Work Above the Bull: Am Yisrael Chai
Brenda Gevertz, JPRO Network Executive Director

As Jews in North America we have unprecedented freedom to live our lives fully expressing our beliefs, practices and political preferences with little fear of the consequences. We may give more thought to how our religious practices are viewed by fellow congregants than by our neighbors of other faiths. While we may have experienced some slights or discrimination as Jews, pervasive hatred and institutional oppression have never been condoned here. Certainly in the last 50 years our sight has been more focused on the consequences of intermarriage than on persecution.

Yet today, I am reading the news and repeating my father’s words; words and concepts I had rejected long ago. Schwer zu sein ein yid—“It’s hard to be a Jew.” Perhaps, like me, you grew up with a parent or grandparent who may have read or listened to the news and asked “Is it good for the Jews?”

My own children, thankfully, were not shaped by these expressions. In London, Berlin and Paris—and in numerous other places—we are hearing and seeing the taunts and threats of virulent anti-Semitism. Demonstrations have turned violent. The thin veil of anti-Zionism has been lifted to reveal what we had long suspected: ugly anti-Semitism.

This new era will not be a return to the past. We will not allow those who hate us to define us. We will continue to choose Jewish values over fear and build for the future. Today, we have the Jewish State of Israel. Today, we have the knowledge and experience of political activism and power. Today, we stand strengthened by a world-wide Jewish community network. Today we will say and mean “Am Yisrael Chai—The People of Israel Lives!” Now, more than at any other time in our lives, we must give meaning to this expression. How will you join me?
MANDELKORN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

There is no greater honor then to be recognized by your peers for outstanding contributions to the field of Jewish community practice.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 DEADLINE

Ben Mandelkorn was the founding President and first Executive Director of AJCOP. He served as the first Executive Director of the Columbus Jewish Federation, which established this award to honor his leadership and dedication, which spanned more than 43 years.

The MANDELKORN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD annually recognizes a full time individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of Jewish community organization practice.

To qualify, one must have a minimum of ten years in the field of Jewish community organizational practice.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 award. Nomination Forms should be emailed to info@jcsana.org by Monday, September 15, 2014, no later than NOON EST.

The Award Winner will be honored at the General Assembly of JFNA November 10, 2014 in National Harbor, Maryland.

Download nomination forms at www.JPRO.org.

For more information, email info@jcsana.org or call (212) 284-6945
JPRO Network Awards

JPRO Network Young Professional Award

Established in 1972, the JPRO Young Professional Award distinguishes young professionals who have demonstrated exemplary service and commitment in their profession. Nominating a young colleague is a valuable means of acknowledging his or her work and contributions to the success of your agency and community.

Criteria:
♦ 35 or younger
♦ 3-10 years of working in Jewish Communal Service
♦ 2 or more years in nominating organization
♦ Demonstrates a successful impact on his/her work, agency, field of research
♦ Takes initiative
♦ Committed to the future vitality and vibrancy of the Jewish Community and people
♦ Employment must be of benefit to the North American Jewish Community

The 2014 JPRO Young Professional Award provides a 10-day educational seminar to Europe and Israel. The seminar will focus on Jewish identity and peoplehood, exploring innovative programming and redefining relationships. Travel will be during January, 2015.

For more information, see below and go to www.JPRO.org

The Bernard Rodkin Professional Development Israel Fellowship

The Bernard Rodkin Professional Development Israel Fellowship provides an opportunity to increase one’s knowledge and understanding of Israeli society and its social welfare system. The recipient must present a well articulated interest in participating in a 10-day Professional Development Experience in Europe and Israel which will enhance his/her Jewish community organization skills and career development.

The Bernard Rodkin Professional Development Israel Fellowship will be granted to a select number of individuals who
♦ currently work in a JPRO Network Member Agency or Organization
♦ have worked professionally in the field of Jewish Communal Service for at least 3 years
♦ demonstrate a long term commitment to a professional career in the Jewish community

Objectives:
♦ To learn about existing philanthropic partnerships with the Diaspora
♦ To explore best-practices in project development, planning and research in regard to implementing model programs
♦ To explore national social policy and service delivery strategies
♦ To understand the role of voluntary agencies vis-à-vis the public sector and how specific voluntary agencies function
♦ To study the societal issues confronting Israel and World Jewry

To Download nomination forms for both awards, and to see qualifications and criteria for applying, go to www.JPRO.org.

September 15, 2014 at Noon EST Deadline

For more information, email info@jcsana.org or call (212) 284-6945

www.JPRO.org
Events & Updates

My Jewish Coach
Presented with Marci Mayer Eisen, Director, Millstone Institute for Jewish Leadership
Webinar: Passion for Process: How to Create Engaging and Successful Committees, Teams, Boards and Collaborations
Date & Time: Thursday, August 7, 2014; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
Presented with Deborah Grayson Riegel, President, MyJewishCoach.com
Webinar: Delegate without Drama
Date & Time: Wednesday, December 31, 2014; 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, EDT
For more information go to myjewishcoach.com.

Jewish Climate Change Campaign and Hazon
People’s Climate March NYC
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014
A Jewish contingent will march alongside other faith communities, labor union and environment groups to call on world leaders convening at the UN to take strong action for a world safe from the ravages of climate change. The March is an appropriate way to begin the new year of 5775, which is a Shmita (sabbatical) year in which the Torah instructs us to nurture the life-giving capacities of the earth and the people who depend on it.
For more information go to www.jewishclimatecampaign.org or email mirele.goldsmith@hazon.org

Graduate Programs

Mazel Tov to HUC-JIR Graduates
Congratulations to the five students who received the degree of Master of Arts in Jewish Nonprofit Management from HUC-JIR at graduation ceremonies on May 19, 2014. Clockwise from center-top: Sharon Graetz, Rachel Barton, Michelle Wetmiller, Rebecca (Becka) Ross, and Arielle Branitsky.

Yasher koach to the students at Wurzweiler School of Social Work!
Below is a picture of six MSW students who graduated and also earned their Certificate in Jewish Communal Service. These six students were flanked by Dr. Lynn Levy and Dr. Saul Andron.

WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Certificate in Jewish Philanthropy
Fall 2014
- Integrated classroom instruction
- The Art and Science of Fund Raising
- The Jewish Philanthropic Tradition
- Fund raising Internship with one-on-one professional mentoring
- Exposure to leading Jewish philanthropists and fund raisers

Convenient Times and Locations
- Classroom Option: After-work evening sessions at easily-accessed midtown Manhattan location
- Online Option: Hybrid of live interactive presentations, pre-recorded media and other materials

Tuition: $3,500 per Fellow
For more information contact:
Dr. Saul Andron, Associate Professor
Director of Certificate in Jewish Philanthropy
212 960 5400 or email sandron@yu.edu

Photo by Sari Goodfriend for Yeshiva University.
Graduate Programs Continued...

The University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) offers a distinctive educational opportunity for emerging leaders committed to helping Jewish communities meet 21st-century challenges while also addressing broader social concerns. In this twenty-month program, students earn a Master's of Social Work degree and a Certificate in Jewish Communal Leadership.

Generous tuition funding and dual-degree options are available (Public Health, Business, Information, Judaic Studies, and U-M's other top-rated graduate programs). JCLP offers advanced coursework in therapeutic interventions, community organizing, management, grant-making, and intergroup dialogue. Field placement opportunities are with local and national organizations. International placements may be arranged through our partnership with the University of Haifa.

Please visit our website: [http://ssw.umich.edu/offices/jewish-communal-leadership-program/overview](http://ssw.umich.edu/offices/jewish-communal-leadership-program/overview).

We congratulate our recent May 2014 graduates! Pictured left to right: Dr. Karla Goldman (JCLP Director), Sarah McEwan, Avital Ostfield, Sammi Cutler, Bobby Siporin, and Dr. Andrea Siegel (JCLP Acting Director, 2014-2015).

The Graduate School of The Jewish Theological Seminary offers the most extensive academic program in advanced Jewish studies in North America, awarding master's and doctoral degrees in numerous areas of specialization including Jewish Ethics, Modern Jewish Studies and Jewish Professional Leadership. Students delve deeply into an area of specialization while also acquiring a broad-based knowledge of the Jewish experience.

Professional development is a significant part of students' experiences: students present their research and develop skills while being mentored by faculty, and participate in workshops in which they hone their skills as they develop their careers. Alumni of The Graduate School successfully serve as professors, educators, organizational leaders, professionals, lay leaders, and more.

Many students are interested in The Jewish Professional Leadership Program, which prepares students for careers in the Jewish community by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills, and experience to meet the challenge of building Jewish community. Students may apply to JTS and Columbia University’s School of Social Work (CSSW), or Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). At JTS, students study Jewish history, tradition, and culture with JTS's esteemed Jewish studies faculty. At CSSW or SIPA, students study non-profit management and leadership.

Rolling admissions are offered through the spring and summer. For more information on our programs and application process, please contact Director of Admissions Abby Eisenberg at abeisenberg@jtsa.edu or (212) 678-8032, or visit [www.jtsa.edu/graduate](http://www.jtsa.edu/graduate).

The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, the largest pluralistic school of Jewish education in North America, offers master's degrees in Jewish education with concentrations in Day School Teaching and Educational Leadership in Synagogues and Communal Settings. All students study experiential education, pedagogy, and Jewish text, and participate in hands-on training. Students are eligible for generous tuition fellowships. In-residence and online options, and full-time and part-time options are available for MA students. MA as well as non-JTS students may also apply for Kesher Hadash, The Davidson School’s groundbreaking semester-in-Israel program.

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As I walked down the streets of Jerusalem this delightful, breezy July night, I passed two demonstrations supporting the soldiers of the IDF—one particularly dedicated to the Golani Brigade, which suffered so grievously this week. Two tangible reminders that the calm of Jerusalem masks the sorrow and the fear, the violence and the uncertainty of this war. And then I recited Ma’ariv, the evening service with its 23 blessings—through whose timeless words the prayers of a moment manifest.

The evening comes, and we reflect on a trying day, hoping that on another evening, sometime soon, the news will be better. Blessed are You, Lord, who brings on evenings.

The world “regrets,” “condemns,” “urges,” and “demands,” and airlines cancel their flights. Israel yearns not to be alone. Blessed are You, Lord, who loves His people Israel.

Amid the trials of the moment, we recall that Israel has prevailed through worse. Blessed are You, Lord, who redeemed Israel.

But what’s passed is past; we need you now. Blessed are You, Lord, who guards His people Israel forever.

We have seen that armor cannot withstand a shell, or Kevlar explosives. Soldiers need something more. Blessed are You, Lord, shield of Abraham.

We read the obituaries and cry over lives lost and families torn asunder. Blessed are You, Lord, who revives the dead.

We struggle to reconcile the dirty work of this war with the holy purpose of protecting our People and our Land. Blessed are You, Lord, the holy God.

We look for the wisdom that can find a way out of this conflict. Blessed are You, Lord, who graciously grants knowledge.

We know that a war forces even the righteous to sin. Blessed are You, Lord, who desires repentance.

And yet, this is the third time in recent years we have seen this same conflict—these same horrible headlines. Will you forgive again? Blessed are You, Lord, the gracious One who repeatedly forgives.

If only more soldiers do not have to die to protect this Land. Blessed are You, Lord, the Redeemer of Israel.

The hospitals are full with those who have been shattered. Blessed are You, Lord, Healer of the sick of His people.

We can’t bear to see the future looking like this year. Blessed are You, Lord, who blesses the years.

And yet, amid the strife in Israel or even because of it, we see how unwelcome our people are in so many places around the world, and how, even amid rockets, the olam still arrive. Blessed are You, Lord, who gathers the dispersed of His people Israel.

To be a free people in our land is a just cause. Blessed are You, Lord, the King who loves righteousness and justice.

End the terror, we implore. Blessed are You, Lord, who destroys enemies and humbles the arrogant.

Strengthen our people to act justly even when danger presses. Blessed are You, Lord, who is the support and trust of the righteous.

War is destructive. But we fight so we can build our land and our future. Blessed are You, Lord, who builds Jerusalem.

And we trust that better will come. Blessed are You, Lord, who makes the glory of salvation flourish.

So many prayers. Can You hear them all? Blessed are You, Lord, who listens to prayer.

And can we hear You amid the explosions and sirens? Can we see your hand, through the smoke and the blood? Blessed are You, Lord, who restores His Presence to Zion.

We can—in the smiles of children who don’t know to cry and in the hope we yet carry. Blessed are you, Lord, whose name is “the Good” and to whom thanks are due.

Just give us peace. Blessed are You, Lord, who blesses His people Israel with peace.

Amen.
Employment Opportunities

**Hillel** is looking for top executives, educators and engagers that want to make an impact on the future of the Jewish people. Positions are available around the country. Please check out [www.jobs.hillel.org](http://www.jobs.hillel.org) or contact Aviva Zucker Snyder, Talent Recruiter at asnyder@hillel.org, to find out more!

The Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence at the Jewish Federations of North America is looking for candidates for open positions across North America. Exciting job opportunities include a Women’s Philanthropy Director/Assistant Director of FRD at the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas and a Campaign Director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. To learn more and apply, visit [www.jfna.org/mandelcenter](http://www.jfna.org/mandelcenter) or email personnel@jewishfederations.org.

American Jewish Committee seeks a Development Officer. The candidate will focus on conducting resource development activities for AJC departments such as Contemporary Jewish Life, Young Leadership Division and Interreligious and Intergroup Relations, among others. Some duties and responsibilities include performing content research for grant proposals and potential funders, contact potential funders, write grant applications, write reports for funders and cultivate and develop the donor database. For more information, go to [http://tinyurl.com/nvwflae](http://tinyurl.com/nvwflae) or [www.ajc.org](http://www.ajc.org).

Chicago’s Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership seeks a Director of the Center for Jewish Leadership to direct and administer a range of professional development and graduate-level programs serving Jewish community professionals. The portfolio for this position consists of two main areas, the soon-to-launch Center for Jewish Leadership and the Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies program, serving students in Chicago and select locations across North America. Applications and inquiries may be submitted electronically to Dr. Dean Bell, Dean/CAO, Spertus Institute, at dbell@spertus.edu.

Mazal Tovs

**Mazel Tov** to Cara Unowsky on her marriage to David Glickman.

**Mazel Tov** to Eric Kessler on becoming the President of JPro NJ.

**Mazel Tov** to Hindy Poupko and Seth Galena, on the birth of their baby boy, Akiva Max.

**Mazel Tov** to Rebecca Leibowitz, Senior Program Manager, Foundation for Jewish Camp on becoming Board Chair for Advancing Jewish Professionals (AJP).

**Mazel Tov** to Gayle M. Horwitz on her recent appointment as Chief Administrative Officer of FEGS Health & Human Services.

**Mazel Tov** to FEGS on receiving a $925K Robin Hood Grant to develop a new, integrated care model to improve health outcomes and reduce poverty among adults and children with mental illness living in New York City.

**Mazel Tov** to Ilia Salita, on his promotion to CEO of the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

**Mazel Tov** to Lou Solomon, Immediate Past Executive Director of AJCOP, on his retirement from the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

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**Global Justice Fellowship**

A year-long program of learning, activism and leadership to promote global justice

**Dates:** January 2015 - December 2015

Including travel to the Dominican Republic June 7 - 16, 2015.

- Learn about human rights and international development, including Jewish perspectives
- Develop advocacy and organizing skills
- Take action as part of AJWS’s We Believe campaign, focusing on ending violence against women, girls and LGBT people
- Organize your communities to advocate for human rights
- Lobby members of Congress
- Join a national network of American Jewish leaders dedicated to promoting human rights and ending poverty.

To apply or learn more, visit [www.ajws.org/NYFellowship2015](http://www.ajws.org/NYFellowship2015)

**JCC Association Graduate Scholarship**

The scholarship application for the 2015-2016 school year will open **September 1st**.

The scholarship is intended for applicants interested in working in a JCC after graduation. Scholarships up to $20,000 for two years of study are available. Tuition Assistance is also available for current Full Time JCC Professionals who are attending Grad school part time.

For applications and more information, please visit [JCCWorks.com](http://JCCWorks.com).

Deadline for application submission is **February 1, 2015**.

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Contact us at [www.JPRO.org](http://www.JPRO.org) or email us at info@JPRO.org.
FUTURE FUNDING OF YOUR RETIREMENT PLANS
MAY BE AT RISK!

Have **YOU** insured future deposits to your retirement accounts as many of your colleagues have?

You insure your car and home but has the protection of future deposits to your retirement accounts fallen through the cracks, subjecting you and your loved ones to a potentially devastating exposure due to the inability to work as a result of an unexpected disability?

Hopefully you have secured Long Term Disability Insurance in order to protect your income from unexpectedly being unable to work but this **DOES NOT** cover and protect your ongoing deposits to your Tax Sheltered Annuity or IRA to continue if you are unable to work.

JPRO Benefit Plans has developed a most unique program which will continue your annual deposits into your retirement plan if you should suddenly be unable to work due to an accident or illness.

If you have never thought of what shape your retirement plans would be in if you became disabled, that time is **NOW**!

Please contact our Administrators for further information and details on our upcoming open enrollment period so you too can comfortably insure that your retirement will stay on course in the face of the unexpected.

**Call for further information!**

Contact our administrators for JCSA Benefit Plans, Brian and Irving Silberberg at:
Telephone: 1-800-597-9245 E-mail: bsilberberg@ceteraadvisors.com Website: www.jcsabenefitplans.com

JPRO Network Benefit Plans offers the following plans and services to our members on an individual and agency basis:

- Long Term Disability
- Tax Sheltered Annuities
- Retirement Disability Plan
- Life Insurance Plan
- Fixed Annuities
- Fixed Index Annuities
- 529 College Fund Plan
- IRA Plans
- Long Term Care Plans
- 24 Hour Accident Plan
- Agency Pension Planning

**Mission**

The Jewish Communal Service Association of North America supports the enhancement of professional Jewish communal leadership, uniting a broad spectrum of individuals, entities and disciplines sharing a commitment to advancing their communities guided by Jewish values.

**Visit our website: www.jpro.org**

To subscribe directly to this newsletter simply go to **www.jpro.org**, enter your email address in the space provided and click “go”. Your e-mail will be automatically added to our listserv through Constant Contact. It is free, fast and easy!