a "Rebbe Soul," and a Jewish Jam with international musician Rahel on July 9 and Aug. 6 at 5 p.m. (attendees are encouraged to bring instruments, voices, original song sheet music, and spirit; the session concludes with a Havdalah service). Email betenu@betenu.org or call 603-886-1633.



Marcy Cohen of Past and Future Fine Antiques

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At the unaffiliated and historic Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, located at 39 Strawberry Hill in **Bethlehem** in the White Mountains, Jewish residents in New Hampshire's North Country enjoy year-round services, simchas and events. "All are invited to these events, and additional information can be found on our web site www.bethlehemsynagogue.org," said President David Goldstone.

In the summer months, hundreds of Hasidim, including members of the Satmar and other sects, populate Bethlehem, and "Glatt Kosher" signs are posted at town sites. Some Hasidic Jews tour Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation to take in its 19th century charm.

Hazzan Marlena Fuerstman said daily Shabbat and holiday services including a Tuesday afternoon community-wide service for peace and healing will be held, and many *simchas* are scheduled for this summer. From Aug. 12-15, a Family Ketubah Exhibit will be displayed in the Goldstone

Library, with an opening reception and service. On the 13th, a Brunch & Learn will feature Ancient Hebrew Love Poems by Prof. Edwin Seroussi. "Our BHC Cultural Series at the Colonial Theatre will offer four

films and one concert, all introduced by Hebrew University Head of School of the Arts Professor Edwin Seroussi," said Fuerstman. "Geoffrey Brahmmer will return for another of his series of photography from the Shoah, and this year he will present on Aug 26 on the Kovno Ghetto." A Sept. 10 Shabbat Lamishpacha and a Sept. 11 concert and lecture by Prof. Seroussi round out the final summer month.

Email davegoldstone@msn.com or call 603-869-5465. You might wish to travel to **Keene** to see the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Keene State College. Congregation Ahavas Achim is a Reconstructionist synagogue at 84 Hastings Ave. Email secretary.ahavas.achim@gmail.com or call 603-352-6747. Temple B'nai Israel, a Reform shul in **Laconia** at 210 Court St. in the heart of the Lakes Region surrounding Lake Winnepesaukee, holds two memorable summer events, the July 10 Jewish Food Festival and a Havdalah on the Lake cruise on Aug. 6. Rabbi J. Hannah Orden is the synagogue's full-time Rabbi and a 2010 graduate of Hebrew College.

According to publicist Barbara Morgenstern, the food fest, held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., is an annual event featuring traditional Jewish dishes including blintzes, kugels, knishes, strudels, stuffed cabbage, matzo ball soup, brisket and tongue sandwiches, chopped liver, cheese cakes and more, attended by people throughout the

surrounding area. Admission is free and food costs are listed on a menu. Take-out items are also available. "Don't be late; there are never any leftovers!" she says.

"The Temple cooks, led by Irene Gordon, toy with tradition only by adding ever-more succulent foods, and by annually increasing the amount of food prepared," she said. They begin cooking and freezing three months before the Festival. "The more we prepare, the more food is consumed," said Gordon. "Every year, I request another freezer to accommodate our output!" This year, packages of brisket, corned beef and tongue, available nowhere else in the Lakes Region, will be sold. Call 603-267-1935 to place orders, which can be picked up on the Festival day.

The synagogue's "Nearly New Boutique" will be open during the Festival, and prizes donated by area eateries and businesses will be



Stanley Marcus sculptures



Linda Strauch of Lenox Judaica

raffled off. In addition, a bakery will offer traditional and memorable cakes and pastries. "Follow that with a stop at Jared Aronson's 'Madhouse Tee Shirts' booth for an amusing non edible souvenir of the day," suggested Morganstern.

Havdalah on the Lake leaves at 8 p.m. from the Weirs Beach docks in Laconia aboard the M/V Doris E, a 78-foot long cruiser that holds 125 people. "We cruise on Lake Winnepesaukee until the first three stars are sighted," said Morganstern. A Havdalah service and singing will be led by Cantorial Soloist Melody Funk, accompanied by Rabbi Orden. Desserts and soft drinks will be provided by members of Temple B'nai Israel. Email President Marsha Ostroff at marshaostroff@hotmail.com, visit www.templebnaiisraelaconianh.org, or call 603-524-7044.

Enriching your travel plans with any, or many of the above offerings can only make your summer more memorable. Set those GPS's, meet some new "mishpechah," and learn and enjoy!

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Letters to the Editor

Unveiling the Hidden Gem of Jewish Jamaica

The United Congregation of Israelites
SYNAGOGUE "SHAARE SHALOM"
92 Duke Street, Kingston

email: shareshalom@cwjamaica.com website: www.ucija.org
June 15, 2011

Dear Shirley,

I was directed by a friend by email to read your latest publication dated April 4, 2011 which included the article on Jamaica's historic Jewish community. The title "Unveiling the Hidden Gem of Jewish Jamaica" was inspiring, so much so that even as a member this community I was attracted to read it in full. I was not disappointed.

You treated us with accuracy and the respect that one hopes comes with over 350 years of existence in a world that has never been kind to Jews. You gave us the credit for seeking to document our rich history through the work of the scholars who presented papers at our ground breaking conference last year in Kingston. I am happy to inform you that we expect later this year the publication of a book of a selection of the papers that were presented at this international conference.

May I, through your eminent publication, invite those of your readers who plan to visit Jamaica to spend at least a day with us at our Jewish Heritage Centre and take in some of our history. We can be reached by visiting our website at www.ucija.org All are welcome. Shalom, *Ainsley Henriques - Hon. Secretary/Director*

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Everyday Anti-Semitism in Our Own Backyards?

By Phil Fogelman,
Education Director, Anti-Defamation League New England

It would be a comforting to regard anti-Semitism in New England as a concern of the past, and not surprisingly, many members of the Jewish community do. After all, housing and other forms of discrimination against Jews, so commonplace only decades ago, have become relatively unknown. Similarly, anti-Semitic rallies by local white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups, along with anti-Semitic leafleting on lawns, are no longer front page news.

But look very closely and you will see anti-Semitism is not uncommon but alive and well in our own backyards. Those who encounter it most frequently are school-age children. Some of these children talk about their encounters in ADL-sponsored workshops at their synagogues. As part of the ADL's Confronting Anti-Semitism Program, these "Family Awareness" workshops provide young people with a safe environment to discuss anti-Semitism openly with their parents. For many families, this is the first time the subject has ever been a topic of conversation.

Imagine, then, the reaction of parents when they learn that their middle school children have heard classmates tell Holocaust jokes, or that they have been blamed for the absence of Christmas celebrations in school or for the Middle East conflict, or have been taunted with anti-Semitic remarks on the playing field. Then there's the swastika on a desk or locker . . . or the penny tossed in the cafeteria or on the school bus.

For many Jewish children, the dilemma of whether to respond to such anti-Semitism takes precedence over the question of how to respond. If they or their parents were to confront the perpetrators and report the anti-Semitic behavior, who's to say such behavior would not continue or even escalate? And, if a Jewish child attends a school where few (if any) classmates or teachers are Jewish, how can that child be assured that, after the incident has been reported, he or she would not feel even more isolated?

Students such as these and other Jewish parents and children who participate in ADL's "Family Awareness" workshops are able to address this dilemma by looking at what can happen when anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry are not confronted. Stereotypes and scapegoating may lead to greater acts of prejudice such as bullying and cyberbullying, or could escalate to discriminatory exclusion, or serve as rationales for vandalism or assault. At the same time, workshop participants learn that they, like the rest of us, must fearlessly stand up as allies for each other, allies who go up to the student who's experiencing anti-Semitism and say something supportive, such as, "I heard what happened and I want you to know that you are not alone. What can I do to help?"

For more information about "Confronting Anti-Semitism" and other ADL New England programs, please call 617-406-6300 or email boston@adl.org.

*We confront anti-Semitism and
promote fair treatment for all.*

Michael N. Sheetz
Regional Board Chair

Derrek L. Shulman
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COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

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Temple Sinai holds annual Shabbat on the Lawn Friday, July 29, 2011

Join the Temple Sinai Community on Friday, July 29 for its annual "Shabbat on the Lawn" and barbecue. Each summer, the congregation celebrates its beautiful surroundings outside the temple building at 25 Canton Street, Sharon, with a short "Shabbat on the Lawn" service at 6 p.m., at the Temple's outdoor chapel, followed by a free barbecue dinner. The service will be led by Rabbi Joseph Meszler and Cantor Jeff Klepper. It's a wonderful chance to get together as a Temple family and to welcome new and prospective members. All current, new, and prospective members are welcome. Please RSVP to the temple office at 781-784-6081 by Wednesday, July 27.

Shalom Magazine is published 4 times a year. To advertise in on our Rosh Hashana edition, coming up in September, please call Scott at 781-975-0482 or email: shalomMA@msn.com. The magazine is distributed free of charge. If your congregation or organization would like to receive it please let us know.

Celebrating Richard Mintz and Honoring His Dream Sunday September 25, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm 18 Philips St, Boston

Please save the date of Sunday September 25, 2011 to join us here at the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture for a celebration of the life of Richard Mintz and to honor his dream of restoring this historic building. For more information call 617-523-2324 or email info@vlnashul.org.

The State of Anti-Semitism Today November 9, 2011 at 6:00pm

ADL New England Presents an Exclusive Panel Presentation on the Anniversary of Kristallnacht: "The State of Anti-Semitism Today" at the Faneuil Hall.

For more information contact: Anti-Defamation League, New England Region at: 617-406-6364 or visit www.adl.org/new-england.

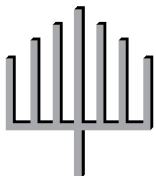
Save the Date December 4, 2011

LimmudBoston 2011 will take place at Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Chestnut Hill. LimmudBoston is an annual celebration of Jewish culture for everyone exploring their Jewish journey. LimmudBoston includes text and study and food and music and all kinds of sessions for all ages and all learners. For information visit: www.LimmudBoston.org or email: info@LimmudBoston.org.

Prospective members welcome!

Shabbat on the Lawn & Shabbat BBQ dinner Friday, July 29

6 p.m. Shabbat service
Free BBQ dinner immediately following



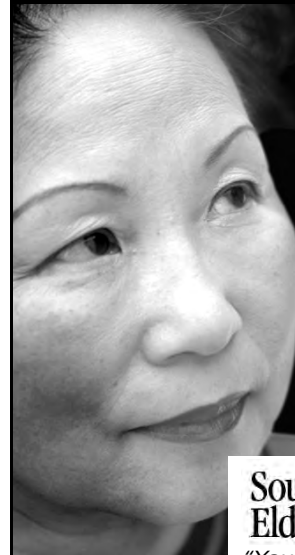
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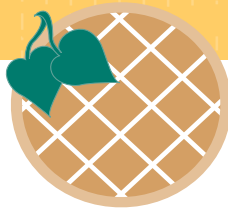
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Shalom Magazine offers free event listing to all non-profit Jewish organizations. One event per organization up to 3 sentences, space is limited. Please email text only (no attachments) to: shalomMA@msn.com.

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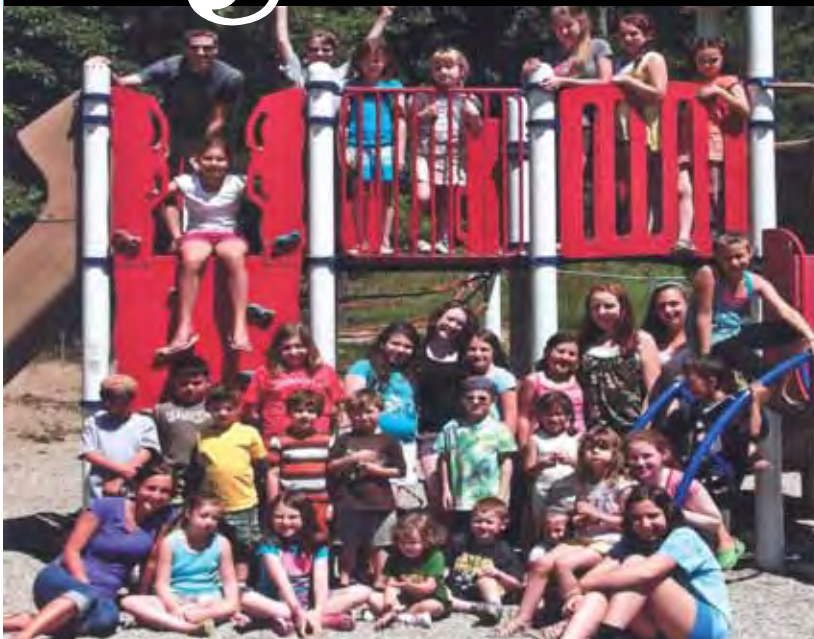


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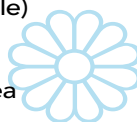
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