



# L'Chain!

December 2004  
Issue No. 10  
Federation: 940-6001  
Email: altfed@uplink.net

News & "Chailights" of The Greater Altoona Jewish Community



## SUPER BOWL Uno's set to welcome annual party

The sixth annual Super Bowl party, sponsored in part by the Altoona Jewish Federation, will take place at Uno Chicago Grill on Plank Road in Altoona.

The game is set for Sunday, Feb. 6 with kickoff at 6:20 p.m. Jason Kivitz will begin his traditional Super Bowl poll beginning at 5:30.

Since both the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles have a chance to be in the game, Super Bowl fever is already high, and Federation officials moved swiftly to secure an appropriate venue.

"The Super Bowl party has become a fixture on our calendar," executive director Bill Wallen said. "It's an event everybody in the community, from grandparents to the kids, has enjoyed."

Wallen thanked Greg Morris, owner of Uno Chicago Grill, for his hospitality not only for this event but for many Federation programs over the years.

Cost for the party/buffet will be \$10 for adults. Kids 12 and younger will eat free. Uno's is closing off two rooms for the party and is bringing in two large screen TVs, in addition to the four TVs already in place, to insure excellent visibility of the game. The menu will feature appetizers, salads, haddock, seven kinds of pizza, desserts and drinks.

RSVPs can be made by calling the Federation office at 940-6001. Get in soon — a crowd of 100-plus is expected.

## CELEBRATING HANUKKAH



The Altoona Jewish Community School held a Hanukkah celebration on Sunday, Dec. 12. Among the students lighting candles are, from left: Robert Marlowe, Jacob Marlowe, Jimmy Holliday, Meredith Brumbaugh and Arielle Port.

## FILM FESTIVAL

### March bonus includes Exodus

"This will be our best year yet," predicts committee chair Michael Tomor. "Not only do we have four great films in February, but we've also decided that the time is right to show *Exodus*."

There will be a special showing on Sunday afternoon March 6 of the 1960 classic about the birth of the State of Israel.

Committee member Joe Silverman



remembers that the film "stimulated a whole generation of American Jews to identify with the State of Israel." The committee feels that *Exodus* needs to be seen by our younger generations.

The festival begins on Thursday, Feb. 3. For a complete lineup, please see page 3 and

look for the Film Festival brochure that will be sent in January.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Around the community

By Bill Wallen

## Comings and goings

Welcome to new members of our community! **Andy Siegel** has joined the sports department of WTAJ-TV. Look for him on camera covering events all over the region. He is originally from the Philadelphia area. **Andy** and his wife **Michelle** are newlyweds and reside in Altoona. **Dan Keene** is another new staff member at WTAJ, where he works as a videographer. He currently resides in Indiana and is engaged to **Lisa Shellhammer**. He has joined Temple Beth Israel, and we hope he'll be moving here in the near future.

The Temple also welcomes **Cynthia and Perry Vanderglas** and daughters **Ruth and Samantha** of Tyrone and **Carol and Marvin Goldberg** of State College as new members. The **Goldbergs** had lived in Montreal prior to moving to our area. **Dr. Goldberg** is a professor of Business Administration at Penn State. They have two grown children.

Agudath Achim Congregation welcomes **Sharon Van Blerkom Smith** and son **Robby** as new members. Sharon grew up in Altoona and now teaches at Penn State Altoona. She is the daughter of the former **Diane Adelman**.

Best wishes to **Dr. Kathleen McSharry**, who will be leaving our area in March for an exciting new position at Brown University. Kathleen was instrumental in bringing **Judy Meisel** to our area. She is the co-author of the curriculum guide for "Tak for Alt," which she presented at the **Celebrate Diversity** program teacher training in October.

Bon voyage to friends visiting Florida for all or some of the winter months – **Ethel Fried, Mendel and Honey Covitch, Morris Levine, Irene Newborn, Ed and Harriett Hand, Jerry and Janet Wayne, Helen Rosch, and Henry and Maxine Weinberg.**

**Adam Schneider** left for Fort Bragg on December 14 for a month and will then be deployed to Iraq. May he be kept safe under the sheltering wings of the *Schinah*.

**Joel Chorny** will leave on January 6 to spend a semester abroad in Greece.

## Mazel Tov

Yasher Koach to **Andy Gurman**, who was installed as president of Pennsylvania Region of the Union of Reform Judaism at their biennial in November.

Congratulations to **Irv and Steve Seltzer**, who celebrated 50 years of "helping people communicate better" at Phonepower.

A great job was done at the Hollidaysburg School's production of *The Music Man* by **Gareth Kafka**, who played the lead (Henry Hill), **Sarah Lipitz**, who sang and danced, **Michal Chorny**, who played a town lady and **Brittany Thaler**, who was the student director.

To the Altoona Cuve, led by majority owner **Chuck Greenberg**. The Curve recently were awarded as the top promotional franchise in all of minor-league baseball. Greenberg was honored in May at the annual Israel Bonds dinner in Altoona.

## Passing of a friend

To the family of **Luke Merrbach**, who passed away earlier this month in

the Oakland VA Hospital in Pittsburgh after a long illness.

Luke was the long-time custodian at Agudath Achim and later at the Jewish Memorial Center.

## Thank you

Special thanks to **Greg Morris** for his hospitality at the Hampton Inn, which hosted **Judy and Fred Meisel** during both of their visits here. Greg has also provided complimentary rooms for other presenters at Jewish events in the community.

Special thanks to **Elliott Bilofsky** for sponsoring the Chanukiah at Lakemont Park as part of the annual Holiday Lights display.

Kudos to **The Altoona Hospital** for continuing to have the only public Hanukiah lighting ceremony in the Altoona area. The rabbis alternate officiating annually. This year, **Rabbi Schuman** led the service.

## La'Chaim anniversary

This marks the 10th issue of La'Chaim, which is published twice a year.

We continue to welcome feedback and contributions from the community.

## Folk artist to sing at PSU Altoona

### ■ Program set for January 23.

Through the sponsorship of the Institutional Equity and Diversity Program, Izolde Traktenberg and her trio will be featured at an Interfaith Coffeehouse on

Sunday Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Slep Student Center at Penn State Altoona.

Izolde was born in Moldavia and escaped anti-Semitism there through aliyah to Israel with her family.



Traktenberg

She is a musician, vocalist and linguist (she is fluent in seven languages including Yiddish).

She specializes in Russian, Eastern European and traditional Jewish folk music as well as the music of Ireland.

The program is free and open to the whole community. Join us for Izolde and sample coffees and European desserts supplied by some of our bakers.

For more information, call the Federation office at 940-6001.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 9** Altoona Jewish Community School resumes at Agudath Achim Congregation. Open House & Brunch 10 a.m.-noon.
- January 13, 20, 27** Interfaith series: Women of Genesis 7-9 p.m. YWCA Altoona
- January 23** Interfaith coffeehouse featuring Izolde, folk singer 7:30-9 p.m. Penn State Altoona Slep Student Center
- January 25** Tu B'Shevat
- January 26** Federation Board meeting 6:30 p.m., Temple Beth Israel
- February 6** Family Super Bowl Party 5:30 p.m. Pizzeria Uno Chicago Grill
- March 25** Purim
- March 27** Purim Carnival 10 a.m. JMC
- April 23** Passover begins at sundown
- May 5** Yom Ha Shoach
- May 13** Confirmation 8 p.m. Temple Beth Israel
- May 15** Final day of Sunday School, Maccabean Games, 10 a.m., JMC.

### Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

- April 16** Alex Primack 10 a.m.  
Temple Beth Israel
- May 28** Asher Kline 9:30 a.m.  
Agudath Achim Congregation
- June 4** Allison Cohen 9:30 a.m.  
Agudath Achim Congregation
- June 11** Dana Holliday 10 a.m.  
Temple Beth Israel

## L'Chaim!

is published twice annually by  
*The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation.*

Editor: Neil Rudel

Conscience: Bill Wallen

Photographers: Henry Weinberg, Rabbi Ammos Chorny and Carolyn Wallen

Articles should be submitted to the Federation at 940-6001, Fax 940-6002, or e-mailed to altfed@uplink.net

Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Printing by A+ Printing, Inc.



A scene from "Gloomy Sunday," which will be shown February 24 as part of the Federation's annual Film Festival.

## 2005 FILM FESTIVAL

# 6th annual film series cued up for February

**February 3:** *Taking Sides* – 108 minutes, English (made in Germany 2001). Based on fact, *Taking Sides* dramatizes the post-WWII investigation of Wilhelm Furtwangler, brilliant Berlin Philharmonic conductor and accused Nazi collaborator. *Taking Sides* is a thought-provoking exploration of the artist's social responsibility, and more broadly, of the difficult choice between disloyalty and complicity that anyone must make when living under an evil regime. It features strong acting and beautiful music.

**February 10:** *Marjorie Morningstar* – 125 minutes, English (made in United States 1957). This treasure from the past stars Natalie Wood, Gene Kelly and Ed Wynn. It is the coming of age story of a young Jewish woman in the 1950s. The setting is New York City and the Catskills. Kelly sings "A Precious Love." Wood is beautiful, and Wynn has a great character role. Relive the '50s.

**February 17:** *Bonjour Monsieur Schlomi* – 98 minutes, Hebrew/English subtitles (made in Israel 2003). A warm and witty family comedy that centers on Shlomi, a 16-year-old boy who plays the role of peacekeeper within his chaotic family. The pressures of being constant mediator, confidant and cook leave

Shlomi little time to develop his own personality. But when one of his teachers detects an extraordinary gift Shlomi never knew he had, aided by the power of first love, Shlomi breaks out of his timid shell, discovering his own independence and potential. Contains adult language.

**February 24:** *Gloomy Sunday* – 114 minutes, German/English subtitles (made in Germany 1999). A hit song during the 1930s, "Gloomy Sunday" is the inspiration for this marvelous film, a love story with a twist. *Gloomy Sunday* flashes back from the 1990s to the early 1930s in Budapest, where three people are caught in a love triangle. This bittersweet love story is full of joy, tragedy and irony; all tied together by the haunting melody "Gloomy Sunday." This was the most popular film at this year's Pittsburgh Festival.

**Sunday March 6:** *Exodus* – 31/2 hours, English, (United States 1960). Inspired by Leon Uris' best seller, this extraordinarily moving chronicle of the rebirth of a people and the establishment of a nation is the ultimate experience in human drama. This classic film stars Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint and Ralph Richardson and features an Academy Award winning score.



## L' CHAIM PROFILE

# Bilofskys feel community's warmth

**Name:** Elliott and Kara Bilofsky.

**Address:** RR1, Box 626B, Hollidaysburg.

**Family:** Elliott and Kara have three children – Dina (13), Ian (9) and Samantha (4).

**Education:** Elliott graduated from LaSalle University in 1982, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in '87 and the Otolaryngology head neck surgery/facial plastic surgery residency in '93. He received fellowship status in the Academy Otolaryngology head and neck surgery/facial plastic surgery in '95. Kara graduated Harcum College in '85.

**Occupation:** Elliott is a physician specializing in Otolaryngology head and neck surgery/facial plastic surgery. Kara is certified medical assistant.

**Interests:** Theater, sports, boating, music, dance.

**Community involvement:** Elliott is currently president of the UPMC-Bedford Memorial medical staff (2002-06). AYSO soccer coach (2000-05), member of UPMC-Bedford Memorial board of directors, member of UPMC leadership council. Kara is a member of the Allegheny Ballet Company Auxiliary.

**Congregation:** Agudath Achim.

**First memories of being Jewish include:**

Hebrew School kindergarten class, singing songs, playing games. Going to Shabbat services every Saturday morning. Holiday celebrations.

**Our strongest Jewish influence at an early age were:** Elliott's father (the late Herb Bilofsky) and Kara's grandparents (Dina and Solomon Barkon).

**We've been to Israel:** We have not been there yet, but we would love to go.

**Activities/responsibilities in the Jewish**

**Community:** Elliott is vice president of Agudath Achim, a member of the Federation board and a teacher in the Altoona Jewish Community School. Kara is a vice president of Agudath Achim Sisterhood.

**In our Jewish community, I am most proud:**

The Altoona Jewish community is incredibly warm, a



**Elliott and Kara Bilofsky celebrated their daughter Dina's Bat Mitzvah in October.**

giving community filled with people who are always willing to reach out and give their time, education, insight and love. Kara and I love this community and feel as if we have lived here all of our lives, even though it has only been 10 years.

**My vision (hope) for our Jewish community includes:** Continued strength of our community. A greater interaction between Agudath Achim and Temple Beth Israel, especially with our children. A greater commitment of our members to religious study, worship and volunteerism.





PERSPECTIVE

# Jewish education should be for all ages

By Joe Silverman

I think that it is so interesting to be Jewish! While tradition can be emotionally very satisfying, Jews have the advantage of being able to place themselves where they



feel most satisfied, on both the spectrum of beliefs and the spectrum of practice.

We have Orthodoxy on one end of the spectrum and Humanistic Judaism on the other, with Conservatism, Reconstructionism, and Reform in between.

Currently, even fortified by Jews by choice, we are just a quarter of one percent of the world population and just two percent of the U.S. population, but we have contributed far out of proportion to our numbers. Throughout Jewish history we find heroes aplenty—many scholars and thinkers, Nobel Prize winners this sliver of humanity has produced! And if you reach into history and pull out just four names, what an impact they have had on the inhabitants of this planet. Jesus of Nazareth, who has literally been deified by a huge proportion of the earth's religionists; Karl Marx, whose writings inspired powerful economic and political movements; Sigmund Freud, the father of modern psychiatry, who showed that the human will is not the most influential driver of human behavior; and Albert Einstein, who revolutionized our understanding of the physical forces within the universe. If you shift to another sphere, an individual's emotional needs, considering what Henry Murray termed the need for affiliation—as I told my kids, Judaism is the most valuable fraternity/sorority/social club you will ever belong to.

## Upcoming adult ed programs

• **Matter of Faith series:** Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. January 13, 20, 27 at the YWCA of Altoona, 224 Union Avenue. In "Women in Genesis" Rabbi Burt Schuman will lead us in a three-session workshop that explores the role and impact of both the matriarchs and other paradigmatic figures in the Genesis narrative. Special emphasis will be placed on a feminist perspective within the Abraham faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Bahai.

• **Book Review: "The Holy Thief":** A Con Man's journey from darkness to light. Rabbi Mark Borovitz was a mobster, gangster, con man, gambler, thief, and drunk. He has seen it all. Now, in this inspiring memoir, he takes you on

a journey from the streets to discovering his soul in a ten-by-twelve-foot prison cell. When Mark was fourteen, his father died and his world came crashing down. Within months, he was selling stolen goods for the mob out of his high school locker, beginning a 20-year life of crime that ran the gamut from bar hustles and con games to check-cashing scams. Mark Borovitz proves that you can change your life — profoundly. He is now the rabbi at Beit T'Shuvah in Los Angeles, the House of Return, a rehabilitation facility for addicts of all kinds. The review will take place at Temple Beth Israel at 7 p.m. on January 9.

Now, many Jews protest: I am not "deeply Jewish," not very "observant," not frum. They measure their Jewishness by synagogue attendance or by theistic conviction. I think this is dead wrong. I would recommend a broader definition of Jewishness: identification with things Jewish.

I wish that EVERY Jew in Keystone Country had had the experience that some of us had in September: to hear a luminary from the Jesus Seminar describe what many scholars believe should be the Christianity of the future—a Christianity that honors Jesus as a teacher but not as a god, a Christianity that is perfectly compatible with the Judaism known to many of us.

I also wish that all Jews in Keystone Country visited the Library of Congress on September 9, to attend the opening of an exhibit pictorializing the 350 years of Jewish

history in the United States.

Let us look forward to future opportunities and think of the Adult Ed programs.

The Temple's Adult Education Committee—Steve Kaplan, Mildred Miller, Charlotte Morris, and myself—along with the comparable committee at Agudath Achim and with the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation, energetically represented by Bill Wallen, welcomes anyone's ideas, anyone's suggestion for a future project.

Here and elsewhere, many of our brothers and sisters have all but counted themselves out of the family of Israel, feeling disqualified—wrongly so—by dint of nonobservance. Never mind the political parties; Judaism is a very big tent! Judaism has been described as a civilization, and within this big tent, this civilization, offers, I dare to believe, something for everybody.

# Fast memories of a Yom Kippur in Madison

By Neil Rudel

For Jewish sportswriters covering college football, Yom Kippur can present a challenge beyond fasting.

I normally do not work on Yom Kippur, but when Penn State's kickoff at Wisconsin on Sept. 26 was moved to 5:45 p.m. ESPN, I decided to go.

I was introduced to a fellow Tribesman, Michael Burger, a student who works in the

UW sports information office. Michael joined me for dinner on Friday night and accompanied me to the Hillel services on campus. With the chants the same as they are here and everywhere, we felt right at home.

We repeated the drill Saturday. Early in the service, Michael pointed out to me that Matt Bernstein, the Badgers' 270-pound fullback, was in attendance with his family (his dad was wearing a bright red shirt).

"Who better for the Hagba?" I whispered to Mike.

Sure enough, Bernstein was summoned and proudly hoisted the Torah, creating an unforgettable picture. You could tell he was both enjoying and appreciating the holiday.

Bernstein rushed for a career-high 123 yards in Wisconsin's 16-3 win. I wasn't rooting for the Badgers, but I was rooting for him.

# Smile for the camera: The



Marvin Meisner, Josh Port, Michael Cohen and Boswarth enjoy the summer fellowship.



Doug Simon and his daughter Phoebe.



Youth group potential? Front row (from left): Michal Chorny, Katheryn Schmidt, Erica Schmidt, Kara Schmidt and Alex Schmidt. Back row: Adam Rudel, Mark Thaler, Asher Kline.



Ava Kline (left) takes aim at Ilissa Zimmerman during...



David Katz and his mother, Sue.



Ginger Glass (left) and Sierra Yingling pose following a brief workout.



# Jewish community in focus



Summer barbeque hosts Phyllis and Bruce Thaler.



Ed Hand is joined by wife Harriett (second from right), Marilyn Muhlfelder (second from left) and Irene Wilkinson (right).



ing the summer picnic in August.



When he's not playing hockey, Scott Cohen likes to wrestle whales.



Neil Rudel and Michael Cohen, both proud Jim Rome clones, enjoy their usual spar.



From left: Maxine Weinberg, Phyllis Port, Bill Wallen and Steve Port.



**L'CHAIM MILESTONES**

**Births**

Jack Philip Werstil, son of Greg and Janine (Kivitz) Werstil, July 26, 2004  
 Jane Patt Biddle, daughter of Maggie Patt Biddle, March 14, 2002  
 Jett Michael Herman, son of Mikey and Jennifer Herman and grandson of Michael Herman, July 6, 2004

**B'nai Mitzvah**

Steven Weiss, April 3, 2004  
 Jacob Marlowe, April 17, 2004  
 Adam Rudel, May 29, 2004  
 Dina Bilofsky, October 9, 2004  
 Mark Thaler,  
 November 6, 2004  
 Alex Schmidt,  
 November 20, 2004

**Weddings**

Dorothy Moore and Rev. Mark Liller, November 27, 2004

**TRIBUTE**

**We remember them**

*So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now part of us, as we remember them*

**James L. Jubelirer**, 75, died on August 17, 2004 at his home in Florida. "Jimmy" was the son of the late Judge Samuel and Darothy (Brett) Jubelirer and the brother of Senator Robert Jubelirer. Jim grew up in Altoona, graduated from Penn State and Dickinson School of



Law and practiced law in Altoona and State College for many years. He loved life, his family and his many friends, including life-long buddy Henry Weinberg. He is sadly missed by his brother Bob, his children Brad and Jamie and their families and by many friends.

**Paul Blender**, 81, died on December 1, 2004. Paul was a native of South Philly who came to Hollidaysburg for radio school training during WWII. At high holiday services here, he met the love of his life, Ruth Brande. After the war he returned to Altoona and they married. They lived happily together for 49 years until Ruth's passing in 1995. He was devoted to her and their children – Jeff and his wife P. Sue, Rhonda and Andrew. Paul was a



kind and gentle man who was active in his synagogue and loyal to Jewish ethics in business and life. He was an artist and loved

music, travel and golf – but above all, he loved his family.

**Morris Shullman**, 91, died on August 3, 2004. "Skeeke" was a native of Lilly who worked at SKF as a grinder and was a loyal volunteer fireman. He served as a captain in the Army during WWII and was awarded a Bronze Star and badge for exemplary performance for his service in Guam. He resided at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home and is survived by his daughter Anita Connor of Lilly.

**Carol Greenwalt**, 75, died on October 18, 2004. Carol was a native of New York City and married her Seymour Greenwalt there in 1947. They moved to Altoona, where she worked for Traveler's Insurance and was active in Agudath Achim Sisterhood. She is survived by her devoted husband Seymour, their two sons and grandchildren.

**Additional condolences to:**

June Brozgal on the death of her brother John Diehl on August 28, 2004.

Dr. Larry Primack and family on the passing of his mother Renee Primack on August 18, 2004.

Andrea and Gabrielle Pollack on the death of their grandfather Morris Pollack on October 24, 2004.

Mendel Covitch and Michael Kline and their families on the loss of Dorothy Lariff of Harrisburg. She was Mendel's sister and Michael's aunt. Our sympathy is also sent to her husband Hy and son David.



**Commemorate a milestone**

There is a lovely and meaningful way to celebrate a simcha, honor a loved one's memory or send heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery — a generous gift to the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation or one of our special friends.

When you pay tribute to someone with a contribution to the Federation, we will commemorate the gift by sending a personalized, beautifully-rendered parchment certificate.

We have three distinctive designs or we will customize one sure to fit any occasion.







### SENIOR PROFILE

## Morris Levine

*A proud member of the greatest generation*

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2004. Morris was the featured speaker at Tyrone's American Legion/VFW Ceremony. He was willing to share his story because he remembered newsman Tom Brokaw encouraging WWII vets to tell their stories.

Morris spoke of serving from 1942 until 1945 in various stations in the United States, before going to Europe and being part of the D Day invasion. After being wounded, he was assigned to the USO where he met Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and members to the Glenn Miller Band.



He concluded his remarks by stating "I hope and pray that the present and next generations will not have to endure what our generation did."

**Congregation:** Agudath Achim.

**Hometown:** Born in Altoona on "Jew Hill," lived in Tyrone for 68 years.

**Family:** Parents came to Altoona from Lithuania and married in Altoona. Morris is one of four brothers. His father was first a peddler, then worked for the railroad. He later opened a clothing store and a check cashing business. Morris and wife Bess married in 1945. She passed away in 2001. They have two daughters; Ida Levine and Nancy Siegal and six grandchildren.

**I've been part of the Jewish community:** All of his life. First at the Orthodox shul and later at Agudath Achim.

**Past activities in the general and Jewish community:** Morris is a minyonaire, chaired the high holiday honors committee and ushered for many years. He is a 50-year member of Kiwanis and was active in almost every Tyrone civic and business group. Morris was a member of the Tyrone Players and acted in many plays.

**Occupation:** Morris opened his shoe store in Tyrone in 1945 with 395 pairs of ladies slippers and he retired in 1988. He still manages the shoe table at the Synagogue's "nearly new sale."

**Best advice ever received:** His father told him "Don't forget your synagogue; don't argue religion or politics."

**My advice to others:** "Treat your neighbor as yourself and live up to your ideals."

## THE WAY WE WERE



The Meyer Small (Altoona AZA) basketball team of 1954 included, from left, first row—David Burrows, Steve Port, Larry Alper, Jack Halpern, Neil Port. Back row—Coach Zero Conrad, Bob Jubelirer, Howard Evans, Ronnie Getz, Morley Cohn, Asher Sky. Ball boy in front is Neil Alper.



B'nai Brith officers of the Altoona chapter meet with Altoona Mayor Allan Hancock in the early 1980s. Those present included, from left: Shlomo Dotan, Bill Diamond, Barry Newborn, Joel Hollander, Bob Neidorff and Rick Karp.





## COUPLES QUIZ

### Who belongs to whom?



Correct answers would be: A) Vicki Sommer and Alan Kivitz; D) Madelyn and Jeff Greenberg; F) Paula and Dave Binus; G) Sue Katz and Ralph McKibbin. Incorrect answers: B) Dianne Rudel and Hyman Antikol; C) Jordan Bailing and Michelle Schmidt; E) Elliott Bilofsky and Phyllis Port; H) Mildred Miller and Neil Rudel; I) Rey Altberg and Phyllis Thaler.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Holocaust survivor shares moving story

By Anna Katz

After this generation, there will be no living survivors from the Holocaust. Of the survivors, Judith Meisel has made her experience public.

She travels all over the country to talk to Jewish organizations and schools to relive this tragedy.

The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation has welcomed her to the community on two occasions in the past year, hoping to educate the Jewish community on a big part of our culture's past.

Meisel's experience touches people of all ages on different levels. Someone who has lost a mother or father due to murder can connect with Meisel on a personal level.

But for those who just sit and watch this courageous woman relive her past relate through sympathy.

How many times a day, week, month, year or lifetime do we take our life for granted?

By listening to someone explain how they almost had their life taken away really opens people's your eyes. It teaches us to be more grateful and thankful.

We aren't being ruled by a dictatorship. We aren't prohibited to practice our religion freely. We aren't seeing our family and friends being killed left and right. We aren't living under harsh conditions and poverty. We aren't being forced to do strenuous labor for hours. We aren't being separated from our families.

Those are examples of Meisel's life during the



**Judy Meisel spoke to Sunday school during her visit to Altoona in October.**

Holocaust.

As I sat there and listened to this woman talk about all the hardships she went through, I couldn't help my heart from hurting for her or the tears from streaming down my face.

During Meisel's visits, she showed a video of her life during the Holocaust and shared many stories that happened to her along the way.

After the video, she stayed to talk and go through in depth about the harsh conditions.

Meisel has touched many people's lives, including mine, and has given people a new way to look at life. She also gives a new appreciation to our religion, Judaism.

Barkhu et Adonai ham'vorakh. "Bless God, the One who is to be praised."

The one who is to be praised for letting the war end and for giving us all that we have ...especially our religion.





### 2004 REPORT

# Campaign winding to a close

As we count our blessings at Thanksgiving and Chanukah, let us also consider how we can meet our responsibility for the Jewish people. Your gift to the annual Federation/UJC campaign helps enhance Jewish life in our community and save Jewish lives in 57 countries throughout the world. We need your help now.

It's not too late to help Ethiopian, Russian, and Argentine Jews escape poverty and oppression and enable many to move to a new life in Israel.

It's not too late to feed, clothe, and provide medication for 250,000 poor elderly Jews in Russia and the Former Soviet Union.

It's not too late to provide job training, mortgage assistance, daycare for children, and financial assistance to over 35,000 Jews devastated by the economic collapse in Argentina.

It's not too late to support our local Senior Outreach, Youth Educational and Camp programs, Film Festival, and other community programs.

It's not too late to support our 2004 Campaign – but it soon will be! Please send in your pledge card now and your payment before December 31.

We thank the following for



their contributions:

- Mr. & Mrs. Clark Adelman
- Dr. Reynold Altberg
- Mr. Morris Antikol
- Dr. & Mrs. Jay Arlick
- Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Bailingner
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Belenitsky
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benjamin
- Dr. & Mrs. Elliott Bilofsky
- Mr. & Mrs. David Binus
- Dr. & Mrs. Howard Black
- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bloom
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brett
- Mr. & Mrs. Hans Breuer
- Mrs. Pat Campbell
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Cohen
- Mr. & Mrs. Morley Cohn
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Devorris
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Devorris
- Mr. & Mrs. David Dolinger
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Fishbaine
- Mrs. Ethel Fried
- Mr. & Mrs. Ken Germane
- Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Getz
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Giller
- Mr. & Mrs. Jakob Golant
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry Goldstein

- Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Greenberg
- Mrs. Eleanor Grossman
- Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Gurman
- Atty. Jo-Anne Halpern
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hand
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henderson
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Herman
- Mr. & Mrs. Joel Hollander
- Janet Lurie Housman
- Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Hurwitz
- Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kadane
- Mrs. Rosie Karp
- Mr. & Mrs. Rick Karp
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kline
- Mrs. Bess Lang
- Ms. Marion Lebendig
- Mr. & Mrs. Louis Leopold
- Mr. & Mrs. Howard Levinson
- Mrs. Shirley Levinson
- Dr. & Mrs. Mark Lipitz
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lurie
- Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Meisner
- Mrs. Mildred Miller
- Mr. & Mrs. Greg Morris
- Mrs. Charlotte Morris
- Mrs. Marilyn Muhlfelder
- Mr. Barry Newborn
- Mr. & Mrs. Saul Paikin
- Mr. Andrew Parish
- Mr. & Mrs. Burton Parish
- Mr. & Mrs. Jules Patt
- Mrs. Shirley Pechter
- Mrs. Paula Pimentel
- Mr. & Mrs. Neil Port
- Dr. & Mrs. Josh Port
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Port
- Dr. & Mrs. Larry Primack
- Mrs. Helen Rosch
- Mr. & Mrs. Mike Rosen

- Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Rosenberg
- Mr. & Mrs. James Rosenthal
- Mr. & Mrs. Neil Rudel
- Mr. & Mrs. Saul Savitz
- Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Schmidt
- Mrs. Fay Schmitt
- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schneider
- Dr. & Mrs. Jack Schocker
- Ms. Reva Schulman
- Mr. & Mrs. Yale Schulman
- Rabbi Burt Schuman
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven Seltzer
- Mr. & Mrs. Alex Seltzer
- Mr. Irving Seltzer
- Mrs. Norma Sevel
- Mr. Bernard Shapiro
- Atty. Louis Silverman
- Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Silverman
- Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Singer
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Singer
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Sky
- Mr. & Mrs. Israel Sky
- Mrs. Genia Sommer
- Mr. George Strobert
- Ms. Sherry Thaler
- Dr. & Mrs. William Thaler
- Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Thaler
- Dr.'s. Jon & Barbara Thaler
- Mr. & Mrs. Eric Thaler
- Dr. Michael Tomor
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wallen
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Weinberg
- Mr. & Mrs. Alan Wolkoff
- Mrs. Ilissa Zimmerman
- Dr. & Mrs. Len Zimmerman

### L' CHAIM NOTEBOOK

## Central Pa. debuts new Jewish magazine



This new Jewish magazine debuts in December with a 24-page, full-color issue showcasing Jewish life in Central PA.

It will focus on smaller communities that don't usually attract media attention such as Altoona, Huntingdon, York and Reading. "Hayom," (Hebrew for today) is published in State College by King Publishing. Editor Josh Lipowsky states "we wanted to bring together the entire Pennsylvania Jewish community, not just one area, and create a sense of mishpacha (family) between Jews in Erie

and York, and pretty much across the state."

For subscriptions or advertising, contact King Publishing at 1-800-507-1222. The Federation will place copies at the Temple and Synagogue for review.

#### Jewish music on your computer

Check out B'nai B'rith Radio for Jewish music, 24 hours a day. Type in Bnaibrithradio.org on the web and download the material to listen to a wide variety of religious and secular music.

Try it, you'll like it!



*The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation*  
*1308 17th Street*  
*Altoona PA 16601*

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Altoona PA  
Permit No. 88



*May the Hanukkah  
lights brighten your life  
all year long*