

Youth Help Community



B'nai B'rith Youth Organization volunteers (left to right) Ellie Boswell, Alex Rubin, Kevin Diamond and Sarah Steinberg make calls at day one of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico's "Call Up" telethon on the evening of Sunday, January 23. More than \$60,000 was raised that day in support of Jewish organizations and programs in New Mexico, Israel and around the world.

Brunch and Learn Comes to Rio Rancho



Dr. Sara Koplik, director of Hillel at the University of New Mexico, presents "Vulnerable Jewish Communities Around The World: Survival Strategies" at the Jewish Federation of New Mexico's kickoff "Brunch and Learn" for Jews in Rio Rancho, Corrales and throughout Sandoval County on the morning of Jan. 16.

The next "brunch and learn" will be held on Sunday, Feb. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Inn at Rio Rancho, and will feature Schelly Talalay Dardashti on "It's in Our Genes: Revealing History via Technology." Dardashti focuses on Jewish genealogy as a journalist, blogger, international speaker and instructor. She has authored, since 2006, the top-ranked independent "Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog," and her credits include genealogy and Jewish journals, magazines and newspapers in the U.S. and elsewhere; she was the Jerusalem Post genealogy columnist ("It's All Relative," 1999-2005), and received the National Genealogical Society (U.S.) 2010 "Award for Excellence: Genealogical Methods and Sources." She is also the genealogy advisor (USA) of MyHeritage.com, a major sponsor of the 2011 "A Taste of Honey" program at the Albuquerque JCC. There is no cost to attend these brunch events, which are generously underwritten by Jon Bell CPA. RSVP required to Sherry Roy at 505-821-3214 or sherry@jewishnewmexico.org.

Albuquerque Mayor Heading to Israel

Link Staff Report

To enhance economic and cultural exchange between Israel and New Mexico, Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry, along with his wife, Maria, and fourteen-year-old son, Jacob, will visit Israel from Feb. 18 to 24.

During this visit — a first for Berry and his family — Berry will participate in the Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Conference, meet with municipal authorities and business and technology leaders, visit Albuquerque's Sister City of Rehovot and Jewish and Christian sites in Jerusalem.

"I'm profoundly grateful to have the opportunity to visit Israel," said Berry. "Being able to investigate possible technological exchanges between Israel and Albuquerque is enormously exciting to me as both a city administrator and businessman always looking for innovations and new ideas."

The Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy International Conference and Exhibition is among the world's leading platforms for presenting technological innovation, business opportunities, policies and implementation in the renewable energy field. The conference brings together thousands of participants from all over Israel and abroad, and is seen as one of the world's premier gatherings on renewable energy.

"Water and renewable energy is what matters to New Mexico, and Israel is clearly the global innovator in both arenas," Berry continued. "I will be looking for tangible products, as well as connections with companies who want to do business in Albuquerque."



Mayor Richard Berry (center) with JFNM President Hank Crane (left) and NM-Israel Business Exchange Chair Robert Efroymson (right).

Aside from city business, Berry also views the upcoming trip as "an important affirmation of my faith. To finally visit the Holy Land is for me and my family the fulfillment of a long-time desire."

Berry also expressed his hope that his son, a student at Albuquerque's Annunciation Catholic School, will be able to interact with Israeli teens and help his fellow students better understand life in Israel.

Berry is expected to speak at the Eilat-Eilat conference on Smart Grid — a low-cost, environmentally sound digital electricity network that delivers electricity from suppliers to consumers using two-way digital communications — as a means for city governments to address energy independence, global warming and emergency resilience.

The Mayor's trip is being organized and funded by a consortium of individuals from New Mexico's Jewish and Christian communities who recognize the community relations, educational, ecumenical and

economic benefits of this trip for both New Mexico and Israel.

Robert Efroymson, immediate past president of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico and chair of the New Mexico-Israel Business Exchange, plans to meet Berry in Eilat to also represent New Mexico at the conference.

In addition to Efroymson, among the individuals helping set the Mayor's itinerary are Robert Feinberg, chairman and co-founder of NoAz Sourcing Limited; Albuquerque business consultant Robert Unthank; Bracha K. Shlomo, Trade and Investment Officer, Government of Israel Economic Office; Richard Buckler, president of the Sister Cities Foundation; Harold Albert, founder of the Rehovot-Albuquerque Sister City Partnership, and Sam Sokolove and Henry Crane, executive director and president of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.

Berry was sworn into office as Albuquerque's mayor on Dec. 1,

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Is Hezbollah Now in Charge of Lebanon?

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — With Lebanon in turmoil and a Hezbollah-backed prime minister poised to take power in Beirut, Israel is concerned at the prospect of a tectonic shift in the regional balance.

For the moment, however, Israeli officials do not expect Lebanon's political turmoil to trigger a new round of fighting on the Israel-Lebanon border.

The primary strategic concern of Hezbollah's ascent is the potential spread and strengthening of Iranian influence in the region. The so-called Shiite Crescent stretches from Tehran to Shiite-ruled Iraq, through Shiite-friendly Syria and into Lebanon, where Hezbollah, Iran's Shiite proxy, is now

in power. This extension of Iran's influence poses a serious threat to Israel from both the east and the north.

In Israel's view, Hezbollah's gambit — engineering the collapse of Saad Hariri's pro-Western government and pulling the strings to get its own candidate, billionaire business tycoon Najib Mikati, in line to replace him — constitutes a significant step toward moving the moderate, majority Sunni-Christian country into the radical Shiite Iranian orbit.

"The situation in Lebanon is dangerous. Hezbollah is not just another terrorist organization. It is a terrorist organization in control of a country," Silvan Shalom, Israel's minister for regional cooperation, said on Israel Radio. "The international community should do everything it can to prevent a

situation in which Lebanon becomes a hostage to Hezbollah and Iran."

Israeli analysts see a common denominator in the current regional turbulence in Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon. In all three cases, they say, radical, potentially pro-Iranian forces are making inroads at the expense of more moderate Sunni regimes. In other words, in the grand regional power struggle between the Iranian radicals and the Egyptian and Saudi-led moderates, the Iranians are making significant gains.

Despite the high strategic stakes and the volatility of the situation, Israeli officials do not expect another round of fighting between Hezbollah and the Israel Defense Forces at this stage.

[See LEBANON... Page 10](#)

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY SERVICES SECTION... PAGE 13

Addictions According to the Torah and Kabbalah

An Interactive Workshop with Rabbi Eitan Eckstein



The founder and director of Retorno Israel, the International Jewish Center for Prevention and Treatment of Addictions, will share his first-hand knowledge of addictions of all types (from substances to computer games to food), how they can be prevented, treated, and reasons addictions develop in the first place.

Date:	Time:	Location:
Friday 2/11	12:00 - 1:30pm	UNM Hillel 1701 Sigma Chi NE, Abq.
Sunday 2/13	2:00 - 3:00pm	A Taste of Honey, JCC 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, Abq.
Tuesday 2/15	7:45 - 8:45 pm	Congregation Beit Tikvah 2230 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe
Wednesday 2/16	6:15 - 7:15pm	Congregation Albert 3800 Louisiana Blvd., Abq.

For more information, please log on to www.retorno.org or email: eitan@retorno.org. For a private consultation locally, you can reach Rabbi Eckstein via his host, David Langer, at 505-259-8043

Extra Relevance in ATOH Sessions

Link Staff Report

A sense of urgency impels us to defend our future, to energize the present and to care for the past. These three concerns are among the mini-session offerings of "A Taste of Honey."

Each year "A Taste of Honey" explores Judaism and the Jewish experience with a stimulating opening speaker followed by varied mini-sessions. On Sunday, Feb. 13 the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque will host the event from 1 - 4:30 p.m.

An insidious threat endangers Israel and Jews around the world. The threat has its roots in the United Nations' Durban, South Africa conference on racism in 2001, where participants tried to equate Zionism with racism.

The threat to Israel, Jews and their interrelationship is irrespective of one's views concerning Zionism, settlements or the consequences of occupation. As a step to defend our future, Jewish Federation of New Mexico Executive Director Sam Sokolove will lead "The Delegitimization of Israel as an Assault Against the Jewish People."

Persistent propaganda on college campuses, in the public sector and in churches intends to demonize Israel, and by extension, Jews in general. Sokolove will examine how to take

the initiative. He will instruct attendees how to recognize the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) message. He will counsel how to refute BDS claims. Sokolove will explain how diverse Jewish organizations are combining efforts to preserve a future for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Experience how Tai Chi, the ancient Chinese form of exercise and martial arts, blends with Kabbalah, the mystical Jewish teachings. Energize the present with Levi Ben-Shmuel's "Sulam Chi: Prayer in Motion." Ben-Shmuel is an instructor of Tai Chi, an author and a radio host.

The movements and accompanying prayers drew inspiration from the shaking of the lulav and etrog at Sukkot. The fusion of two doctrines brings a powerful Divine energy into the body and engenders new focus. Attendees will learn simple, gentle and quick techniques to climb the Ladder of Life Force Energy.

Care for the past in order to cherish it. Noted practitioners Schelly Talalay Dardashti and Daniel Horowitz will deliver two separate mini-sessions on genealogy. Dardashti's "Genealogy 101 - Tracing Your Tribe" will look at the reasons why to start, what to do with found information and how to expand the search. Dardashti authors "Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog," and conducts seminars for MyHeritage.com. She will give

useful instruction and dispel common myths.

Horowitz will go to the next level with "Genealogy 201: Trace Your Ancestry with Technology's Newest Tools." He will demonstrate MyHeritage.com's newest free software, which tracks family history and enables relatives to join in the treasure hunt. His students regularly win international family tree competitions. Attendees at both mini-sessions will receive the new MyHeritage.com software.

"A Taste of Honey" will include an opening session keynote address, two groups of mini-sessions and a post-event reception for artist Leo Neufeld, whose new exhibit "Capturing Neshama/Soul of Life" will be hanging in the JCC gallery.

The program brochure and registration form may be downloaded from the JCC Web site: www.jccabq.org. The cost of the full program is \$30. Indulgence Café will offer food for purchase at the event, and a prepaid, dairy, boxed lunch may be ordered via the registration form.

For further information, contact Phyllis Wolf, JCC program director, at 505-348-4500 or phyllisw@jccabq.org. "A Taste of Honey" thanks its major funder, MyHeritage.com, the popular family genealogical network available on the Web. The JCC is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.

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Leo Neufeld Exhibits at the JCC

By Phyllis Wolf

Leo Neufeld, Albuquerque-based Jewish fine artist whose acclaimed portraits and landscapes have garnered numerous awards will exhibit at the JCC during the month of February as part of the JCC's annual celebration of Jewish life and culture. His exhibit is titled, "Capturing Neshama/Soul of Life."

The show will feature a range of oil painted portraits, seascapes and landscapes from Neufeld's extensive oeuvre. An opening reception will be held on Feb. 13 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. directly following this year's A Taste of Honey event. Participants from the event as well as the general public are invited to attend.

Neufeld's art is devoted to visually expressing the human spirit. He explains: "I strive to create an intimate connection between me and the very real person or scene I am attempting to portray. I believe it is a connecting energy that comes from a greater source. It is this energy which motivates the creative process and it is really a very personal form of prayer or meditation. It is also a way to truly connect with and express the human experience. I feel that is what the truly great artists have tried to do — express this feeling, this connection that transcends time and space."

Neufeld has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and has been commissioned by many institutions to paint portraits for their universities or museums including the Albuquerque Museum of Art, City Hall and the Santa Fe State Capitol collection.

His awards and recognition have included: The Best of Burque 2001 and 2005; Best Local Visual Artist, First Place: Oil Painting, New Mexico State Fair (1997); Fellowship Recipient, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Indiana; and Best of Show, Indiana



Leo Neufeld

State Fair (1993, 1992, 1990).

He graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison (1972) with a major in painting/drawing and continued studies at the Art Students League of New York among other distinguished art schools. Neufeld has also taught painting and drawing for many years at the National Academy of Design/NYC and at the Harwood Art Center in Albuquerque since 1994.

Neufeld's art has in no small way been shaped by his experience as a child of two Holocaust survivors. He recounts: "Both of my parents were each in six concentration camps and survived the Holocaust."

Neufeld traveled to his hometown of Milwaukee, Wisc., to paint portraits of Holocaust survivors in 2004. "The people I painted are the *greenah*, a term which refers to the newcomers to the United States. I was sponsored by the Coalition for Jewish Learning, which is the umbrella organization for the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Milwaukee. I spent four weeks in the community, and painted 11 oil portraits from life. These portraits became the property of the HERC. This project is a contin-

uation of the portraits I painted of my parents, who are both gone, and I felt an urgency to document the remaining survivors, as each year there are fewer."

In 2009-10 Neufeld painted five New Mexico-based Holocaust survivors, whose portraits were included in the Anne Frank Remembered Exhibit produced by the NM Human Rights Projects. These will be included in the JCC exhibit as well.

Neufeld's style and technique have evolved significantly over the past several years from classical, pure realist portrayals to more impressionistic and freer expressions. An important component of his new work is his landscape paintings. These paintings are not created from photographs but rather in the *plein aire* tradition of the Old Masters.

Over months Neufeld will often hike to the location, canvas and oils in tow, in order to capture the essence of the beauty that he observes in nature. Many of these paintings were created in New Mexico, but several are from the Midwest and the West Coast.

Rather than brushes only, he now

See **NEUFELD** . . . Page 3

Las Vegas Community Continues to Grow

By Maggid Ya'el Chaikind

With 100 unaffiliated Jews, no synagogue, no rabbi, and no Jewish children or religious school in a rural county in Northern New Mexico, does it seem possible to build a thriving Jewish community?

With the assistance of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico (JFNM), the Las Vegas Jewish Community (LVJC) is exceeding all expectations. Since December 2009, I have worked with the Federation's Leadership Program to add Israeli folk dancing, *Havdalah*, spiritual storytelling, Purim festivities, Passover collage projects, and other cultural and educational programming to the LVJC's current repertoire of an annual Chanukah and Passover gathering, Torah study, and adult Hebrew classes.

The Leadership Program was launched by the Federation in the Fall of 2009 after identifying five vulnerable New Mexican Jewish communities in danger of fading away for good. As Maggid, I had dual goals: to meet the LVJC desires for "spiritual leadership" while meeting the Federation's goals of building community and creating a 501c3 for the LVJC. As a qualified non-profit, the community would be eligible for grants from Federation and elsewhere, enhancing the sustainability of this tiny Jewish enclave.

It has been a win-win ever since my first meeting with the LVJC, blending Maggidic magic as a spiritual educator and storyteller with my background as an author and former marketing executive to help grow the Jewish community in Las Vegas.

"Ya'el has been an inspirational guide on the individual and collective spiritual journeys of the Las Vegas Jewish Community!" said Diana

Presser, secretary of the LVJC.

Rebecca Weissman, cantor for the LVJC, commented on last year's programming, saying, "Thanks to you, our Purim observance was a lively party with over 20 people, including a van load of students from the United World College who clearly had a great time. Our Purim observance last year was two people sitting in a kitchen reading the Megillah."

"At the Israeli folk dance, Jews showed up who had never come to LVJC events before and were not affiliated with the LVJC. They came in response to advertising through the wider community, which was exactly what I'd hoped would happen," continued Weissman. "I personally enjoyed the combination of *Havdalah* service and party that you brought to that event and others. I think if there's any way to reintroduce the community to their Jewish spiritual tradition, that's the way to do it."

In addition to programming, members are passionate about having a dedicated Jewish space to house their events.

"It is no small fact that the Temple Montefiore here in Las Vegas was the first synagogue in New Mexico. I feel to successfully rebuild this Jewish community, we must have the synagogue back!" said Molly Smollett, a filmmaker and active LVJC member. "If we were able to get the synagogue back, we would need a yearly grant to pay for the utilities. At that point, perhaps the Federation could help us find the funds."

Built in 1877, the Temple Montefiore remained an active Jewish community until about the 1950s when the Jewish community faded from Las Vegas. The building now houses the Newman Chapel, and the LVJC holds

events there several times a year.

Last May, I surveyed key members of the LVJC to hear feedback on programming and next steps. Kaaren Caplan-Rougeux, another core member of the LVJC, said, "If we could come together as a unified unit we would certainly have more strength. Maggid Ya'el has made a step in the 'right direction' for us. If we could form a single minded vision for the LVJC that would be so wonderful!"

I am very pleased to report that this past December 2010, I facilitated a lively meeting with the LVJC and a *pro-bono* lawyer from SCORE (*today*, *Lance!*). The unanimous decision was to incorporate the Las Vegas Jewish Community as a non-profit organization, complete with a board of directors and officers. As we speak, the officers, led by Presser, tirelessly engaging her role as secretary, are finalizing the organization's by-laws. Lance continues to provide critical support to the newly minted Las Vegas Jewish Community, Inc.

Current officers are President Kaaren Caplan-Rougeux; Vice President Thomas Strain; Secretary Diana Presser; and Treasurer Larry Presser. Both Larry and Diana have served in these roles for most of the LVJC's history. Member Zelda McCrossen, also present at the meeting, plays a vital role as liaison between LVJC, Inc. and the United World College, where there are a number of Israeli and other Jewish students.

Upcoming Spring programming under discussion: Israeli folk dancing, challah baking, Purim, a real Maggid at Passover, and more.

May I present to you the Las Vegas Jewish Community, Inc., on their way to becoming a 501c3, full of ruach!

Local Resources Sustain Taos Jewish Center

By Beth Goldman

Executive Director, Taos Jewish Center

The Taos Jewish Center, a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico and undoubtedly a key Jewish New Mexico stakeholder, opened its doors almost nine years ago. It has evolved into a thriving hybrid, fulfilling the function of synagogue and educational, social and cultural center.

To what do they attribute their success? Possibly the two most important elements have been the willingness of their community members to step forward as volunteers and the uncovering of a vast range of resources and talent within their Taos community.

In the initial years, the Taos Jewish Center sought out teachers and program leaders from across the State — and the response was remarkable. Rabbis and guest lec-

turers traveled to Taos from Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Southern Colorado to present at Taos Jewish Center activities.

More recently however, new leaders have begun to emerge from within the Taos community, result-

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incorporates palette knife work to add surface texture and vibrancy to the work. He produced 19 paintings at Big Sur over summer of 2010, some of which will be displayed in this exhibit.

The reception will include a wine and cheese spread and will feature live entertainment provided by Albuquerque singer, songwriter and guitarist, Seth Hoffman, who is Neufeld's nephew.

Neufeld looks forward to this show, commenting: "I am very grateful and excited to be exhibiting again at the JCC. The new work has taken on a life force inspired by spending the last two summers in Big Sur, Calif. Come share the *neshema*!"

Price of original works will range from the low hundreds to several thousand dollars. Many will be for sale though some will be on loan from private collections including the artist's. A portion of proceeds will be donated by the artist to the JCC's cultural and arts programming.

For further information on this

exhibit and reception, contact Phyllis Wolf, JCC program director, at 505-348-4500 or phyllisw@jccabq.org. For more information on Neufeld, visit his website: www.leoneufeld.com. You can also view his work at Matrix Fine Art, 3812 Central SE, 505-268-8952. <http://www.matrixfineart.com>.

Leo Neufeld Art Exhibit:
Capturing Neshema/Soul of Life

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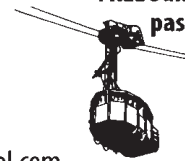
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Local Contacts: Jana Druxman 898-4057 or Debbie Seely 292-4286

Opinion



Dorothy Parker Slept Here

The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Jew, Part 10

By Sharon Niederman
The New Mexico Jewish Link

Ever since I found out that in 1934, the diva of the Algonquin Round Table, Dorothy Parker, married her second husband, Alan Campbell, for the first time at the El Portal Hotel (then known as the Seaburg European Hotel) in Raton, I have been intrigued with this out-of-the-way tidbit of literary trivia.

I have had visions of establishing "Dorothy Parker Day." We could dress as flappers, with the assistance of the Shuler Theater costume shop, and recite from the opus of the great quipstress and her Round Table associates. We could give prizes for the best look-alikes. We could serve food and drink apropos to her era. Or perhaps invite the Dorothy Parker Society and her biographers to meet here.

What a boost for tourism and economic development! We could stage a re-enactment of the Round Table, and a vintage car show to celebrate the 1929 Model T Flivver the couple drove down from Denver, where Campbell was doing summer stock at Elitch Gardens.

I feel a special tie to this as yet imaginary event, because I, too, celebrated my marriage with a party at the El Portal. (The historic hotel has since been destroyed by an electrical fire.)

But when the laughs were over, we would have to acknowledge that Dorothy Parker suffered in her lifetime for being assertively on the right side of history. After becoming radicalized by the Sacco and Vanzetti affair, she spoke out most vocally all her life for left-wing causes such as the anti-Franco forces in Spain and as a result was labeled a Communist and blacklisted after winning two Oscar nominations for screenwriting, including "A Star is Born."

Born Dorothy Rothschild of a German-Jewish father and a Scottish mother, she was dismissed from convent school for referring to Christ's birth as "spontaneous combustion." Her talent took her from Long Branch, N.J., to Vogue, Vanity Fair, the New Yorker and Esquire.

Author of popular verse, essays, criticism, short stories and scripts, she also wrote lyrics for the Billie Holiday classic, "I Wished on the Moon." How much she identified with Judaism I

do not know; however, she certainly behaved like a vital Jewish woman committed to doing the right thing, and she exhibited a Jewish spirit both melancholic and witty, while striving for tikkun olam.

Today she is regarded as a key influence on writers such as David Sedaris, Amy Sedaris, Nora Ephron, Fran Lebowitz, Candace Bushnell and Maureen Dowd.

She contributed her estate to Dr. Martin Luther King, and following his assassination, the legacy went to the NAACP. Her ashes remained in her lawyer's file cabinet for 17 years before the NAACP built her a monument in Baltimore, giving validity to the obituary she wanted: "Excuse my dust."

So let us think of Dorothy Parker today. She still makes us laugh with her quick, acerbic wit and ingenious wordplay:

"You can't teach an old dogma new tricks."

"Brevity is the soul of lingerie."

"I wish I could drink like a lady / I can take one or two at the most / Three

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Stand With Those Who Stand With Israel

By Robert Efroymsen
Chair, New Mexico-Israel
Business Exchange

The tone of the message left on the Jewish Federation of New Mexico's voicemail was apoplectic. How could the Jewish Federation work with an anti-Semite like Pastor John Hagee? The caller then ominously warned that the Albuquerque "Night to Honor Israel," created by Hagee for Christians and others to demonstrate solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people, would be protested.

The e-mail that followed by the caller offered the same degree of tact and reserve:

... this is a **FRICKIN'** disgrace ... Hagee should **NOT** be allowed to speak at this event!! ... he's a damn **MONSTER!!** ... what's **WRONG** with you guys????!!!!????

At the Night to Honor Israel event at the Albuquerque Convention Center, I could only stand among an estimated one thousand Christians and Jews and reflect on these complaints. How it was possible, I asked myself, that keynote speaker Dennis Prager, an observant Jew who literally wrote the book on anti-Semitism (*Why the Jews*, with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin), would appear on stage with an accused anti-Semite — nay, a "damn monster" — like Hagee?

Was I really to believe that, "Hagee is a wolf in sheep's clothing," as the complainer decreed? That his repeated and public declarations of support for the Jewish People and the Jewish State are blatant lies, crafted to hide a nefarious purpose? That he was cynically using the Jews to fulfill an apocalyptic vision that would hasten the return of the Christian Messiah?

As I strained to decipher the double meanings in Hagee's words, the only message I was able to hear that evening was, simply enough, one of love.

A love for the Jewish People rooted in the Christian faith, in particular Genesis 12:3, which Hagee has adapted as his clarion call: "I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you."

A clarion call that a half-million Christians have taken to heart, and taken up by joining Christians United for Israel (CUFI).

Unsurprisingly, the press release from a local organization "vigorously protest(ing) the participation of the New Mexico Jewish Federation (sic)" in A Night to Honor Israel, did little to dissuade people from coming, given the astounding turnout. Still, the release — sloppily written as it is — contains glaring errors that beg correction.

Firstly, it quotes Hagee's controversial remarks about Katrina as if he still stands by them, when in truth he has apologized for them. This is misleading at best and dishonest at worst (see: <http://www.pastorhagee.org/Fact5/Fact5.html>).

Second, the release named me as the chair of the event, when my role was far more limited; I introduced Prager. I would have been proud to chair the event of course, but it was a CUFI event after all, not a Federation event.

In the category of *Realpolitik*, some facts: despite the controversy engendered by CUFI in general and Hagee in particular, the Federation

believes that they represent critically important allies during a time of grave importance to Israel.

With the threat of a nuclear Iran looming, and activists working tirelessly in our media and on our college campuses to undermine the Jewish State, we cannot afford to alienate any friends, especially ones as prominent and effective as these, who each year mobilize thousands of citizens to Capitol Hill to lobby on behalf of Israel.

In addition to the political and financial support this organization offers to Israel, it has become commonplace for Federations to be working with CUFI; while it is understood that the evangelical community is associated with a wide range of issues and positions, not all of which enjoy universal support with the Jewish community, the presence of Federation should be understood to be an act of solidarity with their pro-Israel agenda. All accomplishment in the public arena requires coalition. As a good friend advised me: "If we demand perfect agreement on all issues we will stand alone."

Some community members, people I deeply respect, have expressed concern that the Federation's participation in A Night to Honor Israel suggests a tacit approval of everything CUFI, and more specifically, Hagee, believes. To be sure, Hagee is a prolific public speaker, and occasionally has uttered questionable phrases.

However, every time Federation representatives have spoken at CUFI events, we have been very clear that even friends do not agree on everything: our presence on the podium is not an endorsement of everything Hagee believes, and how could it be? He is an Evangelical Christian and we are Jews. That in no way takes away from his status as a true friend of the Jewish people.

Over the years, our relationship with the Christian Zionist community has deepened far beyond mere pragmatism; we disagree, debate, and get into good-humored tussles from time to time on matters of faith, theology and social issues. Yet I am proud to count many CUFI activists among my close personal friends.

Despite the breathless exhortations of some, many members of New Mexico's Jewish community did attend, some of them quite skeptically. One of them told me later that he found the sight of hundreds of Christians singing *HaTikvah* to be deeply moving; I spotted another community member, disinclined to overt *yiddishkeit*, dancing a joyous *hora* in a circle of Christians and Jews, momentarily united in pure celebration of the Jewish State.

While it is claimed that intolerance and bigotry lie at the core of Hagee and CUFI, I heard no expressions of hate that evening. In fact, the only truly hateful language I encountered was an e-mail, which offered these words amid the joyful fellowship; punishment for failing to heed the command to cancel the event:

... you should be ashamed of your wretched self ... you disgust me ...

That these comments were delivered in the immediate wake of the

See **STAND** . . . Page 5

"The Link is a community newspaper, published as a service by the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, that focuses on Jewish life in New Mexico. It is committed to seeing Jewish life thrive."

— Since 1971

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 Submission Policy: Letters to the editor, articles, calendar entries or other information to be considered for publication must be typed with return address and phone

Water, Water Everywhere? Not Really

By Boaz Fletcher
The New Mexico Jewish Link

(This is the second in a completely unintentional series — the first one was fire. If I can get the horns section in place I'll also get to Earth and Wind).

The commercials scream: We're in a drought, save water! Israel Is Dehydrating!

And whose fault is that? Apparently it's mine and so I am being punished.

What is my punishment? Since it's clearly my fault for our water deficit, by my clearly irresponsible activities such as bathing and cooking, I get to pay three times more for the same amount of water as I did last year.

I also get to watch my garden wither (limited in the amount of water I can use to water it) and use my finger to write "Wash Me!" in the archeological-quality layers of dust on my car that I'm not allowed to wash.

Not far from my home, from the peak of a nearby hill, and on a clear day of course, I can see the sea. It looks like a fairly big sea, which I understand is full of water. And it sits right next to the Beach of the State of Israel.

I have visited this sea a number of times — visiting, not as in dropping in to say hi and have a cup of tea, but to enjoy the water, the sun and the sand — and I'm pretty sure that I never saw the other side. Which means it's a pretty big sea.

It's not the sort of water that I'd like to drink mind you, but then again, neither is the water from the Kinneret, which we do drink. Actually we don't drink it; we send it down south through the world's longest water slide to irrigate the Negev.

Of course the blooming of the Negev ...

(Historical Note: "Blooming of the Negev" was actually a mistake made by Ben Gurion when he was speaking to the British High Commissioner who kept on referring to it as "the blooming Negev." Ben Gurion misunderstood)

... is a miraculous feat achieved by early Jewish pioneers in order to look good on Israel Tourism posters. No, that's not true — the Negev constitutes most of the landmass of the state, and while it really wasn't designed for industrial agriculture, well, the Yiddische Kop and all that.

So for seven years we haven't had any significant rainfall. (Or is that 'rain fall'?) And yet we continue going on as though we could turn on the tap at any time and get more water.

People started putting Jacuzzis and even swimming pools in their homes, bathrooms were being updated with high-flow, high-pressure shower

nozzles that replaced the traditional Israeli shower nozzle, which is typically used in American homes next to the kitchen sink to wash off vegetables.

Israeli export agriculture centered about growing crops such as citrus and cotton — crops that require so much irrigation that in essence we are exporting water. Might as well just pack bottles of Mei Eden in those Jaffa Oranges crates.

(Historical Note: Jaffa Oranges never grew in Jaffa, and now they come from ... Spain)

Back to the Negev and those clever Israelis. There is a saying that "Necessity is the Mother of Invention." Well, imagine a Jewish Mother of Invention. Even though they've pretty much drained the Kinneret, there still wasn't enough water to go around the South. Local water supplies are brackish (meaning "filled with brack"), but since that's what there is, that's what they'll use.

What do you do in the middle of desert with salty water? Raise tropical fish, of course! I bet that's the first thing that all you Jewish mothers of invention thought of. Create new varieties of peppers, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables that require little water to grow, and then grow a lot of them. The abundant sunshine coupled with shallow pools of water is perfect for growing algae for biofuel.

(Historical Note: growing algae in the Negev for biofuel came about as an accident when a local farmer heard Ben Gurion discussing enemy Arab states and "the riches brought about by all that oil made by pond scum." The farmer misunderstood.)

Back to that big sea that I see sometimes. It turns out that a man named Sal (whose *Historical Notes* have been lost unfortunately) figured out that it's possible to separate the salt from the water and also to name a process after himself: "desalinization."

Not wanting to miss the opportunity to build really big and complex things next to the Beach of the State of Israel, the government decided to build really big and complex desalinization plants in order to solve the water crisis of seven years ago.

(Historical Note: "Where does all the salt go?" Ben Gurion asked. It gets trucked down to the Dead Sea Works and is turned into the Dead Sea.)

The very cheery commercials are encouraging though. In only three more years the desalinization plants will come online and then we'll have all the water that we need, as determined by our water consumption when the plants were planned, uh, seven years ago. Until then I'll stop myself from growing cotton.

SLEPT from page 4

and I'm under the table / Four and I'm under the host."

"You can drag a horticulture, but you can't make her think." (on being challenged to use the word horticulture in a sentence)

"Look at him, a rhinestone in the rough."

"Razors pain you; rivers are damp; acids stain you; and drugs cause cramp. Guns aren't lawful; nooses give; gas smells awful; you might as well live."

Parker may have been ambivalent about her Jewish roots, but now her


ancestry is celebrated.

In 1988 the NAACP claimed her remains and built a memorial garden at the organization's Baltimore headquarters.

Her memorial reads: "Here lie the ashes of Dorothy Parker (1893-1967) humorist, writer, critic. Defender of human and civil rights. This memorial garden is dedicated to her noble spirit, which celebrated the oneness of humankind and to the bonds of everlasting friendship between Black and Jewish people."

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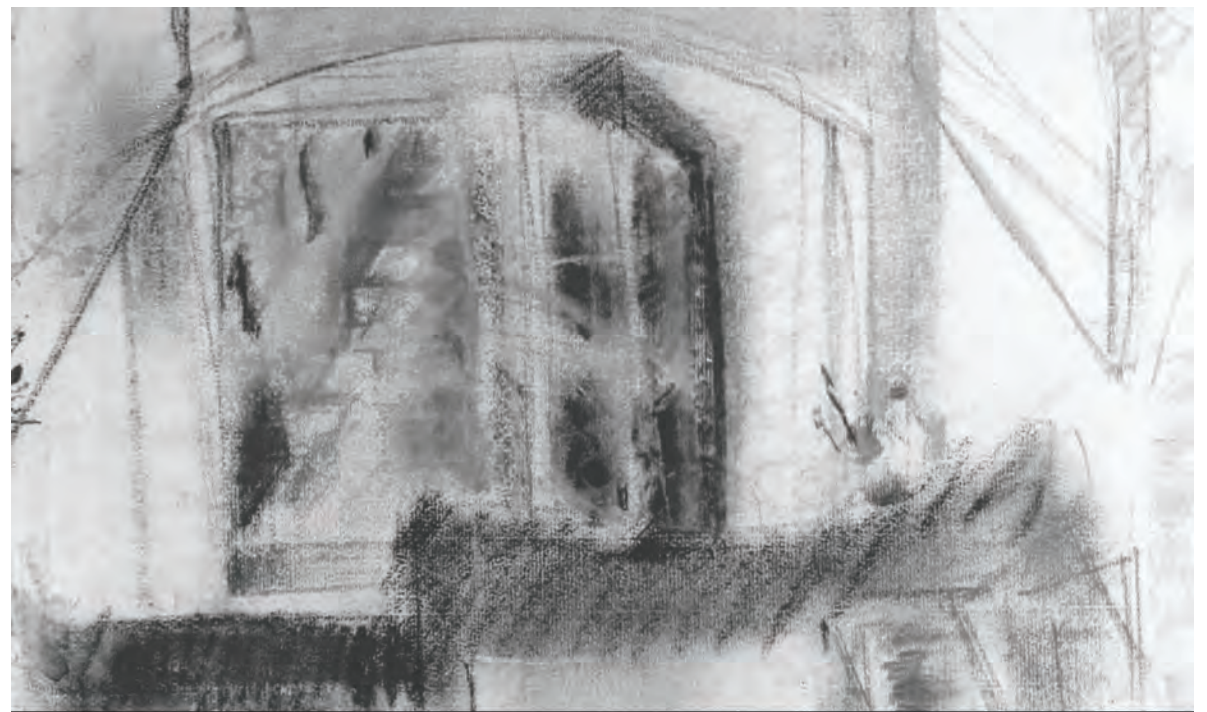
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[detail] Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, *View from the Window*, 1943-1944, Simon Weisenthal Center Library and Archives, Los Angeles

Through a Narrow Window

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and Her Terezín Students

An Exhibition of Art from the Holocaust

28 January – 13 March

February 2, 6:00 pm, FREE ADMISSION

Brundibar!

A children's opera first sung at the Terezín concentration camp in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia. Performed by the UNM Children's Chorus with Terezin survivor Ela Weissberger.

February 25 – 26, 7:30 pm, February 27 2:00 pm

And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank

Acclaimed by audiences and critics worldwide, the play includes videotaped recordings, digital photomontage and live actors that retell the stories of three teens in hiding during the Holocaust. Special appearance by Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss who will speak after each performance. Presented by UNM Department of Theater and Dance. Tickets available at www.unmtickets.com.

Both events are in the UNM Center for the Arts, Experimental Theatre, near Popejoy Auditorium.

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Jewish Education Initiative

The Jewish Educational Initiative (JEI) is a new project led by the Rabbinical and Cantorial Association of Albuquerque and the Jewish Federation of New Mexico. Its goal is to create increased cooperation between Jewish organizations so that adult educational programs can reach a larger audience.

Congregation Nahalat Shalom

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 & Mar. 2: 6 p.m., Sephardic Topics Class led by Daniel Diaz-Huerta. Topic: History of Jews in Sepharad (Spain and Portugal) from 700 C.E. to Expulsion.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 & Mar. 2: 7 p.m., Beginning Hebrew Reading and Prayer Vocabulary taught by Rabbi Deborah J. Brin.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 & Mar. 2: 8 p.m., Beginning Ladino and Spanish Prayer Vocabulary taught by Daniel Diaz-Huerta.

Thursday, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 & Mar. 3: 6:30 p.m., Explore the Talmud! Never had an opportunity to study Talmud? Now's your chance. Come and learn with Rabbi Brin and Rachel Schmitt. The only required language is English; no knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is necessary. Classes are free. Donations gladly accepted.

Friday, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25: 11:45 a.m., Beyond the Torah Study Group. We are delving into the entire

Bible, book by book. Join us as we discern the literal, ethical and spiritual meaning of the great writings of our ancestors. We are a self-led group and rely on assorted commentary as well as our own sensibilities. No ongoing commitment is required. Join us every week or as the spirit moves you.

Thursday, Feb. 16: "Lift Up the Spark of the Divine." Chanting with Rabbi Shefa Gold. Suggested \$10 donation for Rabbi Gold.

Sephardic New Mexico

First and Third Sundays: 6 p.m., "The Judeo-Spanish and Portuguese Tradition," led by Hazzan de Herrera and Jared de Jong, esq. An open forum to learn about Judaism in the Hispanic world and in our community. There will be food, songs, and discussion.

Second Sunday: 6 p.m., "Mussar: Jewish Ethics at Home at Work and for Life," led by Alain Jackson, Esq. discussing the great works of Jewish ethics - the Pirke Avot, Rambam's Shemoneh Peraqim and contemporary scholars such as the rabbis Soloveitchik, Moshe Feinstein, and Mordechai Kaplan.

Fourth Sunday: 6 p.m., "Conversations - Jewish Unity in the Modern World," led by Hazzan de Herrera with guest instructor Rabbi Mordechai Scher of Kol BeRamah Torah Learning Co-op. An open forum where Jews of all backgrounds and observance discuss various topics like diversity in Judaism, Jewish education, family and gender issues, faith, science and the pursuit of truth, K'lal Yisrael, conversion, return and belonging.

Dance Company Tackles Diversity, Tolerance and Anti-Semitism

Link Staff Report

Keshet Dance Company will restage "Ani Ma'amin" (Hebrew for "I Believe"), the unique and powerful interdisciplinary dance piece that explores the impact of the Holocaust on American Jews, this March in Las Cruces and Albuquerque, N.M. Performances will be held at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 3 and at North Fourth Art Center in Albuquerque at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 5 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 6.

Originally commissioned in 2008 by the Sabes Jewish Community Center in Minneapolis, Minn., and in partnership with the Holocaust and Intolerance Museum of New Mexico, "Ani Ma'amin" was created by Shira Greenberg, Keshet Dance Company's founder and artistic director, and five professional repertory dancers.

In the five month development process, Keshet enlisted the support of advisors and collaborators including: the New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance Museum, local rabbis, synagogue sisterhoods and youth groups, professors of Holocaust studies, Jewish Family Services and the NM Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League.

In the piece, movement and theme are threaded together with spoken text adapted from existed works by Holocaust victims and survivors, new material created by participating community members and video compiled from footage from the University of Southern California's Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and



Keshet Dance Company performs Ani Ma'amin.

Photo by Susie Greenberg

Education.

All performances will be followed by a Question & Answer session with the performers, where audience members can process and discuss the work, creating a community forum on diversity, tolerance and anti-Semitism in the past and present day.

The project preserves the stories of individuals who experienced the Holocaust firsthand, and provides the current generation with a starting point for personal connection with the events of the past. According to Greenberg, "The phrase is always 'We will never forget,' and 'Ani Ma'amin' provides a unique and visceral way for people to have that memory stay with them — not just the facts of history, but what happened to people and what happened to their families, their dreams, their traditions and their communities."

Now in its fourth year of touring, "Ani Ma'amin" has become a staple of Keshet's repertory oeuvre and continues to be an effective springboard for discussions on the dangers of keeping silent in the face of injustice.

An audience member in Las Vegas, N.M. during the 2009 tour had this to

say about the work: "My deepest gratitude to you all. I'm a second generation survivor, and I wept through the entire performance, and for the first time in my life it was not because of sadness, or anger or resentment, but because of joy that someone gave a voice to my story and to my family, and not just a voice, but such a strong and grateful voice. It empowered me."

From February-April 2011, Keshet Dance Company will also be offering workshops and coordinating community events based on this message of tolerance and diversity as part of the "Safe Schools, Healthy Students" bullying prevention campaign. To find out how your school or community group can be a part of this discussion, contact Erin Crawley-Woods, Outreach Coordinator, at 224-9808 or erin@keshetdance.org.

Founded in 1996, Keshet Dance Company is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire passion and open unlimited possibilities through the experience of dance. For more information on Keshet Dance Company's performances and community outreach, please visit www.keshetdance.org.

MAYOR from page 1

2009. A former two term state representative, Berry moved to Albuquerque in 1982 from Nebraska to attend the University of New Mexico, where he received his degree in finance and administration. At time of publication, Berry's itinerary was expected to include the following:

- Visits to various sites throughout the Galilee region;
- A tour of Jerusalem, including visits to Yad Vashem, Temple Mount, City of David, Mount of Olives, Church of Holy Sepulcher and the City of David;
- A visit to Bethlehem;
- Meeting with Booky Oren, President and CEO, Arison Water Initiative;
- Participation in Pre-Conference Roundtable hosted by Dr. Uzi

Landau, Minister of National Infrastructures & Capital Nature;

- Visit to the new installations at the Capital Nature Experimentum Test Site;
- Attendance at the launch of the first ground mounted photovoltaic farm in Israel by Arava Power Company;
- Meeting with the Mayor of Akron, Ohio on Water and Energy Nexus;
- Meeting with Mayor Rahamim Malul of Rehovot and a tour of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Upon his return from Israel, Berry will hold a Town Hall meeting at the Jewish Community Center in Albuquerque to discuss his trip. Event details will be announced in the next issue of *The Link*.

CONGREGATIONS

Chabad of New Mexico
Traditional, Rabbi Chaim Schmukler
4000 San Pedro NE, 87109
880-1181, www.chabadnm.org.

Chavurat Hamidbar
The Fellowship of the Desert
Traditional/Egalitarian, 505-345-0296
www.chavurahabq.org

Congregation Albert
Reform, Rabbi Howard A. Kosovske
Cantor Barbara Finn
3800 Louisiana NE, 87110
883-1818, www.congregationalbert.org

Congregation B'nai Israel
Conservative, Rabbi Arthur Flicker
4401 Indian School NE, 87110
266-0155, e-mail: bnai@cybermesa.com
www.bnaisrael-nm.org

Congregation Nahalat Shalom
Jewish Renewal/Independent
Rabbi Deborah Brin
Cantorial Soloist Beth Cohen
3606 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, 87107
343-8227, www.nahalatshalom.org.

Sephardic New Mexico
In cooperation with the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals, NYC, a cultural organization supporting diversity in the Jewish community. Advising Rabbi, M.D. Angel Hazzan, David Ritch de Herrera
P.O. Box 37518, Albuquerque, NM 87176
505-884-4556; e-mail: info@SephardicNM.org
www.SephardicNM.org

Rio Rancho Jewish Center
Conservative
2009 Grande Blvd., Rio Rancho, NM - 892-8511

Temple Beth-El of Carlsbad
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575-885-3699; 575-887-1229

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Temple Beth-El
Rabbi Paul Citrin
3980 Sonoma Springs Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-524-3380 575-521-8111 (fax)
e-mail: admin@tbcl.org, www.tbcl.org

Jewish Community of Las Vegas
c/o Marshall Poole
P.O. Box 970, Las Vegas, NM 87701
505-425-5549
mpoole@usa.net, www.lvjewish.org

Los Alamos Jewish Center
Unaffiliated, Egalitarian
Rabbi Jack Shlachter
2400 Canyon Rd.,
Los Alamos, NM 87544, 505-662-2140

B'nai Israel of Roswell
712 N. Washington
P.O. Box 1153, Roswell, NM 88203
575-625-9883, 575-622-5814

Chabad Jewish Center Of Santa Fe
Traditional
Rabbi Berel Levertov
242 W. San Mateo,
Santa Fe, NM 87505 - 505-983-2000,
www.chabadsantafe.com

Chavurah Kol HaLev
Renewal, Andy Gold - maggid
205 E. Barcelona Rd., upper sanctuary
Santa Fe, NM 87505,
505-982-5768, Santa Fe - 247-3797, Alb.

Congregation Beit Tikva
Traditional Reform
Rabbi Martin Levy
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Santa Fe, 87505
505-820-2991, www.beittikva.info

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Kol BeRamah Torah Learning Co-op of Santa Fe
551 W. Cordova Rd., Suite F
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email@kolberamah.org

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Shooting Lessons: Speaker Recalls Surviving a Hate Crime

On July 28, 1996, Naveed Haq, a mentally ill man armed with a semi-automatic handgun, forced his way into the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Haq, a Muslim, declared his hatred for Jews and Israel and then shot six people, one of whom died.

Tammy Kaiser, now Congregation Albert’s director of lifelong learning, was then an employee at the Federation building in Seattle. She will be the featured speaker for the monthly brunch sponsored by the Congregation Albert Brotherhood on Sunday, Feb. 20. In “Shooting Lessons,” she will recount the lessons learned in the aftermath of the armed assault and how she brings this knowledge to her everyday life.

At first, Kaiser hid from the gunman by crouching beneath her office desk. She soon made her escape by dropping to the ground from a second-story window. As she leaped, her hair got caught on a window latch that ripped part of it out. She sustained other injuries from the fall and subsequently had to cut her waist-length hair because of reconstructive surgery.

From physical therapy to overcoming her injuries to an award-winning play based partly on her experience, Kaiser will share the ups and downs and the stark realities of surviving a hate crime.

The brunch program will begin at 10 a.m. in the Congregation Albert Social Hall. Admission is \$10 for Brotherhood and Sisterhood members and \$12 for all others. Reservations should be made no later than Feb. 17 by calling the CAB response line at 883-1818, ext. 3203. Leave your name, phone number and the number of seats you wish to reserve.

JCC to Launch Second Book Club

The Jewish Community Center, responding to popular demand, has decided to offer a second book club to meet on the third Sunday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The first meeting of this new book club will be on Sunday, Feb. 20 at the JCC.

The first book to be discussed will be *The Glass Castle*, a memoir by Jeanette Wall, which has been on the *New York Times* best seller list for more than 180 weeks. The book is available in paperback in all bookstores.

Previous to this meeting, on Jan. 29, Bookworks is sponsoring a lecture and book signing by Jeanette Wall to be held at Woodward Hall on UNM’s main campus at 7 p.m. Tickets are required, and are available for \$15, which includes a copy of Wall’s new book, *Half-Broke Horses*. Tickets may be purchased at Bookworks or online at www.bkwrks.com/events/walls.

For additional information, or to become a member of this new book club, please contact Phyllis Wolf, JCC program director, phyllisw@jccabq.org or 505-348-4500.

B’nai Israel Sisterhood Shabbat to Honor Nonagenarians

Congregation B’nai Israel Sisterhood will honor the “Nifty Nineties” — the women of the congregation who are in their nineties at the annual Sisterhood Shabbat on Friday, Feb. 25.

The theme of the services is taken from the year-long observance of the 90th anniversary of the congregation. During the service, which will be led by Sisterhood members, there will be interjections of the historical events which occurred during the lifetimes of these ladies.

The honorees include Ann Flatow, Phyllis Forbes, Shirley Garden-swartz, Susan Guttman, Francys Ivener, Claire Jaffe, Bea Kahn, Frances Katz, Gutte Kutzin, Anne Mastman, Judith Meyer, Irene Silverman, Gertrude Tananbaum, Lona Urovsky and Rebecca Victor.

Prior to the 8 p.m. service, a traditional Shabbat chicken dinner prepared by the Sisterhood will be served at 6:15 p.m. to those who have made reservations.

The community is invited to attend. The cost for dinner is \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 6 through 13; there is no charge for children under 6. To make reservations send your check, made payable to B’nai Israel Sisterhood, to Beth Stewart, 5301 Calle Nuestra, NW, 87120 no later than Feb. 20. No money or reservations will be accepted at the door.

Interfaith Colloquium Will Examine the ‘Book of Job’

On Tuesday, Mar. 1 Jewish Catholic Dialogue of New Mexico will present the 18th annual interfaith Colloquium at Congregation B’nai Israel, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rabbi Min Kantrowitz and Dr. Megan McKenna will present an exegesis of the “Book of Job.”

This narrative poetic book of canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture, is versified by the skillful use of parallelism, that is, of the balanced and symmetrical phrases, peculiar to Hebrew poetry.

Named after its protagonist, Job, this dramatic poem addresses the challenge of the suffering of the innocent and of retribution.

The “Book of Job” belongs to the general class of wisdom or didactic literature, so called because their chief purpose is instruction.

Tuition for this day of study and prayer is \$40, \$20 for students and includes continental breakfast and delicious lunch.

To register or for more information, contact Betty Kohlmann at 505-299-3807.

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“Jewish Learning at its Sweetest”

A Taste of Honey

Sunday, February 13 at the JCC

2011’s New Mexico Jewish community’s yearly, unparalleled educational event that offers an opportunity to savor Jewish life at its best!

Keynote Address by Dr. Michael Nutkiewicz:

The Dilemma of Jewish Education: Preserving/Enhancing Jewish Learning

Jewish educators and communal leaders have long held that Jewish identity, continuity, and “Jewish self-esteem” are inextricably associated with the quality of Jewish education received in the classroom and at home. But do we agree on what Jewish education means? And as we reach our older years, how do we keep Jewish education fresh and meaningful?

20 Mini-Courses including

Sulam Chi: Prayer in Motion

Genealogy 101 – Tracing Your Tribe

Addictions According to the Kabbalah and Science

Humor of the Shtetl

A Taste of Jewish Dance

On Purim: to Drink or Not to Drink

A Journey through the Song of Songs

Memoir Writing: Passing On Your Legacy

Breast Cancer Screening for the Jewish Woman

Schedule of the Day

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch and Registration

1 – 1:45 Keynote Session

2 – 3:00 Session One

3:15 – 4:15 Session Two

4:30 – 6:00 “Capturing Neshema: The Soul of Life” Art Show Opening

Reception celebrating New Mexico’s local treasure, Jewish Fine Artist, Leo Neufeld’s portraits and landscapes

Synopses of presentations can be viewed on the JCC website (jccabq.org) by clicking on “A Taste of Honey” on home page. For more information and registration contact Phyllis Wolf at 505-348-4500. Funding for this event has been provided by the JCC, Jewish Federation of New Mexico, and myHERITAGE.com.

A Taste of Honey February 13, 2011 Registration Form

PLEASE RETURN BY JANUARY 31, 2011 for early-bird price. Ticket Prices: \$25/by 1-31-11, \$30/after 1-31-11

All proceeds will be strictly designated to cover costs, provide scholarships and maintain “A Taste of Honey” as an annual New Mexico event. Please send this form with your check, payable to: Jewish Community Center “ATOH,” (or pay by credit card using this form) and mail or bring to: JCC, 5520 Wyoming Blvd NE, Abq, NM 87109

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Participant 1:

Participant 2:

Session 1:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Session 2:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice: _____

Session 1:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Session 2:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice: _____

Childcare registration: (\$12 1st child; \$6 2nd child)

Name: _____ Age _____

Name: _____ Age _____

BOXED LUNCH: Dairy lunches are available for \$8 prepaid for your convenience from Indulgence Cafe. Pick up at the JCC. Lunches include sandwich, chips, cookie, and cold beverage. Please indicate your choice and quantity:

_____ Tuna Salad _____ Egg Salad _____ Veggie

Total Registration \$ _____ + Childcare \$ _____ + Total Box Lunches \$ _____ + Donations \$ _____ = TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

CREDIT CARD (circle one): Visa Master Card AmEx Disc #: _____ Exp. _____/_____

Signature of Cardholder: _____ Name on Card: _____

KlezmerQuerque Celebrates 9th Year

Link Staff Report

"KlezmerQuerque," Albuquerque New Mexico's annual Klezmer music and dance festival celebrates its 9th year from Friday, Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 20.

Nahalat Shalom, its 25-piece inter-generational Community Klezmer Band and Rikud Yiddish dance troupe will present "KlezmerQuerque 2011" a three-day festival of concerts, workshops and dance parties featuring Klezmer, the exciting traditional dance and instrumental music of the Eastern European Jewish people.

"KlezmerQuerque 2011" welcomes three renowned klezmer artists and scholars who hail from New York City and New England:

Joe "Yosl" Kurland (Yiddish language, song, dance and fiddle) is a walking treasure of Yiddishekeit. He enjoys writing his own songs, stories and badkhones in Yiddish, and he sings for High Holiday and Shabbos services in the style of the Eastern European ba'aley-tefile.

Christina Crowder (accordion and Fulbright scholar) was trained as a classical pianist, but caught the folk music bug in college and switched to accordion. She later studied Scandinavian and Bulgarian accordion in Seattle and performed with the popular acoustic folk-rock band Bad Karma Banjo.

Crowder moved to Hungary in 1993, where she studied Hungarian folk dance and became a founding member of the world-renowned Budapest-based Yiddish music ensemble Di Naye Kapelye and recorded on their first three albums.

Margot Leverett (virtuoso clarinetist, protégé of famed-klezmer clarinetist Sid Beckerman) is one of the foremost clarinetists of the klezmer revival. Classically trained at Indiana University School of Music, Leverett was a founding member of the Klezmatiks in 1985 before moving on to establish a solo career.

Her first CD, *The Art of Klezmer Clarinet*, a tribute to classic klezmer of the 20s and 30s, was released in 2001 on Traditional Crossroads to glowing reviews. Her current project, "Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys," is an all-star band combining the best of bluegrass and klezmer. Their self-titled CD, released to rave reviews in 2002, was choreographed by the Paul Taylor Dance Company in a new work titled *Klezmerbluegrass*.

"KlezmerQuerque" begins on Friday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m., with Der Freylekher Shabbos — a joyous and participatory Shabbat service with singing and dancing in an old Eastern European style — beginning with the Old World Shabbat service followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner at 7 p.m.

At 7:45 p.m., Leverett will perform with the Albuquerque-based klezmer and Judaic ensemble The Rebbe's Orkestra. From 8:15-10 p.m. the dancing will continue.

There is an \$18 suggested optional donation.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, there will be three events. From 10 a.m. - noon, Kurland will lead a learner's Shabbos Service featuring a "hands-on" workshop/service using traditional *nusakh* (special melodies, which use specific modes and scales). Using only

Shabbos morning material, Kurland will teach how to put together *nusakh* elements to chant prayers, as well as interspersing some prayers sung as congregational songs and chanting a *khazanic* solo within the context of a congregational chant of the *kedusha*. Teachings and Kavanot will be led by Rabbi Deborah Brin.

Saturday afternoon from 2 - 3:30 p.m., Kurland will present an introduction to Yiddish language by means of songs and games to convey a bit of vocabulary and a taste of a Jewish way of looking at the world as reflected in the language.

Both Saturday daytime events are free and open to all.

The big concert and dance party on Saturday will begin at 7:30 p.m. (doors at 7 p.m.) and will feature Yiddish songs and klezmer music by all three guests, plus Klezmer and Sephardic music by The Rebbe's Orkestra.

After the sit-down portion of the concert, the chairs will be pushed back for music and dancing.

Tickets at the door are \$20-general / \$18-seniors, students and fixed income. Advanced tickets are \$18-all ages, plus \$1 handling fee at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W., 505-344-8139 and after Feb. 3 at Natural Sound, 205 Wellesley S.E., in Nob Hill, 505-255-8295, or call 505-243-6276 to reserve tickets.

On Sunday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. there will be three sessions of classes in Klezmer music and/or



Christina Crowder

dance with Leverett (music), Kurland (dance) and Crowder (music). There will also be a catered *milkhik* "Lunch 'n Learn," after which Crowder's presentation will feature some of the field recordings she collected in northern Romania and a discussion of on-going research to understand the ways in which Jewish music influenced, and was influenced by local music from Moldavia and Bessarabia.

The price per music and / or dance class is \$20-general and \$16-fixed income/under 18, and there is a minimum \$10-\$15 donation for "Lunch 'n Learn." The advanced registration discount for all events (three workshops, one Lunch 'n Learn, and two concerts/

dance parties) is \$85-general / \$70-seniors, students and fixed income. Registration and payment must be received by Friday, Feb. 11 for this discount. On-line payment with paypal and downloadable registration forms are available at www.nahalatshalom.org.

For detailed information about class times, prices, tickets and registration, contact Beth Cohen, KlezmerQuerque Ko-ordinator at 505-243-6276, cohenedmunds@netzero.net, or Web site: www.nahalatshalom.org. All events take place at Congregation Nahalat Shalom, 3606 Rio Grande Blvd. NW (between Candelaria & Griegos) in Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Book Review

A Refreshing Must Read for all Political Affiliations

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less

By Sarah Glidden
Vertigo, 2010
208 pages; \$24.99

By Sam Sokolove

Over its 10-year history, Taglit-Birthright Israel has sent 260,000 young Jewish adults ages 18 to 26 on free 10-day trips to Israel. While many of these young people were understandably motivated by fun, the promise of an exotic getaway and the unbeatable cost, Brooklyn-based artist Sarah Glidden was motivated by a hunger to "discover the truth behind this whole mess once and for all."

A progressive, assimilated Jew with all the correct left-wing credentials, including a hunger to expose Zionist myths and witness the injustice of the Palestinian condition, in March of 2007 Glidden kissed her Pakistani boyfriend goodbye and set off to have her stereotypes confirmed and her righteous anger further stoked.

But that's not what happened. The product of her experience is *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less*, a remarkable graphic novel that should be required reading for, well, anyone who has an opinion about the *matzav* (situation) and is willing to challenge their own assumptions, whatever their political affiliations

may be.

Over two hundred pages of vividly illustrated panels, Glidden proves to be a perfect tour guide: cynical, profane and hyper-sensitive to the propaganda that she believes is being fed to her by the Birthright staff.

As she travels by tour bus from the Golan Heights to the Kinneret, Glidden takes merciless pokes at *Haredi* rudeness, questionable Israeli fashion sensibilities, and the hollow sloganeering of "A Land without a People for a People without a Land."

As her anger intensifies, she visualizes herself as judge in a courtroom, calling to order "The Case of Birthright is Brainwashing Me vs. Birthright is not Brainwashing me," scoffing at the bad jokes and storytelling of an American *oleh* who breathlessly describes the heroism of the early pioneers — rhetoric Glidden dismisses as mere "poetry" until a ghost pioneer appears in her imagination to counter bluntly, "Maybe you just don't like poetry about Zionism."

Along the way, Glidden's indignation slowly softens: she befriends a young Israeli, Nadan, who confounds her with his progressive ideals and seemingly contradictory suspicion of Arabs; listens to the testimony of Palestinian and Israeli representatives from the Bereaved Family Forum who offer emotional insight into the true cost of the conflict, and struggles to reconcile the words of an apparitional David Ben-Gurion who delivers lofty proclamations in defense of Palestinian rights with a call for military superiority.

Eventually, Glidden breaks down sobbing, overwhelmed by the crush of history and competing narratives; in one beautifully evocative segment, Glidden illustrates herself sharing a bed with Ottoman Tax Collectors,

Arab Farmers and her Jewish contemporaries, lulled to sleep by their whispered stories.

Along with the politics, Glidden provides a fairly comprehensive glimpse of millennial Jewish identity: young American Jews who never before experience a Shabbat dinner, many the products of interfaith homes with scant knowledge of even the basic tenants of Judaism.

Yet, Glidden also meets young Jews like a burly young man with a crucifix tattooed on his forearm who expresses a poignant connection to Jewish life and Israel that astounds the author.

Sitting alone in a kibbutz playground, Glidden is left to wonder "how many other people on this trip I've completely misjudged."

Still, Glidden's awakening isn't all an effusion of *Hasbara*: she laments the treatment of Bedouins who see their homes demolished and their crops destroyed; offers a scathing deconstruction of the "Masada Ritual" as contemporary rites-of-passage for young Jews and decries the discriminatory policies Israeli Arabs continue to face.

But by the book's conclusion, Glidden is willing to concede that the Israeli narrative she originally dismissed as antithetical to her progressive ideals is far more nuanced and deeper than that.

Part primer on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, part travelogue and always a deeply personal — and frequently very funny — journal of one young Jew's attempt to find her own place amid the crushing layers of history, *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less* is an immensely readable and refreshing contribution that deserves wide discussion within our community.

Fleisher Gives First Hand Insight Into Israel

By Lynn Provencio

Yishai Fleisher will be returning to New Mexico the weekend of Feb. 11-13 for his "Eye on Zion Winter Tour." Fleisher's eye-witness, first hand accounts of Israel's most pivotal recent events provide audiences with unique insight into Israel.

Fleisher lived in Gaza at the time of the Disengagement, served as a reserve soldier in the Second Lebanon War, and now lives in the heart of international conflict in the settlement of Beit El, three kilometers from Ramallah.

Fleisher will be at Kol BeRamah in Santa Fe on Friday, Feb. 11 leading a "Pre-Shabbat Israel-Inspired Meditation," at 4:45 p.m. This will be followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv at 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 12, again at Kol BeRamah, Fleisher will speak at 11 a.m., on "Sovereignty of Israel: Self-Determination, Indigenous Rights and International Law," after morning services, which begin at 8:30 a.m.

His Santa Fe appearance is co-sponsored by Israel Alliance and Zionist Organization of America, NM (ZOA NM).

On Sunday, Feb. 13, Fleisher will speak at the UNM Student Union Building Ballroom A, at 7 p.m., on "Sovereignty in the State of Israel: Self-Determination, Indigenous Rights and International Law." He will discuss the nexus between international law and the role of Jewish rights as indigenous people. What are Israel's rights in the Middle East? What are the facts?

Admission to this event is free and free pizza will be served. There

will be time for question and answer and discussion. The introduction will be given by UNM law student Zackeriah Carpenter.

This engagement is sponsored by the Israel Alliance, the UNM Pro-Israel Student Group and co-sponsored by Zionist Organization of America, NM (ZOA NM).

As a reporter, Fleisher has covered Israel's elections, demonstrations and wars, yet he has also reported on the bright side of Israel by highlighting innovations, holiday celebrations, and the country's economic and spiritual growth. Fleisher's intellectual approach gives listeners an insider's glimpse into the workings of Israel, while his contagious positive outlook illuminates a vision of what Israel can become. Fleisher is an internationally-recognized lecturer, show host, analyst and columnist. He serves as director of Israel National Radio (Arutz Sheva), and is the host of the popular "Yishai and Friends" talk show. Fleisher has been a featured guest on CNN, Al Jazeera, BBC, NPR and Xinhua, and published by the Jerusalem Post, Israel National News and World Net Daily, among others.

He has addressed the Knesset Aliyah Forum, the Jerusalem Conference, the World Conference of the Noahide Nations, the Israel's Blogger Convention, the Havat Gilad political forum and an array of other organizations and events. Fleisher was seventh on the Immigration Party list in the 2006 Israeli elections and is currently lobbying a bill in Knesset called "Aliyah Day." Prior to returning to Israel with his wife, Malkah, in 2003, Yishai served as a Paratrooper in the IDF, worked in

the media response team at AIPAC, conducted research at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims



Yishai Fleisher

Against Germany, taught Judaism to third graders at Temple Emanuel in NYC, and led four Birthright groups to Israel. A graduate of Cardozo Law School, Fleisher speaks fluent English, Hebrew and Russian.

He is the founder of Bottom of Form Kumah ("Arise" in Hebrew), which is dedicated to revitalizing Israel's sense of Jewish pride and instilling the Jewish nation with a love of the land and a feeling of unity. Through a combination of education, advocacy and grass roots activism Kumah works to broadcast a political and cultural direction forward.

Kumah's efforts include drafting and lobbying laws in the Knesset, renovating heritage sites, creating educational tools, videos and music albums of cultural and ideological value, and using the internet to disseminate information and inspiration to Israelis, Jews, and lovers of Israel worldwide. Kumah is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

For more information on the UNM event, contact Lynn Provencio at 505-990-2833 or provencio@zionm.org. For Kol BeRamah events, contact 505-216-6136 or email@kolberamah.org.

Addressing Addictions in the Jewish Community

Link Staff Report

Addictions in the Jewish community? Unheard of! Slowly, the reality of addictions in the Jewish community worldwide is coming to light. Abuse of chemical substances and addictive behaviors, such as gambling and eating disorders cross boundaries, and are an increasing problem among both affluent and disadvantaged socio-economic groups, secular and religious, new immigrants and Israelis, and Jews of every culture, color and location.

Rabbi Eitan Eckstein has been at the leading edge internationally in identifying and offering solutions to this disturbing growing trend. He will be visiting the Southwest in February and making several presentations in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

He will speak at UNM Hillel on Friday, Feb. 11 from 12 - 1:30 p.m.; at A Taste of Honey at the JCC on Sunday Feb. 13 from 2 - 3 p.m.; at Congregation Beit Tikvah in Santa Fe on Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 7:45 - 8:45 p.m.; and at Congregation Albert on Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Eckstein was serving his four-year tenure as a community rabbi in Mexico City in the mid-80s when he encountered a shocking fact: there was a tremendous drug problem in the Jewish community in South America.

Upon further investigation, Eckstein discovered that the problem was not limited to drugs, nor was it limited to South America. His concern and curiosity about the problem led him to establish a net-

work of treatment programs in Latin America.

Upon his return to Israel, seeing a parallel phenomenon, Eckstein set out to explore it further, and to work with the religious community to understand and acknowledge the fact of addiction in the face of denial and disbelief.

Eckstein's response to the crisis was the founding of Retorno Psycho-Educational Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Addictions in Beit Shemesh, Israel. Retorno has developed into an educational resource for the worldwide Jewish community that offers early prevention and education programs, seminars for students and three-day workshops and consultations to educators and counselors in Israel, Latin America, Europe and North America.

Eckstein received his degree in social work from Bar Ilan University's School of Social Work in 2003. He also trained as an instructor in therapeutic horse-riding at the Ruppin Institute, qualifying in 2008.

"I love working with people, and also with horses!" he said. "I believe that there is no such thing as a bad child — only a child who is suffering inside. I try to reach the good that is within them, to listen and to educate them."

As the International Jewish Center for Prevention and Treatment of Addictions, Retorno works painstakingly to not only put shattered lives back together but to prevent addictions in the first place. Every year more than 15,000 people participate in Retorno's preventive education workshops reaching all segments

of the population. Retorno assists people at its beautiful rehabilitation facilities in Israel as well as other locations around the world.

For more information on Retorno, visit the website: www.retorno.org, and for information about his New Mexico appearances, contact David Langer at 505-259-8043.

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Rabbi Gives Invocation at Governor's Breakfast

Link Staff Report

Rabbi Deborah Brin of Congregation Nahalat Shalom was invited to give the invocation at the Governor's Inaugural Prayer Breakfast. The text of her remarks follows:

Good morning.

I have been given the honor of giving the invocation today. To invoke is to call upon The Source of Life from Whom All Blessings Flow. It is an auspicious moment to do so.

In my tradition, beginning at sunset tonight, we are going to be celebrating a holiday called Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for the Trees. Long ago it was determined that this is the day in our ancestral lands when the sap begins to rise. The Source of Life grows buds then leaves, then blossoms and fruit.

We celebrate by enjoying the fruits of the trees. We eat three distinct kinds of fruits: Those that are hard on



Rabbi Deborah Brin

the outside and soft on the inside like nuts. Those that are soft on the outside with hard internal pits like apricots, and those that are tender through and through like blueberries.

Rabbis are known to sermonize that these categories are like people. Some of us are hard or prickly on the outside and soft on the inside, some are soft on the outside and hard on the inside and some of us are thor-

oughly sweet through and through.

As the life force begins a new cycle, so it should be with us. May the blessings for our State of New Mexico, her leaders and her citizens, rise and flow freely like the sap in the trees, so that we shake off the cold darkness of winter and emerge into the light and warmth of a new spring, a new season of governance. May this spring be filled with increasing light and warmth so that the buds and blossoms of legislation will bear nourishing fruits for all the citizens of New Mexico.

Ribbon Haolam kabayl nah b'rachamim et-t'filateinu . . .

Sovereign of the Universe, mercifully receive our prayer for the State of New Mexico and her government. Let Your blessings pour out on us and on all officials who are occupied, in good faith, with the public needs. And let us all say: Amen.

The Holiness of Bread



Judy Boles adds egg to the dough that will become a challah as bread maven Rabbi Howard Kosovske looks on and comments. Twenty aspiring bakers attended "The Holiness of Bread" on Jan. 11 and 18. The class was one of Congregation Albert's Adult Education offerings. Kosovske

told how challah symbolizes the miracle of manna in the desert following the Exodus, and he explained challah rituals. That it tastes delicious was not overlooked. He advised on different recipes, seeds, glazes and baking techniques.

Photo by Peter Weinreb

B'nai Israel Announces Distance Learning

Congregation B'nai Israel's Edith and Irving Friedman Academy of Jewish Religion announces that it is adding Distance Learning to its religious school offerings.

Distance Learning is a computer hook up which allows students at remote locations, usually their home, to participate in their religious school class. Each class has a video camera and computer and the classroom activi-

ties are sent, via internet, to the student's home. If the student has a camera on their home computer, they cannot only see what is happening in the classroom, but also be seen by their fellow classmates in the classroom.

"We are very excited to offer this new educational opportunity to our students," noted Rabbi Arthur Flicker. "We have students who live as far away as Cerillos and it is impossible for them to

attend weekday Hebrew classes. With this new Distance Learning program, the students will be able to participate in their classes during the week, and not find themselves behind when they return on Sunday. This also creates exciting possibilities for learning for adults as well as for outreach to Jewish learners throughout the state."

The new Distance Learning programming has been made possible by

gifts given in memory of Joe Siegel, which established the Joe Siegel Memorial Computer Resource Room and by a gift in memory of Irving Auerbach.

Siegel had been a member of B'nai Israel for many years and had been a much beloved teacher in the religious school and the pre-school.

Auerbach had always supported programming for the children of B'nai Israel and was particularly supportive

of the library and learning.

In addition, Moreen Siegel, widow of Joe, is a teacher in the religious school and will be using the Distance Learning program for her students.

"This new program will allow us to strengthen our already outstanding religious school," said Moreen. "Joe would have been so pleased to see us finding new ways to make Jewish education available for more young students."

Busy Month for B'nai Israel Men's Club

On Saturday, Feb. 5 Congregation B'nai Israel will hold their annual Men's Club Shabbat Service. To make this year special, they are going to be using the FJMC Sefer Haftorah Scroll. The Haftorah scroll, unlike the Torah, has the vowels and the trop cantillation, which facilitate the chanting of it.

Sunday, Feb. 6 will be the 11th Annual World Wide Wrap and is an opportunity to join Men's Clubs and congregations around the world, as they teach and prac-

tice the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin. There will be close to 10,000 individuals from 10 countries participating on this day. B'nai Israel's club will be collecting donations to pass onto the FJMC, so that tefillin and mezuzot can be bought for congregations outside of North America.

B'nai Israel's club has been chosen to host a training session for the Western Region of the FJMC on the weekend of Feb. 25-27. They are expecting the regional board and club members from Arizona and

California to attend. Any member of the Men's Club is encouraged to participate during any part or all of the weekend. It is an opportunity to understand the value of affiliating with the FJMC; to feel the camaraderie of being with other Men's Club members from around the region; and to discuss problems that each are facing.

For more information or to RSVP to any of the events, contact Aren Horowitz, regional vice president of club programming at 505-452-7712 or aren_h@yahoo.com.

It's the Punctuation

By Shlomo Karni

In her delightful book *Eats Shoots and Leaves*, Lynn Truss drives home the point with the following story: A panda walks into a restaurant, orders a sandwich, eats it, then, on his way out, draws a gun and fires two shots. The alarmed waiter asks "Why?" In reply, the panda pulls out a badly punctuated wildlife manual and shows him the entry for panda: "Large black-and-white mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

"So," writes Truss, "punctuation really does matter, even if it is only occasionally a matter of life and death."

Punctuation in the Bible really does matter. Remember that the Bible was originally an oral tradition, transmitted as such for at least one thousand years. Finally, it was compiled in written form and canonized between 200 B.C.E. and 200 C.E. Still, it remained unvowelled and unpunctuated for some 600 years more. The scroll of the Torah is a sample of that format.

Between the 8th and 10th centuries C.E., our sages in Tiberias, the so-called "Massoretes" (from the Hebrew "Massorah," transmittal from generation to generation), established the system of vowelling for the correct

See PUNCTUATION . . . Page 14

LEBANON from page 1

The Israeli military intelligence estimate is that Hezbollah, still smarting from the effects of the 2006 Lebanon War, does not want another cross-border confrontation — just yet.

Nor, for that matter, does Israel. Indeed, as part of the effort not to exacerbate tensions, the IDF has been careful not to move troops to the northern border.

"We want the northern border to remain quiet, and we will not give anyone on the other side an excuse to heighten border tensions," a senior Israeli official told JTA on condition of anonymity.

Hezbollah prefers to pull the strings from behind the scenes, Military Intelligence Chief Maj. General Aviv Kochavi told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Hezbollah fears that formally taking over Lebanon might weaken the movement by making Lebanon vulnerable to sanctions and attack, like Hamas in Gaza. Both Hamas and Hez-

bollah are considered terrorist groups by Israel, the United States and some European countries.

Indeed, Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah was careful not to appear to have seized power in Lebanon.

"Hezbollah will not lead the next Lebanon government," Nasrallah said. "Najib Mikati," Hezbollah's designate for prime minister, "is not a Hezbollah man," Nasrallah said.

So, to what extent is Hezbollah really in charge?

Although put forward by Hezbollah, Mikati actually is closer to Syria than to Hezbollah or Iran. He, too, has been at pains to distance himself from his Shiite patrons.

"Don't prejudge me or my behavior, please, especially in the international community," he said in an interview with the French News Agency AFP.

Like Hezbollah, Mikati is all too aware that his being perceived as a Hez-

bollah puppet could have serious economic and diplomatic consequences for Lebanon. In protesting his independence, he was responding to a blunt warning from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"A Hezbollah-controlled government would clearly have an impact on our bilateral relationship with Lebanon," Clinton said. The United States has delivered \$1.2 billion in economic and military assistance to Lebanon over the past five years; another \$246 million in the pipeline is now in doubt.

Much will depend on how Mikati handles his first real test on Feb. 7, when the international court at The Hague is presented with the findings of the U.N.-backed Special Tribunal on Lebanon. The findings reportedly blame Hezbollah for the February 2005 assassination of Saad Hariri's father, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

Mikati owes his elevation to the

premiership to Saad Hariri's refusal to repudiate the tribunal's findings. That stance led to the collapse of Hariri's government on Jan. 12 when 11 Hezbollah-backed Shiite ministers resigned en masse, sparking the current political crisis.

Now Mikati's Hezbollah patrons will expect him to deliver where Hariri would not. This puts the new Lebanese leader on the spot. If he repudiates the tribunal's findings, the international community will see him as a Hezbollah puppet; if he doesn't, he almost certainly will lose his job.

However the current crisis plays out, for Israel the prospect of a future showdown with Hezbollah, as part of the regional struggle for hegemony with Iran, remains as high on its threat map as ever, if not higher.

In the Israeli estimate, Hezbollah already has approximately 45,000 rockets and long-range missiles, more than four times the arsenal it had before the Lebanon war of 2006. Israel also

says Hezbollah has built hundreds of outposts and bunkers south of the Litani River — in blatant violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which brought the hostilities in 2006 to an end.

When in a recent tripartite meeting of IDF officers, Lebanese army personnel and U.N. peacekeepers, the Lebanese denied claims that Hezbollah had been allowed to move to southern Lebanon below the Litani River, the Israeli officers produced detailed maps showing the precise location of the Hezbollah positions.

Neither the U.N. forces nor the Lebanese army has since done anything to challenge the resolution-violating Hezbollah deployment.

The big question, though, remains unanswered. Is there a red line that, if crossed by Hezbollah, would prompt Israel to intervene in Lebanon? That's an issue no one in the Israeli establishment is prepared to address publicly.

Prager Addresses Christians and Jews

Link Staff Report

Christians United for Israel (CUFI), founded by Pastor John Hagee, hosted their annual "A Night to Honor Israel," a demonstration of solidarity for Israel and the Jewish people, in Albuquerque on Jan. 11 at the Kiva Auditorium.

All funds raised at the event went to benefit the Ben Yakir Aliyah Village in Hadera, Israel through the Jewish Federation of New Mexico Blackie Gonzalez Fund. The Village provides a safe haven for at-risk youth, ages 12 to 17, who have been abused or neglected or are on the fringes of society.

Radio talk show host, author and lecturer Dennis Prager was the keynote speaker. Prager is the co-author, with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, of the seminal work on anti-Semitism, *Why the Jews*, as well as *The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism*.

Prager began his eloquent and humorous speech by addressing the Jews in the audience responding to the four reasons some Jews give for not supporting CUFI. The following text is from Prager's speech:

Reason number one is that *they want to convert us*.

I haven't met any Jew who ever became a Christian after a night to honor Israel. ... I mean it's so silly that that's what you Christians have as your reason for gathering tonight in Albuquerque, N.M. to support Israel that as a result Jews will convert. ... Christians want to bring the world to Christ and I honor that ... but the fact is that's not the reason for this.

And that's important for Jews to understand. Anyway, I want to say to my fellow Jews; something I've said for 40 years in public Jewish life — It is our task to keep Jews Jewish not non-Jews task to keep Jews Jewish. ... Make Judaism so beautiful that it's a non-issue is the message to my fellow Jews.

Anyway, this conversion thing it's a pretty odd deal right? There are over a billion Muslims and there are 13 million Jews. Wouldn't you think its better hunting grounds for converts among the billions than among the 13 million?

A Night to Honor Israel doesn't go over well in the Muslim community. That's a fact. So much for the conversion issue.

Reason number two is *how can we go to them and support them? They think we're not saved*.

So what? I've never understood why that troubles a Jew. May I say again to my fellow Jews, I am troubled not by people's theologies but by people's behavior. I ask how does group "A" treat me not what does group

"A" believes will happen to me when I die. How do you treat me while I am alive is the more rational question a Jew should ask and no one treats Jews as well as Christians United for Israel. No one on earth.

Reason number three ... this is my favorite one. *Christians only do this because of Christian theology. They have this apocalyptic vision that the Jews will go back to Israel, then Jesus will come, the Jews will all end up in a terrible place, Christians will end up good, so it's all done to hasten Jesus' coming.*

I have a number of things to say about this. First, the Jews who say this, I have a trick reaction. "Wow, you really seem to know a lot about Christian theology can you name the four Gospels?" And that ends that discussion. They can't. So my suspicion is if you can't name the four Gospels you don't know much about Christian theology.

Nobody has made it clearer on earth than Pastor John Hagee there's nothing a Christian can do to hasten the coming of Jesus. That's not Christian theology. God will decide His time. That's the Christian belief.

Attending a meeting in New Mexico on behalf of Israel is not done in order to hasten the coming of Christ. Just letting the Jews know that. This is well known to the Christians here.

And then the fourth objection is *well we don't agree with their politics*.

Well their politics are identical to the politics of the vast majority of orthodox Jews for example. Would you boycott an orthodox Jewish event because for example they believe that marriage should remain male-female? So why would you boycott and non-Jewish event where the values are identical to the values that most orthodox Jews have.

If you would go to an orthodox Jewish event and you wouldn't boycott it then you have no right on political grounds to boycott this. Anyway it's a little myopic on the part of the Jew to say 'I don't agree with CUFI on political issue A or B therefore I won't help Israel, which has an existential threat to its existence.'

Now let me address Christians. You are right about Genesis. Just wanted to let you know. What I just engaged in is known to Jews as



Dennis Prager

chutzpah. A tremendous nerve telling Christians who know their bible real well that what they believe about it is actually true. But I thought I would just add the Jew's confirmation; that in fact God does bless those who bless the Jews and does curse those who curse the Jews. This is not wishful thinking, it's a fact.

Look at what happened to Spain for 500 years after it expelled the Jews. Every time it happens there is another example. And indeed the most blessed country on earth is the country that has most blessed Jews in the history of the Jewish people — the United States of America.

Now if you think it's a coincidence, you're allowed, I am certain it is not a coincidence. And let me tell you this ... The day America, God forbid, would begin to abandon Israel is the date of the beginning of the decline of the United States of America.

Now, let me try to explain in great seriousness and concise manner my fellow Jews who wouldn't attend something like this.

Jews have a very long memory. Really long. We have a Seder commemorating an event that happened in 1200 B.C. That's a long time ago. So if we're still eating the food they ate 3,200 years ago ... Jews have a long memory.

Long memories come with blessings and that is continuity. Jews can teach the world memory. But memory also comes also with baggage like your memories from your childhood, as pleasant as they are, they come with baggage.

And part of the baggage is that Christian history has not been a blessed one for the Jewish people. It's just true. And Jews remember that. However, while Christians need to understand that, no one explains that more powerfully than Pastor Hagee to his fellow Christians.

Secondly, as a result of all the anti-Semitism in history — and it has been staggering and sadistic and vile — Jews are somewhat paranoid; it's hard for them to believe that anybody really likes them. It is. I need you to understand this. Let me tell you a great story in this regard.

I hope I don't offend anyone here. I don't see anything wrong with respectful Indian names for college teams like the Seminoles for example. So a man called my radio show and he said, 'Dennis I don't agree with you at all, let me ask you a questions. You're Jewish. How would you feel if a team was called the Jews?'

And I said, 'Sir let me tell you something. For 3,000 years we Jews have been waiting for fans. The

thought of a team called the Jews makes my day sir.' Let's go Jews! Give me a J, give me an E, give me a W! Cheerleaders for Jews!

Alright, that's fantasy, unfortunately. We haven't had many fans. So Jews are a little paranoid and the thought that you come here and actually celebrate us Jews that's too hard for some Jews to believe.

Thirdly, there are a lot of Jews who simply fear religious people — religious Jews they fear and religious Christians they fear. That is unfortunate ... but again my point was to explain to you why you get some degree of pushback ...

Finally, one other thing I need to say to Christians and all non-Jews: We Jews, because of chosenness are the world's miners' canaries. Canaries are taken down to mines because they die as soon as there are noxious fumes

and that's a warning to the miners that you better fight those noxious fumes or you will die.

And that warning to non-Jews is that you're next. People need to understand that Jew haters, anti-Semites always begin with Jews, they never end with Jews. You're next. You're always next. Whoever the 'you' is, and it's usually Christians.

That's very important to know. Dismissing Ahmadinejad as the Jews problem is idiocy. Just as it was idiocy to dismiss Hitler as the Jews problem. Yes they are the Jews problem ... they're everybody's problem.

Finally, let me say one more word about America. I texted my wife and kids while sitting here tonight: 'Speaking to Christians supporting Israel in New Mexico; only in America!'

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STAND from page 4

horrific shootings in Tucson called into sharp focus President Obama's appeal to engage in "disagreements without being disagreeable."

Another rancorous message came courtesy of a self-proclaimed "writer and activist" in Ohio who "shunned" my "lack of core Jewish values" and declared that her "efforts and passion henceforth publicly belong to JStreet."

Admittedly, I haven't been much of a fan of JStreet in the past, but I do offer them my sincere sympathies for the "passion" heading their way.

It is peculiar that phrases can be

freely hurled at Hagee that would draw immediate condemnation if they were directed at a priest, imam, or rabbi. It seems that the last respectable bigotry in the United States is bigotry against Christian Evangelicals.

Despite the jarring impact of the words from supposed coreligionists, the sting was lessened quickly by the sight of hundreds of new friends from Belen, Carlsbad and Las Cruces; people from rural areas and far-flung places in New Mexico who had no such viciousness in their hearts, only a desire to stand with Israel and the Jewish People.

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Being a Jew is a Life-long Journey

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

Aaron was only nine years old the first time he was attacked for being a Jew. He wasn't called a "dirty Jew," "kike," or "Christ-killer" by a taunting bully or anti-Semitic neighbor. His assault came from the inside, from a fellow student at the Hebrew Day School he attended.

"You're hardly Jewish, you know. You don't eat kosher and you never go to synagogue," Benny said to him. "You're hardly even Jewish."

To even the most assimilated Jew, the accusation of being a "bad Jew" cuts to the core. For while most of us can tolerate a wide variety of character assaults, to be accused of being a bad Jew feels different and much worse.

Why is it that within the Jewish religion, which encompasses a broad spectrum of ideas, rituals, traditions, foods and cultures, we are so quick to judge one another from the stand-

point of where we are in our relationship to Judaism?

Is it simply human nature to judge others based on our own choices or do we really believe that we are better Jews (and better people) because of the rituals we observe, the synagogues we attend, the committees we volunteer for and the charities we support?

Asked in another way: Does the fact that Stuart keeps kosher make him a better Jew than Eric, who enjoys an occasional cheeseburger but gives regularly to the Jewish Federation? It may make them different Jews, but must we place a value on those differences, distinguishing them as better or worse.

Shouldn't the focus of our inquiry be whether we are engaged Jews, evolving Jews, questioning Jews and caring Jews rather than whether we are "as good as the Goldberg family" Jews? Shouldn't we look at ourselves and ask ourselves how the Jewish tra-

dition can provide a framework for meaning and purpose and enrich and inform our lives and communities?

Being a Jew is a life-long process. From the moment a Jewish baby enters the world, he or she does so with a different set of parents, opportunities, expectations, challenges and responsibilities. Judaism teaches that each one of us is unique. From this we understand that each one of us will encounter and embrace the Torah and its ideals in ways that are unique to us.

What that means for each person will inevitably be different. For some it may mean studying Torah or joining a synagogue. For others it may mean creating a Jewish home by filling it with Jewish books, music and traditions. For still others, being Jewish may involve participating in social action programs or working out at the Jewish Community Center.

The fact that the point of entry differs for everyone matters little

as long as the pursuit enhances our awareness and appreciation of what it means to be Jewish. We are lucky to be part of a culture, religion and group of people who embrace a multitude of traditions and teachings that enable us, at their core, to become better human beings.

The Hebrew term for Jewish law is *Halacha*, which means path. We do ourselves and other Jews an injustice if we fail to acknowledge that walking along the Jewish path is an evolving, fluid process, with each new step bringing awareness and understanding that will guide us as we pursue our unique destinies.

Respect and love for one another, not just as human beings but as Jewish human beings, is derived from our ability to recognize and value not just the similarities between us but the differences as well.

A favorite saying of the rabbis of Yavneh was:

"I am a creature of God and my

neighbor is also a creature of God.

I work in the city and he works in the country.

I rise early for my work and he rises early for his work.

Just as he cannot excel in my work, I cannot excel in his work.

Will you say that I do great things and he does small things?

We have learned that it does not matter whether a person does much or little, as long as he directs his heart to heaven."

Babylonian Talmud, Brachot, 17a

When asked if he put on *tefillin* each morning, the German Jewish philosopher Franz Rosenzweig responded "Not yet." He knew he was not ready to commit but he didn't close the door on the possibility that someday he might be. What a powerful message for us today — to envision the potential that remains open to each of us as we journey on our Jewish path.

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B'nai Mitzvah

Savannah Aubrey Sears February 21, 2011 Congregation B'nai Israel

I am a seventh grader at Edgewood Middle School, and I love sports, singing, dancing and acting. I've played in leagues for soccer and basketball. I'm a member of the school choir as well as being involved in dance squad and Drama Club.

Also, I like getting involved in my school and community. I am a representative in Student Council, and I have a grade point average of 3.9.

In October 2010, my brother Ivan was wounded in Afghanistan. After stepping on an IED, he lost both legs. This affected our whole family.

So, I decided to work with the Wounded Warrior Project to help raise funds for their efforts as part



of my Mitzvah project. This is something I plan to continue throughout my Jewish life.

So, please join me and my family as I am called to the Torah to become a Bat Mitzvah.

PUNCTUATION from page 10

pronunciation of the words, and the system of musical notes (trope) for the words.

With its various vocal inflections, pauses and stops, the trope gives the vowelized sentence its structure and meaning, much like commas and periods.

As just one example of the usefulness of the trope, consider the story of Sodom and Gemorrah. Lot, Abraham's nephew, is urged to leave the place before its destruction, but "he delayed." (Gen. 19:16). The Hebrew word for "delayed" is a very long verb (7 letters), giving immediately a sense of the delay. The Massoretes added to it the longest trope (some 24 separate notes) to further emphasize the idea of delay.

However, a language is a dynamic, living entity. In its everyday use, certain errors may — and do — crop up. This is true with Biblical Hebrew in several instances.

One such remarkable error is found in the famous chapter 40 of Isaiah: "Comfort ye, comfort ye, My people." Verse 3 reads: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, 'prepare ye the way of the Lord.'" (King James' version, et al.)

From this source, we have the idiomatic expression: "A voice in the wil-

derness," meaning "someone's words not being heeded." For example, "Churchill's early warning of the danger of Nazism was a voice in the wilderness."

Similarly, the motto of Dartmouth College on its seal proclaims nobly, "Vox Clamatis in Deserto."

Ernst Bloch wrote a musical composition named "Voices in the Wilderness;" likewise, Handel's "Messiah" uses that verse from Isaiah in the same sense.

The trouble with this expression is that ... it is wrong. The Massoretes' punctuation (trope) renders this verse as, "A voice calls out: 'In the desert clear a road for the Lord! In the wilderness level a highway for our God!'"

The symmetry of the two halves — "In the desert clear a road," and "In the wilderness level a highway," is a very common structure of Biblical poetry. The Massoretes knew it, of course, and their trope properly stresses this structure. Yet, despite the symmetry of the sentence and despite the trope, "A voice in the wilderness" remains an established idiom. And, as if this were not enough, the same idiom and mistake exist in Hebrew (whence King James' version got it) to this very day.

Let us hope that this note does not remain ... a voice in the wilderness.

Community Calendar

Candlelighting Schedule

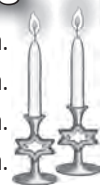
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FEBRUARY

2 WEDNESDAY

■ JCC's Wonderful Wednesdays program will feature the award winning film *Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn* (2008), starting at 11 a.m.

5 SATURDAY

■ Solomon Schechter Day School will host cookbook author Joan Nathan for a fundraising event. For more information, call 505-232-2325.

6 SUNDAY

■ The Jewish Federation of New Mexico will host a Rio Rancho Brunch program featuring Jewish genealogist Schelly Talalay Dardashti speaking on "It's in Our Genes: Revealing History via Technology." For more information, call 505-821-3214.

8 TUESDAY

■ The Daytime Hadassah Book Discussion Group will meet at Congregation Albert at 1 p.m. to discuss *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. The cost is \$4. For more information, contact Barbara Wasserman at 505-275-9937 or wasermanb@yahoo.com, or Judy Kaplan at 505-292-7740 or jekaplan@msn.com.

9 WEDNESDAY

■ JCC's Wonderful Wednesdays program will feature author Edie Tarbescu speaking on "Beyond Ellis Island," at 11 a.m.

11 FRIDAY

■ Israeli radio show host Yishai Fleisher will speak at Kol BeRamah in Santa Fe. See page 9.

■ Rabbi Eitan Eckstein will speak on "Addiction in the Jewish Community," at UNM Hillel. See page 9.

12 SATURDAY

■ Israeli radio show host Yishai Fleisher will speak at Kol BeRamah in Santa Fe. See page 9.

13 SUNDAY

■ Israeli radio show host Yishai Fleisher will speak at UNM Student Union in Albuquerque. See page 9.

■ JCC will host "A Taste of Honey." See page 2.

■ JCC will host Leo Neufeld's art exhibit opening following "A Taste of Honey." See page 2.

15 TUESDAY

■ Rabbi Eitan Eckstein will speak on "Addiction in the Jewish Community," at Congregation Beit Tikvah in Santa Fe. See page 9.

16 WEDNESDAY

■ JCC's Wonderful Wednesdays program will feature author Sandra Toro speaking on her new book *By Fire Possessed: The Story of Dona Gracia Naci, Jewish Heroine During the Inquisition*, at 11 a.m.

17 THURSDAY

■ Yad b' Yad meeting will feature Yad Vashem official Dr. Susanna Kokkonen. See page 16.

18 FRIDAY

■ Congregation Nahalat Shalom will host KlezmerQuerque 2011. See page 8.

19 SATURDAY

■ Congregation Nahalat Shalom will host KlezmerQuerque 2011. See page 8.

20 SUNDAY

■ Congregation Nahalat Shalom will host KlezmerQuerque 2011. See page 8.

■ JCC will host the first meeting of their second book club. See page 7.

■ Congregation Albert will hold their monthly Brotherhood Brunch. See page 7.

23 WEDNESDAY

■ The Albuquerque City Council will issue a proclamation about Gilad Shalit at the beginning of their meeting at 5 p.m. at 1 Civic Plaza in the basement.

■ JCC's "Chaim Time" program will feature Sarah Rachel Egelman speaking on "Warriors and Wise Guys: Jewish Boxers and Gangsters in America," at 11 a.m.

24 THURSDAY

■ Congregation Albert's Open Mind program will host Carol Venturini speaking on "The History of Ellis Island: The Immigration Experience." A light lunch will be served for \$4 or you can bring your own lunch. For more information or to RSVP, call Janice at 505-821-9302 or Pearl at 505-344-8508 by Feb. 22.

25 FRIDAY

■ Congregation B'nai Israel will host their annual Sisterhood Shabbat. See page 7.

27 SUNDAY

■ Hadassah of Greater Albuquerque will be holding a Mah Jongg Tournament at Pathways Academy from 1 – 5 p.m. Registration is \$10 for Hadassah members and \$15 for non-members. Registration deadline is Feb. 15. For more information, contact Marti Johns at 505-858-1430 or madjohns@earthlink.net.

MARCH

1 TUESDAY

■ Congregation B'nai Israel will host the annual Jewish-Catholic Dialogue. See page 7.

3 WEDNESDAY

■ JCC's Wonderful Wednesdays program will feature Rabbi Howard Kos-

ovske speaking on "Purim: To Drink or Not to Drink," at 11 a.m.

3 THURSDAY

■ Keshet Dance Company will perform Ani Ma'amin at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces. See page 6.

5 SATURDAY

■ Keshet Dance Company will perform Ani Ma'amin at the North Fourth Art Center in Albuquerque. See page 6.

6 WEDNESDAY

■ JCC's Wonderful Wednesdays program will feature the art show opening reception featuring Local Color, watercolor artist group show, from 2 – 5 p.m.

ONGOING

■ Sundays: JCC Book Club for everyone who enjoys reading and discussing books. Led by Book Club members on a rotating basis, 5:30 p.m. in the Brody Lounge. For further information, call Phyllis Wolf at 348-4450.

■ Sundays: The Jewish War Veterans hold their monthly breakfast on the fourth Sunday of each month. For monthly locations and times, call Saul at 505-299-6043.

■ Tuesdays: Mah Jongg Club in the JCC Brody Lounge from 7 – 9 p.m. Free for everyone.

■ Wednesdays: JCC Wonderful Wednesdays, an all day program for seniors meets the first three Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m. at the JCC. "Schmooze and nosh" hour, followed by "Forever Fit," a low level impact exercise class. Spend the afternoon playing games of Canasta, Mah Jongg and Bridge. Cost for event: \$8. The fourth Wednesday is "No Host Wednesday" where you can bring your lunch, buy from the café, watch TV, use the library, play games, etc. For more information, call Phyllis Wolf at 348-4500.

■ Wednesdays: Grief and Loss Support Group led by Chaplain Linda Friedman at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., and from 12 – 1 p.m. It is open to all people who are experiencing any kind of loss. Membership in the Senior Center is required, but membership is free.

■ Thursdays: SANTA FE — The Tik-kun Community of Santa Fe, Jews and Jewish allies, meet at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom, 205 E. Barcelona Rd. to work towards finding peace in the Middle East.

■ Fridays: Grief and Loss Support Group led by Rabbi Min Kantrowitz at the JCC from 12 – 1 p.m. It is open to all people who are experiencing any kind of loss.

■ Gay and Lesbian Jewish Chavurah (Circle of Friends) meets monthly for Shabbat potluck dinners. For more information, call Linda at 352-2623.

■ The DVora Healing Project sponsors free meetings for victims and survivors of domestic violence. Rabbi Min Kantrowitz facilitator. For more information, call Diane at 362-3361 or the Jewish Federation of New Mexico at 821-3214.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
P.O. Box 21639, ABQ, NM 87154
Susan Seligman, 823-2712
fax: 823-0887

The DVora Project
Shedding light on domestic violence
For help, call Diane at 362-3361,
or 1-800-773-3645 (The S.A.F.E.
House 24 hour hotline and shelter).
Co-sponsored by JFNM and JFS.

Hadassah of Greater Albuquerque
Contact Doris Taylor, 867-5043
www.albuquerque.hadassah.org

Hillel at UNM
Aaron David Bram Hillel House
1701 Sigma Chi NE, ABQ, NM 87106,
Dr. Sara Koplik, executive director, 242-1127

Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico
616 Central Ave. SW
Lyn Berner, 247-0606

Jewish Arts and Culture Group of Santa Fe
c/o Lee Berk
3101 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-988-1326, Lee217@comcast.net

Jewish Community Center
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, 332-0565
Executive Director: Jay Jacobs

Jewish Community Relations Council c/o JFNM
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE 821-3214

Jewish Education Alliance
Contact Kathryn Weil, 232-2325

Jewish Community Endowment Foundation of NM (JCEF)
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
contact: Erika Rimson 505-821-3214
Website: www.jewishnewmexico.org

Jewish Family Service (JFS)
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, 291-1818

• **Chevre Kaddisha**
Jewish Burial Society

• **Jewish Community Chaplaincy Program**
Rabbi Min Kantrowitz
Pastoral counseling and support; hospital,
nursing home, hospice visits and grief group.

• **David Specter Shalom House**
5500 Wyoming Blvd. NE
building manager, 823-1433
Social Services, Carrie Hamilton,
823-1434

Jewish Federation of New Mexico (JFNM)
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
821-3214
Executive Director: Sam Sokolove

Jewish War Veterans (JWV)
ABQ Steve Schiff Post 375:Cmdr.,
Vern Lieberman, 294-7379;
Rio Rancho Post Cmdr.,
Edward Cohen, 891-1742

New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, 348-4471

ORT Organization for Rehabilitation and Training
Betty Harvie, 344-1644

Solomon Schechter Day School
5520-A Wyoming Blvd. NE,
Head of School: Kathryn Weil
232-2325

Zionist Organization of America ZOA NM
P.O. Box 3963, Albuquerque, NM 87190
contact: Lynn Provencio
505-340-6675
email: info@zoanm.org
Website: http://zoanm.org



Visit the Jewish Federation of New Mexico Online at:

www.jewishnewmexico.org

Federation Works for Accuracy in Textbooks

Link Staff Report

Since April of last year, the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, in partnership with The Institute for Curriculum Services/National Resource Center for Accurate Jewish Content in Schools, has helped bring about 238 edits for the better to New Mexico textbooks.

"I'm delighted that the Federation and ICS have been working successfully to promote accurate instructional materials about Jews, Judaism and Israel in New Mexico public schools," said Federation Executive Director Sam Sokolove.

The San Francisco-based Institute for Curriculum Services is the only entity in the American Jewish community that strategically, comprehensively and nationally addresses what millions of students in public schools and beyond learn, and ensures that school texts are reviewed and inaccuracies and omissions are addressed before materials reach American classrooms.

ICS works directly with social studies textbook publishers to improve their textbooks' accuracy. In less than four years, ICS has

obtained more than 3,000 corrections to content in hundreds of textbooks found across the country.

ICS also develops curriculum on Jewish and Israel-related topics and offers teacher training at social studies conferences, enabling teachers to identify problems in instructional materials and to present more accurate information to their students.

The partnership between ICS and the Jewish Federation was formalized at the 2010 Jewish Council of Public Affairs plenum in Dallas by Sokolove, Anita Miller, Chair of the Federation's Community Relations Council and Aliza Cramer Elias, ICS's Director of Program Development and National Outreach.

In New Mexico Dr. Sara Koplik, the Jewish Federation of New Mexico's Director of Community Outreach and Director of Hillel at the University of New Mexico, advises ICS on prospective changes, reviewing hundreds of pages of text for accuracy, context and adherence to contemporary scholarship standards.

For more information about the ICS, visit <http://www.icsresources.org/>

The Minor Prophets: Micah

By Shlomo Karni

Micah, of Moreshet-Gat, a village in southern Judea (1:14), prophesied there around the end of the 8th century B.C.E.; thus, he was a contemporary of Isaiah. At that time, the main event, which shook the entire Middle East was the dazzling rise to power of the Assyrian kingdom in the lands of the Fertile Crescent (today: Iraq).

The Assyrians destroyed the northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C.E. and moved on the kingdom of Judea. In 701 B.C.E., their King Sennacherib lay siege to Jerusalem, but had to retreat hastily due to a rebellion against him back home. These events left their imprints on the prophecies of Isaiah and of Micah.

In the first chapters, Micah denounces social injustice and corruption: "the rulers of Jacob and the chiefs of the House of Israel [who] ought to know what is right, but [instead] hate good and love evil, [who] devoured My people's flesh and broke their bones to pieces." (3:1-3).

This decline, Micah warns, will lead to "Zion [being] plowed as a field, and Jerusalem ... heaps of ruins" (3:12) — a specific prophecy about the future destruction of Judea, some 120 years later.

This destruction, Micah hopes, will bring the people back to a simple way of life which, in turn, will mark the beginning of a better world, with equality among all nations and universal peace. "In the days to come, the Mount of the Lord's House shall stand firm ... the peoples shall gaze on it with joy, and many nations shall go and say, 'let us go up to the House of the God of Jacob; that He may instruct us in His ways....'"

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take

up sword against nation, they shall never again know war. But every man shall sit under his grapevine or fig tree with no one to disturb him." (4:1-4). This lofty vision of The End of Days is taken, almost verbatim, from Isaiah 2:2-4.

The last two chapters (6, 7) reflect Micah's personal, inner conflict after the miraculous relief from the siege of Jerusalem. The messianic era did not materialize, and the people did not repent. On the contrary, they remained sinful and corrupt. Micah turns away from this disappointing reality, and creates images of the ideal nation, repentant and just: "Hear what the Lord is saying: 'My people, what wrong have I done you? Testify against Me! I brought you out of Egypt, and sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Recall [the crossing of the Jordan] and you will recognize the gracious acts of the Lord.'" (6:1-5).

There follows the classical question, "Would the Lord be pleased with [burnt offerings of] a thousand of rams, with streams of oil?" (6:6-7). Micah gives a superlative, distilled essence of what God asks of us: "He has told you, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (6:8-9).

Our Talmudic sages took a special notice of this passage. In a previous column (The Link, March 2009), we cited their discussion about how a person should live a proper life: Moses started with the original 613 commandments; David reduced this number to eleven; Isaiah — to six; and Micah — to three: "Do justice, Love kindness, and Walk humbly with God." How simply noble — and nobly simple!

(In a couple of months, another prophet will reduce this number to a single one.)

My Year of Living Patiently

By Debra Wechter Friedman

I am so thankful that 2010 is behind me. Many of the lessons I learned this past year due to 11 months of unwellness have left precious impressions and indelibly affected my heart and being.

You know the High Holy Day liturgy when we read together as a community: "Who shall live and who shall die?" I seriously considered the possibility that I would be one of the fatalities of the year.

You see, for the previous seven months, I had been to doctors, specialists, laboratories and clinics to unravel the mysteries of why I woke up one morning with double vision and dizziness. This developed into debilitating vertigo and general malaise. Both an MRI and MRA showed some irregular findings.

Modern technology is amazing in that the neurologist could show me what the abnormalities looked like. But at that point all I wanted to know was what was causing these irregularities and what it would take for me to feel better. The specialists said it could be multiple sclerosis, a brain tumor, virus or inflammation.

All of these words kept spinning through my head while sitting up on the bimah during Yom Kippur. It took all my will power to maintain my composure and balance while singing with the Zamar. The uncertainty of all those possibilities posed a pervasive presence throughout the Holy Days.

New insights and reminders of old lessons about one's life in this world and one's passing on came to me during the Holy Days. I came to be far more comfortable with my own inevitable exit from this life that we know.

Other precious insights that

came were a quiet acceptance of whatever "is" and the patience to deal with what "is." Previously experienced irritants and irritating people seemed to be losing a bit of their grip on me.

The experiences of this past year provided a portal for ongoing *chesbon ha nefesh* — inventory of the soul. This continues to be quite liberating and a useful tool in my growth.

Realizing one's mortality is a positive awareness. I am cognizant that I want to live a more righteous and honest life. Once again, there is a great sense of liberation in that desire and commitment.

Going in and out of the rotating doors of the medical system is not for the weak at heart. Lost medical records, dealing with medical insurance, unreturned phone calls, rude receptionists and indifferent medical staff are difficult and trying hurdles to navigate and negotiate when one is ill. Someone who can act as your medical advocate and be an unbiased third party with a second pair of ears is the way to go!

While waiting in the reception areas for several of my medical appointments, it occurred to me how all of the folks waiting to see the doctor were ill and perhaps going through equally if not more challenging times as myself. You never know what the person next to you is dealing with, so another precious lesson is to maintain that mindful awareness at all times while interacting with others.

During the past year, I had to stop /drop out of the following: school, JCC board work, tutoring, my beloved pottery classes, singing with the Zamar, walking my dogs, doing volunteer work, regular exercise and most every aspect of my normal life up to that point.



Debra Wechter Friedman

While none of the specialists can agree upon a diagnosis — Lyme Disease, Rickettsia Typhi, some undetermined virus — I am determined to continue to regain health. A follow up MRI will be scheduled in a month to assess any changes.

Through the care and treatment of Dr. Ping Chen MD/DOM and Dr. Naram, an Ayurvedic physician, my health is returning. I am starting to feel like my old self as I write this, with some further tuned awarenesses and much more appreciation.

I am filled with gratitude to those family members, neighbors and friends who helped with food, rides, cards and calls of support and encouragement. I am also grateful to the therapists, medical technicians and doctors who treated me with kindness and compassion.

The sages say that every human being has a spark of the Divine within them. Well, I now have a keener awareness of that spark working through others.

Most important of all lessons for me, is to live in an ongoing and growing space of gratitude to G-d, for helping develop this patience and acceptance for what my life is right now!

Good News for 70-Year-Olds

By Vivian Skadron

Some benefits do come to those who get older, and I'm one of them. The IRA Charitable Rollover, first enacted in 2006, has been extended through December 2011. What does this mean? Well, I'll tell you ...

I have a small IRA carried over from my working years. At age 70 1/2, I am required by law to make an annual distribution, which is subject to taxes. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows me to make my distribution directly to a charity without counting it as income, and, consequently, without paying taxes on it.

To me, it's a win-win!

I contacted my IRA administrator and requested them to make a direct transfer of funds from my IRA to the Jewish Women's Endowment Fund (JWEF) of New Mexico in care of the Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Endowment Foundation of New Mexico. The JWEF will make grants to agencies and programs that assist women and their children in the



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Jewish community.

It's a great opportunity for me to make a tax-free contribution to a worthy charity,* and it counts toward my minimum distribution requirement for the year.

Next year I plan to look into the different funds managed by the Jewish Community Endowment Foundation of New Mexico, such as the Israel Experience Fund or the Legacy Fund, which welcomes smaller gifts to be used for emergencies and grants as determined by the JCEF Board of Trustees.

Don't pass up this opportu-

nity to help the charity of your choice in 2011. For more information, contact the Jewish Community Endowment Foundation in the offices of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.

* Charitable contributions from an IRA must go directly to a public charity that is not a supporting organization. Contributions to donor-advised funds and private foundations, except in narrow circumstances, do not qualify for tax-free IRA rollover contributions.

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Both Jews and Arabs Willing to Save Strangers

By Avigayil Kadesh

Only about 1.2 million of the world’s roughly 400 million ethnic Arabs live in Israel, yet the sole registry for Arab bone marrow donors is located in Jerusalem’s Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center. Bone marrow transplanted from a genetically matching donor may be effective against blood cancers and a variety of genetic diseases.

Registry director Amal Bishara, an Arab woman with a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from Hadassah, has traveled to 60 Arab communities since the registry was created in 2008 as an offshoot of the hospital’s 22-year-old Jewish registry. Through lectures, publicity campaigns, newspaper articles and social media, Bishara has brought

in 9,000 registrants resulting in six donations.

But before she can collect samples — often with the help of her family or a cadre of retired Arab nurses — she must sell the concept of unrelated, anonymous donors. Since Arabs frequently marry relatives, at least 60 percent of patients find matches within their own extended families (on the flip side, about 90 percent of Arab requests for bone marrow transplants are for children with genetic diseases resulting from consanguineous marriages). Hadassah previously had little success in recruiting Arab registrants. Thanks to Bishara, attitudes are changing.

“A small [Arab] girl needed a transplant recently and our phone did not stop ringing,” Bishara relates with obvious pride. “People want to

participate. Now my emphasis is on getting university students to join because they are committed, young and healthy.” Her overall goal is 50,000 registrants.

About 15 million people are registered globally, says Dr. Shoshana Israel, head of Hadassah’s tissue typing laboratory. “However, each ethnic population presents different tissue types, and you have to try to find a population most suitable for each patient,” for example Druze and Bedouin Arabs or Georgian and Yemenite Jews. “Otherwise,” continues Israel, “the chance of finding donors is very low. So we have to get people aware and tested.”

Part of that awareness is accepting that the identity of the recipient is not revealed, and that an Arab might be a match for a Jew and vice versa.

Anyone who balks at these conditions is not tested. As a result, few potential donors fail to follow through if they turn out to be a match.

“The donors are really angels,” says Israel. “Even though it’s not a huge operation, donating is not a trivial thing. Arabs and Jews alike are willing to go through the process just to save the life of someone they don’t know.”

Hadassah’s was the first Israeli marrow registry, established by Prof. Chaim Brautbar and now including more than 75,000 potential donors. The non-profit Ezer Mizion registry, the largest Jewish bone marrow registry in the world, has about 500,000. Another small one is based at Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv.

“We are also working on the cord blood bank in parallel,” says Israel.

“If we don’t find a donor from the marrow registry we might do better with cord blood, because it does not require a perfect match. That’s a big advantage for minority populations like the Bedouins, where we don’t have enough donors because we haven’t had the budget to test them.”

Funding is a chronic concern, and Brautbar spends much time soliciting overseas contributions — which can be earmarked for the Arab project if that is the desire of the funder. Israel and Bishara rarely have the budget for large testing drives. Instead, they reach out to specific patients’ ethnic communities. But mass recruitment would allow for more and faster matching in Israel and other countries where transplants are done.

Yad Vashem Official to Speak at Yad b’ Yad Event

By Cynthia McLean

Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, was established in 1953. Located at the foot of Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a 45-acre complex containing the Holocaust History Museum, Museum of Art, educational facilities and memorial sites making it a compelling tribute and historic resource.

In 2006, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) and Yad Vashem entered into an unprecedented partnership agreement that set up a “Christian Desk” at Yad Vashem. Hundreds of thousands of Christians who love Israel and feel overwhelmingly shocked by the events of the Holocaust visit annually and want to make a difference and by supporting Yad Vashem and its mission to maintain the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

The desk for “Christian Friends of Yad Vashem” was created to reach out to the Christian world, educate it and enable it to learn the eternal, universal lessons that will ensure that nothing like this will ever happen again.

Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, director of the Yad Vashem Christian Friends Desk, will be the featured speaker for the upcoming Yad b’ Yad meeting, to be held at Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

Kokkonen travels around the world to speak about Israel, the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. She has been the featured guest speaker at many Jewish-Christian interfaith events. Fluent in six languages, she also writes regularly on Jewish and Israeli issues.

Prior to Yad Vashem she worked at the European Parliament in Brussels and at the Embassy of Finland in Tel Aviv. She received her Ph.D. from

the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2004 in Holocaust studies.

Kokkonen says, “While Yad Vashem is well-known to most Jewish communities and we do a lot of events together with local Jewish communities, the mission of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem is geared toward a Christian audience that lacks the connection with the Holocaust and its remembrance and learning. It is vital that Christians learn about the events of the past and want to build a better future. We work a lot with Holocaust survivors and they understand the value of transmitting the legacy to future generations and different audiences.”

In addition, the division educates about the noble legacy of the Righteous among the Nations. Non-Jews who saved Jews during the Holocaust, at personal risk, are honored by Yad Vashem. Trees have

been planted in their honour on the campus of Yad Vashem. Each tree is attached to a specific person designated a “Righteous Gentile” as a way of reminding us of their personal, inspirational stories.

A Yad Vashem quote reads: “Remembering the Past Means Shaping the Future.” Albuquerque’s

group Yad b’ Yad, (Hand in Hand in Hebrew) focuses on bringing Jews and Christians together for education on topics such as the Holocaust and the effect of history on our relations. It is widely agreed upon that to understand the anti-Semitism of today, we need to know what happened before us.

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Thank you to our current subscribers who are helping us maintain the only State-wide Jewish publication, which unites New Mexico's Jewish community with news, commentary and education.

TAOS from page 3

ing in a more independent and even stronger Taos Jewish Center.

Ziva Moyal, for instance, a secular Israeli who has lived in Taos for 11 years began studying Kabbalah five years ago at The Elat Chayyim Center for Jewish Spirituality. She then continued studying the works of Rabbi Chaim Luzzatto on her own and with study partners. For the past four years she has been the leader of a Kabbalah study group and Kabbalah 101 classes at the TJC, attracting more than 30 students.

Additionally, after visiting Elat Chayyim, Moyal started a weekly chanting group at the TJC, to which more than 45 people have attended. She furthered her relationship with the practice of chant by enrolling in Rabbi Shefa Gold’s Kol Zimra Chant Leaders Training and Moyal is now responsible for community building and deepened spiritual experiences through chant at the TJC.

In the fall of 2010, two new leaders stepped forward to become teachers for the Taos Jewish Center’s religious school, a program for 3 to 10 year olds. When approached to become a teacher, Taoseno Avi Burg, a native of Albuquerque, considered that teaching might provide him the opportunity to explore his personal connection to Judaism.

Burg, a single father, a student and a musician was a previously undiscovered Jewish community asset. He has committed his time to help form a community among Taos’ young families and to educate their children about Jewish life and values.

Just six months ago, Israeli Net-tayah Ben Atar, mother, artist, and co- owner of El Gamal Restaurant, responded positively when she was asked to teach Hebrew for the 8-10 year olds. Ben Atar immediately began creating an engaging Hebrew learning game, which the students have grown to adore.

The TJC religious school is small, about 12 kids, but its size does not detract from its significance. It’s

success, once again, a result of local leaders stepping forward.

Every Shabbat morning the Taos Minyan meets in the prayer room of the TJC for Torah study and prayer. Ron Kalom fills the role of lay leader. Kalom has been the key leader of the Taos Jewish community for more than 20 years; he is not new on the scene.

However, no conversation about local leadership at the Taos Jewish Center would be complete without his mention. Kalom’s commitment to Torah study has inspired others to emerge as ritual and activity leaders for their community.

The Chessed Project is the TJC’s non-denominational program that offers activities and services to improve the quality of life of Taos County seniors. The Chessed Project is particularly active in providing support for those with Alzheimer’s, dementia, and their families.

Suzie Verkamp, a long-time Taosena, enhances this program each week by offering gentle movement to music classes. The class is particularly popular with those in their 80s and 90s and it would not be available if Verkamp had not stepped forward.

The success of the Taos Jewish Center rests on the shoulders of these and many other unnamed individuals. Without them, 100 members, an assortment of donors, the Daniels Fund, New Mexico Arts and the Jewish Federation of New Mexico the Taos Jewish Center would only be a great idea.

To learn more about the activities and services provided by the Taos Jewish Center and the Chessed Project for Taos County seniors go to www.taosjewishcenter.org.

Don’t miss a grand opportunity to support the Taos Jewish Center and the Chessed Project by buying a “Let the Good Times Roll” raffle ticket on line. Grand Prize \$1,000. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Drawing on Purim.