



# Jewish Reporter



A Publication of the Flint Jewish Federation

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Vol. 61 No.3

December 3, 2009/16 Kislev 5770

Published by the Flint Jewish Federation

Flint, MI

## Annual Flint Jewish Federation/United Jewish Appeal Campaign at Crucial Final Month

The 2009 Flint Jewish Federation/United Jewish Appeal Annual Campaign is in its final month and the next few weeks will determine our ability to fund the needed programs and services the Federation provides, according to Dr. William Bernard, Campaign Chair.

“There is still a long way to go to reach our \$300,000 goal, but traditionally the last several weeks of the campaign have produced the best results,” stated Bernard.

If you have not made your pledge or if you have not been contacted, please call the Federation office at 810-767-5922.

Please see page 8 for a short synopsis of what the Flint Jewish Federation achieves in our community.

## Flint Jewish Federation Interfaith Mission to Israel April 17-27, 2009

If you have been or if you have thought about going to Israel – NOW is the opportunity you don't want to miss. The Flint Jewish Federation will sponsor its now “famous” Interfaith Mission from April 17 to April 27, 2010. The mission is being led by the Flint Jewish Federation Mission Director, Diane Lindholm, whose fame has spread and she has become a very experienced and dynamic mission leader.

The trip will cover a major portion of the State of Israel including 2 nights at the Carlton Hotel in Tel Aviv, 2 nights at Kibbutz Lavi near the Sea of Galilee and 4 nights in Jerusalem at the Imbal Hotel.

All meals (except dinner and lunch) guide and driver, deluxe bus, all admission fees, services and security are included. While the final cost has not been determined, it will be in the area of \$3,500-\$3,700 per person.

In order to confirm your place on the mission, we are requesting a \$500 deposit payable to the Flint Jewish Federation by December 31. This trip will be limited to 25 participants.

Plans and flight arrangements will be coordinated by Diane Lindholm. She can be reached at 810-694-8265 or contact the Flint Jewish Federation at 810-767-5922.

**A Community Hanukkah Present!**

A weekend with  
**KAREN GOLDEN**  
Master Storyteller, Musician and  
Discussion Leader

Our entire Jewish community is invited to:  
**Friday, December 11, 2009**  
Temple Beth El, 8:00 p.m.  
A Hanukkah/Shabbat Presentation

**Saturday, December 12, 2009**  
Congregation Beth Israel, 9:30 a.m.  
Hanukkah songs, stories and discussion

For Ivriah students only:  
**Sunday, December 13, 2009**  
Temple Beth El, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Crafts, storytelling with Karen, Hanukkah Party

These programs are being brought to you by the Flint Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Services, Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Beth El and the Ivriah through the generosity of the Ravitz Foundation.

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Flint Jewish Federation

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## Did You Know?

YOU MAY REALIZE EXTRA BENEFITS by making a direct gift from your IRA to the Flint Jewish Federation, thanks to the IRA charitable rollover extension. Under this extension, your gift to the Flint Jewish Federation can:

1. Be easy and convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets **and**
2. Be excluded from your gross income: **a tax-free rollover.**

**For your gift to the Flint Jewish Federation to qualify for benefits under the extension:**

- You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of your gift
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to the Flint Jewish Federation
- Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed \$100,000 per year
- Your gift must be outright

**DON'T MISS THIS FINAL OPPORTUNITY.  
CONTACT US NOW!  
810-767-5922**

## Flint Jewish Federation Interfaith Mission to Israel April 17-27, 2010

**Hold the Date  
Contact us at 810 767-5922**

## Can Giving Be Fun?

Have you ever purchased and wrapped the 'perfect' gift for your spouse or close friend and watched with wet-lipped excitement as the person tore away the paper? You knew the gift would be a hit, and you could hardly stand it as the anticipation grew.

Then the magic moment came as the box was opened. You delighted in the expression of surprise and joy. You beamed as words of gratitude filled the air. Even though you were not the receiver, you had great fun giving the gift because you knew it was just what the person needed and wanted.

A well-planned charitable gift can bring happiness as well. When you take the time to discover what the needs are and how you can structure your gift to do the most good, you find yourself anticipating the actual gift. You know it will be a hit.

The size of the gift is not necessarily the most enjoyable part. A gift that matches a specific need and accomplishes something worthwhile can be enormously rewarding. For example, an endowment contribution that provides ongoing support for generations to come can elicit a mile-wide smile from everyone concerned.

The Flint Jewish Federation can help you plan an enjoyable gift. Please contact Gary Alter, at 810 767-5922 or [fjf@tm.net](mailto:fjf@tm.net) to find out how to have fun making the perfect gift.

## 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.

## A Community Calendar

Dec 2	FJF Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
Dec 7	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Dec 10	CBI Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Dec 11	Erev Hanukkah	
Dec 12-19	Hanukkah	
Dec 13	Ivriah Hanukkah Event, TBE	10:00 a.m.
	Chabad Hanukkah Celebration	6:00 p.m.
Dec 14	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Dec 16	CBI Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Dec 18	CBI Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner	6:30 p.m.
Dec 18-20	CBI Rabbinic Intern Philip Ohriner, CBI	
Dec 21	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Dec 25	FJF & JCS Offices closed	
Dec 28	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.

## Next Reporter Deadline - December 15



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## Jewish Reporter 2009 Publication Schedule

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue</u>
December 15	January 2010

## Jewish Reporter

a publication of  
The Flint Jewish Federation  
619 Wallenberg Street  
Flint, MI 48502  
Publisher: Gary S. Alter  
Editor: Dale Martin

Published monthly by the Flint Jewish Federation. Deadline for news items is posted above. Phone (810) 767-5922. Fax (810) 767-9024. Email - [fjf@tm.net](mailto:fjf@tm.net)

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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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## Sue Fishkoff Speaks at Flint Jewish Federation Community Event

Flint Jewish community members who attended a recent Flint Jewish Federation program had the opportunity to hear an "upbeat" presentation from guest speaker, Sue Fishkoff. Below are excerpts from her remarks.

We should not despair over what we perceive is the decline of interest in Jewish life today, especially by the younger generation of Jews. In fact, Jewish life is thriving although it looks different. While there is less interest in some communal agencies, other organizations, such as JCC's, day schools and synagogues, are growing. Fishkoff lists seven current trends in Jewish life that describe the next generation's commitment to Judaism, which are as follows:

1) An increasing interest in spirituality- People are looking for spiritual nourishment and appreciate "G-d talk" in synagogues.

2) Transformation of synagogues- people expect more out of their synagogues than Bar/bat Mitzvahs and High Holidays. People have a large spectrum of needs and as a result, synagogues are turning more into Jewish centers. Synagogues tend to be smaller and often have no building or Rabbi. There is more of an emphasis on participation as opposed to the performance model in which the Rabbi and Cantor pray for you. Some congregations write their own siddurim and machzorim which can be made to reflect the personal lives of the congregants.

3) Increase in Jewish ritual across the denominational spectrum - as an example, Fishkoff noted that some individuals use the mikvah after life changing circumstances (divorce, surgery, and high school trips to Israel.

4) Permeable barriers between the denominations--In the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Survey, the largest category were those who responded "Just Jewish" as opposed to Reform/Conservative/Orthodox, etc. 85% of the respondents under 40 identified as "Just Jewish."

5) Jewish education (preschools, adult ed., etc.) is thriving. We need to rethink our definition of unaffiliated. Jews can be interested in Judasim even if they do not express their Judasim by joining traditional organizations.

6) This is the golden age of Jewish culture (film festivals, book fairs, TV shows.) Young Jews often express their Jewish identity through innovative Jewish music.

7) Young Jews identify with their Jewish heritage although they express it differently. They read Jewish books, write Jewish books, and there are numerous Jewish blogs and online publications. Young Jews frequently unite (and sometimes combine forces with other religious groups) for social justice activities. The younger Jewish community looks different than prior generations due to intermarriage and conversion. One-half of students in college who identify as being Jewish come from intermarried homes. Jews younger than 45 have never known life without Israel and many view the Holocaust as long ago history.

While these trends reflect vitality in Jewish life today, the next generation



Dr. William Bernard, Flint Jewish Federation Campaign Chair; Sue Fishkoff, guest speaker; and Mitch Weiss, FJF President, at a recent community program.

does not feel communal responsibility which has implications for fundraising. In order to instill a sense of community in the next generation, it is critical that we make our children and grandchildren aware of our

tzedakah and the specific charities that we support. Explain to this next generation that their financial support is the lifeline to the future of the Jewish community.

### Community Mourns passing of Flint Jewish Federation Past President Gilbert Rubenstein

Gilbert Rubenstein recently passed away at the age of 96. He was a past president of the Flint Jewish Federation as well as a member of CBI and TBE. He served in the army during World War II.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Rubenstein practiced law in Flint for 68 years. He was active in many community organizations and received numerous awards and recognition.



### Our People

Mazel tov to Dr. Mark Plucer for being inducted into the Wall of Fame at Hurley's Health and Fitness Center. He was recognized for his dedication and commitment to achieving his maximum potential in the areas of health and fitness.

## Top Israeli Must have Holiday Gadgets, by Brian Blum, Israel 21c

They keep your legs smooth, back up your files, upload your photos from wherever you may be. ISRAEL21c presents has a list of developed-in-Israel gadgets, which may be perfect for the holiday season.

### DiskonKey

Dov Moran, founder of Modu, previously hit the big time with his company M-Systems, which developed the very first DiskOnKey (or DiskOnChip as M-Systems originally dubbed it).

The concept is simple enough: Jam up to 64 gigabytes of data onto a tiny gadget no larger than a house key. The latest versions actually look like a key and can hook onto your keychain.

### Powermat

How many power cables do you have running under your office desk for all your computers, hard drives, modems, routers, etc.? How about those kitchen appliances and their connections to the sockets? Wouldn't it be great to get rid of the clutter?

That's what promises to do. The Israeli company's technology lets you embed a power grid in just about anything - from a desk to a kitchen counter. Then, with a wireless receiver hidden inside a device, there's no need for plugs anymore. Just position the device or appliance near a power "hotspot" and away it goes.

In a demo on the company's website, a salesperson goes so far as to pour water all over a "Powermatted" kitchen counter - with no burn-outs

or electrocutions. Other demonstrations show iPods and Blackberries charging when simply placed on a table.

The company is a joint venture between Michigan-based HoMedics and Israel's Powermat. The first products will be available in time for this winter's shopping season.

### Epilady

The story of this gadget is fraught with intrigue. We're talking about a hair removal product invented in Israel that now has copycat versions worldwide. The original Epilady "epilator" was released in 1986. It had a rotating spring that worked by catching hair and pulling it out. It isn't pleasant but, according to women, it works.

Newer versions have more of a tweezer action. Either way, the result is not unlike a waxing treatment, except that you can do it yourself at home, for a fraction of the cost. An Epilady treatment lasts up to four weeks.

### Modu

Modu looks something like a cell

phone and something like an MP3 player, but isn't really like anything you've ever seen before. Essentially, Modu is a tiny device with cellular capabilities that can be slipped into any number of "jackets" to give it a specific functionality. One jacket transforms Modu into a full MP3 player, in another it's a camera. The plan is to create a mini-economy around Modu accessories.

### Eye-Fi

A standard SD card that has built-in WiFi connectivity, Eye-Fi works with all the top cameras and enables you to instantly upload photos/video to one of 25 sites that you specify in advance through the Eye-Fi software.

### MobileEye

Another Israeli high-tech company, MobileEye, combines a tiny digital camera with sophisticated algorithms to help drivers navigate their vehicles more safely.

There are many several more high-tech gadgets listed in the article. Visit israel21c.org for more details.

## Did You Know?

The Jewish Federations of America support World ORT's hospital education program in Israel, which provides help for patients ages 6-21 in 100 pediatric departments in 27 hospitals. The initiative, established by the charity Kav Or, helps 120,000 children maintain their studies with laptop computers and other tools while they are hospitalized.



# Inside Jewish Community Services



## Highway to Health Transportation Program

Jewish Community Services' Highway to Health transportation program provides Genesee County residents with rides to medical appointments outside the county. Transportation is available four days a week to Ann Arbor, the Detroit area, Lansing and Saginaw.

Scheduling is done on a first-call, first-serve basis following an intake interview with a social worker. Cost is based on ability to pay, and Medicaid is accepted. The Highway to Health program is funded by the Flint Mass Transit Authority and the Flint Jewish Federation.

For more information about the program, contact JCS at 767-5922.

## Join the Senior Friendship Club

If you are 60 or over, come meet new people and old friends, play Bingo, talk about current events, health, and a variety of other topics after a hot, well-balanced meal provided by Jewish Community Services at Temple Beth El. We meet for lunch and a program on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon. Transportation available upon request. For more information, please call 767-5922.

**Visit Jewish Community Services  
Website!!**  
[www.jcsflint.org](http://www.jcsflint.org)

## It's Not too Late to Do A Mitzvah!

Volunteers are needed at the  
North End Soup Kitchen on  
Friday, December 25, 2009.



**9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
Help prepare food or  
set up dining hall  
Serve food, distribute  
gifts, hostess or  
clean up kitchen and  
dining hall

The North End Soup Kitchen is located at 735 E. Stewart, between Pasadena and Pierson, one block east of N. Saginaw.

To volunteer, contact  
Jewish Community Services  
at (810) 767-5922

**Call NOW!**

## 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>
January 5	"The Pig Did it"	Joseph Caldwell
February 2	"Benjamin Franklin: An American Life"	Walter Isaacson
March 2	"The World to Come"	Dara Horn
April 6	"The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew and the Heart of the Middle East"	Sandy Tolan
May 4	"Cutting for Stone"	Abraham Verghese
June 1	"You or Someone Like You"	Chandler Burr
August 3	"The Last of the Just"	Andre Sewarzbart

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

Tuesday, December 1		
Lentil Soup		Hanukkah Bingo
Thursday, December 3		
Blintz Souffle		Birthdays, Story Day
Monday, December 7		
Chicken and Mushrooms		Chit & Chat about This n' That
Tuesday, December 8		
Box Lunch at Trillum Cinema		Movie at Trillum Cinema Please sign up
Thursday, December 10		
Turkey Pastrami		Sing Along
Monday, December 14		
Pepper Steak		Movie - Showcase West \$2 includes movie drink & popcorn Please sign up
Tuesday, December 15		
Fruity Chicken		Armchair Travel
Wednesday, December 16		
Lunch at Bangkok Peppers		Please sign up
Thursday, December 17		
Tuna Salad & Latkes		Project Fresh & Winter Holiday Party
Monday, December 21		
Hot Dogs		Trivia
Tuesday, December 22		
Spaghetti		Bingo
Thursday, December 24		
Closed		Christmas Eve
Monday, December 28		
Sweet & Sour Meatballs		Chit Chat about This n' That
Tuesday, December 29		
BBQ Chicken		Stretch & Exercise w/ Gaylyn Close New Year's Party, Game Day
Thursday, December 31		
Closed		New Year's Eve

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

# Hanukkah Greetings to the Flint Jewish Community



Happy Hanukkah to our good friends in the Jewish Community from the 5th District Democratic Committee

**Congressman & Mrs. Dale E. Kildee**

Paid for by the 5th District Democratic Committee

Best Wishes for a Very Happy Hanukkah




**Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton**

David and Therese Leyton and Family

Paid for by the Committee to elect David Leyton Prosecutor.

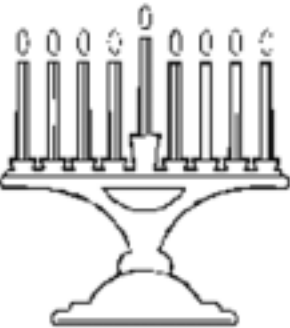
Wishing You a bright and happy Hanukkah  
John and Lucy Northrup

Happy and Healthy Hanukkah



Lewis, Roxanne, and David Heidenrich

May You Be Blessed this Hanukkah with Peace, Health and Happiness.



Bette and Marv Heidenrich

A Happy and Joyous Hanukkah to all



Diana, Philip, Albie and Sarah Sherman

## 2009 Hanukkah Stamp Available from Postal Service

The 2009 Hanukkah stamp went on sale on Friday, October 9 and should be available at all local post offices. It is the new menorah design. The United States Postal Service has printed a mere 35 million (about one half of what is usually printed for a commemorative stamp) of the Hanukkah stamp. Local post offices will receive only fifteen percent of what they usually get from a new stamp.

If the 2009 Hanukkah stamp is not available at your post office and they tell you, "We never got them," or "We ran out and can't get any more," or any other excuse, please let me know. Send me the town name and zip code of the post office at [hanukkah@att.net](mailto:hanukkah@att.net).

When you buy Hanukkah stamps don't just buy enough for your Hanukkah cards. Buy 100 or more and use them on all your mail through the holiday season and beyond. I buy 200 and use them on all my mail for the entire year.

The United States Postal service claims "a lack of demand" as the reason for not issuing a new Hanukkah stamp design every year. I don't believe this to be true. This season is the first of the new menorah design, and I already know that this design will be repeated next year. Help raise the demand and encourage more frequent design changes.

- Ronald Scheiman - [www.hanukkahstampquest.com](http://www.hanukkahstampquest.com)



Best Wishes for a very Happy Hanukkah  
Dr. Benjamin & Estelle Kaufman

Wishing Everyone a Happy Hanukkah  
Gary and Emily Alter

## “Flintstones” by Carmen Rachwal

I would like to thank Esther Price, Pat Hartz, Rita Sills, Joanne Gotlib, Morley Biesman and Larry Feinstein, who notified me of their news about our Flintstones. Let me hear from YOU too. Just call (954)979-0245 or email me at srachwal@bellsouth.net.

Our sympathies to the former Robin Sugarman whose husband passed away. May his memory be for a blessing.

Condolences to the family of former Flintstone, Dr. Milton Panzer, who died in North Carolina on October 17<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn and his children.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Ellen Jaffa, who died on August 5<sup>th</sup> in Florida. She was the wife of the late Harold Jaffa.

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Dr. Jack Stanzler, who passed away on October 14<sup>th</sup> in Ann Arbor. He leaves his wife, Laurie White, his 4 children from his 1<sup>st</sup> marriage to Dr. Phoebe Stanzler and his 3 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Mark.

We extend our sympathy to former Flintstone, Ellen Wolin, on the loss of her sister, Essie Siman, of W. Bloomfield, who died in July.

Get well wishes to Judy Biesman, Morrie Young, Tammie Kopland and Ida Epstein. We wish them all a speedy recovery and good health.

Mazal tov to Pat and Dr. Arnold Hartz (Florida) on the engagement of their grandson, Jacob Hartz, to Pamima Wyzkewski. Jacob is the son of Wendy and Michael Hartz of Skokie, IL. He is the great-grandson of the late Sarah and Harry Hartz and the late Fan and Louis Colish.

Our congratulations to Joanne and Dr. Daniel Gotlib on the marriage of their daughter, Naomi to Gavriel Shmueli. The wedding took place on August 9<sup>th</sup> in Detroit. The couple made their home in Baltimore. Joanne and Danny are also “qvelling” from the arrival of their first grandchild, Max Judah. The proud parents are Ari and Shirli Gotlib. Naomi and Ari are the grandchildren of Muriel and Dr. Sam Gotlib of Boynton Beach, FL. They are the great-grandchildren of the late Max and Ida Gotlib. To add to their joy, Muriel and Sam added a second great-grandchild to their family tree with the arrival of Ella Marks. Ella's parents are Benjamin and Debbie Marks and her happy grandparents are Deborah and Jules Marks. Mazal Tov to the entire Gotlib family on all of their simchas.

Carly Taub was called to the Torah on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township. She is the daughter of Rene and Jeffrey Taub, the granddaughter of Vera and Barry Pearl and the great-granddaughter of the late Clara and Richard Siegel.

Our congratulations to the family.

A hearty mazal tov to Benny Feinstein, who was called to the Torah on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Benny's Bar Mitzvah was held at Bais Haknesses in Oak Park. He is the son of Jeff Feinstein and of Alene Goodstein. His grandparents are Larry and the late Rita Feinstein and his great-greatparents are the late Bill and Rhoda Feinstein.

Dina and Dr. Brian Biesman are proud to announce the B'nai Mitzvah of their children, Adam and Abbie in May. The simcha took place in Nashville, Tennessee with their happy grandparents, Judy and Dr. Morley Biesman in attendance. The twins are the great-grandchildren of Pauline and the late Paul Biesman and the great-great grandchildren of the late Leah and Monas Goldberg.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Karen Fleishman was married to William Hidalgo, in Peru. Karen is the daughter of Shelley and the late Dr. Gary Fleishman, the granddaughter of Alice and the late Harry Katz and the great-granddaughter of the late Max and Rose Severin. Mazal tov, Karen!

Halloween eve marks the date of the wedding of Susan Kaplan to Robert Cohen. We extend our congratulations to Gilbert and Lenore Kaplan on their daughter's marriage. Susan is the granddaughter of the late Isadore and Sadie

Kaplan.

Good luck to Janice and Dr. Danny Bernstein in their new home. Please make note of their new address: 8914 Cotton Press, Charlotte, N.C. 28277.

Roslyn Kramer has made her home in Texas. Those of you who would like to reach her can do so by writing her C/O Mrs. Elise Jacobson, 20606 Morning Creek Dr., Katy, Tx. 77450 or by calling (713)899-2041.

On Labor Day weekend, Judy and Dr. Morley Biesman celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Mazal Tov to them both.

### Please Share Your Family History!

If you have a photo or idea for a story you would like to submit, please call us at (810) 767-5922, write to us at the Flint Jewish Federation, 619 Wallenberg St., Flint MI 48502, or e-mail us at [fjf@tm.net](mailto:fjf@tm.net). Photos will be returned to you. Your story ideas are always welcome.

## Jewish Federations of North America Update on Rescue of Yemen Jews

One day recently in the village of Monsey, N.Y., a new Jewish immigrant from Yemen stood outside her house, staring in disbelief at the mezuzah affixed to the doorpost. Asked if there was a problem, the immigrant expressed shock that she could freely and openly display this Jewish symbol, something she was forbidden to do in Yemen.

Over the past year, UJC/The Jewish Federations of North America and our domestic and overseas partners including The Jewish Agency for Israel have been conducting a major humanitarian effort to help rescue some of the last remaining Jews of Yemen and resettle them in the United States and in Israel.

Throughout this effort, UJC/Federations have worked with our historic partner in aliyah and klitah, the Jewish Agency, to encourage the remaining Yemenite Jews to make aliyah to Israel – though some preferred to immigrate to the United States as they had close family members here.

Including this woman, 62 Yemenite Jews have come to the United States and an undetermined number are expected to follow.

Her story and those of the other Jews of Yemen underscore the very reasons The Jewish Federations of North America first launched this effort to help this impoverished and threatened community.

There are some 200 Jews remaining scattered throughout Yemen today, the last vestiges of an ancient community, most of which made its way to Israel in two major airlifts nearly 50 years ago.

This latest humanitarian initiative, first reported last spring, has focused on the emigration, resettlement and absorption in Israel and the United States of this ancient Jewish community, which has been increasingly threatened by anti-Jewish violence. Over a year ago, a young rabbi was shot dead by Islamic militants, and the community has reported increasing incidents of stone-throwing,

verbal harassment and intimidation.

The U.S. portion of this effort has involved an unusually broad partnership that involves the UJC/Federations; the U.S. State Department [HIAS, the international migration agency of the American Jewish community; UJA/Federation of New York; the social service agency FECS; the Jewish Federation of Rockland County, N.Y.; the New York Legal Assistance Group; the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg and the Rockland County Department of Social Services.

To date, some 65 Federations and HIAS have pledged more than \$700,000 to help rescue and resettle those wishing to come to the United States. The UJC/Federations-funded JAFI has brought additional Yemenite Jews to Israel as part of this broad effort.

The U.S. arrivals are being resettled in the village of Monsey, about 30 miles outside New York City. Since Monsey is home to many observant groups, from modern Orthodox to Chasidic, and houses an array of Jewish institutions from schools to businesses as well as an existing group of Yemenite immigrants, it was deemed a good fit for this highly traditional community.

Since their arrival began in July, the immigrants have been provided resettlement services by the coalition involved. Children are being enrolled in well-known New York State-

accredited schools affiliated with the Orthodox and Chasidic movements, and will be given culturally appropriate educational opportunities as well. New families are also being provided with food, housing, medical care, child care, mental health services, cultural adjustment counseling, language training, employment training and advice.

Besides initial announcements to the Federations, and a flurry of early press reports, some of which erroneously reported that UJC/Federations were working with Satmar organizations, the groups involved have tried to conduct this initiative quietly, due to concerns by the Yemenites for the safety of their relatives remaining in Yemen, and by U.S. State Department and other officials that wider publicity could endanger the entire effort. A Wall Street Journal story has appeared about the effort, increasing the likelihood of further attention.

Those refugees who have arrived in the United States say they lived in fear in Yemen. The men said they hid their payot (sidecurls) and yarmulkes, the women wore Arab garments, and the community did not maintain public institutions. Some of the men said they never left their prayer books in one location, lest they be damaged or destroyed. None of these Jews had ever built a sukkah, and did for the first time this year.

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Pictured above are some of the Ivriah students who were treated to a field trip to "Shalom Street" at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. The entire school and 11 staff members went by chartered bus. Lunch followed the hands-on experience. The Shalom Street experience was made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Ravitz Foundation Statewide Initiative.

**Be A Contributor to the  
Flint Jewish Federation's UJA Annual Campaign**

**The needs are great!**

## Immigration Vital to Economy: by Gideon Aronoff and Genia Brin

The following appeared in a November 12 issue of the New York Daily News.

Immigrants - and immigration - have provided significant fuel for America's growth and prosperity since the beginning days of our country.

American values and beliefs; businesses and homes, and military and infrastructure have been shaped by the millions of immigrants who have arrived on our shores over the centuries. Unfortunately, the current national debate over immigration often has become so bitter that an important fact has been obscured: Immigrants contribute a wealth of new strengths and ideas to America.

Some, like Genia's son Sergey, co-founder of Google, literally will change the world. Assisted by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Brins came to America in 1979, hoping to escape the repression and persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union. Without the nurturing education and system of free enterprise that Sergey experienced growing up here, it is questionable whether Google would even exist today.

Others - like the immigrant founders and co-founders of Intel, Sun Microsystems, eBay and Yahoo! - also will make contributions that will change both our country and the world in incalculable ways.

Not all immigrants will end up as technology superstars. Most will apply themselves to improving the lives of their families. In doing so, they become the key to our economic recovery.

The Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity reports that

immigrant women are starting businesses at a rate 57% higher than native-born women, and immigrant men are starting businesses at a rate 71% higher than native-born men. New businesses mean new jobs, and that, more than anything, is what our economy needs. The index also reports that the increase in immigrants starting businesses between 2007 and 2008 focused on those of low and medium income.

Smaller businesses often are started by immigrant families who pool their resources to run these businesses as a unit. The mutual support families provide one another enable small businesses to thrive, creating even more jobs. Although suggestions to increase the number of visas for skilled workers are valid, with family unity as key to the economic success of new immigrants, it is critical that this increase not come at the expense of available family visas.

As for immigrant workers' affect on native workers' ability to obtain jobs and living wages, the Immigration Policy Center has observed that immigrants mostly complement - rather than compete with - native workers because of their unique education and skill sets, as well as the interdependency of their jobs. This is because immigrants are strongly concentrated in jobs that demand either extremely high skills or very few skills, filling employment needs unmet by native workers at each end of the employment spectrum.

The energy and industriousness of immigrants is the stuff of American legend. The dollar value that immigrants add to the economy is measured in figures that would be

## Jewish Agency Leaders and Federation Colleagues Pitch in to Replace Stolen Goat Herd

Children living at the Jewish Agency's Ben Yakir's Youth Village, which is home to 120 at-risk youth, were shocked to find their prized animal corner burglarized and all 53 goats gone. The police, who were called in, said the three men had entered the zoo overnight and stolen the animals.

Ben Yakir Youth Village is known for its animal therapy program, and the zoo, which includes — in addition to the goats — horses, sheep rabbits, birds and an ostrich, is maintained almost entirely by the youth, and helps them in their social and emotional development. Ben Yakir is one of four Jewish Agency Villages for youth at high risk, many children of new immigrant families. Youth and staff alike were shocked by the loss of the animals, and the Youth Village director wrote a letter describing the incident.

Within hours, Jewish Agency lay leaders, staff and colleagues from several federations pitched in and by the end of the day enough money was raised to replace the entire stolen flock. Each goat costs approximately \$120.

Staff at Ben Yakir have already contacted an animal herder to replace the goats; a surveillance camera and fencing will be installed around the zoo as well.

"It was heart warming to see the immediate response to restoring the stolen goats" said Maxyne Finkelstein, CEO of the Jewish Agency in North America who coordinated the quick fundraising effort. "Everyone understood immediately that these animals are both pets and a means of helping troubled children build confidence and skills."



A child at Ben Yakir Youth Village playing with a goat, one of the members of the stolen herd.

unimaginable to those who arrived in the great waves of immigration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that immigration adds \$37 billion to U.S. Gross Domestic Product each year. Plus, all documented immigrants - as well as many undocumented workers - pay the same taxes as other taxpayers.

Their contributions help schools, roads, bridges, libraries and other public services.

Yet none of these economic benefits of immigration are sustainable under our current outdated and restrictive immigration laws. At the moment, legislative proposals pending in Congress include bills to reunite immigrants with their spouses and children, who currently are waiting years to join their family

members in the United States; give undocumented immigrant students access to legal status and a chance to serve our country in the military or pursue higher education, and legalize undocumented farmworkers.

These should be enacted quickly, but they are only the start on the road to a more just and compassionate immigration system that supports and encourages immigrants rather than deters and discourages them.

We need immigrants from all socioeconomic backgrounds as much as they need the freedom and opportunity that America provides. And if the past is any indication of the future, we will see many more immigrants giving back to society in ways that are truly remarkable. They are the fuel that fires our economic engines.

### Condolences

The boards and staff of the Flint Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Services extend its deepest condolences to the family of Jack Rosenberg.



**Stephen R. Burton, M.D., P.C.**  
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# FLINT JEWISH FEDERATION

We are extremely proud of all that our Jewish community accomplishes and it is because of your tremendous support that we are able to do so much. Have you ever considered what our community would be if we did not have a Flint Jewish Federation?

Here are just some of the programs and services our Federation (with your support) is involved in:

Annual Campaign that supports local, national, and international Jewry. Our commitment to provide for human services in Israel and throughout the world. It is part of our mission of *Tikun Olam*, repairing the world. Publication of the "Jewish Reporter", a booklet on Basic Judaism, a Jewish holiday calendar, and a community calendar. The Flint Jewish Federation administers our 24 endowment funds for the benefit of our Flint community. We are part of the Michigan Jewish Conference – our statewide government affairs committee. We provide funding for our Jewish Community Services agency and Jewish education for our youth through the Ivriah. The Jewish Community Public Affairs Committee is our community relations arm.

These are just some of the programs and activities the Flint Jewish Federation for the past 70 years has provided our Flint community in fulfilling its mission statement.....

*The mission of the Flint Jewish Federation is to sustain and protect our local community of Jews; to assure that the material, social, psychological, cultural and educational needs of its members are adequately met; to fulfill its obligations towards Israel, and to foster the sense of Klal Yisroel so that each individual Jew feels responsible for the sustenance and survival of the local, the national, and the international community of Jews. This volunteer organization fulfills its mission through philanthropic acts, dissemination of information, and coordination of individual efforts.*

Thank you again for your continued help and support.

## The Flint Jewish Federation sponsors:

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- Akademon – Adult Jewish Education
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