



L'Chaim!

January 2006
Issue No. 12
Federation: 940-6001
E-mail:
altfed@atlanticbb.net

News & "Chailights" of The Greater Altoona Jewish Community

Casino to host Super party

A Federation tradition will be extended on Sunday, Feb. 5 with the seventh annual Super Bowl party.

This year's event will be held at The Casino at Lakemont.

The game kicks off at 6:20 p.m. and our doors open at 5:30 p.m. Jason Kivitz will again handle the pool. No one is too young to be the winner; just ask David Katz, the winner in 2004.

Past Federation president Neil Rudel, who helps to coordinate the event,

believes this will be the biggest and best yet.

"The Super Bowl party is one of the popular annual events we've done," he said. "It's becoming a fixture, something that people in the community from all generations enjoy."

Federation executive director Bill



Wallen pointed out the party has attracted more than 100 people in each of the last three years.

This year's menu includes a giant tuna sub, salad, vegetarian chili, baked pasta, deserts and drinks. Appetizers will be available at 5:30 p.m. with a buffet-style dinner at 6 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per adult and children 12 and under are free. For reservations, call the Federation at 940-6001 or e-mail to altfed@atlanticbb.net.

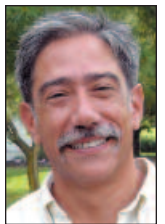
Mission accomplished



Neil Port embraces two young children whose families were victimized by Hurricane Katrina. Neil and his wife, Mickey, spent three weeks in Baton Rouge. Read about their experience on Page 5.

Tomor takes Federation presidency

(Editor's note: Michael Tomor was sworn in as president of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation in August. L'Chaim congratulates Michael on his appointment with full confidence that he'll do an outstanding job. Following is a first-person account of his vision and goals for his new position).



Michael Tomor

When I agreed to take on the responsibilities of Board President of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation, I knew the tasks would be carried out by a terrific executive committee, including Roz Sky, Michael Cohen, Mickey Port, Marilyn Muhlfelder, Len Zimmerman, Kathy Henderson and our past president, Neil Rudel. Without each, I would not be moving forward at the moment with such ease.

Each of us is absolutely committed to

Continued on Page 10



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Around the community

By Bill Wallen

Comings and goings

Yes, we do have some new members of the community!

Robin Reese has joined the faculty at **Penn State Altoona** in the theater department. She is a member of Actors Equity and was outstanding in the recent production of **Last Night of Ballyhoo**.

Sharon Slack and her son, **Andrew**, are new to the area. Sharon is an artist and cousin of **Irv Seltzer**. They are new members of Temple Beth Israel.

Dr. Peter Wytcoff has joined **Dr. Jack Schocker** in his radiation oncology practice and is a new member of Agudath Achim Congregation.

Dr. Robert Altman and his wife, **Eva**, moved to our area at the end of the summer. Bob is a psychiatrist who works at the prison in Huntingdon.

Harry Hansel has moved back to New York to be close to his daughter.

Jack and Helen Edelman, who moved to California, would appreciate hearing from their old friends. Their address is Sterling Oaks Apartment 152, 100 Sterling Oaks Drive, Chico, CA 95928.

Best wishes to **Phil and Sandy Singer**, who have moved to the Philadelphia area to be closer to their family.

Travels and missions

Jerry Zolten participated in a mission to Cuba at the end of December with his brother and a congregation from Philadelphia. They visited five Jewish congregations, three in Havana and two in the countryside. Jerry took a significant amount of medical supplies donated by **Morley Cohn** and **Kopp Drug**. He will talk about and show us a film of their experiences at an adult education program later this year.

Susan Karp went to Cuba with a B'nai B'rith mission and will also be sharing her experiences with us as well.

Rachel Hollander just left for a semester in Israel as part of her studies at George Washington University.

Mickey and Neil Port spent three weeks as Red Cross volunteers in a shelter

in Baton Rouge, LA. You can read about their experiences on Page 5 of L'Chaim.

Tikkun Olan

Yasher Koach to the **Tikkun Olan** committee of **Temple Beth Israel** and the entire Jewish community for preparing and serving a full course turkey dinner at the Love Feast at Simpson Temple on Dec. 24.

Marilyn Muhlfelder, Annette Shaw and **Carolyn Wallen** co-chaired the committee and over 40 adult and child volunteers were involved in preparing the dinner. More than 125 were served, and another 40-50 meals were sent home. Thanks to all who donated their time and money. It was truly a mitzvah for our community to come together on the morning of Christmas Eve.

Rob and Tera Herman coordinated an outstanding community effort in resettling four families into the Altoona area who had lost their homes due to Hurricane Katrina. Many members of our Jewish and general community helped – thanks to all.

In the news

Did you see the recent feature article on **Eric Kline** in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette? Eric is the brother of **Dr. Michael Kline** and grew up in Hollidaysburg. He is currently a Pittsburgh attorney specializing in helping young entrepreneurial companies. A copy of the article is available from the Federation office.

A letter from **Norma Sevel** appeared in the most recent B'nai B'rith magazine. She commented on a recent feature article on "The New Jew" and suggested that her grandson, **Dan Holzer**, was an excellent representation of the new young Jewish male. Dan is a student at West Virginia University and a member of the National Guard.

Rabbi Burt Schuman wrote an excellent article on his experiences in Altoona for the most recent issue of Reform

Judaism. Can anyone identify his two fishing buddies? You can be sure Rabbi did not do much fishing while growing up in New York City.

Rabbi has announced he will not be returning to Temple Beth Israel after his current contract expires this summer. Plans are in the works to honor him and his tenure here. Stay tuned for details.

Yasher Koach to **Neil Port, Steve Port, Phil Sky** and **Don Devorris** on acquiring **DELTA Health Technologies** and further developing home health software programs. The original Delta computer company was founded by the Sky and Port families in 1968.

Yom Huledet Sameach

Best wishes to **Ed Petsonk** on the celebration of his 90th birthday. Ed, along with his children **Judy, Lee, Annie** and **Andy**, visited Altoona as part of his birthday week.

Mazel Tov to **Marion Lebendig** on the celebration of her milestone birthday.



Ed Petsonk

New star in Town

Welcome to *The Jewish Star*, the new publication of the **Altoona Jewish Community Sunday School**.

Their first issue was printed in December 2005. Articles were written by each class and the layout was coordinated by **Kara Schmidt, Kathryn Schmidt, Brittany Thaler** and **Anna Katz**. Additional copies are available from the Federation office. The next issue will be published in the spring.

'Rhoda' visits Pittsburgh

Valerie Harper, the former "Rhoda" in the **Mary Tyler Moore** show, is starring in **Golda's Balcony**, a story about **Golda Meir**. It's scheduled for Pittsburgh's Byham Theater from April 25-May 7.

The Federation will sponsor a bus trip for the Sunday matinee on May 7, if there is enough interest. Cost of a ticket and the bus will be around \$50/person. Call the office at 940-6001 if you're interested.



Eric Kline



Dan Holzer



THE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL IS HERE!



WONDROUS OBLIVION - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

106 minutes, English (made in the United Kingdom) 2003

David Wiseman, a young Jewish boy living in London in the 1960's, loves the game of cricket and struggles to become good at it. When a Jamaican family moves in next door and builds a cricket net in their backyard, David gets some real coaching from the father, Dennis, played by Delroy Lindo of "Get Shorty" and "The Cider House Rules." But his friendship with Dennis and his daughter Judy tests the bounds of tolerance in David's neighborhood, where both blacks and Jews are not welcome. Filled with the sounds of calypso, reggae and ska that brightened London's drab streets in the 1960's. Wondrous Oblivion was voted "Best Feature" at the 2004 Boston Jewish Film Festival. Dinner at the Heritage Center will be catered by The Casino and Snappy Chef and begins at 6:00pm. The film begins at 7:30pm.

PROTOCOLS OF ZION - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

93 minutes, Documentary, English (Made in the United States) 2005

Marc Levin gives us an explosive exploration of resurgent anti-Semitism in the wake of September 11th in Protocols of Zion. Levin's film draws its inspiration from an encounter he had in a New York taxi not long after 9/11, in which his driver, an Egyptian immigrant, made the disturbing claim that the Jews had been warned not to go to work at the World Trade Center on the day of the attack. He then said that "it's all written in the book," referring to "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a notorious forgery created 100 years ago this year, reporting to be the Jews' master plan to rule the world. Long ago, discredited as a fake, "The Protocols" was a crucial influence on Hitler, and has fueled hatred, violence, and ultimately genocide through the first half of the twentieth century. Dinner at SAMA will be catered by the Phoenix and begins at 6:00pm. The film begins at 7:30pm.



ROSENSTRASSE - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

136 minutes, German and English (made in Germany and The Netherlands) 2003

A moving testament to a handful of Aryan women, including the aristocratic Lena, who secured the release of their Jewish husbands, saving them from deportation to the East and certain death. As the story shuttles from present day New York to Berlin (past and present), the story unfolds as one young woman attempts to understand her mother's seemingly erratic behavior after the death of her beloved husband, and comes to understand the terrible events which shaped her mother's life. Based on a true story, which occurred in Berlin during 1943. Dinner at the Heritage Center will be catered by Paula Binus and begins at 6:00pm. The film begins at 7:30pm.

WALK ON WATER - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

104 minutes, Hebrew, English, Spanish (made in Israel and Berlin) 2004

Eyal, a hit man for Mossad is given the mission to track down the very old Alfred Himmelman, an ex Nazi officer, who might be still alive. Pretending to be a tourist guide he befriends his grandson Axel, in Israel to visit his sister. He wants to convince her to come back to Germany for their fathers birthday party. The two men set out on an extended tour of the country during which, Axel's frank and open attitude challenges Eyal's rigid, clichéd values. Their friendship grows until he learns of Axel's homosexuality. With this final straw he leaves. To finish his mission Eyal has to go to Germany. He meets Axel once more and succeeds in being invited to the family party where secrets will be revealed. Dinner at SAMA will be catered by Michael's Cafe and begins at 6:00pm. The film begins at 7:30pm.



Call The Greater Altona Jewish Federation at 940-6001 for reservations or for more information.



L' CHAIM PROFILE

Cohens embrace community

Name: Andrea and Michael Cohen

Residence: Hollidaysburg

Family: Allison (13), Scott (11), and Mackey the dog (3)

Education: Andrea is a graduate of Altoona Area High School and Syracuse University. Michael grew up in Rockville, Md and is a graduate of Emory University and earned his certificate in Periodontology at the University of Maryland Dental School. Michael also completed his dental residency at Prince George's Medical Center.

Occupation: Andrea is a vice president of real estate management and development for The Blair Companies. Michael is a dental specialist in the practice of periodontics.

Congregation: Agudath Achim

Interests: Family activities, vacation, community building, meeting people and friends through our children's activities, cooking (Andrea), eating (Michael), biking, exercise and walking the dog

Community Involvement: Andrea is a director at Penn-Mont Academy. She is a past president of Penn-Mont. Michael is treasurer for the Altoona Area Youth Ice Hockey Association. He is a past president of Blair County Dental Society. Michael is head hockey coach for the Altoona Trackers, Mid-State Mustangs and Hollidaysburg Junior High.

Jewish community involvement: Andrea is a director of Agudath Achim. She is a past president of the Agudath Achim Sisterhood. Michael is treasurer for the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation. He is a director and past president of Agudath Achim.

Early Jewish memories: Corned beef (good) and gefilta fish/chopped liver/lox (bad). Family simchas and Passover sedars.

Jewish influences: Parents and family reunions in Des Moines, Iowa and East Orange, N.J. Transitioning from living in a non-Jewish neighborhoods to attending colleges with a large number of New York Jews, who all went to summer camp together, and living in Jewish sorority (Andrea) and fraternity (Michael) houses.

Jewish community pride: Our Jewish community has amazing strength and vitality considering our size and location. We have



Michael and Andrea Cohen respect the community's past and are optimistic about its future.

a rich history and tradition. We are blessed with our friendships within the Jewish community and especially pleased with our friendships that cross generations. Our community, like our people, is measured by our quality as opposed to our quantity. We hope our leadership efforts have and will inspire our peers and future generations as much as our parents' and grandparents' generations have inspired us.

Our Jewish community vision: Despite the strength of our past and all we have accomplished, we live in an uncertain present and a more uncertain future. The secular community continues to divide and demand upon our Jewish identity both locally and around the world. Our community will continue to shrink in numbers and resources. The only way our community will continue to thrive will be to embrace programs like the Federation's campaign 100 percent. Each individual and family needs to contribute. We can all contribute – either in a leadership role, by participating in programs, events or by attendance of religious services. The strength of our past can also be an impediment to our future. Strength of a community often necessitates the suppression of individual agendas and being able to compromise for the benefit of the greater good. The pulse of any Jewish heart is a minyan or community.



PERSPECTIVE

Lending a hand in Baton Rouge

By Mickey Port

On October 15, 2005, Neil and I arrived in Baton Rouge to begin our journey as volunteers for the American Red Cross to help in the relief effort for the Hurricane Katrina victims.

We completed a 20-hour course to prepare us for the work we would be doing in Louisiana. It included general information about disaster relief procedures, mass care, CPR and first aid, interviews and background checks.

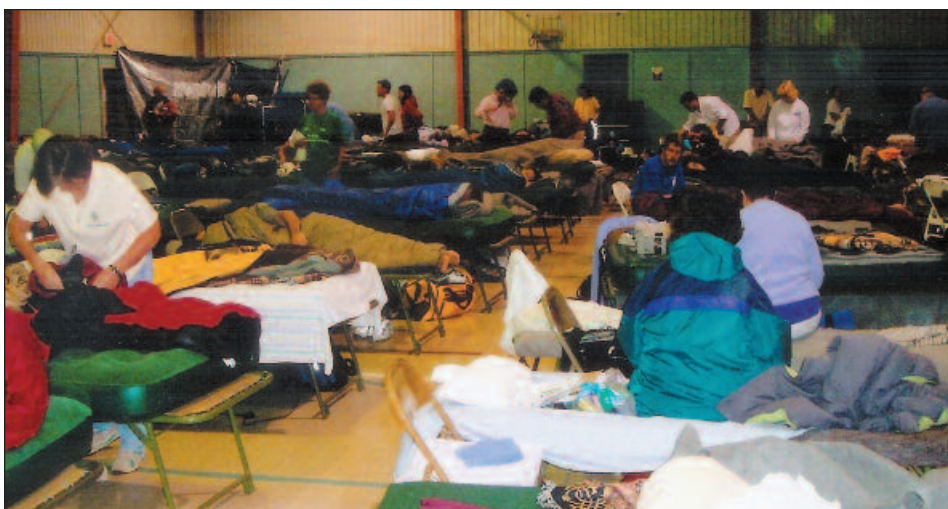
We were assigned to the F.G. Clark Shelter located at Southern University in Baton Rouge. Southern is the largest black university in the nation and sits on the banks of the Mississippi River. The shelter was in the basketball dome. The shelter originally held 600 rescued folks, and when we arrived, they were down to 200 people. They were side by side, cot by cot; it was difficult to imagine how they managed with 600 people.

Most of our residents were from the 9th Ward in New Orleans. Most were black, working poor, single parents, older seniors, single men and folks with mental health issues. Many had hypertension, diabetes, dental problems and generally were in poor health. Depression was prevalent — they had lost everything and had little hope of returning to the life they once had. Many had lost relatives and friends. Their stories of being rescued and the days following the hurricane were compelling. Many had been in two shelters prior to ours and felt abandoned.

At the time we arrived, it was made clear to us that the hope would be to place these people in transitional housing. It was important to let these folks know that they would have a decent place to live. FEMA was providing trailers and mobile homes for our residents.

Some of our folks found housing in different states, but most wanted desperately to return to New Orleans. They were offered trailers and mobile homes in Baton Rouge.

Much of my time was spent helping people complete applications for funding



These are the quarters at Southern University where the Ports stayed.

and housing, applying for Medicaid and helping to find jobs. There were others that we had to find housing for — those who were mentally and emotionally challenged. We also had to find medical and social services to help the elderly. I worked with a team of case managers.

Neil began as a front-door security person. His role was to make certain only designated people and our residents were to enter the shelter. He was surrounded by armed professional security guards. He was in a delicate situation, keeping the right people in and the wrong people out. After a week or so, he was promoted to the facility manager. That was a job to keep the facility, the shelter, clean, safe and habitable. I worked for him in the mornings. We would mop, take out garbage, serve food, help at snack bar, fold laundry, etc. We never stopped during the day.

After a 13-hour day, we would head to our shelter, or if fortunate, dinner out. We were housed in two shelters; the first was a Methodist shelter, cot by cot, of 75-100 volunteers. We lived out of our suitcases, usually wearing whatever was on top. The Methodist shelter had indoor showers, but the Catholic shelter we moved to had outdoor showers. Lights were on for everyone at 6 a.m. and lights off at 10 p.m.

Neil and I did get a day off and went to New Orleans with friends we had made

and with a cousin of Neil's who lives in Baton Rouge. We saw the destruction first-hand and where our residents had lived. It was eerie. The streets were deserted except for National Guardsmen. The houses were for the most part standing but ravaged by the water and the mold. There were ruined cars, rusted bicycles, overturned trees and rubble. It was the quiet that was so frightening.

Our experience was terrific. We met wonderful people, both volunteers and residents. The volunteers were from all over and of all ages. Some had left their spouses at home to watch kids and work; others were people who were given leave from their jobs, and young college kids giving of themselves.

We had nurses and mental health professionals who were invaluable to the well-being of our residents. They left families and work to help. All in all, we saw a slice of our Americans who demonstrated goodness, caring and mindfulness for those in need.

Looking back at our experience, we agreed that it was good. It was hard physically and emotionally, but we were glad we did it, and we would volunteer again in the face of another disaster.

(Mickey and Neil Port are both past Federation presidents and long-standing leaders of the Jewish community).



Smile for the camera: The



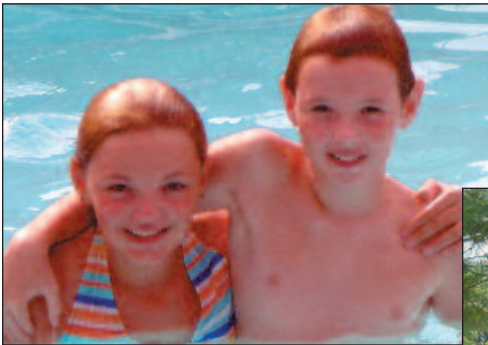
The Gordon family — Bonnie, Bob and Jake.



Mike Kline is caught in the act.



Reprints of this picture of Henry Weinberg are being sold at the Agudath Achim Next to New Sale. Byron Lasser has opened the bidding at \$100.



Caroline and Aaron Pielmeier emerge.



Adam Rudel was proud of his Miami shirt until the Hurricanes were blown out by LSU in the Peach Bowl.



Roz Sky and Maxine Weinberg.



The afternoon was well-received by, from left: Steve and Michael.



A trip to the injured list didn't stop Mildred Miller from holding court with Nima Chorney and Genia Sommer.

Thanks to the

The Federation's annual summer trip to the home of Allen Kivitz and the camera was busy shooting members of the community enjoying each other's company. Thanks to Allen and

Jewish community in focus



Andy Sky and Ava Kline.



Larry and Terry Primack.



The ever-photogenic Ilissa Zimmerman and son Grant.



The Eiman family.



Ille Schmidt, Erika Schmidt, Dave Binus and Brent and Carol Pielmeier.



Will the real Mrs. Lasser please confess?

Kivitz family

er barbeque drew 110 people
d Vicky Sommer. Smile for
many members of our Jewish
r and the terrific hospitality
d Vicky.



Ed and Adele Giller are all smiles.



Mike and Reina Dudley.



L'CHAIM MILESTONES

WEDDINGS

Andrew Katz and Cindy Keppler –
September 8, 2005
Gary Feldman and Reva Schulman
– December 17, 2005

BIRTHS

Abigail Scheinberg, daughter of
Michael and Chrissy and first grand-
daughter of Essie Scheinberg

Greyson King Morris, son of Greg
and Shannon Morris, born
December 29, 2005

Blake, Annabella and Casey Granata,
triplets born to Nicole and Tat
Granata. These are the 1st grandchil-
dren for Sherry and Don Brett.

June Elizabeth Kaplan-Mayer,
daughter of Gabrielle and Fred
Kaplan-Mayer and first granddaugh-
ter of Lynn and Steve Kaplan

TRIBUTE

Ethel Kaufman, A woman for all seasons

Mrs. Ethel Richen Kaufman, 97, died on November 5, 2005 at home following a brief illness. She was born in New York City and later moved to Uniontown where she was on her high school basketball team and was valedictorian of her senior class.

Ethel graduated from music school in Chicago, became an accomplished piano teacher and accompanist and developed a lifelong love of music. She married Nathan Kaufman in 1927 and was his business and life partner for over 55 years until his death in 1982. They initially lived in Morgantown, W.Va. and then moved to Altoona in the mid-1940s.

Ethel was an active and vital member of Temple Beth Israel for over 60 years. She delighted in greeting all new members and welcoming them to the community. In 1991, she was recognized for her contributions to the Temple and the Reform movement with a scroll of honor from the

Pennsylvania Council of URJ.

Ethel was a great advocate for children with physical and developmental disabilities, dating back to the 1930s when she helped form the first March of Dimes chapter in Morgantown. She was also active in Hadassah, the Altoona Symphony League and many other community organizations.

"Nanny" Kaufman loved children and was especially proud of the accomplishments of her own grandchildren. Her grandson, Ira, in his loving eulogy, stated that her greatest gift was helping people feel good about themselves in whatever big or small things that they were doing.

Rabbi Schuman added that in accordance with Pirkel Avot, she always greeted others "with a kindly countenance" and judged them "on the side of merit."

Ethel will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren and her extended Temple and community family.



Ethel Kaufman

We also remember...

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

Lewis Weinstein, 85, died on August 25, 2005 in Miami Beach, Fla., where he resided for many years. Lewis was a native of Altoona and grew up at the Weinstein homestead at 1803 14th Avenue. He left Altoona to join the Army in 1942 and served in the military police in France, England and Iceland for six years. Upon discharge, he worked for the PRR and later for the Philadelphia Eagles as the assistant equipment manager. The team became his extended family. Lewis enjoyed sports and playing basketball with his brother, Marty, and his friends on the Golden Eagles. He is remembered by his family as a "good old fashioned soul" and is sadly missed by Marty, niece and nephew Judy and Phillip and grand nieces Krystle and Miranda. He is buried at the Florida National Cemetery.

Lottie Bavar, 90, died on October 19, 2005. She was one of five children born in the Fifth Ward of Altoona to Bessie and Michael Bavarsky. Lottie graduated from Altoona High School and was a member of Agudath Achim Congregation. She is remembered fondly and sadly missed by her brother, Louis Bavar.



Weinstein

Alana Marie Gould, beloved 4-month-old daughter of Sam Gould and Lauren Callahan, died unexpectedly from SIDS at her home in Edwardsville, PA on Friday morning, December 23, 2005. She was born in Nason Hospital, Roaring Spring on August 24, 2005. Her smile and her laughter brought joy forever to the world and to all her family! In addition to her parents, she is survived by paternal grandparents Barry and Cathy Gould of Altoona and maternal grandparents Paul and Doretta Shelley of Wilkes-Barre, along with many loving aunts and uncles and cousins. The family requests that contributions be made to the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation: Alana Marie Gould Fund, 1308 17th Street Altoona, PA 16601.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Dr. Mark Lipitz and family on the death of Mark's father, Leonard Lipitz.

Dr. Steve Schmidt and family on the death of Steve's mother, Ruth Schmidt.

Don Devorris and family on the death of Don's stepmother, Bea Devorris.

Kara Bilofsky and family on the death of Kara's father, Edward Glickman.



THE WAY WE WERE

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



JMC Ladies Bowling League, circa 1963, Row 1: Molly Preiss, Rosie Rosefsky, Rosie Karp, Esther Nederlander, Ruth Karp, Carol Greenwalt, Libby Getz (Mrs. Meyer), Unknown, Row 2: Esther Bloom, Blanche Savitz, Marsha Linn, Libby Getz, Eleanor Grossman, Helen Edelman, Unknown, Unknown, Ethel Fried. If anyone has information regarding the unknown individuals, please call the Federation office.



Members of the JMC softball team, approximately 1960, included Jack Schmitt, Hymie Adelman, Allen Karp, Allen Goldberg, Ronnie Getz, Joe Silverman, Phil Sky, Hersh Kranitz, Joel Cohen. L'Chaim is currently researching the team's record.



Federation launches Campaign 100%

By Michael Cohen

The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation is excited to announce Campaign 100% for the coming year. The goal of Campaign 100% is for every Jewish resident of the greater Altoona area to become a member of our Federation in 2006.

Last year, our Board of Directors voted to approve a resolution requiring all board of directors contribute to the annual campaign. Our Executive Committee and Board feel that we should extend this goal to the entire Jewish community.

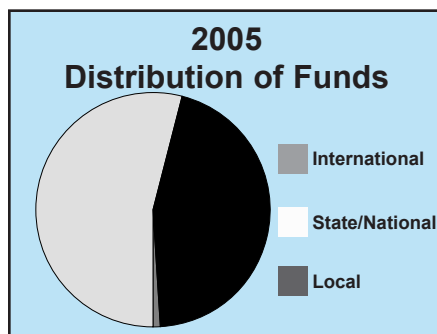
Campaign 100% is a lofty goal, but our Executive Committee feels that there will be many advantages from this effort. In addition to greater funding for Federation programming and event sponsorship, this campaign should be a great community-building activity.

Our recent demographic profile our community found that of the 214 Jewish family units in our area, 11% are not affiliated with any local Jewish organization and 40% are not members of the Federation, as they do not contribute to our annual campaign.

While many non-Federation members attend Federation-sponsored events, such as the February Jewish Film Festival, our annual Super Bowl party, or the summer barbeque party, the board feels reaching out to the every Jew in our community would strengthen our community and lead toward increased Jewish solidarity.

With religious programming at Agudath Achim and Temple Beth Israel as well as secular activities in our community, we often forget the significant role our Federation provides for the Jewish community.

Each year our Federation is playing a greater role in to strengthen and preserve Jewish life in our community. Our Federation is actively involved in enhancing our children and teens thru the Altoona Community Sunday School, YES – Youth Experience Scholarships for Jewish summer camps and Passport to Israel.



Our Federation is taking the lead in social, cultural and educational programs for adults and families thru the Annual International Jewish Film Festival, Super Bowl party, Summer BBQ Party, Annual Holocaust Remembrance program, and sponsorship of trips to the National Holocaust Museum, the Library of Congress and a recent trip to Baltimore.

Our Federation provides newsletters, Being Jewish and L'Chaim. Our Federation

strives to meet the needs of our seniors with the Adult Social Club and Senior Outreach. Our Federation is involved in interfaith activities to maintain a strong Jewish presence in our community through Celebrate Diversity, the Jewish Memorial Center, PSU Altoona Outreach, and educational programs to schools and community groups.

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

To have 100% membership would further strengthen our community for the benefit of all. Having all Greater Altoona Jews belong to one organization would help to ensure our future as we go l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation.

If you believe in preserving Judaism in our community, you need to be a member of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation. Bill Wallen will contact each of you individually by the end of the year for their pledge.

Your every consideration is appreciated to help us succeed with Campaign 100%.

(Editor's note: Cohen is the treasurer of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation).

New president urges commitment

Continued from Page 1

make the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation the gateway to the Jewish community at large. It is our hope and wish that the Federation reaches every Jew in the community, and we can only do that with your participation.

This month, this quarter, or this year may or may not be the exact time for you to participate in Jewish learning or as much Jewish learning as you would like. It may or may not be the year for you to financially support the Federation's mission to help Israel and our Jewish community to the degree that you had hoped. But we want you to be involved just the same.

Start or renew your commitment now to what will become a greater part of your life or the life of a family member in the future. Start or renew your commitment to the Federation now because it was or will be important to someone you know or love. Jewish learning may not be part of your life now, but it is part of someone's world today. They cannot make it happen without you, and you cannot have tomorrow what you don't help support today.

I have no children or family in this community. My Jewish history in this community is only 11 years old. But I know that if it wasn't for the Jewish community of my hometown, I would

not be able to understand the significance of giving back to Altoona today. And if it wasn't for you when I came to this community, I wouldn't be part of something so terrific. It's not about me – it's about the Jewish community. Without it, we will all be a little less than who we are today.

Please call me directly; speak with an executive committee member or member of the board; call Bill Wallen, the director of the Federation. We want to hear from you, we want you to participate in the programs and we want to be a part of the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation.

Sincerely, Michael



'05 contributors listed

Thanks to all individuals and families who contributed to the 2005 campaign. Through your help, we are enhancing Jewish life in our own community as well as saving and protecting Jewish lives in Israel and in 57 other countries.

The 2005 campaign total was \$181,859. There were 138 contributors, of which 21 were new and 46 increased their pledges.

Clark & Kim Adelman
Hy Adelman
Reynold Altberg
Morris Antikol
Jay & Deborah Arlick
Jordan Bailing
Mitzi Bailing
Gary & Mina Belenitsky
Elliott & Kara Bilofsky
David & Paula Binus
Howard & Roxanne Black
Larry & Mary Ann Bloom
Charles & Pat Campbell
Michael & Andrea Cohen
Carol Cohn
Morley Cohn
Bernard & Ruth Covitch
Philip & Colleen Devorris
Donald Devorris
Nancy Devorris
David & Jean Dolinger
Arthur Fishbaine
Myra & Ken Germane
Melvin & Judy Getz
Edward & Adele Giller
Jakob & Anne Golant
Terry Goldstein
Robert & Bonnie Gordon
Jeff & Madelyn Greenberg
Eleanor Grossman
Andrew & Nancy Gurman
David & Sandra Halpern
Edward & Harriett Hand
Jeanne Heinbaugh
Kathy Henderson
Edward Henderson

Tera Herman
Robert Herman
Joel & Barbara Hollander
Susan & Russell Holzer
Jack & Janet Housman
Alfred & Anita Hurwitz
Robert & Renee Jubelirer
Melvin & Sissy Kadane
Charles & Sandy Kaminsky
Stephen & Lynn Kaplan
Rosie Karp
Rick & Sue Karp
Susan Katz
Charles & Ellen Kivitz
Alan & Vicki Kivitz
Michael & Betsy Kline
David & Sandra Knepp
Bess Lang
Ronna Lasser
Byron Lasser
Marion Lebendig
Betty Lenson
Louis & Anna Leopold
Morris Levine
Howard & Bernice
Levinson
Shirley Levinson
Mark & Carol Lipitz
Joseph & Hilda Lurie
Scott & Sue Marlowe
Marvin & Judi Sue Meisner
Mildred Miller
Charlotte Morris
Greg & Shannon Morris
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Barry Newborn
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& Zachary Zollman
Jay & Mary Eiman
Jerry & Joyce Zolten
David & Betsy Patt
Linda Charom
Klatzen Foundation
Marvin & Carol Goldberg

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 5	5:30 p.m. Super Bowl party at the Casino
Feb 13	Tu B'Shevat
March 5	10 a.m. Purim Carnival at JMC
March 14	Purim
April 12	Passover first Seder
April 13-20	Passover
April 25	Yom Hashoah
May 2	Yom Ha Zikaron
May 3	Yom Ha Atzmaut
May 16	Lag B Omer
May 21	10 a.m. Last day of Sunday School Maccabean games at JMC
May 25	7 p.m. Community Memorial service
Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah	
March 18	Kevin Allen 10 a.m. TBI
April 8	Hayley Rosen 10 a.m. TBI
April 29	Daniel Henderson 9:30 a.m. AAC
May 6	Robert Marlowe 9:30 a.m. TBI
June 10	Wesley Kafka 10 a.m. TBI

L'Chaim!

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Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

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Spanier heading mission

■ **Local Federation will be well represented.**

Pennsylvania State University President Graham Spanier will lead the Central Pennsylvania mission to Israel from June 11-19.

The Pennsylvania State Network Mission will draw participants from UJC's network of small Independent Communities of Pennsylvania.

The mission will provide meaningful and intensive exposure to the culture, politics and people of Israel, issues facing the global Jewish community, and to programs and projects supported by those who contribute to UJC.

The tour of Israel will include visits to Caesaria, the Roman capital of Israel for nearly 600 years; Safed, a major center of Kabala since the 16th century; and Beit Shean, site of a recently excavated

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major Roman city. Participants will spend five days in and around the holy city of Jerusalem; tour Masada, King Herod's legendary hilltop fortress where a small band of Jewish zealots resisted a prolonged siege after the Roman destruction of the second Temple in 70 BCE; and visit Tel Aviv, Israel's metropolis of one million people and the first modern Jewish city.

Cost of the mission is \$2,699 per person (double occupancy) and includes international flights, five-star luxury hotel lodging, most meals, seven days of

touring and professional guides. For those making their own flight arrangements the land cost is \$1,310.

For more information on the Pennsylvania State Network Mission, contact Bill Wallen at the Federation office, 940-6001 or altfed@atlanticbb.net.

Join with your friends from Altoona for an experience you will never forget. Already registered are Bruce, Phyllis, Brittany and Mark Thaler, Ed and Adele Giller, Byron and Ronna Lasser and Bill Wallen.

Won't you join us?