

Partnerships

CJL is all about partnerships.

Our goal is to bring together students, educators, schools, and agencies to strengthen the process of Jewish education. When we work together, it enhances education for everyone. All the Jewish schools in Milwaukee participated in the Salute to Jewish Educators (page 3), and teachers from across the community engaged in professional development through CSI (page 6).

This year, CJL had the opportunity to partner on programs with: Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) and Israel Center, (both programs of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation), StandWithUs, Milwaukee Jewish Community Hebrew School, Bader Hillel Academy, Milwaukee Jewish Day School, and Congregations Beth Israel Ner Tamid, Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, Emanu-El of Waukesha, Shalom, and Sinai.

In preparation for Yom HaZikaron, CJL collaborated with the Israel Center, the Yom HaZikaron Committee, and Omer Braymok, Milwaukee's Shinshin, to do a project with local day schools and religious schools. CJL compiled information about Israeli fallen soldiers. Omer visited classes, shared stories of individual soldiers, and had the students write the names of the soldiers on

rocks collected from Lake Michigan. (See picture on page 8). These rocks were used at the community Yom HaZikaron program to create a memorial to the fallen soldiers.



In another joint effort, CJL and HERC developed a program called "Repairing the Glass." Dr. Shay Pilnik and Tzipi Altman-Shafer worked with middle school students from Bader Hillel Academy helping them understand Kristallnacht not just as history, but as a part of their lives. While remembering the past and the broken glass of Kristallnacht, we began to Repair the Glass by looking forward to the future. Repairing the Glass included: a workshop about the history of Jewish life in Germany, a presentation at Pinat Hativkah by Betsy Riley from HERC Speakers' Bureau, a Skype call with a rabbi from Germany, creation of three-dimensional artwork depicting German synagogues destroyed on Kristallnacht



with art teacher Jackie Redlich, and speeches by Bader Hillel Academy students Jaycelan Stewart, Natan Bushee, and Yosef Lerer at the Community Kristallnacht commemoration.

Another joint program was a trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. HERC and CJL arranged a trip for local religious school students and their parents. HERC covered the cost of the bus and the



museum fees. Not only did families see the museum, but were privileged to hear a survivor tell her story.

A final joint program was the In Their Honor series through HERC. About 30 students from four local congregations joined with people throughout the community to hear survivor Howard Melton talk about his experiences in the Holocaust. Students had breakfast and a talk-back about the program with Dr. Shay Pilnik and Tzipi Altman-Shafer. The program concluded with a tour of the Pinat Hativkah (Corner of Hope) memorial.



First locals finish Spertus program

by Leon Cohen

For Carrie Barbakoff, the most valuable thing she learned over the past two years was "the value of Jewish non-profit work [which] is providing for the future of American Judaism."

For Rabbi Shari Shamah, it was "that learning never ends" and that she could "set this example for my children."

For Lauren Berger, "I learned that I am able to accomplish a lot more than is reasonable on a limited amount of sleep" — but also that she had forgotten that "I

love learning, and I hope to continue as much as possible after we graduate."

All three learned these lessons from the Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies program of the Chicago-based Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership. They are among the eight Jewish community professionals who are completing the program's first class in Milwaukee.

Spertus created the program in 2007. According to the Spertus website, bringing the program to Milwaukee resulted from "conversations between Spertus Institute senior staff and the senior leadership at the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and the Coalition for Jewish Learning," the MJF's education program.

Over the program's two years and three months, classes enable working Jewish community professionals not only to earn a master's degree, but to obtain skills and knowledge applicable to their jobs.

"Our faculty [members] design courses that have both immediate application, but are also deep enough to have sustained impact over the student's career," Tal

Rosen, director of the program, wrote in response to emailed questions.

Moreover, the program "also had the benefit of pulling together students from many different types of organizations (Federation, Jewish Community Center, synagogue, etc.) and provide them with a cohort of colleagues to collaborate with across the community," according to Rosen.

For example, Barbakoff is administrative coordinator at Orthodox synagogue Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah and a teacher at Reform Congregation Shalom. Shamah is Jewish Family Specialist at the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC. Berger is the Young Leadership director at the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

In response to emailed questions, all three said they learned from the program much that was directly applicable to their work.

"As a fundraiser, and as a professional who facilitates programs for young professionals (and millennials specifically), I did a lot of research and writing on tzedakah and millennial engagement," wrote Berger. "This has changed the way I think about programs and events, and how I approach younger people and their philanthropy."

Shamah wrote, "Many of our papers had us apply a concept that we had learned in class to an issue or challenge in our jobs which was incredibly helpful."

And to Barbakoff, "I think the two most beneficial classes were the management course and the leadership course. I learned about how to be a better, more productive leader, and I learned how to develop and manage a budget."

The other participants were: Toni Davison-Levenberg, director of the Steve and Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken of the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC; Ellie Gettinger, education director of the Jewish Museum Milwaukee; Elana Kahn, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the MJF; Benjamin Kranitz, former executive director of Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid; and Rabbi Marcey Rosenbaum, rabbi educator at Congregation Shalom.

According to Rosen, Spertus is recruiting for a second Milwaukee class that will begin this autumn; and the deadline for preferred applications is June 30.

For more information, including schedule and costs, contact CJL or visit the Spertus website: Spertus.edu.



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