



Jewish Reporter



A Publication of the Flint Jewish Federation

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Flint, MI

7th Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival Coming to Flint

The Flint Jewish community is working together to bring the 7th Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival of Flint to the Flint Institute of Arts. The festival is named in memory of Karen Schneider, who brought the film festival to Flint and was the first chair.

This year we will again partner with the Flint Institute of Arts and the Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival. By highlighting Jewish identity, history and culture, these independent films offer our community the chance to learn about ourselves and our extended family.

The film festival will kick off with a free showing for the community of Short Films on Thursday, May 12. (See page 3 for a list and brief description of the movies).

The Patron Reception will take place on Sunday evening, May 15 at the Flint Institute of Arts, followed by the film *Nora's Will*. Everyone is invited to attend the showing of the film. (Please see box below for film schedule).

Patron support for the film festival is \$198 which includes 2 tickets to each movie and a festive and delicious reception, catered by Luis Fernandez of 501 Bar & Grill, that includes wine.

Single tickets for the movies are \$6 each.

Chairing this year's committee is Judy Biesman and Lynne Hurand. Serving on the committee are: Ed Bradley, Rabbi Karen Compane, James Griffel, Leonard Meizlish,

WE SHALL NOT FORGET!



Emily Alter lights the 7th candle in memory of Gary Alter at the Yom HaShoah Program held at the Flint Youth Theatre. See page 4 for more photos.

The 7th Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival is coming to the Flint Institute of Arts May 12-19, 2011

Everyone is invited to attend the 7th Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival at the Flint Institute of Arts Theater (1120 East Kearsley Street, Flint).

Please join us as the festival brings our community together for cultural enlightenment and entertainment.

Thursday, May 12

7:30 p.m. Free Showing of Collection of Short Films
(See page 3 for description)

Sunday, May 15

6:00 p.m. Patron Reception*
7:30 p.m. "Nora's Will"

Monday, May 16

7:30 p.m. "Saviors In the Night"

Tuesday, May 17

7:30 p.m. "Matchmaker"

Wednesday, May 18

7:30 p.m. "Yankles"

Thursday, May 19

7:30 p.m. "Anita"

See Page 3 for movie details and a ticket order form.

*You are encouraged to be a Film Festival Patron with your contribution of \$198. All Patrons will receive a Patron pass which includes 2 tickets for all films and be invited to attend the Opening Reception catered by Chef Luis Fernandez.

The Flint Jewish Film Festival is sponsored by the Flint Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Services and the Flint Institute of Arts.



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A Letter from Ray Goldstein

The following was submitted by Ray Goldstein. He has been a Temple Beth El Board Member for 44 years including serving as treasurer from 1967-1976.

I just wanted to bring you up-to-date on what I have been doing lately. As most of you know I retired some time back, which quickly became boring for me. I began debating on how I should occupy my

time. Since I am not a golfer, I crossed that one off my list. Of course fishing and traveling had high priority, but I wanted more than that to fulfill my dreams. After giving it some serious thought, the answer was "Building Relationships with People."

My next question was which field I should choose. My previous experience includes accounting; data

processing; million dollar sales associate/sales manager; and owning a full-service hardware store. After some research, I decided to pursue automobile sales. Since I didn't have any experience in the field, I enrolled in some training courses and became passionate with the business. I could see a rebirth happening. People need affordable transportation—whether new or pre-owned. With so many new technology changes occurring, such as alternative fuels and hybrids, I decided that I want to be part of the solution. And the best part of all it's a people business, so I am able to "Build Relationships with People."

After researching various local dealerships, I chose Jim Waldron Buick-GMC as my "home." Because the dealership is **consistently ranked**

#1 in Customer Satisfaction for sales and service, I was given the confidence that I will be providing my friends and family with the best prices and service possible. Plus it's conveniently located to my hometown of Flint.

Not only do I specialize in selling Buick and GMC vehicles, but I can also find any brand vehicle you would like, new or used, from Chevrolet to Cadillac, and everything in between.

Whether you need assistance in service or with a new or used vehicle, as in the past, **I am here for you!** I'm looking forward to showing you "The Waldron Way."

See you soon!
Ray

A Community Calendar

May 2	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
May 7	Daniel Krebs' Bar Mitzvah, TBE	6:30 p.m.
May 9	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
	Ivriah Board Meeting, CBI	7:00 p.m.
May 10	JCS Executive Committee	6:30 p.m.
May 12	CBI Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
May 15	Karen Schnieder Jewish Film Festival Flint Institute of Arts	7:00 p.m.
May 16	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
May 16	Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival, FIA	
May 17	JCS Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
	Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival, FIA	
May 18	Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival, FIA	
May 19	Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival, FIA	
May 21	Matthew Collins' Bar Mitzvah, TBE	
May 22	Sisterhood Donor, CBI	12:30 p.m.
May 23	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
May 25	FJF Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
May 30	Closed, Memorial Day	

Did You Know?

The Jewish Agency for Israel's Loan Funds Initiative has provided more than \$29 million to build small business in the Negev and Galilee. With the support of Jewish Federations, more than 1,000 businesses have received loans since the program's inception, creating job opportunities and stimulating the country's economy. The Jewish Agency operates eight loan funds in Israel, which have provided capital for businesses ranging from bakeries to high-tech firms.

Chabad House Presents the Women's Weekly Wednesday Torah Study Hour

Women are invited to join a round-table class and stimulating discussion with Shainie Weingarten exploring the history of our People during the life of Joshua and on, its stories and messages to be applied to everyday life.

Classes are held on Wednesday afternoons 1:00-2:15 p.m. at Chabad House, 5385 Calkins, Flint.

Bring yourself and a friend or two (or more). For more information call 810-230-0770.

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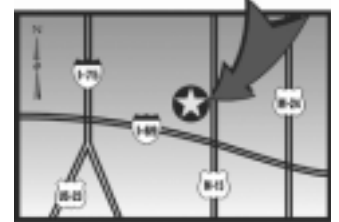


Ray Goldstein

Temple Beth El Board Member 44 years

Temple Beth El Treasurer 1967-1976

Managing Director/Treasurer Beth El Memorial
Park Association 1976 to present



Jewish Reporter

2011 Publication Schedule

Deadline	Issue
May 10	June
June 14	July
July 12	August
August 9	September
September 6	October (Rosh Hashanah)
October 11	November
November 8	December
November 29	(Hanukkah issue)

Jewish Reporter

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We invite letters to the editor. We are desirous of serving as a forum for the exchange of thoughts and attitudes in the Jewish Community. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the Jewish Reporter editorial staff.
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Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival - About the Movies:

Nora's Will

(Sunday, May 15 - 7:30 p.m.)

This story begins when Jose finds out that Nora, the woman he'd been married to for 30 years and then divorced, has committed suicide. The Rabbi explains to Jose, an atheist, that due to the celebration of the Passover, together with a few other factors, if Nora is not buried that same day, they will have to wait almost five days to be able to carry out the burial. It turns out that before she died, Nora devised a Machiavellian plan forcing Jose to take care of her funeral. But she missed one detail...a mysterious photograph left under the bed that will lead to an unexpected outcome which will remind us that sometimes the greatest love stories are hidden in the smallest places.

Saviors in the Night

(Monday, May 16 - 7:30 p.m.)

Returning from Germany's eastern front in 1918. Menne Spiegel is decorated with the Iron Cross. Twenty-five years later, living as a popular horse merchant in Westphalia, he's branded with a different insignia: the Star of David. On the eve of a mass deportation of Jews, Spiegel seeks out his old comrade Heinrich Aschoff, a Catholic farmer with a conscience, who instantly agrees to shelter Spiegel's wife Marga and daughter Karen at his farm despite the risk to his own family. An unforgettable true story of friendship, family and honor!

The Matchmaker

(Tuesday, May 17 - 7:30 p.m.)

In 1968 Haifa, a teenage boy gets a summer job with a Holocaust survivor who makes ends meet by brokering marriages and smuggling goods. Throughout the summer, the mysterious matchmaker takes the boy on a dangerous coming of age ride into the deepest underbelly of Haifa.



FILM FESTIVAL SHORTS PROGRAM - MAY 12

1. Don't Tell Santa You're Jewish

The story of a little girl who is encouraged by her mom to sit on Santa's knee at her hockey club's Christmas Party so she can get a present. Only trouble is, she's got to remember NOT to tell him she is Jewish.

2. The Honeymoon Suite

The Honeymoon Suite provides a humorous, poignant glimpse into the often misunderstood world of the Orthodox arranged marriages. 2010 Winner, Pear's Foundation Short Film Fund

3. I Am Ruthie Segal, Hear Me Roar

This short comedy celebrates chutzpah, passion and everyone's secret obsession with schmaltzy musicals!

4. David de Ster (Starring David)

David is a 12-year-old from Holland. He's ambitious, smart, funny and "almost Jewish." (His father is Jewish, but his mother is not.). Follow David's rite of passage in this story of a remarkable young teen.

5. Passover

A Jewish man disguised as a German citizen during WWII finds hope in the most unlikely places.

6. 888-GO-KOSHER

Have you ever wondered what it takes to make an ordinary kitchen into a kosher one? Call 888-GO-KOSHER, which, in just one year, kashers more than 1,500 kitchens in Greater New York.

7. A Reuben by Any Other Name

Take a humorous look at the differences between Orthodox and Reform Judaism, played out in the differences between the New York and Los Angeles versions of the Reuben sandwich.

8. Seltzer Works

Third-generation seltzer-filler Kenny Gomberg is still in business in Brooklyn and fending off the supermarket seltzer takeover.

9. Gefilte Fish

Gali's family has a longstanding tradition: Every engaged woman must prepare gefilte fish from scratch to have a happy marriage.

Yankles

(Wednesday, May 18 - 7:30 p.m.)

Great family film! Based on a true story, The Yankles tells the story of an ex-con who finds redemption by coaching an upstart, disorganized Orthodox Jewish baseball team. This feel-good comedy about overcoming bigotry and self-doubt mixes shtick with a sensitive portrait of observant Judaism. Co-stars Bart Johnson (High School Musical), Donny Most (Happy Days) and a cameo by The Prince of Kosher Gospel, Joshua Nelson.

Anita

(Thursday, May 19 - 7:30 p.m.)

Anita is a young Jewish Argentinean woman with Down syndrome who lives with her mother. Her beloved older brother, Ariel, is making his own way in business. This intimate, safe life is forever changed when the world outside intrudes with unexpected fury. After Anita's mother does not meet her at a prearranged time, Anita gets lost in the city. Along the way, she receives help and friendship in the most unexpected places. This charming, tender film is exactly what is needed in a difficult world.

Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival (continued from page 1)

Sheila Morgan, Beth Riseman, Linda Roberts, Sherrin Sandy, Shelley Spivack, Morley Biesman and Mitchell Weiss. The film festival is staffed by Lynda Yeotis, Executive Director of Jewish Community Services and Diane Lindholm,

Interim Executive Director at the Flint Jewish Federation.

To purchase your Patron Pass or individual tickets, please call the Flint Jewish Federation office at 767-5922, or use the order form included below.

Seventh Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival of Flint Ticket Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PLEASE SEND ME:

_____ INDIVIDUAL MOVIE TICKETS @ \$6 EACH = \$ _____
to be used at screenings of your choice

_____ PATRON PASS @ \$198 (10 Movies) = \$ _____
Two tickets for each movie and Patron Reception

_____ SCREEN WRITER @ \$360 (10 movies) = \$ _____

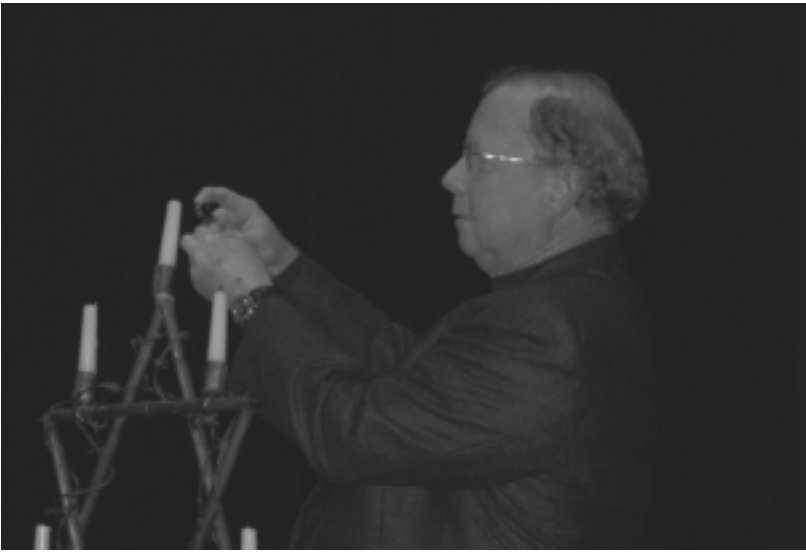
_____ DIRECTOR @ \$540 (10 movies) = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Patron and above receive two tickets for each movie (Total 10) the Patron Reception and special recognition in the movie programs.

Please make checks payable to Flint Jewish Federation and mail to 619 Wallenberg St., Flint, Michigan 48502. Tickets paid for by May 9 will be mailed. All other tickets may be picked up at the FIA beginning one-half hour prior to screenings. They will also be for sale at the door for \$6 per movie. Tickets will be sold on a first-come basis with no reserved seating. To charge tickets or sponsorships, call the Flint Jewish Federation at 810-767-5922.

Holocaust Remembrance Day Program Photos:



Dr. Mel Flamenbaum



Students Alexandra Caldwell, Sam Lumar, Sara Yufa spoke at the Holocaust Remembrance Program on their involvement with "Recounting Memory Project: Flint-area Holocaust Survivors and Youth Dialogue with History." (see story on page 5)



Gail Shulman



Gary Hurand



Harry Cybulski



Leonid Yufa



Nancy Epstein



Inside Jewish Community Services



JCS Involved with Recounting Memory Project for High School Students and Holocaust Survivors

At the Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration, local high school students discussed their involvement in the "Recounting Memory Project: Flint-area Holocaust Survivors and Youth Dialogue with History." In 2010, Jewish Community Services received a grant for the project from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Students met with six area Holocaust survivors to document their stories. In order to prepare for the interviews, the students toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Detroit. Mott Community College students and Associate Professor of Graphic Design, Mara Fulmer, assisted with the videotaping of interviews and preparation of exhibit materials. An exhibit of the materials produced through the project will be on display in May at the Mott Community College Library. JCS would like to thank our project partners and Irina Yufa, who developed the project and interpreted at the interviews for Russian-speaking survivors.

Senior Congregate Lunch Program at Cafe Shalom - noon - Temple Beth El

Artichoke Chicken	Monday, May 2	Chit Chat about This 'n That
Sloppy Joe	Tuesday, May 3	Bingo
Enchilada Casserole	Thursday, May 5	Mother's Day Cinco D'Mayo
Chicken Salad	Monday, May 9	Story Day
Chili with Beans	Tuesday, May 10	Brain Teasers
Lunch at Logan's Roadhouse	Wednesday, May 11	Please sign up
Turkey Pastrami	Thursday, May 12	11:00 Exercise with Jackie Zachary Meditation Techniques
Meatballs	Monday, May 16	Chit Chat about This 'n That
Blintz Souffle	Tuesday, May 17	No Bus Service Sing Along
Rosemary Chicken	Thursday, May 19	11:00 Project Fresh Bingo
Shepherd's Pie	Monday, May 23	Trivia
BBQ Chicken	Tuesday, May 24	Craft Project with Connie Winston
Hot Dogs	Thursday, May 26	Armchair Travel
Closed	Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Chicken Sandwich	Tuesday, May 31	Bingo

For further information, contact
Jewish Community Services, 767-5922

JCS Book Club Meeting Schedule

The JCS Book Club welcomes new members. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm (except July, when members meet to select the books) at members' homes. Participants read a variety of books, all chosen by the members. A member facilitates discussion of the monthly book. The group is very friendly, and, along with enjoying the discussions, enjoys refreshments. All adults are welcome. Please call Jamie at JCS (767-5922) for more information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>
May 3	"The Help"	Kathryn Stockett
June 7	"March"	Geraldine Brooks
August 3	"The Book Thief"	Markus Zusak

Jewish Community Services

For ages 6 thru 13
years old



July 18 thru August 5, 2011

Camp Copneconic, 10407 N. Fenton Rd.

Camp Copneconic, which is run by the YMCA of Greater Flint, offers a variety of fun activities in a beautiful setting overlooking Lake Copneconic. These include, tubing, kayaking, canoeing, biking, swimming, water slide, arts and crafts, nature explorations and much more. A well-trained, experienced staff is on hand to ensure a healthy and safe camp experience. Lunch and snacks are provided.

JCS will arrange transportation at pick-up/drop off sites
to be determined

Cost: \$185 per week
Scholarships are available through JCS
Volunteers needed

**Contact JCS at 767-5922
for further information**

**Visit Jewish Community
Services Website!!**

www.jcsflint.org

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Creating Cafe Shalom & Mobile Meals
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Contact Florence Berner at 732-6652

“Flintstones” by Carmen Rachwal

I want to wish everyone a “zeeson Pesach”, and a Happy Passover. Thanks so much to my faithful reporters for passing along the information to me so that I can send out the news to YOU. Toddah Rabbah to Jerome Cohen, Pat Fauer, Larry Feinstein, Ruth Parnes, Esther Price, Gail Shulman and Vicki Winston. Please call me at (954)979-0245, FAX me at (954)979-3034 or email me at srachwal@bellsouth.net with any Flintstone news.

Condolences to the Blumeno family and the Richman family on the loss of their loved ones. May their memory be for a blessing.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family of Ethel Young, who passed away on February 21st in Flint. She will be missed by her husband, Morrie, and her children, Nancy Charlton and Michael Leavitt and their families. Ethel was the daughter of the late Harry and Rose Feldman and the granddaughter of the late Pessie and Joseph Schechet. May she rest in peace.

To the family of Ben Zion Gotlib, we extend our heartfelt sympathies. Ben died on Thursday, February 24th at the age of 93. Services took place at Cloverhill Cemetery in the Detroit area. He was pre-deceased by his parents, the late Ida and Max Gotlib and his sister, Sarah. Ben Zion is survived by his wife, Miriam, his children and grandchildren and his brother, Dr. Sam Gotlib.

Sincere sympathy to the Burton family on the loss of Stephen's beloved father, Dr. Irving Burton, who died on March 10th. May his memory be for a blessing.

We were sad to hear of the death of Howard Cohen, who passed away on March 15th, in California. He leaves, to cherish his memory, his wife, Sally, 3 children, their families and his brothers, Bill and Jerome. Howard was pre-deceased by his parents, Frances and Herman Cohen, his grandparents, Rose and Jacob Pasternak and his brother Martin Cohen.

We extend our sympathies to Carole Pappas on the loss of her mother, Jean Weis. Mrs. Weis passed away on March 21st and was buried at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. May she rest in peace.

Our condolences to the family of Esther Velick, who died on March 22nd. Esther was the daughter of the late Barnett and Fannie Seide. She was the sister of the late Sol and Mary and is survived by her children, grandchildren and siblings, Leo, Jeanne and Helen. May her memory be for a blessing.

Get well wishes to Dr. Danny Bernstein of North Carolina, to Doris Bombel of Florida, to Sara Louise Reis of Pennsylvania and to Dr. Milton Siegel of Michigan. We wish them a speedy and complete recovery.

Congratulations to Wendy Braun on her Valentines Day wedding to John Daley. Wendy, who makes her home in the Flint area, is the daughter of the late Percy and Ruth Braun and the granddaughter of the late Rose and Joe Braun and the late Leon Kaplan and Mina Kaplan Friedman.

Mazal tov to Sean and Rachel Barak, of Atlanta, on the February 2nd arrival of their daughter, Madeline Jane. The proud

grandparents are Stephanie and Dr. Andy Barak of Grand Rapids. We also congratulate great-grandma, Becky Heitzner. Madeline is the great-granddaughter of the late Richard Heitzner and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Esther and Abe Heitzner and the late Lillian and Sol Shulman.

Sara Louise Reis is happy to announce the arrival of her granddaughter, Eliana Hadassah, who was born on March 17th in New York City. The proud parents are Efreem and Lauren Reis. “Ella” is also the granddaughter of the late Rabbi Paul Reis. Congratulations on the new addition.

Stanley Fauer was named a “Chevalier” of the Legion of Honor. “This award testifies to the President of the French Republic's high esteem for merits and accomplishments. It is a sign of France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for personal, precious contributions to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of France during World War II”. Stan was in General Patton's Third Army and served in Normandy. He received the award at a ceremony with 9 other WW II veterans on January 16th. What an honor, and thank you, Stan, from a grateful country!

JFNA Hails Continued and Critical Support in Congress for Non Profit Security

The Jewish Federations of North America hail the allocation of \$19 million in new funding to nonprofits through the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NPSG). The allocation was included in Congress' passage of the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations and is good news for the continuing security of America's nonprofit organizations.

“Our community is acutely aware of the dangers that exist for Jewish institutions in our communities,” said Kathy Manning, chair of the Board of Trustees of JFNA. “That is why the Jewish Federations urges Congress to support this program and why we work with schools, synagogues, Federations and Jewish Community Centers to successfully guide them through the Homeland Security grant process.”

Under the 2010 grant guidelines, nonprofit organizations in 64 designated high-threat urban areas nationwide were eligible to apply for grants to acquire and install physical security enhancements to deter and detect attacks. Such measures include blast-proof windows, reinforced doors, locks, gates and fences, video surveillance and more. The grants also promote security-related preparedness planning and training. The 2011 program, which is scheduled to launch on May 9, is expected to remain largely unchanged.

“We are delighted that the Federation movement has once again

secured this funding that is so critical to the ongoing safety of our communities,” said Cheryl Fishbein, chair of JFNA's Domestic Affairs cabinet. “In total, \$99 million worth of nonprofit security grants has been distributed across the country over the past seven years to mitigate the threat of terrorism, and we are relieved that this support is continuing.”

“Since September 11, nonprofits generally, and Jewish communal institutions specifically, have been the victim of an alarming number of threats and attacks,” said William Daroff, the vice president for Public Policy and director of the Washington office of JFNA. “The Nonprofit Security Grant Program is a proven resource that helps supplement the work of local and federal law enforcement to help keep us safe.”

Congress established the Nonprofit Security Grant Program in 2005, at the behest of Jewish Federations and other leading nonprofit organizations, in recognition that certain nonprofits (including community centers, hospitals, schools, places of worship, and other health, humanitarian, cultural and civic places) are considered civilian targets by terrorists. In response, hundreds of Jewish institutions have been grant recipients under the program.

JFNA remains the driving force sustaining the program and serves as the leading technical resource to hundreds of Jewish grant applicants annually.

CBI Sisterhood 80th Donor

Beth Israel Sisterhood will be celebrating their 80th birthday this year with a Donor on Sunday, May 22 beginning at 12:30 p.m. at CBI. Come share stories, memories and photos of Beth Israel Sisterhood. Minimum donor pledge \$40. Lunch for Donors \$26, guests \$36.



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College Student Plans Jerusalem's First Homeless Shelter

by Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Most of us walk right past homeless people on city streets, perhaps throwing a coin in their direction. Dovid Levine, a 20-year-old Israeli college student from New Jersey, did much more than that. Levine has drawn up plans for Jerusalem's first homeless shelter.

Matzav ("situation" and also an acronym for Merkaz l'Tzrachim Basisim, or Center for Basic Needs) was among the top 10 vote-getters in the initial round of the Dell Social Innovation Competition, an international search in collaboration with the University of Texas-Austin for innovative student ideas to solve a social or environmental problem.

At stake is a \$50,000 jackpot for the winning team. Matzav's popularity earned it automatic placement among 100 semifinalists announced March 1.

"Our next step is to recruit the necessary support to help us create the required 30-page venture plan and promotional video for the competition, as well as meet with people and organizations to receive letters of approval," Levine tells ISRAEL21c.

"As much as we hope to win, we are also using this as a chance to get our message out there and recruit supporters and volunteers."

After arriving in Israel from Highland Park, New Jersey, in 2005 to attend high school at , Levine began noticing homeless people on the streets of Jerusalem.

"I wanted to understand the situation and what was already being done," he relates. Over time, he learned that while many different organizations address poverty and hunger in the capital city, no homeless shelter exists.

"That made me realize that someone has to do this. A couple of friends and I bounced ideas off each other last spring and came up with a multistage plan to fill gaps in current solutions. From there, we'll work to aggregate those solutions and eventually to create an active job placement program. The idea is not just to alleviate symptoms of homelessness but to give people the tools to overcome in the long run."

Now a second-year management and logistics student at Bar-Ilan University, Levine has also made contact with the municipal government through a connection with the Jewish Agency, and hopes to solicit its assistance in implementing the Matzav master plan.

"First I have to finish writing a grant proposal for funding, and our next task is finding a location for the shelter," says Levine, who happened

upon a posting about the Dell competition in June when he was perusing a Jerusalem list-serve in search of a used desk.

The extraordinarily organized young man has drawn up a business plan citing three goals: providing immediate relief in the form of food, shelter, clothing, utilities and counseling; developing immediate employment opportunities; and offering skills training and financial advice leading to self-sufficiency.

"We have actively started reaching out to local service organizations and the Jerusalem municipality, so as to secure funding and support in order to begin actualizing our plan regardless of our placement in the final round of the Dell Social Innovation Competition," says Levine, who has recruited a committee of student volunteers to help in the effort.

While he has never taken on a project of this magnitude before, Levine formerly volunteered as a mentor in an Israeli school for at-risk children; with the Lev Echad Emergency Response organization during the 2006 Lebanon war; in a summer camp for Jewish kids in Ukraine; and in the Gaza border town of Sderot. He's also helped out at One Family Fund, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and Jerusalem soup kitchens.

Did You Know?

With support from Jewish Federations, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has developed innovative "JCC Without Walls" programs in Europe and South America to boost outreach to unaffiliated Jews. Last year, "Judafest" Jewish street festivals in Hungary and Latvia offered creative activities at unique venues throughout the country, attracting thousands of Jews of all backgrounds. Also in 2010, the JDC staged "Urban Pesach" and "Urban Rosh Hashanah" events around Argentina, drawing 25,000 participants each, as well as "Buenos Aires Chanukah," a festival of more than 20 holiday-related events across the city.

No Gift Impacts More Lives - Including Your Own!

Contact the Flint Jewish Federation at (810) 767-5922 to find out how you can help.

Scholarship Funds Available

Financial assistance is available for the following purposes:

Jewish education and Jewish continuity among area youth

Graduate or professional education for Jewish students

College junior or senior undergraduate education for Jewish students

Education for Russian immigrants

Ivriah tuition

Israel travel for youth

For more information, please call JCS at 810-767-5922

Did You Know You Can:

- Leave the Flint Jewish Federation a gift in your estate plans?
- Start an endowment fund?
- Give a gift of honor or remember a loved one?

For information on giving a gift to the Flint Jewish Federation please contact Diane Lindholm at (810) 767-5922 or fjf@tm.net

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Preserving a Legacy with Jewish Community Living Wills

In Butte, Montana, just 13 congregation members remain at the local Reform synagogue, in a once-vibrant community that boasted more than 900 Jews. In Laredo, Texas, the Conservative synagogue serves only 40 families, less than half of its congregation from just one generation ago. And in Sumter, S.C., the Jewish population has declined to around 35 people, from more than 200 at its peak.

Despite their dwindling Jewish populations, these small American towns can rest assured their cultural identities will not disappear with their last Jewish resident, thanks to a unique preservation program called the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP).

The program, which is supported by The Jewish Federations of North America, was launched in 2009 by David Sarnat, a longtime Jewish community professional with more than 40 years of service in the Federation movement. "People worked very hard to maintain some semblance of Jewish life in communities that were, in many ways, forgotten by national Jewish structures," Sarnat explained. "Now that these Jewish communities are drying up, we want to leave a legacy that perpetuates what they stood for. But

it takes a planned approach to wind them down."

JCLP enables small Jewish communities with declining populations to plan for the future by creating a "Communal Living Will." Much like a personal living will, the document addresses concerns and prepares for eventualities in small Jewish communities where aging populations and changing demographics have significantly reduced the number of Jews. Strategies for Communal Living Wills vary by locale, but include considerations like cemetery maintenance, disposition of real estate, placement of religious and historic artifacts, and documentation of individual and group histories.

In addition, the program can help establish formal relationships with agencies, Federations, Jewish historical associations or denominational bodies. In Sumter, JCLP facilitated an agreement with the Charleston Jewish Federation for maintenance of a cemetery associated with Sumter's Reform congregation, Temple Sinai, and designated a formal committee to plan for the synagogue's future.

Roger Ackerman, chairman of the Temple Sinai planning committee, acknowledged there will be a time when it's "no longer be feasible to operate our temple. With the

expertise of the Jewish Community Legacy Project, we will have in place an outstanding plan that will perpetuate our congregation longer than might otherwise have been possible."

The program, which is funded by The Marcus Foundation and administered by the William Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum, and whose partners include The Jewish Federations of North America and the National Museum of American Jewish History, currently serves about a dozen communities, from Martinsville, Va. to Kokomo, Ind. But Sarnat estimates there could be 100 to 150 U.S. communities that could use JCLP's assistance.

He points to one Northeastern town, which he declined to name, whose Jewish community could have avoided its early demise with aid from JCLP. Before JCLP could step in, community leaders sold its temple for just \$1,000, and its Torah scrolls – worth \$50,000 to \$70,000 – for just \$5,000. More than \$70,000 is needed to preserve the town's Jewish cemetery, but just \$55,000 remains in a dedicated bank account.

"Communities like this need a plan," said Sarnat. "Federations and other organizations must let these communities know about resources available before it's too late."

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