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Find us on



Be sure to join the  
Camp Ben Frankel and  
Federation pages to keep up  
with the latest news!

# FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

## MARCH 27

### 11 AM

## CONGREGATION BETH JACOB

904 NORTH NORWEST DRIVE  
CARBONDALE, IL 62901

Please join us for the Federation Annual Meeting.  
We hope that all of the community will join us as we elect the 2011 board  
and hear from our various program leaders.

After the meeting, please stay for lunch and a concert by Rick Recht!

## KOSHER DAIRY LUNCHEON

### 12 PM

## RICK RECHT FAMILY CONCERT

### APPROX. 1 PM (AFTER LUNCH)



For more information please contact the Federation at 618-235-1614  
See page 3 for the meeting agenda and proposed slate of officers.

# ALL ROADS LEAD TO ISRAEL

BY ASSAF GRUMBERG

Looking back on my life about a year ago, I must say that in my mind there was only one way to see Israel—just make a decision, rent a hotel (or talk to your great aunt in Haifa), hop on a plane (preferably EL AL) and enjoy the time of your life. Living in a city like Tel Aviv I interacted with many tourists from all around the world (at least the parts that like Israel) and I never gave a second thought about what brought them there. Being here as part of the Shaliach program really changed my perspective.

No matter if you're 14 or 40, college student or right after high school—there is a program or plan for you to go to Israel. You don't have to wait until you're in retirement to make that life-altering trip, but if you did

wait, there is something for you too.

First and foremost there is Birthright, an amazing present given to young adults aged 18-26, a free 10-day trip to Israel, all you have to do is to register and hope you'll be among the 10,000 young adults visiting Israel every semester—twice a year. If that's not enough, you could always think about having a gap year, study abroad or post college program for 5 to 10 months. If that's too much, you can check out the summer programs giving you an experience that will for sure change your life.

If you're past that phase in your life there is something for you too, from short trips to volunteering programs in communities and even with the

IDF. It's all there just waiting for you!

Israel has never been so close, just around the corner, offering everyone exactly what they're looking for. It's always the perfect time to go, and it's always the perfect weather no matter if you're southern Illinois born or a Chicago kid.

I'm definitely going to look differently on each and every one of the many tourists, students, Birthright kids and MASA programmers I meet when I go back to Tel Aviv, admiring their incredible experience. It's so exciting!

## A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL SHAHAR ARIELI  
STUDENT CENTER AUDITORIUM, CARBONDALE  
MARCH 23  
6:30 PM

In a time where the Middle East is on everyone's mouth, there are obviously many questions waiting for an answer about the situation there and how it affects Israel.

Deputy Consul General Shahar Arieli is coming to our region to help us understand better "Israel and the Changing Middle East."

Shahar has been a diplomat in the past six years. Prior to his diplomatic career, he worked as a trial lawyer in the private sector and for the Israeli Public Defenders Office.

The event will be held in Carbondale at the Student Center Auditorium in SIU and will begin on 6:30 pm. It is open to the public with no charge.

Don't miss this opportunity to ask anything on your mind!

## 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

### AGENDA

Dvar Torah  
Financial Report  
Camp Ben Frankel Presentation  
Shaliach Presentation  
Presentation and Election of 2011 Board  
Questions from the Public  
Adjournment

### 2011 PROPOSED SLATE

President - Burton Zwick  
Vice President - Barbara Goldenhersch  
Vice President - Bill Bruns  
Treasurer - Bill Flarsheim  
Assistant Treasurer - Carol Korein  
Assistant Treasurer - Dan Jolly  
Secretary - Gail Lipe  
Parliamentarian - Richard Goldenhersch

**All temple & synagogue presidents (or designee) are members at large of the Federation board and include:**

Alton - Gail Lipe  
Belleville - Emily Martinez  
Benton - Ivan Zwick  
Carbondale - Jack Wides

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Natasha Zaretsky  
SaraFaye Marten  
Susan Pearlman  
Betty Cohn  
Loren Collins  
Kae Collins  
Sandy Korein

## GET WELL SOON!

Our office manager, Debra Vahlkamp, recently had major surgery and has been in the hospital. Please send healing thoughts her way. We wish her a speedy recovery!

## GO GROCERY SHOPPING AND HELP YOUR SYNAGOGUE!

Feel like giving more to Congregation Beth Jacob? Now you can give donations to the Temple without doing anything extra...

all you have to do is go shopping!

1. Go to Schnucks and request a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card
2. Activate your card by calling 1-800-931-6258 or visit [www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp](http://www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp) (Congregation Beth Jacob: Group # 500020058)
3. Present your card to the cashier every time you shop at Schnucks
4. The more you shop, the higher the contribution! (up to 3% of your purchase amount)

IT'S THAT EASY!



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITES!

Both the Federation and Camp Ben Frankel websites have recently been redesigned and updated. Check out the new designs and check back often to stay updated on all our upcoming programs.

[www.simokyfed.com](http://www.simokyfed.com)  
[www.campbenfrankel.com](http://www.campbenfrankel.com)



## UPDATE FROM FORMER SHLICHA GALIT

Dear Friends,

I was honored that Burton Zwick asked me to write something for the community newsletter. I almost feel like writing a memoir since it has been more than 5 years since I landed at the Southern Illinois Federation.

Even though it's been so long, I think about you a lot. I keep in touch from time to time with the amazing Debbie and on Facebook with some community members.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to come and work alongside you as I did. I remember how I drove 17 hours in one weekend for programs we ran together, or how I took pots full of food to Paducah in the car, or how I almost got a heart attack when the King David Drummers arrived late because of the hailstorm and I thought no one would show up...

So many good memories from such a special place. So many wonderful people I met and opportunities I took—some of them still influencing me today....

There is no secret I met my husband here. It was never planned—I wanted to finish my volunteering and come back to Israel, but life surprised me.

I met Jesse here over the phone, while applying for a grant for \$5,000 for the Federation. Since Jesse really liked me, we got the grant and I brought a program about Israel's Gaza disengagement.

Jesse and I are married for almost

four years and we have a one-year-old beautiful girl name Amalya. We are living in Chicago where Jesse was born.

After moving to Chicago I started working for Hillel's "Arts in the Loop." I worked with art students in a special program connecting the students to Judaism. I created the first Green Menorah Challenge where students built innovative menorahs from recycled materials. The program has become an annual community event.

While I was working at Hillel I felt two things. First, I wanted to go back to my independent position as it was in the Federation—to have the freedom to create and invent. Second, I was envious of the art students. I wanted to express my artistic side.

While I was at the Federation, I really loved initiating the cooking workshops. It was one of my favorite activities. I loved doing it, especially at the wonderful home of Ruth Grater. I loved experimenting with food, creating a menu and experiencing everybody excited over the prep and the result.

The next move was to enroll myself in the French Pastry School in Chicago—one of the top pastry programs in America. I studied there for six intensive months, everyday from 6:45 am - 1:15 pm. I learned many forms of pastry—from croissants to sugar sculpture, candies, ice cream, breads, plated desserts and more.

The experience was intense and overall good. After finishing at the

French Pastry School, I started my own booth at a farmers' market in Chicago, selling my pastries. I launched my website: [www.sweetgalit.com](http://www.sweetgalit.com) and I started leading workshops and catering.

Meanwhile I continue working in education, teaching kids at Sunday schools in the city. I also became a docent at the wonderful Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. (You should totally come visit this excellent museum. I promise to lead your tour!). I had some unique opportunities to be on TV, as a guest on the program *Check Please!*, NBC's weekend news and public radio!

These days I'm exploring different business opportunities and will continue making pastries.

We live in Chicago not too far from downtown. I am suffering from the weather of course, but compared to my first two years in the U.S, it's nothing. I used to wear my coat all the time even inside people's homes. Today I went down to the car while it was snowing with only a shirt...don't worry, I still prefer the heat.

Jesse is working as the Midwest Political Director for J Street. It's a growing pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby and advocacy organization which we both really believe in. Amalya is going to a day care every day. It's an Israeli day care where she hears only Hebrew and eats healthy Israeli style food.

I miss Israel, my family and friends all the time. We are going for (continued on next page)

# FEDERATION DIRECTORY UPDATE

Fellow Community Members,

As the Federation prepares for 2011 activities we have begun reviewing our directory and e-mail list. We would like to give everyone the opportunity to either add or remove themselves. You should have already received the postcard below in the mail, but it's not too late to fill it out and send it back to us.

To be removed please fill in your name and mark the remove box on the postage paid postcard and return it. Alternatively please feel free to either call the Federation office at 618-235-1614 or email [debra@simokyfed.com](mailto:debra@simokyfed.com).

In order to be listed and receive a copy of the directory and in order to receive Federation updates, including the newsletter, please complete and return the postage paid postcard including your e-mail address.

As we conducted this process we found that many of those receiving

our directory have not recently contributed to the Federation. The Federation provides activities aimed at fostering a strong Jewish community, provides needed social service, and provides an important connection to the Jewish community abroad including Israel. I hope that everyone will consider making some contribution regardless of size.

To make your contribution by credit card, call Debbie at the Federation office (618-235-1614) or email

[debra@simokyfed.com](mailto:debra@simokyfed.com). Otherwise mail your contribution to the Federation at 3419 West Main Street / Belleville, IL 62226.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Burton Zwick  
President Jewish Federation  
Southern Illinois, Southeast  
Missouri, and Western Kentucky

We are currently in the process of updating our directory. Please take a moment to respond with your current information.

Update Listing

Remove from Listing

Name as you wish it to appear in listing:

Last First Title ie. Mr, Mrs., Ms., Dr.

Email Address:

Family Member Names:

Contact Information:

Street Address Apt. No. P.O. Box

City State Zip

Phone Fax Cellular

## SHLICHA UPDATE (CONT.)

Passover and Amalya and I are staying for three weeks. My plans are still the same—to come back to Israel and move close to my family—but with the economic situation, we have to find Jesse a great job first and it's not so easy in politics. Especially in the current political climate in Israel, but let's not get into that...:-)

Meantime, I'm trying to enjoy every day from what I have and make the best of the opportunities that are here.

I would love to see you all so if you happen to be in Chicago please let me know!

I also wouldn't mind coming to be the pastry chef of Camp Ben Frankel, but on the other hand...most of you know how I feel about camp! :)

In this opportunity I want to invite you to write me! I would love to hear from you! I really think about you a lot and am dying to come back for a visit!

Thank you again for welcoming me to your communities, for the warmth and care. You gave me a lot of happiness and blessings that still accompany me every day of my life. I will never forget you.

With a great love,

Galit  
[galitusa@gmail.com](mailto:galitusa@gmail.com)

## CAMP BEN FRANKEL

Even though the temperatures have been cold and undesirable, Camp Ben Frankel senior staff have been hard at work on the upcoming camp season. Mark Pearlman is working from Israel, Fraya Andich is working from London and now Eastern Kentucky, and myself here in St. Louis and Belleville. Thanks to modern technology we communicate by Skype, email and Facebook. This has allowed the three of us to work on staffing, programming and logistics of the camp.

So far I have been recruiting in Iowa City, Champaign-Urbana, Bloomington, Carbondale, CBF Camp Reunion, and the St. Louis Jewish Camp Fair. Coming up as of this writing I have the Quad Cities, Springfield, Skokie and Columbia. To date it looks like I have picked up several new families and several siblings of current campers. This should translate into another successful year for Camp Ben Frankel.

I appeal to all of you within the reach of this newsletter to help us with Camp Ben Frankel.

“How can I help?” you ask. Many ways: 1) Help us recruit campers (we pay \$50.00 for every camper someone recruits to the camp). 2) Sponsor a camper who otherwise could not afford to go to camp. 3) Provide scholarship funds for the general scholarship pool. 4) Help get me a face to face recruitment presentation at your local religious school or Jewish Community Center. And finally, 5) Talk up the camp to all the people you know within your community.

Camp Ben Frankel has been in existence for 62 years, giving campers a sense of Jewish pride and Jewish identity all within a safe and friendly environment. It is run by your Federation of Southern Illinois. Please help us keep a Jewish Camp in Southern Illinois available for our kids for future generations. Thank you to all that have helped are helping and will be helping us in the future.

B'Shalom  
Ricky Kodner

## VOICES FROM EL-SAYED SCREENING IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

In the picturesque Israeli Negev desert lays the Bedouin Village of El-Sayed. It has the largest percentage of deaf people in the world. The tranquility of the village is interrupted by Salim El-Sayed's decision to change his deaf son's fate using the Cochlear Implant Operation. For the first time this chip arrives to El-Sayed which has neither paved roads nor electricity. Salim's decision is evoking great conflict in the village threatening the tradition of coexistence between deaf and hearing. *Voices from El-Sayed* is a unique and moving documentary offering intimate cinematic dialogue with El-Sayed's marvelous silent people.

Come see the movie and have a chance for Q&A with director Oded Leshem.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

4 PM

THE FEDERATION BUILDING  
(3419 W. MAIN IN BELLEVILLE)

MONDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

6:30 PM

MORRIS LIBRARY AUDITORIUM  
AT SIU IN CARBONDALE  
(605 AGRICULTURE DRIVE)



SPERTUS LAUNCHES JEWISH TOUR AND TRAVEL PROGRAM:  
*JEWISH EDVENTURES*  
TUESDAY, MAY 31 THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

**This spring, Spertus, Chicago's center for Jewish learning and culture, inaugurates a tour and travel initiative focused on Jewish history, culture, and community.** Dubbed *Jewish EDventures*, the program launches with a four-day experience in the heart of Chicago. From May 31 through June 3, 2011, participants will have an opportunity to interact with experts, authors, and artists at activities and events designed to inform, entertain, and uncover the historical roots and contemporary culture of Jewish Chicago.

The idea for this new initiative grew directly out of feedback from Spertus audience members. According to Beth Schenker, Spertus Director of Programming, "There was a real longing for more in-depth explorations of the Jewish experience, both close to home and around the world. While we are looking ahead to educational adventures farther afield—and would love to hear ideas for favorite destinations—we are kicking off the program by sharing access to the riches in our own backyard."

The Chicago *Jewish EDventures* includes a host of unique, insider experiences created just for tour participants. For example, historian and author Dr. Irving Cutler will lead a custom tour of Lawndale—the historic neighborhood once home to both Golda Meir and Martin Luther King Jr. At Spertus, Curator Ilana Segal offers an up-close look at objects from the collection during a private behind-the-scenes tour.

Other highlights include exclusive seats at Lookingglass Theatre's World Premiere of *The Last Act of Lilka Kadison*, with a pre-performance talk with a member of the company, a lecture about Jewish artists by art critic and journalist James Yood followed by a tour of works by Jewish artists at the Art Institute of Chicago, a private tour of the unique, AIA award-winning, Silver LEED-certified Spertus building, and a performance by Chicago's renowned Maxwell Street Klezmer Band quartet.

"Obviously, we are pulling out all the stops to make this a most memorable tour," says Schenker.

The package costs \$650 per person, \$1250 for two people registering together, \$614 per person for Spertus members. It includes seven meals plus the Lookingglass Theatre ticket and admission and transportation to all tour activities. Travel to and from Chicago is not included. Reservations are being accepted through Thursday, March 31. Participants will also have the option of staying at The Standard Club of Chicago, a five-star private club, at a special discounted rate.

**Those interested in more information on this or future Jewish EDventures should visit the Spertus website at [Spertus.edu](http://Spertus.edu) or call 312.322.1743.**





*President*.....Burton Zwick  
*Secretary*.....Bill Bruns  
*Treasurer*.....Bill Flarshelm  
*Office Manager*.....Debra Vahlkamp  
*Camp Director*.....Rick Kodner  
*Shaliach*.....Assaf Grumberg  
*Newsletter Editor*.....Ann Lesley Rosen

## PURIM TRIVIA

Did you know....?

- Purim means "lots."
- Haman was hanged on Passover.
- When there is a leap year, Purim occurs in Adar II.
- In Jerusalem, the megillah is read on the 15th of Adar instead of the 14th because it was a walled city.
- God's Name is never mentioned in the Book of Esther.
- Haman's name is mentioned 54 times.
- There is a street named Queen Esther Street in Tel Aviv.
- It is a tradition to give gifts to the poor (matanot le'evyonim) and to fellow Jews (mishloach manot).
- The Book of Esther has the longest verse in the Bible.
- According to the Talmud, on Purim a person should drink until he/she cannot tell the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordecai."

Know a Jewish-themed fun fact that you want to share?  
 E-mail it to simokynews@gmail.com

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 Missouri and Western  
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**Office Hours**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
 9 am-5 pm  
**Friday**  
 9 am-4 pm

