



L'Chaim!

News & "Chailights" of The Greater Altoona Jewish Community

September 2008
Issue No. 16
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Agudath Achim celebrates milestone

New Synagogue President Dr. Elliott Bilofsky invited Don and Nancy Devorris and Barbara and Joel Hollander to coordinate this exciting celebration that will take place on Sunday, Nov. 16 at the Casino.

Hollander said, "Being able to celebrate our 125th anniversary is a testament to all of the men, women, and children who have made our Agudath Achim Synagogue paramount in their lives. We are grateful to all of the past presidents of both the Synagogue boards and the

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FUN AT CAMP



Tyler and Casey Rispoli participated in the Camp Color Wars at Emma Kauffman over the summer. They're the sons of Tobi and Dave Rispoli. For more pictures of the community, see Pages 6-7.

Temple welcomes student rabbi

Student Rabbi Nicole Luna has begun her duties at Temple Beth Israel.

Student Rabbi Luna is a native of Norfolk, VA. She attended the University of Virginia, where she double majored in Cognitive Science and Jewish Studies. While there she taught in Hebrew and Religious school, at a merged Reform/Conservative congregation. She was also president of Hillel, which catered to a diverse Jewish population.

She was accepted directly from college to Hebrew

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's continue to think BIG!

Dear friends,

In our last edition of L'Chaim, I encouraged you to think BIG.

At that time, I was inspired by the tremendous role of our Greater Altoona Jewish community in local affairs due to the number of our community honored at the annual Blair County Business Hall of Fame awards dinner.

As a first year Federation president, I was also inspired by serving in a position previously held by very inspiring people in our community by the names of Wallen, Port, Rudel and Sky.



Cohen

I expect that this year will again bring BIG things to our community and our members.

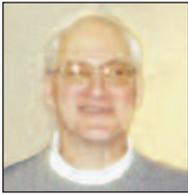
I believe that our Film Festival will continue to have a very BIG impact. We are also going to try

some new events such as a Fall Foliage Picnic on Sunday, Oct. 12 at Diamond Carriage Lane and more BIG surprises are being planned for later this year.

While BIG always makes news, BIG is often the result of a lot of small things done right. Small often gets ignored but small is the foundation for personal and organization success. There are a lot of small things that happen behind the scenes at our Federation that we may not always know about or take for granted.

In the past year, our Federation has worked with Jewish World Watch, Central PA Darfur, Operation Our Town, and the Altoona Interfaith Committee through active participation and assistance in programming.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Around the community

By Bill Wallen

Comings and goings

Welcome to the **Sinder family** who are residing in Duncansville. Andrew is a pediatrician with Nason Pediatrics. He and Jacquie are the parents of three children: Ben and Anna are 8-year-old twins who are third grade students in the Community Sunday school. Joe is 3. The children are home schooled. The family lived in New York prior to moving to our area. They have joined Temple Beth Israel and look forward to participating in many Jewish community activities.

Best wishes to **Scott and Stacey Brumbaugh** and their children in their new home in Maryland. The Brumbaughs moved in June and now reside at 9380 Gregory Road, Easton, MD 21601.

We also bid farewell to **Kris and Dr. Shelly Kafka** and their sons who have relocated to West Virginia.



Darryl Newton

Darryl Newton of Huntingdon and his National Guard unit will be deployed to Iraq. They will leave on September 19 for training in Mississippi and then will be sent to Iraq for one year. Darryl is a Sargeant with the 328th Base Support Battalion out of Lancaster, PA. Once we have his address we will share it with the community. We pray that Darryl and all of our troops will be sheltered under the wings of the *Shechinah* – God's protective spirit.

Altoona native and our friend **Reva Schulman Feldman** has relocated from Harrisburg to Boynton Beach, Fl., where she is working for their local Jewish Federation. She will be closer to her daughter Andrea and looks forward to visiting with many of her Altoona friends who winter in that area. Her temporary address is 5341 Stoneybrook Lane, Boynton Beach, Fl. 33435.

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach



Hollander/Bilofsky

Congratulations to **Elliott Bilofsky**, who was installed as president of Agudath Achim Congregation at the May annual meeting. Elliott bases his hopes and prayers for the congregation on a quote from Felicia Liben, age 14 in "I am Jewish." She states, "I am a giver, I am a receiver, I am a believer, I am strong, I am proud and most important, I am Jewish."

Mazel Tov to **Joel Weiss**, who has received the Penn State Altoona 2008 Outstanding Lecturer award. Joel has many years experience as a teacher on the high school and college level and as a workshop presenter.

Yasher Koach to our super volunteer and former Federation President **Rozzie Sky**, who was recently honored by our local American Cancer Society for her outstanding work. She was given the **Shirley A. Pechter** Pinnacle award for her notable



The Federation welcomes the Sinders to town. The family includes (from left): Andrew and Jacquie and children Joe, Anna and Ben.

accomplishments in furthering the work of the society. The "sky" has no limits for Roz.

Best wishes to **Betsy Kline**, who is the new Sisterhood president at Agudath Achim Congregation. She is busy working with her Executive Committee planning holiday dinners and minyan breakfasts for the coming year.



Betsy Kline

Mazel Tov to **Steve and Amy Seltzer** for their many accomplishments and acts of community service. In July, Steve completed his eleventh Keystone Country Ride for Multiple Sclerosis. He has been their top fundraiser for seven years. Amy has recently

been recognized as one of the Top Fifty Women in Business in PA. They are number one in our book and L'Chaim's profile couple – see page 5.

Judi Sue Meisner will be inducted to the Shaker Heights High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame on October 12 at a special dinner. She and the other inductees will also address the high school students at a special assembly. Her great work with **Celebrate Diversity** helped her earn this honor.

Yasher Koach to **Dr. Mark Lipitz** and the Neuroscience Department at Altoona Regional Health System on their achievement award from the American Stroke Association. They were recognized for implementing a high standard of stroke care.

Hannukah stamps

The 2008 Hannukah stamps will go on sale October 24. They should be available at all post offices no later than October 27. It will be the same dreidel design as last year but is now at the current postal rate of 42 cents.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 21 Israel Bonds Dinner
- Sept 29 Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Sept 30 Rosh Hashanah – 1st day
- Oct 1 Rosh Hashanah – 2nd day
- Oct 8 Kol Nidrei
- Oct 9 Yom Kippur
- Oct 12 Jewish Community Hayride
- Oct 14 Sukkot – 1st day
- Oct 15 Sukkot – 2nd day
- Oct 22 Simchat Torah
- Oct 24 Ethan Knepp Bar Mitzvah, TBI
- Nov 16 AAC 125th Anniversary
- Nov 25 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Dec 21 Hanukkah 1st candle
- Dec 22-29 Hanukkah 1st day – 8th day
- Jan 11 Sunday school reopens at AAC
Camp Fair
- Feb 9 Tu B'Shevat
- Feb 19, 26 10th Annual Film Festival
- March 5, 12 10th Annual Film Festival

Ted Sky to be honored

■ Distinguished alumni dinner is set for Nov. 8.

The Altoona Area High School Alumni Association will present its distinguished Alumni Awards during the weekend of Nov. 7-8. Graduates who have "achieved greatness in their chosen fields and through public service" will be recognized.



Ted Sky

Ted Sky, a 1952 graduate, is one of the six honored this year. He is the son of Marcus and Ella Sky and grew up in Altoona in the home of his cousins Asher, Phil, Davida and Marsha Sky.

After completing his studies at Altoona High in 1952, he attended and graduated from Dickinson College and Harvard Law School. Since 1968, Ted has

served in various legal capacities in the U.S. Government, first with Health Education and Welfare and later with the Department of Education. He retired from Federal service in 2001 and is currently a "Distinguished Lecturer" from Catholic University.

During his lifetime of public service, he wrote many of the policies and regulations that guide the field of education in the United States today.

In 1966, Ted married Vera Chadwick Sky, who is a Psychiatric Social Worker. They have two daughters, Catherine and Victoria, and reside in Washington, D.C. They love visiting family in Altoona, and Ted has many fond memories of growing up here.

President's message

(Continued from Page 1)

We lobbied Methodist Church delegates to prevent divestment in Israel. We led Passover Seders in churches and appeared on public television in interfaith dialogue. We have led adult learning sessions for the interfaith community and participated in Celebrate Diversity programming.

We helped send three of our youth to Israel through our Passport program, and we helped send eight youth to summer camp through our Jewish Yes program. We continue to sponsor the annual Jewish Camp Fair and have administered our Jewish Community Sunday School for the last three years. We have worked with Penn State Hillel to bring outreach to PSU Altoona and Juniata College. We have promoted events of adult Jewish education such as the PBS specials on Jewish history in America. We helped our local congregations with adult education and holocaust programs.

Our Trust Committee has reorganized and diversified our endowment funds for long-term growth. Indeed we have had a BIG year by doing a lot of small things very well.

You might ask, how did we do so

much? It happened because you are generous with your time and your annual gifts but it would not have happened without our outstanding executive director, Bill Wallen. We are blessed by Bill's dedication and abilities.

Please thank Bill for his leadership and devotion.

I encourage you to think BIG and follow Bill's example because the small things make the difference and lead to a BIG result. I encourage you to live generously and continue to support our community by being a member of your Greater Altoona Jewish Federation.

Fall picnic set

On Sunday, Oct. 12, our Greater Altoona Federation will be sponsoring a Fall Foliage Picnic at Diamond Carriage Lane just south of Roaring Spring from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

We will have games, hayrides and dinner. We will roast marshmallows by the bonfire and make s'mores. Please plan on attending this special event with your friends from your Jewish community.

L'Chaim!

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or e-mailed to altfed@atlanticbb.net
Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

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L'CHAIM PROFILE

Seltzers' community roots run deep

Name: Steve and Amy Seltzer

Address: 306 East Ward Avenue,
Altoona

Family: Daughter, Andrea Seltzer Okonak, a kindergarten teacher at Tyrone Area School District; son, Adam Seltzer, wealth management at BSL Capital, New York, N.Y.; son-in-law, Robby Okonak, CPA and partner at Ciocca, Benton, Okonak & Company.

High school: Steve graduated from Bellwood-Antis High School in 1973. Amy attended Altoona Area High School before graduating from Tidewater (Va.) High School in 1974.

College: Steve graduated from Penn State in 1977 with a degree in administrative management. Amy graduated from Penn State in 1978 with a degree in elementary education.

Hobbies: Steve enjoys skiing, bicycling, hiking, motorcycling, boating, camping, classic cars, wine, cooking, travel, music. Amy enjoys work, kids, sports, grand dogs, and future grandkids. The Seltzers are expecting their first grandchild in the coming year.

Congregation: Agudath Achim Congregation, where Amy is a third generation member.

Federation: The Seltzers have been



Amy and Steve Seltzer

supportive members since they joined the Synagogue in 1979.

First memories of being Jewish:

As a Bar Mitzvah gift from his parents, Steve spent two weeks in Israel in 1968 with other members of the Altoona Jewish Community. Steve loved Masada, the Dead Sea, Haifa and Tel-Aviv. His other early memories include changing plates and cooking utensils for Passover as a child, Hebrew School, Junior Congregation every Saturday, Sunday School every Sunday, the Purim Carnival, activities at the JMC on Sundays and JMC Day Camp at the

Bellwood Sportsmen's Club. Amy's include keeping kosher at home and BBYO trips where she made a lot of good friends and JMC Day Camp.

Strongest Jewish influences: Both consider Rabbi Herbert Panitch their strongest influences.

Positions held in the Jewish community: Steve is a board member of Agudath Achim Congregation and served one year as president. Amy is a board member of Agudath Achim, a member and past president of Sisterhood and co-treasurer of Sisterhood for 15 years.

In our Jewish community, we are most proud of: The members of both congregations and how hard they work to continue many of the traditions of the past while introducing changes that will help our religion to survive, and hopefully prosper, in the future.

Our vision for the Jewish community includes: One Jewish community that involves and respects the traditions of each of the current congregations while making it possible for us to remain viable and effective in the future years so that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to benefit from a Jewish education and learn the customs of our people.

Milestone celebrated

(Continued from Page 1)

Sisterhood and all of our past and present members who have guided our destiny over the past 125 years. We are eternally grateful that we are able to witness this momentous year in the history of Agudath Achim."

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Ortner-Roberts Duo of Pittsburgh. The mission of the performing couple, Tom Roberts and Susanne Ortner, is to combine Susanne's knowledge of Jewish music and Tom's experience in early jazz.

They will invite all former spiritual leaders of Agudath Achim and attempt to locate former members who have now made their homes outside of the Altoona area. Everyone in the community is encouraged to share the celebration and broadcast the event to your friends and relatives who have moved away. Don't miss this exciting milestone.

Student rabbi welcomed

(Continued from Page 1)

Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and is now entering her third year. In addition to her passion for Jewish life, Student Rabbi Luna is an avid tennis player. She married Dr. Joe Bord, a history teacher from England, in January.

"My goal is to serve the congregants of Temple Beth Israel as best I can by creating an environment where congregants feel their needs and interests are respectfully heard," she said. "I am particularly looking forward to leading the



Nicole Luna

Temple's Torah study group. My mom used to take me to our Temple's Torah study group when I was preparing for my Bat Mitzvah."

TBI president Barry Allen is confident Student Rabbi Luna will be well received.

"This year we welcome another top student from the Hebrew Union College," he said. "Rabbi Luna is an enthusiastic student and teacher. Her background will be interesting to discover and provide a fresh view for our community. We hope everyone takes the opportunity to meet her."



PERSPECTIVE

Israel trip leaves lasting memories

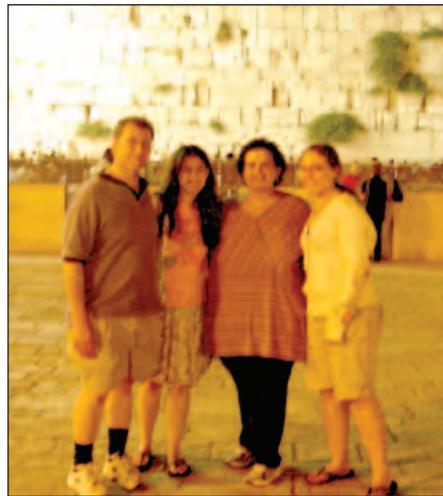
By Nicole Lipitz

Much has been said about the idea of "homeland."

After over seven years of planning – the trip postponed due to the second intifada and some less worrisome scheduling conflicts – my family made the trip to our own ancient homeland, Israel. This past June we boarded our El Al flight in New Jersey and landed in Tel Aviv, using our rent-a-car to get to Haifa, Jerusalem, Masada, Tiberias and Tzfat.

I was excited to finally visit the Promised Land, a land where milk and honey flows and the streets are paved of gold...falafel! Okay, the streets were not completely paved with delicious falafel – lest I disappoint anyone. But still Israel was amazing. I didn't feel like such an outsider there, even though my family and I were painfully American.

Our American-ness was merely a point of conversation while meeting over 30 relatives in a family reunion. We looked at old photographs with my great-grandmother's Yiddish notes on the back, bombarded each other with gifts, laughed,



Mark, Nicole, Carol and Sarah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

and ate – the universal activity of a Jewish get-together.

But Israel was more than a cultural experience; it was spiritual. Jerusalem held so much history, so much tradition, that it was hard not to feel the holiness of the city. There was a darker side, of course. We were in Jerusalem on July 2,

during the tragic bulldozer incident. In true Israeli fashion, there was a period of mourning, but life had to go on as usual.

We explored the tunnels underneath the Western Wall, wandered on the cobbled paths of Tzfat, appreciated the aging Bauhaus architecture in Tel Aviv, saw the ruins of Masada, toured the Technion, and floated in the Dead Sea.

An artist taught us about Kabbalah, and a Palestinian boy practiced his English with us. We visited a pancake house. We ran into the Birthright trip from Penn State. We shared a Shabbos dinner at our hotel with a cousin and a spectrum of secular, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Chasidic Jews.

And now, thousands of miles away, life goes on in our other homeland, America. I will always consider myself to have two homelands – one here, the other in Israel. I may stay in one, but my heart will always long for the other.

Such is the way of the American Jew, the Jewish American, the person who belongs to two cultures, two countries and one people.

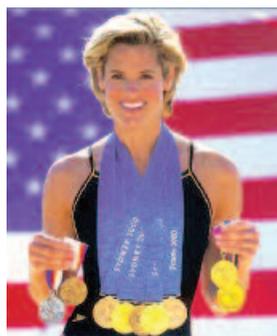
41-year-old Jewish Olympian swims way to three silver medals



Jewish American swimmer Dara Torres won two more silver medals in Beijing, missing gold by one-one hundredth of a second.

Torres, 41 won the medals in the women's 50-meter freestyle, the women's 4x100 medley relay and the 4x100 freestyle relay.

Two more Jewish-American swimmers, Jason Lezak and Garrett Weber-Gale, each added a second gold medal. Lezak joined Michael Phelps and two teammates to win the 4x100 medley relay final. Weber-Gale competed in the heat that led



Dara Torres

to the final.

Lezak will best be known for his incredible anchor leg of the 4x100 freestyle relay, catching up to French swimmer Alain Bernard to keep Phelps' dream of eight gold medals alive.

Torres, a five-time

Olympian and the oldest American swimmer ever, missed out on a gold medal by one-hundredth of a second in the 50-meter freestyle.

Torres had three runnerup finishes in all.

Out of the water, though, Torres won respect for her sportsmanship and her courage. She competed in Beijing while her longtime coach was back in the states, hospitalized with a rare form of cancer.

And in one heat during the games she rushed up to a judge minutes before the start of the race asking to delay the start

while a Swedish swimmer changed out of her swimsuit, which had torn.

Torres is the first swimmer from the United States to compete in five Olympics: 1984, 1988, 1992, 2000 and 2008. In all, Torres has won 12 Olympic medals (four gold, four silver, four bronze), including five she won in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

A feat made more impressive by the fact that at age 33, she was the oldest member of the U.S. Olympic swim team.

The Florida native was elected to the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Smile for the camera: The



Roz and Izzy Sky are flanked by Sammy and Mandy.



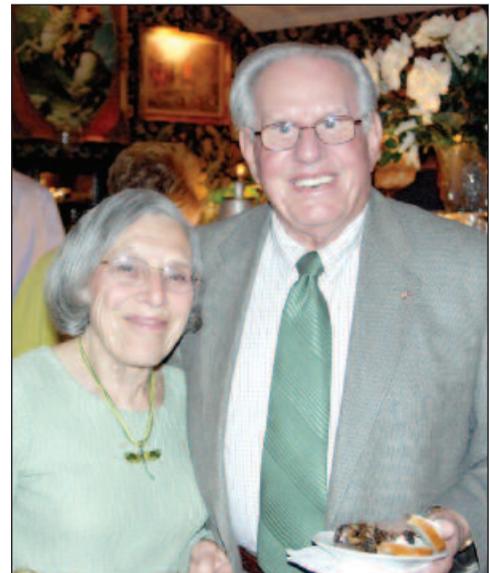
Ilissa Zimmerman and her husband, Scott Glass.



Cantor Michael Horwitz celebrates Israel Independence Day with Sunday School students (from left): Tyler Rispoli, Samantha Bilofsky, Sammy Sky and Joel Schocker.



A Friday evening summer service at the home of Philip and Co



Never one to miss a party, Fay "Snookie" Schmitt and her escort, Bob Housel.

Jewish community in focus



Alleen Devorris drew more than 50.



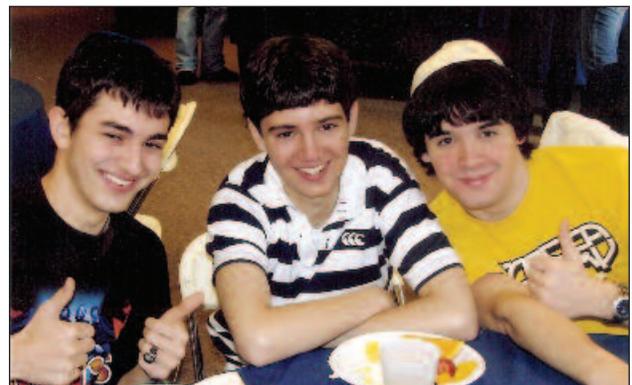
Janet Wayne enjoys a visit with her daughter, Tina, and son-in-law, Robert Bluman.



Sunday School students Aaron Pielmeier (left) and Noah Scheinberg dress up for a Passover play.



Henry Weinberg dances with his daughter Ellen during a reception at the Calvin House in honor of her recent marriage.



Sunday School students (from left) Asher Kline, Mark Thaler and Dan Henderson flash the thumbs up and why not? They've been confirmed!



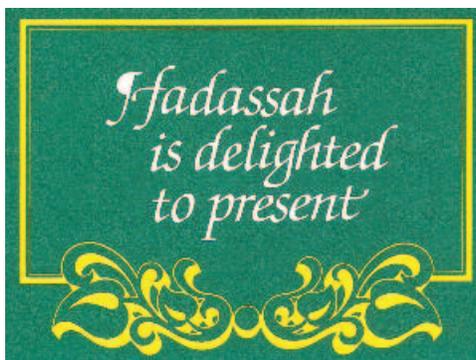
THE WAY WE WERE

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



Hadassah board members include, from left first row: Nancy Devorris, Mickey Port. Second row: Hilda Lenson, Ann Colbus, Sue Leopold Ansin, Ethel Colbus, Amy Seltzer. Third row: Freya Berger, Carol Kron, Carol Cohn, Molly Evins, Sylvia Schulman, Blanche Kaminsky, Paula Benjamin.

Hadassah memories 1983-1985



Presidents of the Hadassah boards during this period of time were Lynn Auerbach Kaplan, Sue Leopold Ansin and Reva Dotan Feldman.



Performers include: Janet Wayne, Francie Serbin, Carol Kron, Phyllis Thaler, Freya Berger and Rozzie Sky...



...Mickey Port, Sue Leopold Ansin, Bert Leopold, Arnold Berman and Joel Hollander.



L'CHAIM MILESTONES

Weddings

Alan Liss and Heather Lowey, June 14.

Craig Cohn and Sharon Puczynski, September 6, in Vail, Colorado. Craig is the son of **Carol and Morley Cohn**.

Upcoming weddings

Mike Holzer and Heather Drier, November 1, in St. Mary's, PA. The ceremony will be officiated by **Rabbi Burt E. Schuman**.

Anniversaries

Audrey and Jim Rosenthal celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29.

Births

Mickey James Nedimyer on May 5, son of **Caitlyn Rosenthal** and **Sean Nedimyer**. Grandson of **Harry and Holly Rosenthal** and great-grandson of **Audrey and Jim Rosenthal**.

Hudson Michael Allen on April 30, son of **David and Stephanie Allen**. Grandson of **Caryn Herman** and great-grandson of **Michael Herman**.

Eva Joy DeLeo on March 9, daughter of **Miranda**. Granddaughter of **Judy Weinstein**, great granddaughter of **Marty Weinstein** and great niece of **Dianna and Neil Rudel**.

Recent B'nai Mitzvah

Noah Scheinberg, son of **Mike and Chrissy Scheinberg**, May 3, Agudath Achim Congregation

Ginger Glass, daughter of **Ilissa Zimmerman** and **Scott Glass**, May 24, Agudath Achim Congregation.

Ian Bilofsky, son of **Elliott and Kara Bilofsky**, June 21, Agudath Achim Congregation.

Carly Port, daughter of **Josh and LeeAnn Port**, August 30, Agudath Achim Congregation.

We remember them...

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

David J. Benjamin

David Benjamin, 91 died on June 30, 2008 in St. Petersburg, FL. He was born in Hazelton and grew up in Scranton, where his family was involved in the coal business. David was an Eagle Scout at age 13 and graduated from high school at Mercersburg Academy. He graduated from Yale University and then served in the Army during WWII.



Benjamin

In 1946, David relocated the Benjamin Coal Co. to Central PA. He married Paula, the love of his life in 1954, and they were married for 54 years. They raised their three children: Sally, Harry and Tom in Altoona and were involved in many community activities in our area. One of David's proudest accomplishments was the establishment of Penn Mont Academy, the first Montessori school licensed in PA. He was a founding member and president of the Board. The Benjamins were active members of Temple Beth Israel, where David was a board member. He was a proud supporter of Paula's activities with Temple Sisterhood and with Hadassah.

Under David's leadership, Benjamin Coal Co. became the largest coal producer of surface mine coal in PA. He was recognized on a statewide and national level for his work in the industry.

In recent years, David and Paula relo-

cated to St. Petersburg, but always felt a part of the Altoona community. Paula's address is 4830 Osprey Drive South, Unit 506, St. Petersburg, FL 33711. David is sadly missed by Paula, their children and families and by his sisters Charlotte Morris and Roselle Fine and many friends.

Leila Goldberg Lebendig Achenbaum

Lee Achenbaum, age 77, died on June 26, 2008 in New York City. She was born and educated in Montreal where she scored the highest grades of any female in Quebec upon graduation from high school. She then attended McGill University.

In 1948, Lee married Irv Goldberg and moved to Altoona. They had four children and became involved in many Jewish and general community activities. Lee was very creative and interested in all of the arts. She wrote for all the shows that were performed at the JMC and did publicity for the Altoona Community Theater. She was a talented painter and creative chef. Lee was a devoted worker for Call for Action and other community services and loved playing duplicate bridge.

She later married Bob Lebendig and remained in Altoona until he died. Lee moved to New York and loved everything that the city had to offer. There she married Alvin Achenbaum and they had 15 happy years together. He stated that "she cherished friends and family, and mastered the arts of giving and living." Lee's dear friend Snooky Schmitt said, "She was a super lady who was loved dearly."

Condolences

Ed Giller and family on the death of his brother, **Larry Giller**

Joe and Lou Silverman, Sissy Kadane and families on the death of their cousin, **Seymour Laderman**

Sandra Halpern and family on the death of her father, **William Cohn**

Joel Hollander and family on the death of his uncle, **Monton "Mendy" Hollander**

The Cohn, Rosch, Gould and Kaminsky families on the death of their cousin, **Dr. Harold Halpern**

Barbara Jean (BJ) Lowenthal and family on the death of her husband, **Mark Lowenthal**



L'CHAIM NOTEBOOK

Tips for grandparents of interfaith families

■ *Book available at Federation*

The gist of the book is to teach by example: Invite the grandchildren to Passover Seders in your home, show them photos of your family, light Shabbat candles and tell them why it's important to you. Build "layers of Jewish memories," the book suggests, that will remain with the children as they grow to adulthood.

Grandparents are an often overlooked influence on the lives of their grandchildren. One of the major influences on the religious identities of the kids was their grandparents.

If the grandparents are just who they are and have contact with the grandkids, they'll have that influence. "That's why we say, just be the best Jew you can be.

■ *New DVDs*

The Federation office maintains a growing library of DVDs and VHS tapes of Jewish interest. Included are documentaries, feature films and education resources. They are available for Federation members to borrow.

Some of our new DVDs are:

- The Jewish Americans – 6 hours, The PBS series. It traces 350 years of Jewish American history from the arrival of the first Jews in 1654 up to the present day.
- Escape from Auschwitz – 60 minutes. This 2008 PBS feature tells the incredible story of two young Slovak Jews who managed to escape by hiding in a woodpile for three days and then fleeing across enemy territory.
- The Jewish People: A Story of Survival – 90 minutes. From slavery to the loss of their homeland; from exile to anti-Semitism; from programs to near annihilation in the Holocaust, how did they endure while so many other communities have vanished?

For a more complete listing of our resources, contact the Federation office.

■ *Educational opportunities*

- Learn about the Invisible Children of Central Africa, Monday, Oct. 6, 6 P.M., Penn State Altoona, Slep Student Center.



- Learn Hebrew. Beginning Sunday evenings Oct. 26 at 7 P.M., Hazzan Michael Horwitz will be offering an adult education course on the review of Hebrew reading. This course is part of the work that the National Jewish Outreach Program in New York City offers to congregations throughout the country. This is an ideal way to learn to follow the synagogue services, to be more involved in your children or grandchildren's Jewish Education, or simply to enhance your own ties to Judaism. **NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OR ABILITY TO READ HEBREW IS REQUIRED.**

This is a five-session course. Dates to be set and arranged in our first meeting.

■ *Bar Mitzvah project*



September 28, 2008
Legion Park, Hollidaysburg, PA

Check-in: 1:00 PM

1 - 5 mile walk options

For information please call 814-943-1282

or email threefortheroadwalk@gmail.com

Inspired by Ethan Knepp for his Bar Mitzvah project.

**L'Chaim wishes you and your family
a happy and healthy new year – 5769.**



Tracing Israel's progress in '08

Israeli-developed designer-eyeglasses, promise mobile phone and iPod users, a personalized, high-tech video display. Lumus-Optical's lightweight and fashionable video eyeglasses, feature a large transparent screen, floating in front of the viewer's face that projects their choice of movie, TV show, or video Game.

When Stephen Hawkins visited Israel recently, the world's most renowned victim of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease, learned something, due to the Israeli Association for ALS' advanced work in both embryonic and adult stem cell research, as well as its proven track record with neurodegenerative diseases.

The millions of Skype users worldwide will soon have access to the newly developed KishKish lie-detector. This free internet service, based on voice stress analysis (a technique, commonly used in criminal investigations), will be able to measure just how truthful that person on the other end of the line, really is.

Beating cardiac tissue has been created in a lab from human embryonic stem cells by researchers at the Rappaport Medical Faculty and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology's biomedical Engineering faculty. This work has also led to the creation of tiny blood vessels within the tissue, making possible its implantation in a human heart.



Israel's Magal Security Systems, is a worldwide leader in computerized security systems, protecting anything from national borders, to nuclear facilities, refineries, and airports. The company's latest Product, DreamBox, a state-of-the-art security system that includes Intelligent video, audio and sensor management, is now being used by a major water authority on the US east coast to safeguard the utility's sites.

Israeli company BioControl Medical is working on CardioFit, which uses electrical nerve stimulation to treat congestive

heart failure. With nearly five million Americans presently affected by heart failure, and more than 400,000 new cases diagnosed yearly, the CardioFit is already generating a great deal of excitement as the first device with the potential to halt this deadly disease.

In contrast to the efforts of tiny Israel to make contributions to the world so as to better mankind, one has to ask what have those who have strived to eliminate Israel from the face of the earth done other than to create hate and bloodshed.

Campaign 2008 – your help is still needed!



As we examine our lives during the High Holy Days, let us also consider how we can meet our responsibility for the Jewish

people. Your gift to the annual Federation/UJC campaign helps enhance Jewish life in our community and save Jewish lives in 57 countries throughout the world. We need your help now.

As Jews we measure our good deeds on a yearly basis and in this spirit it is

time to meet our responsibility for our Jewish community and Jews throughout the world by renewing our memberships in the *Greater Altoona Jewish Federation* by making a gift to our annual campaign

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

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

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

community programs.

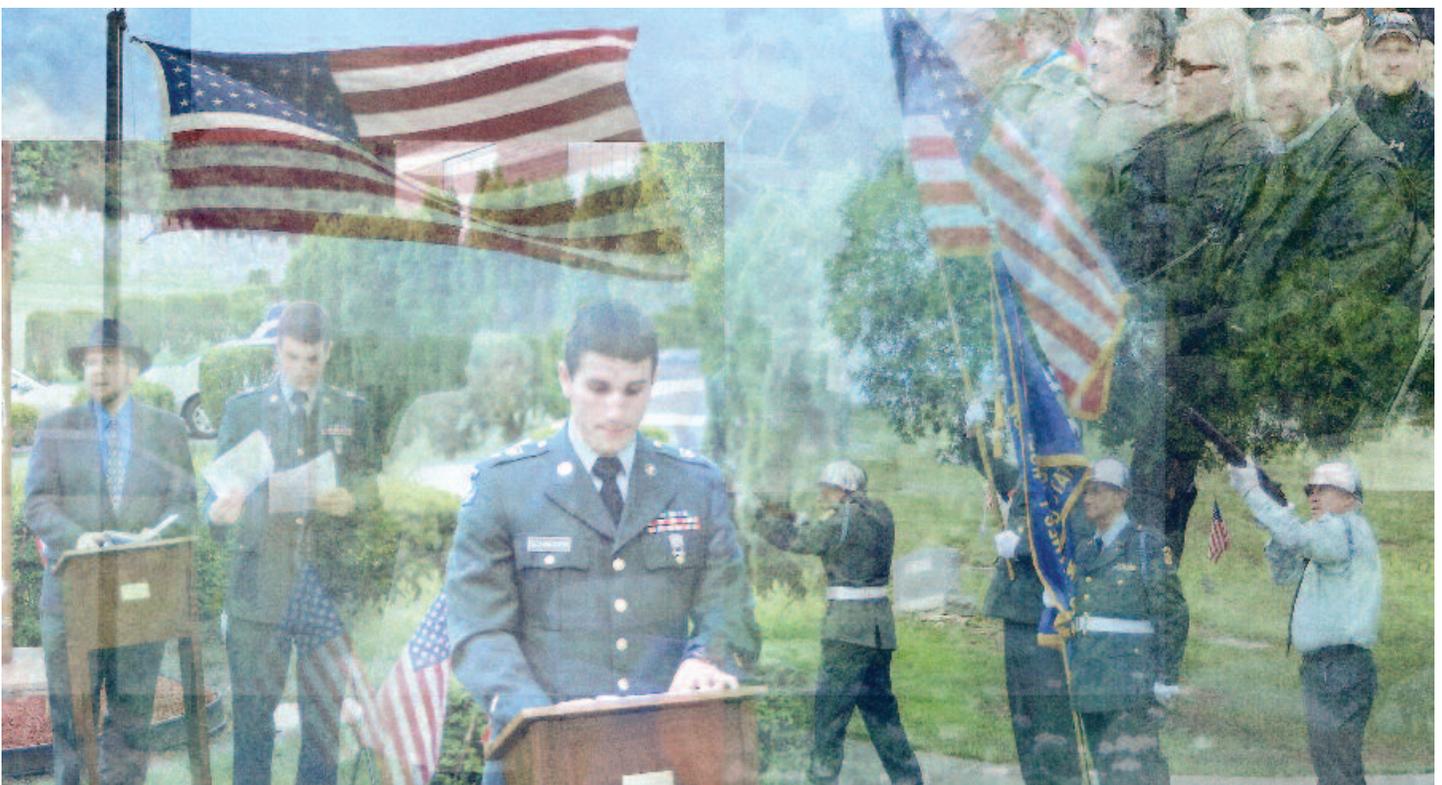
Judaism is not only about finding God but bringing Jews together, to live in peace and with purpose. Let us stand together as one, live generously, and be counted as a member of our community with your annual campaign gift.

It's not too late to support our 2008 Campaign. With the decline in value of the dollar, our programs in Israel and other countries have been forced to make cuts and Jews are suffering. They need our help now, more than ever. Please send in your pledge card now or indicate your contribution by e-mail and we will bill you.



The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation
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Adam Schneider speaks at the Veteran's Memorial Service on May 22.