



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Closing Reading Gaps** 2
How youth-to-youth reading interactions promote reading proficiency. The Citizenship Institute Youth Leadership Program (CI) has proven that the younger generation can serve as agents of change in the community.
- Between Vision and Reality: The "Israel Dimension" of American Jewry** 4
Summary of a lecture by Prof. Jonathan D. Sarna at the Mandel Leadership Institute.
- Building Community & Stimulating Neighborhood Development** 7
Cleveland's Neighborhood Leadership Development Program to Graduate its 3rd cohort.
- Raising the Bar for Synagogue School Education** 10
Mandel Foundation supports new initiative: a "think tank" on synagogue school education for synagogue leaders in an effort to develop and nurture teachers of excellence.
- MidTown Cleveland Code Enforcement Initiative Helps Keep Community Beautiful** 13
In response to neglected yards and abandoned buildings, junk cars and wastes that litter the community, an enhanced MidTown Code Enforcement Initiative was implemented.
- Where Soccer, Jewish Spirituality and Book Clubs Meet** 15
New JCC Opens in North Palm Beach County.
- The Israel Museum named the Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life in honor of the Mandel family's generous support** 17

February-March 2010

Closing Reading Gaps

How youth-to-youth reading interactions promote reading proficiency

The Citizenship Institute Youth Leadership Program (CI), an innovative “youth-to-youth” mentoring strategy in Cleveland, has proven that the younger generation can serve as agents of change in the community. Established as a partnership between the Mandel Foundation and the Cleveland Municipal School District, the CI provides participating youngsters with a range of experiences, information and opportunities that are designed to inspire and enhance their leadership ability.



In response to poor reading performance by pupils in the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) – with fewer than 75% of elementary school students reaching accepted levels of reading proficiency and a growing gap between CMSD and other school districts across the state - youth participating in the CI took it upon themselves to read to younger children.

Studies have shown that if children are read to at least three times a week, their reading scores are likely to increase. CI team members from CMSD schools visited Captain Arthur Roth Elementary School and read to children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. They explained to the younger children how reading helped them to succeed in high school. Consequently, the Citizenship Institute teams overwhelmingly reported the great sense of pleasure they experienced in reading and interacting with the younger students, and equally the younger students shared the joy they received from having the older youth read with them.

February-March 2010



It appears that interacting with younger children may also encourage high school students to be positive role models - making the reading project a win-win venture for all.

Due to positive responses by both mentors and mentees, CI is planning to develop a long-term community-service based reading project at Captain Arthur Roth.

While fostering the children's desire to read, both for pleasure and study, the program will help to close the reading achievement gap, one student at a time.

The primary goal of the Citizenship Institute (CI) is to light a fire of civic intervention and activism under selected students in the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD). The Citizenship Institute helps students to realize that they can become effective change agents in their community, by providing them with a range of experiences, information and opportunities that are designed to inspire and enhance their leadership ability.

To learn more about the Citizenship Institute contact: Pamela Scott
Program Manager
Citizenship Institute
pamscott5156@yahoo.com
216-956-9565

February-March 2010

Between Vision and Reality:

The "Israel Dimension" of American Jewry Summary of a lecture by Prof. Jonathan D. Sarna at the Mandel Leadership Institute

In a thought-provoking lecture at the Mandel Leadership Institute on American Jewry's changing relationship to Israel, Prof. Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and a noted commentator on American Jewish history, religion, and life, analyzed the changing attitudes toward Israel as a reflection of American Jewry's concerns and self-images in different eras.



**Prof. Jonathan D.
Sarna**

Prof. Sarna, who is a guest senior scholar at the Mandel Leadership Institute this year, has provided unique insights into the changing role of the State of Israel in American Jewish life. Through this lecture and other meetings with Mandel Fellows, Sarna's historical approach to contemporary challenges provides an additional perspective for the fellows to consider in their future decision making as educators and community leaders.

In his talk, Prof. Sarna discussed the evolving concept of "Zion" in the American Jewish community from the colonial era of American Jewish history up to the present, noting changes over time, particularly after the Holocaust and World War II.

A major factor that influenced American Jewry's relationship to Israel, said Prof. Sarna, was the notion of Zion propounded by the Zionist movement; this notion encompassed the idea of equality for Jews and a state for the Jewish people. However, even though World War II was a turning point for

February-March 2010

American Jewry that led to a Zionist awakening, American Jews largely felt that the physical return to Zion was not relevant to them. For them, America was a “translated and improved” Zion – a Zion that revealed more about their own values and needs than about realities. What became important to the identity of Americans of this era was the idea of Israel.

Prof. Sarna noted that while during the first decades of Israel's existence American Jews related to the Jewish state as pristine and reproaches, the situation has grown more complex today, when the public discourse about Israel and Israeli policy encompasses a wide range of attitudes. This is due, he stated, to the political disputes, the revolution in communications that makes it possible for numerous groups to attempt to influence American Jewry, and the multiplicity of voices coming from within the American Jewish community as well as from Israel itself.

Within the bounds of legitimate discourse about Israel, American Jews hold a very broad spectrum of opinions, ranging from love and support to criticism, both on the right and the left. In many ways, the range of American views mirrors the range of political views found in Israel itself. The resulting gap between the utopian image of Israel and the reality of Israel, he suggested, stems not from a diminished sense of identification, but rather, from a dynamic perception of Israel that allows criticism - indicative of Israel's continued role as a central component of Jewish identity, and reflecting caring rather than indifference.

Understanding that attitudes are often based on gaps between reality and utopian (or dystopian) perceptions, summarized Prof. Sarna, can offer new ways to address challenges by trying to bridge these gaps. Yet the question remains: to what degree is it really possible to bridge these gaps - or do we just have to learn how to work around them?

February-March 2010

***About Prof. Jonathan Sarna**

Jonathan D. Sarna, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, is serving as a senior scholar at the Mandel Leadership Institute in Jerusalem this year. Sarna, listed as one of America's fifty most influential American Jews by the Forward in 2004, was chief historian for the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community, and is recognized as a leading commentator on American Jewish history, religion, and life.

Prof. Sarna has written, edited, or co-edited more than twenty books, including his new book *A Time to Every Purpose: Letters to a Young Jew*. His best-known book is *American Judaism: A History*, which was recently translated into Hebrew. This book, which won the Jewish Book Council's Jewish Book of the Year Award in 2004, has been described as "the single best description of American Judaism during its 350 years on American soil."

To read more about the Mandel Leadership Institute see:

<http://mandel.mli.org.il/MandelCMS/English/AboutUs/>

February-March 2010

Building Community & Stimulating Neighborhood Development

Cleveland's Neighborhood Leadership Development Program to Graduate 3rd Cohort

In October 2008, law enforcement agencies in Cleveland indicted six people in an ongoing investigation into a \$5.8 million mortgage fraud scheme in the city's Slavic Village neighborhood. The investigation was spearheaded by a study of the foreclosure crisis in the neighborhood initiated by Greg Knapp, Chairperson of the Slavic Village Vacant and Abandoned Property Task Force, a body comprised of neighborhood residents and professional staff of various community development groups that he organized in 2006.

Greg is a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program (NLDP), established in 2007 by the Mandel Foundation. Along with the Cleveland Foundation, the Mandel Foundation continues to be a major financial sponsor of this innovative program, designed to create a vanguard of neighborhood leadership to address the complex issues facing Cleveland and northeastern Ohio.

In May 2010, the NLDP will graduate 17 emerging leaders from its third cohort.

Central to the NLDP is the creation of a new style and culture of individual leadership among emerging leaders within the context of their current and potential roles in neighborhoods. To realize its vision, the NLDP uniquely integrates leadership development methods such as individual coaching and group learning with a core curriculum organized around an individual passion for community change in a specific area.



February-March 2010

Another graduate of the NLDP is Joyce Hood, the founder of KNOWLEDGE, a youth organization in the Union Miles neighborhood that seeks to build bridges between adults and youth, KNOWLEDGE works with individuals and groups to teach youth economics, conflict resolution, peer mediation, nutrition, physical fitness, and other issues.

A member of the National Task Force for Community Mobilization, Joyce has received numerous awards for her work, including, most recently the 2010 State 4H Volunteer Leadership Award for Cuyahoga County.

Lisa-Jean Sylvia is yet another testament to the success of NLDP graduates: As Director of Operations for City Fresh in Cuyahoga County - a nonprofit program that aims to increase access to healthy, local foods in neighborhoods throughout the region - Lisa-Jean helped to build community, improve the economics of the region, and improve health and nutrition. She recently accepted a position as the Harvest for Hunger Senior Campaign Manager with the Cleveland Foodbank.

A critical element of continuing the development and growth of these and other neighborhood leaders is the NLDP's Graduate Support Program, which builds upon the NLDP's mission to develop the diverse leadership abilities of engaged Clevelanders. This is done through programs that support the professional development of the graduates and the building of social capital.





February-March 2010

The NLDP will be accepting applications this summer for the 2010 class.

For more information about the NLDP see:

<http://www.neighborhoodleadershipdevelopment.com/>

The long-term vision of the NLDP is to create a new vanguard of neighborhood leaders who are prepared and committed to step into leadership roles to address the complex short- and long-term issues facing the city of Cleveland and the region.

*February-March 2010*

Raising the Bar for Synagogue School Education

A recent think tank on synagogue school education for synagogue leaders was the latest in a series of educational programs sponsored by the Lorraine & Jack N. Friedman Commission for Jewish Education (CJE), in its effort to develop and nurture synagogue schools with teachers of excellence in Palm Beach County.



Since 2006, the CJE has been engaged in a process to enhance synagogue school education in the greater Palm Beaches.

This initiative has been made possible with the help of a grant from the Mandel Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, and additional funding from the List Family Scholar Endowment of the Friedman Commission for Jewish Education. The think tank featured a presentation by Prof. Jack Wertheimer of the Jewish Theological Seminary on his paper, “Synagogue Schools That Work.”

Three schools were initially selected to take part in the Synagogue School Enhancement Initiative (SSEI) - a multi-year pilot program designed to effect positive change in the schools. In each synagogue, a leadership group that included the rabbi, the president, senior lay leaders, and the religious school director, met regularly to develop a shared vision and agreed upon outcomes for the school. At the end of the first year, the CJE, whose Executive Director, Steven Schauder, is a Mandel Jerusalem Fellows graduate, convened the leadership groups to address shared educational challenges. The implementation strategy that emerged from the educational visioning process was based on evaluation in several areas, including: school culture, structure and curriculum; ongoing professional development programs for teachers; strategies for lay and professional leaders to work



February-March 2010

together to achieve meaningful participation in synagogue life as learning communities; and strategies to shift the synagogue's institutional focus to a community focus.

A major outcome of the pilot project was the development of intensive and ongoing professional development training in two schools. Seventeen faculty members earned certification after participating in a two-year program for supplementary schools that included a course on "Theory and Practice of Curriculum Design" as well as a course on "Using School-Wide UbD (Understanding by Design)* Curriculum Development to Improve Teaching Skills and Build & Sustain a Professional Learning Community." The 60-hour program was designed by CJE Assistant Executive Director Lynne Lieberman.



"We were able to learn, practice, and apply the concepts taught through this strategy in our classrooms . . ." noted one of the teachers. "Being able to focus on the enduring understandings and the essential questions takes the hit or miss method of instruction out of the picture. . . . I am finding the children so much more engaged and happy about learning."

A unique feature of SSEI has been its focus on using CJE lay leaders to mentor synagogue lay leaders. "This initiative has given our synagogue lay leaders the framework within which to speak directly with our teachers, our youth, their families, and our clergy about goals for education and the outcomes we are seeking," notes Linda Fayne, the Education Vice President of Temple Beth David, one of the SSEI sites. "In asking us to 'dream our best dream,' our group has taken on a very large, challenging and far-reaching endeavor to better educate our teachers and thus 'raise the bar' for synagogue school education.... It has given our teaching staff a renewed sense of pride and purpose, and a greater satisfaction with what they accomplish here."



February-March 2010

“SSEI has had a significant impact on the Greater Palm Beach Jewish community and the CJE,” summarizes Steven Schauder. “The process has created stronger linkages between synagogues and each other and between synagogues and our local Jewish community. It has also significantly raised the profile of the importance of meaningful Jewish education for children in synagogue settings.”

*UbD - Understanding by Design: A registered trademark Teaching Method developed by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe.

For more information about the program see: <http://www.cjepb.org/>



February-March 2010

MidTown Cleveland: Code Enforcement Initiative Helps Keep Community Beautiful

In 1983 a group of local business leaders led by Morton L. Mandel and others resolved to reverse the process of urban decay that plagued midtown Cleveland – a two-square mile area between the Innerbelt and East 79th Street - and transform it into a thriving business district once again. For that purpose, they established an economic development corporation and mobilized the community to contribute time, talent and financial support.

Under the umbrella of MidTown Cleveland, Inc. -a not-for-profit corporation - businesses, institutions, and individual stakeholders have leveraged pooled resources and worked together to promote the area's economic viability, for both traditional and new economy businesses and to address shared concerns and common interests.



Through its far-sighted policies and innovative programs, MidTown Cleveland, Inc. has succeeded in transforming Cleveland's Business and Urban District from a crime-plagued, vice-ridden district into an attractive and desirable area to live and work in.

As an integral part of its efforts, Midtown Cleveland continues to work to improve factors that create a sense of community and affect neighborhood attractiveness – security, visual quality, and other quality of life issues.



February-March 2010

In response to neglected yards and abandoned buildings, junk cars and wastes that litter the community, an enhanced MidTown Code Enforcement Initiative was implemented in December, 2009 to address Code violations that depreciate property values and deter economic development.

When a complaint is received, an inspection is conducted. If the complaint is valid, a notice is issued, giving the property owner time to make corrections. If the violations are not corrected within a specific time, legal proceedings can be initiated against the property owner. For minor misdemeanor violations, inspectors may issue tickets.

To date, 21 properties with code violations have been reported to the City of Cleveland's Building and Housing Department. This more effective enforcement is helping to keep the community beautiful and maintaining the quality of life in midtown Cleveland.



MidTown Cleveland Inc is dedicated to making MidTown the best business location and highest quality urban district in Northeast Ohio.

For more information about the MidTown Cleveland: Code Enforcement Initiative <http://www.midtowncleveland.org/engage.asp>

*February-March 2010*

Where Soccer, Jewish Spirituality and Book Clubs Meet: *New JCC Opens in North Palm Beach County*

With a grant provided by the Mandel Foundation, the Jewish Community Center of the Greater Palm Beaches has launched a satellite facility in northern Palm Beach County (JCC North).

The new JCC provides meaningful Jewish programming for all ages, designed to further the mission of the Jewish Community Center of the Greater Palm Beaches - to help create a strong Jewish community by providing high quality programs close to where people live that connect people to Jewish life.

The offerings of the new facility encompass a wide variety of programs for all ages, and since it opened its doors, in October 2009, the response has been tremendous. There are increased numbers of children involved in programs, adults are actively involved in activities and new programs are starting every month.

For children there are after-school enrichment and recreation classes, a new soccer league, Saturday night social events, and day-long programs during school holidays. 87% of the children participating in the programs are new to the JCC!

Adults programs include various classes, a book club, bridge and mah jongg; a new Center for Jewish Spirituality with ongoing classes and one time events; a book festival, a film festival and concerts. A wellness program features a lecture series for women, personal training, and fitness classes.





February-March 2010

In the few short months since it opened, the new JCC has been highly successful in engaging the local Jewish community in Jewish life. The new “My Family and Me” series has attracted 30 new families and 240 moms and daughters attended a program with the author of the American Girl, Rebecca series, part of the family book festival, on January 10th. This program was featured on local Jewish TV.



To learn more about JCC North: <http://www.jcconline.com/>

*February-March 2010*

**\$12-Million Gift from Mandel Family Completes
Israel Museum's \$100-Million Capital Campaign for Renewed
Campus**

***New Gift Supports the Rebuilding and Endowment of Jewish Art and Life
Wing Expanded and Renovated Campus to Open in July 2010***

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, announced a \$12-million gift from Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel through the Mandel Supporting Foundations. This gift marks the completion of its \$100-million capital campaign to support the comprehensive transformation of its 20-acre campus.



The Mandel gift supports the reconstruction, reinstallation, and endowment of the Museum's Jewish Art and Life Wing, housing the world's preeminent collection of Judaica and Jewish Ethnography.

The Wing will be named the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life in honor of the family's generous support, and it will present objects from sacred and secular Jewish traditions together for the first time in a newly combined permanent display.

The Israel Museum also announced that its expanded and renovated campus will open to the public on July 26, 2010. The multi-year project, led by James Carpenter Design Associates and Efrat-Kowalsky Architects, was designed to enhance visitor experience of the Museum's campus and includes the creation of new facilities as well as a comprehensive reconfiguration of the Museum's three collection wings.

"A central goal of our campus renewal project is the complete reworking of all of our collection galleries, so as to enable our visitors to navigate intuitively through the history of world culture, from prehistory to contemporary times," said James S. Snyder, Anne and Jerome Fisher



February-March 2010

Director of the Israel Museum. "Our newly reconstructed Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life presents objects from secular and religious traditions in an integrated display, offering a comprehensive view of the practices of Jewish communities from around the world. We are tremendously grateful to the Mandel family for its support for this endeavor".

Of the Mandel Foundation's \$12-million gift, \$7 million will support the reconstruction and expansion of the Jewish Art and Life Wing, which traces the Diasporas of sacred and secular Jewish cultures worldwide, from the middle Ages to the present. The reconfigured and reinstalled Mandel Wing will lead visitors through the daily and ritual markers of the Jewish life cycle and calendar, with installations that explore the aesthetic value of the objects as well as their religious, social, and historical contexts. A noted feature of the Wing is its newly organized synagogue route, which includes four original synagogue interiors from European, Asian, and American cultures.

The additional \$5 million from the Mandel Foundations is being dedicated to endow and support the Wing's future programming, operations, and acquisitions. The gift brings the Museum's ongoing institutional endowment campaign to a new total of nearly \$50 million, two-thirds of its goal toward doubling its endowment from \$75 million to \$150 million.



It also marks the completion of the endowed naming of the Museum's three collection wings, which also include the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Archaeology Wing and the Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing.

"My brothers, Jack and Joe, and I are committed to enhancing the quality of Jewish education in Israel and around the world," said Morton L. Mandel, Chairman of the Mandel Foundation. "We view the collections of the Israel Museum, particularly in the fields of Jewish art and life, as a unique treasure, illustrating the world legacy of Jewish life and enhancing the



February-March 2010

understanding of world Jewish heritage. We are honored to support the renewal and endowment of the Museum's Jewish Art and Life Wing as a meaningful component of our mission."

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
The Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the leading art and archaeology museums in the world. Founded in 1965, the Museum houses



encyclopedic collections ranging from prehistory through contemporary art, and includes the most extensive holdings of Biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world, among them the Dead Sea Scrolls. In just over 40 years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects through an unparalleled legacy of gifts and support from its circle of patrons worldwide.

Articles about the Mandel gift were published in the following websites:

[Cleveland.com](#), [JTA](#), [Ynetnews](#), [JPOST](#), [Haaretz](#), [FOX8](#),
[CaseWesternReserveUniversity](#), [TheNewYorkTimes](#), [ArtKnowledgeNews](#),
[OhioNews](#), [Philanthropy Today](#), [Chinaartnetworks](#), [Taiwannews](#), [PND](#), [eJewishPhilanthropy](#) [Artists4israel](#), [JPOST](#), [Cleveland Jewish News](#), [Israelnationalnews](#)