

# JOSEPH & HARVEY MEYERHOFF FAMILY CHARITABLE FUNDS NEWS

VOLUME VI, ISSUE I

FEBRUARY 2008

## MESSAGE FROM TERRY

Welcome to the first issue of the Family Funds newsletter for 2008. There is lots of news to report from the family and the Funds.

In late fall, our beloved Uncle Herb Katz passed away. The Katz children delivered beautiful eulogies as did Rabbi Irwin Kula. Uncle Herb was quiet, but a strong presence and served many institutions locally, nationally and internationally. He is missed by his grandchildren and the rest of his family whom he adored.

Also this fall, Sam and Kristin Hendler produced Lauren Hendler, Lee's first grandchild, bringing the count of Dad's great-grandchildren to four!

The fall was busy as we concluded our grant making cycle in early December. Now, we are actively engaged with new requests for 2008. The paper work never stops but is made smooth by our terrific staff.

Speaking of staff, I have a wonderful new assistant who you will read more about inside. Misty Phillips has taken over the role of grants administrator, and Donna Findlay, our grants finance administrator, married Paul Flinton in Bequia, Grenadine Islands in late December.

We have initiated some new programs in Baltimore with the Central Scholarship Bureau, the Family League of Baltimore City and Baltimore's various cultural institutions. You will read more about them in this newsletter. I head to Israel in late March to visit family projects and to attend the first Jewish Funders Network Conference in Jerusalem.

Here's hoping for a healthy and productive year for all!



Aunt Ellie and Uncle Herb Katz

### *INSIDE THIS ISSUE*

Family News >>>Page 2	Grantee Updates-U.S. & Baltimore Focus >>>Pages 6-8
Funds' News >>>Pages 3-4	Our Scholarship Recipients >>>Page 9
Grantee Updates-Israel & Jewish Focus >>>Page 5-6	Visiting the Funds' Office >>>Page 9

## Sally Katz Leads the Fight Against MS

Sally Katz's tireless work on behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society set a new fundraising record for the **Leadership Class of the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter**. Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic disease of the central nervous system that can cause temporary or permanent blindness, paralysis and other issues. Sally's original fundraising goal was \$5,000. In the end, she raised an amazing \$40,000 in just three weeks to support programs for young adults and families living with this disease.

Both the *Philadelphia Business Journal* and CONNECTION, the Delaware Valley Area MS Magazine, featured Sally and her outstanding accomplishment. The CONNECTION magazine is available at <http://pae.nationalmssociety.org/>.

## Baltimore Jewish Hall of Fame Inducts Joseph Meyerhoff

Last year, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Greater Baltimore, THE ASSOCIATED, and the *Baltimore Jewish Times* created the Baltimore Jewish Hall of Fame. The family is honored the group selected Joseph Meyerhoff as one of the first inductees into the Hall. The JCC received over 220 nominations and selected eleven recipients based on their contributions to the community and advancement of Jewish causes. HMM will attend the celebration which will take place at the Gordon Center for the Performing Arts on June 12, 2008. Contact the JCC at 410-356-5200 for more information.

## Tom Katz Receives Torch of Learning Award

The American Friends of Hebrew University presented Tom Katz with the Torch of Learning Award in recognition of his contributions to higher education, community leadership and Jewish philanthropic causes.

The award ceremony was held February 7th in Boca Raton, Florida and featured Aharon Barak, former President of the Supreme Court Justice of Israel, as the keynote speaker. We are pleased that Tom's family and many friends were in attendance. Congratulations on this award!



Tom and Elissa Katz with  
former Chief Justice Aharon Barak

## The Jewish Americans on PBS

Our very own Lee Hendler is interviewed in the new PBS three-part documentary, "The Jewish Americans." The program, which first aired on PBS stations in January, follows 350 years of Jewish American history. Lee speaks about the spirit of tzedakah and its influence on the Jewish people during the "Doing Well and Doing Good: Education and Philanthropy" portion of the series. Visit [www.pbs.org/jewishamericans/](http://www.pbs.org/jewishamericans/) for broadcast dates and times, and to view a clip of Lee's comments.



## Terry Joins The Conversation 2007

The countryside outside Atlanta at the Chateau Elan resort was the site for this year's **Conversation**; a program supported by our Funds its inception three years ago. Founded by **Gary Rosenblatt** and the **Jewish Week** in New York, the **Conversation** brings together Jewish people of all ages, denominations and backgrounds to spend three days together brainstorming, meeting, talking and just hanging out. This year's conference used the Open Space format. There was no agenda; people talked about what they wanted to talk about. If you were bored with a subject, you were free to move on to another that was more interesting to you. We were poets, comedians, musicians, foundation execs, journalists and media people. It was a fascinating experience, and I made several new important friends. We are having a reunion of all three classes in early March. Both **Jennifer Meyerhoff** and **Lee Hendler** attended the earlier sessions.

## Open Society Institute Interviews Terry on Baltimore

In the **Open Society Institute's (OSI)** Fall 2007 "**Audacious Thinking**" newsletter, Terry talks about the Family Funds' commitment to Baltimore and our investment in **OSI**. **OSI** is an international charitable foundation created by **George Soros**. The organization works to address poverty, injustice and other community issues in urban areas. Baltimore was selected by the Foundation to test and evaluate a number of initiatives. The fall newsletter focused on drug addiction in Baltimore and new strategies for combating the issue.

You can learn more about **OSI** and download the newsletter on their website, [www.soros.org/initiatives/baltimore](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/baltimore).

## Meet our New Staff Member

The Funds are pleased to welcome **Deneen "Dee" Lewter** to the staff as Terry's new assistant. She has a diverse and interesting background having worked for **M&T Bank** in the Finance Administration Division and for the **Maryland State Department of Corrections** on both the juvenile and adult side. Her husband, **Keith**, works for **CSX Railroad** and is also a musician. In her spare time, **Dee** runs a recording studio with her husband and volunteers for several non-profit organizations. She has two daughters and lives in **Lower Charles Village**.



## Family Funds Establish the Maryland Meyerhoff Scholars Program

The family has a long tradition of funding scholarships at colleges and universities throughout Israel and the U.S. to provide students with educational opportunities. In that spirit, the family thought it appropriate to create a new scholarship fund at the Central Scholarship Bureau. The new Maryland Meyerhoff Scholars program provides scholarships of \$7,000 for four years to college sophomores through a year past graduation. Maryland students from middle-income families who attend Maryland public colleges are eligible. The goal is to help pay down the long-term debt these deserving students would otherwise face. The first scholarships will be awarded in the Fall 2008.

More information on this new program is available on the Central Scholarship Bureau's website, [www.centrlsb.org](http://www.centrlsb.org).



Donna Findlay and Paul Flinton on their wedding day

## Cultural "Passport" Pilot Program Created for Baltimore City Students

Family members have been asking the staff to find more ways to connect our City's children to our cultural institutions. So over the summer, Terry met with staff from the Family League of Baltimore City (FLBC), a city agency that oversees hundreds of after-school programs, to discuss the possibility of piloting an after-school program with some arts organizations. The goal is for children who live near certain cultural institutions to attend, get connected and bring their families.



Students from the Franciscan Youth Center attend Soulful Symphony

Our working name is "Passport," and we are about to kick it off this month. Our two pilot programs for middle and high school students will take place at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Students will attend after-school programs weekly for the rest of the school year. Both museums will conduct monthly activities for the families too. In addition, students and their families will attend Soulful Symphony concerts at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. We are conducting research from the beginning to see what kind of effect these programs might have on students and their families. Our pilots are small, only 25 students each, and will include an evaluation. Stay tuned for more information.

# GRANTEE UPDATES-ISRAEL & JEWISH FOCUS

## Construction of the Jerusalem Cinematheque and Beersheva Theatre Nearly Complete

Construction is nearly finished on both the Jerusalem Cinematheque and the Beersheva Theatre. We are pleased with the progress being made at both locations. Construction began on the Cinematheque in 2005 and will be completed this summer. Our new screening hall provides an additional 280 seats for the Cinematheque complex. Terry and Lee will attend the opening celebration for the screening hall during the 2008 Jerusalem Film Festival in July.

The Beersheva Theatre is expected to open in Fall 2008. The building will permanently house both the Beersheva Theatre and Symphonietta.



Cinematheque in the snow, which is unusual for Jerusalem



Kibbutz Misgav Am Youth Club's renovated patio



Children's Playground in Kibbutz Dan

## Galila Develops Playgrounds and Youth Centers in the Upper Galilee

We have partnered with Galila—The Northern Galilee Development Foundation to construct three new playgrounds and renovate three youth centers in the Upper Galilee. Galila assists the residents of the Galilee region through education, welfare and leadership programs.

Construction began in November 2007 on the playgrounds in *Kibbutz Lehavot Habashan, Dan* and *Kfar Szold*. Galila is pleased to report that the playgrounds are now installed and open. The playgrounds in Kibbutz Lehavot Habashan and Kfar Szold are similar to the one completed in Kibbutz Dan (see photo below left).

The youth clubs in *Kibbutz Malkiya, Misgav Am* and *Hulata* were also renovated to provide needed activity space. Renovations were finished in December 2007 and the children are already utilizing the space. Terry plans to visit some of the playgrounds and youth centers during her March Israel trip.

# GRANTEE UPDATES-EDUCATION FOCUS

## Family Funds Help Renovate Galilee Science Education Center

The Galilee Science Education Center, formerly the Association for the Advancement of Science Education in the Galilee, is located in Kiryat Shemona. The Center plays an important role in science education for the most northern part of the country. The Center received grant money from the Funds for renovations including updating the air conditioning units and creating two new science labs to provide more space for students and instructors.

At right is one of the Center's new science labs, which also doubles as an auditorium. The space has a new easy-to-clean ceramic floor, a larger projection screen, a permanent video projector and a new computer.



## Middle Grades Partnership Continues to Expand in Baltimore City

The Middle Grades Partnership (MGP) supports partnerships between public and independent schools, and area colleges and universities, to provide comprehensive year long learning opportunities for academically promising Baltimore City middle school students so that they may thrive in rigorous high schools, colleges and beyond. Each MGP site offers summer learning curricula and after-school enrichment programs to these young scholars. Through this work, the MGP aspires to provide a core of leadership for Baltimore.

In 2006-2007, 500 MGP scholars enhanced their skills in curricula developed jointly by the public and independent school educators. Summer programs housed at 11 different independent school sites throughout Baltimore provide the ideal environment for intense six week programs with an emphasis on

reading comprehension, mathematics and writing. The after-school programming has the same academic focus. Programs at all grade levels focus on developing and improving mathematic literacy. "Studies have shown that upper-level math achievement in high school is one of the best predictors for college graduation among low-income students," says Beth Casey, MGP executive director.

Originally conceived by Baltimore Community Foundation president, Tom Wilcox, MGP began in 2005 with 3 pilot pairings and has grown to include a total of 23 schools this past summer. Two of the Funds were among the core group of initial funders for this program. Buffy Minkin, Special Projects Director, represents the Funds as a member of the governing board. For more information visit, [www.middlegradespartnership.org](http://www.middlegradespartnership.org).

## Baltimore School for the Arts Completes \$30 million Renovation

The Baltimore School for the Arts (BSFA) recently completed a \$30 million facility renovation and expansion project. The project allows BSFA to grow and serve more students and the community. There are currently 323 students receiving instruction in four disciplines: the visual arts, music, theatre, and dance. BSFA is one of the top five public arts high schools in the country and 95-99% of graduates are accepted into colleges across the U.S. The School also serves the community through its after-school program, TWIGS, as well as, performances, and educational workshops. Below is a photo of the new painting studio.



## Family Funds Bring Together Baltimore Institutions and City Schools

In Summer 2007, Special Projects Director, Buffy Minkin, initiated conversations with education directors from institutions we fund, Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) curricular specialists, and other funders to investigate Terry's theory that transportation is the primary barrier limiting BCPSS student visits to our cultural venues. We convened a roundtable meeting of all parties in November 2007 to open lines of communication and identify issues at hand.

The initial meeting was so successful that the group decided to meet every 6 weeks to continue digging into the complex issues surrounding BCPSS access and use of our cultural resources. Task forces were created to address issues such as educating administrators, developing targeted focus groups and identification of each institution's unique characteristics. These teams are working between our regular meetings to capitalize on our momentum.

With the goal of creating a game plan to pitch in the summer of 2008 to high level BCPSS administrators, the Mayor's office and other funders, the Roundtable has considerable work ahead. We will keep you informed of our progress!

## B-SPIRIT-A2Y Moves to New Location

Brothers and Sisters Providing Information Relevant to Inspire and Motivate (B-SPIRIT-A2Y) recently celebrated its 14th anniversary by moving into its new, larger home in the Pimlico neighborhood of Baltimore. The new location allows the program to expand the number of youth it serves. Over 500 children from the Park Heights and Pimlico neighborhoods have participated in the program through the years. A grant from the Funds made the move possible.

Nargas Hyman, B-SPIRIT-A2Y's founder, ran the organization out of the basement of her grandmother's home for 14 years. She has written a children's book about the program entitled, "Grandma's Basement." The organization serves African-American youth through after-school social activities and education assistance with the goal of developing positive self-image in participants and addressing and reducing social problems in Baltimore City.

## Tzedek Award Recipients

Many times the Funds receive proposals from organizations doing outstanding work to better the communities they serve that do not fall within our funding missions. However, they illustrate and exemplify the Jewish notion of tzedek, or justice, through their work and strong leadership. The desire to recognize these organizations led the family to create the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Tzedek Award for Social Justice. In December 2007, we presented awards to Moveable Feast and the Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development (now the Center for Urban Families).

Moveable Feast provides meals to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families and to women fighting breast cancer. They also offer transportation services and culinary training to those able to re-enter the workforce. The organization has served residents in Baltimore City and Baltimore County for the last 17 years. In January, Moveable Feast moved into its new, permanent facility in East Baltimore which has a larger kitchen, classrooms and meeting space. You can learn more about this organization and their upcoming fundraising activities by visiting their website, [www.mfeast.org](http://www.mfeast.org).



Vic Basile of Moveable Feast and Misty Phillips



The Center for Urban Families opened its doors in 1999 and has assisted over 14,000 people in the Baltimore area. The Center offers a variety of programs to assist fathers and families through workforce development, family services and policy advocacy. The goal is to build skill sets and confidence that will encourage clients to change and succeed. The Center's founder, Joseph T. Jones, Jr., is a former social worker for the Baltimore City Health Department, and he recognized the need for services aimed at low-income fathers in the community. We encourage you to visit their website, [www.cfuf.org](http://www.cfuf.org), to learn more.

At left, Victor Valentine and Joseph T. Jones, Jr. of the Center for Urban Families.

# OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Bar-Ilan University

Bar-Ilan University sent a certificate of appreciation on behalf of our 2006-2007 Joseph Meyerhoff Scholarship recipients. Naama Teitelbaum is a second year student in the Department of Land of Israel Studies. Aspir Yischakov is a second year student in the Department of Optometry.

Bar-Ilan University is located in Ramat Gan.

## Johns Hopkins University

“My name is Gabriel Lai and I am most grateful for being honored as this year’s recipient of the Harvey M. Meyerhoff Fellowship in Cancer Prevention. As a full-time doctoral student, I am very appreciative and touched by the generosity of individuals including yourself who have made this kind of support possible.” —  
*Gabriel Lai, Ph.D. candidate*



Aileen Xenakis and John Stinson  
2007 Joseph Meyerhoff Scholars  
at the University of Maryland—  
School of Law

# VISITING THE FOUNDATION’S OFFICE



Dr. Ruth Pinkenson Feldman  
JCC Association



Carol Beck and Raj Vinnakota  
The SEED Foundation



Zima Taylor and Diana Morris  
Open Society Institute