

Jewish Federation of Cape Cod Newsletter

Keslev 5770 , December 2009

Presidents Message

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our first electronic newsletter. By eliminating the printed version of our newsletter we will be able to save a considerable amount of money, money which we plan to allocate to our PJ Library Fund. I believe so strongly in developing Jewish pride in our children and educating them from an early age in Jewish values and traditions that I think it is imperative that we get started with this program as soon as possible. The PJ Library is not a magic bullet, but it is a valuable tool that has been introduced into many communities with great success.



The hate crime committed at Chabad was directed at ALL OF US, and as despicable as it was to see such vulgarity in our own backyard, it was wonderful to see our community come together at The Unity Rally. I am very proud of the role The Jewish Federation of Cape Cod had in keeping our community informed of what had happened and what was being done about it. The JFCC is a Social Action Organization, and we will always be there supporting our Jewish Community and other communities in the fight against bigotry and hatred.





We are considering hosting a series of educational lectures taught by David Furash who is an educator at the Cape Cod Synagogue. Some of the topics are:

- Ethical Wills
- A Treasury of Jewish Folklore
- Celebrating Our 355 Years in America
- Vocabulary of Jewish Life

Community interest will determine if we decide to proceed with these lectures. Please email the Federation office if you would like to participate in any of these classes. There will be a nominal fee which is yet to be determined.

Speaking of fees, with the establishment of our PayPal account we have made it easier than ever for you to make your donation. You do not even have to pay the full amount at one time, you can pay half one month and the other half the next, or you can stretch it over a few months. You can even add a few more dollars to your pledge. Please folks, we know times are tough but your donations really do make a difference.

I hope that you all enjoy our 'new' newsletter. Please forward it to anyone we may have missed, and, for those who do not have internet access, please ask them to contact the Federation office and we will gladly mail them a hard copy.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

L'shalom

Terry Smily

=====

From the Desk of Ann-Beth Ostroff



Chanukah comes early, but really, is it ever early or late? This year has been an economic disaster for some people and gifts may be out of the question. BUT, we can always give the gift of helping.

- We can give the gift of child care
- We can help with baking and cooking for those who cannot do it for themselves
- We can visit those who need to have company and light the menorah
- We can send cards to patients in the nursing homes. Just send a card to the activity director and ask that it be delivered to a person of the Jewish faith
- We can knit scarves and hats for children and others
- Well you get the idea. We have women, men and children power. No one should do without.

We are as busy as bees at the office. First we are learning how to send out all that we do electronically. So far so good. Next, we are working on a new program sponsored by the Harry David Green Fund. This program has to do with helping families process cancer. Once again we will have it at the Cape Codder next October.

The committee has just been formed, and we are on our way. JFCS has been asked to be part of the Cape Cod Cancer Committee. We are excited and committed to helping in this area.

Clients are calling for many different reasons mostly, for help with life dignity issues. Some are illness issues, and others are for helping people cope with their individual needs.

Several programs are still being worked on. We will keep you informed as they develop.

Shalom,
Ann-Beth Ostroff, MA/LSW

=====

Chaplain's Notes

"Into Your hand I entrust my spirit;
You redeem me. O Lord, faithful God
Let me exult and rejoice in Your faithfulness
 When You notice my affliction,
 And are mindful of my deep distress.
 Do not hand me over to my enemy,
 But grant me relief.

(Psalm 31:6-9)

Being a chaplain has heightened my awareness and appreciation for the Psalms. Reading over sources that may be helpful in ministering to the patients I see has helped me to delve more deeply into my understanding and feelings about illness and suffering. In training for the chaplaincy you learn about some of the methods that are acceptable in relating to and empathizing with patients. It is different than any other professional that enters the room of the patient. Instead of caring for the physical or emotional needs of a patient, chaplains are the ones who listen to the patient's spiritual concerns.

I don't, however, offer Psalms to patients every time I walk into a patient's room. The main thing I do is listen to what is going on with each person as I visit. Sometimes this is very difficult. It is difficult to see someone ill, especially someone that you may have known for a number of years. If I feel it would be helpful to the patient I will suggest that reading the Psalms can be comforting. There are many resources that are available so if you would like recommendations, I can always be reached through the Federation Office.

Also, I would like to recommend a book called "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova regarding Alzheimer's disease. It is a novel about a neuropsychologist suffering with this disease. You learn how it feels from the mind of the

patient and to the members of an ill person's family to experience this disease. It is written by a Cape Cod author and is endorsed by the American Alzheimer's Association. I recommend it to everyone regardless whether they have anyone in their family with the disease or not. It is just a great book.

I hope you are well,

Cantor Bruce Malin

=====

Campaign Report

The 2009 campaign ends on December 31st which is fast approaching. We are down by almost 20% which is within the norm of other non-profits but for us it is devastating. It will require even more penny pinching and we have been tightening our belts for some years now. A letter went out recently requesting donations as the year wanes. Those who have not yet made their yearly gift, please do so-even a small donation counts. If you can give a little more than please do so. Our constituents will benefit and that would make your hearts soar.

We want to thank all our solicitors who put in so many hours and especially our secretary, Carole Fierro who tallied all the pledges and banked all receipts. It has been a difficult year for everybody, and we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish, but we still need your help.

Happy Chanukah!!

Sue Wasser and Fletcher Blackmon

Campaign Chairs

=====

Developing Jews

A recent article in the Jewish Advocate reported on a study done by Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies. In essence it learned that young Jews who took Birthright trips to Israel are 72% more likely to have Jewish spouses and a greater desire to raise their children within the faith than those who had not gone to Israel.

Other key findings, Birthright Alumni were: 30% more likely to feel raising

children as Jews is "very important.": 23 % more likely to feel very much connected to Israel: 50% more likely to feel confident in their ability to explain the situation in the Middle East and 28% more likely to attend services monthly or more.

Assuming that we hope for such results for our own children, we here on Cape Cod are twice blessed. Birthright is available to college-age youngsters for a two week trip to Israel, and the JEWISH FEDERATION OF CAPE COD has the Gift of Israel Program that allows families to save money which is matched by Federation to send youngsters from 15 to 23 to go to Israel for an extended program-a summer program through Nefty, Young Judea and others or even a semester through a national program.

(If you sign up a child living on Cape Cod into the program before this December 31st, Federation will match your deposit of up to \$250 this first year.)

Federation also gives scholarships to help teens attend such programs also through the Susie and Joseph Ohringer Israel Experience Fund.

The study noted above proves how well these programs work. Call the office at 508-778-5588 for further information.



Heart to Heart Mission - January 23-29, 2010

Have you been looking for new ways to find meaning in your Jewish community? Are you tired of the same old, same old? Have you ever thought of going to Israel with like minded women who are also searching for meaningful experiences? Don't you think it's about time?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have the perfect trip just for you! Please join National Women's Philanthropy of United Jewish Communities for our first Heart to Heart Mission - January 23-29, 2010.

This mission will be a unique and soul-searing experience, designed to foster enduring bonds among the women of our system, here, in Israel, and all over the world. This mission will be based in Tel Aviv - with day trips all over

Israel, including Jerusalem. You will have the opportunity to experience meaningful site visits and witness first-hand the work the Federation system is doing in Israel. You will also enjoy cultural and social experiences such as a trip to a winery, home hospitality, a scavenger hunt, presentations by top speakers - and much, much more!

These are just a few of the highlights so far - but, we know that you will love every minute of this VERY packed adventure. This mission will be an experience of a lifetime - and you will forge lifetime friendships as well!

B'Shalom,

Lori Klinghoffer, NWP President
Heart to Heart Mission Chair

=====

Israel Experience

Coming to the Eisendrath International Exchange has been the best decision I have made my entire high school career. My entire life Judaism has always just been a part of my identity, to me as black and white as where I was born. I had no connection to my Judaism other than having my Bat Mitzvah in 7th grade. Israel was never a definite thing in my head, only a place, like any other. The one disconnect was Judaism, an empty space I knew I needed to fill with knowledge and connection. Being in Israel has made me understand Judaism is actually the most deep-rooted and dominate part of my identity. I've realized how important Jewish knowledge from the biblical period to the modern Israel is so important to me, a piece of who I am I hadn't chosen. It was there, permanently placed into me. I always knew there was something wrong with my Jewish lifestyle; I didn't have one. Before coming I did not think it would have given me this confidence in my Judaism and this capacity of knowledge of the Jewish story and even the stories surrounding me everyday in America. I would like to thank you for making such an important experience possible. Without financial help, a gap would still be in where passion now exists. The scholarship opportunity brings diversity to the EIE community, pulling people from every background and every current situation. I have no words to express my gratitude for you and your selflessness.

Gabby Tillman

=====

AM HAYAM

Ira Wolfson, a member of Am HaYam, will be presenting an illustrated talk entitled "Palestine from the Birth of Jesus to the Destruction of the Second Temple" on Sunday, December 6, 1:00 PM at the Brewster Ladies Library.

According to Ira, the time of Jesus marks the beginning of not one but two great religions of the West, rabbinic Judaism and Christianity. His talk will provide an overview of the primary social institutions of first-century Palestine as well as an overview of the economic, political and religious responses to the pressures of Greek and Roman cultural influence and control. The destruction of the Second Temple at the climax of the Great Revolt (66 C.E- 72 C.E.) transformed Jewish religious practice and affected the interpretation of the teachings of Jesus, helping to form Christianity into a new and separate religion.

This talk is the outcome of Ira's long interest in ancient history, which started when he was a young boy and his father read him *The Jewish Wars* by Josephus. Handouts and bibliography will be provided

FYI

The web site below is a great source of information about our People Jewish population of the World. Where Jews are, % of Population and much more. Take a look!

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>

Local Synagogues

AM HA YAM Cape Cod Havurah
Chapel in the Pines, Samoset Rd Eastham, MA
508-428-0055 www.ahycc.org



ANSHEI CHESED - The Conservative Synagogue of Cape Cod

Radisson Hotel, Rt28 Hyannis, MA
508-428-0015

CAPE COD SYNAGOGUE
145 Winter Street, Hyannis MA
508-775-2988 www.ccsynagogue.org
Rabbi David Freelund

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER
745 West Main Street, Hyannis, MA
508-775-2324 www.chabadcapecod.com
Rabbi Yekusiel Alperowitz

FALMOUTH JEWISH CONGREGATION
Corner Sandwich & Hatchville Roads, East Falmouth, MA
508-540-0602 or 508-540-8094 www.falmouthjewish.org
Rabbi Elias Lieberman