

# JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF ALLENTOWN

702 N. 22nd Street • Allentown, PA 18104  
610.435.3571 • www.allentownjcc.org



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## See You at the MOVIES

Monica Friess,  
Film Project Manager

This year's Jewish & Israeli Film Festival promises an exciting and diverse array of films from all over the world and provides something for the whole family.

We have a captivating feature film from Argentina called *Anita*. It is the story of a girl with Down syndrome who is separated from her family after the bombing of the Israelite Mutual Association in Buenos Aires. This is a touching movie about a resilient individual who engages with the people she encounters, and she will surely captivate you as well. *Anita* was selected as Best Film, Best Actress, Best Narrative and Audience Choice at numerous film festivals in 2011. This will be shown on March 18 at 7 p.m. (venue TBA).

*The Matchmaker*, a character story filled with insight, humor and warmth, is set in Haifa in the 1960s. Don't expect Yenta from *Fiddler on the Roof*. This matchmaker has his office in the seedier section of Haifa, in the back of a cinema run by a family of dwarves (true, there was such a theater). A cast of intriguing

adults and adolescents inform this enchanting coming-of-age story, or perhaps fable. This film won the Audience Choice Award at the 2011 Israel Film Festival in New York. It will be shown at the JCC on March 15 at 7:30 p.m.

*Policeman (HaShoter)* is a 2011 feature film. The plot centers on anti-terrorist police and youths bent on class warfare. Though dramatic and set in the 1970s, the film is prescient in its depiction of the unrest over civil rights and economic and social equality in the current Israeli street. It will be shown at Lehigh University on February 26 at 2 p.m.

Just added is *Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story* on Sunday, March 25, co-sponsored by Congregation Brith Sholom, to be held at the synagogue in the morning.

The 2011 Israeli documentary *Dolphin Boy* is a family film that tells the heart-wrenching and uplifting story of a boy from an Arab village—the victim of a brutal attack in 2006 by classmates—who suffered profound PTSD. When usual treatments fail, he is taken to Eilat for therapy at Dolphin Reef. It is a remarkable testament to perseverance and the healing power of nature. We are thrilled that the co-producer will be in our area during its presentation and will speak about the film. This will be shown at the JCC on April 1 at 4 p.m.

*Saviors in the Night* is a feature film from Germany based on the story of Marga Spiegel, now 98 years old, who was saved by a German Christian farm family during the Holocaust. It's an emotional story about a brave Jewish family and understated heroism by farmers whose names are immortalized at Yad Vashem. Shown at numerous 2010 and 2011 Jewish film festivals, it won an Audience Award in Boston and in Pittsburgh. This will be shown at Lafayette University on April 15 at 1 p.m.

We're elated that several organizations in the community are already on board as co-presenters. Lafayette University Hillel will partner on *Saviors in the Night*, the Berman Center for Jewish Studies at Lehigh University will co-present *The Policeman* and the Jewish Day School will co-present *Dolphin Boy*.

One or two additional films will be added to this impressive group, and we know you won't want to miss any of them, so look for further updates in upcoming editions of HAKOL. Mark your calendars for an exciting festival at the JCC! We'll see you at the movies.



## Nearly New needs you!

Nearly New needs volunteers like Martin Weinberg on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the JCC to help sort and tag all of the items that come in each week. Here, Martin is sporting one of his finds from the winter sale.

Save the dates for the spring Nearly New Sale:  
**Sunday, April 15 and Monday, April 16, 2012**



## Building Hours

MONDAY - THURSDAY:  
6 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
FRIDAY: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
SATURDAY: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
SUNDAY: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Bye Bye Birdie, Hello Hakims

Aaron Berger,  
First Impressions Coordinator

Spending time with family is always important. For some families, that could mean going to the theater to see a show. But it's not often that families have the chance to spend time together by being *in* the show.

That's exactly what the Hakims, longtime JCC members, were able to do in the Stagemakers at the J's recent production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Each family member played a vital role in the musical, and after the curtain fell for the last time, they had a chance to reflect on the show and what it was like to work together.

"It was super fun," said 12-year-old Max Hakim, who played the character Randolph. "Having my whole family involved made the experience even more exciting. I think we all contributed to the show's success." Max has been involved with theater for quite some time, as demonstrated by his amazing performance. Other shows he has appeared in include *Beauty and the Beast* and *Tom Sawyer*. He recently received the role of JoJo in the show *Seussical*, which will reach the stage at Orefield Middle School in March.

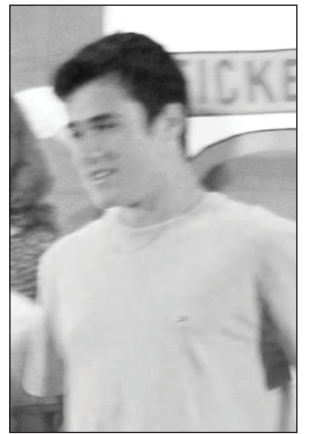
Hannah Hakim, 14, played the role of Ursula in *Bye Bye Birdie*. She is also no stranger to the world of theater, as her performance and attitude showcased. "My favorite thing about *Bye Bye Birdie* was definitely performing and being with my family and friends," she said. "After each rehearsal, my family and I would talk about what was going well and what we could do better, and we would help each other with our lines. It just made being part of the show more fun." Like the rest of her family, she was both nervous and excited on opening night. "Once I got on stage, though, my excitement took over," she said. Hannah has been in several other Stagemaker productions, and she will be performing alongside her younger brother Max again in *Seussical*, playing the role of Gertrude.

Sixteen-year-old Ben's experience was certainly an adventure. He was originally part of the show's stage crew but became a last-minute replacement for the role of Hugo when the original actor fell ill. Ben said that at times, his siblings' criticisms became a bit much, but he appreciated the feedback because it only made him perform better. "I remember how nervous I was right before the curtain opened, reading my lines over and over," Ben said. Each member of Ben's family was very proud of his quick adjustment and terrific performance, especially since they had thought he would be backstage in the dark rather than performing with them under the lights. When asked about being in a future show, he said that that decision is still up in the air. But if there is ever a future production of *Aladdin*, Ben said that he would definitely try out for the part of the Genie.

This was father Harvey Hakim's first time ever on stage, and according to his wife and kids, he did a great job playing the role of the mayor. He said he tried out because he wanted a challenge and he wanted to be with his family. "I enjoy being part of something I know my family enjoys doing," Harvey said. "The show was something wonderful since we were able to be together. We will remember it for the rest of our lives." Similar to his children, he was nervous on opening night. "Butterflies were in my stomach and my biggest worry was missing my cue," Harvey said. As for future shows, he said, "I would love to perform again and it does not matter in what show, as long as the part does not require any singing solos."

Although mother Melissa Hakim was not actually in the show, she certainly played a significant role as an usher and supportive wife and parent. She also made sure her family was there on time for each rehearsal and performance. She said she was nervous for her husband and kids but loved watching them on stage. (Note: Melissa is part of the JCC's group exercise staff and you can take part in her Body Combat class weekly.)

The Hakims are not sure if they will all be able to perform together again but would love to if the opportunity came about. We will all have to wait and see. They wish to thank their fellow terrific cast members and show director Syd Stauffer for providing them with the chance to be together as a family.



The *Bye Bye Birdie* Hakim Family:  
Hannah as Ursula, Harvey as the mayor,  
Ben as Hugo and Max as Randolph

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## Camp memories last a lifetime

Deb Goldberg, Camp JCC Director



I recently was attending a camp conference and met a young man named Scott (young is relative, I know, as he was probably in his mid 30s). He introduced himself to me at our first meeting break following our self introductions to the group. I mentioned my camp affiliations and it seemed that Scott's dad was a camper, staff person and ultimately director of my day camp around the time I was there. We chuckled as I tried to remember who his dad might have been. I really couldn't remember more than his name, and as it turned out, he was a counselor of the boys' group of my age. At that moment, I suddenly felt a connection to this new friend, Scott.

The next day I received a short e-mail from Scott's dad Steve, who immediately looked to connect to his own camp memory. He was now retired, living out west, and didn't think he remembered me per se but wanted to check just in case. Below is most of what I sent to Steve as I too wanted to go back to camp, even if only in my mind.

"I was a seven-year-old camper in 1969 for the first of my six years at day camp. I loved sports, learned archery, hated the sandy bottom part of the lake, but liked the islands in the middle with the diving boards, I think. I won a rainy-day contest in the canteen cutting the longest strip from a single piece of paper. I always brought coins for the pinball machine and bought Atomic Fireballs whenever possible. I remember my banners and buttons, my five-year trophy, minnows in the creek, darts and giant salami and shaving-cream balloons at the carnival booths and overnights in the open air. I remember keeping busy with 50 cents at the Willowbrook Mall on a rainy day. I don't remember many people and didn't keep in touch at that age. I remember Lori K. and Mindy-something who had an older sister. I had originally come to camp with "Uncle Dick" in his station wagon because initially I wasn't on a common route. We rode in the car, no seatbelts, backwards in the way back, in the front, wherever. I remember counting between strikes of lightning and thunder to see how far away it was on rides home.

I learned about Bachman Turner Overdrive from the jukebox and can still date songs knowing that it was there where I first heard them. I know how to use a vice and saw in woodworking from my day camp experience, and I hated the snakes in nature and never touched the animals from the petting zoo (I never liked going in the creek to catch those minnows). I loved the mushy tuna fish sandwiches my mom ordered for me, which were made behind the nurse's room and stage (my nickname was "mushy tuna fish" one summer). I remember eating in the grove, some sort of cookout area above that and the playground with the seesaws that I got bumped around on. There was lots of lanyard, copper crafts, leather purses and comb sleeves that I cherished."

Does my day camp still exist? Not under the original administration, it turns out, but as a camp of a different nature. But for Steve, Mindy, Lori myself and so many others, my camp clearly does live on. Thanks, Steve, for allowing me to remember that I am who I am today in part because of camp.

That was a good stroll down memory lane....

## A delicious affair: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Latke Throwdown



Above: Conferring judges Bob Barrett and Mark Goldstein; Below left: Emcee extraordinaire Frank Tamarkin; Below right: Winner Norman Moses



## The Gallery at the JCC

Opening reception for Susan Levin and Lauren Mulhern  
January 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Exhibit January 19-March 2, 2012



Lauren Mulhern  
Watercolors



Susan Levin  
Mixed Media



The JCC kindergarten children entertained members of the Friendship Circle with music and songs at their annual Hanukkah luncheon on December 19. Afterward, the children played dreidel with the members. Left: Jacob Dubow spins the dreidel with Syd Engelson. Right: Lucille Wahrman bonds with Sada Fleischaker. Lucille is also a "grandbuddy" who reads to the children weekly in the classroom. For more information on the Friendship Circle, contact the JCC at 610-435-3571.

Stagemakers at the JCC presents  
a benefit performance

# A NIGHT ON BROADWAY

Featuring 18 musical numbers from Broadway productions performed by children and adults.

Saturday, January 21, 2012 · 7:30 PM

Tickets:  
At the JCC: 22nd & Tilghman Streets, Allentown, PA  
Phone: 610.435.3571  
Online: www.allentownjcc.org  
Adults: \$36 Children: \$18

Sponsorships are available.

## 13th Annual Florida Reunion

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012  
11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
DELRAY BEACH GOLF CLUB  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
STAFF: LEN GURVITZ - 561-499-6274  
CHAIRPERSON: JOAN LESAVOY - 561-732-0316