

Scranton Prep and ShopRite partner to support JFS Food Pantry

Scranton Preparatory School's commitment to service and community was on full display through a meaningful collaboration as part of the Great Ignatian Challenge, the student-led food drive that unites schools nationwide in addressing food insecurity.

This year, Scranton Prep partnered with ShopRite to purchase a pallet's worth of kosher food items for the Jewish Family Service (JFS) Food Pantry, ensuring access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food for

individuals and families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This impactful effort was made possible through the generosity of Minora Krowiak Munley Batyko Attorneys at Law, whose financial support fully funded the pallet of food. Their commitment to strengthening the community helped transform the spirit of the Great Ignatian Challenge into direct, tangible assistance for neighbors facing hunger.

See "Food" on page 7



Jewish Federation OF NORTHEASTERN PA

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Bais Yaakov trip to Brooklyn

On January 1, the Bais Yaakov students went on a very enlightening and educational trip to Brooklyn. Their first stop was to the Amud Aish Kleinman Memorial Holocaust Museum, where they received a guided tour illustrating life before the Holocaust, the decimation of life after liberation. The tour focused on Jewish life in different European countries and how each one was impacted by the Holocaust. It highlighted Hitler's understanding of how Jewish survival is dependent upon the transmission of Torah and why to accomplish his goal to wipe out the Jews it was necessary to eradicate the backbone of the Jew – the Torah.

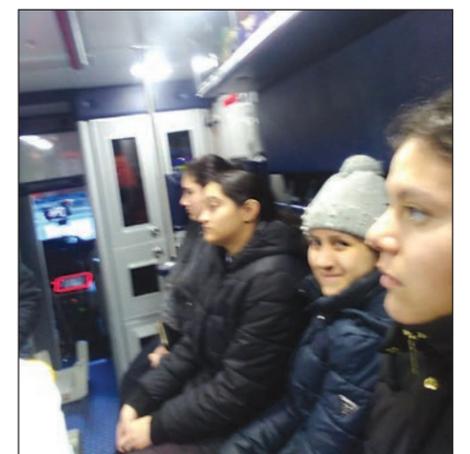
The tour was given by Mrs. Hannah Felzenberg who, together with her See "Trip" on page 7



Bais Yaakov students at Chaveirim.



Rivka Arias and a Hatzolah ambulance



Bais Yaakov students sat in a Hatzolah ambulance.

CANDLE LIGHTING

February 6	5:07 pm
February 13	5:16 pm
February 20	5:25 pm
February 27	5:33 pm
March 6	5:41 pm

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BSA students learned about community responsibility; SHDS first-graders received siddurs.
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Men's Farbrengen
The Monthly Men's Farbrengen marks its second year at the Jewish Discovery Center.
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History
The latest history column looks at the road to the partition of Mandate Palestine in 1947.
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Rav Eisenman delivers message on community responsibility and *Kiddush Hashem* at Beth Shalom Academy

On December 25, Rav Eisenman addressed the Beth Shalom Academy community with a meaningful *drasha* (speech) that explored Jewish history, contemporary challenges, and the responsibility of living as proud and respectful members of society.

Rav Eisenman is the longtime rabbi of Congregation Ahavas Israel in Passaic, NJ, and is widely known for his thoughtful writings and essays published in leading Jewish newspapers. He is also the rabbi and a close personal mentor to Mr. Ari Leiter, associate principal of Beth Shalom Academy, a connection that added a personal dimension to his visit and strengthened the bond between the speaker



and the school community.

Speaking on a day traditionally associated with celebration for many of our non-Jewish neighbors – but one that has not historically been a day of celebration for the Jewish people – Rav Eisenman explained the background of the custom known as Nittel Nacht. He shared that one of the origins of this tradition stemmed from times when Jews felt unsafe being outdoors on the night before the Christmas holiday, a reality that, while less common today, remains an important historical reminder.

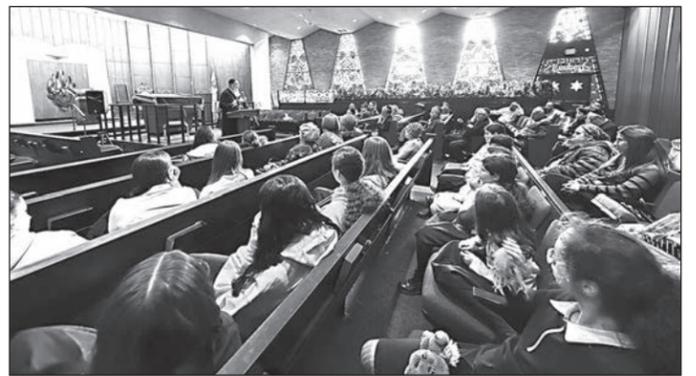
Rav Eisenman addressed the very real concern of antisemitism in today's world, while also offering a nuanced and empowering perspective. He cautioned against assuming that hostility is always the reason for tension, noting that at times the Jewish community must also reflect inward. "It's not true that they always hate us," he explained, emphasizing that poor behavior should not be excused by attributing it to antisemitism.

He highlighted the importance of *hakaras hatov* – expressing gratitude and appreciation – particularly

toward non-Jewish neighbors and community members who support and protect us, such as local law enforcement officers. Acts of kindness, respect and gratitude, he noted, help foster peaceful and positive relationships.

Central to Rav Eisenman's message was the concept of *kiddush Hashem*, the sanctification of God's name through ethical behavior and positive actions that reflect the values of the Jewish faith. Everyday conduct, he explained, serves as a public representation of the Jewish

See "Message" on page 10



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February is Cancer Prevention Month: Practical steps seniors can take to protect their health

BY DR. KEN SEBASTIANELLI

Cancer Prevention Month is an important reminder that while aging is a natural part of life, there are proactive steps older adults can take to reduce cancer risk and support long-term health. Advances in medicine, early detection and lifestyle

awareness have made prevention and management more effective than ever – especially for seniors.

WHY CANCER PREVENTION MATTERS MORE WITH AGE

Age is one of the strongest risk factors for cancer. As we grow older, our bodies have had more

exposure to environmental factors and cellular changes occur more frequently. This makes prevention, routine screenings and early detection particularly important for adults age 60 and older.

The good news is that many cancer risk factors are within our control, and even small, consistent changes can have a meaningful impact.

STAY CURRENT WITH RECOMMENDED SCREENINGS

Regular cancer screenings save lives by identifying cancer early, when treatment is most effective. Seniors should speak with their healthcare providers about which screenings are appropriate based on age, health history and family risk.

Common screenings for older adults may include:

- ◆ Breast cancer screenings
- ◆ Colorectal cancer screenings
- ◆ Prostate cancer screenings
- ◆ Lung cancer screenings for those with a history of smoking

See "Health" on page 10

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Antisemitism, shifting baseline expectations and Jackson, Mississippi

We recently saw how the oldest synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi, was attacked by a 19-year-old with a good academic record who was also on his school's baseball team. When asked why he did it, his answer was that it was connected with Jews, and he felt that was explanation enough. How did we get here?

Life for Jews in the United States has not been perfect. People sometimes forget Ulysses Grant's General Order 11, and how up to the 1940s and 1950s many places did not accept Jewish members. People also



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

forget (or never heard of) Father Charles Coughlin, Charles Lindbergh, or Henry Ford. But in more recent years, antisemitism had become unacceptable in America until recently.

And by recently I do not mean since October 7, 2023 – the problems started before. As far back as the late 1990s, people started sounding the alarm about a rise in antisemitism. It started with little things: changes in language, cartoons, etc. Because at the time, as a community, we felt the problem was minor, we let it fly.

The problem with that approach is that when people get used to some level of difficulty or problem, the next generation takes that reality as a given and as normal. And that generation saw an increase in antisemitism of their own, which they also dismissed as minor – and a third generation inherited that reality as “normal.”

What happened on October 7 was not an eruption of antisemitism out of nowhere; it was rather an expression of prejudice that already existed by people who felt they now had “permission” to express it. Add to that the concerted effort of pro-Iran and pro-Hamas activism, and it became an explosive combination.

As antisemitic attacks grow in number and intensity, many in our community try to seek refuge in the old comfortable ways to deal with the problem. “We need to educate people,” “we

need more dialogue,” “we need a stronger presence in the general community,” etc. While all those approaches are important and can certainly make a difference in the long term, in the current situation it might be a case of “too little too late” unless this was a consistent and long-standing effort, such as our Teenage Symposium on the Holocaust, now on year 38 and counting.

The problem is even more complicated by the

use of social media. Social media is not regulated and regular laws are inapplicable because they are unenforceable. Take the case of France – in 2015, the French government made it illegal to sell Nazi memorabilia in France; therefore no French server could host websites selling it. The offending websites moved to other servers (many of them in Russia) and remained available to French citizens. The French government could do nothing. Barring a global effort to regulate cyberspace, the Internet and Social media will remain the new Wild West.

So what can we do? We can become cyber activists. Next time you spot a posting on “X” or “Instagram” or “TikTok,” which you feel is antisemitic in nature, *report it*. On “X” at the top of the screen on the right corner, you will see three dots. Click and you’ll get a pull-down menu where one of the options is “Report this posting.” When you choose it you can describe why you consider that particular posting inappropriate. Do it every day (there is a limit of apparently 12 reports a day per person). When a specific person gets reported enough times, “X” closes their account. Don’t bother responding to the postings – just report them. If a posting does not cross the line, but walks very close to it, you can respond: but don’t do it in anger, or make fun of the posting and the writer. These

are some simple ways (by no means the only ones) to become a cyber activist.

None of our individual efforts will be enough to turn the tide of hate, but if we all roll up our sleeves and do something, the cumulative efforts will make a difference.

We live in a dangerous world, especially for Jews. We have the choice of minimizing our footprint in the hope to be overlooked – or we can stand up proud of who we are and fight back in any way we can.

If we all act, we can make sure that people understand that the Stephen Spencer Pittmans (the name of the Jackson arson perpetrator) are *not* acceptable in civilized society. If we don’t act, we are implicitly saying that people can continue to escalate.

Antisemitism is *not* political; it is not about “Free Palestine” or about “They will not replace us.” It is an old form of hate that keeps mutating over time. I recommend watching Rabbi Jonathan Sacks’ (ז”ל) take on the subject: Go to YouTube, type in the search field “Rabbi Sacks on the mutation of Antisemitism” and watch it.

DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming Reporter issues.

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Monday, February 9	March
Monday, March 9	April
Monday, April 13	May
Monday, May 11	June

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Monthly Men's Farbrengen marks two years of growth at Jewish Discovery Center

Clarks Summit, PA—What began as a spontaneous moment of inspiration has grown into a meaningful monthly tradition for Jewish men in Scranton and the Abingtons. The Men's Farbrengen at the Jewish Discovery Center, now entering its third year, continues to draw participants seeking connection, inspiration and authentic Jewish brotherhood.

The monthly farbrengen was launched two years ago during a gathering celebrating the birthday of Rabbi Benny Rapoport. That evening, participants experienced what many described as the raw power of Jewish men connecting on a deeper level. As they shared a *l'chaim* (toast), sang Chasidic melodies, and spoke openly about their lives and spiritual journeys, a strong sense of brotherhood filled the room. By the end of the night, attendees proposed turning that powerful experience into a formal

monthly event – an idea that was immediately embraced.

Since then, the farbrengen has become a cornerstone of men's programming at the Jewish Discovery Center, regularly drawing 20 to 25 men of various ages. Rooted in Chasidic tradition, a farbrengen is more than a social gathering. The Yiddish word literally means "spending time together," emphasizing fellowship and togetherness. In practice, it is a time when Jews come together as one, opening their hearts and setting aside the barriers that often exist between one another – and between themselves and their Creator.

Each month, participants gather to share words of Torah, personal reflections and soulful *niggunim*. Chasidic philosophy teaches that a farbrengen is not simply a gathering, but a meeting of souls – where individuals inspire one another to grow, to do more and to live with greater purpose. Many attendees note that

these evenings play a meaningful role in deepening their personal Jewish identity while reinforcing a sense of shared responsibility for Jewish life in the region.

The farbrengen draws men of varied ages, backgrounds and levels of Jewish observance. Yet, all differences quickly fade as meaningful conversations unfold, and a collective commitment to strengthening Jewish life across

See "Farbrengen" on page 8



Purim party wines

BY JOSHUA RUBIN

The Kitzur Shulchan Aruch explains that the month of Adar and the holiday of Purim bring increased joy to the Jewish people. As with all Jewish *chagim*, we celebrate with a *seudah*, a festive meal, and since the miracle of Purim unfolded through wine, our rabbis of blessed memory emphasized rejoicing with wine on this day. What a mitzvah! Here are several standout wines to make your Purim celebration both easy and memorable.

An ideal choice for any Purim *seudah*, Carmel Buzz is a sweet, lightly sparkling (frizzante) Moscato with low alcohol (5.5% ABV) and is available in a wide range of fruit flavors. Pineapple and mango bring tropical vibrancy, perfect for lively Purim gatherings or sunny

afternoon *seudah*. Apple and peach offer familiar, crowd-pleasing sweetness with crisp, refreshing finishes. For those seeking bolder fruit character, pomegranate delivers depth and richness, while watermelon adds a light, playful twist. Served well-chilled, these wines are easy to enjoy throughout the celebration.

Seeking a refined counterpoint to sweet Moscatos? Then head no further than to Contessa Annalisa Collection, imported from Italy. First, Silver Sky Sparkling Rose (11% ABV), featuring delicate bubbles and soft fruit notes, bringing balance and visual appeal to the *seudah*. Its blush color reflects Purim's themes of joy and abundance, while its crisp finish pairs well

See "Wines" on page 8



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The road to partition

(Thirteenth article of history series)

BY DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

When the newly formed United Nations received the British notification on April 2, 1947, it formed a “First Committee” to decide how to proceed. After meeting with the Jewish Agency led by Ben Gurion and the Arab Higher Committee headed by the grand mufti from his Egyptian exile, it recommended the creation of a special committee to explore the issue and find an equitable solution to the problem of Mandate Palestine.

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) included representatives of Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. They were given the mandate of investigating the situation both in Palestine and in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Europe to find an equitable solution which would also pay special consideration to the “religious rights of Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Holy Land.”

The Committee started sessions on May 26, 1947, and presented its final report on August 31, 1947. During the committee’s deliberations, the British were able to ignore Truman’s demands for 100,000 entry visas to Palestine for Holocaust survivors, who continued to linger in the camps two years after the final surrender of Germany.

The Committee made an honest effort to meet with the parties, and it did indeed meet with Ben Gurion and representatives of the Jewish Agency. The Arab Higher Committee refused to meet with the UNSCOP and demanded the implementation of the Woodhead Commission recommendations (see prior article). They denied the right of the United Nations to decide on their fate. The UNSCOP then turned to representatives of the Arab countries to hear the Arab perspective. Transjordan declined to be part of the conversation as they were not part of the U.N. yet (they would be admitted in 1952). The

UNSCOP also met with refugees in the DP camps of Europe.

In the meantime, the Jewish Agency stepped up its efforts to bring “illegal immigrants” into Mandate Palestine. One of these Hagannah operations, the *Exodus 1947*, had a disproportionate impact on the Committee deliberations.

The *President Warfield* started life as a cruise ship sailing the route between Baltimore and Washington in 1928. During World War II the ship was pressed into service as part of the Normandy Invasion fleet as a troop carrier. Upon being returned to the U.S., Hagannah agents bought it as war surplus for \$8,000. After many initial problems, the ship eventually sailed to Europe with a crew of mostly American Jews and picked up in France a group of 4,500 Holocaust survivors to take them through the British blockade into Palestine.

The British were aware of the operation and the Royal Navy intercepted the ship in July 1947, and during the boarding operation killed two American crew members. The refugees were transferred to a Royal Navy ship and ferried back to France. Once on French shores, the refugees refused to disembark and initiated a hunger strike demanding their right to go to Palestine. When the strikers refused to give up, they took the ships to Hamburg, in British-occupied Germany.

With the world’s attention on the UNSCOP deliberations, the *Exodus 1947* affair received worldwide media attention and public opinion was inflamed by the naval assault on the *Exodus*. This public reaction influenced the UNSCOP deliberations.

The UNSCOP reported that the Arab Higher Committee was waging an anti-Jewish campaign including boycott and physical attacks. They also noted that they were better organized than in prior bouts of violence. The League of Arab Nations also implemented a boycott of Jewish goods, demanded the deportation of all Jewish immigrants and the implementation

of the recommendations of the Woodhead Commission. The Jews had no options other than working with the UNSCOP and accepting its recommendations, as they were taxed with the rescue and rehabilitation of hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors.

Before presenting its final report, the UNSCOP explored several options, including a unitary state with majority rule, a cantonal binational structure to protect the rights of the (Jewish) minority and several options to partition the territory into two sovereign states – one for Jews and one for Arabs.

The UNSCOP eventually concluded that the Arab and Jewish communities could not coexist under a common political framework and recommended partition, with Jerusalem established as a separate area under U.N. control. While this was the majority report, three members (Iran, India and Yugoslavia) favored the formation of a federal state containing both Jewish and Arab areas.

After some minor changes to the initial partition proposal, the UNSCOP report and recommendations was ready to be presented at the U.N. General Assembly for consideration.

Security Square – 10 actions families should take to protect themselves

BY TIM BROOKS, SCN
REGIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

The Secure Community Network suggests 10 actions families should take to protect themselves:

1. Talk to your family about security at home. Whether it’s answering the home phone or door, talk about safe actions at home.
2. Conduct a risk assessment of your home. A security strategy begins with understanding your

home’s strengths and vulnerabilities. Evaluate entry points, windows and outdoor lighting.

3. Coordinate closely with Jewish community security professionals and local law enforcement. There are security professionals who are available to talk about security in the home. I am one of them.

4. Develop and implement an evacuation plan. Have a plan to deal

See “Security” on page 9

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Jewish Discovery Center marks growth milestone with successful crowd-funding campaign



Rabbi Yosef Rapoport took Hebrew School students on a journey through towns and villages in ancient Israel.

CLARKS SUMMIT, PA – In the days prior to Thanksgiving, while most Americans were busy shopping and preparing holiday dinners, staff and volunteers at the Jewish Discovery Center (JDC) were busy with preparations of another kind.

On November 23 and 24, from morning until night, close to 30 community members made phone calls, sent e-mails and utilized social media to raise over \$250,000. This 36-hour fund-raiser ensures that the JDC's ongoing programs, as well as its new outreach initiatives, will have the financial cover necessary to be sustainable.

Rabbi Benny Rapoport, who launched the Jewish Discovery Center See "JDC 1" on page 9



More than 50 women gathered for a social evening and rugelah bake led by Chany Rapoport and Esther Rapoport.



Participants enjoyed a beautiful fall evening and a warm fire at the JDC's Sukkot celebration. L-r: Isabella Gabrielov, Esther Rapoport, Shannon Dermody, Jonathan Gross, Aron Gold and Dania Halperin.

SHDS first-graders receive siddurs



Above and below: Scranton Hebrew Day School first-graders received their first siddur. Their rebbi is Rabbi Shmuel Goldberg.



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www.jfsnepa.org/support-jfs to make your donation to our 2026 Annual Campaign today!



Together, We Can Make a Difference

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Trip.....Continued from page 1

husband, researched and collected many artifacts from survivors such as *tefillin*, *tzitzis* and a small Sefer Torah, all donated by survivors. It was fascinating to see the perseverance and resilience of those people even while in the camps.

From there we went on a guided



A Hatzolah ambulance and stretcher

tour by Mr. Kish, the director of Hatzolah in New York. Hatzolah is a medical emergency service that provides its own ambulances and trained volunteers for quick responses to any medical emergency. We were shown all the equipment on the ambulances including the most modern technology. The students learned in great detail how



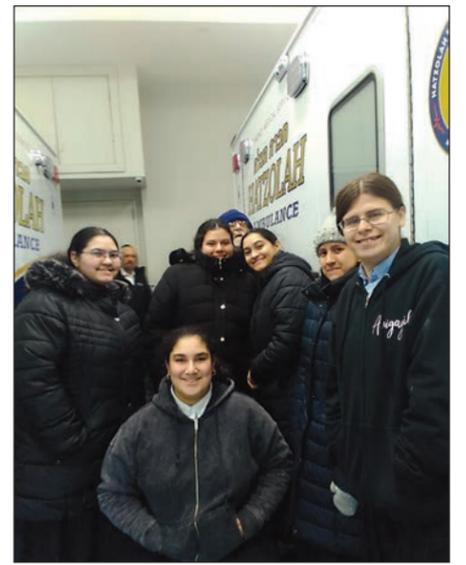
Mr. Tuli Jaroslowitz and Mr. Meir Rimpler of Chaveirim.



A Chaveirim vehicle

Hatzolah works and how quickly they respond to calls.

Next, we went on to Chaveirim, a Jewish help organization that takes care of any non-medical emergencies. We were shown all their equipment and their very well stocked vans – including plumbing equipment, air conditioners, heaters, generators and tires – anything necessary for any emergency. They even have cages to trap animals. One call does it all! The tour was led by Mr. Tuli Jaroslowitz and Mr. Meir Rimpler. It was amazing how much they do – all volunteers are available 24/7!



Bais Yaakov students and a Hatzolah ambulance.



Mr. Kish and Neil Weinberg



Mr. Kish of Hatzolah with Bais Yaakov students.

Food.....Continued from page 1

The initiative was coordinated in conjunction with Katie Gallagher, MS, RD, LD, ShopRite dietitian, who assisted in selecting nutritious kosher food items. Scranton Prep students worked closely with community partners to make the project a success.

Through partnerships like these – bringing together students, donors and community organizations – the Great Ignatian Challenge continues to demonstrate the power of collaboration, generosity and service in action.



Support the JFS Annual Campaign
 Even a small donation can make a big difference.

Scan the QR Code above or visit www.jfsnepa.org

The Jewish Federation of NEPA is excited to offer local, community organizations the opportunity to post events to our Community Calendar. Published events will be included in our weekly Ma Nishma NEPA email.



How to Submit a Community Event

Step 1

Visit www.jewishnepa.org



Step 2

Click the button (top right)



Step 3

Register or log-in



Step 4

Include your event details and submit the form. Events will be published once approved.

We reserve the right to edit the content of the event submissions and approve or deny publication of events.



• *Regular Schedule of Services* •

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 1025 Vine St., Scranton, PA 18510 (corner of Vine & Clay Ave.)
 570-346-0502 • fax: 570-346-8800
 Weekday - *Shacharit*: Sun. 8am; Mon., Thurs. & Rosh Chodesh 6:30 am; Tue., Wed. & Fri. 6:45 am; Sat. & holidays 8:45 am.
Mincha during the week is approx. 10 minutes before sunset, following by *Maariv*.

CHABAD OF THE ABINGTONS/ JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER

Rabbi Benny Rapoport
 216 Miller, Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411
 570-587-3300 • JewishNEPA.com/minyan
 Weekly service for Shabbat and all Jewish holidays
Kabbalat Shabbat at sundown (summer at 7 pm)
 Saturday mornings: 9:30 am, *Kiddush* 11:30 am
 Call for more information.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE POCONOS

Rabbi Mendel Bendet
 570-420-8655 • website: www.chabadpoconos.com
 Please contact us for schedules and locations.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi Elliott Kleinman
 President: Liza Roos Lucy
 Contact person: Cheryl Badner, Congregation Administrator
 615 Court St., Honesdale, PA 18431
 570-253-2222 • fax: 570-226-1105

CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi Alan Berlin
 President: Lisa Spector
 P.O. Box 757, Sullivan Rd., Pocono Pines, PA 18350 (located at Rt. 940 and Pocono Crest Road at Sullivan Trail)
 570-646-0100 • website: www.bnaiharimpoconos.org
 Shabbat morning services 10 am-noon; every other Saturday.

JEWISH FELLOWSHIP OF HEMLOCK FARMS

Rav Shoshana Mitrani Knapp, ravshoshi@gmail.com
 President: Jean Seltzer
 1516 Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428 (located at 540 Forest Dr., Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428)
 570-775-7497 • e-mail: jfhf1516@gmail.com
 Friday evening Shabbat service 7:30 pm
 Saturday morning Shabbat service 10 am

MACHZIKEH HADAS SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Mordechai Fine
 President: Meshulem Epstein
 600 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510
 570-342-6271

OHEV ZEDEK CONGREGATION

Rabbi Mordechai Fine
 1432 Mulberry St., Scranton, PA 18510

TEMPLE HESED

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz
 President: Jennifer Novak
 1 Knox St., Scranton, PA 18505 (Off Lake Scranton Rd.)
 570-344-7201 • website: www.TempleHesed.org
 E-mail: templehesed@comcast.net
 First Friday Shabbat 6pm, other Fridays 7 pm; Chanting Circle Saturdays at 11:30 am

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi Daniel M. Zucker • President: Debbie Smith
 711 Wallace St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360
 (one block off Rt. 191 (5th Street) at Avenue A)
 570-421-8781 • website: www.templepoconos.org
 E-mail: tipoc@ptd.net
 Friday evening Shabbat 6 pm; Saturday morning Shabbat 10:30 am

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SCRANTON

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi Miriam Spitzer
 Cantor: Vladimir Aronzon
 President: David Hollander, Hollanderx@aol.com
 918 East Gibson St., Scranton, PA 18510 (located at the corner of Gibson & Monroe Sts.)
 570-342-0350 • e-mail: office@templeisraelscranton.org
 Mon. & Thurs. 7:15 am; Tues., Wed. & Fri. 7:25 am; Rosh Chodesh & *Chagim* weekdays, 7 am; Shabbat morning service 9:30 am

Wines Continued from page 4

with appetizers, fish courses and lighter fare. Contessa Annalisa Prosecco DOC (11% ABV) delivers classic Italian sparkle with a clean, refreshing profile. Bright and lively, it is well suited for welcoming guests, raising a *l'chaim* or celebrating after the megillah reading. Both wines' versatility makes them a reliable choice for larger gatherings with varied tastes.

For those looking to add sparkle and elegance to the Purim *seudah*, the wines from Baglietti are a must have! MitzvahWine.com offers three of the most beautiful wine bottles you've ever seen. First is, Baglietti No. 5 Moscato White (sweet – 5.5%), refreshingly bubbly and aromatic, with notes of flowers, berries and citrus, making it a natural pairing for desserts, hamantashen, or enjoying on its own; the same can be said of

its counterpart Moscato Rosé (sweet – 5.5%), which adds ripe red berry flavors with a touch of citrus. Last but not least is the No. 10 Prosecco (11%), extra-dry, yet bold and inviting, with notes of pear, citrus and almond; simply put, you cannot go wrong with any of the Baglietti wines – your host or guests will thank you for sharing such a gorgeous treat.

As Purim reminds us, joy is not only permitted – it is a sacred obligation. Whether you choose a sweet Moscato, a refined Prosecco, or an elegant sparkling Rosé, the right wine elevates the *seudah*, enhances the mitzvah and brings people together in genuine *simcha*. May your cups be full, your table surrounded by friends and family, and your Purim filled with laughter, gratitude and celebration. Have a *freilich* Purim!

Farbrengen Continued from page 4

Northeast Pennsylvania takes hold.

Rabbi Benny Rapoport, who leads the farbrengen together with his son Rabbi Yosef Rapoport, explained that the atmosphere of openness and sincerity has deepened relationships and prompted innate feelings of brotherhood among the assembled. “What begins around the table doesn't end when the evening

is over,” he said. “The inspiration carries into family life, community involvement and daily Jewish practice.”

As the Men's Farbrengen enters its third year, it continues to demonstrate how meaningful Jewish experiences can shape not only individuals but an entire region. By creating a space where Jewish adults actively engage with their heritage and view their Jewish identity as a primary and living part of their lives, the farbrengen naturally leads to greater involvement and initiative.

At the Jewish Discovery Center, the monthly men's farbrengen has become a catalyst for Jewish community building, transforming personal inspiration into lasting communal strength.



KOSHER MEALS ON WHEELS

Home delivered meals when you need them the most!

Learn more by calling (570) 344-1186

Meals prepared at the Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, A Jewish Senior Life Community under kosher dietary guidelines.

The **Reporter**
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

thanks for your support!

Friends of The Reporter make big news!

The Federation is asking members of its communities to support its “Friends of The Reporter” Campaign which seeks to raise \$5,000 to assist in funding the newspaper.

The newspaper is delivered monthly to each and every identifiable Jewish home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Reporter is the primary intercommunal newspaper of the Jewish communities of Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. Supplementing synagogue newsletters, bulletins and e-mails, The Reporter is issued to hundreds of Jewish households throughout our region. Over the past several years, the publishing cost of the newspaper has increased dramatically although the newspaper continues to be provided at no charge to members of our Jewish communities in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Federation has assumed the financial responsibility of funding the newspaper at a cost of \$23,990 per year and asks only that its readers assist it in raising \$5,000 as part of its “Friends of The Reporter” Campaign to offset a small share of these expenses.

Your gift to fund our regional Jewish newspaper matters a great deal to our readers and we would be very grateful for your financial support.

As always, your comments, opinions & suggestions are always welcome.

With best wishes,
 Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director
 Jewish Federation of NE Pennsylvania
 601 Jefferson Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18510

I will support continuation of our expanded Federation Reporter by contributing:

.....\$36\$54\$100 other amt. \$ _____

Name(s) (as you wish to appear on our list of “Friends”) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check here if you prefer your name not to be published

Please write and send tax deductible checks to:
 Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania
 601 Jefferson Ave. Scranton, PA 18510

The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

JDC 1 Continued from page 6

Center in 2001 together with his wife, Chany, explained that the campaign was a vital step in enabling the organization to broaden its impact. “Last fall, we took a big step forward when Rabbi Yosef and Esther Rapoport joined the JDC professional staff to double our programming capabilities and maximize our reach,” he said. “In the past 12 months, we’ve seen the fruits of that labor – more people coming to more events, more classes, more engagement and more one-on-one learning. Our community is benefiting from more connection than ever before.”

He continued, “Rabbi Yosef and Esther are super-charged with energy and enthusiasm. They’ve launched many new programs and broadened existing ones, all helping to shape a stronger Jewish future in NEPA. From Hebrew school and women’s circles to young professional events and individual engagement, the new Rapoport has added tremendous growth, ensuring Jewish life flourishes in our region.”

Titled “We are Gen Jew,” the campaign arrived at a pivotal time. The campaign’s webpage



Amen’s Chasidic gathering, called a farbrengen, led by Rabbis Benny and Yosef Rapoport, included inspirational messages, refreshments and l’chaim, and Jewish brotherhood.

Security . . . Continued from page 5 with emergencies at home, which may include fire or another emergency.

5. Address perimeter security and access control. Maintain outdoor lighting and landscaping for a safe perimeter.
6. Attend training when offered at the JCC or by another organization.
7. Plan for out-of-town vacations and events. Ensure a trusted friend or neighbor checks your house while you are gone.
8. Stay up to date on current threat information. Monitor local and national threat reporting and sign up for alerts from your local and regional security professionals to ensure timely and verified information.
9. Review, evaluate, practice and update regularly. Treat security as an ongoing process by knowing what to do in any type of emergency. Practice with your family.
10. Maintain first aid and medical supplies. Have a medical kit and make sure everyone in your family knows where it is.

SCN Regional Security Advisor Tim Brooks can be reached at tbrooks@securecommunitynetwork.org or 872-400-0239.

explained that the post-October 7 reality meant that Jews in the area who were not-yet engaged could reconnect and strengthen their Judaism.

“What we are seeing is a move from limited connection to active participation,” said Rabbi Benny Rapoport. “People aren’t just looking for a holiday event; they are looking for a community that stands together with pride and resilience.”

The campaign’s message was a call to action for the future: “The choices we make today – supporting Jewish learning, strengthening pride and expanding community – determine See “JDC 2” on page 11



Rabbi Yosef Rapoport presented an adult ed. Torah class exploring Chana’s prayer before Rosh Hashanah from the perspective of Chasidic philosophy.

GIFTING STOCK FORM

Gifting stock to a charitable 501(c)(3) organization is a great way to make a donation.

By gifting stock in which you have a large capital gain, you not only receive the benefit of making a sizable donation, but you also save the capital gains tax.

Example:
 Gift: \$2,000
 (Stock: ABC @ \$20 per share - Gift: 100 shares)

If you were to sell “Stock ABC” that you originally purchased at \$10.00 a share, you would have a \$1,000 capital gain and you would be required to pay at least \$150.00 in federal taxes, etc.

But by gifting the stock, you save the entire \$150.00 and you’ve found a way to help the Federation accomplish its mission:

“... to rescue the imperiled, care for the vulnerable, support Israel and world Jewry and perpetuate Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Your gift will not only assist our local and regional organizations and agencies, but you will have the satisfaction of helping those in need.

 You will be able to look back and say: “I’m just doing what my People have always done for each other.”

For further information on gifting stocks in payment of your pledge to our Annual UJA Campaign, please contact the Federation at 570-961-2300 (ext. 3) for details.



Jewish Family Service
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Help neighbors in need!

Donate Your Vehicle or Real Estate

Your **vehicle or real estate** donation strengthens individuals, families, and communities.




Why Donate?

- Avoids costly repairs and maintenance
- Easy donation process
- Reduces taxes and fees
- Skips the hassles of selling
- You can qualify for a tax deduction

Donate your vehicle or real estate today!

Learn more and get started:

(877) JFS-4CAR | (844) 277-HOME

jfsnepa.org

Are you on the Jewish Federation’s email list?

We send updated announcements and special event details weekly to those who wish to receive them.

Send Dassy Ganz an email if you would like to join the list.
Dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org



➡ Check out the Federation’s new, updated website at www.jewishnepa.org or find it on Facebook

Health Continued from page 2

◆ Skin checks for signs of melanoma or other skin cancers

Skipping screenings due to feeling “fine” is a common mistake. Many cancers develop silently, without noticeable symptoms in the early stages.

MAINTAIN A BALANCED, NUTRITIOUS DIET

Nutrition plays a significant role in cancer prevention. A diet rich in whole, minimally processed foods supports immune function and reduces inflammation.

Key dietary recommendations include:
◆ Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables of varied colors

◆ Choosing whole grains instead of refined carbohydrates

◆ Limiting red and processed meats
◆ Reducing added sugars and highly processed foods

◆ Staying well hydrated

Seniors should also discuss nutritional needs with a healthcare professional, especially if managing chronic conditions or appetite changes.

STAY PHYSICALLY ACTIVE – AT ANY LEVEL

Physical activity helps regulate hormones, maintain a healthy weight and strengthen the immune system. It does not require intense workouts to be effective.

Appropriate activities for many seniors include:

- ◆ Walking
- ◆ Gentle stretching or yoga
- ◆ Swimming or water aerobics
- ◆ Light strength training
- ◆ Balance-focused exercises

Even 20-30 minutes of movement most days of the week can reduce cancer risk while also improving mobility, mood and heart health.

AVOID TOBACCO AND LIMIT ALCOHOL

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of cancer. Quitting smoking at any age provides immediate and long-term benefits, including reduced cancer risk and improved lung and heart health.

Alcohol consumption should also be limited.

For seniors, moderation is key, as alcohol can increase the risk of several cancers and interact with medications.

PROTECT YOUR SKIN

Skin cancer risk increases with age, especially for individuals who spent years outdoors without adequate sun protection. Seniors should:

- ◆ Use broad-spectrum sunscreen daily
- ◆ Wear protective clothing and hats outdoors
- ◆ Avoid peak sun hours when possible
- ◆ Report new or changing skin spots to a healthcare provider promptly

MANAGE STRESS AND PRIORITIZE MENTAL WELL-BEING

Chronic stress can weaken the immune system and negatively affect overall health. Seniors should prioritize activities that support emotional well-being, such as:

- ◆ Staying socially connected
- ◆ Engaging in hobbies and interests
- ◆ Practicing relaxation techniques
- ◆ Seeking support when feeling overwhelmed or anxious

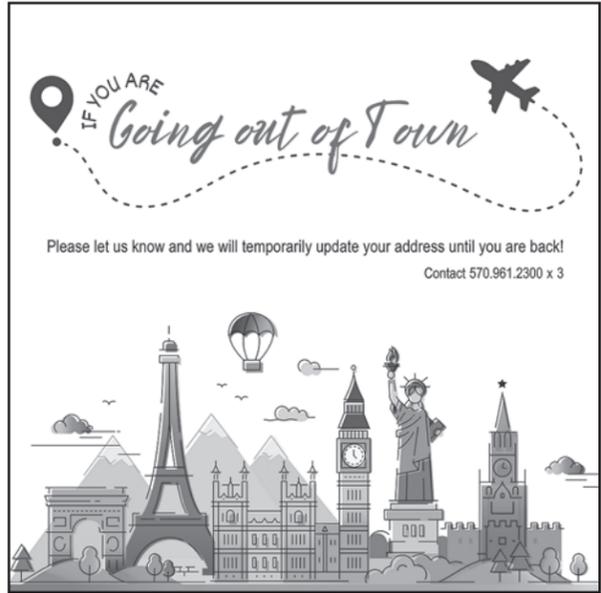
Mental health is an essential part of physical health, particularly during aging.

TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR HEALTH-CARE

Open communication with healthcare providers is essential. Seniors should feel empowered to ask questions, discuss concerns, and review medications regularly. Keeping a personal health record and attending routine checkups helps ensure nothing is overlooked.

Cancer Prevention Month is not about fear; it is about awareness and empowerment. By focusing on prevention, early detection, and healthy daily habits, seniors can take meaningful steps toward maintaining independence, vitality and quality of life.

Dr. Ken Sebastianelli has served as medical director for Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, a Jewish Senior Life Community, since 2012. Dr. Sebastianelli is a board-certified internal medicine practitioner with Prime Med Medical Group, and is affiliated with Geisinger Community Medical Center and Moses Taylor Hospital. He is also a member of the Medical Executive Committee at Geisinger Community Medical Center.



Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For more information or to discuss these planned giving options, please contact Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of NEPA, 570-961-2300 (x1) or daniel.chejfec@jewishnepa.org.

If Your Goal is to:	Then You Can:	Your Benefits May Include:
Make a quick & easy gift	Simply write a check now	An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact
Avoid tax on capital gains	Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities	A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax
Defer a gift until after your lifetime	Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash, specific property, or a share or the residue of your estate)	Exemption from federal estate tax on donations
Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free	Create a charitable gift annuity	Current & future savings on income taxes, plus fixed, stable payments
Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of a home or other real estate	Donate the real estate or sell it to a charity at a bargain price	An income tax reduction plus reduction or elimination of capital gains tax
Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans	Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime	Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
Give your personal residence or farm, but retain life use	Create a charitable gift of future interest, called a retained life estate	Tax advantages plus use of the property
Make a large gift with little cost to you	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one & designate a charity as the owner	Current & possible future income tax deductions
Receive secure, fixed income for life while avoiding market risks	Purchase a charitable gift annuity or create a charitable remainder annuity trust	Tax advantages & possible increased rate of return
Give income from an asset for a period of years but retain the asset for yourself or your heirs	Create a charitable lead trust	Federal estate tax savings on asset & income tax deductions for deductions for donated income
Create a hedge against inflation over the long term	Create a charitable remainder unitrust	Variable payments for life plus tax advantages
Make a revocable gift during your lifetime	Name a charity as the beneficiary of assets in a living trust	Full control of the trust terms during your lifetime

Message . . . Continued from page 2

people. Simple acts such as cleaning up after ourselves, bringing in garbage cans, shoveling sidewalks and maintaining our surroundings can elevate how the Jewish community is perceived and bring honor to its traditions.

Conversely, Rav Eisenman warned against *chillul Hashem*, the desecration of God’s name, which occurs when careless or disrespectful behavior reflects negatively on the Jewish community. Neglecting communal responsibilities or disregarding shared spaces, he explained, can undermine the values Jews seek to uphold.

While acknowledging that antisemitism does exist and cannot be eliminated through behavior alone, Rav Eisenman concluded by encouraging the adoption of common-sense practices that help minimize tension and promote mutual respect. His *drasha* (speech) resonated deeply with the Beth Shalom Academy community, offering both awareness and a practical path forward rooted in responsibility, dignity and pride.

For more information about BSA programming, visit www.bethshalomacademy.com.

JDC 2. Continued from page 9

the resilience of generations to come. In a time when Jewish identity faces pressure from assimilation and antisemitism, our answer is clear: knowledge is the antidote to hate. Unity is the solution to condemnation. Education, connection and vibrant Jewish pride are the foundations of Jewish continuity.”

The success of the campaign was bolstered by the enthusiasm of a “double match” strategy, generated by three challenge gifts, which offered to double every dollar up to \$125,000. Twenty team leaders and campaign ambassadors recruited over 500 donations, both large and small, to trigger the matching funds. By the time the 36-hour campaign ended, the goal was achieved and team leaders gathered at the JDC to celebrate their hard work and positive results.

Sara and Jerry Cardona, whose team raised \$1,682, said that for their family, the JDC is more than just a community center: “For us, it’s a home where we are known and cared for. The community lifts us, teaches us, celebrates with us and supports us in countless ways. We are so thankful to all who strengthened this pillar of our community.”

Maya Wisneski, together with her friends Nofar and Omrit, raised \$3,514. Originally from Israel, she spoke about how the JDC provides



Coby Cranman led an activity at Chabad Hebrew School.

essential connections: “The JDC is more than just a place, it’s where we all feel like we belong, it’s our home away from home. It’s our community, our connection to Israel and our support system.”

“We get to celebrate our holidays as one big family just like we did back home. We get to see our kids grow up together like cousins surrounded by love,” they said. “All of that is thanks to the efforts and hard work that the Rapoport put into building such a strong and beautiful community – something that we will forever be grateful for.”

Rabbi Yosef and Esther, who have expanded and enriched the JDC’s Hebrew School, shared

that the impact of the program is uniquely personal: “The kids learn about their heritage with joy and fun. Every student gets personal attention, and we make sure Judaism comes alive through hands-on activities and engaging lessons that students actually enjoy. The campaign allows kids to have a warm, welcoming place to learn and grow, underwriting curriculum, program supplies and enabling scholarships for families who need help with tuition.”

Be a part of the growth: The success of “We are Gen Jew” is just the beginning. Whether you are looking to reconnect with your heritage, enroll your child in a vibrant Hebrew School, or find a “home away from home,” there is a place for you here. Connect with our community today and help us build a stronger Jewish future in NEPA.

Follow us on facebook.com/JDCNEPA/ or instagram.com/jewishdiscoverycenter_ for updates!

P A C E

Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment

**Your gift to the Annual Campaign
DOES A WORLD OF GOOD.**

*Endowing your gift allows you to be there for the
Jewish community of NEPA forever.*

A Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) is a permanent fund that endows your Jewish community Annual Campaign gift as a lasting legacy. A PACE fund will continue to make an annual gift in perpetuity on your behalf.

To determine the amount you need to endow your entire campaign gift, multiply your current annual gift by 20.

You can fund your PACE by adding the JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA to your will, or by making the Federation a beneficiary of your IRA. All contributions to establish a PACE are tax deductible.

Let your name be remembered as a blessing.

Endowments can be created through a variety of vehicles, some of which do not necessitate funding during your lifetime yet still provide your estate with considerable tax benefits. They also enable you to perpetuate your commitment to the Annual Campaign in a way that best achieves your own personal financial and estate planning goals.

Examples Of Ways To Fund Your Pace Gift Are:

- * outright contribution of cash, appreciated securities
- * capital gain property such as real estate
- * charitable remainder trust
- * gift of life insurance
- * charitable lead trust
- * gift of IRA or pension plan assets
- * grant from your foundation
- * reserved life estate in your residence
- * bequest

Using appreciated property, such as securities or real estate, affords you the opportunity to eliminate the income tax on the long-term capital gain, will in some instances generate a full income tax charitable deduction and will remove those assets from your estate for estate tax purposes.

**For more information contact Daniel Chejfec at
Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.)**

PESACH COOKING DEMO & TASTING

SUSIE FISHBEIN

PASSOVER, REIMAGINED!

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 | 6:00 PM

Tri Color
Matzo Ball Soup

Eggplant / Melanzane
Scarponcino

Chicken Lollipops with
Shwarma Mayonnaise

\$20 per person
Space is Limited | RSVP Required
Questions: Dassy 570-961-2300 x2
Proceeds benefit The Campaign

Scan to RSVP

Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN PA

Your ad could be here!

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Kathy Brown at (800) 779-7896, ext. 244,
or
advertising@thereporter.org

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The world is an unstable place.



We bring security.

Throughout Europe, violent attacks target Jewish people and Jewish institutions. Security is posted at synagogues. At Jewish day schools, five-year-olds file past armed guards to get to the playground. Jewish students arriving at college encounter toxic anti-Israel slogans.

Your UJA gift will help restore a sense of security. With your help, we can share expertise and funding to keep children safe at schools, and stand up against hatred so that Jews everywhere can walk without fear - into a synagogue or simply down the street.

That's why there's UJA and the Federation. And that's why we need you.

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to rescue the imperiled, care for the vulnerable, support Israel and world Jewry, and revitalize and perpetuate Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

_____ I'm enclosing a gift of \$ _____ I'll pledge \$ _____ *

* _____ One-time * _____ Quarterly installments (1/4 of total) * _____ Monthly installments (1/12 of total)

**2025-26 UJA Campaign
Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510
Telephone: 570-961-2300 (ext. 3)**

Payment options

_____ Please bill me at the above address.

_____ Enclosed is my check payable to "UJA/Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania".

_____ On-line banking (designate your payments through your bank auto-draft account to "UJA/Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania").

_____ My company (_____) has a matching gift program.
I'll obtain the form and forward it.

Authorized signature

Date

**DAVID HOLLANDER AND ALEX ITZKOWITZ, CO-CHAIRS OF OUR 2025-26 UJA CAMPAIGN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**