

The Jewish Federation’s Annual Meeting: A celebration of milestones

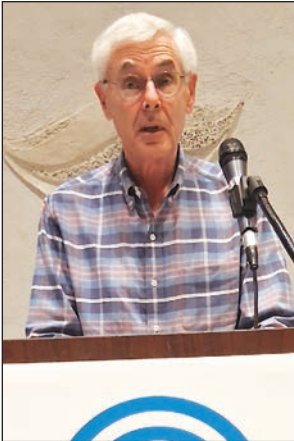
The Annual Meeting of an organization is the time to review the highlights of the closing season, as well as sharing hopes and plans for the coming year.

On June 25, the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania did this and more. After a meaningful invocation by Rabbi Yehuda Salkow, director of the Jewish Resource Center of the Poconos, David

Falkk, outgoing president, and Dr. Daniel Chejfec, executive director, emceed the evening’s reports and presentations including David Falkk’s final president’s report.

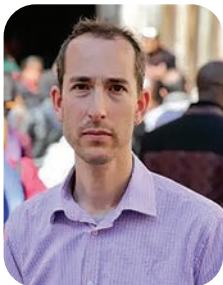
The 2025-26 fund-raising campaign exceeded expectations as reported by Campaign Co-chair Alex Itzkowitz. Thanks to the generosity of a growing donor base and existing

See “Meeting” on page 12



SAVE THE DATE
JEWISH FEDERATION OF NEPA
2026-2027 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
INVITES THE COMMUNITY
October 11, 2026
Scranton JCC
601 Jefferson Ave
Koppelman Auditorium
6:45 PM

From October 7th to the Ballot Box:
Israeli Society Today
Nathan Jeffay - British-Israeli
journalist, author,
Keynote speaker and
communications professional.



Alex Itzkowitz
Campaign co-chair

Susie Blum Connors
Campaign co-chair

David Hollander is new Federation president

David Hollander has been an active leader in the Greater Scranton community since his teenage years. He currently serves as president of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, where he has long been engaged in advancing the Federation’s mission through service on its Board of Trustees, as a Holocaust Symposium facilitator, and as a member of the Community Relations Committee. He is also a member of the Scranton Jewish Community Security Council and is the past president of Temple Israel of Scranton.



within the Jewish community, David is deeply committed to serving the broader Northeastern Pennsylvania region. He is the immediate past president of the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen and currently chairs its Long-

Range Planning Committee. He also serves on the Board of Directors of NEPA SHRM (Northeastern Pennsylvania Society for Human Resource Management).

A native of Scranton and graduate of the University of Scranton, David is the director of human resources and corporate procurement for Maid-Rite Specialty Foods. He and his wife are the proud parents of three children and reside in

See “President” on page 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In history

The latest history column looks at the final months of Israel’s 1948 war for independence.

Story on page 5

JFS honors Ginsberg

JFS celebrated its 111th Annual Meeting and honored Dr. Daniel Ginsberg.

Story on page 7

CANDLE LIGHTING

August 7	7:54 pm
August 14	7:45 pm
August 21	7:35 pm
August 28	7:28 pm
September 4	7:12 pm

PLUS

Executive Director’s Column.....	3
Schedule of Services	8

Heat safety for seniors: staying safe during the summer months

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy sunshine, spend time with family and participate in outdoor activities. However, high temperatures can also pose serious health risks – especially for older adults. As we age, our bodies become less efficient at regulating temperature, making seniors more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Taking a few simple precautions can help ensure a safe and healthy summer.

One of the reasons older adults are at greater risk during hot weather is that the body's natural cooling mechanisms become less effective with age. Certain chronic health conditions, including heart disease, diabetes and respiratory illnesses, can further increase sensitivity to heat. Additionally, many commonly prescribed medications, such as diuretics, blood pressure medications and some antidepressants, may affect the body's ability to stay hydrat-

Hydration is one of the most effective ways to prevent heat-related illness. Seniors should drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if they do not feel thirsty. The sensation of thirst naturally decreases with age, making dehydration easier to overlook. Limiting beverages that contain caffeine or alcohol can also help, as these drinks may contribute to fluid loss. Eating foods with high water content, such as watermelon, cucumbers, berries and oranges, can provide additional hydration while offering important vitamins and nutrients.

Whenever possible, outdoor activities should be planned during the cooler parts of the day, such as

early morning or evening. If spending time outside, wearing lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a wide-brimmed hat can help keep the body cool. Applying sunscreen is equally important, as sunburn reduces the body's ability to cool itself and increases the risk of dehydration.



Taking frequent breaks in the shade or an air-conditioned space can also prevent overheating.

Inside the home, maintaining a cool environment is essential. Air conditioning is the most effective way to stay safe during extreme heat. If air conditioning is unavailable, using fans, keeping blinds or curtains closed during the hottest part of the day, and visiting public places such as libraries, shopping centers or senior centers can provide relief. Even a few hours in an air-conditioned environment can significantly reduce the risk of heat-related illness.





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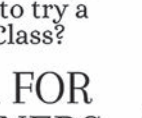
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Begins March 5th
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Recognizing the warning signs of heat illness is critical. Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, muscle cramps or cool, clammy skin. Without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke – a life-threatening medical emergency. Signs of heat stroke include a body temperature above 103 degrees, confusion, hot and dry skin, rapid pulse, loss of consciousness or seizures. If someone is experiencing symptoms of heat stroke, call 911 immediately while moving the person to a cooler location and attempting to lower their body temperature until help arrives.

Family members, neighbors and caregivers also play an important role in protecting seniors during periods of extreme heat. A quick phone call or visit each day can help ensure that an older loved one is staying cool, drinking enough fluids and feeling well. These simple check-ins can make a meaningful difference, particularly for seniors who live alone.

With a little planning and awareness, older adults can continue to enjoy everything summer has to offer while reducing the risks associated with high temperatures. Staying hydrated, avoiding excessive heat, dressing appropriately and recognizing the early signs of heat-related illness are simple yet effective ways to stay safe. By taking these precautions, seniors can remain healthy, comfortable and active all season long.

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.

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**The
Reporter**

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

An illustration of a glass jar with a metal lid, filled with honey. The word "HONEY" is written in a stylized font on the side of the jar. Next to the jar is a single apple with a small leaf attached to its stem.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Our history and our connection to the land and people and state of Israel

One thing that we do, as Jews, during the summer, is changing our regular prayer for rain and pray instead for dew. Sounds like a strange thing to include in our daily prayers... or is it?

Judaism, as an organized religion, originated at the end of the Bronze and beginning of the Iron Age. It is a religion centered, in many ways, in the agricultural cycle – an agricultural cycle inexorably referred to the land of Israel. The Torah regulates many aspects of this agricultural life: letting us know when to plant; when to bring the offerings to the Temple; what can and cannot be done regarding land ownership; when we should let the land rest; what to leave in the fields for those who are in need, etc. The Torah tells us of our deep connection with and obligation to our relationship with God; and it also tells us of our connection with and obligations to our relationship with the land. God, Torah and the land are three parts of our people’s covenant.

In fact, many rabbis over the centuries pointed out that the covenant between the people of Israel and God establishes a connection between

the people, the Torah and the land. Our whole identity is built upon this conceptual covenant.

When political Zionism emerged in the 19th century, it did not emerge in a vacuum. The core Zionist idea of the connection with the land was already present in our religious tradition. Political Zionism gave that ancestral connection a political dimension to fit with the times.

In fact, Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai (born in Sara-



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

jevo and the rabbi in Belgrade) was one of the earliest proponents that Jews could redeem the land even before the coming of the Maschiach. A little-known historical trivia is that Shimon Loeb Herzl, paternal grandfather of Theodore Herzl, was a devoted congregant and friend of Rabbi Alkalai and that they often discussed the rabbi’s ideas about Zionism.

Many today, as in times past, try to reduce Jewish identity to a religious dimension. But who we are defies that definition. Our religious practices are central to who we are, but who we

are is more than that. There have been many attempts to “define” Jewish identity; none of them came up with a definitive definition. Our traditional *halachah* defines a Jew as the child of a Jewish mother, or a convert to Judaism, who is not practicing another religion. The American Reform movement expanded that definition to include the children of a Jewish father. The very structure of that definition is already telling us that there is an ethnic component to our identity. The closest we can come to define it, is that Jews constitute an “ethno-religious community”; we normally refer to it as “Yiddishkeit” or, in English, peoplehood.

Yes, Jewish people are a People. As such, we are entitled to the same rights as any other People – including the right to self-determination, which in our case is embodied in the political Zionist idea.

There are those today, in the Arab as well as the Western world, who are again trying to reduce our identity to a religious one – erasing our history and our connection to the land and people and state of Israel. Those connections run in fact deep and erasing them is erasing our identity. There are even those in our own communities who seek to distance themselves from Israel because they conflate connection to the state of Israel with agreement with the policies and pronouncements of its leaders. And they are wrong.

As a Jew, I embrace the teachings of the Torah, the Jewish people and state of Israel. I also embrace the culture our people developed in the many Diasporas in which we sojourned. I am the heir and the product of the Jewish experience, and I am not willing to give up any aspect of it.

Nathan Jeffay returns as featured speaker for the 2026-27 Federation Campaign opening event

Campaign Co-chairs Susie Blum Connors and Alex Itzkowitz invite everyone to a fascinating talk “From October 7th to the Ballot Box” by Nathan Jeffay on Sunday, October 1, at 6:45 pm, in the Koppelman Auditorium of the Scranton Jewish Community Center. This event is free of charge. Light refreshments will be served. For questions or to RSVP, contact Dassy Ganz at 570-961-2300, ext. 2, or dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org.



Jeffay is a British-Israeli journalist, author, keynote speaker and communications professional with more than two decades of experience covering the Middle East, Israeli society and technology. He is known for his in-depth reporting, public speaking and work bridging the gap between the Israeli public and the global Diaspora

Jeffay began his journalism career in the U.K., See “Speaker” on page 11

DEADLINES

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

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Monday, August 10.....	September
Monday, September 14.....	October
Monday, October 12.....	November
Monday, November 9.....	December

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JCC member and Camp Daleville alum participates in the 2026 Maccabiah Games in Israel

The 22nd Maccabiah Games took place in Israel from June 30-July 14 (after being postponed from their original 2025 dates), bringing together more than 10,000 athletes from over 60 countries. The JCC is especially proud to congratulate JCC member and JCC Camp

Daleville alum Brittany Schlessor, who served as the athletic trainer for Team USA!

Brittany is also the daughter of the JCC’s Early Learning Center Head teacher, Kim Schlessor, making this achievement even more exciting for our JCC family. The Macca-

biah Games feature competition across four divisions – Juniors, Open, Masters and Paralympic – and celebrate athletic excellence while strengthening Jewish pride and connections around the world.

Congratulations, Brittany! The JCC honors you, Team USA and all of the athletes for a successful and memorable Maccabiah Games!



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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)

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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.

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The last part of the 1948 war

(Nineteenth article of history series)

BY DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

As the fighting resumed on October 15, 1948, Israel launched Operation Yoav with the intention of separating the Egyptian forces in the Negev from the Arab forces in the Judean region. The Arabs, underestimating the Jewish forces, were forced to retreat to Be'er Sheva and Ashdod leaving Israel in control of a corridor connecting the central part of the country with the *kibbutzim* and villages in the Dead Sea area. On October 21, the IDF occupied Be'er Sheva.

By October 24, the IDF launched Operation Hiram pushing Qawuqji and the Arab Liberation Army into Lebanon, and occupying about five miles of Lebanese territory near the Litani River. This defeat was perceived by the Palestinian Arabs as an abandonment by the Arab League (which sponsored the Arab Liberation Army), driving down their morale.

By the end of November, the IDF had the strategic advantage and had isolated part of the Egyptian forces in the so-called "Fallujah pocket" near present day Kiryat Gat. It had also advanced north on the shores of the Dead Sea and consolidated its positions in the northern Negev, controlling most of the roads connecting Jewish communities.

On December 22, Israel launched Operation Horev driving the Egyp-

tian forces from most of the Negev and occupying part of North Sinai – thus isolating the Egyptian forces in Gaza. The drive south ended on the shores of the Red Sea at the old British military outpost of Umm Rashrash (present city of Eilat). When the IDF troops arrived, they did not have an actual Israeli flag to run up the pole, so they took a bed sheet and painted it with ink. The so-called "ink flag" became a symbol for Israelis of their victory in the War of Independence.

The Egyptian defeat and the encirclement of its troops in the Fallujah pocket and in Gaza provoked popular discontent and unrest, leading to political instability and a loss of confidence in the king. Later, this would lead to the ousting of King Faruk and the establishment of the Egyptian Republic in a coup led by some of the generals who took part in the fighting – including Mohammed Naguib and Abdel Gammal Al Nasser.

On January 7, 1949, Egypt was forced to accept a truce. Under the terms of the truce, Israel vacated the territory it occupied in northern Sinai as well as some areas of Gaza. A demilitarized zone, under Israeli control, was defined in the area of the oasis of El Auja in the Negev. The end of hostilities was not sudden, but gradual. Israel signed separate armistices with each of

the Arab countries. Negotiations for these armistices took part (except for the Lebanon armistice) in Cyprus. Since the Arabs refused to sit at the table with the Israelis, all these negotiations were held through intermediaries shuttling between delegations.

The armistice with Egypt (the first) was concluded on February 24. The Egyptians insisted that the agreement was an armistice that in no way precluded their claims of territory beyond the separation lines. They also insisted that it implied in no way recognition for the independence of Israel. These Egyptian conditions would be replicated in the agreements with Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Since the lines of separation were drawn on the map with green color, they came to be known as "the Green Line." As defined by the Arabs, they did not represent any kind of political boundary but just an armistice line.

The armistice with Lebanon (the only one signed in the region) followed on March 23, leading to Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Transjordan followed on April 3. The agreement with Transjordan provided for an exchange of areas controlled by both armies, ceding the so-called "Arab triangle" to

Israel in exchange for other border areas between Israel and Judea Samaria. The agreement also provided for multiple "no man's land" areas defined in the area of Jerusalem, as well as Latrun.

Syria followed a couple of months later on July 20. This agreement allowed Syria to retain control of some areas occupied by its troops that were part of the British Mandate, although they were supposed to remain demilitarized. Israel retained civilian control of the area around Kibbutz Gadot near the Jordan River, but it was also defined as a demilitarized area. It is important to remember that none of the Arab countries considered these lines to be political borders, but only lines of armistice with the implication that they had only a military meaning – and temporary.

While Israel still did not have international political borders nor recognition from the Arab neighbors, it now had more defensible lines and controlled more land than originally assigned by the U.N. Partition Resolution. Israel had no control over the Old City of Jerusalem, nor over Judea and Samaria or the so-called "Gaza Strip."

Following the armistice agreements, Egypt maintained its military

See "War" on page 11



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A Jewish summer of fun continues at JCC Camp Daleville

There is something special happening every day at JCC Camp Daleville. As another incredible summer unfolds, our camp is once again filled with laughter, adventure, friendship and memories that will last a lifetime.

From the moment campers arrive each morning, they are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, discover new talents and embrace every opportunity that camp has to offer. Whether it's creating masterpieces in arts and crafts, cooling off in the swimming pool, playing sports, exploring nature, kosher cooking or participating in the magic of experiential Jewish education, each day brings

a new adventure and another reason to smile. Throughout the summer, our dedicated counselors and staff continue to make Camp Daleville a place where every child feels welcomed, supported and encouraged. Friendships are forming across age groups, campers are discovering new interests and many are surprising themselves by accomplishing things they never thought possible.

Camp Daleville has always been about much more than filling summer days. It is a place where children build confidence, develop independence, strengthen teamwork and learn many Jewish values of kindness and inclusion. Every activity – whether it's a game of Gaga Ball, a nature hike, or a spirited team competition – is another opportunity for personal growth while simply having fun.

Parents frequently tell us that camp is the highlight of their children's year and it's
See "Camp" on page 9



7"01

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JFS celebrates Dr. Daniel Ginsberg at 111th Annual Meeting

Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania (JFS) proudly celebrated its 111th Annual Meeting on June 18 at the Scranton JCC, honoring Dr. Daniel Ginsberg for a lifetime of service, leadership and dedication to the community.

Family, friends, colleagues and community leaders gathered to recognize Dr. Ginsberg's remarkable contributions over more than five decades as a social worker, educator, advocate and volunteer. As he approaches his 95th birthday this September, Dr. Ginsberg continues to exemplify the values of compassion, service and community engagement that have defined his life and career. Throughout the evening, speakers reflected on Dr. Ginsberg's profound impact on countless individuals and organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Jewish Family Service, United Cerebral Palsy, United Neighborhood Centers, the Scranton Public Library, the Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel and many others.

His commitment to improving the lives of older adults and strengthening community services has left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire future generations.

In addition to honoring Dr. Ginsberg, the Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to celebrate JFS's ongoing mission of supporting individuals and families through counseling services, older adult programs, food assistance, advocacy and community outreach. Attendees also recognized the dedicated staff, volunteers, board members and supporters whose generosity and commitment make the agency's work possible.

JFS extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, sponsored, volunteered and contributed to the success of this special evening. The event was a meaningful celebration of service, community and the enduring impact one individual can have on the lives of others.

As JFS begins its 112th year of service, the organization remains committed to its mission of providing compassionate care and support to those in need throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Thank you to our wonderful event committee who have helped put this wonderful event together.



L-r: Jeffrey Ginsberg, Dr. Daniel Ginsberg and Ted Georgiades



Dr. Daniel Ginsberg and Susan Blum Connors



L-r: JFS Committee members Molly Rutta, Susie Connors, Rhonda Fallk and Barbara Nivert.

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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: Susan Aufhauser
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

Rabbi Samuel "Sami" Barth, jfhfrabbisami@gmail.com
President: Robert "Bob" Lankin
1516 Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428 (located at 540 Forest Dr., Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428)
570-775-7497 • e-mail: info@jfhf.org
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 Daniel A. Bubnis, rabbibubnis@templeisraelscranton.org
Cantor: Vladimir Aronzon
President: Louis Nivert, metal1@comcast.net
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. & Rosh Chodesh, hybrid at 7:30 am; Tues., Wed. & Fri., Zoom only at 7:30 am; Shabbat and festival morning services at 9:30 am

Tikkun olam in action: JCC strengthens our community through nutrition

One of Judaism's most enduring values is *tikkun olam* – the responsibility to “repair the world” through acts of kindness, compassion and service to others. While this principle has been a cornerstone of Jewish life for centuries, it continues to guide the work of the JCC of Scranton every day.

This summer, the JCC put *tikkun olam* into action through two important community initiatives designed to help local families and older adults access healthy, nutritious food.

In partnership with Race-West Produce Company, the JCC hosted a free fresh vegetable distribution, providing families throughout Lackawanna County with an abundance of fresh produce for the 4th of July holiday weekend. Volunteers, staff and community partners worked side by side to ensure hundreds of individuals could take home healthy food to enjoy with their families. The event was a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with a shared purpose of helping one another. The distribution was conducted in honor of America 250 and immediate past Jewish Family Service President Dr. Daniel Ginsberg for his years of commitment, service and leadership



To get Federation updates via email,
register on our website
www.jewishnepa.org

Pledge or Donate
online at
www.jewishnepa.org/donate

to our Jewish community and beyond.

The JCC also partnered with Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging and served as a distribution site for its Farmer's Market Voucher Program, helping eligible older adults purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers markets. Beyond providing financial assistance, the program encourages healthy eating while supporting local agriculture – a true win for both older adults and our community. Approximately, 1,300 vouchers were distributed.

Although these programs serve different populations, they share the same mission: caring for our neighbors with dignity and compassion.

See “JCC” on page 11



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

Scranton Hebrew Day School events



Scranton Hebrew Day School kindergarteners celebrated their graduation.



The Scranton Hebrew Day School second-graders enjoyed their "Author's Tea."

Camp..... Continued from page 6

easy to see why. Every day has been filled with smiling faces, enthusiastic campers and countless stories that are shared around the dinner table at home. The excitement is contagious and the energy across camp is a wonderful reminder of why Camp Daleville has been creating unforgettable summers for generations.

As we head into the second half of the summer, there is still plenty to look forward to, including the arrival of the Israeli Scouts, exciting competitions, Maccabiah Games, camp traditions and many more opportunities for campers to grow, laugh and make lifelong memories.

The JCC is incredibly grateful to our camp families for entrusting us with their children each summer. We are equally thankful to our outstanding unit heads, counselors, specialists



and leadership team headed by Vince Kalinoski and Carli Kalinoski, whose enthusiasm and dedication make the Camp Daleville experience so meaningful.

Summer may only last a few short weeks, but the friendships, confidence and Jewish memories created at JCC Camp Daleville last a lifetime.



The Scranton Hebrew Day School second-graders enjoyed their "Author's Tea."



Scranton Hebrew Day School kindergarteners celebrated their graduation.

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ABOUT THIS PROGRAM...
The University of Scranton Exercise Science students will offer physical assessment and individualized training as their service-learning project. Join us as we present to older adult participants of the JCC the benefits that are associated with fitness assessment and specific training. Find out how exercise can have better benefits other than weight reduction! These benefits can help to improve your **quality of life!**

AVAILABLE
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
SCHEDULE AT THE
JCC FRONT DESK

UNIV. OF SCRANTON EXERCISE
SCIENCE & SPORT DEPT.

BAIS YAAKOV OF SCRANTON

Nestled in the foothills of the Pocono mountains lies the Bais Yaakov of Scranton, a small school where we help your daughter be the best that she can be. Bais Yaakov offers a full academic program both in Limudei Kodesh and secular studies catering to the individual needs of each student. Bais Yaakov has a highly qualified staff including Rabbonim and specialty teachers and offers extracurricular activities, Yemei Iyun, and an exceptional Chessed program.

For more information and to set up an appointment please call Mrs. Esther Elefant, 570 347-5003 or 570 866-0974.

PICKLEBALL
at the
J

SUNDAYS 11:00AM - 1:00PM
TUESDAYS 12:00PM - 2:00PM
THURSDAYS 12:00PM - 2:00PM

\$10 PER SESSION
FREE FOR JCC MEMBERS

Jcc
Scranton

www.scrantonjcc.org

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OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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jfsnepa.org

President..... Continued from page 1

Moscow, PA. In his spare time, David is an avid runner, having embraced the sport in recent years.

Following is the letter he read at the Jewish Federation’s Annual Meeting.

Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, good evening.

Thank you all for being here tonight. It is truly an honor to stand before you as the incoming president of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I accept this role with humility, pride, and a deep sense of responsibility.

First and foremost, I want to recognize and thank the person I am succeeding – David Fallk.

David, on behalf of this entire community, thank you for your years of dedicated leadership and tireless service. You guided this Federation with integrity, thoughtfulness and steady resolve through challenging and uncertain times. Because of your leadership, this organization is strong, well-respected and positioned for continued success. We are deeply grateful for all you have done.

I also want to thank our Executive Director Daniel Chejfec; Dassy Ganz, our assistant director; board members; our professional staff; our volunteers; and each and every donor. The Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania is able to do its important work because of your commitment, generosity and belief in our mission.

What this Federation accomplishes together is truly remarkable. We are more than an organization – we are a lifeline, a connector and a guardian of Jewish life in our region. The funds we raise are not abstract dollars; they translate into real support and real impact. They help care for seniors, support families in need, strengthen Jewish education, ensure community security and sustain Jewish life locally, nationally and abroad.

One area where our Federation plays an especially vital role – one that I am incredibly proud of – is our commitment to Holocaust education.

As many of you know, here in Scranton we host the annual Holocaust Symposium, now in its 38th year. Each year, thousands of students come together to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust, to hear survivor testimony and to confront the very real consequences of hatred, intolerance and silence.

This program is intentional. It is powerful. And it is funded through our Federation’s budget because we believe deeply that education is one of the strongest tools we have. At a time when Holocaust denial and distortion are increasing, our message remains clear and unwavering: we will not forget.

Looking ahead, my vision for this Federation is both hopeful and realistic.

I see a Federation that continues to care

deeply for our Jewish community, while also strengthening relationships beyond it. A Federation that leads with confidence, listens with intention and stays relevant to Jews of all ages and backgrounds.

An important part of that future is our growing dialogue and collaboration with the broader community. I am especially encouraged by the meaningful conversations we have been having with the bishop and the Diocese of Scranton. Strengthening our relationship with the Catholic community sends a powerful message about respect, understanding and partnership.

Interfaith relationships matter. They allow us to stand together against hate, to learn from one another and to model the kind of community we want to see in the world. I am fully committed to continuing and deepening this important work.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the reality of the world we are living in.

We are witnessing a troubling rise in antisemitism – globally, nationally and, sadly, even here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. There have been incidents in our own community that remind us that hatred and intolerance are not distant problems.

While I remain optimistic, I also believe in being honest. These challenges are real and they require vigilance, unity and leadership.

But let me be very clear: we will not be defined by fear.

We will respond to hate with strength.
We will respond to ignorance with education.
We will respond to division with partnership.
And we will remain proud, visible and confident in our Jewish identity.

As I begin this role, I ask for your continued partnership and engagement. The success of this Federation does not rest on any one president or board – it belongs to all of us.

Before I conclude, I would like to offer a personal note of thanks.

To my wife, Amy – thank you. Through the many boards and leadership roles I have taken on over the years, you have always stood by my side with patience, encouragement and unwavering support. Your belief in me means more than I can possibly say and I am deeply grateful.

To all of you, thank you for your trust. Thank you for your support. And thank you for all that you do to sustain and strengthen Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Together, we will honor our past, meet the present with courage and build a future defined by compassion, resilience and hope.

I look forward to the journey ahead – together. Shalom.



The Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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



IF YOU ARE

Going out of Town



Please let us know and we will temporarily update your address until you are back!

Contact 570.961.2300 x 3



Israeli teens take the U.N. stage for World Youth Skills Day

BY TZOFIM NORTH AMERICA STAFF

(JNS) – Ten Israeli teens performed six songs at U.N. headquarters in New York City on July 16 as part of World Youth Skills Day, whose 2026 theme, “Skills for a Shared Future,” calls on young people to help shape a world being reshaped by artificial intelligence.

The Tzofim Friendship Caravan, now in

the middle of its annual summer tour of North America, performed “Shir HaTzofim,” “One Day,” “Eretz Eretz,” “There Will Come a Day” and “Viva La Vida,” among other numbers, for more than 50 people. Before the show, the group sat down with Dr. Felipe Paullier, the U.N.’s assistant secretary-general for Youth Affairs, and, at 32, its youngest senior official, as part

of a series of events to mark World Youth Skills Day 2026.

Paullier, a pediatrician, hails from Uruguay and is the first to hold this new position at the United Nations. The conversation between the former head of the Uruguayan Youth Institute and the Tzofim Caravan performers covered how AI is likely to change adolescence and childhood, what role young people should have in global institutions and what role they can play as young Israelis in the years following the Hamas-led terrorist attacks in southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

Danny Danon, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, stated: “Israel’s young generation is one of our nation’s greatest strengths. Today, their talent, spirit and love for their country were on full display. Through productive conversation and an inspiring musical performance, they reminded everyone that Israel is a vibrant, creative

See “Teens” on page 12

War

... Continued from page 5
occupation of the Gaza Strip, denying the Palestinian residents citizenship. Jordan retained control of Judea and Samaria, and eventually annexed the area, renaming it “West Bank,” and renamed the country as “Jordan.”

Iraq never signed an armistice agreement, thus technically staying in a state of war against Israel. There were consequences to the Israeli victory that affected the Arab world, as well as its Jewish communities and the status of the Palestinian refugees from the war.

After World War I ended formally in 1920, hostilities continued in many European and Turkish

areas, redefining areas of control. Most notably, the expulsion of Greek and Italian forces from Asia Minor and the consolidation of the Turkish territory, as well as fighting in the former areas of the Austrian-Hungarian empire, redefined boundaries. Fighting did not end until 1923.

The fighting in the territory of the British Mandate following World War II can be seen as a similar situation.

The period following the signing of the armistice agreements was marked by serious demographic and political changes – that’s for the next installment.

Speaker

... Continued from page 3
writing for *The Jewish Chronicle* in 1998, and has been published in nearly every edition since. Since 2007, he has primarily reported from Israel for *The Jewish Chronicle*, *The Times of Israel*, and other outlets in the U.K., U.S. and Australia. His coverage spans politics, Middle East affairs, Israeli high-tech, culture, religion and humanitarian issues. He is also a health and science correspondent for *The Times of Israel*, writing on medical research, public health and technology’s role in society.

Jeffay is the co-author of “Zero Knowledge, Infinite Trust: The Evolution and Revolution of Blockchain Technology,” published by Wiley, alongside StarkWare CEO Eli Ben-Sasson. He is also the host and co-creator of the “Clear Crypto” podcast, aimed at making blockchain and crypto accessible to non-technical audiences.

Jeffay is a sought-after keynote speaker on Israel, delivering talks to Jewish and Christian communities, JCCs, synagogues and universities. His topics include:

- ◆ Uplifting stories from Israel’s darkest moments
- ◆ Parenting in the context of Israel’s political climate
- ◆ Media coverage of Israel and its challenges
- ◆ Healing internal divisions in Israeli society
- ◆ Spirituality amid crisis

Jeffay is head of global media and communications at StarkWare, an \$8 billion blockchain infrastructure company, where he leads media strategy, crisis communications and public relations for the CEO and the company. He has worked with major media outlets such as Time, Bloomberg and Coindesk, and has produced

documentaries on blockchain technology.

Jeffay holds degrees from the University of Cambridge and the University of Leeds. He is a married father of four children, one of whom he fostered.

JEFFAY’S NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◆ Long-term correspondent on Israel’s political and cultural landscape
- ◆ Advocate for clearer, more honest media coverage of Israel
- ◆ Educator on blockchain and crypto for mainstream audiences
- ◆ Bridger between Israeli society and the global Jewish community

In short, Jeffay is a multifaceted figure – journalist, author, podcaster and communications leader – whose work spans journalism, technology and public engagement, with a strong focus on Israel and its global connections.

JCC

... Continued from page 8
Whether providing fresh vegetables directly to families or connecting older adults with resources that promote health and independence, the JCC remains committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

At the JCC, *tikkun olam* is more than a phrase – it is a way of life. Every act of generosity, every volunteer who gives their time, every partnership that expands our reach, and every family or older adult who leaves with food for their table reflects our commitment to building a stronger, healthier and more caring community for all.

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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.

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.

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.

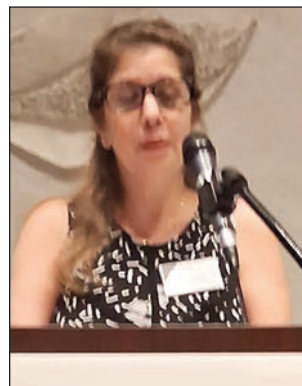
Dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org

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

Rabbi Daniel Swartz of Temple Hesed presented the slate of board members and officers for the 2026-27 term. Using Psalm 15 as his message to those stepping down and to those joining the Board of Trustees and officers, especially president of the Federation, Rabbi Swartz charged



The Jewish Federation thanks David Fallk for his service and wishes David Hollander and all the officers and board members success in the coming year.



**SUSIE BLUM CONNORS AND ALEX ITZKOWITZ, CO-CHAIRS OF OUR 2026-27 UJA CAMPAIGN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



Originally published at www.jns.org/wire/tzofim-of-north-america/israeli-teens-take-the-un-stage-for-world-youth-skills-day.