A Pyrrhic Victory

Was the price of turning back Israel divestment at the UW too high?

Reflections on page 6.
June Family Calendar

FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

Start Summer with Kindness: A Shavuot Family Volunteering Event

Sunday, June 1
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Contact Marjorie Schnyder, (206) 861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

VOLUNTEER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Contact Jane Deer-Hileman, (206) 861-3155 or volunteer@jfsseattle.org.
Big Pals / Little Pals
Home Delivery
Food Bank
Farmers Market Gleaning
ESL Helpers in Bellevue
Family Mentors in Kent

FOR THE COMMUNITY

AA Meetings at JFS
Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
Contact (206) 461-3240 or ata@jfsseattle.org.

Taking Care of You: Powerful Tools for Caregivers
Friday, June 6
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Contact John, (206) 727-6231 or john@seniorservices.org.

Kosher Food Bank
Wednesday, June 11
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Contact Jana Prothman, (206) 861-3174 or jprothman@jfsseattle.org.

Pride Shabbat
Friday, June 27
6:00 p.m.
Contact Leonid Orlov, (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

PrideFest
Sunday, June 29
1:00 p.m.
Contact Leonid Orlov, (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

FOR ADULTS AGE 60+

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES
A community-wide program offered in partnership with Temple B’na’i Torah & Temple De Hirsch Sinai. EO events are open to the public and are at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

An Afternoon With the Seattle Symphony
Sunday, June 1
12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

The Life of a Mariners Baseball Broadcaster: Dave Sims
Thursday, June 12

Women Composers: Their Music and Their Stories
Tuesday, June 17

The Electric Car: The Future is Now
Thursday, June 26

RSVP Ellen Hendin or Wendy Warman, (206) 461-3240 or endlessopps@jfsseattle.org.

IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP
ARE YOU...

• Changing your behavior to avoid your partner’s temper?
• Feeling isolated from family and friends?
• Being put down?
• Lacking access to your money?
• Being touched in an unloving way?

Call Project DVORA for confidential support, (206) 461-3240.

It’s a SNAP
Two-thirds of people 50+ who are eligible for SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) don’t sign up. Are you one of them?
For assistance signing up, contact Emma Johnston, (206) 726-3635 or ejohnston@jfsseattle.org.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
Capitol Hill Campus • 1601 16th Avenue, Seattle (206) 461-3240 • www.jfsseattle.org

IF YOU LIKE US...“LIKE” US!

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Family Matters
...always has, always will.
STORIES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Every weekday at 3 p.m., we send out an email with stories from near and far about what’s happening in our Jewish world. Here are some stories you may have missed over the past week:

- Belgium in mourning
- Smooth (creamy) criminals
- Why is Greece the most anti-Semitic country in Europe?

Want to be in the know? Sign up for the 3 O’Clock News by visiting our website at www.jewishsound.org, scrolling down, and entering your name and email address. Find all of these articles on our website, The Jewish Sound.

FROM THE JEWISH TRANSCRIPT, MAY 29, 1938.

This group of German men had just made it to Holland after leaving “the dictator-wrecked careers they had in the land of their birth, which they will probably never see again.” They had come to a training center before embarking to Palestine, South America, or Australia, “anywhere they can breathe free air and, by their honest sweat, build new lives for themselves.”

Inside this issue

Transitions 5
Rabbi Jessica Marshall reflects on the many different kinds of transitions we have in our lives, and how we can best make it through difficult times.

An airmen looks back 5
With Memorial Day having just passed, what was possibly the only Jewish naval pilot during the Vietnam War looks back on his military career.

What we lost 6
Though the beating back of an Israeli divestment effort at the University of Washington appears to be an overwhelming victory, one of the leaders of that effort questions whether we destroyed the town so we could save it.

A report on the defeated divestment measure 7
A look at how UW students led the charge to keep the divestment measure from making headway.

A new gun responsibility organization 9
Launching itself in the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, a new organization in favor of gun responsibility paid homage to the shooting that took place there nearly eight years ago.

A rabbi readies for retirement 11
Rabbi Jim Mirel can be found nearly anywhere there’s a Jewish event, and though he plans to retire from his pulpit after 29 years, he won’t disappear from the scene anytime soon.

The traveling cheese truck 14
If you’ve got a hankering for some grilled cheese, chances are if you look out the window you’ll find Greg Wagner’s new food truck rolling by.

And speaking of food… 15
Food writer and chef Adeena Sussman came to Seattle earlier this month to talk about the wonders of Israeli foods — while she cooked them.

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Our columnist Ed Harris will do just about anything for his kids — including embarrass himself in a dance competition.

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A volunteer at a local synagogue has been arrested for inappropriate contact with a minor.

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Internationally known Torah scholar Avivah Zornberg came to Seattle to teach and to try to mend broken fences.

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Coming up

June 13
Grads

Welcome, new advertisers!
• Flying House Productions • iD Tech Camp • Semiahmoo Resort
Tell them you saw them in JTNews!
THE CALENDAR

to Jewish Washington

For a complete listing of events, or to add your event to the JTNews calendar, visit jewishsound.org/calendar. Calendar events must be submitted no later than 10 days before publication.

Candlelighting times
May 30.........................8:39 p.m.
June 6.........................8:45 p.m.
June 13.......................8:50 p.m.
June 20.......................8:53 p.m.

FRIDAY 30 MAY
6:45–10:30 p.m. — Shabbat Dinner with Vic Alhadeff
 Phone 206-295-5888 or vic@ezrabessaroth.net

SUNDAY 1 JUNE
5 p.m. — Basarfest
 Phone 206-295-5888 or thehofather@gmail.com

NCSY’s annual BBQ and meat cookoff. At Sephardic Bikur Holom, 6500 52nd Ave. S, Seattle.

7:30–11 p.m. — Hoedown at Helene Behar’s
 Phone Melissa Rivkin at or mrvkinder@ymail.com
 Contact for details. Free. At Helene Behar’s house, Seward Park.

TUESDAY 3 JUNE
11:55 p.m. — Shavuot All-Night Learning
 Phone Ari Hoffman at 206-295-5888 or thehofather@gmail.com
 Learn Torah and eat a delicious meal. Open to grades 6-12. Separate tracks for middle school and high school ages. At Sephardic Bikur Holom, 6500 52nd Ave. S, Seattle.

THURSDAY 5 JUNE
5:30–8 p.m. — Pita Baking Class
 Phone Masha Siterm at 206-684-7245
 Taught by chef Carrie Ancel Carrillo, learn the entire process from flour to loaf. Ingredients provided. Bring your own apron. $25. At Delridge Community Center, 4501 Delridge Way SW, Seattle.

SATURDAY 7 JUNE
6–11 p.m. — The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay
 Phone Book-It Repertory Theatre at 206-216-0835 or boxoffice@book-it.org or www.book-it.org
 Michael Chabon’s tale of escape, transformation, magic, and movie is a modern-day epic. Book-It will present this novel as a theatrical event complete with dinner break. $23-42. At The Center Theatre at the Armory, 305 Harrison St., Seattle.

SUNDAY 8 JUNE
10:15 a.m.–12 p.m. — What Every Woman Should Know About Ovarian Cancer
 Phone Kari Haas at kari@windemere.com
 Saul Rivkin presents a PowerPoint presentation on ovarian cancer, and in particular how it relates to Ashkenazi Jewish women. At Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, 3700 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

12 p.m. — Let the Games Begin II
 Phone Darlene Siegel at 425-836-4539 or jdsiegel1@comcast.net
 Hadassah at Redmond Ridge presents a day of mah jongg, poker, pan, and games with appetizers and desserts. Proceeds benefit HMO nephropathy research. $36. At Trilogy Cascade Club in Redmond, 23225 NE Greens Crossing Rd., Redmond.

TUESDAY 10 JUNE
5:30–9 p.m. — The Seattle Kollel’s 23rd Annual Dinner
 Phone The Seattle Kollel at 206-722-8289 or info@seattlekollel.org or www.seattlekollel.org
 Honoring David and Jo Anne Greene, with guest speaker Rabbi Mordechai Becher. $90 couvert. At Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, 5217 S Brandon St., Seattle.

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE
7–9 p.m. — TDS Graduation
 Phone Sasha Mail at 206-722-1200 or sashamail@tdsseattle.org
 Torah Day School 8th-grade graduation ceremonies. At Torah Day School of Seattle, 1625 S Columbian Way, Seattle.

THURSDAY 12 JUNE
7:30–9 p.m. — Seattle Hebrew Academy 2014 Graduation
 Phone Seattle Hebrew Academy at 206-323-5750 or rcastillo@sha613.org or www.seattlehebrewacademy.org
 Commencement exercises begin at 7:30 p.m.; reception to follow. At Separdic Bikur Holom, 6500 52nd Ave. S, Seattle.

SATURDAY 14 JUNE
8:25 a.m.–2:30 p.m. — Shabbat Lunch Featuring Rabbi Lazer Brody
 Phone Susan Jensen at 206-722-5500 or office@ezrabessaroth.net
 “Finding God Within Life’s Challenges.” Rabbi Brody will draw on complex life experiences and the Torah-based approach of Rabbi Shalom Arush toward such challenges. Reservation and prepayment required. $15. At Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, 5217 S Brandon St., Seattle.

5 p.m. — SJCC: Parents Night Out
 Phone Daliah Silver at 206-388-8039 or dalias@sjcc.org
 Games, arts and crafts, and activities for kids. Includes dinner. Theme: Summer Camp Kick-Off: Are you ready for camp?! $30 members, $40 general. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3901 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

SUNDAY 15 JUNE
8–10 a.m. — Guest Speaker Rabbi Lazer Brody
 Phone The Seattle Kollel at 206-722-8289 or info@seattlekollel.org or www.seattlekollel.org
 Rabbi Lazer Brody will speak on “Gratitude: The Key to Life’s Blessings.” Shacharis at 8 a.m., breakfast followed by lecture at 9 a.m. At The Seattle Kollel, 5305 52nd Ave. S, Seattle.

4–6 p.m. — Rabbi Mirel Tribute
 Phone www.templebnaihorah.org
 Temple B’Nai Torah will honor Rabbi James Mirel with a concert of his favorite songs, featuring Chava Mirel and friends. Followed by a brief tribute, portrait, and playground dedications and light reception. Donations in honor of Rabbi Mirel and to support his legacy are welcome. Free. At Temple B’Nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

PRE-CONCERT PANEL
7:00 P.M.
IN THE LOBBY
Join us for a free panel discussion to learn more about the global impact of the Holocaust, as well as a further look behind the music.

ALSO IN THE LOBBY:
Visit the displays provided by Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center.

Like they have done every year for the past 22 years, the Seattle Jewish Community School held its annual “Trip to Israel,” where students board a “plane” and visit important sites such as this, the Kotel, which was painted by the kindergarten and stuffed with notes and prayers from the entire student body.

THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE
SeattleMen’sChorus.org | 877.784.4849

SEATTLE MEN’S CHORUS
Dennis Coleman, Artistic Director

Falling in LOVE AGAIN
CEREMONIES OF LOVE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY
JUNE 14, 2014 | 8:00 P.M.

Featuring For a Look or a Touch by Jake Heggie & Gene Scheer Directed by Andrew Russell

THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE
SeattleMen’sChorus.org | 877.784.4849

SAFETY FIRST PHOTOGRAPHY
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOST IN TRANSLATION

I was astonished by Rivy Poupko Kletenik’s misreading of Paul Greenberg’s intent in his article, “Holocaust Day Again” (“Be quiet? Not a chance!” May 9). To my mind, what he expressed is the very opposite of Kletenik’s claim of his disrespect for remembering the Holocaust. He is telling us that we have reduced the memory to trivial gestures such as giving it a day along the likes of trivial days such as Groundhog Day. I urge Kletenik and the person who wrote to her to complain about Greenberg to re-read his article. If doubts remain, I suggest they communicate with Paul Greenberg directly. I’m sure he would be shocked at being so misinterpreted.

Carole Glickfield
Seattle

FOUND IN TRANSLATION

Two recent articles in JTNews caught my eye regarding language and words. In “A story of Polish-Jewish reconciliation, propelled by history’s personal gaps” (Dec. 20, 2013), the wording — however unintentionally — defeats the purpose and intent of the story re: the goals of the person the article focuses on.

It addressed the quest by Jewish-American Louise Steinman to overcome self-described prejudice, as learned from her mother, about Polish Catholics and their relationships to Polish Jews. The opening sentence dismantles Steinman’s work: “When Louise Steinman first faced the suggestion of writing about Poles and Jews, she was unequivocal: No.”

I remember my summer studies in Poland, 1964 and ’65. One afternoon, led by an art history professor, our art group was on a tour of an art museum in Krakow’s famous Old Square. While standing next to a painting by the great Polish-Jewish painter Maruczy Gottlieb, I alone was the object of the professor’s intent looks and narrative as he holed-a-chink about “the Poles and the Jews, Poles and Jews.”

I had left my detachable horns at home, yet with my black beard and “Semitic features,” my “Jewishness” must have bowed him over as if I were one of those visiting black-attired Hassidic Jews one saw in Krakow then visiting the graves of departed rebbes.

But it was the “the Poles and the Jews” that snared me, as if there were neither Polish Catholics nor Polish Jews, nor a celebrated and lively history of intermingled Polish (Catholic) and Polish (Jewish) culture between the fin-de-siècle and 1939.

Outside ofshell life, there was enormous Polish Jewish and Catholic cultural intermingling: Art, literature, music, theatre. Other integral mixing included education, business-commerce, government, and even the military.

The photo caption with “Jaffa solicits youthful dancing partners for peace” (April 25) states, “Pierre Dulaine, champion dancer and teacher, brings together young Israelis and Palestinianstodance.” Oh? While some Israeli and Diaspora Jews say Palestinian when referring to all Israeli Arab citizens (and stateless Palestinians, too) its usage here is unclear. The Palestinians he references are Israeli.

Aviva Segan
Seattle

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: We would love to hear from you! You may submit your letters to editor@jtnews.net. Please limit your letters to approximately 350 words. Letters guidelines can be found at www.jewishsound.org/letters-guidelines/. The deadline for the next issue is June 3. Future deadlines may be found on-line.

The opinions of our columnists and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the views of JTNews or the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014  WWW.JEWISHSOUND.ORG  JTNews

THE RABBI’S TURN

Transitions

RABBI JESSICA KESSLER MARSHALL Temple Beth Or

I sat listening as a group of friends shared about their lives: One had an 85-year-old father who had just been diagnosed with cancer. My friend faced the uncertainty of his dad’s surgery and personal guilt that he lived far away, thus burdening his sibling with parental caregiving.

Another friend had found her beshert, her soulmate, years after years of looking and was thrilled to be marrying him and beginning a life together. Yet, at the same time, she deeply felt the loss of moving across the country to be together and leaving a beloved job and community.

And another friend deeply grieved the loss of a family member to suicide and was subsequently profoundly questioning her own faith. I remarked that for each of them, this was their transitions, who cross over “or pass through” (as in a land of Israel).

It is not surprising that the Hebrew language has at least three words for transition — the word ma’avar means “cross over” or “pass through” (as in a land or city). The very name lviy, “Hebrew,” comes from this root. Hebrews are those who make transitions, who cross over when the Eternal invites them to journey to a new place or perspective.

A second Hebrew word for transition is shhnai, which literally means “change.” We use this word often when describing theshuvah, the process of introspection, repentance, and change that guides the Days of Awe.

The third biblical word for transition is chllf, which means “move on” in the way that the grasses sprout anew after the old sprouts have dried up and passed away.

Our transitions are always preceded by time in the midbar, the wilderness, the unknown. These in-between places in our lives are a time when we too, like our ancestors in Egypt, wander in the unknown. While many aspects of our lives are grounded, in other areas we feel lost or do not know where to go next. Mark Nepo, author of “Seven Thousand Ways to Listen,” offers the idea that perhaps being lost is the gateway to deep knowing. “Being lost can be a prelude to a deeper way, because once we admit that we are not sure where life is taking us, then we are ripe for transformation. Then we are shapeable,” he writes.

Our first step is to become aware that we are lost. And then we recognize our habitual reaction — fear, worry, retreat, exerting control. Only after that can we choose the next right step that best serves us in this very moment.

As Rabbis Cindy Enger and Jill Zimmermann teach, even when we feel there is no path in the wilderness, sometimes our very wandering is precisely what creates the way through.

Our transitions are often a combination of all three Hebrew words — crossing over, change, and moving on. And while the future way may be hard to discern, only in our walking through the unknown do we create our path. As we find ourselves in our own transitions, within our workplaces, family lives, or our own internal seeking, may we draw close to the knowledge that it is our very wandering that carries us out of the midbar to the Promised Land.

The story of a Jewish Navy carrier pilot

ROBERT WILKES Special to JTNews

May 10, 1972. A sky swarming with Navy jets approaching the North Vietnamese coast at 15,000 feet. I’m the pilot is flying into the biggest air battle of my career. The world’s only Jewish carrier is taking us, then we are ripe for transformation. Then we are shapeable,” he writes.

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The story of a Jewish Navy carrier pilot

ROBERT WILKES Special to JTNews

May 10, 1972. A sky swarming with Navy jets approaching the North Vietnamese coast at 15,000 feet. I’m the wingman on the right of the lead A-6. A division of F-4 Phantom fighters prepares to race forward and attack anti-aircraft sites. Other Phantoms weave high above, our combat air patrol.

As the coastline nears, black and orange clouds of large-caliber flak begin to explode around us. We’re flying into the Red River Valley between Hanoi and Haiphong. They’re ready for us.

The air wing commander radios “Batter up.” Inside the cockpit my bombarder toggles the master arm switch. Our ordnance is armed and ready. “Play ball!” comes over the radio. We nose over at full throttle and begin the attack.

Looped into the laces of my boot is a dog tag: Robert Wilkes, USN, 757064, Jewish. The world’s only Jewish carrier pilot is flying into the biggest air battle of the Vietnam War.

I never imagined I would be the only Jewish carrier pilot in Vietnam, but as far as I know, I am. I never met another. I was 21 and just out of college when I reported for training. Although my engineering degree shielded me from the draft, I volunteered. There was no way I could sit by in some engineering job while others fought for my country. I still feel the same way.

“We were all able to come together and realize we were stronger together.”

– Robbie Ellenbogen, president of Washington Students for Israel, on the coalition that successfully beat back an Israel divestment effort at the University of Washington.
How much have we lost?

RABBI OREN HAYON Special to JNews

In his biography of Pyrrhus of Epirus, Plutarch recounts the details of the ancient Greek general’s costly victory against Rome at Asculum in 279 BCE. According to Plutarch’s account, shortly after the battle, Pyrrhus considered the devastating losses to his Macedonian troops and made the dark but prescient reflection: “If we were to be victorious in one more battle against the Romans, it would utterly destroy us” (“Life of Pyrrhus,” 21:9).

The story of that long-ago battle comes to remind us that some victories produce a sense of exhilaration so intoxicating that they prevent us from realizing we are actually marching unwittingly toward defeat. I write these lines in the immediate aftermath of a war that, like Pyrrhus’s, left me unconvinced. It’s an ancient art and they know what they’re doing. They take you apart mentally and physically and put you back together again.

I reported to Indoc Battalion, Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla., and into the tender embrace of the military. By the 11th day two classmates had dropped out of “Indoc.” The rest of us put on our khaki uniforms and the collar anchors of midshipmen. The worst was over. I reported to Battalion 3, Aviation Officer Candidate School for military training and ground school. We’re “feet dry” now, over land, and the missile warning light is flashing. A Soviet SA5 missile the size of a telephone pole is heading up toward our flight at Mach 5. My cockpit indicators tell me Va. A Navy pilot’s call sign is not his to choose. It is hung on you by your mates. I told them I was Jewish and they dubbed me “Abie,” simple as that. I knew my nickname was derogatory, many of them were, but I hated at having my Judaism chided.

After a swirl of events I was reassigned to a new squadron based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. It was a new start. I told no one I was Jewish until I was out of danger of being tagged with another derogatory Jewish call sign. I was a proud A-6 attack pilot assigned to VA-165, Carrier Air Wing 9, serving aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), and part of Task Force 77. We joined the ship in San Diego and sailed for Vietnam.

Although we could carry missiles, my A-6 had no forward-firing ordnance. Having delivered my bomb load, my mission was over and I was now a sitting duck, an American flag waiting to be painted on the side of a MiG. I dove down to the rooftops and headed for the Gulf of Tonkin.

Our fighters engaged the MiGs in a wild air battle. My shipmate, Randy Cunningham, flying an F-4 with four sidewinder heat-seeking missiles, downed three MiGs and then was shot down himself. He managed to steer his crippled Phantom toward the water before ejection. He was picked up close to shore by Marine helicopters from the USS Coral Sea. He had become the first ace of the Vietnam War, much to the chagrin of the Air Force. At the end of a long day, we lost three jets to MiGs or ground fire. Our fighters and fighters that joined the battle from other carriers and from the Air Force downed ten North Vietnamese MiGs that day.

American Jewish mothers in my day thought joining the military to fly was a cockamamie idea. I know mine did, but I’m very proud of my service. Until another Jewish pilot appears, I claim the distinction. We may be over-represented in Congress and among Nobel Prize winners, but I was the only Jewish carrier pilot in the Vietnam War.

Robert Wilkes lives in Bellevue.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the updated slate of nominees for the 2014-2015 Board of Directors.

BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS
Chair: Celle Brown, EOT, June 30, 2015
Immediate Past Chair: Shelley Bensusen, EOT, June 30, 2015
Vice Chair: Carl Bianco, EOT, June 30, 2015
Vice Chair: Zane Brown, Jr., EOT, June 30, 2015
Vice Chair: Steve Loeb, EOT, June 30, 2017
Secretary: Dan Lowen, EOT, June 30, 2017
Treasurer: Helene Behar, EOT, June 30, 2015

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS
Jerry Anches, EOT, June 30, 2017
Shelley Bensusen, EOT, June 30, 2015
Carl Bianco, EOT, June 30, 2017
Celle Brown, EOT, June 30, 2015
Zane Brown, Jr., EOT, June 30, 2017
Linda Clifton, EOT, June 30, 2015
Susan Edelheit, EOT, June 30, 2017
Aimee Johnson, EOT, June 30, 2017
Steve Loeb, EOT, June 30, 2017
Dan Lowen, EOT, June 30, 2017
Elizabeth Richmond, EOT, June 30, 2015
David Sterel, EOT, June 30, 2017

RETURNING DIRECTORS
Helene Behar, EOT, June 30, 2015
Sarah Boden, EOT, June 30, 2016
Andrew Cohen, EOT, June 30, 2015
Don Elstokon, EOT, June 30, 2015
David Isenberg, EOT, June 30, 2015
Debra Malman, EOT, June 30, 2015
Naomi Newman, EOT, June 30, 2016
Moss Patashnik, EOT, June 30, 2016
Phil Roberts, EOT, June 30, 2016
Diane Sigel-Steinman, EOT, June 30, 2016

EOT - End of Term

CHAI APPOINTEES
David Eilerhore, EOT, June 30, 2015
Jordan Lott, EOT, June 30, 2015
Corey Salka, EOT, June 30, 2015

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Hal Jackson-Center for Jewish Philanthropy, EOT, June 30, 2015
Debra Malman-Planning & Allocations, EOT, June 30, 2015
Moss Patashnik-Finance & Administration, EOT, June 30, 2015
Linda Saltz-Community Relations, EOT, June 30, 2015
Janntha Sidell-Planned Giving, EOT, June 30, 2015
Lisa Brachman-Women’s Philanthropy, EOT, June 30, 2015

RABBINICAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES
Rabbi Jill Bondin, The Washington Coalition of Rabbis
Rabbi Moshe Klatenik, Va’ad

For the 2014-2015 Board of Directors.

www.JewishSound.org
In the wake of resolution 20-39, much is left to be resolved

EMILY K. ALHADEFF, Associate Editor, JTNews

After more than two hours of debate on May 20, the University of Washington student senate voted against resolution 20-39, for the UW to divest from certain corporations that do business with Israel, 59-8 with 11 abstentions.

Jewish students opposed to the resolution expressed relief in the landslide victory.

“The process was definitely long and labor intensive,” said Robbie Ellenhorn, a sophomore at the UW and president of Washington Students for Israel. “It feels good to be done and over with.”

According to Ellenhorn, at least 30 students worked regularly over the weeks leading up to the resolution, meeting with student senators, managing social media, creating graphics and educational materials, and just talking. The coalition that formed in response to the resolution drew community members from both sides. At a preliminary vote before going into the session, the student senators overwhelmingly viewed the resolution unfavorably.

“The general feeling going into it was that it wasn’t going to pass,” said Ellenhorn. “As the debate wore on…it became pretty clear that the senators understood the problems with the resolution.”

“The resolution’s call for divestment from Caterpillar, for one, was undermined by the fact that the UW does not invest in Caterpillar.”

“They were using materials from [national] Students for Justice in Palestine as part of their resolution, and when it came out that they hadn’t done their research ahead of time, they undercut their own campaign,” said Robert Jacobs, StandWithUs Northwest’s regional director.

But for the pro-divestment activists, passing the resolution is less important than the public relations campaign, Jacobs said. He expects SUPER UW, the main organization behind the resolution, will bring it back to the floor next year.

Leah Knopf, a Jewish student who supported the resolution, told JTNews that “we are inspired by the broad student support for this resolution and are celebrating the beginning of a long struggle.”

However, Jacobs is optimistic the senators were educated about the mission of the resolution, which he believes is to undermine Israel on much more than a financial level.

“The students exposed that the other students had another agenda,” said Jacobs. Rabbi Oren Hayon, Greenstein Family executive director of Hillel UW, helped students in our community who are looking for a legitimate, nonviolent way to express their outrage and disappointment to what they see as Israel’s failure,” he said. “I don’t know what options are open to them…. Once the battle lines were drawn it was clear Hillel wasn’t inviting dialogue with students.”

Whatever happens, Hayon would like to remain true to the coalition of diverse students that formed around this crisis.

“My way forward has to be diverse and thoughtful and inviting,” he said.

The North Pacific Region congratulates Naomi Weiss Newman on being awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology

Gary Cohn, North Pacific Regional Director
Jack Kadesh, North Pacific Regional Director Emeritus
Moshe Dunie, Northwest Chapter Director Emeritus
Hal Marcus, Northwest Regional Chair

Northwest Board Members:
Chuck Broches
Joe Greengard
Alan Langman
Iris Langman
Inge Marcus
Larry Marcus
Ann Nieder
distortions, and like so many other pieces of BDS legislation, failed to offer any realistic progress toward resolving the intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nevertheless, I now realize that in my haste to chalk up a victory against Israel divestment, I did not fully appreciate the consequences of this course of action.

While the strategy I promoted for Hillel was indisputably a successful one, the victory came at a significant cost. Our singular focus on defeating this resolution meant Hillel had to sacrifice other, more meaningful programmatic content for our students. Despite our best efforts, even our nuanced, pluralistic strategy against BDS wound up alienating some students whose ideas about Israel placed them outside the wide tent we took such pains to construct.

In 1841, Ralph Waldo Emerson made his clever observation about “the hobgoblin of little minds,” but his words remain relevant today in our own troubled community, where “a foolish consistency” seems to have become a requirement for entry into the debate about Israel and the Zionist future.

Exploration, doubt, curiosity about the other, willingness to sit in open and inquisitive silence and listen to someone who holds a different opinion from one’s own — all of these have changed from educational prerequisites into intractable liabilities for which learners are ridiculed. Again and again, I have been saddened and disappointed by the “gotcha!” tactics that mock and deride those who dare to acknowledge the ambiguities of what is arguably the most complex issue in Jewish life today.

“We had to destroy the village in order to save it,” once a darkly comic relic of a bygone era, has now become a legitimate tactic for activist organizations working on college campuses. Both on the left and on the right, the best-funded and most visible approaches to Israel advocacy are of the bare-knuckle, no-holds-barred variety. The moment a BDS resolution is introduced on a college campus, a mighty political advocacy engine roars to life, and before long, the entire community becomes characterized by a relentless scorched-earth approach. This approach appears in some pro-divestment activists’ inscrutable resistance to “normalization,” which asserts that conversation with Zionists is tantamount to capitulation, and it is manifest in the misbehavior of those pro-Israel community activists whose witch-hunts and name-calling drive thoughtful students to opt out of the conversation entirely.

Believe me: Our students will continue to opt out if these tactics continue. Their ambivalence about engaging with difficult conversations about Israel will continue as long as educators and advocates in the Jewish community continue to perpetuate the “you’re either with us or against us” ultimatums that undermine the richly nuanced conversations that are so valuable to the educational process. I do believe BDS is a threat to the Jewish community — but not because it will usher in a new wave of anti-Semitism or violence against Jews anytime soon. Most immediately it makes Jewish communal institutions entrench themselves like armies and forces educators to think like generals. And, predictably, it will always be our students who bear the most devastating casualties of this mode of engagement.

Throughout our work over this past year, our students labored tirelessly to uphold Hillel’s commitment to a pluralistic and open conversation about Israel, and strove to include as many voices at the table as possible, even when hawkish voices from the community delivered hysterical warnings that diversity would be a fatal liability. Still, the students remained calm and fearless in their demands for a reasonable, moderate response. I am unspeakably proud of them, especially now that I recognize the cost they paid for their principles.

Over the course of this year, as tensions rose on campus and at Hillel, one student after another sought me out for private conversations. In these chats, they admitted they struggled with insomnia, digestive problems and anxiety. Some of them had nightmares. Some admitted they would self-medicate with alcohol or prescription medications. A dysfunctional approach to Israel on campus has deep effects on our students — physical, emotional, and intellectual — of which the larger community is largely unaware. When Jewish community leaders acknowledge that there is no such thing as a sustainable ideal whose preservation requires that we sacrifice our young?

The Akedah retains its commanding presence in the epic history of Jewish religious life precisely because the rebuke delivered to Abraham still retains its relevance. When told he must kill his son, Abraham and his disciples replied, ““Hold up,” said Abraham to his disciples. “I have failed. I have failed to understand my son.””

The Akedah retains its commanding presence in the epic history of Jewish religious life precisely because the rebuke delivered to Abraham still retains its relevance.
New gun responsibility center launches

JOEL MAGALNICK Editor, JNews

Standing in the building where nearly eight years ago she lay on the floor, bleeding from a gunshot wound inflicted by a man who minutes later would kill one of her coworkers, Cheryl Stumbo stood before press, colleagues and former coworkers on May 19, to launch a new nonprofit organization, the Center for Gun Responsibility.

“Gun violence happens around us every day,” she said at the conference at the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, about the launch of the organization for which she’ll serve as a member of its executive committee. Stumbo was one of six women shot on July 28, 2006 when a gunman claiming he was upset about Israel’s treatment of Muslims forced his way into the building.

Celed Brown, board chair of the Jewish Federation, kicked off the conference, which included faith leaders, activists for gun control, and State Sen. Jamie Peder sen (D-41st), who said he appreciates that the mission of the organization will “pro vide solid research and data to back up the claims” made by all sides of the contentious issues surrounding gun violence.

The Center for Gun Responsibility, which will be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is a sister organization to the Initiative 594 campaign, in which voters will decide this November whether Washington State should require background checks on all firearm purchases. This organization, however, hopes to look at the gun issue more holistically — and beyond November — with a four-pronged approach:

• Partnerships with local agencies to fulfill the rest of its mission.
• Research on gun violence and usage.
• Legislative and policy development to give current and relevant data to state and local lawmakers to help reduce gun violence. This will be a small part of the center’s mission, its leaders said.
• Public education campaigns to raise awareness of gun responsibility.

It is no longer tenable for Jewish communities to consider gun violence an issue of one’s own. Most communities want to see change when it comes to gun violence.

The emotional effects of this mode of engagement are lamentable — but it is time for us to consider the long-term communal effects of this approach as well. Do we really wish to distance ourselves from committed, learned Jews who are deeply concerned about Palestinian suffering? Shall we protest the lie that one cannot fight with them at the foot of another mountain.

And when, after the healing is complete, they will ask. “Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?”

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Honors all around to current and emerging leaders

DIANA BREMENT JTNews Columnist

“Humbling,” is how Seattle’s Joshua Gortler described receiving an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Yeshiva University (YU) May 22. Speaking the week before, he said the most remarkable thing was that this could happen to “an immigrant kid who [came] to this country without a penny.”

“What I’ve done [for YU] is not much” compared to what it has done for him, he added.

The former CEO of the Caroline Kline Galland Center was a Holocaust refugee who spent five years in displaced persons camps in Europe before his family settled in Arizona. He attended Yeshiva University’s then-brand-new social work program on a scholarship. Upon his retirement, the Kline Galland board established a scholarship in his name at YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work to promote entry into geriatric social work.

“There’s such a great need,” in the field, Josh says.

The first scholarship recipient was just announced in a blog post at the Faces@YU blog. Similar to Joshua, Alexander Lukhtman was a refugee whose family fled anti-Semitism in Ukraine when he was 10 years old.

Keeping busy in retirement, Joshua is now running the Kline Galland Foundation, helping to raise money for “developing new programs for the elderly in the greater Seattle area and sustaining the programs that are being cut left and right by our government.”

With our senior population exploding, there are not enough professionals to take care of them, Josh says. Funds are needed for programs and for training those who have not only a commitment to the elderly, but “a commitment to the Jewish community.” Jobs in both fields are challenging, Josh admits. Families “see their parents and grandparents in a way they’ve never seen them before” and there’s no cure. Geriatric workers can only “ease them into the next transition as kindly and gently as possible.”

An active Holocaust speaker and educator who specializes in taking on “the challenging groups,” Joshua has spoken at detention centers and inner-city schools. He spoke recently at Seattle’s Cleveland High School, where about 25 percent of the students are Muslim. A young woman in a head scarf asked about his personal experience of anti-Semitism.

“My talk took a new direction” from there, he says.

He also spoke at the University of Washington on Yom HaShoah this year about his DP camp experience.

“Very little has been written about this,” he says.

Esther Chiprut will receive a Hadassah Woman of Valor award from her Redmond Ridge group. The award will be given at the group’s annual “game day” fundraiser on Sunday, June 8.

“Overwhelmed,” is how Esther says she felt when she learned of the award. The Seattle native, whose grandfather was a founder of Sephardic Bikur Holim, grew up in the Mt. Baker neighborhood and attended Franklin High School. She worked for many years in the import-export and ocean shipping business, working for Boeing for 19 years before retiring.

A Mah Jongg enthusiast, she began playing at age 40 and doesn’t mind saying that she is 67.

“I feel great,” she says, despite nightly peritoneal dialysis.

A member of Hadassah and City of Hope, Esther is a super-volunteer who has

Jennifer M. Markowitz

M.O.T.: Member of the Tribe

Josh Gortler, left, stands by the dais to receive his honorary doctorate from Yeshiva University President Richard Joel.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Stroum Center for Jewish Studies shares cultural treasures with community

Forty years ago, with the help of a startup grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies opened at the University of Washington.

This year, the program is looking back on 40 years of achievement: Jewish history, culture, and contemporary issues brought to life for thousands of students; scholarly research that has expanded the body of knowledge in the Jewish studies field, and “a very strong partnership with community organizations,” says Noam Pianko, the center’s chairman.

Students who enter the program, which will offer nearly two dozen courses next fall, have a “real diversity of interests,” ranging from Hebrew language instruction to classes in Russian Jewish culture. The program’s Sephardic Studies Initiative, overseen by Professor Devin Naar, focuses on the study and teaching of Sephardic culture and the Ladino language. As part of the initiative’s work, hundreds of books, family documents and other cultural treasures are being digitized for online exhibition.

Sharing Work with Broader Community

Pianko said digitizing materials enables the center to “share our work with a much broader audience.” That relates to a bigger example was last year’s New Voices in World Jewish Music program, in which performers offered fresh interpretations of Sephardic music traditions. Another was the JewDub lecture series, supported by the Jewish Federation, which offered "short presentations like TED talks" on topics ranging from converso Jews in medieval Spain to searching for shtetl roots in the Pale of Settlement.

Last year, the Jewish Federation provided the center with a grant supporting a digital history project that is tapping the rich trove of materials in the Washington State Jewish Historical Society’s collections. Students are using maps, timelines and videos to build exhibits telling stories of local Jewish life. “The best way to learn is to be a producer as well as a consumer,” Pianko noted.

Bringing Jewish learning to broader audiences through digital media will be a high priority going forward, as the center looks ahead to the next 40 years, he said.

“We’re very appreciative of Federation support” for the center’s initiatives, Pianko said.

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Rabbi’s retirement ends one chapter, begins another

JOEL MAGALNICK, Editor, JTNews

He may be retiring from his current post, but Rabbi Jim Mirel is far from finished.

“I don’t consider it the end. Death is the end. It’s a continuation,” says the long-time senior rabbi of Bellevue’s Temple B’nai Torah, who will retire at the end of June after 29 years at his pulpit. “Moving from senior rabbi to rabbi emeritus is obviously something that’s new to me and new to our congregation. It will be interesting, but I’m not totally hanging it up.”

Not totally hanging it up means continued involvement in his temple — “I’m always part of the team, and I’ll always be part of the congregation,” he says — plus he’ll be spending about 15 weeks a year in Sun Valley, Idaho, as the part-time rabbi there. But for a man who landed in Seattle right out of rabbinical school, he sees this region as home.

“I’m going to live and die in Seattle,” he says.

Mirel has never been satisfied with serving his temple and leaving it at that. From his arrival — he was an associate rabbi at Temple De Hirsch Sinai before moving to B’nai Torah — Mirel ingrained himself into Seattle’s Jewish offerings. That includes involvement in the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, Jewish Family Service, and the Caroline Khine Galland nursing home, among others. His children were in the first class of the Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle, and he sees education as the primary focal point for continued growth in Jewish Seattle. He sits on the board of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center. He also helped to launch such organizations as the Washington State Jewish Historical Society, for which he served as president early on, and Music of Remembrance, “which is keeping the Holocaust alive — the memory — through music, which is a great thing,” he says.

If there are places where people can say they know Mirel, it’s through two of his passions: Social justice and music.

JTNews was long a sponsor of one of his pet projects over the past decade: The almost-annual Hanukkah party to support MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, which provides funding to increase food security across the U.S.

“Whenever I’m able to reach out to those in need, and to lift up those who are going through challenges, I always like to be there for people, whether it be the Central American refugees, or whether the refugees are from Southeast Asia, Russian Jews from the former Soviet Union, the poor in our own community,” he says.

That desire brought controversy to his neighborhood almost a decade ago when B’nai Torah volunteered to host Tent City IV, the roving encampment of homeless people that spent a month on the temple grounds.

“I’m happy that the board decided to do it,” he said at the time, and B’nai Torah ended up hosting Tent City again three years later. TBT has also long been active in interfaith programs on the Eastside, with both Christian and Muslim groups.

When it comes to music, Mirel can still be found onstage locally with his klezmer group the Shalom Ensemble, but in the ‘70s Mirel and his band the Mazeltones took their act on the road.

“We were part of the Klezmer revival of the late 70s, early 80s — that was a big...
For the last decade, since joining Temple B’nai Torah, I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Rabbi Mirel on many activities. I have watched him deftly guide the congregation towards his strategic vision, encouraging us to develop relationships with each other, live our values, and grow spiritually and intellectually. Rabbi Mirel models Jewish values, leads with optimism, and encourages us to “Do the right thing.” He is a learned scholar, inspiring with his words, and plays a mean bass. As he has done for so many others, he has supported our family with kindness and compassion in difficult times and danced with joy at our simchas. Our Temple community has been blessed with Rabbi Mirel and we are honored and grateful he will continue as Rabbi Emeritus.

Shana Ausman
Immediate Past President, Temple B’nai Torah

On behalf of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center’s board and staff we are honored to celebrate the work of Rabbi Jim Mirel, a man who has lived his life as a champion for human dignity, peace, and reconciliation.

For over fifteen years, Jim has served as a member of our Center’s Board of Directors. I look back and remember a scene that played itself out many times at our board meetings. I see Jim sitting, listening intently as important issues are being debated. At just the right moment, he expresses a concern, observation or recommendation that causes us to consider our discussion and our decision in a very different way. To Jim, principles and pragmatism are not adversaries; they go hand-in-hand. It is because of his depth of understanding of our community, his knowledge of human nature, and his leadership by example that we are reminded of the gem in human nature that he is.

Personally, Jim has been there for me at every step. No matter the topic or the hour, he gives of himself generously, providing guidance, support and words of wisdom. He does not do this because he feels he should or to be a “good” person, he does it because it comes naturally.

The best tribute we can pay to Rabbi Jim Mirel is to contribute to honoring the oneness of humanity and work for peace and reconciliation.

Dee Simon,
Executive Director
Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center

Rabbi Jim Mirel is the community rabbi par excellence. With all of the responsibilities of leading a large active congregation, he always responded with grace, warmth and kindness when there was a community need. I listened with admiration to Rabbi Mirel’s eloquent eulogy for Pam Waechter when her life was tragically cut short on that fateful day at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. I remember thinking at the time that all rabbis could learn from how he conducted himself. He is the rabbi you want to be present at a time of crisis, with his ability to provide comfort and meaning without in any way minimizing the sadness. I am grateful to Rabbi Mirel for teaching annually at our Torahthon and I appreciate his inviting me to be on a panel at TBT concerning gay marriage. When we had the opportunity to create a community Hebrew high which would be inclusive of all of the denominations, Rabbi Mirel’s leadership and enthusiastic support was critical to our moving forward. When the Kline Galland Home put on “Fiddler on the Roof,” Rabbi Mirel was in the center of it. He is a passionate advocate for our people and a humanitarian who champions human rights and social justice. He is a multi-talented person who brings joy to our community through music and inspiration through his words of teaching. Rabbi Mirel has been and will continue to be a blessing to the Seattle Jewish community. He is also a rabbi’s rabbi and I feel privileged to know him. Mazal tov to Rabbi and Julie. We wish you hatzlacha, Rabbi, in this new stage of your life’s journey.

With warmest wishes,
Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, Herzl Ner Tamid, Mercer Island
I have known few rabbis with the pure gentleness of spirit and the pastoral, teaching, and community building skills you have. In your interfaith work you have brought the face of Jewish life and values to the broader community. In your pastoral work you have been a healer of souls and a support for the afflicted. In your preaching you have challenged our consciences. In your teaching, you have offered a vision that has made life-long Jewish education a reality for so many – ever building, ever growing.

Rabbi David Saperstein  
Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
The truck fueled by cheese

DIKLA TUCHMAN JTNews Correspondent

At about this time last year, Greg Wagner was your average sales guy at Microsoft. But like many long-time tech industry folk here in the Pacific Northwest, Wagner was ready to embark on his next big adventure: Crafting outlandish grilled cheese sandwiches from a food truck.

Wagner watched the mobile food boom hit its height in Seattle and grabbed what he saw as the perfect opportunity to switch his sales role from corporate America to one-on-one interactions with hungry grilled-cheese lovers.

“I’ve for years and years thought about owning a restaurant or a bar because of the food idea, but also the social aspects of it,” Wagner said. “But it was always at the back of my mind. And then a couple years ago I saw the trucks coming and that just never left the front of my mind.”

Just as others who have recently opened up their own cuisine on wheels, Wagner knew owning and operating a food truck was, relatively speaking, an easy entry point into the industry. With a small investment, starting The Ultimate Melt seemed like a foolproof plan. That said, it took Wagner some coaxing to convince his wife that opening a food truck wasn’t a completely harebrained idea. She eventually came around and in February of 2013, he began his preliminary planning.

“I left Microsoft at the end of March, started this business the very beginning of April and through the 11 months, got everything up and running,” Wagner said. “We started with the truck buildout, which included a totally custom-made logo.”

That logo is nearly impossible to miss, as the truck resembles a giant, brightly colored grilled cheese sandwich.

Once the truck was ready, the next logical step was to hire a chef and begin the arduous task of recipe testing.

“I worked with a couple of buddies of mine that were chefs in the industry,” Wagner said. “Given that he had no restaurant background or a fully formed idea of a menu, they could tell me what type of equipment I needed, and we worked through layouts,” he said.

As one might imagine, the small workspace available in the confines of a truck make configuring the cooking space a challenge. As Wagner got down to the final details of unleashing The Ultimate Melt onto the Seattle food truck scene, he talked with some other local food truck owners to pick their brains.

“It’s a wonderful community,” he said.

During the 11-month period Wagner was getting his business together, he says he did more networking than he ever did at Microsoft.

In his first month of business, Wagner found the most challenging component of the business could easily be considered one of those “good problems to have”: His initial business plan envisioned only two employees on the truck, him and a cook. He quickly realized he didn’t have enough bodies for the amount of work.

“One I knew there was enough demand, I thought I would hire a third person,” Wagner said. “I discovered that on day three.”

As food trucks are also synonymous with “fast food,” it was essential for Wagner to have enough time to personally connect with his customers but also get them their food speedily.

As for the menu, The Ultimate Melt boasts some of the most creative grilled cheese concoctions you’ve ever seen. Choices range from a sandwich stuffed with mozzarella sticks and cheese crunches to a double-creme brie, homemade fig aioli, thick-sliced bacon, and Granny Smith apple sandwich. Wagner calls that one the “We Brie Jammin’,” an homage to Bob Marley that has become the truck’s most popular melt, receiving rave reviews on Yelp! and other food review sites. This is also one of the few carnivorous sandwiches that can easily be made veggie by leaving off the bacon.

Wagner’s current Ultimate Melt plans are to continue having a presence at upcoming community events and expanding his catering business. He parks primarily on the Eastside, but for a regular schedule of where you can find Wagner and his mouth-watering lunchtime delicacies, visit theultimatemelt.com and follow him on Twitter and Facebook.
Bringing the new Middle East into the kitchen

DIKLA TUCHMAN

To just look at Adeena Sussman’s résumé of food writing over the last 13 years is enough to make your mouth water. Sussman, invited to Seattle to cater a young-women-focused Hadassah event earlier this month, brought a wealth of knowledge and Israeli cooking experience. The food writer, cook, recipe developer, cooking instructor, and restaurant critic has been published in publications that range from Food & Wine and Martha Stewart Living, to Sunset and Hadassah Magazine.

Sussman grew up in a kosher home that she said was “food focused,” and she learned to cook from a very young age. “My mom taught me how to do things like bake challah and roast a chicken when I was quite young,” she said.

Through her mother’s long-time association and membership with Hadassah in northern California, Sussman also became a lifetime member by the time she reached Bat Mitzvah age.

On May 7, Sussman visited Seattle from New York to participate in an event for Hadassah Plus, which reaches out to women from their 30s to early 50s, the second of three such events. More than 50 local current and potential members came to the event at the Mercer Island home of Judy Schoken.

“The Hadassah plus series was designed to attract a vital new segment of activists and supporters through interesting and modern programs, i.e., art, Israeli cuisine and wellness,” said Naomi Newman, co-chair of the Seattle area’s Hadassah Plus program. “Our ultimate goal is to build renewed interest in Hadassah among younger women and promote interest in Hadassah’s mission.”

The event itself focused on highlighting many new, diverse foods from all over Israel. Inspired by both Sussman and the popular cookbook, “Jerusalem: A Cookbook” by Yotem Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi, Sussman presented both unique and slightly modern takes on classic Israeli favorites. The buffet included assorted cheeses with a fig pomegranate preserve, orange date salad in mint rose water, bourekas, roasted eggplant hummus, faro pilaf, and more.

“Cooking is very elemental just using really good ingredients,” Sussman said. “I tried to grab some of the modern ingredients in modern Israeli cooking — date syrup, sumac, and I made an alcoholic spin on mint lemonade with arak,” the traditional anise-flavored spirit popular across the Middle East.

Sussman pointed out that when people just equate Israeli food dishes with hummus and falafel, they miss out on the staples that are important to any Israeli meal.

“There’s a lot of salad dishes; it’s very light and vegetable-based,” she said.

One of Sussman’s twists on classic Israeli basics was her use of both a white and black tehina, the sesame paste she made and incorporated into a few of her dishes that night.

“You can take the classics and twist the ingredients a little bit and make them unique and more modern,” she said. “I felt that went over very well with the guests.”

Read more about Adeena Sussman and find some of her recipes at her website, adeenasussman.com.
My two left feet

By Ed Harris

I knew being a father would bring surprises: Becoming a “Dancing Dad” is one, however, I never saw coming. I am in fact a terrible dancer, much to my wife’s disappointment, as her favorite leisure-time activity when we first met was folk dancing. Early dates of ours included student folk dances at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan. Anne would expertly leap around the room with fellow enthusiasts, while I sulked in a corner, nursing a soft drink after trying for a few minutes and wholly embarrassing myself by my singular incompetence.

Since then, we have been blessed with three kids. Bringing up the rear is our youngest son, Izzy. He was dropped off by the stork when I was in my 40s, a stage of life in which the rate of physical decay begins to accelerate. There is a reason why the prime of an athlete’s career is over by around age 30: The body begins to betray us. It’s no different for dads. My best years, at least in terms of physical fitness, are behind me and receding (like my hairline) further into the rearview mirror with each passing day.

Izzy has turned out to be the one genuine competitive athlete in the household. However, his sport is a bit unusual, at least for a boy: Dancing. He has embraced dancing with gusto and a large chunk of my free time and a considerable portion of money that would have been otherwise frivolously wasted on saving for retirement is devoted to funding his dance activities. As a parent, it is worth every penny, or at least was, until I realized part of the package includes being recruited to participate in the Dancing Dads act at his studio’s spring recital.

The show — six separate performances over a single weekend — includes every dancer in every class offered by the studio, from little girls in tutus all the way up to the travel team competition dancers like Izzy. The performers are all either adorably cute or incredibly talented and radiate the glow associated with the springtime of life. The studio owner is a clever person. She realizes that juxtaposing a group of dads, who are neither cute nor talented and most definitely not in the springtime of life, adds a tremendous amount of comic relief.

We Dancing Dads, one of the last numbers in the show, are a perennial crowd pleaser, but not for the right reasons. Our large, lumbering, ungainly, hairy and mostly overweight bodies stand in sharp contrast to the lithe, graceful children who preceded us. (Full disclosure: One of the dads — “Kevin,” not his real name — is young, athletic and a great dancer. I hate him.)

We practice on Thursday evenings, choreographed by the same instructors who teach our kids. They patiently demonstrate what we are supposed to do, but my body has a mind of its own. There is a particular sequence in this year’s act where we are grouped in three lines and then pinwheel and reform into two rows. Every time we run through the steps I end up standing next to a different dad, my path across the stage as random as a toss of the dice. Practice has failed to lead to improvement.

This is my third year in the show. Last time I was an “Oompa Loompa” and the costume included a giant lollipop. Through years of training I have learned certain moves, such as “The Sprinkler” and even put it into action at several Bar Mitzvah parties. But I still have not mastered the “Jazz Square,” despite dozens of repetitions of this simple four-step. They might as well have asked me to execute a standing backflip.

Our sessions are videotaped and then posted to an ultra-top secret YouTube link, so we can study at home. My reaction when I watch is to think, Wow, I might have skinny legs, but I sure do move like an old man.

If you aren’t busy, come down to Renton High School on May 31 or June 1 and catch one of the performances. I know one act that will be good for a laugh.

Ed Harris, the author of “Fifty Shades of Schwarz” and several other books, was born in the Bronx and lives in Bellevue with his family. His blog, Fizz-Ed, and additional information about his books are available at www.edharrisauthor.com.
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Visit the preschool and kindergarten classrooms. The preschool, for ages 3-5, is open to the community. $7.
At Herzl-Her Tamid Conservative Congregation, 3700 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.
3–5 P.M. — SHAVUOT CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN
Alexis Kort at 206-525-0915 or alexis@templebetham.org or www.templebetham.org/community/families
An afternoon of interactive learning, crafts, and ice cream. Open to all families with children 6 and under.
RSVP appreciated. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

MONDAY, JUNE 2 & 9
10 A.M. — KIDDLISH CLUB DROP-IN PLAY
Kate Speizer at 206-315-7429 or kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org
Kids, parents, grandparents, caregivers connect while kids enjoy an indoor play date. Small snack snack story/circle time, creative project, and play time. An adult must attend. Free. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave., Seattle.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
10 A.M. — PJ LIBRARY STORYTIME
Dana Weiner at 206-388-1992 or danaw@sjcc.org
Join PJ Library song leaders and storytellers for a story and playtime at the J. Julie Warwick leads this group. Free. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 & 12
10 A.M. — PJ LIBRARY NEIGHBORHOOD STORYTIME AT TEMPLE BETH AM
Alexis Kort at 206-525-0915 or alexis@templebetham.org or www.templebetham.org/community/families
Join Betsy Dischel, PJ Library song leader and storyteller, for a story and playtime. For toddlers and preschoolers. Snacks and an art project and a chance for parents/caregivers to connect. Free. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6
11 A.M. — NORTHGATE JEWISH JUNCTION PJ LIBRARY STORYTIME
Kate Speizer at 206-315-7429 or kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org
PJ Library Jewish educator Betsy Dischel leads the first Friday of the month at the Northgate branch of the Seattle Public Library. All are welcome to this free community event. Free. At Northgate Library, 10548 Fifth Ave. NE, Seattle.
6–7:15 P.M. — KINDER KABBALAT SHABBAT
Alexis Kort at 206-525-0915 or alexis@templebetham.org or www.templebetham.org/community/families
Service for kids 6 and younger begins with greetings, candle blessings, and challah and continues with prayers, dancing, a story, and blessings. Led by Shoshanah Stombaugh. Light dinner for kids before the service starts at 6:15. First Friday of each month and open to everyone. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

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When silence is truly golden

RIVY POUPKO KLETENIK JTNews Columnist

Dear Rivy,

I hope you might be able to offer some guidance on a sticky situation. Someone in our congregation talks a lot. More than a lot. An inordinate amount. Once this person corners you, it’s over. When people see this person coming they race in the opposite direction. There is no stopping this individual, who does not seem to pick up on any of the usual social cues. Is there a Jewish way to deal with this uncomfortable circumstance?

Very few of us have not experienced the scenario you describe. Whether it’s a relative, a co-worker, or a community member, it’s very uncomfortable to be put in the position of “caught” between being rude — which no one wants to be — and being subjected to the exasperatingly endless anecdote, the vast vignette, or the “short story — long” phenomenon.

Let’s go to Habit #5 of Stephen Covey: Seek first to understand. If a phenomenon is so common that we all recognize it, there must be a common, identifiable, underlying cause. Perhaps, once we discover the basis or driver of the behavior, we can be not only more understanding but perhaps better equipped to deal with it. Finally, a Jewish lens on speech and social sensitivity may help us all grapple with these kinds of delicate vicissitudes of life.

Seeking first to understand. Why do some folks go on and on with their stories when clearly their listeners are glazing over? Why are they unable to pick up on social cues, such as a deft step away, a downward glance at the watch, or even a subtle, verbal ahem? Why do they just plow on, seemingly unaware?

F. Diane Barth writes in Psychology Today that:

In the best of communication, there is a kind of give and take between talking and listening, a sharing of who is the speaker and who is the listener based on mutual respect and caring about each other’s feelings. Some people who talk a lot are not able to engage in this interactive rhythm, not because they do not care, but because they cannot tolerate the emotions that might emerge as they listen to another person. In fact, in the course of my work as a therapist, I have found that many_non-stop talkers actually use their words to stop themselves from knowing what they are feeling.

She further suggests that it is okay to interrupt the person and indicate you must move on, then help the person understand you hear him and connect with his emotional experience. This might be just what he needs. It is interesting to notice that we see ourselves as victims of the compulsive talker, while Barth’s insight indicates the speaker is often the individual in need of help. This person lacks a certain EQ — emotional quotient — with the deficiency presenting as an over-talking pattern. Interesting. Perhaps that relative or person in synagogue is a very nervous person, alone, uncomfortable in social situations, or emotionally in need.

Similarly, others echo this approach that the talkaholic, the relentless jabberer, is often a person who has not evolved emotionally. They lack social awareness and this communicating challenge is an indication of underlying problems with relationships.

What to do about this? None of us wants to hurt someone’s feelings, yet it is never wonderful to be subjected to endless chatter that slowly erodes our precious time. Perhaps a deep breath and a pause to reset our experience as an opportunity for some kindness and a very real application of the mitzvah of, “Love your fellow person as yourself” that, joined with some gently delivered cues and some degree of sympathy, may help you.

On the other hand, if you are reading this and thinking, “Hmm, that compulsive converser might be me,” now’s the time to work on some self-awareness and actively plan how to not overtalk. Start by paying attention to how much you talk versus how much others speak, edit out the details, make a concerted effort to scrutinize your listeners for cues — if they glance at their watch, look away, or step aside, that’s a signal to stop talking — do not plow on!

On the Jewish front, many an aphorism talks about the value of silence: Rabbi Simon ben Gamliel lauds it as the most beneficial attribute, Rabbi Akiva identifies silence as indicative of wisdom, and Bar Kappara stresses that if silence is advantageous for the wise, how much more so for the foolish.

This, against the backdrop of a very distinctive Jewish approach to speech, we should value as the very core of our humanity and soul. When in Bereshit the Creator breathes life into the first human, the Aramaic translator that if silence is advantageous for the wise, how much more so for the foolish.

As F. Diane Barth suggests, “True confession: Growing up, I was often reprimanded, chastised, and admonished in a similar vein — loveliness of course — because, you guessed it, I seem to have not inherited my grandfather’s verbal austerity, and thus found myself often being reminded of the Midrash that suggests that each human being enters this world with an exact allotment of words — once used up — the soul returns to heaven. In other words, the person dies. Not that I’m suggesting using this Midrash as a tactic to deal with the voracious schmoozer, but a delicate dropping of this reference might not hurt.”

Rivy Poupko Kletenik is an internationally renowned educator and Head of School at the Seattle Hebrew Academy. If you have a question that’s been tickling your brain, send Rivy an e-mail at rivy.poupko.kletenik@gmail.com.
Arrest made on inappropriate behavior charges

JANIS SIEGEL  JTNews Correspondent

A volunteer for Sephardic Bikur Holim was charged on May 2 with the crime of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes, with an additional finding of probable cause for having committed child molestation, according to the findings of a Seattle Police Department investigation.

Eli Varon, 28, was in charge of catering, cooking, and candy throwing for the youth through high school-aged special events and celebrations at the Seward Park synagogue. He is alleged to have met with a 13-year-old female inside the building, where the assault reportedly took place.

The detective in charge of the investigation concluded Varon “took advantage” of his position at SBH to have sexual contact with the 13-year-old by inviting her into his position at SBH to have sexual contact with minors or the alleged victim in the case. The court also ordered Varon to stay away from SBH.

A volunteer for Sephardic Bikur Holim observed the assault and reported it to police on Sept. 22, 2013. The SPD stated that the purported incident some weeks after it occurred, the girl’s mother, who became aware of the alleged incident was supposed to have taken place, but denied having any contact with her.

According to the SPD investigation, the girl’s mother, who became aware of the alleged incident some weeks after it occurred, reported it to police on Sept. 22, 2013.

Additionally, Varon, who was a member of the SBH board, has resigned until the case is settled, at which time his status could be renegotiated.

Amiel would not comment on how long Varon has been volunteering at SBH.

When first contacted by police, Varon originally denied having any contact at SBH with the girl, either in the synagogue or later that summer by text message, as alleged by the girl’s mother.

In a subsequent interview by SPD, Varon told police that he did recall talking to her one evening inside the building and sitting with her on the steps, where the alleged incident was supposed to have taken place, but denied having any contact with her.

When asked by police to take a polygraph test, Varon first consented to taking one but then declined taking the test upon the advice of his counsel, David Marshall. Marshall did not respond to requests for comment about the case.

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Avivah Zornberg brings new interpretations to Torah, Seattle

Emily K. Alhadeff, Associate Editor, JTNews

“The priest desires. The philosopher desires. And not to have is the beginning of desire.”

So wrote Wallace Stevens, the American poet whose words inspired the title of Avivah Goldtieb Zornberg’s first book, “The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis.”

“It’s a very Jewish idea, the idea of lack,” Zornberg told JTNews as the sun descended on Friday afternoon just before Shabbat.

Zornberg, raised in Glasgow, Scotland, the daughter of Viennese refugees, obtained her doctorate in English literature from Cambridge University and taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem before focusing her intellectual energy on the Torah. Her lessons invoking literature and psychoanalysis grew in popularity among English-speaking immigrants in Jerusalem. Zornberg, a youthful 70, has become a leading Biblical commentator whose work spans the disciplines.

Zornberg spent Shabbat in Seward Park the weekend of May 16 as scholar in residence at Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath and Sephardic Bikur Holim.

“There is a speaker who could draw together a community that was fractured,” said Gigi Yellen-Kohn, the board member at BCMH who arranged for Zornberg in from Jerusalem.

“Curiously, Zornberg points out, is how Ruth the outsider becomes about as central a figure for the Jewish people as one can get, as the grandmother of the future King David.”

Whatever Zornberg brings to the Torah study is connected a range of traditional sources and literary and psychoanalytic tropes to work through difficult texts in new ways. For instance, what’s going on when the spies come back from the land of Canaan with a negative report in Numbers? Why were spies necessary if God’s whole plan was to bring the Israelites there? Why did they die? Or did they lie?

“Once they’re broken you can and you must [repair them],” she explained. “You have to make the text. You have to interpret. If you’re not interpreting, you’re not ‘osh [making].”

For the past year, BCMH has been hosting guest speakers and scholars in residence while it figures out how to move forward with a rabbi search. Daniel Birk, board president of BCMH, said such events emphasize the shul’s goal of diversity.

“I call it an experience over a lecture,” he said. “You saw people really drawn to her.”

For Yellen-Kohn, and for others, it was important to bring in a female Orthodox scholar.

“In an environment that’s usually associated with a dour, male-heavy Orthodox, to have her literacy, and her ease of communication, and her depth of knowledge right there in the middle was a demonstration of a kind of respect for learning that transcends any of the issues that so often get discussed,” said Yellen-Kohn of Zornberg’s Q and A, held on Shabbat afternoon at a meal generally frequented by more men than women.

“I think women’s learning is a very important thing,” Zornberg said. “If a woman feels that in her, there really are important things, Zornberg told JTNews. “Paradoxically, it’s the key to everything.”

The Ten Commandments are a perfect demonstration of a kind of respect for learning that transcends any of the issues that so often get discussed,” said Yellen-Kohn of Zornberg’s Q and A, held on Shabbat afternoon at a meal generally frequented by more men than women.

“I think women’s learning is a very important thing,” Zornberg said. “If a woman feels that in her, there really are important things to offer the senior rabbi position to its new home in Bellevue, the congregation marched its Torahs with Rabbi Mirel leading the procession.

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Mirel said he intention-ally stayed away from the search process, but he’s sure he leaves the temple in good hands. After all, his congregants know how to live in a special place.

“I always looked upon being in Seattle like being on vacation,” Mirel says. “I feel so lucky when I think about some of my colleagues in different places, it’s not exactly paradise. And to be in Seattle for 40 years and to plan to remain here for the rest of my life, I consider that a blessing.”
held numerous positions in both groups. She's currently vice president of membership for both Redmond Ridge Hadassah and the local chapter of City of Hope. She's served on Hadassah's Seattle Chapter and Pacific Northwest Region boards and was president of Sabra Hadassah.

All are welcome at the June 8 event, which runs from noon to 4 p.m. at the Trilogy community in Redmond. The $36 admission includes food, wine and games. Advance registration is required by calling Cindy Rubin at 425-898-0308.

The Brandeis National Committee Presidential Award is given to a student who has been a “significant part of LTS” — Library Technology Services — explains Zelle Rettman, who received that award in April, and just graduated last week from the university. Recipients also exemplify academic achievement and campus leadership.

Nominated by her supervisor and professor, Mark Delello, the award focused on Zelle’s (say Zell-ee) work in the school’s Multimedia Getz Lab for the past three years, where she worked her way up from student assistant to marketing manager and technical support specialist. Her experience included working on a film, handling jobs from grip to directing.

A reporter and photographer for two student publications, Zelle played intramural basketball and volleyball, was an admissions tour guide and student orientation leader, and served as a peer counselor and president of STARS, Students Talking About Relationships.

She worked hard, she says, but “I didn’t do it to get an award,” says Zelle. Still, “it’s nice to have that mutual appreciation,” of Professor Delello, “who has made my Brandeis career what it was.”

She plans to be home in Seattle this summer to enjoy “the non-humid, temperate-climate,” and to look for work in visual media.

The daughter of Debra Portnoff Rettman and Peter Rettman, Zelle attended Seattle Hebrew Academy and Northwest Yeshiva High School.

**M.O.T. PAGE 10**
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Temple B’rith Torah’s Solomike Early Childhood Center is looking for an energetic, creative and inspiring teacher to lead our pre-school program.

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New teachers are needed for exciting children’s education program for Kol HaNeshamah, a dynamic and progressive congregation in West Seattle. Classes start in September and meet two Saturday mornings a month (9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.), followed by Shabbat morning services. We meet one additional Saturday each month (9:30-11:30 a.m. or 3:00-5:00 p.m.), for experiential learning in the community.

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Qualifications: Experience in teaching in Jewish supplemental or day school setting. We offer support as well as the opportunity to be creative in implementation of the curriculum.

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Death
Irving Zimmer
Irving Zimmer passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 13, 2014. He will be deeply missed by his family — daughters Karen Zimmer and Kathy (Ray) Cafarelli, and granddaughters Celina and Mario Cafarelli. He was predeceased by his devoted wife of 56 years, Rose Romano Zimmer, who he met at a Jewish Community Center dance in San Francisco.

An audiologist by profession, he was known for his talents as a theater director, and directing, acting and doing national commercials and corporate videos for more than 60 years. He directed numerous plays and musicals for the Jewish community at many venues, including “Milk and Honey” produced in conjunction with Hadasah, “Tevya and His Daughters,” and readings from Sholom Aleichem at Hadasah meetings and at the JCC. Enjoying the performing arts right to the end, he attended the Pacific Northwest Ballet the day before he passed away.

Irving grew up in San Francisco, where he received his Master’s degree in Speech and Hearing and Drama at Stanford University. He served in the Army and Air Force in World War II. He was a compassionate, fun-loving man, taking an interest in people everywhere he traveled. An avid reader, reading five books at a time, he also enjoyed sailing and racing the boat he built, building and flying model airplanes, tending the gardens at home, vacationing yearly in Hawaii and taking trips to Europe, woodworking and stained glass projects, and holding musical salons and play readings at his home. The funeral was held on April 14. Remembrances can be made to the Kline Galland Center in Seattle in lieu of flowers.

Bat Mitzvah
Regina Sarah Mezistrano
Regina celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Sephardic Bikur Holim on May 24, 2014.

Regina is the daughter of Sam and Sharon Mezistrano and younger sister to Joey, Albert and Rebecca. Her grandparents are Dr. Joe and the late Becky Mezistrano of Seattle and Albert and Regie Arakanchi of New Jersey.

Regina is a 6th grader at Seattle Hebrew Academy. Her interests include playing basketball, biking, and spending time with friends. She also enjoys helping to lead youth groups at her synagogue.

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Bar Mitzvah
Zachary Michael Ziontz
Zachary will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah May 31, 2014, at Temple B’nai Torah in Bellevue. Zachary is the son of Ron and Michelle Ziontz of Renton and the brother of Alex. His grandparents are Al and Lennie Ziontz of Bellevue, Betsy Crohn of Bellevue, and the late Jerome Crohn.

Zachary is a 7th grader at McKnight Middle School. He enjoys music, camping, hiking, video games, and movies. For his mitzvah project he is helping foster kids.

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Blast from the past
From July 29, 1979
Sydney Poll
Bat Mitzvah
Sydney Ilena Poll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn Poll of Dusseldorf, Germany, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Aug. 4, at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, at 10:30 a.m.

Sydney is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Benezra of Bellevue and Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Poll of Seattle.

Blast from the past
From May 26, 1983
Ryan A. Poll
Bar Mitzvah
Ryan Albert Poll, son of Rosalind and Melvyn Poll, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah Saturday, June 18, at 10:30 a.m., at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, where his father is the cantor. Ryan is the grandson of Sally and Harold Poll and Kathryn Benezra and Ralph Benaroya.

A kiddush luncheon will follow with the community invited.

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How do I submit a Lifecycle announcement?
E-mail to: lifecycles@jtnews.net Phone 206-441-4553 for assistance.
Submissions for the June 13, 2014 issue are due by June 3.
You may download lifecycles forms at http://jewishsound.org/lifecycles-forms/.
Please submit images in jpg format, 400 KB or larger. Thank you!

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Thank you for being a community that cares.