

# *Shelters for Israel*

# **REP** **ORTER**

*June-July 2017*

*Since 1948*

*Shelters for Israel*

C/o Mrs. Handa Stark  
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# Shelters for Israel

SheltersforIsrael@gmail.com • SheltersforIsrael.org

## From the Presidents...

### Dear Shelters Family,

We are SO excited about our upcoming luncheon on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>! We hope you will plan to join us at the luncheon and invite your friends and family so that they can learn more about our very special and unique organization, Shelters for Israel.

As mentioned in the previous Reporter, we are now Co-Presidents of Shelters for Israel and we are both really looking forward to the year ahead.

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We can't wait for you to join us at the luncheon; For the first time in the US the Teenage Klezmer band from Sulamot will perform at our luncheon and entertain us with Klezmer and Israeli music. It will be fantastic!

The Sulamot organization will be the beneficiaries of this year's Shelters for Israel fundraising effort. Sulamot brings hope and so much more to thousands of young children and teenagers who have learned to play instruments, appreciate music, create Klezmer bands, and orchestras through this program.

We are VERY excited that Shelters Board members Madeleine and Robert Rosenberg have chosen to sponsor a project in Kiryat Malachi, a disadvantaged area not from from Ashdod.

Madeleine and Robert have already sponsored a playground in Ben Yakir, Israel, and have chosen this time to help the children in Kiryat Malachi by providing shade to several existing playgrounds, so that they can play during the long, hot summers.

We are so pleased that we reached our fundraising goal and look forward to updating you about our Shelters for Israel Desert Shanti Education Center Workshop/Dormitory at the luncheon.

Enjoy your summer, plan to join us on September 10<sup>th</sup> and don't forget the Reporter as a way to honor, recognize or memorialize your family and friends.

- *Myra Gabbay*

I feel so honored to be Myra's wing man for the 2017-2018 year as her co-president. Shelters has been part of my family since we came to Los Angeles in the early 50's. My parents made Shelters a priority, even when we had very little, they found a way to support Shelters. As we go forward this year, please plan on attending the luncheon which will have some great young people here from Israel to entertain us. We have adopted them as one of our projects for this coming year and after seeing them perform, I know you will be excited. My memories of growing up with the Shelter's family are only positive, and hopefully we can pass our enthusiasm to the next generation also. Please invite your children and your friends to this very special event.

- *Dave Jackson*

## Advertising Opportunities

To place a greeting in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or to advertise your business, please send all information by the 27th of the month to Mrs. Handa Stark at 236 S. Highland Ave., Los Angeles 90036

1/8 page \$25    1/2 page \$100  
1/4 page \$50    Full page \$200



# *Save the Date!*

*Shelters for Israel 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Tribute Luncheon*

**Sunday, September 10, 2017 • 11:30AM**

Temple Emanuel, Greer Social Hall in Beverly Hills

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**A very special program**

**Featuring the Teenage Klezmer Band of Sulamot**

Proceeds to go to the Shelters for Israel Music program in Mitzpe Ramon, Israel

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**More details to follow in the coming months! Please consider underwriting the luncheon.**

**For more info: [sheltersforisrael@gmail.com](mailto:sheltersforisrael@gmail.com) or Myra Gabbay 310.803.9551  
[www.SheltersforIsrael.org](http://www.SheltersforIsrael.org)**

**Congratulations to**

**Dave Jackson**

**Now Co-President of Shelters for Israel**

**New Assistant Superintendent of Construction and  
Facilities for BHUSD (Beverly Hills)**

**Recent Recipient of the Beverly Hills  
Unified School District Apple Award**

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**It's going to be a busy year for you and a great year for Shelters for Israel!!!!**

***From Your Shelters for Israel Family***

In Loving Memory of

**Irene Lowy**

Beloved Mother to Ann and Paul

Devoted Grandmother to

Nicholas, Stephanie, Allan,

Mathew and Allie

And adored by her great grandchildren

Lilah, Jared, Lior, Toby,

Ashley and Amielle

Congratulations

**Ben**

on your acceptance to Santa Clara University  
(Computer Science).

So very proud of you.

Your hard work is being justly rewarded.

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*All Our Love*

*Reina and Rob Markley*

“There is no elevator to success,  
You have to take the stairs”

In Honor of

**Dinah Kahan's  
90th Birthday**

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*Tova, Ehud  
Ronit, Amir,  
Noa and Itay*

We remember fondly

**Irene (Irenke) Markley**

Who left us four years ago

For her kindness and wit.

She will stay in our heart always.

---

*Love,*

*Kati, Tibor and Family*

In Memory of my wife

**Regine Isac**

---

*Sam Isac*

In Loving Memory of our  
Mom & Grandma

**Irene “Irenke” Markley**

Family First was always your motto.

It was You who made the light  
always shine upon us.

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*With All Our Love*

*Eddie, Eileen, Lindsey & Graham*

We Proudly Congratulate My Cousin

**Dr. Miriam Davidovits,**

Director of the Institute of Nephrology  
at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel,

**On her being appointed to Professor of Medicine!**

We wish her continued success!

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*With Love,*

*Kati, Tibor, Andras, Kati,  
Zoli, David, Jakab  
and all the mishpocha*

Happy 65th Birthday

**Robbie Markley**

Now You can finally use all those  
Senior Citizen Discount Coupons!

Keep up that Lovelight Spirit

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*Your Loving Brother & Family*  
*Eddie, Eileen, Lindsey and Graham*

A Complete Recovery For

**Esther Vered**

Refuah Shlema

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*Lucille and Herman Schoen*

---

In Memory of

**Max and Sylvia Gross**

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*Love,*

*Steve Gross*

Happy 60th Birthday

**David  
Herman!**

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*With Love,  
Sol and Becky*

In Memory of

**Irene Lowy**

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*Alice and Joel Steinfeld*

## **World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants 2017 Conference in Jerusalem**

**The 29th Annual World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors and Descendants will be at the Dan Hotel on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, Israel, November 5-8, 2017. Once again the WFJCSHD will team with GSI (Generations of the Shoah International) and KTA (Kindertransport Association) as well as the Israeli group YESH (Children and Orphan Holocaust Survivors in Israel).**

This conference will include trips to the Knesset, Yad Vashem, and an optional opportunity to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at the Kotel. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony will take place on Wednesday, November 8, at 11 AM, after the close of the conference. It is only open to the first 100 people who register.

**Please go to the link below for more info and to register or contact Susan Dubin at 818.606.0793 or susandubin48@gmail.com.**

**[www.holocaustchild.org/index.php/product/2017-conference-registration/](http://www.holocaustchild.org/index.php/product/2017-conference-registration/)**





# Ferenc Jávori

*Brother of Shelters for Israel's*

**Katalin Weinberger,**  
last year's luncheon honoree

The principal at the School of Music in Munkács advised Ferenc Jávori to take up the violin instead of the piano because it makes for an easier escape, just in case. (Photo by Gergő Tóth.)

**F**erenc Jávori, who was born in Munkács, considers it no accident that he ended up in Hungary, composed his works here, and that he brought with him and revived the Jewish music that nearly disappeared for good. The musician, recipient of this year's Kossuth Prize for popularizing the klezmer style, is embittered by the rise of Jobbik, by the thinly veiled infiltration of nazi ideology into public discourse, and by the raging, increasingly nasty scandal surrounding the 70th anniversary of the holocaust. But given what his parents lived through, he refuses to give in to fear.

He has a great capacity for waiting, for biding his time. In February of 1946 he was the first postwar Jewish child born in Munkács, and was well past 40 by the time he founded his klezmer band in Budapest. Ferenc "Fegyva" Jávori received the Kossuth prize this year, the citation stating: "for the popularization of the klezmer style, an integral part of Hungarian musical culture". He accepted it without pouting because, as he says, 25 years of work and international successes that enhanced the country's reputation were thus rewarded. He also says he is political through his music. When the situation here began to deteriorate, he wrote a song. He introduces the adaptation of an old prayer to audiences as an homage to the memory of 600,000 Hungarian Jews, and asks the audience to commemorate them with a few minutes of silence. What happens next is always the same. The final note is met with silence, followed by thunderous applause expressing compassion, sympathy and remorse. Fegyva maintains that happens because irrespective of party affiliation everyone carries within them a tiny microphone that is connected to the soul.

**You were born in Munkács, the name on your birth certificate is a Russian one. What do you consider yourself: Russian, Jewish, Ukrainian, or Hungarian?**

I am a Jew. I couldn't deny it even if I wanted to, which I don't. On my birth certificate they recorded "yevrey", which in Russian means Jewish. When we relocated here, I found it strange that people who I knew were Jewish would proclaim to be Hungarian. Our family spoke Yiddish at home, I learned Russian in kindergarten. Munkács was a wonderful place where different nationalities and cultures peacefully coexisted. My mother didn't work, she was a true "yiddishe mame". Slovakian, Swabian, Ukrainian and Russian families were our neighbors. I could go to anybody's home to study or play, and they would come to ours as well. When strolling on the promenade with the boys after school, if I wanted some ice cream I could just knock on the door of my uncle Hugo's hat store to ask for a few kopeks. I never felt alone. I grew up in an oasis of love whose fruits I enjoy to this day.

## **If you loved Munkács so much, why did you relocate?**

Because during the '50s antisemitism gained political momentum. Stalin wanted to uproot the Jews to the Chinese border, and his plan was only prevented by his death. Everybody felt that it wasn't safe to stay, so when in the middle of the '70s the Soviets permitted -- in exchange for U.S. economic aid -- the Jews to leave the country, more than a million Jews looked for a new home. Our relatives chose Israel, America, Australia. But my younger sister married a Hungarian boy and we wanted to keep the family together. I was thirty years old and spoke broken Hungarian. Luckily, a musician can make a living without words.

## **How did the Budapest Klezmer Band come about in 1990?**

Klezmer was always in me. During my childhood in Munkács klezmer bands were still playing at weddings and Jewish holidays, and during intimate moments we always listened to klezmer at home. I was attending the conservatory in Ungvár when I was drawn into a garden by the music emanating from it. In Kárpátalja Jewish and Gypsy musicians often played together in klezmer bands. The one playing in the garden was lead by Gyula Galambosi, a Gypsy and a virtuoso musician. Uncle Gyula inherited the klezmer melodies from his father, and I from him. I would go to his place for months to record everything in sheet music. So I had known for a long time that klezmer is my calling, but in Hungary it wasn't until the late 80's that one could go publicly pursue it. That's when I founded the band. Our first performance in 1991 generated a strange reaction. I felt confusion from the audience, a fear to own their feelings, the unusual music engendered in them. My friend Tamás Raj encouraged me to be patient because for decades Jews were better off integrating, their souls had been walled off, and it would take time for them to loosen up.

You composed Purim, the first klezmer ballet, but you also were the first to attempt to fuse klezmer and classical music, from which the 12-movement Klezmer Suite was born. You are also credited with Wedding Dance, the first Hungarian klezmer musical that has now been running at the Budapest Operetta-Theater for 8 years. Your life is a true success story. I could say your only difficulty was to be born. Am I wrong?

During WW2 my father was taken to a forced labor camp by the River Don in the Ukraine. After the defeat of the 2nd Hungarian army he walked 2000 kilometers to get home. My mother and her family ended up in Auschwitz. My grandfather and grandmother on both sides perished in the gas chambers, but my mother survived. I eternally respect my parents and am thankful to them for not transferring the burden of the horrors they experienced onto their children. I saw the same thing in other Jewish families. Still, the past cannot be undone.

## **There are many who dispute, both behind closed doors and in public whether this past even happened. What is it like to be openly Jewish in Hungary today?**

I don't participate in public life, the power struggles are not my domain. But when the commemorative shoes by the Danube are vandalized, when the government erects a monument of the imperial eagle, it affects you both as a Jew and as a human being. At every step I run into expressions of antisemitism that are no longer even disguised. It is distressing and I cannot avoid it, even if I wanted to, and it pains me, even if it doesn't affect me directly. Last year I attended the soccer match between Hungary and Israel. Across from me was a section of roughly 200 "cultured" fans who quickly began shouting. "Dirty Jews" reverberated through the stadium. The many people surrounding them just sat in silence. At the end of the game we inched to the exit flanked by a police shield, and were warned to disperse quickly because the police could protect us there but not out in the city. But given what my parents lived through, I simply won't give in to fear.

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If you would like to share your own or a relative's story, that you think will be of interest to Shelters members, please send it to us by email [SheltersforIsrael@gmail.com](mailto:SheltersforIsrael@gmail.com) or call for mailing instructions to a Board member listed on our directory.

# *Old Jewish Catskill Comedian's Classic Jokes*

*You've probably heard these before, but they are still funny.*



Those fabulous Jewish comedians, many of whom started in the Jewish Catskills; Shecky Greene, Red Buttons, Totie Fields, Joey Bishop, Milton Berle, Jan Murray, Danny Kaye, Henny Youngman, Buddy Hackett, Sid Caesar, Groucho Marx, Jackie Mason, Victor Borge, Woody Allen, Joan Rivers, Lenny Bruce, George Burns, Allan Sherman, Jerry Lewis,

Peter Sellers, Carl Reiner, Shelley Berman, Gene Wilder, George Jessel, Alan King, Mel Brooks, Phil Silvers, Jack Carter, Rodney Dangerfield, Don Rickles, Jack Benny, Mervyn Rubenstein and so many others.

And there was not one single swear word in their comedy. Here are a few examples:

- I just got back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport.
- I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years! If my wife ever finds out, she'll kill me!
- Someone stole all my credit cards but I won't be reporting it. The thief spends less than my wife did.
- We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.
- My wife and I went to a hotel where we got a waterbed. My wife called it the Dead Sea.
- She was at the beauty shop for two hours. That was only for the estimate. She got a mudpack and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off.
- The Doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill so the doctor gave him another six months.
- The Doctor called Mrs. Cohen saying, "Mrs. Cohen, your check came back". Mrs. Cohen answered, "So did my arthritis!"
- Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!"  
Patient: "I am 60!"  
Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"
- Patient: "I have a ringing in my ears."  
Doctor: "Don't answer!"
- A drunk was in front of a judge. The judge says, "You've been brought here for drinking." The drunk says "Okay, let's get started."
- Why do Jewish divorces cost so much? They're worth it.
- There is a big controversy on the Jewish view of when life begins. In Jewish tradition, the fetus is not considered viable until it graduates from medical school.

Q: Why don't Jewish mothers drink?  
A: Alcohol interferes with their suffering.

Q: Why do Jewish mothers make great parole officers?  
A: They never let anyone finish a sentence!

A man called his mother in Florida,  
"Mom, how are you?"  
"Not too good," said the mother. "I've been very weak."  
The son said, "Why are you so weak?"  
She said, "Because I haven't eaten in 38 days."  
The son said, "That's terrible.  
Why haven't you eaten in 38 days?"  
The mother answered, "Because I didn't want my mouth to be filled with food if you should call."

A Jewish boy comes home from school and tells his mother he has a part in the play. She asks,  
"What part is it?"  
The boy says, "I play the part of the Jewish husband."  
"The mother scowls and says, "Go back and tell the teacher you want a speaking part."

Q: How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a light bulb?  
A: (Sigh) "Don't bother. I'll sit in the dark. I don't want to be a nuisance to anybody."

Short summary of every Jewish holiday:  
They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat.

Did you hear about the bum who walked up to a Jewish mother on the street and said, "Lady, I haven't eaten in three days."  
"Force yourself," she replied.