



L'Chain!

Fall 2006
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News & "Chailights" of The Greater Altoona Jewish Community

Schuman lands in Poland

■ Temple Beth Israel welcomes student Rabbi Rachel Kort.

By Neil Rudel

Temple Beth Israel said goodbye to Rabbi Burt E. Schuman this summer.

The Rabbi, who spent 11 years here, was honored at an extraordinary and memorable service on Friday, June 2 that packed the sanctuary. He is leaving to become the senior Rabbi at Beit Warszawa in Warsaw, Poland.

Beyond a significant number of congregants from the Temple and Agudath Achim Synagogue, many Altoona leaders, particularly from the arts, multi-cultural and ecumenical communities, were on hand.

Stories were shared, prayers were offered and good-natured jokes were exchanged.

Rabbi Schuman deeply appreciated the fitting sendoff. He thanked the community for enriching his life, and the community did the same.



Rabbi Schuman graced the Altoona Jewish community and Temple Beth Israel for 11 years.

"People really love him," Temple president Michael Rosen told the Altoona

Mirror. "He is a mentor, teacher and personal friend."

Many expressed similar sentiments. "He has made the Jewish community more visible in a positive way," former YWCA director Cindy Baney said.

At his sendoff service, members of the Blair County Chorale sang Shahechianu in Hebrew, a moving tribute.

Rabbi Schuman, 58, is excited about his next challenge.

"Jewish Poles are exploring their heritage, experiencing Jewish practices, studying Hebrew and Yiddish and establishing Jewish homes," he said.

Rabbi is excited to return to his roots; his great grandparents were from Poland.

"I spent 10 days in Poland, and it was one of the deepest and most powerful experiences I had in my life, second only to my year in Israel," he said. "To stand on Polish soil is a God-given blessing."

Rabbi Schuman always maintained an excellent working relationship with the

(Continued on Page 4)



The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation was well-represented on the June mission to Israel. They included, from left, first row -- Bill Wallen, Brittany Thaler, Mark Thaler. Middle row: Adele Giller, Ronna Lasser, Phyllis Thaler. Back row: Jon Kaplan, Steve Kaplan, Ed Giller, Byron Lasser, Bruce Thaler.

Israel mission creates feeling of 'going home'

By Bill Wallen

The feeling began as we entered the El Al terminal in Newark airport and realized that we were among hundreds of Jews.

It continued to build in flight listening to announcements in Hebrew and watching the Orthodox men pray *Mincha* and then the morning service. Once we landed, it grew stronger seeing scores of Israeli

(Continued on Page 3)



Comings and goings

Welcome to **Alexis Antrocoli**, who is a new history professor at St. Francis University. Alexis most recently lived in Newton, Mass where she received her PhD from Brandeis. Her focus is on early American and Colonial history. She is living in Hollidaysburg and can be reached at 317-7383. Alexis looks forward to being an active part of our Jewish community.

We also welcome **Amie Witkin** who moved into the Winds in Duncansville in August. She is the aunt of **Adele and Ed Giller** and has moved here from New York City and has joined Agudath Achim Congregation.

Marty Weinstein, his daughter **Judy** and granddaughters, are moving to Duncansville this month. Four generations of the Weinstein family have lived in their current home on the corner of 14th Avenue and 18th Street. Many people have stopped to visit with him over the years and he hopes they will continue to come to his new home. Call the Federation for his new address and phone number.

Keeping in touch

Best wishes to **Mandi and Jerry Singer** on their move to Virginia (see story on page 10.) They hope that their friends here will keep in touch. Their new address is 415 East Main Street, Marion, VA 24354.

Michael Tomor, former Federation president, is enjoying his new job and home



Pat Jubelirer Campbell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Around the community

By Bill Wallen



Judy Meisel

in El Paso, Texas. He and Tom send New Year's greetings to all of their Altoona friends. Their new address is 529 Sharon Dale, El Paso, TX 79912.

Howard and Bernice Levinson want to let us all know that Howard is recovering at home following his recent back surgery. They appreciate the calls and cards they have received and encourage all of their Altoona friends to keep in touch.

In the news

Deva and Heidi (Housman) Soloman are the new co-directors of Hillel at West Virginia University. They first met at a Shabbat dinner at Hillel and now five years later are married. Both Solomans are graduate students at WVU; Deva in the law school and Heidi in the speech pathology program.

The Easter Seals Volunteer spotlight recently featured **Pat Jubelirer Campbell** for her 30 years of serving people with disabilities. She was brought to Easter Seals in 1976 by the late **Emily Brett**, who was instrumental in starting the agency in Altoona. Pat spends an average of 5-10 hours typing evaluations and reports for the therapists. She is always accompanied by her faithful companions, Mits and Fritz.

Yom Huledet Sameach

Best wishes to **Allen Goldberg**, who

recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Friends and family from Altoona joined Allen in the surprise celebration. He now lives in Bethesda, Md.

Judy Meisel will return to Altoona

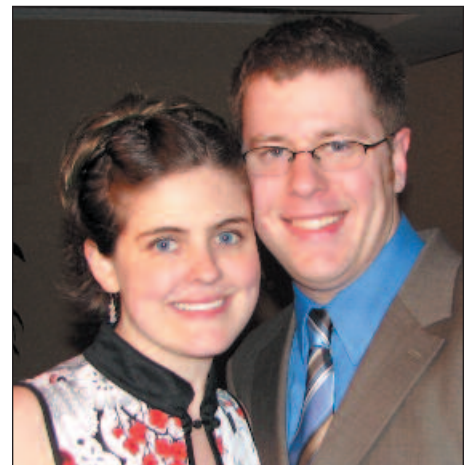
We are pleased to report that our friend **Judy Meisel** will be in our area to speak to local schools and universities from Oct. 16-22. This will be the third visit over the last two years, and she has reached over 5,000 students here with her lessons from the Holocaust and from the Civil Rights Movement. If you have any suggestions concerning where Judy should speak during this visit, please call the Federation office.

Thus far she is scheduled to speak to the Celebrate Diversity students, Bellwood Antis, Tyrone and Hollidaysburg schools.

Yasher Koach

And a big Mazel Tov to **Dana Sky, Rachel Hollander and Erica Binus** for the wonderful Camp Sunny Skies they initiated this summer for elementary school aged kids in our Jewish community. A great time was had by our children.

The week program was full of Jewish experiences and fun. The culmination was a Friday evening service with over 50 people attending and enjoying challah baked by the students. They also delivered challahs to several seniors in their homes. Caring about others and the importance of their Jewish heritage were themes of the camp.



Deva and Heidi (Housman) Soloman



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 22 Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 23-24 Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 1 Kol Nidrei
- Oct. 2 Yom Kippur
- Oct. 6 Erev Sukkot
- Oct. 7-8 Sukkot
- Oct. 14 Erev Simchat Torah
- Oct. 15 Simchat Torah
- Oct. 15 Adult Ed – movie –
Ushpizin at Agudath
Achim Synagogue
- Oct. 29 Adult Ed – Jewish
Cuba presented by
Jerry Zolten at Temple
Beth Israel

UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

- Nov. 11 Ben Scheinberg,
9:30 a.m. Agudath
Achim Synagogue
- Nov. 25 Arielle Port, 9:30 a.m.
Agudath Achim
Synagogue
- Dec. 2 Scott Cohen,
9:30 a.m. Agudath
Achim Synagogue

L'Chaim!

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Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

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Jon Kaplan, son of Steve and Lynn, catches up on some reading while floating in the Dead Sea during a trip to Israel in June.

11 from community visit Israel

(Continued from Page 1)

flags, the skyline of Tel Aviv and being greeted by *Boker Tov*. We were home!

In June, 11 members of our Altoona Jewish Community were part of the Central PA, UJC eight-day mission to Israel led by Penn State President Graham Spanier.

The full group of 55 traveled throughout the country touring holy and historic sites as well as visiting programs that our Federation helps support.

For many of us, it was our first visit, for others a return one. For all of us, it was an unforgettable experience. We all felt secure and comfortable in our travels, including when we were standing on a hilltop at an outpost overlooking Lebanon. While in the North we also visited the holy cities of Safed and Tiberias, the Golan and Kineret (Sea of Galilee.) Unbelievably these areas were all shelled by Hezbollah about two weeks later.

There were so many memorable events that we all had difficulty responding to "what was the highlight of your trip?"

We could mention the Kineret at sunset, ascending the hills to our first sight of Jerusalem, our own Kabalat Shabbat service at "the wall," Masada, floating in the Dead Sea, orchards and forests that we helped to plant through JNF, the Rabin Peace Center in Tel Aviv, and the Birthright Israel event with 6,000 young



Steve Kaplan enjoyed seeing an old friend -- Gary Klein, former Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel.

Jews from throughout the world singing Adon Olam and Hatikfa.

We were proud to see the good work being done in programs that our Federation helps to fund like Birthright Israel, The Ethiopian Resettlement program and enrichment programs in elementary schools. We all realized that Israel is truly the homeland for all Jews – whether from Ethiopia, the Former Soviet Union, France, Argentina or the USA.

We met people from all of these countries who had made *aliyah*. We felt their commitment and dedication – they were home, and so were we!



L' CHAIM PROFILE

Anna and Saul Paiken: young at heart

Names: Saul and Anna (Kaplan) Paikin

Address: 3512 Fort Roberdeau Avenue, Altoona. Their lovely home is full of memories with pictures of many generations of the Paikin and Kaplan families as well as pictures of friends and neighbors. There are mementos of many trips, Judaica and hundreds of videotapes – mostly comedies!

Hometown and family background: Anna Kaplan is one of five children who was born and grew up on "Jew Hill." Her brothers are Sam and Harold Kaplan and her sister is Shirley Steiner, all of Altoona. Her brother Charles is diseased. Saul was born and grew up on Beale Avenue in Altoona. He has one sister, Shirley Nerenberg of Philadelphia. Both of their families originated from Lithuania and both were involved with the junk business when they moved to Central PA. Ann's family came to Philipsburg and Saul's to Altoona. Ann's parents had an arranged marriage and met for the first time on their wedding day.

Occupations: Ann worked at Nevens Drugstore for 10 years and Riverside Market for 23 years. Saul managed the family junk business for 20 years. He also served as a cryptographer in the Army and was a Sergeant in the Reserves. He is a Penn State graduate.

Congregation: Both are lifetime members of Agudath Achim Synagogue.

Families: Ann has three sons: Dave, Jeff and Mark Trude. Dave manages Bingo for the JMC, Jeff works for Kopp Drug and Mark lives in Virginia where he works in the computer field. Saul's first wife, Shirley, was the mother of Sandy Getz (wife of Ron Getz) and grandmother of Mike and Robin.

Jewish memories: Saul recalls Seders with 30 extended family members in attendance. Both recall their times together in Hebrew school.



Saul and Anna Paikin have enriched the community and vice versa.

Their life together: Ann and Saul went to Sunday and Hebrew schools together, and both were 1944 graduates of Altoona High. Their first date was their 55th high school reunion. After a whirlwind courtship, with each at 73 years old, they were married on April 2, 2000, by Rabbi Gary Atkins, surrounded by 250 of their closest friends and family. Ann said, "We started out planning for 20, but people kept asking to come and we ended up with 250." They are regular "minyonairees" at the Synagogue and attend almost all Federation and Jewish community events. They travel and have a good time. Saul is a 50-year member of B'nai B'rith. And he is always available as a standup comic.

Perspective on life: "You don't have to be 25 these days to marry and to enjoy life. We have brought joy to each other."

Schuman anxious for new challenge

(Continued from Page 1)

Federation, and LáChaim wishes him well.

"We have a Jewish expression that our Federation utilizes: Kol Yisrael Averim Zeh v Zeh – all Jews are responsible for one another," Federation executive director Bill Wallen said. "Rabbi Schuman would say, 'We are a holy congregation, a kehila kadosha, responsible for social justice in both the Jewish and general community.'" Rabbi Schuman can be reached at: rabin@beit-warszawa.org.pl



Rachel Kort

Temple Beth Israel has contracted with a student Rabbi, who will serve the congregation.

She is Rachel Kort, who will travel to Altoona from New York about every other weekend. She is currently attending Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York City.

Rachel said she is "thrilled" by her appointment to TBI and very much enjoyed meeting the congregation on

Sept. 8.

She led services on Friday evening, conducted a family service on Saturday morning and Havdalah at the end of Shabbat. Rabbi Kort ate well at the reception and picnic at the Temple and at Shabbat dinner at the home of Michael and Lynn Rosen.

She concluded her very busy first weekend at Sunday school where she spoke at the assembly and then co-taught the 8th/9th grade with Rabbi Chorny.

We all welcome her to Altoona.



PERSPECTIVE

March of Hope strikes chord

Local student gains much from journey to Poland.

By Jennifer Singer

I walked into a room of 400-plus college students in a hotel in New Jersey for an intense orientation that preceded our journey to Poland.

The animated conversations were silenced as a handful of students explained their reasons for participating in the March of Remembrance and Hope. Grandparent survivors, families lost, experience with religious persecution – deeply personal reasons to which I could not relate.

My own purpose for this journey became muddled in my head. Yes, I am Jewish and the Holocaust is certainly a part of my past, which I have studied for most of my life, but beyond this link, I have no personal ties with the horrific event. It took the duration of the week and much reflection in the days following my return to discover why I was there and the major lessons that I needed to learn.

First is this: Along with the rest of the group, I was there to prevent the tragedy from being reduced to a mere tale of human indecency. We were there to keep it alive as active bystanders. I can still sense my emotional reaction upon entering the extermination camps of Auschwitz, Birkenau, Treblinka, and Majdanek, and the remnants of the ghettos of Lodz, Krakow, and Warsaw.

I have touched the barbed wire, the tattered shoes, the walls of the gas chamber, the ground fertilized by ashes. I have stood inside a cattle car, a barrack, a gas chamber. I have smelled the lingering musky air, and I have heard the deafening silence. I have seen the birds that fail to chirp as if they know that these places are worthy of indefinite silence to remember those who have perished. I have seen amidst the graves the new buds that grow with the warmth of the sun's rays as if to pronounce that life and goodness will always triumph over evil. Each moment is engraved in my mind, and I can use this experience to communicate the reality of the Holocaust to others.

Furthermore, I have heard the stories of many survivors, like Irving Roth, who courageously traveled with our group to relive his life through his young eyes and revisit places where those closest to him were murdered.



The entrance to Birkenau concentration camp.

As I took notes to write this article with the intention of writing his story, I realized just how important it is just to listen. I was so fortunate to be able to hear the personal accounts of several survivors, but generations to come will not have this experience. These survivors are living history, full of life and vibrancy with a rich identity and powerful life story that can only be retold for so long.

Because life is not indefinite, survivors are slowly fading, and as quickly as a blink, their stories are buried with them. It is our obligation to prevent this from happening – not to prevent the natural course of life, but to keep the personal accounts alive. This is why Irving told us his story, and this is why Irving kept reiterating the importance of the Surrogate Survivor program. Through the Surrogate Survivor program we learn about a particular individual, everything from their relationship with others to the smell of their town to a favorite toy to the account of the Holocaust through their eyes to the progression of their life as life was returned.

We are the future, and it is up to us to educate future generations, not through textbook facts that are hidden in a corner paragraph next to World War II, but as retellers of personal stories that verify the lives of these important individuals.

Secondly, I was there to see that hope exists, and I can help to propagate it as an aspiring teacher. Through the tears that were shed, I couldn't help but smile. Tears signify mourning, and mourning signifies remembrance, and as I joined with hundreds of people of all backgrounds in crying and praying, it became obvious that hope of humanity is

not completely lost, and we can teach others this important lesson.

The Holocaust is not just a Jewish issue, but rather it is an issue of humanity that affects people of all races, all colors, all beliefs and values systems past and present. Hatred still exists, and it is up to people like us to fight it.

You may be wondering how a first grade teacher can use her experiences of traveling to Poland in her classroom, and, at first, so was I. But Peter Yarrow (of the highly acclaimed Peter, Paul, and Mary) helped to clarify for me in his keynote speech. He said that "[hatred] starts with small children, and that's where we can stop it...if we can reach them."

The cycle of hatred is simple: children pick on each other, which leads to hatred, which leads to violence. Prevention of discrimination and hatred are just as direct. As a teacher, we can reach out to children at an early age by teaching the values of caring, inclusiveness, and respect and enforcing them both inside and outside the classroom.

Now, more than ever, it is imperative to teach the importance of acceptance and to cherish differences. If we can pass this lesson on to future generations, the possibilities of genocide will certainly diminish, and it is my hope as a teacher that I can plant this seed of acceptance and respect as core qualities in my own classroom.

I am truly grateful for this journey – for sharing my experience with a wonderful group of people, for shedding tears, for finding comfort and hope. This experience will certainly remain in my teachings and my heart for the rest of my life.

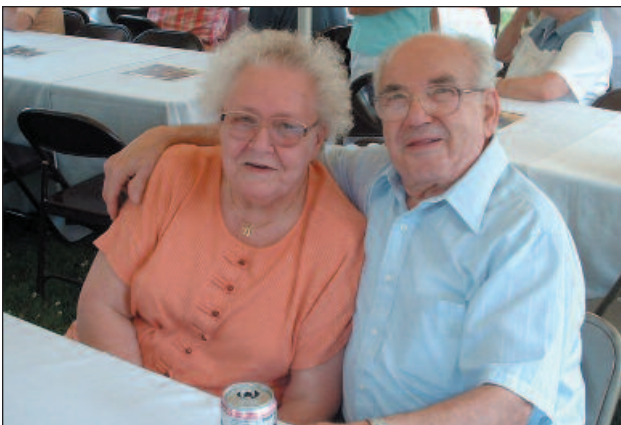
Smile for the camera: The



Janet and Jerry Wayne



Betsy and Asher Kline were decked out in Steelers' garb for the Super Bowl party.



Anne and Jacob Golant



Barry and Cathy Gould



Meredith and Skyler Brumbaugh

Jewish community in focus



Marian Lebendig and her son, David.



Ben and Kathy Schneider



It's a Karpfest – Sue, Rosie and Rick.



David and Sandra Knepp



Charles and Sandy Kaminsky ... probably awaiting their next sporting event.



L'CHAIM MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Richard George Jocums Stracks on March 2, 2006, son of Mark Stracks and Kristen Jocums
Ella Adeline Wayne on March 10, 2006, daughter of David and Jessica Wayne, granddaughter of Janet and Jerry Wayne
Charlotte Rose Berman on May 20, 2006, daughter of Robert and Tina Berman, granddaughter of Janet and Jerry Wayne
Zachary Hudson Port on June 29, 2006, son of Larry and Dina Port, grandson of Mickey and Neil Port
Joshua Billington, son of Julia and Jim Billington, grandson of Pat and Joe Silverman
Aliza Cecilia Zollman, daughter of Ron and Joellyn (Wallen) Zollman and granddaughter of Carolyn and Bill Wallen

WEDDINGS

Rob and Andrea (Seltzer) Okonak, June 24, 2006. Andrea is the daughter of Amy and Steve Seltzer and granddaughter of Irv Seltzer, Bill Thaler and Judy Thaler.

GRADUATIONS – HIGH SCHOOL

Rani Pimentel, Altoona, attending Northeastern University
Gareth Kafka, Hollidaysburg, attending Case Western Reserve
Jacob Gordon, Altoona, attending Juniata College
Kevin Thaler, Altoona, attending West Virginia University
Jennifer Weiss, Altoona, attending University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Rachel Arlick, Clearfield, attending Vasser
Kara Schmidt, Hollidaysburg, attending Washington University
Sara Gould, Altoona, attending the University of Pittsburgh

GRADUATIONS - COLLEGE

Melissa Kivitz – from Boston University with a BA in Psychology and is attending Albany Medical College
Karen Gurman – cum laude from Mount Holyoke and is attending William and Mary Law School in Williamsburg, VA
Dana Smith, daughter of Barbara and Joel Weiss graduated from the John B. Goddard School of Business and Economics at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah with a BS in Human Resource Management
Nancy Hollander, daughter of Barbara and Joel Hollander graduated from Columbia University and is working as a counselor in the New York City Schools

TRIBUTE

Faith Weinstein

A friend to the Jewish community

Faith Weinstein, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Israel Bonds office since 1992, died July 12, 2006 at the age of 63. She was a friend to many in our area and was well respected for her leadership in various Jewish organizations and for her passionate commitment to Israel.



Faith Weinstein

Her colleague at Israel Bonds, Harold Marcus, said, "Her face would just light up when she talked about Israel, and what it did with bonds money, how much it had progressed."

Faith Eskowitz was born in Squirrel Hill and raised in Brookline. Shortly after graduating from high school, she married Sherman Weinstein. They worked together in the family business, Weinstein's Bakery in Squirrel Hill. After their son left for college, Faith began night and weekend classes at the University of Pittsburgh, and graduated eight years later with a degree in Sociology.

She worked at the JCC in Squirrel Hill and later became the Director of the Conference on Soviet Jewry for the Federation in Pittsburgh. She worked on organizing 35 busloads to support the march for Soviet Jewry in December 1987.

Faith joined the Israel Bonds office in 1990 and became Director in 1992. During the 14 years of her leadership, the Pittsburgh bonds campaign raised over \$500 million from the Jewish and general community.

Milton Eisner, former chair of the bonds campaign said, "I don't know anybody, Jewish or non-Jewish who didn't love her."

Altoona Federation President Roz Sky said, "We have all lost a dear friend."

Faith is sadly missed by her parents, brother, three children and eight grandchildren and many friends.

We also remember...

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

Rose L. Bravin, 90, died on March 13, 2006 at Garvey Manor Nursing home in Hollidaysburg. She was a native of Altoona and a 1936 graduate of Altoona High school. Rose lived and worked for the late Marg and Sam Cohn for 54 years and was a devoted member of their family.

She was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and an honorary member of Temple Beth Israel and was active in the Sisterhood, especially with the Next to New sale. Rose loved gardening, cooking and sending cards to her many friends.

Some of her close friends were Sissy Kadane, Emma Cohn and Ethel Kaufman. Sissy remembers her as a very special person. She is sadly missed by her two sisters and many loving nieces and nephews.

Miriam Bamberger Leopold, 93, died on September 1, 2006 in Longboat Key Florida where she had resided in recent years. She was born in Newark, New Jersey and lived for many years in Altoona with her husband, attorney "Bud" Leopold and sons Lee and Bert. Lee later moved to the Philadelphia area. Bert joined the law firm

that had been founded by the Scheelines and his dad and then became a Blair County Judge.

Mim was active in both the religious and general community, serving as Temple Sisterhood President and volunteering in various programs, especially Call for Action. Mim and Bud were good friends of the Titelmans, Bretts, Klatzkins, Monachs and Pechters.

Shirley Pechter remembers Mim as an honest and forthright friend.

She is sadly missed by her sister Ellen, daughter-in-laws Jean Leopold and Susan Leopold Ansin, seven grandchildren and their families.

Condolences

Phil and Vicki Dubrow and family on the death of Phil's grandmother, Thelma Dubrow
Dorothy and Mark Liller on the death of Dorothy's mother, Lela Moore
Roz and Phil Sky and family on the death of Roz's uncle, Bob Roth
Marion Lebendig and family on the death of her brother, Robert Preiskel
Jeff and Madelyn Greenberg on the death of Jeff's mother, Sylvia Greenberg



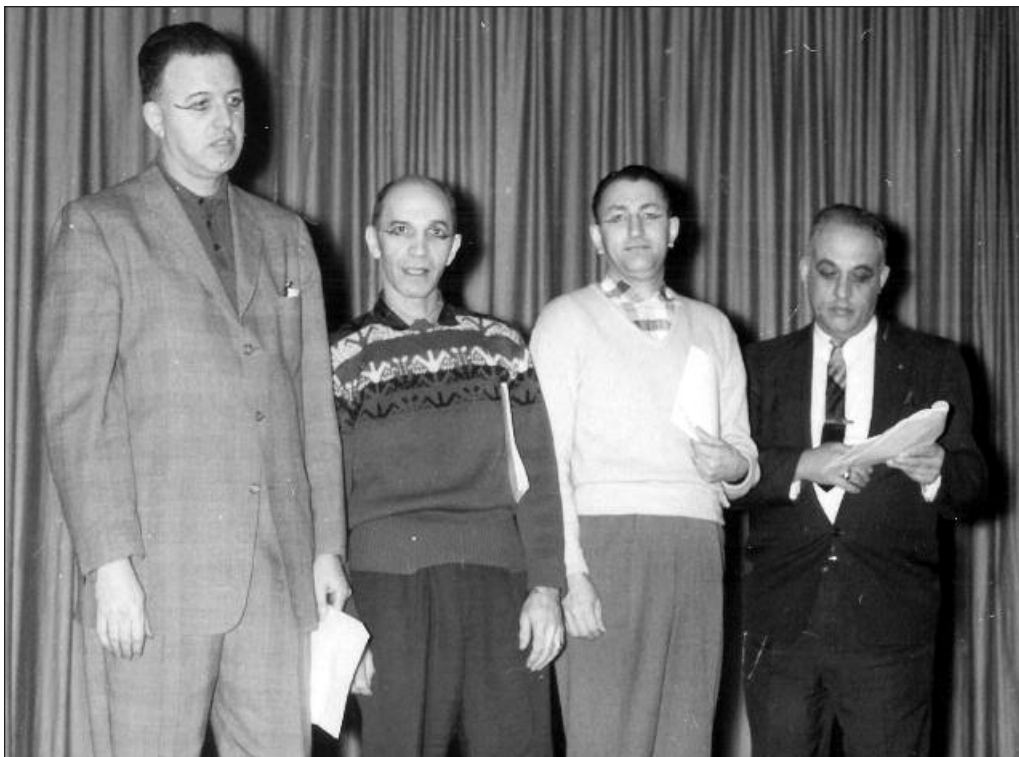
THE WAY WE WERE

Memories like the corners of my mind, misty water colored memories of the way we were.



Agudath Achim Confirmation Class of 1960

From left: Ron Adelman, Shiela Weiss, Beryl "Bubbles" Goldberg, Sandy Crigger, Rabbi Herbert Panitch, Nancy Lehr, Marcia Pachter, Donna Crigger, Bill Rosch.



From left: Myron Silverman, Burt Lichen, Lou Levinson and Sam Port, (known as the Bloomincats) took part in the JMC production of "Knish and Tell" in the late 1950s.

WHO AM I?



HINT: I am 50ish, a native of Altoona and a leader in the Jewish community. The first person to correctly identify me by calling 940-6001 will receive free tickets to the Curve's 2007 home opener.



Bidding farewell to old friends

By Sue Holzer

The Altoona Community said goodbye to Jerry, Mandi, Matt and Jennifer Singer.

Jerry decided it was time for a change so the family will be moving to Marion, VA, where he will practice medicine. Jerry is originally from Houston, and a graduate of Texas A&M. Mandi is from New Hampshire, and is a graduate of Vasser.

Since their arrival from Greensburg, in 1987, to join Blair Medical, Mandi and Jerry have been an active part of the Jewish community, especially as members of Temple Beth Israel. Mandi taught Hebrew lessons to the beginning students and served on the TBI Sisterhood Board as well a chairing



Mandi and Jerry Singer have moved to Virginia.

Altoona often.

many committees. Mandi also served as a board member and officer of Hadassah. Jerry has been a board member of TBI.

While Matt and Jennifer were still enrolled in the Hollidaysburg Area School District, Jerry served as team doctor for the Tigers and Mandi was extremely active as a "Band Mom." Mandi is also a founding partner in The Chalk Box. Jennifer will be completing her last year of college at William Smith in New York. Matt will be relocating to Maine to be an environmental educator.

We wish the Singers well in their new venture and hope they will visit

Film Festival gearing for February return

Len Zimmerman, new chairperson and the committee has been working this summer screening and selecting films for Thursdays in February 2007 – February 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Films selected so far include:

- "Watermarks," a heart-warming documentary about the reunion of seven remarkable Jewish women athletes who belonged to Hakoah, a legendary sports club in Austria in the 1930s.

The film won the "Best Documentary" award at the 2004 Boston Jewish Film Festival.

- "Bee Season," a Hollywood production featuring Richard Gere in a Jewish family drama that features parental ambition, Kaballah and teenage rebellion.

It revolves around a sixth grader and her experiences in



a spelling bee and is based on Myla Goldberg's novel.

- "Live and Become," the story of a young Ethiopian boy saved from the famine of 1984 and brought to Israel as part of "Operation Moses."

Along with the movie, we hope to have an Ethiopian Jew come to Altoona to tell us more of their life in their new homeland of Israel.

The film has won many awards including the "Audience Award" at the 2005 Berlin International Film festival.

The last film will be selected in the coming weeks. The films still being considered are "Shanghai," "Ghetto," and "Keeping up with the Steins."

More details will be mailed out as they are finalized or for information, contact the Federation office at 940-6001.



Sky, Hollander honored

The Pittsburgh region of Israel Bonds honored local community leaders Roz Sky and Barbara Hollander on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the Casino.

The evening also featured the singing of Cantor Hal Jeffrin, who is returning to Altoona by popular demand. He was accompanied on piano by Neil Port.

The Israel Bonds program was established in 1951 by Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gorion to support the country's then-fledgling economy.

The Pittsburgh regional campaign began that same year and in the last 55 years has sold over \$20 million in bonds.

Our local representative, Harold Marcus, said, "Altoona has always been a great supporter of Israel Bonds and recognizes that they are an excellent investment."



Sky



Hollander

Steve Port, co-chairman of the Altoona committee, said, "Rozzie and Barb are two of our most creative and energetic leaders. We are proud to honor them."

Both women encouraged community members to buy bonds and stressed how important they are to help rebuild Israel's economy following the recent attacks by Hezbollah. The dinner's co-chair, Shirley Pechter, encouraged us to buy bonds as gifts for our family members, and said, "I'm now purchasing them for my great-grandchildren."



Campaign striving for 100% involvement

By Michael Cohen

Campaign 100% is well under way and the Federation is pleased to report that we have 15 new and first-time members. Pledge cards were mailed to all Jewish members of our community to explain Campaign 100% to the community and we are happy with the initial response. Our campaign will continue through the summer and fall until we reach our goal of 100% membership.

Membership 100% is a lofty goal, but our executive committee feels that there will be many advantages from this effort. In addition to greater funding for Federation programming and event sponsorship, this campaign should be a great community-building activity.

Each year our Federation is playing a greater role to strengthen and preserve Jewish life in our community.

Our Federation is the only organization that is involved in all aspects of Jewish life in our community. Our Federation is there for Jews of all denominations and beliefs. The Federation is the

Welcome new Federation members

- Mary Allenbaugh
- David & Nancy Bergstein
- Nima Chorny
- Philip & Vicki Dubrow
- Michael & Maria Herman
- Pam Kivitz-Keenan
- Barbara Jean Lowenthal
- Martin & Barbara Port
- William Rosch
- Ruthann Rosend
- Sheldon Rosenthal
- Mark Stracks & Kristen Jocums
- George Strobert
- Robert Terdiman
- Peter Whitcofp

one place that we stand together as one. To have 100% membership would further strengthen our community for the benefit of all.

Having all Greater Altoona Jews belong to one organization would help to ensure our future as we go l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. If you believe in preserving Judaism in our community, you need to be a member of the

Greater Altoona Jewish Federation.

By giving to the annual campaign you make it clear that you are a member of our Jewish community. You make it clear that you care about educating our children and having Jewish cultural and education experience/programs. You make it clear that serving our seniors is important and that a visible Jewish presence in our interfaith and secular community is needed. By giving you support the state of Israel in these challenging times and support Jews in need throughout the world.

As Jews we measure our good deeds on a yearly basis and in this spirit it is time to meet our responsibility for our Jewish community and for Jews throughout the world by membership in the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation.

Judaism is not only about finding God but bring Jews together, to live in peace and with purpose.

Let us stand together as one, live generously, and be counted as a member of our community with your annual campaign gift.

Israel Emergency fund reaches next phase

The initial response of the IEC focused on helping the most vulnerable in Israel's north deal with the daily onslaught of missile attacks. To date, Israel has suffered 159 dead and 4,500 wounded from 4,000 rocket strikes; thousands of homes, buildings and institutions have been damaged; 90,000 businesses have suffered economic losses.

The next phase will focus on the longer-term social services and support that will grow so important in the days ahead: helping families return to their normal lives and routine through services such as trauma care; aiding needy families with financial assistance; awarding small-business loans; and restoring damaged infrastructure and more. We will continue to focus on those most vulnerable Israelis, the elderly, the disabled and new immigrants —those communities we have long assisted with JDC and the Jewish Agency. The IEC will continue to assist and support all Israeli citizens affected by the war —Jews, Arab and Druze alike.

Please send your checks **NOW** to help. Make them payable to The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation and note Israel Emergency Campaign. 100% of your donations will go to Israel. Note that this appeal is a supplement to our annual campaign which funds ongoing programs. We need your help with both.

Taglit – Birthright Israel Free 10 day trips to Israel

Donna Berman, a Penn State student wrote: Israel is a place where we can all unite and become one. Taglit – Birthright is a 10 day trip that allows students between the ages of 18 and 26 to experience Israel.



Throughout college, I had wanted to travel to Israel on the Birthright trip. It was amazing to spend the 10 days touring the Sea of Galilee, hiking the Golan Heights in Tiberias, seeing the Kotel for the very first time, and exploring Jerusalem. We also watched the sunrise after hiking Masada, and we floated in the Dead Sea. This Mega Event with 8,000 other Jews was an indescribable experience.

While on our trip we also had the opportunity to meet with Israeli soldiers. After hearing their experiences firsthand, I have come to respect their courage and bravery for protecting the Jewish homeland of Israel. They told us, as American Jews, we are obligated to serve as an army in America on behalf of Israel. We must continue to spread the knowledge of our religion, our culture and our background. I encourage all students to participate in the wonderful program Hillel has to offer.

100,000 young Jews have already participated. Be one of the next 100,000. Details are available at www.birthrightisrael.com. Your Federation helps to fund this program.



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**May we all be
blessed with a
New Year of peace
and happiness**