

Ivriah Students Donate to Haitian Relief Fund



Students from the Ivriah, the combined religious school of Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel, are pictured above presenting a \$360.00 check to Flint Jewish Federation Vice-President Richard Harris for the Federation's Haitian Relief Fund. The Ivriah students voted to use their "tzedakah" money for that purpose. Members of the Federation Board of Directors were so moved by our children's effort that many decided that they could do no less, thereby increasing the children's effort many fold! Pictured above are: (back row l. to r.) Aaron Rozin, Michael Bernard, Ben Walters, Ashlyn McDonald. (Middle row) Dahlia Kassel, Grace Hoffman, Maxwell Schaffer, Clayton Moody, Ben Gottlieb. (Front row) Hudson Hotary, Phillip Griffel, and Colby Mitchell.

Sixth Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival is Around the Corner

It won't be too long before spring, good weather and the Sixth Annual Jewish Film Festival named in memory of Karen Schneider who was its first chair person and helped bring the film festival to Flint.

This year we will again partner with the Flint Institute of Arts and the Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival. By highlighting Jewish identity, history and culture, these independent films offer our community the chance to learn about ourselves and our extended family.

This year the film festival will kick off with a Patron Reception and Movie "A Matter of Size" on Thursday evening, April 29 at the Flint Institute of Arts. The remainder of the films will be shown May 3-6.

Patron support for the film festival is \$180 which includes 2 festival passes and names listed in the event brochure (if received by March 12).

Chairing this year's committee is Judy Biesman who has been co-chair in previous years. Serving on the committee are: Ed Bradley, Rabbi Karen Companez, James Griffel, Leonard Meizlish, Sheila Morgan, Beth Riseman, Linda Roberts, Sherin Sandy, Shelley Spivack, Mitchell Weiss and Vicki Winston.

The Film Festival is staffed by Lynda Yeotis, Executive Director of Jewish Community Services and Gary Alter, Executive Director at the Flint Jewish Federation.

Jewish Federation Haitian Relief Fund Update

The Jewish Federation movement has raised more than \$4.8 million for Haiti relief efforts since a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the island nation.

As Federations continue to raise funds for Haiti, The Jewish Federations of North America is working with the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR) to monitor allocations and coordinate efforts among Jewish organizations. Since our last Haiti aid report, the JCDR has begun partnering with the Chabad movement to provide humanitarian assistance in Haiti. Chabad in the Dominican Republic is coordinating the purchase of food and basic necessities and arranging trucking to Haiti, with assistance from Surfuturo, a local NGO, and the United Nations.

The Flint Jewish Federation has received \$3,114 from the Jewish and general community to date for Haitian Relief.

The Jewish Federations of North America and many individual Federations are also sending donations directly to our overseas partner, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which has launched "No Passport Required," a website which carries on-the-scene reports from Haiti.

JDC recently announced a mobile giving campaign. Donors can text 'JDCHAITI' to 8-5-9-4-4 to give \$10 via mobile phone. The campaign is being sponsored by Havana Central of New York and donors Linda and Jeremy Merrin, who have offered to match mobile donations dollar for dollar up to a designated amount. Your \$10 donation is instantly doubled to \$20. This is a quick and easy way to make a difference.




Need tickets for the Sixth Annual Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival?

Look for details in the upcoming issues of the Reporter and the Film Festival Brochure.

Twenty To Participate In Israel Mission

The Flint Jewish Federation Israel Mission, leaving on April 17 and returning on April 27, will have twenty participants. A full schedule has been planned by mission coordinator, Diane Lindholm working with the Jewish Federations of North America. The mission will be in Israel for Israel Independence Day, and will spend time in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and several days in northern Israel. "There is never enough time to do all the things that we want to do" according to Lindholm, "but we will have a very extensive itinerary and save a few things for the next trip", she concluded. Diane has been to Israel over 40 times and is well qualified to serve as mission leader. For further information call the Flint Jewish Federation at 810-767-5922.



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The Journey Home by Madeline McDonald

Standing at the Western Wall it finally hit me, "wow, I'm actually here I've made it home", and the sense of belonging was overwhelming. I had been hearing welcome home all week, from the members of the kibbutzim to the soldiers passing by in the streets, but I hadn't actually thought about what it meant. What does it truly mean to be home? I've always thought that home meant family and a place that is familiar to you, a comfortable place to return to at night, so how could I feel at home in this place that I had only known for a few

days, a place so far away from my friends and family? I thought about this for the remainder of my trip and I realized that everything that I had been taught in Sunday school was correct, that I was in a place I could always return too, and that Israel is a home.

I had not only rediscovered the homeland, but I had discovered a new family, my Jewish family. The closest part of this family was my birthright group. I can honestly say that all fifty of us became closer than we ever imagined possible in just ten short days. Just being in Israel

together did that for us. But this group was just a small part of my new family, which includes the whole population of Jewish people. Being in Israel I finally began to recognize this kinship, this connection and it was a very eye-opening thing. We are one people and we should never forget that, for it is one of the reasons that Israel exists, the reason they fight. They fight for our family's right to return to our home. It is time for us as Jews to recognize and support our entire family, and our right to have a true home.

Because we as Jews are family Israel is not just my home, but it is also your home. Our home is beautiful; it is full of history and life. From Haifa to Jerusalem, from Tel-Aviv to the Golan Heights and from the Negev to Eilat there is so much to experience and discover. Traveling to Israel as a Jew is not like traveling to other countries. Never once did I feel intrusive or unwelcome, there was always a sense of belonging, and it

would be the same for any Jew. Going to Israel you aren't simply a tourist, your family, so if you haven't been able to go yet go now. Israel is waiting for you, she's ready you to come home.



CBI Food Drive

Congregation Beth Israel is announcing a food drive beginning on March 1. As you clean out your cabinets of chametz, please select a few unopened items to donate to the Food Bank. Collection boxes will be located in the school wing lobby. Thank you for your participation in this mitzvah.

A Community Calendar

Mar 1	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Mar 7	TBE Sisterhood Raffle & Bagel Breakfast	10:00 a.m.
	TBE Sisterhood Board Meeting	1:00 p.m.
Mar 8	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
	Ivriah Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mar 11	CBI Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Mar 13	CBI Shabbat Services & book review & lunch	
Mar 15	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Mar 16	JCS Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
Mar 17	CBI Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mar 21	Ivriah School Seder grades 3-7, TBE	10:00 a.m.
Mar 22	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Mar 24	FJF Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
Mar 29	JCS Senior Cooking, CBI	4:00 p.m.
Mar 30-31	Passover, FJF & JCS Offices closed	

Chabad House Presents the Women's Weekly Wednesday Torah Study Hour

Women are invited to join a round-table class and stimulating discussion with Shainie Weingarten exploring the history of our People during the life of Joshua and on, its stories and messages to be applied to everyday life.

Classes are held on Wednesday afternoons 1:00-2:15 p.m. at Chabad House, 5385 Calkins, Flint.

Bring yourself and a friend or two (or more). For more information call 810-230-0770.

Jewish Reporter 2010 Publication Schedule

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue</u>
March 12	April (Passover)
April 13	May
May 11	June
June 8	July
July 13	August
August 17	September (Rosh Hashanah)
September 14	October
October 12	November
November 9	December (Chanukah)
December 14	January 2011



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We invite letters to the editor. We are desirous of serving as a forum for the exchange of thoughts and attitudes in the Jewish Community. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the Jewish Reporter editorial staff.

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Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Flint Jewish Federation to Partner with U.S. Census Bureau

The Flint Jewish Federation is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to raise awareness of the 2010 Census and help achieve a complete and accurate count of Flint and Genesee County's population. The partnership is part of a larger effort by the Census Bureau to increase participation in the 2010 Census. In Genesee County, census data represents power and money –

power from adequate congressional representation and money from \$400 billion in state and federal funding. Genesee County loses about \$1,000 a year over 10 years for each person missed by the Census.

“As an organization that serves the needs of the community, we are dedicated to ensuring every resident of Genesee County understands the importance of participating in the

2010 Census,” said Gary Alter, Federation Executive Director and Faith Based co-chair of the Genesee County Complete Count Committee. “We are honored to partner with the Census Bureau on this critical initiative and are committed to help increase overall participation in 2010.”

Census data are used for legislative and congressional redistricting, as well as to determine funding for hospitals, schools, job training centers, senior centers, roads and more. These improvements can have a significant impact on the lives of everyone in our community.

One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks

10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households in March 2010. Census Day is April 1, 2010, the official day of the population count. Households should complete and mail back their responses upon receipt. Census workers will visit households that do not return their forms to take a count in person.

Remember ... be counted so Flint and Genesee County will get its fair share of state and federal funding for the next 10 years (approximately \$1,000 per person per year). For more information, please visit www.gencocensus.com or www.2010census.gov.

Please Give to the Matzo Fund 2010

Proceeds from the Matzo Fund are distributed to Jewish families throughout the community. The money helps those in need buy matzo and other Passover foods. Last year we were able to help 51 people. With your participation, we hope to help even more this year. Please send you donations to: Congregation Beth Israel, 5240 Calkins Road, Flint, MI 48532 designated for the Matzo Fund. Donations of any amount will be appreciated.

If you, or someone you know are in need of assistance to purchase Passover foods, please contact Larry Feinstein at 810-964-5978. All requests are held in confidence. CBI also works with Jewish Community Services in identifying families in need.

Find out how to wish the community a Happy Passover
see page 8 for details

Next Reporter Deadline - March 12

Memorial Gathering Scheduled

In honor of the upcoming first yahrtzeit (anniversary of the passing) of our dear and beloved Karen Schneider-Meizlish o.b.m., there will be an inspiring and memorable gathering on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 2: 00 p.m. Details will be forthcoming. Please hold the date and spread the word.

Condolences

The boards and staff of the Flint Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Services extends its deepest condolences to families of Catherine Schwartz.

UJC Fact of Week

The Jewish Federations of North America support Torahs For Our Troops, a project of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, which is a service of the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America. Jewish military chaplains are assigned to visit the more than 10,000 Jewish Americans on active duty, to provide a wide range of services including helping them observe Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. JWB has commissioned the writing of six small, lightweight and fully kosher Torah scrolls to accompany the chaplains into the combat theater. For details on how your Federation can bring one of the Torahs to your community and support this project, please contact Ziva Davidovich at 212.786.5099 or visit torahsforourtroops.org. visit

Did You Know?

February 2010 is Jewish Disability Awareness Month, as the Jewish Federations of North America joins the Consortium of Jewish Special Educators in recognizing and increasing awareness of people with disabilities in Jewish communities.

Ivriah Purim Carnival Family Fun For Everyone!





Inside Jewish Community Services



JCS Seeking Nominations for Jerry Schreiber Volunteer Recognition Award

Jewish Community Services is seeking nominations for candidates to receive the Jerry Schreiber Volunteer Recognition Award, which was established to honor dedicated JCS volunteers. The award is presented annually at the recognition reception. To nominate someone, please fill out the form below, or email JCS at JFCS@tm.net by March 15.

Person completing the form
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email _____
 Individual Being Nominated: _____
 Affiliated Organization (if applicable) _____

Please include reasons for nominations on a separate sheet and send in with the form to JCS, 619 Wallenberg St., Flint, MI 48502.

JCS Book Club Meeting Schedule

The JCS Book Club welcomes new members. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm (except July, when members meet to select the books) at members' homes. Participants read a variety of books, all chosen by the members. A member facilitates discussion of the monthly book. The group is very friendly, and, along with enjoying the discussions, enjoys refreshments. All adults are welcome. Please call Jamie at JCS (767-5922) for more information.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>
April 6	"The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew and the Heart of the Middle East"	Sandy Tolan
May 4	"Cutting for Stone"	Abraham Verghese
June 1	"You or Someone Like You"	Chandler Burr
August 3	"The Last of the Just"	Andre Sewarz-Bart

Join the Senior Friendship Club

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

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

Dairy Soup	Monday, March 1	Brain Teasers
Italian Chicken	Tuesday, March 2	Speaker: Dr. Harold Steinman, Optometrist
Salmon Patties	Thursday, March 4	Birthdays, Story Day
BBQ Chicken	Monday, March 8	Chit Chat about This n' That
Sw & Sr Meatballs	Tuesday, March 9	Bingo
Turkey Pastrami	Thursday, March 11	Trip to Flint Institute of Music for Gee's Bend Quilt Exhibit
Roast Chicken	Monday, March 15	Sing Along
Soup, Tuna Salad	Tuesday, March 16	Wear Green! Movie Day at TBE
Lunch at Olive Garden	Wednesday, March 17	Please sign up
Salisbury Steak	Thursday, March 18	Project Fresh Bingo
Hot Dogs	Monday, March 22	Chit Chat about This n' That
Fruity Chicken	Tuesday, March 23	Stretch & Exercise w/Gaylyn Close Exercise Physiologist
Hamburger	Thursday, March 25	Armchair Travel

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

Visit Jewish Community Services Website!!

www.jcsflint.org

Yes we do that...

The following are services and programs provided by Jewish Community Services

Youth

Education Grants and Loans
 JCS Summer Day Camp

Adult

Monthly Book Club
 Educational and Cultural Enrichment Adult Programs
 Workshops and Seminars
 Translation and
 Medical Interpretation Services
 Russian Acculturation Programs

Direct Services

Highway to Health Medical Transportation (outside Genesee County)
 Information, Intervention and Referral

Senior Services

Asian-Indian Congregate and
 Mobile Meal Program
 Assessment, Coordination and Referral Service
 Kosher Mobile Meal Program
 Kosher Congregate Meal Program
 Senior Day Club
 Social and Educational Programs
 Local Transportation Services

Your UJA/FJF Campaign Pledge Helps
 Support These Services

“Flintstones” by Carmen Rachwal

Many thanks to my “reporters”, Beverly Bikoff, Larry Feinstein, Bette and Marvin Heidenrich, Esther Price, Deanna Rosen and Vicki Winston who keep me informed about the Flintstones. If you want to see your name in print, just call me with your news at (954)979-0245 or email me at srachwal@bellsouth.net. I wish everyone a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year. Shalom!

We were sorry to hear of the death of Yona Kollin, who died on December 1st in California. Yona leaves her husband, Rabbi Gilbert Kollin, who served as Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in the 70's. She also is survived by her parents, her brother, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Long-time Flint resident, Ruth Weinstein, passed away on December 9th. She was the wife of the late Meyer Weinstein. Besides her son, Jerome and his family, Ruth leaves her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Sam and Shirley Winston to cherish her memory.

Our sincere condolences to the family of former Flintstone, Shirley Cutler, who died on December 13th in Florida. She was the daughter of the late Ethel and Harry Freedland and the granddaughter of the late Meyer and Sarah Steinman. Shirley was pre-deceased by her husband, Hank Cutler. She is survived by her brothers, Sid (Phyllis) and Dan (Susan), her devoted sister, Annette, 5 nieces and nephews and 7 great-nephews and great-nieces.

Condolences to the family of Norman Blinn, who passed away on December 20th. Norman was the son of the late Sally and Dr. Simeon Blinn. He is survived by his brother, Lawrence Blinn and his sister, Judith Blinn-Rudman. May his memory be for a blessing.

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Devorah Semp, who passed away in Detroit in December. Devorah was the beloved daughter of Sammy and Gila Semp, the granddaughter of the late Pauline and Dr. Irving Bernstein and the great-granddaughter of the late Harry and Kate Bernstein. Besides her parents, Devorah is survived by her sister, Peninah Semp.

We extend our condolences to Arnold and Harvey Eisman on the loss of their sister, Sandra Sweet.



Dr. Morrie and Beverly Bikoff in 1946 (left) and 2010 (above).

Also sympathies to Dr. Mark Plucer on the loss of his sister, Marlene Plucer, and to Shirley Winston on the loss of her brother, Ralph Vliet. May they rest in peace.

Mazal tov to Florence and Irv Berner on the January 12th arrival of their 8th grandchild, Isaac Max Bard. Isaac is the son of Emily and Aaron Bard, who reside in the Detroit area. He is the great-grandson of the late Stella and Herbert Koenig and the late Abram and Rita Berner. And he is the great-great grandson of the late Abraham and Rachel Gruner.

Congratulations to Jerome Cohen and to Ellen Cohen on the birth of their grandson, Dylan James, who arrived on January 19th. The proud parents are Gayle and Matthew Schreiber of South Florida. Dylan is the great-grandson of the late Herman and Frances Cohen and the great-great-grandson of the late Rose and Jacob Pasternak.

A hearty mazal tov to Marc Bradley Schafer and Elizabeth Anne David on their recent engagement. Marc is son of Linda and the late Arnold Schafer. He is the grandson of the late Sol and Sonia Schafer and the great grandson of the late Meyer and Ita Schoichet.

Our heartiest congratulations to Ruby Fisher on the December 31st marriage of her daughter, Bennie, to Dr. Michael Drugutsky. The happy couple exchanged vows in Jerusalem, Israel, at the Hecht synagogue, next to wall, with several family members present. They are making their home in Memphis, Tennessee. Bennie is also the daughter of the late Dr. Carl (Bud) Fisher and the granddaughter of the late Eva and Phil Fisher.

We extend our congratulations to Sidney and Phyllis Freedland, who

were feted by their children, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Mazal tov.

Former Flintstones, Beverly and Dr. Morrie Bikoff reached an important milestone on January 17th. They celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. Born in Flint to Sophie and Willie Bikoff, Morrie met his bride while still in the Navy. The 2 were married in Seattle, Washington and resided in Flint from 1946 until Morrie's retirement in 1983, when they moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. We wish you many more years of marital bliss!

Letter to the Editor

I read your January 25, 2010 issue of The Jewish Reporter and am objecting to some of the loose language that was in the article entitled “Israel to Energize Hybrid Electric Batteries”. The article was interesting but the reference to “tanking” of the American auto industry is totally misleading and inaccurate.

I am a lifelong Michigander who has witnessed the ebb and flow of the auto industry. I felt your article relating to the hybrid and electric battery business in Israel was very misleading and that there were some poor choice of words relating to the American automobile industry.

I dispute the fact that the American automobile industry is “tanking”. One only has to look to the accomplishments of Ford Motor Company in the past several years and find out that not only have they been competing, their market share is actually increasing. Further, both General Motors and Chrysler got government loans so that they could continue working. None of these companies are “tanking” or disappearing.

Michigan and the United States as a whole has suffered substantial damage from the recession brought on by President Bush. The auto

industry in particular has suffered substantial damage because of the effects of the auto companies being unable to extend credit to thousands of potential customers in the last several years. However, neither General Motors, nor Ford, nor Chrysler have indicated that they are ready to go out of business.

The word “tank” as used as a verb as done in the article means as follows: “slang to do poorly or decline rapidly; fail: The movie tanked at the box office”.

That language does not apply to this article. These companies are surviving. Ford is doing well and General Motors is not far behind. This writer is disturbed that this article was not closely read before it appeared in print because that language is very loose.

I would appreciate a comment from the editors regarding this article.

Very truly yours,
Carl M. Riseman

Editors note:
The article this editorial referred to was written by a staff member of Israel21c. They can be contacted at Israel21c.org.

For us, it's all about you and your needs.



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Cross-Border Philanthropy Circle Announces First Project and Seeks New Members

(UJC) The Cross-Border Philanthropy Circle, a new model for joint Israeli-American philanthropy, is launching its first project to build young Israeli and American leaders through volunteer service and study.

The Cross-Border Philanthropy Circle, supported by The Jewish Federations of North America and Sheatufim, brings together investors who want to advance social goals by combining and leveraging their financial resources and sharing ideas. Each participant commits to at least two years of involvement and an investment in a joint fund of \$50,000 annually for a total of \$100,000 per investor. The members decide on the areas of focus and specific guidelines for their investments. One-hundred percent of the funds are invested in the selected

projects, with Sheatufim's Center for Philanthropy assuming responsibility for management of the Circle's resources, activities and overhead expenses.

The group has selected The Seeds of Hope Program at the Ma'ase Center as its first project. Seeds of Hope will create a unique joint volunteer, leadership, and study program for Jewish young adults from Israel and the United States. The pilot two-year project will include a preparatory year in Israel and the United States, followed by a joint volunteer service year in Israel, with Israelis and North America's working side by side in an underserved Israeli community.

The Ma'ase Center was founded in 2004, with the goal of helping under-privileged young adults

achieve social mobility empowerment by participating in volunteer programs and leadership training.

Members of the Cross-Border Philanthropy circle have met via teleconference numerous times, in person in Israel in July 2009 and in New York this past November.

"I always felt there was a huge communications gap between Israeli and North American philanthropists," said Ronny Douek, founder of Sheatufim and co-chair of the Cross-Border Philanthropy circle. "This initiative will be successful because we work closely in full partnership as a group while sharing the know-how and experience of both parties."

"The process itself is very important," added Douek. "Donors on both sides of the ocean want to be more involved in selecting innovative

social projects that will make a significant change in Israeli society."

"We aren't interested in checkbook philanthropy," said Noam Lautman, another member of the initiative. "By working together from beginning to end, the impact will be much greater than just the dollars we put forth, but will be about partnership and cooperation between our two cultures."

"We believe our Cross-Border Philanthropy model will serve as an effective tool for other organizations in Israel and the Diaspora," said Toni Young, co-chair of Cross-Border Philanthropy. "We welcome the participation of more investors from the U.S. and know it will be a rewarding experience for anyone who chooses to get involved."

New Immigrants Settle in Warm, Supportive Kibbutzim

(JAFI) Through First Home in the Homeland, Efraim Tanchil found his true home.

The 38 year-old attorney, who emigrated from Minsk with his wife and two children, settled in Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh in the Negev, one of the participating kibbutzim throughout Israel's northern and southern regions that serve as a warm, supportive "first home" for new immigrants.

After only a year and a half in Israel, Tanchil has mastered Hebrew to the point where he has taken the

nine exams necessary to become a licensed lawyer in the country. And he is taking steps to become a permanent member of the kibbutz.

Since its inception in 1999, First Home in the Homeland (In Hebrew: Bait Rishon Bamoledet) has assisted 35,000 new immigrants from around the world to acclimate and adjust to life in Israel. It offers an alternative model to the absorption center by placing new immigrants the warm, communal atmosphere of a kibbutz far away from the hubbub of the city, in the spirit of the Zionist dream.

There they live and learn alongside native Israelis as well as veteran immigrants.

First Home in the Homeland is supported by the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert area. Support for new immigrants begins even before they move to Israel, continues through their stay of up to two years at the participating kibbutzim, and continues even after they have become citizens and have settled in their long-term homes and communities.

"The kibbutz environment is the perfect place for new olim. Here we offer them Hebrew lessons, childcare, and other services all in a nurturing environment," said Yelena Kovarski, director of Southern region of First Home in the Homeland, herself an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, who has lived on Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh for 19 years. She has personally helped 15,000 olim resettle in Israel.

Anna and Michael Tarasov from the Ukraine are recent First Home in the Homeland participants who have

been living on Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh for only three weeks. "We love Israel," said Anna. Professionally, Michael worked in IT support and Anna worked at a bank. Currently, the Tarasovs are in intensive ulpan four days a week. "We hope to find good jobs once our Hebrew has improved," said Anna.

For now, they have everything they want. "We have small house with everything thing we need in it and a warm community here," Anna said.

In addition to learning Hebrew, many participating new immigrants are offered employment opportunities. Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh's on-site factory, which produces brass ball-valves and fittings, employs many new immigrants. And 20 olim from the Yotvata Kibbutz Ulpan program and other Kibbutzim in the South are participating in a 14-month hotel management course to prepare them for employment in Isrotel hotels in Israel. The program combines Hebrew language ulpan classes with courses in management. Graduates of this course are promised jobs in the Isrotel chain.

Please Share Your Family History!

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

No Gift Touches More Lives - Including Your Own!

Contact the Flint Jewish Federation at (810) 767-5922 to find out how you can help.



Anna and Michael Tarasov from the Ukraine are recent *First Home in the Homeland* participants who have been living on Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh for only three weeks.

Keeping Food Safe From Farm to Fork by Sharon Kanon, Israel 21c

How can you be sure that bacteria are not festering in your food? Dangerous pathogens like Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria and chemical contaminants are responsible for more than 76 million food-borne illnesses a year in the US, according to the Center for Disease Control. Bacteria, viruses and toxins thrive on food that is undercooked, inadequately refrigerated or prepared in places where hygiene standards are lax. One Israeli company, however, hopes to make your food safe from the farm to your fork.

Herzliya-based MS Tech has developed advanced smart sensor technology that can detect the presence of contaminants and related chemicals in just three seconds, in the field.

The company's innovative FoodScan 3000 is - according to the company - the only hand-held device now on the market that tests samples for bacteria and provides on-site, immediate analysis. In the past, samples had to be sent to a lab for analysis - a time-consuming and costly process. Another benefit is that unlike other testing systems, FoodScan 3000 is green; it does not use radioactive material or ionizing sources.

Food safety is an issue of growing concern worldwide. In the US recent recalls of suspect ground beef, peanut butter and lettuce, are increasing the pressure for expanded food safety inspection. The demand to keep food safe has spawned the food safety and production inspection business, a sector estimated at \$2.5 billion annually.

"Our technology can detect the presence or absence of bacteria and contaminants in food before anyone can see or smell them," Doron Shalom, CEO of MS Tech tells ISRAEL21c. Shalom, who holds a Master's degree from the London School of Economics, has proven experience in commercializing sensor technologies. He previously served as

VP of global sales and marketing at Scent Detection Technologies, providing trace detection systems for aviation and airport security. Those systems were part of the security and screening procedures used at the Beijing Olympics.

Based on an array of High Frequency Quartz Crystal Microbalance (HF-QCM) sensors and coatings, the technology from MS Tech provides high sensitivity and selectivity in detecting target molecules and can tell you whether or not your food is contaminated in three seconds flat.

Weighing in at just 800 grams and the size of about two iphones, FoodScan 3000 is integrated with HF-QCM sensors that are embedded with smart detection algorithms. The surface of each sensor has a chemical coating that is sensitive to different families of target molecules.

To identify a molecule, the algorithms analyze the data obtained and match it with a library of digital signatures. "Our HF-QCM sensors are extraordinarily sensitive and can reach sensitivity levels of one billionth of a gram," claims Doron.

Doron gives the credit for this advanced sensor technology to his scientific team at MS Tech, headed by Dr. Lev Dayan, chief scientist and co-founder of the company. Dayan, a leading expert in crystal physics, has more than 40 years' experience designing and developing electro-chemical sensors. Professor Abraham Shanzer of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Weizmann Institute of Science has also been a major contributor to the multi-disciplinary team. And the company boasts a high-level board of scientific advisors.

A big benefit is early detection of spoiled food. Sensitive to each contaminant, FoodScan 3000 detects a change in quality at any level, and can provide a relative indication of the contamination level of cheese, milk and other foods.

"Sometimes food leaves the factory

top quality, but because it is not stored well, handled properly, or kept at the right temperature, it will begin to spoil," Doron explains. "When a food or beverage has a bad smell, it can do major damage to the reputation of a brand - not to mention the high costs of product recalls," he adds.

FoodScan 3000 was previewed in the October 2009 issue of Aviation Security International. In addition to airline catering companies, the company's target markets include government inspection agencies, dairy farms, supermarkets, restaurants, hotels and eventually consumers.

The company's long-range vision is that one day consumers will be able to scan their own food for contaminants. MS Tech is also in negotiations with manufacturers of food processing equipment to integrate its plug and play sensors into their production lines and inspection processes.

"We can customize the product to the customer's technical needs at each level in the food chain," asserts Doron. With a WiFi and GPS connection, FoodScan 3000 can even transmit test results from remote inspection sites.

Privately-held MS Tech is a candidate for a number of technology innovation awards from leading industry analysts. The company expects to begin first deployments with selective companies in the US and Europe this year, and claims that countries in Asia, with high food safety standards, are also keen to use the company's technology.

The company doesn't just plan to stop at foodstuffs. Now in the process of setting up a major R&D center to be located in either the south or the center of the country, MS Tech also plans to develop innovative detection products for bio-medical diagnostics (health care centers, private clinics); security (detection of explosives, narcotics); clean tech (air pollution, water monitoring); aerospace (hydraulic fuel leaks, pandemics), and possibly even pharmaceuticals.

What it needs now are strategic partners and financing. "We are currently looking for strategic partners and raising capital to establish our R&D center and manufacturing facilities," concludes Doron.

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New Orleans to Host General Assembly and International Lion of Judah Conference

New Orleans will host both the 2010 General Assembly (GA) and International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC), both of which were originally scheduled to be held in Orlando. The events will also be held earlier, with the GA slated for Nov. 7-9 and the ILOJC slated for Nov. 8-10.

"We needed to reevaluate the venue," explained Jerry Silverman, President and CEO of The Jewish Federations of North America. "We are producing the GA and ILOJC during the same week and unfortunately the space in Orlando does not meet the needs that would best accommodate both events and the alternatives in Orlando logistically would have compromised the momentum built from GA 2009. In

reviewing our options, it became clear that New Orleans was a community where we, as a Jewish community and family, could reflect on our collective responsibility and action together."

When Hurricane Katrina hit, Federations sprang into action and raised nearly \$30 million for emergency aid, shelter, food and counseling for disaster victims. But the response also helped the Jewish Federation movement provide long-term disaster relief solutions. Leading a coalition of Jewish organizations, The Jewish Federations of North America developed a stabilization plan for the communities of Baton Rouge, Biloxi and New Orleans — ensuring the survival of Jewish institutions and creating a lifeline to

vitaly needed services so people could begin to move forward with their lives.

"New Orleans makes a strong statement about the power of our movement and our focus on tikkun olam," said Silverman.

The chairs of both the GA and the ILOJC embraced this change of venue. Steve and Judy Silverman of Jacksonville, FL will be co-chairing the GA and Julie Russin Bercow of Miami, FL and Leslie Dannin Rosenthal of MetroWest, NJ will be co-chairing ILOJC.

"Hosting the GA in New Orleans will act as a moving reminder to everyone that the Federation movement exists to help those in need," said Steve Silverman. "Never was this message more poignant than right

now as we respond to the needs of those in Haiti."

"National Women's Philanthropy has a long history with the city of New Orleans," said Julie Russin Bercow. "After Katrina, we sent several groups to the area to offer help. We are thrilled to continue building on the strength of our relationship with this tremendous city."

"The ILOJC is one of the most important events in the Federation world," said Leslie Dannin Rosenthal. "It is the most successful singular fundraising event in our movement."

"The last ILOJC in 2008 raised \$16 million for the Annual Campaign," added Bercow. "We hope this ILOJC will raise even more."

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