



L'Chaim!

News & "Chailights" of The Greater
Altoona Jewish Community

February 2009
Issue No. 17
Federation: 515-1182
E-mail:
altfed@atlanticbb.net



Members of the Jewish Community wave while enjoying a fall hayride at Diamond Carriage Lane near Roaring Spring. The hayride was our first such venture, and more than 70 attended.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Federation launches website

Dear Friends,

I hope this edition of L'Chaim finds you well. The last six months have brought us the highs of the Jewish High Holy Days, the 125th anniversary celebration of Agudath Achim Congregation, the Federation picnic at Diamond Carriage Lane, as well as the lows of a global economic downturn, the effect of the Madoff fraud on Jewish charitable organizations, and continued conflict in the Middle East. There has also been great change in the political leadership of our country.

Your Greater Altoona Jewish Federation has also been quite busy trying to make a difference in your daily life

through philanthropic, social, cultural and educational programs and we continue to try to foster cooperation among local Jewish organizations directed toward that end.

The Federation is also excited to unveil our new website at www.greateraltoonajewishfederation.com. Our new digital home seeks to further our efforts to inform, educate and enrich our Jewish soul and your Federation is now available to you every minute of every day. As you browse through our website, you will find our community calendar, photos from Sunday School events, future programming, community favorites, news from Jewish communities around the world as well as links to websites of various interests.

Len Zimmerman and his committee have planned another exciting program

Continued on Page 5



Cohen



Two long-time Russian families — Gary and Mina Belenitsky (above) and Boris and Irena Aryev (below) — will be honored at the Film Festival on March 5 at the showing of Refusenik. For Film Festival preview, please see Page 3.





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: BY BILL WALLEN

Around the community

Comings and goings

Welcome to the **Evans** family. **Matt** is a political science professor at Penn State Altoona. He and his wife, **Dalia** and three children—**Shani** (8), **Daniel** (6) and **Gilad** (6)—have moved to Hollidaysburg. Dalia and all three children were born in Israel. Matt worked there as an urban planner for a decade and received a degree from Ben Gurion University. He is a New York City native who graduated from Columbia and the University of Wisconsin. Dalia is currently completing her Masters of Social Work degree.

The children have enrolled in our Sunday School and the family has joined Temple Beth Israel.

We also welcome another professor at Penn State Altoona, **Eric Charles**, who teaches Psychology. He and his wife, **Christi**, and daughter **Marin** have moved to Altoona and are neighbors of **Jerry and Janet Wayne**.

Alex Nidetch has returned to Hollidaysburg, where he is residing with his mother, **Jeanne Heinbaugh**, and helping with the operation of the Old Canal Inn. Alex attends services at Agudath Achim Congregation regularly and even devoted time to their Nearly New Sale.

Best wishes to **Bill Rosch** in his new home in Florida, where he recently moved to be closer to his sisters **Debbie** and **Leah**.

Several of our community residents have moved into the beautiful new Graystone Apartments overlooking Pleasant Valley. New apartment dwellers are **Norma Sevel**, **Shirley Levinson** and **Manny and Sue Rosenberg**. Also living there are community friends **George Strobert** and **Helen Casey**. A Chanukah program was provided for them and about 20 other residents there led by **Hazzan Horwitz**.

Darryl Newton, our man in Iraq, arrived there during the first week in February following additional training he received in Kuwait. He welcomes greetings and news from his friends in Altoona. His e-mail address is the_law_man81@yahoo.com.

Tikkun olam

Thanks to **Marilyn Muhlfelder** and **Carolyn Wallen** for coordinating our 4th annual Love Feast held on Dec. 27, 2008 at Simpson Church. Special thanks to **Paula and Dave Binus** for leading our cooking brigade and to all our adults and children who contributed money, desserts and their time for this mitzvah. We served about 125 meals, sent another 50 home and we gave all leftovers to St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen. We are already signed up for Dec. 26, 2009.

Our local **SAVE Darfur** Chapter recently sent over \$16,000 to **Jewish World Watch** to benefit their backpacks for kids and solar cooker projects in the refugee camps in Chad for the Sudanese genocide survivors. Total donations from our group now exceed \$17,000. Our local teens and adults have shown again that we can really make a difference.



Norma Sevel (left) and Staci Weber pause for the camera during the Love Feast.

Community activities

Our Jewish community was well represented at the **Interfaith Signs of Justice** program on Jan. 18. **Phil Devorris** was a featured speaker and **Hazzan Horwitz** led an interfaith children's choir in singing Shalom B'Olam. Featured in the choir were **Howie Keenan**, soloist, and **Felicia Devorris**, **Abigail Simon**, **Samantha Bilofsky** and **Jacob and Noah Scheinberg**. The program began with **Elliott Bilofsky** sounding the Shofar as a call to social justice.

Purim Carnival on March 8

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time and set your clock ahead one hour to be on time for the Sunday School's annual **Purim Carnival**. In addition to the traditional booths and costume parade, **Sharon Slack** will help make Purim crafts and **Madam Rozzie Sky** will tell fortunes. There will be a "bounce thing," prize tickets, 50-50 drawing and fun for all ages. Let's all attend this year and make this a really special community event.

Summer camp 2009

For a great summer adventure and an excellent opportunity for children to have a Jewish emersion experience, consider sending them to camp this year. The Federation and congregation Sisterhoods are ready and very willing to help you with the costs for any Jewish camp. There are many good camps in PA, other states and in Israel. Call the Federation office for details.

Birthright Israel

During college winter break, several local students took part in the Birthright 10-day free trips to Israel. **Kara Schmidt** attended with a group from Washington University and **Staci Weber**, Hillel Director at **Juniata College**, led a group from there. **Eric Mollo** of State College led a group from Dartmouth. The hostilities with Hamas were occurring during some of these trips but life goes on as usual in Israel despite the shellings. For more information about the program, go to Birthright.com.



Film Festival celebrates 10th year

Four-week series begins Feb. 19

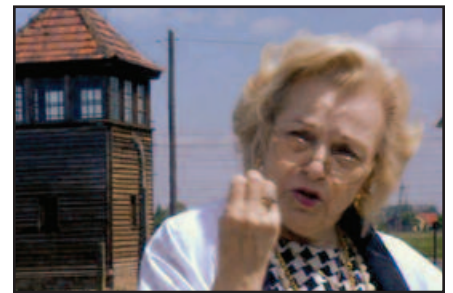
Feb. 19, 2009



The Counterfeiters – 99 minutes, German with subtitles (made in Austria) 2007. Academy Award winner as best foreign film. Salomon Sorowitsch is the king of counterfeiters. He lives a mischievous life of cards, booze and women in Berlin during the Nazi era. He is arrested and thrown into the Mauthausen concentration camp where he exhibits exceptional skills and is transferred to the upgraded camp of Sachsenhausen. Salomon and a group of professionals are forced to produce fake foreign currency under the program Operation Bernhard. Faced with a moral dilemma, Salomon must decide whether his actions, which could prolong the war and risk the lives of fellow prisoners, are ultimately the right ones.

Feb. 26, 2009

Out of Faith – 82 minutes, English, documentary (made in U.S.A.) 2006. This is the story of how marriage outside of the faith places stress on three generations of a Chicago area Jewish family. It gradually becomes a portrait of the Welbel family's iron willed matriarch Leah, whose survival of Auschwitz and Birkenau makes her strong, but defines her for the rest of her life. When one of her grandchildren marries a Christian girl, Leah turns her back on him, creating a rift in the family. When a granddaughter does the same, she disapproves but keeps the lines of communication open, hoping for a conversion. "Out of Faith" allows us to see why Leah feels the way she does—personal memories arising from a return to Auschwitz and Birkenau are devastating and to understand how for her there can be no other way.



March 5, 2009



Refusenik – 120 minutes, English and Russian with subtitles, documentary (Made in Russia and U.S.A) 2007. What began as a fledgling gathering of students and housewives forty years ago grew into a human rights movement that eventually freed one and a half million Soviet Jews and cracked the seemingly impenetrable wall of Soviet Communism. One of the proudest chapters in Jewish history, the story of the Refuseniks is the story of the importance of Jewish solidarity and the State of Israel, and a reminder of the great responsibilities that come with living in a free society.

March 12, 2009

A Mighty Heart – 108 minutes, English (made in U.S.A.) 2007. This is an adaptation of Mariane Pearl's memoir and is a detailed account of the search for kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002. Pearl was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan by supporters of Islamic radical cleric Omar Sheikh. The movie also covers efforts by Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) to track the kidnappers and bring them to justice. Angelina Jolie stars as Mariane and gives her finest artistic achievement to date.



Join us for a great dinner next door at the Heritage Discovery Center prior to the films. We'll have wine and appetizers, with dinner catered by Paula Binus and good fellowship. It's the best bargain in town with dinner at only \$12/person and films at \$3 for Federation members \$5 for non-members and free for students. Reserve your space by calling the Federation office at 515-1182 or e-mail us at altfed@atlanticbb.net.



L'CHAIM PROFILE: DAVE AND PAULA BINUS

Catering to the community's needs

Family: Dave and Paula (Cooney) Binus are lifelong residents of Altoona and currently live in Fairview. They are proud that both of their adult children have returned here. David (27) works for Sheetz in marketing and Erica (24) is a project coordinator for Blair Sign.

Education: Dave graduated from Altoona High and attended the University of Pittsburgh. Paula is a graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle and Penn State. She majored in Family and Consumer Sciences and minored in Nutrition. Paula spent a semester abroad in Dunham, England and participated in graduation there.

Business and Profession: Paula has been a culinary arts teacher for the past 32 years. She and Dave began their catering business 15 years ago. Dave recently retired from the business world to work with Paula in their ever-expanding catering activities.

Congregation: Both are members of Agudath Achim Congregation, where Dave is a vice president. They have provided Shabbat kiddish lunches, overseen the kitchen and catered there for many years. Paula describes their work there as a "labor of love." Paula maintains a membership at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Federation and Jewish community activities: Dave is a Federation board member, and both he and Paula support and attend almost every Federation event. They are the "head chefs" for the annual Love Feast Christmas dinner and provide wonderful meals at the Film Festival. Dave has co-led interfaith seders and adult education programs for local church groups and previously taught in the Sunday School. He loves religious discussions, especially about the Talmud. Paula has taught many individuals and groups about Jewish cooking.

Interests and hobbies: They are both interested in antiquing and traveling. They are taking their first cruise this month (to the Caribbean). They enjoy sports and support Tyrone High School, Penn State and especially the Steelers. Dave golfs, and Paula likes spending time outdoors, especially with her flowers in the summer. They both love their extended family and look forward to future grandchildren.

Significant Jewish influences in our lives: With Dave, his dad was a big influence in teaching him ethics in business and his mom set a standard for reaching out to people in need. Through Dave's readings in Judaism, he grew to really admire Moses, who greatly influenced him on the qualities of a leader, how to interact with people



Paula and Dave Binus, shown at a past Blair County Chamber Awards Dinner, are both Altoona natives.

and with God and practicing ideals. Paula states that Dave is her most significant Jewish influence, and she also credits all of the Synagogue members who have taught her about Jewish cooking and Judaism.

Early Jewish memories: Dave's early Jewish memories are of family visits to Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh to Rosenbloom's Bakery and Schwartz Kosher Meats. Paula remembers being neighbors with Ardie Karp and his family and seeing Dr. Jules Rosch walking to Synagogue every Saturday with his money pinned onto his jacket.

In our Jewish community, we are most proud of: We see that our community as a whole is very giving and usually the first to respond to others who are suffering or in need, within or outside the Jewish community. We are like an extended family to each other, and like any family, sometimes have bickering and misunderstandings.

Vision for the Jewish community: We will go from strength to strength if we assure that we teach our children the values of Judaism. The study and practice of the lessons and mitzvot in the Torah are the basis of a Jewish or of any life.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 8	Purim Carnival 10 a.m. - Noon JMC
Mar 10	Purim
Apr 8	Passover – 1st Seder
Apr 9	Second night Seder TBI
Apr 9-16	Passover
Apr 18	Isaac Marlowe Bar Mitzvah TBI
Apr 20	Yom Hashoah Service
Apr 21	Yom Hashoah
Apr 29	Yom Ha' Atzmaut
May 12	Lag B'Omer
May 21	Veteran's Memorial Service 7 p.m. Cemeteries
May 29-30	Shavuot
July 30	Tisha B'Av
Sept 5	Nathan and Noah Scheinberg Bar Mitzvah 9:30 a.m. AAC
Sept 18	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sept 19	Rosh Hashanah 1st day
Sept 20	Rosh Hashanah 2nd day
Sept 27	Kol Nidre
Sept 28	Yom Kippur

L'Chaim!

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New website:

greateraltoonajewishfederation.com

Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

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L'Chaim couples quiz

Who belongs to whom?

Test your knowledge of the Jewish Community and see if you can identify which of the following couples are really couples. (See correct answers below.)



- A. Sherry and Don Brett
- B. Judi Sue and Marvin Meisner
- C. Phil Sky and Uncle Al
- D. Harriett and Ed Hand
- E. Madelyn and Jeff Greenberg

- F. Clark and Kim Adelman
- G. Marion Garfinkle and Fay Schmitt
- H. Kevin and Cheryl Smith
- I. Andrea and Rob Okenak
- J. Roz Sky and Moe Antikol

Correct answers: A, B, D, E, F, H, I

President's message: Let's stand together

Continued from Page 1

for the annual Federation Jewish Film Festival. The festival begins on Thursday, Feb. 19 and continues for three additional weeks. The Federation is very pleased that attendance continues to grow each year and has become the Jewish social and educational highlight of the winter season.

We encourage you to take advantage of the delicious dinners provided by Paula and Dave Binus at the Heritage Center next to the theater prior to each show. Each Thursday is truly nourishing for the body and the mind.

This is also the time we kickoff our annual campaign so we can fulfill our mission to further the welfare of our local Jewish community and to help Jews in need nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Our goal is 100 percent membership.

Please plan on making a difference this year by becoming a member of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation by making a gift to the annual campaign for 2009. Gifting begins at \$18. Let us stand

"I encourage you to live generously, continue to support our community by being a member of your Greater Altoona Jewish Federation."

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

As the Talmud says, "I did not find the world desolate when I entered it; my fathers planted for me before I was born: so do I plant for those who come after me."

I hope you read this issue of L'Chaim from cover to cover, be enriched by great things happening in our community and become motivated to be involved and be proud to be Jewish.

I encourage you to live generously, continue to support our community by being a member of your Greater Altoona Jewish Federation.

Smile for the camera: The



Pam Pader shares a moment with Bonnie Gordon (left) and Genia Sommer at the fall hayride.



Hayriders include from left: Kelley Adler, Stella Adler, Sammy Sky, Emily Adler, Dana Sky.



The 125th anniversary of Agudath Achim Synagogue drew a large crowd. Emeritus Herbert Berger (center) was among the guests.



Andrea Cohen and daughter Allison couldn't be happier.



Morris Levine hugs his daughter Nancy.



It's time to sing. Among those performing from left: Anna Sinder, Mandy Sky, Ber... Samantha Bilofsky, Nate Scheinberg, Sa...

Jewish community in focus



crowd of over 100 members and friends in November. Rabbi



Jack Housman is flanked by Joe Lurie (left) and Rey Altberg.



Erica Binus (center) spends time with her brother David and his girlfriend, Julie Settle.



ing at Sunday School include, front row, n Sinder. Back row: Nima Chorny, am Sky and Ava Kline.



Abigail Simon (left) and Emily Knepp decorate the Sukkah at Temple Beth Israel.



Ronna Lasser and Dianne Rudel don't seem to be minding the absence of their husbands.



THE WAY WE WERE

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



1986 Hadassah Associate Life Members included (from left): Doug Simon, Jordan Bailing, Irv Seltzer, Andrew Katz, Neil Port, Ed Giller, Joel Hollander, Al Cohen, Steve Seltzer.



1967 Hadassah officers included (front row, from left): Sue Rosenberg, Norma Holzman, Myra Jubelirer. (Back row): Bernice Levinson, Paula Benjamin, Dee Karp, Blanche Kaminsky.

L'Chaim is interested in your Jewish picture archives. Please contact Bill Wallen if you have a picture that you would like to be considered for this page.



1969 Federation Advance Gifts Pacesetters included (from left): Edward Petsonk, E. S. Leopold, Howard Kenvin, Phil Klevan, Charles Klatzkin and Irvin Bregman.



Campaign '09 begins

Your Jewish Federation uses your annual gift to fund programs that make a difference in the lives of you neighbors. Your gift allows us to educate our children and provide Jewish cultural and educational experience/programs, such as our recent annual picnic and our Jewish Film Festival set to begin in February.

As we continue toward our goal of 100 percent membership we will soon unveil our new website as another way to educate, inform and grow our community. Your gift makes it clear that serving our seniors is important, and that a visible Jewish presence in our interfaith and secular community is needed.

The effects of the recent global economic downturn, massive fraud in the

investment world, and the continued attacks on Israel, have placed Jews and

Jewish support organizations under severe stress to meet the daily needs of our fellow Jews. We need to rise to this challenge and provide today as those have provided for us in the past.

Please plan on making a difference this year by becoming a member of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation by making a gift

to the annual campaign for 2009. Gifting begins at \$18.

Let us stand together as one, live generously, and be counted as a member of our community with your annual campaign gift. Please give generously, make a difference, and return your pledge card promptly.



Judy Meisel

Meisel set for April visit

Holocaust survivor/civil rights activist Judy Meisel will make her fourth visit to our area during the week of April 20-24. During her visits, she shares both her amazing story of survival and her work advocating for the rights of all people. Judy has spoken directly to over 7500 students in middle and high schools and colleges during her prior visits to Central PA.

She will be here during Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, and will be our special guest at the interfaith service in Altoona on Monday evening, April 20.

Judy's life story is beautifully chronicled in the award-winning documentary, Tak for Alt, which is Danish for "Thank You for Everything."

In her last visit, Judy alerted students about the genocide in Darfur and encouraged us to learn more about it and get involved. She will speak at Penn State Altoona, Juniata College and various schools in our area. For more details, contact the Federation office at 515-1182.

*Kol Yisrael Averim Zeh v Zeh -
Every Jew is Responsible for one another*

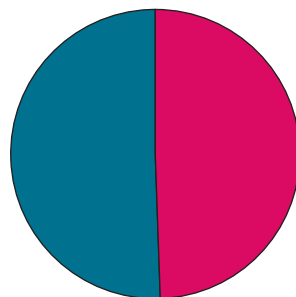
Allocations from '08 listed

LOCAL ALLOCATIONS

Celebrate Diversity	\$8268
Ecumenical Conference	
of Altoona - Interfaith	\$250
Family Community Education	\$200
Film Festival	\$3000
Holocaust Remembrance Program	\$500
Jewish Memorial Center	\$6000
Jewish Y.E.S.	\$7000
Juniata College/Spring Break	\$500
Newsletter	\$2600
Passport to Israel	\$300
Penn State/Juniata Outreach	\$500
SAMA - Shirley Goldfarb	\$1250
Social Activities/Community Building/Events	\$2500

INTER/NAT/STATE ALLOCATIONS

HIAS	\$1000
Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition	\$550
United Jewish Communities	\$72,000
Joint Distribution Committee (FSU)	\$10,000



Local – 49.5% (\$82,068)
Inter/Nat/State – 50.5% (\$83,550)

GRAND TOTAL - \$165,618



ISRAEL BONDS

Marcus touched by community recognition

At the recent annual bonds dinner, our community surprised Harold Marcus by honoring him for 20 years of service to Altoona.

Marcus was touched.

"I am reminded of just how fortunate I am to work in a profession that allows me to 'friend raise' as well as fundraise," he said. He thanked us for the warm welcome we always gave to him and his wife, Maxine, and appreciated the outpouring of love when she passed away last spring.

The dinner with a 1960s theme was held at the Casino and attended by over 80 people (see Federation website for pictures.) Entertainment was provided by Shalom Sherman, who had the crowd laughing throughout the evening.

Harold looks forward to continuing to serve our area, even though the Pittsburgh Bonds office has reduced staff, and he is the only professional located there. He thanks us for our continued support of Israel and wishes us all a 2009 filled with good health, happiness and peace.



Barbara Hollander presents an appreciation award to Harold Marcus at the local Israel Bonds dinner.

L'CHAIM MILESTONES



Michael Holzer and Heather Drier, flanked by parents Sue and Russ Holzer, were married Nov. 1 in St. Mary's.

Weddings

Mike Holzer and Heather Drier were married on Nov. 1 in St. Marys, PA. The ceremony was officiated by **Rabbi Burt Schuman**. Mike is the son of **Russell and Sue Holzer** and the grandson of **Norma Sevel**. They are now residing at 50 Seneca Avenue in Altoona.

Nikole Rudel and Greg Johnston, were married on Feb. 7 at the Blairmont Club in Hollidaysburg. Nikole is the daughter of **Dianne and Neil Rudel**. They reside in Hollidaysburg.

Engagements

Josh Patt and Genevieve Moyer became engaged in November 2008. He is the son of **Pam and Jules Patt** and grandson of **Bob Patt**.

Births

Harrison Daniel Cole Berman was born on Oct. 17, 2008, son of **Tina and Robert Berman** and grandson of **Janet and Jerry Wayne**.

Jessica Shiloh Handmaker was born on Aug. 15, 2008, daughter of **Brett and Alisa Handmaker** and granddaughter of **Sandi and Charles Kaminsky**.

Special birthdays

Bob Patt celebrated his 90th birthday on Jan. 15, 2008.

Shirley Pechter was honored on her birthday, Oct. 28 by becoming mayor for the day in Hollidaysburg followed by a reception and party with family and friends.

Recent B'nai Mitzvah

Ethan Knepp, son of **Sandra and David Knepp** and grandson of **Bobbi and Joel Weiss**, Oct. 24, 2008 at Temple Beth Israel.

Condolences

The **Dolinger family** on the death of **HR "Dick" Dolinger** of Cherry Hill, N.J. originally from Huntingdon.

The **Klevan family** on the death of **Dr. Karl J. Kaufman** of the Philadelphia area, originally from Altoona.

The **Aryev family** on the death of **Moshe**

Shalom Aryev, father of **Boris Aryev**. He resided in Bat Yam, Israel and was a Holocaust survivor of the Dauchau camp.

Paula and David Binus and their family on the death of Paula's mother, **Margaret "Maggie" Cooney**. She was an honorary member of Agudath Achim, where she frequently helped with catering and baking.



We remember them...

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

Rabbi Nathan Kaber

A Gentleman and a Scholar

On the 50th anniversary of his ordination, Rabbi Kaber stated "teaching by example is the heart of Judaism." He taught and lived by that high standard during his entire life. Rabbi was the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Israel for over 30 years and served as emeritus since his retirement in 1978. He taught three generations of our children and guided our adults according to Jewish ideals and principles. Rabbi Kaber was committed to the betterment of his community and was widely respected for his knowledge and ability. He participated in interfaith dialogues including a regular program on local TV. Kaber was active in Rotary and Red Cross and in the development of Mental Health and Aging Services in the community. He was one of the founders of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Blair County.

Rabbi was devoted to Irene, his wife of 56 years who died in 1998 and to his sons, Joel and David, as well as their families. Rabbi Kaber died on Dec. 26, 2008 at the age of 95. He will always be remembered for his grace and dignity by the thousands of people whose lives he touched and helped to guide.

Louis "Spider" Small

Lou Small, age 84, died on Jan. 27, 2009 in Altoona. He was an Altoona native who graduated from Altoona High in 1942 and lived and worked here his entire life. He first worked in his father's tailor shop next to Roosevelt Junior High and later for the PA Dept of Revenue.

Lou, along with his brothers Meyer and Fred and sister Sylvia, were the children of Henry and Minnie Small. They were a loving and religious family, active at Agudath Achim Congregation. Lou loved sports, especially basketball. He earned his nickname "Spider" because of his height and

good hands. He played for the AZA team and later officiated around our area. Lou was a faithful minyonaire and a devoted brother and uncle. He will be missed by his neighbors, friends and family.

Esther Thaler Nederlander

Esther, age 80, died on Dec. 12, 2008 in Altoona. She was a native of Windber, the daughter of Morris and Gertrude Thaler and sister of Helen and Bill. She married Nevin Nederlander in 1950 and was married for almost 54 years when he died in 2004. They had two daughters, Renee Marks and Sandra Weber, and four grandchildren.

Sandra passed away in 2007.

Esther retired as office manager and "top sergeant" for her brother's dental practice after 30 years of service. She was an active member of Agudath Achim, a devoted fan of Altoona High sports, a bowler at the JMC and a bingo player. She was a devoted wife, loving mother and proud grandmother.

Helen Kessler Rosch

Helen Rosch, age 91, died on Oct. 3, 2008, her late husband Bernard's birthday, in Altoona.

She was born in Czechoslovakia and came to New York City at age 3. She grew up in Brooklyn, remaining there until 1942 when she married Dr. Bernard Rosch and moved along with him to various Army bases where he was stationed in WWII. They later moved to Altoona, where he established his dental practice. Helen and Bernie had three children—Bill, Deborah and Leah, who all grew up in Altoona. Bernie died in 1983 after 41 years of marriage. Helen and Bernie were both deeply involved in

Agudath Achim Congregation. She was a board member, Sisterhood president and Hebrew teacher.

Helen committed her life to serving others in the community. She was a leader in Jewish organizations, including Hadassah and Israel Bonds and in general community programs including Altoona Hospital, Easter Seals and Home Nursing Agency.

Helen worked diligently to ensure compassionate care for individuals with terminal illnesses through helping to establish the Palliative Care Unit at Altoona Hospital and Hospice program at Home Nursing.

Helen was a loving mother, grandmother; friend, volunteer and community advocate who is missed by all.

Louis E. Leopold

Lou Leopold, age 86, died on Jan. 6, 2009 in his home in Hollidaysburg.

He was an Altoona native who graduated from Altoona High and the University of Pennsylvania. He did graduate work at the University of Chicago, the school for Asian Studies and The Hague.

He served in the Navy in WWII.

Lou originally worked in real estate and insurance before becoming a Political Science professor at Penn State Altoona. He focused his community life on political science, photography and heritage and was an activist for equal rights. He was a member of Temple Beth Israel.

Leopold wed Anna Shaffer, in 1947 and they were married for 61 years at the time of his death. He is also survived by two children, John and Louise, one granddaughter and two great grandchildren.

Lou was active in local politics and many historical and photographic societies. He was an avid writer, publishing many articles in historical publications and an avid photographer with pictures displayed in various magazines and journals.



Rabbi Kaber



Ester
Nederlander



Helen Rosch



Lou Leopold



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News & "Chailights" of The Greater Altoona Jewish Community
February 2009 edition

L'Chaim!



Purim Carnival

Sunday March 8,
10:15 a.m. - noon
at the JMC.

Come and join the Sunday school kids to make this a real Jewish community celebration. There will be booths, a costume parade, purim craft table, fortune telling and fun. Lunch catered by the Casino will be available. See you there.

