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JEWISH FEDERATION OF VOLUSIA & FLAGLER COUNTIES

# The Mishpacha

## Seder in Chocolate

**Lynne G. Ritter**, past President of the Jewish Federation hosted an unusual Seder at her home, all made of chocolate. This was a labor of love but a lot of work. Everything, and we mean everything, was made of chocolate. Her helpers **were Sue Abel, Diane Beitscher, Jill Goldsmith, Marian Kohen, Denise Mayer, Cindy Newman, Ellen Rabin, Marcy Spertus and Maureen Weiss.**

Forty members of the Women's Division of

the Jewish Federation accepted the invitation to attend this scrumptious seder. Before the service began, each person told their name, their mother's name and grandmother's name. There was quite an emotional response to this acknowledgement of how they got their names.

To be eligible, you had to give a family gift of \$500 to the 2011 annual campaign. The table was set beautifully, the food delicious, even the Haggadah

was written around chocolate and this was done by **Ellen Rabin**. Best of all the **Executive Director Gloria Max** didn't have to be involved and came as a guest and especially enjoyed the delicious chocolate wine.

**Rabbi Amy Mayer** of Temple Israel began the service by lighting the candles and, yes, they were made of chocolate. **Bravo to Lynne G. Ritter** for all her hard work and making this one special evening.

## Music for Meals & Backpack Concert

This concert was sponsored by **Cantor Zev Sonnenstein** of Temple Beth-El to raise funds for the **Jerry Doliner Food Bank** and the **Annual Backpack Project**. What an afternoon it was!

Cantor organized this entire afternoon and we thank **Joe and Lynne Goldovitz** for their great singing, **Jenn Cleary** for her singing and the **Seabreeze High School Brass Quartet** for their wonderful performance and **Sam Markowitz** for his terrific

piano playing. **Tim, Lucille** and their son **Ben of the Greatest Moments in Time singers** did an outstanding job.

Everyone who didn't attend missed the special dance by **Gloria Max** and **Cantor Zev Sonnenstein**. We thank **Marilyn Freedman** for purchasing and displaying the food that the Federation supplied. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and thank you

Cantor Zev, for taking the time to do this for the two important projects—the Jerry Doliner Food Bank and the Annual School Supplies Program. We thank **Malka** and **Rabbi** for promoting this event.

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If you want to do a special mitzvah **adopt a needy local child** and give them a backpack filled with supplies. Support our program. Cost is \$25 We have given away over **47,000** quality backpacks in **14 years**.

# Seder for the Seniors

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We had 143 people come together to partake of a traditional pre Passover Seder. It was a very festive atmosphere for people coming from all over Volusia & Flagler Counties. We thank **Dr. Mary Pernicone** for making the delicious matza balls and soup and we thank **Ray Max** for his usual fantastic charosis.

There are many people to thank that made this afternoon so eagerly awaited by our seniors. Thank you **Jonathan Rotstein** for always donating a large amount of funds to help us with this luncheon. **Marilyn Nye** is invaluable in that she makes certain that everyone who attends is registered. Helpers who made up the seder plates were **Hilda Levine, Joan Meres, Helen Farb, Ellen Rabin, Irene Beck, Deena Stein and Lynne Ritter. Lea Moskowitz, Barney Cogan, Fran Costa, Marty Schulberg, Lois Liebman and David Ryon** were instrumental in driving some of the elderly to

the seder. **Michael Kamholtz** did an unusual mitzvah – he drove a golf cart so some of the guests would not have to walk far from the parking lot.

These holiday luncheons are very special to the elders because for many of them this is the only tradition of the holidays they receive. Every table had a seder plate with everything on it. **Rabbi Amy Mayer** and **Rabbi Karen Allen** conducted the short service and we thank Karen Allen for singing in her beautiful voice many of the traditional songs for Passover. We again thank **Ellen Klein** for laminating the short version of the seder. The entertainment was superb. **Harry Burney** of Broadway fame sang Let My People Go, Old Man River and America the Beautiful. You could hear a pin drop. The Greatest Moments in Time singers **Tim & Lucille** were surprised by their oldest son **Ben** coming to help them sing. Everyone couldn't believe what a beautiful voice he had. **Elaine Flasterstein** is our official

photographer. The **Spruce Creek Jazz Band** entertained the clients and it was nice to see our youth come and play for these senior citizens.

These luncheons are a lot of hard work but when you hear the gratitude of the attendees, you know it is all worthwhile. **Lee Malmon**, 104 years young, and **Charlotte Eisgrou**, 101 years young especially enjoyed everything. **Sadle Gorman** who just had her 103rd year birthday could attend this luncheon and we really missed her also.

**Gloria Max**, the Executive Director was saddened to tell everyone that many of the regulars had passed away or moved away. She prayed for everyone's well being and thanked everyone who attended. Gloria also spoke of how many more people, are coming to ask for assistance from the **Jerry Doliner Food Bank** and that everyone should be proud of the work that the Federation does to assist people, regardless of race or religion.

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## Those Who Hate Jews-Hurt All of Us

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Israel could benefit all of mankind if only given the chance. Israel is a country of just 7.7 million people -- roughly the population of Alabama and Mississippi combined. Yet no country has achieved more, even with the defense burden that Israel has carried daily

since its rebirth as a modern nation nearly 63 years ago. The Holocaust snuffed out many of Europe's greatest minds. It's impossible to calculate the degree to which brilliant Jewish doctors, scientists and researchers killed by the Nazis -- and their offspring -

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# Seder for the Seniors

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*A letter from a grateful senior who was invited to the luncheon: I think back on the first time that my husband, he is now deceased, and I attended one of your holiday functions. It has become a special way for me to recall and celebrate the Jewish holidays. **One never knows as one ages the memories that crop up of times long ago – but your Federation has helped the ageing population get out, be together and enjoy festivities that we all recall during our lifetime.** Also thanks for inviting my companion to join us. It is a wonderful way for a Christian person to learn something about holidays. Thank you, the **Federation, Gloria and Ray Max for all the kindness you extend in your work efforts, especially for the elderly.***

We also helped 97 needy Jewish families with holiday foods for Passover. We have never had so many Jewish people needing assistance but when times are

bad, need goes way up. We are so glad that **the mission of the Jerry Doliner Food bank represents both our community and our community's most generous tradition – "To give to others even in the most difficult times."** Donations are down but we sincerely thank everyone who contributed because without you, our donors, we couldn't do the work we do. Thank you **Jerusalem Restaurant** for donating 90 boxes of matzas.

## **United Way Funding**

In order to receive funding from the United Way, there are many things that you must do. One of them is when the United Way comes to our office to inspect, we have to have some of our clients speak. You wouldn't believe what some of hardships these people go through.

One young woman whom we had given food, told us that her single mother had a good job for 30 years Suddenly the business folded and she and her daughter

had to move from up north to live with their grandmother in Palm Coast. The grandmother was on social security. Unfortunately, the grandmother died and they were left without an income. There was no jobs to be had. She couldn't receive unemployment because she wasn't from this state and for two months they were without water or electricity. She said they wouldn't have had food if it wasn't for the Federation. (The mother had made too much in the previous years and no other agency would help them because in their by-laws they have to be low income. Thank G-d our Federation believes in giving a hand up to former tax payers and we helped this family.) **Believe me, when she finished speaking there wasn't a dry eye in the house.** Every one of the speakers told the United Way volunteers that one thing they were grateful for is that we treated them with respect and that has not been the case when they sought help elsewhere. United Way reiterated that they were impressed.

# Amish Apologize to The Jewish People

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It was a noteworthy journey for the **Mennonite sect of Amish** –made all the more remarkable for breaking their shunning of modern conveyances such as airplanes to jet to Israel on a mission: to express sorrow for having rejected Israel and the Jews. A contingent of nearly 50

members of the Mennonite sect of Amish, from Sweden and the U.S., recently conveyed their solemn apology at **Jerusalem's Western Wall.** They presented a parchment to Israeli dignitaries which read in part, **"for our collective sin of pride and selfishness by ignoring the plight**

**of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel and pledging strong support for Jews and the Jewish State. We no longer want to reject you – you were G-d's people long before we were.**

# Good News from Israel

1. With increased interest world-wide, Israel is marketing its waste water reuse technologies and has developed a billion-dollar industry by sharing systems and expertise. **Ninety-two percent of the wastewater in Israel is treated and 75% is used for agricultural irrigation, this is the highest percentage of such utilization in the world.** The cost of enhancing wastewater is half of the cost of desalinating seawater and is of great significance in an era when there is a shortage of potable fresh water. Treated wastewater is a suitable alternative that can be used for agriculture purposes. Israel's water technologies exports will double by 2012, from the \$1.5 billion in exports in 2010.

2. Revolutionizing delicate spinal surgery **SpineAssist®** is a robotic guidance system which enables surgeons to perform safer and accurate spine surgeries. SpineAssist is in daily use in leading hospitals with thousands of successful cases worldwide. SpineAssist Robotic Arm - guides the surgeon during surgery to perform the preoperative plan therefore optimizing clinical outcome.

3. **China** and **India** are Israel's two major destinations of exports with an impressive growth in exports in the last year (\$7 billion - 49% increase). A joint committee of the Finance and Industry Ministries for increasing

exports to East Asia has formed a program with \$30 million budget intended to help realize the commercial potential in the Chinese and Indian markets. China wants Israel as technology partner; Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming visiting in Israel (again) signed a memorandum of understanding to promote commerce and cooperation between the Israel and China.

5. **Bird strikes** are a significant threat to flight safety, and have caused a number of accidents with human casualties. Birds have been sucked into aircraft engines, which sometimes resulted in a shutdown. Israel Aerospace Industries has invented the **Bird Splitter** located on the aircraft's tail and designed to 'split' an incoming bird and thereby protect aircraft structure and crucial systems before they hit the plane. IAI recently presented its concept at the Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences.

5. **An other Israeli gift:** Agro-biotechnology company Rosetta Green success in developing **Drought-Resistant Potatoes** is an important achievement for enhancing plants' capabilities in extreme conditions. Improving crops' survivability is a critical field in global agriculture. The potatoes were enhanced with the micro-RNA

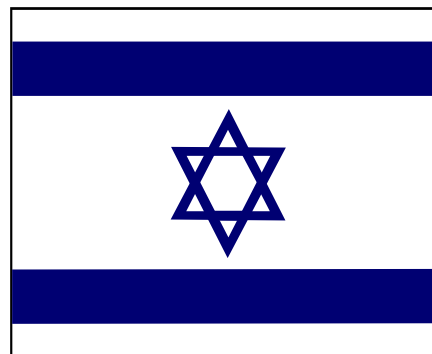
gene RGN-131, which the company found can potentially improve the potatoes' resistance to drought and severe environmental conditions. The trial found that the RGN-131 potatoes had significantly better survival capability and drought adaptability.

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## **Those who Hate Jews Hurt All of Us**

Not only have Jews suffered from those who've hated Israel and the Jewish people, but the **world** has suffered as well. This is a sad fact that is often eclipsed by the rampant anti-Israel criticism and anti-Semitism that permeates much of the world.

Understanding this sad truth is one more reason that we at The Jewish Federation continue to raise funds, educate and advocate on behalf of Israel everyday in so many ways. As always, we thank those who contribute to our Campaign. Your dollars provided the funding that makes this important work possible.



# Defiance Movie

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What an emotional evening this was. If you were unable to attend you missed a very special event. Unfortunately, we only have 5 Holocaust Survivors left out of a total of 27. Six red memorial candles were lit by the following survivors: **Joe Weiss, Claire Soria, Hans Wolfemann, Joseph Michaels, Bertha Wohl** and Holocaust survivor of the **Bielski Bros – Miriam Taub. Eleanor Rubin** is also a survivor couldn't attend because of an illness.

The **Executive Director Gloria Max, Rabbi Amy Mayer, and Rabbi Karen Allen** were involved in this short service to honor the 6 million who perished. We had two very special guests that evening. **Ruth Bielski**, the

daughter of **Tuvia Bielski**, the main hero of the Defiance Movie and **Miriam Taub** who happened to be a Holocaust survivor and was saved by the Bielski Bros. When these two women fell into each others arms – it was an emotional experience for all of us.

It was just a fluke that Miriam Taub was present. Her daughter **Elanit** happened to be at Temple Beth-El when the Executive Director announced the movie. Elanit mentioned to a friend that her mother was one of the survivors. The Director was told about this and asked when the mother was visiting and it was going to be two days later. She asked if her mother could change her plans. She agreed because when would she have

the chance to thank the Bielski family for saving her life. Both of them spoke and then the movie was shown. What a movie. If you haven't seen it make it a point to do so.

We thank **Murray Steinberg, Dr. Steven Katz** and **Marilyn Freedman** for going the extra mile to help with this event and Thank you to **Nancy Sharff** for bringing the popcorn machine sponsored by **Prosperity Bank of Deland** and informing us about the movie and Ruth Bielski. We also thank all the volunteers who stayed later to clean up and put the chairs away. A big thank you to **Temple Beth-El** for the use of their facilities. This was an evening to remember.

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## Executive Director Attends Small Cities Convention

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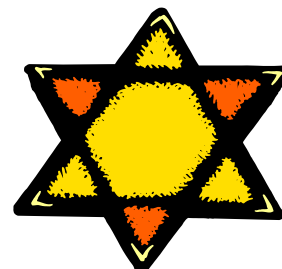
For many years, our Executive Director has not been attending any conventions, even the small cities conventions, but this year, she deemed it necessary, because she wanted to learn what was going on in the Federation World. She was pleased to see that her fellow executives were all concerned about Israel and their local constituents.

There were many speakers and joint sessions with intermediate and large Federations. **"We came together as**

**caring, committed Jews from around the country that share a common heritage and value system. We understood the importance of taking care of one another, and passing that heritage and those values to our children and grandchildren."**

She was thrilled to see a group of 1,300 young Jewish adults attend a Tribal Fest sponsored by the Jewish Federation of North America. They were ready to help their fellow human beings who needed

assistance. They do things differently than our counterparts, but they were engaged and ready to do Tikkun Olam. When you come from a small city like ours, to see 1300 young Jews singing and dancing Hebrew songs and ready to help change the world, it makes you quvell.



# Letters, We Get Letters



These are letters from people we have helped regardless of race or religion:

1. We struggle to make the dollar stretch enough to cover the essentials food, rent and utilities. Words cannot express my deep appreciation for the Jewish Federation's assistance which has a significant impact and really makes a difference. Thank you for helping me put food on our table.

2. I just wanted to say thank you for all the help and support you have given my family and I. I am a single father of 2 young girls and I have taken in my elderly father who needs attention. Over the past 2 years you have helps us so much whether it was food or help with utilities or even just lifting our spirits. I wanted you to know that it hasn't gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Even when I feel uncomfortable or just embarrassed to ask for help, they always make us feel so comfortable and not ashamed. No matter what holiday, Gloria never once forgets to call with a helping hand and that has meant so much to me and my family. So again, thank you so much for everything you have done, for me my father and especially my girls.

3. We just wanted to say thank you. We fell on most difficult times because of the economic down-turn and with

our age and failing health we have kept ourselves together because of you, your help and kindness. Thank you sincerely for your help.

4. With a smile that warms and a heart that cares, your organization made all the difference in the world. In just the right way, at just the right time, you all were there. Thank you for all of your help. We really appreciated everything you all did for us.

5. Thank you. for all you do. May your kindness be returned to you abundantly.

6. Our family was once well off but we have fallen on hard times. Thank you so much for your continued faithfulness of servanthood. The food you and others provide has helped our family so much. Your organization is a model for the way other organizations should respond to those in need. You have made an eternal impact on our community. God bless you.

7. My son and I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity. The Jewish Federation has continually helped us in these seriously trying times when I have been unable to find employment. Being able to put a meal on the table for my son is what you at the Jewish Federation has helped me to do and for that you will always be in our prayers. G-d bless you.

8. Thank you very much for all the food you gave us. We were completely out of food and nothing to eat. Thank you for being so kind.

9. My husband and kids greatly appreciated all the help you have given us. Everyone who works there is a true angel. B-d bless you all.

10. I just wanted to thank you for everything you have done for me and my family. The Jewish Federation has been a true blessing to us and everyone in need. I can't thank you enough.

11. We just wanted to thank you for the groceries, clothes and furniture during this difficult time. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation of your generosity.

12. A special thanks to the Jewish Federation. Your generous food donations and help with our electric bill has saved our lives. I thank G-d for your blessing every day.

13. To all the wonderful caring and giving people who work so hard to make sure people like me have food to put on their tables. G-d bless you.



Everyone who volunteers and works at the Federation works hard. We really are the beneficiaries because we make a big difference to so many people and it really feels like we are doing G-d's work. We continually thank our volunteers and donors who make this possible.

# Volunteers

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The Federation is fortunate to have many volunteers but we would be remiss if we didn't mention these very special people. They are **Gary Dean, George Gosselin, Marta Weisberg, Joan Meres, and Marilyn Freedman**. Gary, and George help **Ray Max** every Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They not only go to Second Harvest where we purchase 6,000 pounds of food every week, but they help carry in the merchandise, stock it and do whatever necessary to make the food bank efficient. Ray couldn't do without them. **Marta Weisberg** calls herself the "little old lady" because she goes to all the grocery stores and purchases food at a great discount. If Ray were to go, they would only let him purchase a minimum of 2 cans. Marta says they wouldn't

dare say anything to "a little old lady". She clears their shelves and now she had them order food in bulk for her. You should see how loaded her car is when she brings the food to us. Joan helps the Director in so many ways that she couldn't do without her. Marilyn Freedman not only purchases the food for us for all events, but displays them also. She makes certain that she gets the best prices for us. Not only do they volunteer their time, but they donate their funds also. What a mitzva they do for us.

Other volunteers that have helped us recently are: **David Epstein, Josh Doliner, Doug Powell, Howard Jacobson and Dr. Robert Grossmann**. If we left anyone out, we apologize because our volunteers are

very special to us. We thank **Dr. Barbara Steinberg** and **Howard Krugman** for going to the Social Studies Fair and giving out the prizes for the **Asla Doliner Memorial Fund**. **Katie Orfinger** was the winner of the Asia Doliner plaque which was presented by **Howard Krugman** at her confirmation class. Thank you to the **Jewish War Veterans** who send us a check for the Jerry Doliner Food Bank every month. Thank you to **Murray Steinberg** who keeps our web page in order. Thank you to the President **Marian Kohen** who works behind the scenes to raise funds for the Food Bank. Kudos to **Dr. Sara Droker** for her unusual fundraising-she gave free teeth cleaning in exchange for food and boy did we ever get a mountain of food.

Bless all of our volunteers. What mitzot they do for the Jewish Federation.

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## ***Israel is only Interested in Grabbing More Land. Do you Believe This?***

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According to a recent letter to our local newspaper, ***Israel is only interested in grabbing more land.***

Is this the same Israel that was denied access to the Suez Canal in 1956 when Egypt nationalized that international waterway? England, France and Israel recovered the canal, and Israel occupied the Sinai. But wait, in response to international assurances of safety and canal access, Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt. The UN deployed forces in the Sinai to assure peace and canal access.

Perhaps it was in 1967, when Egypt threw the UN monitors out

of the Sinai and again closed the canal to Israel? Then Egypt, Syria and Jordan (and others) readied to attack Israel. The Six Day War ensued. Having been burned before, Israel did not trust international assurances and so held on to the Sinai and the West Bank this time, hoping for a true peace treaty.

After Israel was again attacked by Syria and Egypt (and others) on Yom Kippur, 1973, and again prevailed, a peace treaty was finally achieved between Israel and Egypt, and the Sinai was again returned. Will this peace treaty hold with the new regime of will the Muslim Brotherhood gain power and dissolve this

treaty. It would take several more years to achieve a treaty with Jordan.

Nor did Jordan want the West Bank back -- the same West Bank that Jordan had occupied from 1948 to 1967. Considerable infrastructure was dismantled or given to Egypt in the process of returning the Sinai, including at least one thriving community and considerable oil reserves.

***So exactly where is this "land-grabbing" Israel? Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, the only country dedicated to freedom and human rights. Some oppressor and land-grabber.***

