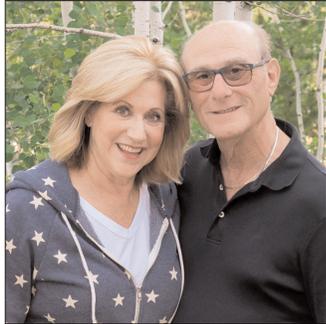




BMH-BJ honors Jultak, Friedmans, May 22



Debbie and Rob Friedman

BMH-BJ's annual event will be Sunday May 22, 6:30 p.m., at the synagogue.

The event will honor Debbie and Robert Friedman.

Perry Jultak will receive the Joe Silver Spirit Award.

The Friedmans have been called pillars in the community by their fellow congregants for dedicating a great deal of time to helping others.

Debbie Friedman, a vice president of BMH-BJ is also a real estate broker. She has served as president and currently sits on the board of Keshet of the Rockies.

Rob Friedman, who has been involved in many healthcare organizations, is also a past president of BMH-BJ and DU's Center for Judaic Studies. He is a former board member of Denver Academy of Torah



Perry Jultak

chaired the board at Kavod Senior Life.

Jultak has been an active member of the BMH-BJ community for over 20 years, during which he has been involved in many initiatives, including assisting the clergy in High Holiday services to sitting on the board of trustees.

"We are extremely proud to be working with such a dedicated team on our annual event," say Event Co-chairs Jeff and Sandi Kline. "Our honorees Debbie and Rob Friedman and Perry Jultak are wonderful examples of giving endlessly of themselves for others and our synagogue community. It's our honor to honor them and BMH-BJ."

Appetizers, dessert and wine will be served. Spinphony, an electric string quartet, will perform.

Information: bmh-bj.org.

MTOC promotes civil discourse

The Denver Jewish community's evolving landscape continues to expand with Moving to Our Center (MTOC), an organization co-founded by Robyn Loup, Jill Wildenberg and Elyn Shindler Moldow.

MTOC's mission is to "catalyze dialogue in and among Jewish communities and beyond . . . [focusing] on issues such as the historically complex relationship between Israel and Palestine as well as democracy and freedom."

While the organization plans to expand beyond the controversy around Israel and the Palestinians, MTOC's inaugural events kept the focus on this topic.

Moving to Our Center founders describe it as neither "left" nor "right"; nor does the group ascribe to any particular political party or affiliation.

Rather, MTOC hopes to live up to its name — to demystify the "other" in order to help transform the "us and them" mentality into the understanding that each of us exists in a context both within and without our own sphere of influence.

MTOC believes that receptive, cross-community collaboration in exploring issues and sharing personal experiences will create an open and safe environment for inspiring change.

Loup explains, "We are interest-



Founding members of MTOC, l-r: Jill Wildenberg, Robyn Loup, Elyn Shindler Moldow

ed in collaborating with — and supporting — other community-building organizations and are excited to host discussions about timely topics."

"A Conversation on Israel: If We're All Right, then We're all Wrong!" held April 4, brought three diverse American and Israeli American panelists before an audience of DU and Hillel students, community members, and local leaders.

MTOC facilitated "respectful, intentional conversations, exploration, and education," during the

hour-long session. According to attendee Barbara Hamilton, "It was fascinating to hear the divergent points of view around the issues facing Israel today. The evening was thought-provoking and left me wanting more dialogue."

MTOC's next event will be a follow-up discussion to "Divided Against Ourselves," an evening with Yossi Klein Halevi sponsored by JEWISHcolorado and The Shalom Hartman Institute, Tuesday, May 17.

Information: info@movingtoourcenter.org.

Efshar Project selected for accelerator program

The Efshar Project has been selected as one of 10 entrepreneurial leaders for the 13th cohort of UpStart's flagship Venture Accelerator program.

Doubling down on its commitment to social entrepreneurship, UpStart will support this new cohort's efforts to tackle the Jewish community's most pressing challenges.

Selected from a pool of more than 50 applicants, the Efshar Project seeks to elevate early childhood education through advocacy, innovative programming, coaching and mentoring to its network of 12 Jewish early childhood education partner schools in the Denver-Boulder area.

The Efshar Project was chosen for its demonstrated track record of inclusivity, creativity, and vision.

With UpStart's support, the Efshar Project will continue to provide critical solutions for burgeoning communities, reach underserved populations and respond to urgent communal issues.

The Venture Accelerator will teach Efshar how to design sustainable models for funding and growing impact, enabling Efshar to serve Jewish communities across the country for years to come.

Kelli Pfaff, project director, says, "I couldn't be more thrilled for our community to have an opportunity to participate in this extraordinary learning experience."

"We believe we are doing something really special here in the Denver-Boulder area to elevate the importance of investing early in our Jewish community."

Upstart CEO Aaron Katler says, "For years we've been watching the decline of traditional Jewish affiliation. But we believe that if we make the right investments with the urgency the moment demands, this



Kelli Pfaff, project director

time can also be one of amazing revitalization.

"Our big bet is that Jewish social entrepreneurship is the engine of innovation for Jewish life."

"By partnering with the Jewish community's boldest leaders . . . together we are expanding the picture of how anyone can find meaning and come together through Judaism."

The Efshar Project joins a community of over 90 alumni organizations that have graduated from the UpStart Venture Accelerator program since 2006.

Information: <https://upstartlab.org/cohort-13/> and UpStart Strategic Plan.

Everyday happiness means getting up in the morning, and you can't wait to finish your breakfast. You can't wait to do your exercises. You can't wait to put on your clothes. You can't wait to get out — and you can't wait to come home, because the soup is hot.

— George Burns

Shalom Park virtual event May 11 reflects resilience and flexibility

The Shalom Park virtual annual event, Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m., honoring Lisa Cook and Leslie Heins, will also be a time to reflect on the resilience of Shalom Park during the pandemic, and look to meeting the new needs of the future.

"The strength of our organization was certainly shining bright during the COVID storm."

"It was the dedication and determination of every Shalom Park Care partner who worked tirelessly during very long hours, overtime, weekends, and holidays to cover for our co-workers who had tested positive and were unable to come to work," says Shalom Park President and CEO Marc Penner.

"The industry staffing crisis is slowly recovering due to dramatic increases in wages that the market has demanded for all positions."

"This increase in operational expenses, along with a statewide decrease in census, has greatly contributed to the serious financial challenges that nursing homes are currently facing."

"In addition to legislative efforts by the Colorado Health Care Assn. that intends to increase Medicaid funding for nursing homes, Shalom Park's fundraising department



President and CEO Marc Penner visiting with Elders Marsey and Sharon.

has been very busy applying for grants and meeting with donors to help fill the financial gap during these challenging times."

With the future waves of the COVID pandemic remaining uncer-

tain at this time, Penner declared, "Shalom Park will remain vigilant, brave and cautious as we navigate through 2022."

Information: Patti, 303-400-2213 or shalompark.org.

Infertility resolution gains traction

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish religious groups are among an array of other Jewish groups backing a bipartisan congressional resolution that calls on the US government to raise awareness about infertility.

Organizations affiliated with Orthodox, Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements signed a letter spearheaded by Hadassah sent April 27 to members of Congress asking them to back a bipartisan resolution sponsored by Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Jewish Democrat from Florida, and Dan Crenshaw, a Texas Republican.

The nonbinding resolution

declares "that the US Government has a responsibility to help examine, create, and implement solutions to address and alleviate the problems associated with the disease."

It lists Ashkenazi Jews and people of Middle Eastern ancestry as among a number of groups that "suffer from disproportionately higher rates of certain diseases and gynecological, endocrine, and autoimmune disorders, that may contribute to higher rates of infertility among these populations."

Hadassah has been lobbying for years to classify infertility as a disease and to raise awareness.

"For too long, infertility and the

struggle toward parenthood have been topics of quiet suffering, particularly in the Jewish community," Rhoda Smolow, Hadassah's president, said in a release.

"By asking policymakers to expand access to infertility care and reduce the financial burden of treatments, we are empowering all of the patients, families and communities infertility affects."

The resolution has garnered a number of cosponsors, including Jewish Democrats Susan Wild of Pennsylvania, Brad Sherman of California, John Yarmuth of Kentucky, Elissa Slotkin of Michigan and Jerry Nadler of New York.