



# JEWISH MESSENGER

Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford

## Presidency— a Rewarding and Challenging Experience

By Judy Pollack



The experience of being President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford for has been personally rewarding, a tremendous learning experience, and at times, very challenging. I had met and worked with so many people that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to do. During

my term, Federation programming has gone through a transition. We have tried to appeal to people of different ages and interests. This year, we had a number of meaningful and innovative programs. The Global Day of Jewish Learning, in collaboration with the local synagogues and organizations, was a truly rewarding day of Jewish study, not only locally, but also with 400 communities and 48 countries. The day was spent "together" as one community with other communities both far and wide, having a day of celebration as well. Special thanks to Stu Forman and Cathy Russell for chairing this event.

The celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Exodus became a focus for this year, spearheaded by a dedicated group of volunteers. The Refusenik movie event, followed by Russian desserts, was well attended and well received. The May 15<sup>th</sup> "Reunion" was a huge success, with over 100 people attending, aged 3 months to 93 years. For the New Americans, it was a chance to see "old friends" and to say "thank you" and for those who helped them get a fresh start on life, it was very rewarding and emotional to be together. On March 29, we hosted Shai Bazak, the new Consul General of Israel to New England. Through the careful planning of Stu Forman and his committee, we had a day packed with meaningful activities. Mayor Scott Lang hosted a flag raising ceremony followed by a reception at City Hall, attended by city officials, clergy, and community members. Then it was on to UMASS Dartmouth to meet with Rabbi Jackie Satlow and Chancellor McCormick to speak on issues concerning Israel

to an audience of faculty, students, and community members. A harbor cruise sponsored by the Mayor and an informal dinner gave the Consul a needed respite. Then it was time to speak to a crowd of over 50 people, including our Jewish community, legislators, the Mayor, clergy and interested non-Jewish members of the community. Shai Bazak spoke and answered questions on current issues and concerns in Israel and the effects of the turbulent times in the surrounding countries.



The 2011-12 Officers (left to right) VP Ellen Hull, Past President Judy Pollack, Treasurer Ed Siegal, VP Jack Belkin, President Stuart Forman, and VP Janet Freedman. Not pictured: Secretary David Rosenberg.

Other programming continued successfully with the PJ Library, Passover Relief, holiday celebrations for seniors by the Jewish Family Service Committee, and the Blood Drive, chaired by David Novick, which proved to be very successful. A very big thank to Ruth Glicksman, chair of JFS committee, on whose shoulders fell a difficult job of relocating the senior nutrition site. Ruth did a fantastic job working with the Coastline Elderly Service, TI, and the Convalescent Home to achieve a fast and smooth transition. Ruth and her committee put in a lot of effort to revitalize the program. Unfortunately, we learned in the process that the meal site

no longer served the same needs for the Jewish community as when it first started.

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### From the President



I am very honored to be elected as President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford. I want to thank Judy for being up to the task of stepping in as President half way into my last term in 2009 when my work obligations grossly interfered with my ability to serve. She's done a great job, but told me she won't do that again, so I guess I have no "outs" this time. On a serious note, now is a time during which I can devote full attention to Federation. And this is a time we need that attention. Our community has just come through some very difficult times.

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## Israeli Scouts Entertain and Teach

By Marsha Onufrak

The 2011 Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan rolled into New Bedford on June 15 bringing much energy and enthusiasm for Israel. Five boys and five girls, ages 16-18, along with two leaders, represented Caravan "Pisgah" meaning "high place." On Wednesday evening at Tifereth Israel, a large, excited crowd clapped and moved their feet to the rhythms as this wonderful troupe sang and danced in Hebrew, English, and even Yiddish! They also enticed several audience members to jump up and dance with them. Their choreography and costumes were as impressive as their voices as they taught the audience about Israel and their personal backgrounds. The lessons continued for their host families: Shulamith and Sheldon Friedland; Rabbi and Mrs. Hartman; Judy Pollack; and Marsha and John Onufrak as the Scouts showed off their creative photo albums, detailing their hometowns, families, hobbies, and future aspirations. We peppered them with lots of questions while they savored ice cream sundaes. The following day they had another scheduled performance, this time a special show for New Bedford elderly from city's senior centers, had a live interview with Phil Paleologos at the WBSM radio station, toured the Whaling Museum, and enjoyed a short boat ride on the harbor. During an impromptu but much appreciated visit to the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, the Scouts sang a couple of songs and made Father's Day greeting cards with the residents. After a busy day, the Scouts and their hosts feasted on a delicious picnic dinner at the home of Ellen and Chuck Hull. Though their visit in New Bedford lasted only 2 days, these young Israeli ambassadors left an indelible impression on everyone who met them.

This was the second visit by the Israeli Scouts Caravan to our area made possible by the City of New Bedford's No Place for Hate® program of the Office of Human Services, in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford. As a No Place for Hate® Community certified by the Boston regional office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the City of New Bedford conducts several initiatives annually to prevent hate crimes, combat prejudice, promote interfaith peace initiatives, and actively promote diversity and tolerance. As part of this year's NPFH programming, students from the New Bedford No Place for Hate® Multicultural Children's Chorus at Lincoln School performed with the Israeli Scouts during the June 15<sup>th</sup> evening show.



Israeli Scouts with a local Boy Scout Troop



Saul Cohen, a resident at the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, with a Scout leader.



Two of the Scouts with Phil Paleologos at the WBSM radio station.

Presidency continued from page 1

We could no longer justify spending significant community resources on a program that did not serve its purpose. As a result, the meal site will be closing, but we will continue to provide home-delivered meals to our most vulnerable home-bound Jewish elderly, again with the cooperation of the Coastline Elderly Services and the Jewish Convalescent Home.

I am so happy that this year we were able to fill the entire slate of Officers with some new names and some returns. I am also very proud that we will be having several new and younger faces on the Board. Thank you to Susan Barnet and Michael Russell for co-chairing the Nominating Committee. They were determined, resourceful and energized. Jack Belkin has headed our Scholarship Committee for several years. Under his thoughtful direction, many students have and will be benefiting from our awards. Thank you to the people who have completed their Board term—Cary Issacs, Gregory Yurovitsky, Ronni Krause, and Barbara Samuels. We hope that you will continue to be involved with the Federation in some aspect and will return to serve on the Board in the future. Thank you to the Officers who have completed their term. That includes Wendy Friedman who has proven to be a most conscientious and responsible Secretary for the last two years. She has put in long hours in addition to her full-time job and commute. Thank you for a job well done. Thank you to Marty Lipman who has been an active and helpful Vice President, always with fresh and unusual ideas and ready to challenge the status quo.

Thank you to the Officers who have agreed to remain and help the incoming President. They include Janet Freedman, whose wisdom and experience has been very appreciated. Ellen Hull has agreed once again to chair the Annual Campaign, a challenging and difficult job these days. Thank you to Ed Siegal who has been our de-facto Treasurer. He has proven to be the right man for the job. I also want to thank Robert Nochimow who served a part of last year as Treasurer and resigned due to his multiple commitments and time restraints. Thank you to Shulamith Friedland who had agreed to be my nominee on the executive committee. She had been very helpful in many ways even if she was not always here in Massachusetts. As President, I do not act alone. Behind me is a very capable and wonderful Executive Director, Olga

Yorish. Olga has been my right hand, advisor, sounding board, and friend. She is what makes the Federation of Greater New Bedford run smoothly and we are very fortunate to have her as our dedicated Executive Director.

It seems odd that two years ago, I took over as President of the Federation from Stu Forman, and tonight, he will be getting back the Presidency. The Federation will be in very capable hands. He has been my mentor, advisor and good friend. Somehow, I hope that I have made a difference over the last few years. Change is good. I have been happy and honored to serve this community. And I am confident that the next two years will be exciting and moving forward with new opportunities. I may be stepping down tonight, but not stepping out of sight. Thank you.



Ellen Hull makes a presentation to Judy Pollack at the June 15th Annual Meeting.



Lincoln School Choir children singing and dancing along with the Scouts.



With Nate Barry

# Photo Gallery—20th Anniversary of Operation Exodus Reunion Luncheon



Faina Levitin, Wil Herrup, and Vera Vasilyeva



Rabbi Barry Hartman with Gregory Yurovitsky and his son



Cindy Yoken with Vera Grafova



Ken Lipman, Judy Pollack, and Vera Gassar



Blima and Boris Kanterman with Judy Pollack and Bernie Roth



Yekaterina Grafova with son Jensen, Victoria Lustikman, and Paul Grafov



Marcia Revzin, Alex Lustikman, Gregory Yurovitsky, and Si Goldstein

## and Celebration, May 15, 2011

From the President continued from page 1



Vera Vasilyeva with daughter Maria and a newborn grandchild.

The closing of the only Orthodox synagogue and the closing of the Kosher Nutrition meals site have shaken us up. What is happening to our community and where are we going? In this environment, the Federation has tremendous responsibilities to our Jewish community. We must answer the questions of who we are, what are the current needs of our community, how should those needs best be met, where are we headed, and how will we get there? These are critical questions for us to answer as a community as a whole. They are questions which cannot be answered by anecdote or reliance on the past. They can only be answered by hard data, statistics, trend analysis, and direct information from community members as to what people want. In these respects, we must work together with TI as the surviving organized religious institution serving New Bedford and other constituents and partners, to answer these questions and design our future in a thoughtful and deliberate way.

As President, I pledge to listen to all factors in this situation. We will lead through rational and thought out programming and effective use of our campaign dollars. We will speak with other communities experiencing the same dynamic situations as our New Bedford community is experiencing. We will ensure that the next two years provides the groundwork for our future based on rational projections of what that future will look like. We will try to be inclusive and engage as much of our community in these endeavors as possible. Ultimately, we are Klal Yisroel. And, as President, I am committed to the vitality and survival of Klal Yisroel wherever we are in the Diaspora, in Israel, or around the world. I look forward to working with our new Board and Officers to achieve the greatest success for our community. Thank you for this opportunity to serve the Jewish Community of Greater New Bedford.

## Center for Jewish Culture and Hillel had a Terrific Spring Semester

By Rabbi Jacqueline Romm Satlow

With five programs this past semester, the Center for Jewish Culture at UMass Dartmouth had a terrific spring. Dr. Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, in his February lecture, considered various assessments of the prospects of American Jewry in terms of its population size; cultural continuity and distinctiveness; organizational structure and social networks; economic and political status; and connections to Israel. In March, we hosted Dr. Joyce Antler, of Brandeis University, whose presentation entitled "You Never Call! You Never Write! The Historical Legacy of American Jewish Mothers" was both funny and articulate. We examined the stereotypes and cultural depictions of Jewish mothers, both the damaging and the constructive. Also in March, the CJC, with the assistance of Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford, welcomed Consul General of Israel to New England, Shai Bazak. With the assistance of the Afikim Foundation and the US Army Center for Military History and with thanks to the Holocaust Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford, in April the CJC brought an exhibit entitled *When Humanity Fails* to campus.



Ethiopian artist Bizu Riki Mullu speaks about her life journey.

The exhibit teaches about the history of the Holocaust and the experience of US troops who liberated the concentration camps at the end of World War II. In honor of Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, the CJC was pleased to welcome Bizu Riki Mullu to speak about the Ethiopian Jewish Israeli Experience. Bizu Riki spoke about her own life and the experience of other Ethiopian Jews both in Ethiopia and in Israel. This year, Hillel was pleased to have found the Frederick Douglass Unity House a warm and welcoming place to hold its student board meetings as well as special programs such as movie and game nights. Hillel's Purim Party was most definitely the highlight of the spring semester. Approximately 25-30 students enjoyed each other's company and were fascinated as well as entertained by Lon Cerel, who holds the world record as fastest balloon animal maker in the world. Traditional holiday refreshments including Hamen-tashen in a variety of flavors were enjoyed by all!

We were very pleased to have Robin Kauffman working as Hillel's part-time student outreach coordinator for the past two years. Robin has decided to go on to other opportunities. A search is currently underway for a new person to fill this position which is funded primarily by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford.

# “Plant for the Future” 2011 Annual Campaign

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*Reflects 2011 Campaign Gifts Received from October 3, 2010 to July 5, 2011*

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\* Reflects increased or new gift.  
 We apologize for any inadvertent errors.  
 Please advise us of any corrections.

# Photo Gallery—Israel Consul General Shai Bazak Visits New Bedford, March 29, 2011



Dr. Bill Abesh raises Israeli flag at the City Hall.



Shai Bazak and associate Jamie David with the boat crew during the harbor tour.



Shai Bazak and Mayor Scott Lang at the City Hall reception.



Shai Bazak with Catherine and Michael Russell.

## Israel Travel Grants Available

Grants are available to Jewish teens residing in the Greater New Bedford area for travel/study in Israel. These grants are made possible by the Harvey Friedland Israel Youth Experience Memorial Fund and the Evelyn Rosen Youth Israel Travel Fund. Requests must be writing. For more information, contact Olga Yorish at (508) 997-7471 or at [oyorish@jewishnewbedford.org](mailto:oyorish@jewishnewbedford.org).

## 2011 Yom HaShoah Commemoration Focused on Children

By Cindy Yoken

On May 1, 2011, over 200 people from the greater New Bedford community observed Yom HaShoah at the Holocaust monument and at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. This year's theme, "Shattered Lives: Children During the Holocaust" was the focus for this year's study of the Holocaust in the local schools. Children from the Bernard H. Ziskind School of Judaism and from the local schools lit candles at the monument in memory of the children and others who perished in the Holocaust, and carried their candles to Tifereth Israel to begin the evening's program. Janet Applefield, the speaker this year, told her moving story as a child hidden in Poland, separated from her mother and father. Her mother had died at Auschwitz, but fortunately, Janet was reunited with her father after the war and they came together to America where they started a new life.



Cindy Yoken, Rev. Pamela Cole, Janet Applefield, and Judith Klein.

This year again, the Holocaust Committee collaborated with the No Place for Hate program of the City of New Bedford. Under this collaboration, elementary and middle school students from New Bedford public schools participated in two afternoon programs teaching Holocaust through music and art. For the first time, this year's Yom HaShoah program included a music selection by Lincoln School students directed by music director Peter Arteaga sang two Holocaust-themed songs. Additionally, Keith Middle School students created Holocaust art projects under the direction of Judith Klein. These art projects were displayed during the evening at the Yom HaShoah observance along with the fabulous art projects done by the students at Bishop Stang High School. After their summer reading of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, Bishop Stang students created their own projects in art and poetry to describe their impressions of the Holocaust. Several students also read their poetic creations at the evening's program.

This spring, the Holocaust Committee had been involved with raising the funds for the publication of the Holocaust memoir of Abraham Landau: *Branded on my Arm and in my Soul*. Thanks to the generosity of many people in the community, to the Jewish Federation, and to the Warren and Mitzi Eisenberg Foundation, the funds were raised and the book will be published in September 2011. It was an honor for us to have Abe's daughter Ann and her husband Dennis



Mayor Scoot Lang reads Psalm 23 from his father's prayer book.

at our Yom HaShoah observance this year and to have the first drafts of the book available for those in attendance to peruse. The Holocaust Committee and Spinner Publications will be having a book launching event on September 11, 2011 to introduce Abe's book. More information about this event to follow.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am, Jim Wilcox, the co-chair of the Holocaust Committee, will present a workshop "The Holocaust: Fact and Fiction - Myth and Reality" at an upcoming meeting of the Holocaust Committee. The workshop will examine the facts of the Holocaust versus the attempts at denial as well as the topics of Holocaust fiction and Holocaust hoaxes. The workshop is free and open to the community.



Abe Landau's daughter Ann with her husband Dennis.

## Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford 2011-2012 College Scholarship Awards

Adam Carreiro	Beatrice Epstein Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Florent	Edward S. Leen Memorial Scholarship
Paul Grafov	Sarah Bernet Memorial Scholarship and Bernstein-Zeman Memorial Scholarship
Rebecca Kanter	Jonathan Gotlib Memorial Scholarship and Ruth Federman Memorial Scholarship
Adam Kvietkauskas	Jason Martin Memorial Scholarship
Victoria Lustikman	Barbara Meltzer Memorial Scholarship and Dr. Sanford Dworkin Memorial Scholarship
Sam Markson	Max and Bertha Scheinman Memorial Scholarship
Sasha Nochimow	Jenny, Morris, and Alvin Glaser Memorial Scholarship
Julia Russell	Sybil and Robert Jackson Memorial Scholarship

## National Council of Jewish Women - New Bedford Section 2011-2012 College Scholarship Awards Celebrating 96 Years of Service to the Community

Adam Carreiro	Roberta S. Bernet Memorial Scholarship, National Council of Jewish Women, Edna and Murray Hamburg Memorial Scholarship, J. Edward Morse Memorial Scholarship and Harvey I. Shuster Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Florent	Irene and David Mickelson Memorial Scholarship, Marcia and Stanley Revzin Scholarship, Israel and Marie Rosen Memorial Scholarship, Edward S. Rudnick Memorial Scholarship, Yetta and Barney Smola Memorial Scholarship and Jonathan Blake Waxler Memorial Scholarship for Social Justice
Paul Grafov	Adele and Samuel Ades Memorial Scholarship, Charles Elias and Carol Kaner Memorial Scholarship, Samuel and Rachael Elias Memorial Scholarship, Sylvia and Joseph Feingold Memorial Scholarship and Donald Kursun Scholarship
Rebecca Kanter	Minna Ziskind Memorial Scholarship, Dorothy Goldstein Memorial Scholarship, Phyllis and Sydney Horvitz Memorial Scholarship, and Harvey and Evelyn Rosen Kroudvird Memorial Scholarship
Adam Kvietkauskas	Bronspiegel Family Scholarship, Dr. Charles Jacobson Memorial Scholarship, Eleanor and Sidney Levine Memorial Scholarship, Ida and Lewis Perler Memorial Scholarship, Marcia and Leonard Perler Scholarship and Mary Schwartz Scholarship
Victoria Lustikman	Annette and Samuel Lipman Memorial Scholarship, Helene Rosenberg Memorial Scholarship, Merrill Shwartz Memorial Scholarship and L. Barry Russell Memorial Scholarship
Sam Markson	Marcella and Al Brody Memorial Scholarship
Sasha Nochimow	Ida Rothman Memorial Scholarship, Nettie and Barnett Pernick Memorial Scholarship, Bernard Jacobvitz Memorial Scholarship and Adam Douglas Brody Memorial Scholarship
Julie Russell	Clara "Callie" Goldberg Memorial Scholarship, Jean Frauwirth Memorial Memorial Scholarship, Lillian Feingold Memorial Scholarship and Harvey L. Shuster Memorial Scholarship
Domestic Abuse Rehab. Scholarship	Pearl Korsun Memorial Scholarship, Rita Elias Pildis Scholarship, and Ida F. Cohen, Erwyn D. Scheck and Hazel Cohen Scheck Memorial Scholarship
Foster Child Scholarship	Barbara Kaplan Appreciation Scholarship, Rachel Levinson Appreciation Scholarship and Gloria Zeman Memorial Scholarship

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## Fund to Honor the Memory of Harriet Philips

The Jewish Federation established The Harriet Philips Memorial Israel Education Fund to honor and perpetuate the memory of Harriet Philips. Harriet Philips was a staunch supporter of Israel and an advocate for Israel education in the local Jewish and general communities. The fund will provide annual support for programs educating about, promoting, and celebrating Israel in the local Jewish and general community. The initial amount of the Fund is comprised of the contributions received by the Jewish Federation in memory and in honor of Harriet Philips. Additional gifts to the Fund may be made at any time by any individual or institution to honor Harriet's memory and perpetuate the legacy of her caring and concern for Israel. Grants from the Fund will provide support for annual Israel-oriented educational programs.

The Jewish Messenger is now online.  
Visit [www.jewishnewbedford.org](http://www.jewishnewbedford.org)

### Federation's Tribute Cards are a Great Opportunity to Honor a Loved One and Contribute to a Good Cause

Think of the Jewish Federation when celebrating milestone events or remembering a loved one. A tax-deductible contribution to the Federation's general fund as well as to one of the scholarship or endowment funds or special programs is a great way to celebrate an important event such as a birthday, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or an anniversary, to wish a speedy recovery, and to honor the memory of a loved one. Your honoree or his/her family will receive a beautiful tribute card marking the occasion.

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467 Hawthorn Street  
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Email: [office@jewishnewbedford.org](mailto:office@jewishnewbedford.org)  
Website: [www.jewishnewbedford.org](http://www.jewishnewbedford.org)

Thank You from Marcia Revzin:

Thank you to my many friends who called, visited, and sent get well wishes. Your kindness will certainly hasten my recovery.



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