

Community ...

Jewish Senior Life and Foundation Elect New Directors

Jewish Senior Life announced the election of the following officers and directors to its Board for 2014-2015:

Ted Axelrod was elected chairman. Axelrod has served on the Jewish Senior Life Board for four years, most recently as vice chairman. He is the owner of TME Innovations, LLC.

Honorable John J. Ark was elected vice chairman. Ark is a New York State Supreme Court justice and has served on the Jewish Senior Life Board of Directors for many years.

Sharon Underberg was elected secretary. Underberg is assistant general counsel and vice president of the legal department at Eastman Kodak.

Michael Cooper was elected



Axelrod

Ark

Underberg

Haymes

Cooper

Ross

treasurer. Cooper is first vice president of UBS Financial Services and also serves as vice president on the Jewish Senior Life Foundation Board of Directors.

Mark Kolko is the previous chair. Kolko has served on the board of Jewish Senior Life in various roles since 2004.

In addition, Lawrence M. Becker and Steven R. Gersz were newly elected to the Jewish Sen-

ior Life Board of Directors. They will join 19 existing board members who are continuing their terms of service.

The Jewish Senior Life Foundation also elected officers and directors to its board for 2014-2015:

Michael Haymes was elected Board president. Haymes is a real estate broker and partner in ReMax Realty Group. He has

served on the board of the Jewish Senior Life Foundation for many years.

Michael Cooper was elected vice president. He also serves as treasurer on the JSL Board of Directors.

David Ross was elected secretary. Ross is a partner of Ross and Gould-Ross, and practices law in Rochester and Monroe County. Ross is the former chair-

man of the Jewish Home Board, former chairman of the Jewish Senior Life Board.

Larry Rabinowitz was elected treasurer. Rabinowitz is senior vice president and trust officer at U.S. Trust, specializing in estate, tax and retirement planning.

In addition, the following individuals were newly elected as directors: Norm Blaustein, Richard Brovitz, Gail Drew, Marc Fleischer, Darren Ressler, and Helen Rubens.

The following individuals were re-elected for a three-year term: Marilyn Frank, Lee Moss.

These individuals will join 15 existing board members who are continuing their terms of service. ✪

Temple Beth Am

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trance A, the first entrance after pulling into the driveway, and is on the first floor to provide full accessibility.

In addition to the change in location, the congregation is adopting a significant change in its membership policy that separates it from the vast majority of American Jewish congregations. Membership will no longer be linked to dues payments. Area Jewish residents will now be welcome to become synagogue members and/or participants without any financial commitment required. The drastically-reduced operating budget will be based primarily on donations.

All members of the Jewish community are cordially invited

to join Temple Beth Am for its inaugural service, Tuesday, June 3 at 7:30 pm, preceded by a kosher dairy dinner at 6:30 to celebrate the Shavuot holiday. No reservations are required, and there is no charge, though donations are always welcome. An evening Yizkor memorial service will be held June 4 at 7 p.m. and is also open to the public.

Also in this spirit, every Friday in June, Temple Beth Am will be holding a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a service at 7:30, open to the entire community. Visitors are invited to come and talk about how the congregation might best serve them. Services with lunch will also be held in the new facility on the first and third Saturdays

of the month at 10 a.m.

Though a member of the Conservative Movement from its inception in 1960, Temple Beth Am has always sought innovation within Jewish tradition, being an early adopter of egalitarianism. More recently, it has become one of the first congregations in the world to revive the sequential triennial Torah reading cycle which was in use in the land of Israel and nearby areas up through at least the 13th century.

Temple Beth Am also prides itself in its ongoing cooperation with other small congregations in the Rochester Jewish community, and plans to continue its joint efforts into its new home. The Shavuot program will be held in conjunction with

Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel, with morning services at its facility. Temple Beth Am's philosophy is that synagogue participation does not need to be limited to one institution, and, while each congregation has its unique qualities, they all have many shared goals.

The decision to relocate was not an easy one to make, nor was it made lightly. After nearly 50 years at the current location, and notwithstanding the emotional attachment members had to the building, Temple members in February voted unanimously for the final sale of the property, understanding that relocating would be in the best interest of the congregation and community. The relocation effort lasted

three years, and the rental agreement with Temple B'rith Kodesh was in the works just as long, with details finalized only in the past week. Temple Beth Am is thrilled to have a host so dedicated to creating a space that fulfills all of its needs.

The final Shabbat service in the original 3249 East Henrietta Rd. facility will be Saturday, May 31 at 10 a.m. and is open to community members who wish to join in saying goodbye to the building and share their memories of it. It was originally built in 1966, and after a bombing in 1970, it was rebuilt with a new section featuring a distinct architectural style. The property has been purchased by Christian House of Prayer, a Ukrainian religious group. ✪

Hatred

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lican Front." The entire Left, including the Communists, voted for the right-wing candidate, Jacques Chirac. "To save France" was the battle cry of the hour. Europe looked on with astonishment as the extreme Right rose to prominence in the country where human liberties originated. Le Pen only managed to increase his strength by one and a half percent (to 17.79 percent) in the second round, but from his perspective he had won. He had surpassed the National Front's customary 15 percent.

In those elections, a psychological roadblock was breached in France in particular and in Europe in general: You could vote for the extreme Right and not be skewered for it. Even worse, it gave birth to the possibility that the far Right could win in post-World War II Europe.

On Sunday, France added another shameful date to its history books, but so did Europe: The National Front, now led by Marine Le Pen (the talented, to our



France's far right National Front political party leader Marine Le Pen (center) and her father Jean-Marie Le Pen (left) attend their traditional rally in Paris on May 1. Photo: Reuters.

regret, daughter of Jean-Marie), won 25 percent of the vote, quadrupling her result from 2009. This was not merely a victory in a local election (shameful), or a cantonal election (shameful), or succeeding in adding representatives to parliament (shameful). This time it is a victory on a national scale, in the elections to the European Parliament. France will not look good in the coming years sitting in the display window of Europe.

French newspaper *Le Figaro* was right by describing the election results as "a political earthquake." Thirty years after the European elections in 1984, when the National Front made its initial yet barely noticeable foray onto the political scene, Le Pen has made sure that her party is now clearly on the map. It is hard to conceive that the National Front can expect to command 74 seats, one-third of France's entire parliamentary

delegation in Strasbourg.

And while it is true that many explanations can be found for this victory, backed by a French electorate that no longer feels the need, as it once did, to conceal its political preferences: the economic situation, unemployment, increasing Euroskepticism, the substandard quality of politicians in France today. After all, the writing has been on the wall since May 2012, when the Socialist Francois Hollande defeated Nicolas Sarkozy for the presidency. From the view of the French voter, they both received a failing grade. It was clear already at the time that Hollande would not succeed, that the republican right-wing was no longer an option. And it was also clear that La Pen was waiting in the weeds; that the National Front had become an alternative.

And this is not just happening in France. The Greek neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn will introduce its first members to the EU parliament. In Germany as well, far-right opposers of the EU gar-

nered unprecedented success, and there, too, the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party will send its first representative to Strasbourg. In Austria, meanwhile, the extreme right-wing Freedom Party of Austria won 20.5 percent of the vote, finishing in third place.

While we have been justifiably concerned over the fate of European Jewry, the extreme Right has returned to the continent. How unfortunate the Jews are, finding themselves between the hammer and the anvil. The forefathers of the EU, among them Robert Schuman, are likely turning in their graves. Strasbourg, a symbol of the French-German rivalry, had become a bastion of the EU and is now a haven for hatred and division. My heart goes out to the city's long-standing Jewish community. New neighbors, quite repulsive ones at that, are moving in. Europe now needs to take stock, and only then, perhaps, should it allow itself to preach to others. ✪

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