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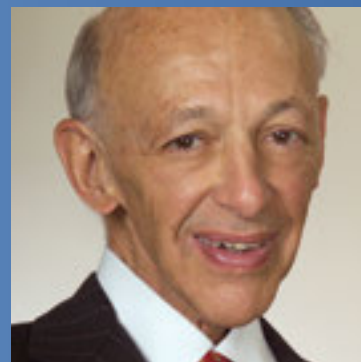
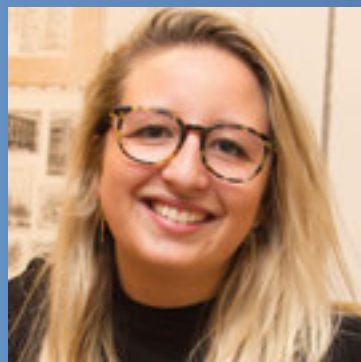
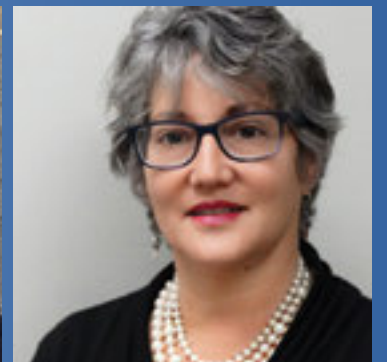
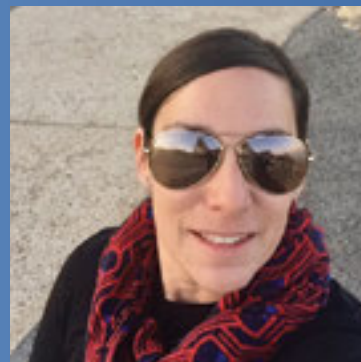
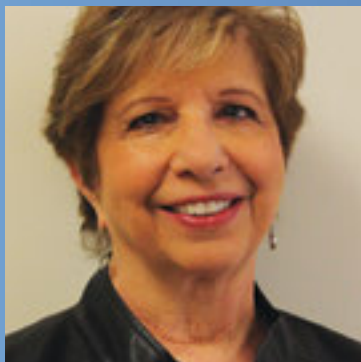
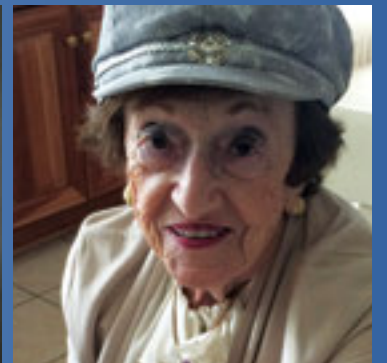
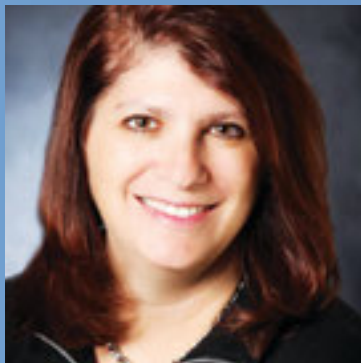
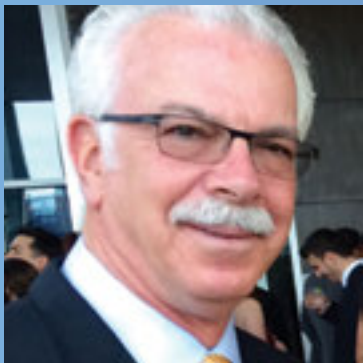
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# February 2017

## Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

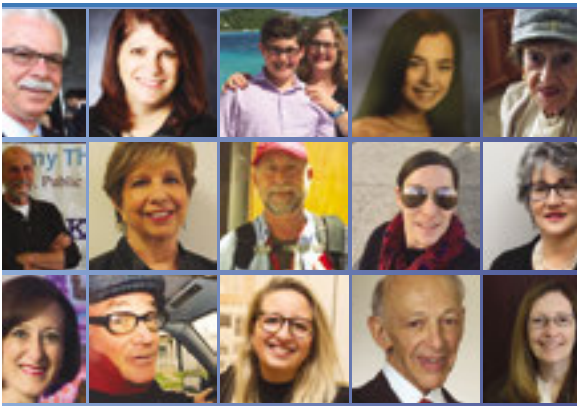
I hope you realize by now that good things are happening in our Western New York community. And members of our Jewish community are involved every step of the way. This month, we again profile 12—actually 15—community leaders who make our town a better place for everyone. From “Bagel” Jay Gershberg who enables all of us to eat great bagels every day of the week if we want, to attorney Wayne Wisbaum whose dedication has re-created a gorgeous, acoustically enhanced Kleinhans Music Hall for all of us to enjoy, to Mark Goldman who has pushed to create a better, more just and more creative city for more than 40 years, to Kilby Bronstein representing the young leaders choosing to return to Buffalo and rebuild it into a City of Light.

You might not know that February is national Jewish Disability Month. We have a story about it by new Yad B’Yad Director Cindi Mikulick on page 33, and are also fortunate enough to be represented at a Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Jewish Disability Advocacy Day this month in Washington D.C. by National Federation for Just Communities honorees Howard and Valerie Rosenhoch, who will share their insights with us when they are back home.

Finally, I just returned from a magical 10-day Interfaith Trip to Israel with congregants from Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom, Westminster Presbyterian Church and North Presbyterian Church, supported by Federation funds. My head is still spinning and I’m stuck in the Middle East time zone for a few more days, but I look forward to sharing my thoughts and photos with you in the March *Jewish Journal*. Oh, and during our warmish winter days at the beginning of the month, watch out for that groundhog!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

## On The Cover



These are the first Difference Makers of 2017 (From left-top row): Jay Gershberg, Cheryl Stein, Lewis Shaevel with his mother, Amy; Molly Brownstein, Sonia Klein. (From left- middle row): Richard Lipsitz, Jr., Helen Weinstein, Steve Schwartz, Nina Lukin, miriam treger honig. (From left-bottom row): Lisa Wallenfels, Mark Goldman, Kilby Bronstein, Wayne Wisbaum, Janet Gunner.

3	Jewish Buffalo's Difference Makers <i>by Rob Goldberg</i>
4-5	Jay Gershberg <i>by Maria Scrivani</i>
6	Sonia Klein <i>by Mara Koven-Gelman</i>
8-9	Janet Gunner <i>by Peter Simon</i>
10-11	My Jewish Journey from Light to Darkness <i>by Nina Lukin</i>
12-13	Wayne Wisbaum <i>by Howard Rosenhoch</i>
14-15	4 Women Synagogue Presidents <i>by Mara Koven-Gelman</i>
16-17	Lewis Shaevel <i>by Rob Goldberg</i>
18	Mark Goldman <i>by Jordana Halpern</i>
19	Molly Brownstein <i>by Ellen Goldstein</i>
20	Steve Schwartz <i>by Susan Lichtblau</i>
22	Richard Lipsitz, Jr. <i>by Peter Simon</i>
23	Kilby Bronstein <i>by Jana Eisenberg</i>
24	Food- Moroccan Stew <i>by Robin Kurss</i>
25	5 Things you can do to repair the world in February
	Where in Jewish Bflo?
26-27	Agencies & Synagogues
28-29	Synagogue Happenings
30	February Calendar
31-37	Agency Events
38-43	Jews in the News
44	Not The Last Word: Karen Wiseman

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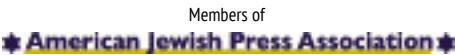
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# JEWISH BUFFALO'S *Difference Makers*

*by Rob Goldberg*

Actions speak louder than words. Or as former Buffalonian and marketing guru Seth Godin (who will be with us on April 27th for our first “Made in Buffalo” event), suggests, “All the promises, explanations and asides in the world pale in comparison with what you do.”

And so when we introduced our “Difference Makers” special edition last summer that featured a dozen individuals who practice what Seth preaches, we knew that we had only scratched the surface; that there were dozens of others we could have featured had we more space. It was an easy decision then for us to publish another version of “Difference Makers” this month to showcase individuals



Rob Goldberg

who are making an impact on those around them.

This version introduces a recent bar

mitzvah who is making a difference in the lives of those going through cancer therapy and a retiree who has devoted his second career to traveling throughout the world organizing disaster relief teams on behalf of the Red Cross. We profile a Holocaust Survivor who continues to tell her story, an individual who is changing lives for Jews with disabilities, and we spotlight four women taking charge of their synagogues. Together these members of our community weave a story that underscores the diversity and strength that is Jewish Buffalo.

We hope that you enjoy each of their stories and are inspired by their work, passion and contributions. Many thanks to Ellen Goldstein for inspiring this idea and editing the profiles, and to Susan Lichtblau, Maria Scrivani, Mara Koven-Gelman, Peter Simon, Howard Rosenhoch, Jordana Halpern, Ellen Goldstein, Nina Lukin and Jana Eisenberg who contributed the narratives for our Difference-Makers. As Seth Godin reminds us, “Words keep getting cheaper, which makes action more valuable than ever.”

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# Jay Gershberg:

## Bringing Better Bagels to Buffalo

By Maria Scrivani

**Call Jay Gershberg a matchmaker—he's the guy, aka Bagel Jay, who brought the classic New York City baked good—the bagel—to Buffalo. It was love at first bite, destined to be a long marriage made in—well, if not exactly heaven, certainly someplace where hard work is well-rewarded.**

It's been more than four decades since this callow kid, with younger sibling Robert in tow, brazened his way onto the Buffalo business scene, with the first store, of many to come, then called Bagel Brothers.

"We came into this with a limited knowledge of the business-side of things," says Gershberg, in a recent phone conversation from his home in Boca Raton, Florida. "We learned fast." Growing up in the projects in the Bronx, with parents who worked as an office manager (dad) and a bookkeeper (mom), he was not used to a very warm neighborhood and cohesive community—two traits he attributes to this part of the state, Buffalo in particular. "Here you get to know people, and as a business person, you know who to call to get things done."

If hard work is one part of the equation for success, Gershberg says the other part is luck.

And the Gershberg siblings must have learned something at the knees of their business-oriented parents. Jay, who earned a teaching degree at Ithaca College, was working construction—helping to build schools in New York City until the bottom dropped out of the economy there. Somewhere along the line, he and Robert, then a college

student at Oswego, realized that Buffalo was "the only reasonably-sized city in the state that didn't have fresh New York City bagels." An idea was born, and pursued with deliberation, the guiding principle of Jay Gershberg being to do things right. He paid a consulting fee to a bagel baker in Ithaca and learned the craft at his side. In July of 1976, he and his brother, two early 20-somethings, having worked with the Small Business Administration and partnering with M & T Bank, not to mention borrowing from family members, opened their first bagel emporium in one of the hottest commercial spots in town, the Northtown Plaza. "It was the center of the universe then," says Gershberg. "And we were doing everything ourselves, from mixing the dough to baking, and working the front of the store. From day one, we had a line out the door."

The line was peopled by natives who, if they knew of bagels at all, had only ever known Abel's Bagels, from the local Lippes family, which was bought out by Lender's and became a frozen bagel supermarket mainstay—the only game in town until the Bagel Brothers arrived to save our city from itself. Also in the long line those early days were folks who'd come from downstate to go to college in Buffalo. Many stayed



Jay Gershberg

on post-graduation, joining the ranks of professionals—doctors, lawyers, engineers, and others—who found Western New York a most congenial place to settle in, a fine spot in which to raise a family, and now, finally, you could get a real bagel! So Bagel Brothers became, in a way, a public service franchise.

It was also, quickly, a choice meeting place. The Gershbergs had thought to leave some room in the front of the space, and within a month of their opening, had added tables and chairs for the lingering nosherers. "We had 10 to 12 varieties of bagels, fewer choices than we have now, and to top them, a cream cheese schmear, tuna or egg salad. For a while we made a real New York City cream cheesecake, and challah and rye bread, but we couldn't get the consistent quality we wanted. So the menu evolved—we learned there were certain things we were better off not doing."

The big deal with his bagels is they are still being made with highest-quality ingredients, the old-fashioned way, boiled in water and then baked on a board, now made of aluminum, he says. "What makes it a real New York bagel is the recipe more than anything else. And ours has stood the test of time. We will not compromise on ingredients to save money."

By the time Gershberg sold the business in 1996, he had two dozen stores in this area and also the greater Cleveland area. Not bad for a plucky kid. "We had enough years of success to weather some of the tougher times," he says. Some tough times were still brewing, though, and a contractual conflict resulted in a contentious court case. In June of 2000, it was over, and Gershberg



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signed a one-year non-compete clause. He came back the following year, opening the newly-christened Bagel Jay's at Hopkins and Klein in Williamsville. Brother Robert changed professions, moving to Florida where he still lives and works for a placement firm.

Jay Gershberg still maintains a townhouse in Western New York, as he travels back up here frequently to keep tabs on three Bagel Jay's stores, the one in Williamsville, plus one back in a former location in the Great Arrow Plaza in Buffalo, and another—also in a location that once housed a Bagel Brothers—just opened last fall at Main and Harlem in Snyder.

"I was too young when I sold the business back in 1996—too young to retire," he muses. These days he's taking it a little slower ("I'm not in my 20s anymore!"), but still working hard maintaining, and renewing, the

reputation of the revered Buffalo business he built. "Western New York has been very good to me," he says. "It's very satisfying to me that we brought good bagels to Buffalo, but even more so I am proud of the people who've worked for us—it's the team that really makes it all go. There are a number of people who started at Bagel Brothers, their first job...And we have very loyal customers. They say positive things on Facebook, and that is very fulfilling...We created a good following; we've made people happy. It warms my heart to be back, and hear people say, 'It's Jay, who did things right.' This area has always been a great place to live and raise a family, and it is great to see the rebound that is happening in Buffalo today."

**Maria Scrivani, who is known to eat bagels from time to time, is a frequent contributor to Forever Young and Buffalo Spree.**

## FBI's Cohen to Address Hadassah March 19

Special FBI Agent Adam S. Cohen will be speaking at the Benderson JCC on Sunday, March 19 at 3:00 PM in the Lippman Lounge. The program is planned by the Buffalo Hadassah Chapter and is co-sponsored by the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Center.

Mr. Cohen is a 19-year veteran of the FBI and has been in the Buffalo agency's office since October, 2015. He is a graduate of Brandeis University and Dowling College. Before coming to Buffalo he served as section chief of the FBI's Counterterrorism Internet



SAC Adam Cohen

Operations.

He will speak briefly about his background and his work in the FBI and will take questions following his talk. Coffee, tea and dessert will be served.

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# Sonia Klein:

## Making Memory Matter

*By Mara Koven-Gelman*

**“How do I tell the story of my life during the Holocaust in one hour? How do I tell you about five years, 1825 days, 44,000 hours in just one hour?” asks 91-year-old former Buffalo resident Sonia Klein.**

She visited Buffalo in July and gave her personal account during the Shoah at Temple Israel in Niagara Falls. She shared her story with the *Jewish Journal of WNY* and her thoughts on Holocaust education and who will tell the story in the future.

### War Years

Sonia was born in Warsaw and was 14 when World War II began. The first day of the war, her house was burned to the ground and her family was forced into the Warsaw Ghetto. Later she was transported to four different concentration camps and finally forced on a death march from February to April 1945. She was liberated by U.S. troops in Leipzig, Germany and went to a Displaced Persons (DP) camp in Mittenwald, Germany operated by the Russians. She eventually made her way back to a US operated DP camp, met her husband, had a son and together they started a successful leather and textile business in Germany.

They eventually emigrated to the US in 1949 (through Boston) and re-settled in Buffalo. “I promised myself that if I survived I would never stay silent... and I would never step on soil [Poland] full of blood,” she said. Poland ceased to be her home. “The US gave us a country, hope, and a life; Buffalo will always be my home.”

### Post-war – new home in Buffalo

After arriving in Buffalo in December 1949, Sonia said the Jewish Federation helped her family resettle and integrate. Initially, Sonia and her husband, Joseph, were hired by the newly opened Jewish Community Center (now the JCC Holland Building). Joseph worked in maintenance and Sonia helped in the kitchen preparing meals for 450 Centerland campers.

“I didn’t even know what boiled water looked like,” said Sonia, referring to so many years without a normal life. A JCC caterer taught her how to cook and eventually, she opened the successful K&W Kosher catering business with friend



Sonia Klein

Rosie Wisel in North Buffalo. Joseph built KW Textiles before retiring to Florida. After her husband Joseph died 16 years ago, Sonia relocated to Brooklyn to be with her sister, Sophia. Sonia is active with SelfHelp Community Services (an organization dedicated to serving Holocaust Survivors), and Israel Bonds. She is a highly sought after speaker, recently speaking to Hillel students at Washington University in St. Louis and Maryville University.

### Horrors

Sonia understandably is upset when talking about children and their reactions to the Holocaust. “My son, Alan, at five and half years old told me that he didn’t want a number [on his arm] like I had. What was I supposed to say to him?” Eventually she told him simply, “Don’t worry, you don’t have to have a number like Mommy.”

“I don’t talk a lot about the horrors of the Holocaust,” said Sonia. And yet, she did during this interview. The Klein family—Sonia, her mother, father, sister and little brother arrived in Auschwitz.

Their heads were shaved and given a tattoo. She said it was hard to tell people apart from one another. “We stopped being people and became numbers.” The family came up to the now well-known line to separate inmates for work (to the right) or death (to the left.) Her mother refused to let go of her young son’s hand and they were forced to go to the left. Sonia, her sister and father went to the right to work. She never saw her mother or brother again.

A thousand women were put in five rows of 200 each, the guards asked who knew how to make shoes. Sonia doesn’t remember what made her raise her hand and then push up her sister’s hand. She and Sophia worked in the shoe commando—separating soft leather, hard leather and nails. “We handled all shoes—men’s, women’s, baby’s shoes. With each pair I handled, I hurt in my heart, I knew that they came from dead Jews. For two years we worked there.”

In the ultimate irony, they were forced to walk barefoot the 3 miles from Birkenau to Auschwitz— during the heat of summer

or frigid winter. They slept next to the crematorium and went to bed smelling bodies burn. “How does one comprehend that?” she asked rhetorically.

In February to April 1945, 1000 women were forced to march—no shoes or food. “At least at the camp, we received a roll (the size of a hotdog bun) and a 10-ounce cup of watery soup. “On the march there was no food. If you leaned over to eat some snow, the guards would shoot you. One hundred women survived the march,” said Sonia.

### Faith

When asked about her faith, she said there is only one way she could have survived so many atrocities. She looks upward. “If I am still alive, it is only by the grace of G-d” Sonia doesn’t condemn anyone who is an atheist. Sonia’s family were observant Jews before the war and she is Modern Orthodox today.

Is it hard to retell these painful stories? Sonia promised herself that if she survived she would never remain silent. “Life has taught me one thing — never to be quiet.”

“I often cannot sleep well for several nights before I speak,” she said. She spoke about Jews and non-Jewish victims: “They were murdered once. If we don’t remember, they will be murdered again.”

“Do I hate? No because that is what led to what happened. Can I forgive? For those who directly caused death and pointed out where the Jews were hiding, I can’t forgive. I see the horrors of children in Syria, and my hearts bleeds for them, so I guess in a way I have learned to forgive.”

Sonia notes that she and her sister are one of many thousands of siblings that survived together. For that, she is extremely grateful.

### Future

Like most Survivors who see the dwindling number of their peers who are eyewitnesses to the Shoah, she looks to the next generation and Holocaust education. When asked what she thought of grandchildren tattooing grandparent’s concentration camp numbers on their arm as an act of remembrance and resilience, she shared that two of her grandsons have done exactly that.

***Mara Koven-Gelman is the Executive Director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo***

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# Janet Gunner:

## Accessible Jewish Life

By Peter Simon

Balancing the responsibilities of being a mother, a wife and an attorney was -- in retrospect -- taxing but almost routine for Janet Gunner. "My life was pretty ordinary, pretty normal," she said. That all changed 24 years ago when her son Daniel was born with autism and it became clear that he would require constant care. "I realized the isolation experienced by families that are full-time care providers," Ms. Gunner said. "I was very cut off from my peers." Those feelings—and, above all, the needs of Daniel and other people who require similar assistance—prompted Ms. Gunner to become a relentless and effective champion for those unable to battle for themselves.

Relying on her faith, her family, her synagogue and her low-key but unbending determination, Ms. Gunner was instrumental in establishing several measures to help both people with disabilities and their care-givers. "Janet Gunner is a tireless, passionate defender of and advocate for the inclusion of every member of the Jewish community into the fabric of Jewish life," said Rabbi Perry Netter of Temple Beth Tzedek. "Janet

constantly reaches for the heavens and in the process, brings the rest of us along with her."

In the year 2000, she was a co-founder and later chairperson of Beth Tzedek's **Kesher** ("Connections") program, an initiative that provides activities, transportation and other services to persons dealing with frailty, illness, disability and loss.

"We want to make sure everybody has



Janet Gunner

a place here every day," said Ms. Gunner, who attributes the success of the program to support from Rabbi Netter, Cantor Mark Spindler and the congregation as a whole. Ms. Gunner also heads up a task force that seeks to ensure that clergy, community agency representatives and

volunteer lay leaders throughout the Jewish community work together to improve and expand those efforts.

Now an attorney who is looking after Daniel rather than practicing law, Ms. Gunner said she initially hesitated to take him to daily services because of



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his limited attention span. But other congregants were welcoming, and Ms. Gunner realized the level of support she had when a friend accompanied Daniel from services to the Beth Tzedek office to work on a computer when he needed a change of scenery. By attending shul, Daniel learned the prayers and practices that enabled him to become a Bar Mitzvah at age 13. "He was so grateful, so appreciative," Ms. Gunner said.

Now, Daniel attends Shabbat services every week with his mother, and looks forward especially to kissing the Torah. "There's a very strong spiritual side to Daniel," Ms. Gunner said. Meanwhile, Ms. Gunner headed up a task force that was instrumental in the creation of the first local group home for Jewish persons, where five women now reside. That committee is now working to establish a supervised residence for Jewish men with disabilities, where Daniel will live.

"Beginning with the creation of **Kesher**, continuing with the establishment of the Jewish group home, and now with the community task force, Janet has inspired everyone to take care of the frail elderly, the developmentally

disabled, the sick and the shut-in," Rabbi Netter said.

Ms. Gunner's involvement hardly ends there. She was president of Beth Tzedek from 2011 to 2014 and is now chair of its Board of Trustees. She has also served as chair or co-chair of the Beth Tzedek Ritual Committee, the Youth Scholarship Committee and the High Holy Days Subcommittee.

Ms. Gunner stays fresh and motivated by sharing festive Shabbat meals with her husband Glen Pincus and their three children: Benjamin, 28, and Daniel and Rachel, 24-year-old twins. She also is grateful to spend time with her father, Murray Gunner, who was executive director of several Jewish Community Centers before retiring in 1988. He is 98 and lives at the Weinberg Campus. An early morning half-mile run in her Amherst neighborhood is also part of Ms. Gunner's daily routine. It all adds up to a life of balance, accomplishment and pride. "It's been an amazing journey for me, a rich and full life," Ms. Gunner said.

*Peter Simon is a retired Buffalo News reporter and an active member of Congregation Shir Shalom.*

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# Traveling from the Darkness to Light:

## My Jewish Journey from Poland to Israel—Part 1

By Nina Lukin

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the hub of the national Jewish community relations network. The mission of the organization is to raise awareness on public policy issues, encourage civic and social involvement with other racial and ethnic groups and legislators, develop strategies and programs, and deliberate on key issues of importance to the Jewish community. The organization has an unparalleled capacity to mobilize Jewish activism through its unique partnership with 16 national member agencies and 125 local community relations councils (CRCs). The Buffalo Jewish Federation has long been a member of the organization and many Buffalonians have attended conferences and events around the country.

Lois Frank, a former JCPA board chair, and her husband established the JCPA's Frank Fellowship program four years ago to foster emerging leadership in community relations. In the summer of 2016, my former freshman roommate at Brandeis and one of my dearest friends in the world suggested I consider applying to be a Frank Fellow. After researching JCPA's unique focus on pluralism and social justice that reflect the profound Jewish commitment to Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world, I filled out my application.

I was granted a Frank Fellowship just as the Buffalo Federation began re-envisioning its local community relations work. The focus of the unique 12 day fellowship mission to Poland and Israel in early December 2016 was racial and gender equality, religious pluralism, two-state solution, efforts for peaceful humanitarian support and security. I traveled and learned with seven other emerging leaders, JCPA Board members and Community Relations professionals from across the country. Rather than a trip, it was more of a journey where I began with a limited understanding of the vast history and efforts relating to Israel, a thriving and complex democracy amongst the hotbed that is the Middle East.

On December 1st we landed in Krakow,



Top: Nina in pink hat at Auschwitz; bottom: photos of the death camp

Poland. "Work sets you free" notoriously adorns the gates of Auschwitz where we heard how the Nazis quickly evolved their tactics from imprisonment, to forced labor and ultimately to outright murder. On a bitter, winter morning we toured the largest graveyard in history where seemingly endless barbed wire and train tracks transformed in my mind into a systematic processing facility of human suffering. While it's believed that nearly 2-4 million people

perished within this concentration camp, it was notable how much smaller Auschwitz and Auschwitz II-Birkenau were than I had imagined; Then our guide reminded us that barracks weren't needed for the vast numbers of ill, elderly, pregnant, and young children who were killed upon arrival. So many lives were never 'recorded', and so it's impossible to account for the true loss of life.

My time at Auschwitz left me struggling to reconcile how survivors regained composure and hope. Clearly, the Nazi's miscalculated.

They tried to eliminate a people but didn't recognize the strength of the Jewish people to survive all of which have sustained us over thousands of years. So, it was truly a blessing to be able to end the day by joining a vibrant Shabbat celebration at the Krakow Jewish Community Center. As Jonathan Orenstein, Executive Director of the Krakow JCC reminded us, "between World War II and the fall of communism in 1989, it's as if Poland is finally waking up from a 50 year coma." Once a thriving community of more than 3 million, it's estimated that less than 20,000 Jews reside in this part of Eastern Europe....some only learning they are Jewish from their grandparent's or parent's deathbeds. While small, the community in Krakow is undergoing a gradual reawakening, a rekindling of Jewish life!

We travelled from the darkness of the Holocaust's epicenter, to the brightness of Israel where we observed true humanitarian efforts

underway at the Syrian border even amongst political, military and religious strife. In the Golan Heights, we learned about the NGO, Amalia, focused on delivering food, medical supplies and essential goods to help rebuild a Syrian border civilian community that has been crippled by the civil war. While the Free Syrian Army and civilians benefit from the aid, select rebel forces continue to disparage the initiative portraying the recipients as traitors and collaborators of Zionism. Amazingly, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) established a ‘good neighborhood’ unit that coordinates the military-civilian transports of severely injured Syrian refugees to receive medical treatment.

Hearing about the ongoing civil war crisis and even standing at the Syrian border, wasn’t nearly as impactful as meeting a few of the many Syrian amputees who suffered ‘blast injuries’ and are being treated at Ziv Medical Center in Safed, Israel. The hospital staff, comprised of Jewish, Muslim and Druze Israeli clinicians, and even therapeutic medical clowns, are expanding treatment to include chronic and mental health conditions and are focused on delivering outstanding, compassionate care to Syrian patients. Understandably, Syrians being treated within the ‘enemy’ Jewish State is highly controversial and cynics suggest this lifesaving work is strategic policy rather than a purely humanitarian effort; however, I witnessed the remarkable commitment by Israelis to the welfare of human beings, regardless of nationality, race, even loyalty to a hostile military faction.

**To be continued: Read the rest of Nina Lukin’s journey to Israel in the March issue of the Jewish Journal.**



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# Wayne Wisbaum:

## Advocate for All

*By Howard Rosenhoch*

**What do saving the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and its home, Kleinhans Music Hall, have in common with freeing Soviet Jews from the strictures of the repressive Soviet regime? The answer is Wayne Wisbaum, one of the Difference Makers we celebrate this month.**

Wayne Wisbaum is a Harvard-educated lawyer who has practiced his profession in Buffalo for more than 55 years at the Kavinoky Cook law firm. Wayne's legal career has formed the platform for his years of community service. Emblematic of Wayne's selfless contributions, in 2003 the New York State Bar Association presented him with the coveted Root/Stimson Award, recognizing his outstanding commitment to community and volunteer service and to the improvement of the justice system.

When I sat down with Wayne last December in his law office, he spoke of the four most important aspects of his life – Family, Religion, the Law, and Community.

Remembering his Father and Mother, Franklin and Elizabeth, you could see the light in Wayne's eyes grow brighter with love and pride. Wayne chuckled as he told of both his parents' talent in music and art, qualities that, Wayne admitted, they failed to pass on to him, even as they succeeded in instilling in Wayne a love of music, literature and theater. Other equally important qualities made their way into Wayne's DNA. Like Wayne, both his parents were high achievers, Franklin graduating from law school at age 20, Elizabeth attending medical school, a rarity for women in their day. And Wayne's parents' commitment to community service found its way deep into Wayne's core.

Franklin Wisbaum, a lawyer in Niagara Falls for 65 years, made his mark in service to his community, especially the Jewish community.



Wayne Wisbaum

Franklin was Secretary of his synagogue, Temple Beth Israel, for 40 years and became head of the Chevra Kadisha at age 18, serving until he was 90. Franklin founded and was President of Jewish Federation of Niagara Falls and New York State B'nai B'rith. He was the first Jew to sit on the Board of Niagara County Savings Bank. Active in Republican politics, Franklin was appointed by Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt to head the Selective Service for all of New York State outside of Metropolitan New York City. Elizabeth Wisbaum joined her husband as chairs of Israel Bonds campaigns, and co-founded Hadassah and other women's organizations in Niagara Falls.

With a family pedigree like this, it's not surprising that religion is in Wayne's core and played such an important role in molding him into the person he is. As a boy growing up in Niagara Falls, he learned the history of his community, visiting the site of the Orthodox Tenth Street Shul, the first Jewish house of worship in the Falls. Wayne began studying for his Bar Mitzvah at age 11 at Temple Beth Israel, founded by two of his grandparents, learning and ultimately leading the entire service.

Fast forward to Wayne's college years as an undergraduate at Cornell, where he majored in Government and minored in English literature, with a good helping of music and art appreciation. Despite the urging of one of his English lit professors who saw in Wayne a talent for scholarship and literature and urged him to pursue a Ph.D., Wayne chose to follow in his father's footsteps. Harvard Law School awaited,

followed by a distinguished legal career, which continues today much to the benefit of his beloved City of Buffalo.

Wayne's family, religious upbringing and training in and practice of the law, have combined to instill in Wayne the desire and ability to have a positive impact on his community. And Wayne's impact has been considerable. Wayne took on his first volunteer leadership role as President of the Buffalo Council on World Affairs only 8 years after starting his private law practice. The number and breadth of community organizations that have benefited from Wayne's leadership—as Chair, Officer and/or Board member—have been legion, including American Jewish Committee-Buffalo Chapter, Jewish Family Service, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Artpark, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Zoological Society of Buffalo, Buffalo State College Foundation, Temple Beth Zion, United Way and Catholic Charities Fund Drives, Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries, Irish Classical Theatre Company, Buffalo Jewish Federation and Daemen College.

The many honors and awards conferred on Wayne in recognition of his community service stand as a testament to his contributions. In addition to the Root/Stimson Award, they include the Young Leadership Award of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, the Abram Pugash Award from Jewish Family Service, the *Buffalo News* Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, the Buffalo History Museum's Red Jacket Award, the Friends of Wildlife Award from the Buffalo Zoo, the National Endowment Achievement Award from the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and, just this past year, the Inaugural Grosvenor Award from the Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries. Among the many honors Wayne has received, two touched his heart most of all – the Community Relations Award

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of the American Jewish Committee and the Outstanding Community Leader Citation from the State of Israel Bonds. That's because Wayne co-chaired those endeavors with Janet Wisbaum, the woman with whom he fell in love at first sight, his partner in life, and his wife of 56 1/2 years.

When it comes to community service, Wayne is an equal opportunity contributor. His love of the Jewish Community and his concern for the arts community have been the focus for Wayne's volunteer work. Which brings us back to the confluence of his work for the BPO, Kleinhans and the plight of Soviet Jewry.

When Wayne served as President and Board Chair of the BPO in the early to mid-1980's, and then chaired Kleinhans Music Hall Management and its \$12 million restoration campaign throughout the 1990's, both the Orchestra and its home faced financial crises which Wayne managed and overcame. In the late 1980's, Wayne undertook to chair the Soviet Jewry Resettlement Committee, a joint committee of Jewish Family Service and the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

Wayne and Janet led a 200 person Buffalo delegation, joining over 200,000 who marched on Washington in support of freedom of emigration for Soviet Jews. At the same time, the BPO was led by Principal Conductor and Music Director, Semyon Bychkov, himself a Soviet Jew who emigrated to the U.S. under difficult circumstances in 1974. Bychkov's father, a refusenik for 15 years, was not so lucky. Wayne, a leader of both the Orchestra and the movement on behalf of Soviet Jewry, as well as being a Board member of HIAS, the national Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, knew of the situation faced by Bychkov's father. Using skills honed through years of legal practice, Wayne quietly pushed all the right buttons. The emotion in Wayne's voice was palpable when he described witnessing the reunion between Semyon and his father.

Through deeds large and small, and advocacy loud and soft, Wayne Wisbaum gets things done. That's why we celebrate Wayne as a Jewish Buffalo Difference Maker.

**Retired attorney Howard Rosenhoch is Immediate Past President of Buffalo Jewish Federation.**



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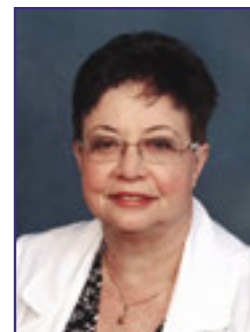
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# 4 Presidents: Women in Charge

**By Mara Koven-Gelman**

Just days ago, a woman did not become the new President of the United States. But in Buffalo, we have several women presidents... presidents of synagogues, that is. They represent Reform, Conservative and Orthodox congregations, demonstrating how far the Jewish community has come in embracing gender equality.

*The Jewish Journal* asked these leaders to comment on their aspirations, challenges and favorite Jewish women and holidays. The respondents included: miriam treger honig, current president of Temple Beth Zion; Cheryl Stein, immediate past president of Kehillat Ohr Tzion; Lisa Wallenfels, current president of Temple Beth Tzedek and Helen Weinstein, the last president of Congregation B'nai Shalom.

## Their Background

Cheryl Stein was born in Temple, Texas and moved to Buffalo when she was two years old. She has been president for two terms at Kehillat Ohr Zion, June 2015 - June 2016 and June 2011- June 2013 (another woman, Marian Arbesman is also a past president). Cheryl runs her own real estate law firm. She is married to Irv Stein and together they have two children Adam and Mariah.

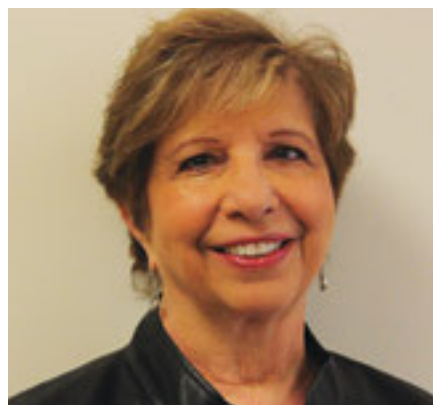
miriam treger honig was born in Buffalo, NY and has "been Jewish since 1961." She attended Ken-Ton schools and graduated from SUNY Oswego. Her term as president of the Temple Beth Zion is from June 2016-June 2018. She is a real estate associate broker and office manager for the past 29 years with RealtyUSA.com. Miriam is married to locally born Eli Honig and together they have three children, Galen, Lucas and Simon.

Lisa Wallenfels was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. She became president of Temple Beth Tzedek in June 2016, with a possibility to renew for a second year. Lisa is an OB/GYN nurse practitioner at Audubon Women's Medical Associates, PC. She is married to George and they have three children: Lauren, Jared, and Hannah.

Helen Weinstein was born and raised in Rochester, NY and was the first female president of Congregation B'nai Shalom,



Lisa Wallenfels



Helen Weinstein

affiliated with the Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative) from 2009-2014. Before retiring in 2015, Helen was the coordinator of the Fetal Alcohol and Drug Effects (FADE) Program at the Erie County Council for Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Helen is married to Bernard Weinstein, a recently retired UB professor. They have two married sons, Seth (Heather) and Michael (Julia) and four grandchildren.

## What legacy have you left or (hope to leave) your synagogue/temple?

*Cheryl:* I want to leave a "Feeling of Community." Our small synagogue isn't only a place to pray and learn, but it's our community. We all really care about each other and watch out for each other, like an extended family.

*miriam:* We are transforming the congregational model in regards to Rabbi/Cantor hierarchy. This is straying from the traditional Senior Rabbi scenario. Different doesn't mean bad; change is amazingly healthy and rewarding; growing pains and tangents make life interesting and the congregation more involved and vested for the future.



Cheryl Stein



miriam treger honig

*Lisa:* Project Beit Tefilah (the relocating and rebuilding of a new synagogue) is in full force with our goal to daven in our new sanctuary by High Holidays 2018. We have merged with Congregation B'nai Shalom and will ensure there is space for everyone to daven in a way that meets their religious and spiritual needs. There are also plans to incorporate a beautiful (kosher) handicapped accessible Mikvah in our new building.

*Helen:* I hope I left a legacy of community networking and involvement, engaging in collaborative efforts with other synagogues and community groups. I was proud to have led the process to affiliate B'nai Shalom with the Conservative Movement, wrote a successful grant which enabled three young dynamic rabbinic fellows to come to Buffalo to lead and inspire our congregation.

## What are your hopes/aspirations for the future of your congregation?

*Cheryl:* Continuity and growth. We established Kehillat Ohr Tzion 15 years ago, and it's important to keep growing

and maintaining our ideals.

*miriam:* I see a cooperative and spiritual community for davening, learning and social justice starting with our 2-year olds (PALS program) and including all paths of life's journey. Integrating with the larger Jewish community is a privilege and we always need to see each other's gifts. TBZ is continually growing new Jewish citizens with solid human values to last for generations.

*Lisa:* My hope (from the TBT mission) is that we will all inspire and encourage each other to do one more mitzvah today than we did yesterday, or one mitzvah more deeply. If we all strive to live by these words, each day would be better than the last.

*Helen:* I am in the unique position of having been both the congregation's first woman president and the congregation's final president. We have worked with Temple Beth Tzedek to facilitate a merger of our congregations which is now completed. My hope for our congregation is that we enjoy a successful partnership with our new kehillah as we move forward.

## Who is your favorite Jewish woman (dead or alive) and why?

*Cheryl:* I have two: My mom is my real-life role model. She raised me in an observant home, taught me how to keep the Yom Tovim (Jewish holidays) and her example of kindness and generosity in always making our home available to anyone for shabbos and holiday meals. She is a true Aishes Chayil.

My other favorite Jewish woman is Ruth of the Bible - she stayed true to who she was. When given the opportunity to return to her family, she chose to stay and care for Naomi, her mother-in-law. She was loyal to Naomi and faithful to her new religion and God.

*miriam:* My mother and maternal grandmother are my favorite. Through both of them, I was blessed with a solid foundation of human values and equality for all. The traditions and amazing kitchen secrets and conversations allowed me to learn the family history and lead into the future. My wish is to make this legacy a permanent focus for my children.

*Lisa:* My mom is the most amazing role model; she davens, studies Torah, and volunteers both in shul and in the community. I pray I have a fraction of the positive impact on my own children that she has on me.

*Helen:* I'd give that honor to my mother who instilled in me a love of family and pride in our Jewish history and people. I only hope that I have been able to live up to her example of inclusiveness, perseverance, and community spirit.

**What is your favorite Jewish holiday? And why?**

*Cheryl:* My favorite Jewish holiday is Passover- The story of the Exodus from slavery and the value of freedom. I also love the tradition of having a Seder. It's a time for the whole family to be together.

*miriam:* As long as we are together as a family, I have no favorites.

*Lisa:* I love them all. Holidays are an opportunity for us to take the time to break from routine and to reconnect; attending shul, getting the house ready, preparing food and being with family.

*Helen:* My favorite Jewish holiday is Sukkot. Since our sons were young we built and decorated a sukkah almost every year. Sukkot is a joyous holiday we share with those we love which makes it so special to me each year.

**What is the largest opportunity**

**or challenge the Buffalo Jewish congregational community faces?**

*Cheryl:* The largest opportunity is for congregational growth as the secular community grows. The new developments downtown, the medical corridor, and business relocating to Buffalo are great for Jewish Buffalo. As more Jewish people move here, it translates into growth for our Jewish community and congregations. Buffalo is going through such an amazing growth and revitalization, we have to ensure the Jewish community benefits.

*miriam:* Active engagement of our community – both an opportunity and a challenge. In today's world of over-scheduling, it is hard to make "being Jewish" a priority. Long work weeks don't always allow for the respite of Shabbat. Sports schedules can't be changed for religious school and many coaches make the children/family choose; there seems to be a stigma for missing practices and games for your religion. Offering a chance to be a part of something bigger drives the opportunities. One can volunteer for an event, holiday or involvement without a monthly commitment.

*Lisa:* The answer is the same for both: engage unaffiliated Jews in the area. Get them to join a synagogue and become involved in synagogue life and community in a way that resonates with them.

*Helen:* To recognize the need to work together as one community instead of viewing each other as rivals. Although we may have differing philosophies and styles of observance, we should celebrate what can bring us together. By welcoming each other and sharing our strengths, our community can grow in unique ways.

**What can the Buffalo Jewish community do to ensure young Jewish women take your place? Is that important?**

*Cheryl:* I think it's very important for young Jewish women to be active in the community. There are plenty of Jewish female role models who have to make themselves available to mentor our younger women.

*miriam:* Modeling behavior is the best way to demonstrate the strength that comes for the passion of a volunteer. Not

to be exclusive, but women are very good at acknowledging others dedication and tend to be "lifters" not "leaners" in group settings. We need to start with our youth and keep engagement all the way through to the inclusion of the senior population.

*Lisa:* It is absolutely critical we encourage young Jewish women to take on leadership roles in our community. Women who are active need to serve as role models. We also need to continue to offer leadership training opportunities.


*Helen:* It is important to inspire young women to leadership. But I encourage our congregations and community organizations to reach out to all members; young and old, women and men, to engage in leadership roles. Tasks are often left to the established few; it requires courage to take chances on new and different ideas and solutions. Encourage involvement on all levels and express appreciation for a job well done, no matter how small, whatever the age or gender.

**Mara Koven-Gelman is Executive Director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo**

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**Pablo Picasso** (Spanish, 1881-1973). *Three Musicians*, 1921. Oil on canvas, 80 9/16 x 74 1/4 inches (204.5 x 188.3 cm). Philadelphia Museum of Art; A. E. Gallatin Collection, 1952, 1952-61-96 © 2016 Succession Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



# Lewis Shaevel:

## Doing His Part

By Rob Goldberg

Lewis Shaevel is a typical Buffalo kid – he loves the Sabres and plays youth hockey, goes to summer camp and attends Transit Middle School where he studies hard and plays the French Horn. But Lewis is anything but typical, nor was his recent Bar Mitzvah experience this Hanukkah in St. Thomas.

I met Lewis and his parents, Amy and Andy, for lunch last month and learned about their recent cruise to the Virgin Islands. This was a special experience for the Shaevel family; it was a family gathering over winter break, the week of Hanukkah, highlighted by Lewis' mid-week Bar Mitzvah ceremony at the historic Hebrew Congregation

of St. Thomas, the oldest synagogue in continuous use under the American flag and the second-oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. Lewis led most of the afternoon service, read from a magnificent and heavy Torah scroll, and delivered a D'var Torah on the weekly portion, Mikketz, from the Book of Genesis (Jacob's interpretation



Lewis' grandparents, Mort and Ellie Shaevel and Didi and Alan Marks, in St. Thomas before the Bar Mitzvah



Lewis with his parents, Amy and Andy

of Pharaoh's dreams).

"It was a great experience," Lewis told me. "The synagogue was amazing. It is at the top of a very steep hill, it has sand on the floor, and the pews face one another, rather than the bimah. It was cool that my dad's first cousin, Rabbi Brian Michelson could join us and co-officiate with Rabbi Michael Harvey from the St. Thomas congregation."

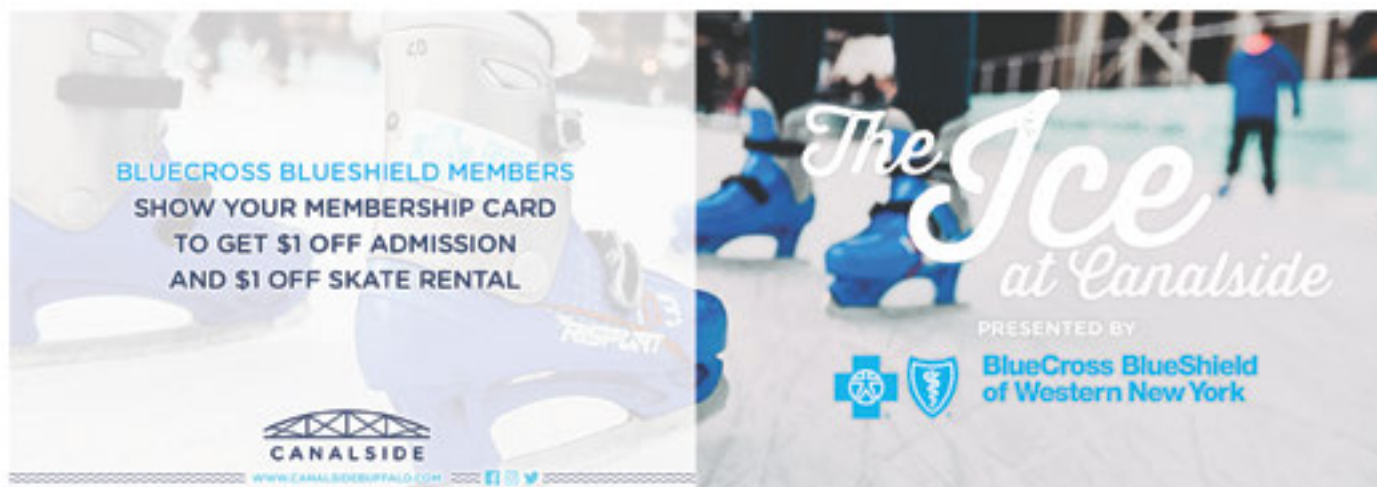
Prior to leaving for the cruise, Lewis spent months working on a powerful "mitzvah project" associated with his Bar Mitzvah. Susan Goldberg Schwartz, Director of Lifelong Learning at Temple Beth Zion where the Shaevel family are members, told me that each Bar or Bat Mitzvah is challenged to create a project that is "active, engaging, influential, ongoing and unique." "Lewis totally fulfilled that," she said, "with his project to collect new hats and caps to

be donated to Roswell Park for cancer patients." Lewis called his project "Hats off to Roswell".

When I asked Lewis about his project, he lit up. "To be honest," he said, "I struggled to find the right project but then realized that collecting hats made so much sense for it was an idea that connected to my passion, as a collector of baseball caps." Last year, Lewis participated in Transit Middle School's fundraiser for Roswell Park Cancer Institute - "Goin' Bald for Bucks." The idea is for an individual to raise money and then get their head shaved. "Snipping, clipping and shaving our way to cancer cures," boasts the program's website. "Lewis raised almost \$6,000," beamed his parents. "Lewis was the #1 youth fundraiser in WNY and helped Transit Middle School set a new Roswell record, raising almost \$59,000."

"Goin' Bald for Bucks" was a great experience," Lewis explained. "It allowed me to put myself in someone else's shoes. In this case, someone who lost his or her hair after cancer treatments. "Goin' Bald for Bucks" made me realize what a difference I can make in the lives of cancer patients."

"Hats off to Roswell was more successful than I ever dreamed," Lewis said. "I began by emailing several organizations and businesses like New Era Cap, the Buffalo Bisons, Independent Health and Dave and Adams." But the turning point was when Lewis connected with his former baseball coach who is an executive with the Buffalo Bills. "While I got a lot of support from everyone, the Bills sent me over 150 hats! It was



an incredible kick-start for the project and now I've collected nearly 600 hats."

Lewis will be delivering the hats to Roswell Park Cancer Institute soon, but is still collecting new hats and caps. "I'm happy that I created this Bar Mitzvah project, as it will make a real difference in the lives of hundreds of people affected by cancer. It's a mitzvah to help others and I'm proud that I can do my part," Lewis concluded.

Lewis Shaevel is far from typical. He is a sensitive young man who recognized that



Lewis at his rehearsal in the historic St. Thomas synagogue

a warm hat for someone who has lost his or her hair or a cap to cover up a cancer patient's baldness is a meaningful and thoughtful gesture. We are proud that Lewis Shaevel is one of our Jewish community's difference-makers.

**Rob Goldberg is CEO/ Executive Director of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.**

## Dr. Kenneth Anthone: 'Mission Cataract Day' Donates 20 Surgeries for Those In Need

Recently at Atwal Eye Care in Cheektowaga, the Eyes On America Foundation with Mission Cataract Day eye surgeons and surgical staff donated 20 cataract surgeries for those with low income, the non insured, Veterans and recent immigrants to Western New York.



(Left to right seated) Grisel Zury, surgery recipient from Springville, Dr. John Huebschmann of Youngstown, daughter Selina Kwafo and mother and surgery recipient Ernestina Adu from Georgia. Standing rear row- Ashley Ayedelotte of Lakeview, Ashley Utz of Tonawanda, Christina Norman of Orchard Park, Stephanie Melski-Haux of Lakeview, Doris Kozlowski of Buffalo, Cataract Surgeons Dr. Amar Atwal of Amherst and Dr. Kenneth Anthone of Amherst, Rhona McCoy of West Seneca, Kelly Beamish of Lakeview, Dawn Snyder of Attica, Kristan Jakubowski of Amherst. Middle row left- Chelsea Mutka of Holland. These 20 cataract surgeries were provided at no charge, as have more than 200 cataract surgeries been donated in the last 8 years.

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# Mark Goldman:

## Buffalo's Biggest Booster

By Jordana Halpern

If the name 'Mark Goldman' brings to mind a restaurateur, historian, tour guide, author, owner of a Latin dance club (La Luna), theatre manager, scholar, entrepreneur, advocate, and promoter of performance art and music, then you'd be correct. Often called a visionary with a knack for staying ahead of the local curve, this long-time community activist and passionate advocate for the revitalization of Buffalo, has been helping the city grow since the late 1960s when he moved to the area from New York City.

Along the way, he's been credited with whetting the city's appetite with exciting new restaurants like the Calumet, Black Rock Kitchen & Bar and Allen Street Hardware, all of which helped put Buffalo on the "foodie" map, while transforming less desirable parts of the city into vibrant attractions and adding color and culture along the way. With Buffalo now being added to top rankings for America's favorite city to visit by *National Geographic*, *Travel & Leisure Magazine* and more, we can list Mark Goldman among the folks we want to thank for our new shiny status.

Born and raised in mid-town Manhattan, Goldman lived in New York until he graduated from Brandeis University in 1964. "Few things have been more influential in life than my roots and my childhood in New York, and arts and culture have been integral to my world view since I was a child. The arts define city life. They are the air that city dwellers breathe. So when I came to the city of Buffalo in the summer of 1967, my interest in the arts and culture came along with me," says Goldman.

So how does an enthusiastic visionary look at an undeveloped section of the city and decide to start making history happen? "Because I was building a new destination in a long deserted and abandoned part of town, I knew that I needed many arrows in my quiver," says Goldman. "There was nothing I didn't do or add or use, be it food, tours, books,



Mark Goldman

or cultural programming in my continuing efforts to create an attraction in downtown Buffalo that people would notice and support."

As the president of Friends of the Buffalo Story, an organization whose primary goal is to support various heritage programs as well as to bring heritage to the front burner of contemporary urban development policies, Mark Goldman has walked his talk for nearly five decades.

Goldman's combination of entrepreneurial spirit and passion for presenting the arts led him to renovate a historic building and create the Calumet Arts Café in 1990, leading a change that would transform the neighborhoods at Pearl and Chippewa Streets--a former "red light" district hosting a number of seedy taverns, topless clubs, cheap hotels and pornography shops-- into a hub of high end restaurants, and popular nightclubs. "I knew that the revival of downtown Buffalo would be built on a foundation rooted in the arts, and it was that foundation that I sought to lay at the Calumet," recalls Goldman. "From 1990-2001 the Calumet was the most interesting and most varied arts presentation venue in the city; the home to a phenomenal music and arts club, and the place where the Irish Classical Theater Company, now located on Main Street in the Theatre District, got its start."

Even Goldman's books are directed towards ongoing growth, promoting the rich history of the city and building bridges between communities. Among his titles are: *High Hopes, The Rise and Decline of Buffalo, New York*, (SUNY Press, June 1984), a book that analyzes and interprets the historical forces--external and internal--that have shaped New York State's second largest city. *City on the Edge: Buffalo, New York, 1900-present*, (Prometheus Books, March 30, 2007) followed. The book is described as a "sweeping narrative that covers the rise and decline of the city's downtown and ethnic neighborhoods, the impact of racial change and suburbanization, and the role and function of the arts in the life of the community, urban politics, urban design, and city planning."

Next came *City on the Lake*, (Prometheus Books, 1990), a narrative of hope that describes how the 1980s witnessed the slow but sure calming of ethnic strife, a new mandate for quality education, and the revitalization of downtown Buffalo. In this book, Goldman analyzes why the city lost traction, and chronicles the efforts of its leaders and citizens to restore Buffalo to its former, more prominent position in the nation.

Most recently, Goldman published a children's book, *Max Meets the Mayor*, based on his own life experiences with his now 10-year-old grandson, Max.

As a member of Buffalo's Canalside Community Alliance (CSCA), Goldman is part of a coalition of community groups campaigning for the future of the city's newly developed waterfront. He has been vigilant in promoting programming at Canalside, and last summer joined with the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation to launch a season of summer programming along the Buffalo River and Ohio Street corridor. Goldman was creator and producer of, "The Wedding of the Waters" at Canalside this past August, a unique production that used theatre to teach the story of the building of the Erie Canal. "Wedding" was performed outdoors overlooking the recently reconstructed canals at Canalside, with a performance consisting of dance, spoken word and a wide range of musical styles. It featured a cast of local African-American, white, Native American and Hispanic actors, as well as dancers and musicians

and was developed to bring crowds to a previously underutilized part of the city to teach about a significant time in Buffalo's history, with the ultimate goal of attracting private investment.

Goldman says as he reflects on what he has added to Buffalo arts and culture, he is most proud of his consistent, relentless, ongoing commitment to the notion that the arts are a critical building block of community. What has been most challenging? "Getting people to support the work that I have done," he says, although he notes that, "there is not a political, business, cultural or community leader that I have not--for over 25 years--known and worked with along the way."

Challenges notwithstanding -- lest we forget it is taking decades to come up with a viable new plan for the Peace Bridge - Goldman continues to forge along from a positive position where growth and development are a non-negotiable reality.

"Let's become a Sanctuary City; let's reject intolerance and embrace diversity; let's work to build a community where Judeo-Christian values are at the forefront," he says.

And when asked what advice he would give others who are interested in following his lead? "Work from a core mission and work very hard and try to see, despite the daily difficulties, that the glass, most of the time, is half full."

**Don't miss Mark Goldman's next event:**  
**"The Albright Weekend"**  
**June 2-4, 2017**

The highlight of the weekend will be an original play with original music on the life and times of John J. Albright. The performance will take place in the auditorium of the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Saturday, June 3, at 7:30 pm. In addition, Goldman is writing a 100-page biography of Albright, which will be a companion piece to the performance. *For ticket information call Mark at 716-912-8980.*

### Mark Goldman's top places to visit in Buffalo:

**The interior of the following:** The 20th Century Club; the First Presbyterian Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's and Trinity Episcopal.

**Streets:** Little Summer Street; the Hamlin Park Neighborhood; Central Park, especially Summit, Woodward, Morris and Burke's Green

**Places:** The Ruins at Canalside; Delaware Park looking out from The Indian Statue; Hoyt Lake; the pond at Forest Lawn. The Sculpture Court at the Albright Knox Art Gallery

**Sunsets:** Delaware Park (see above point of view), the foot of Ontario Street, Ferry Street and Porter Avenue.

# Molly Brownstein:

I ♥ USY!

By Ellen Goldstein

Molly Brownstein is a bright 17-year old high school senior at Leonardo Da Vinci High School in Buffalo, New York. Enthusiastic, optimistic, gregarious, kind, interested in the world around her, devoted to Judaism. Kind of like the “girl next door” for some folks. And in fact, she is like “the girl next door” for me. She is the girl who lives behind me on the next street over in the Elmwood Village. I have known Molly ever since she was born, played with her as a baby, spent time with her as a little girl, hired her to work at my parties when she was a teen. And I’ve watched her blossom into a beautiful human being.

Molly is the daughter of David and Hallie Brownstein, granddaughter of Mimi Brownstein, and Joel and Judith Brownstein, and the late Molly and Adrian Weissfeld. She is currently president of the Tzafon Region of USY-United Synagogue Youth, a part of the Conservative Judaism Movement. USY is composed of 16 regions around North America, and the Tzafon Region of USY includes all of New York State outside of New York City, Vermont and Massachusetts.

Molly goes to an urban high school. She says that living in the city exposed her to so much and shaped who she is. “I see what life is like for all sorts of people—not just middle class people and not just Jews,” she said. “I started at Olmstead-Buffalo Public School 64. Both of my parents wanted me to have a more Jewish education, so I went to Kadimah Academy, beginning in 2nd grade through 8th grade, and I loved it. I loved the prayers, the studying, the friends, the teachers. Then I was introduced to Hebrew High in 8th grade,” she said.

During the transition from elementary school to high school, she went from being one kid in a Jewish School (Kadimah Academy) to being the only Jew in the entire school (Da Vinci High School). “My love of Israel and our Jewish traditions, as well as going to a school where no one else really understood Jewish customs, also helped to shape me into someone who loves Judaism. Being so different from most



Molly Brownstein

other kids I go to school with—Catholic girls—has been an interesting, learning experience for me. Most of my friends now are from USY. We all have a common ground. Love of Judaism and enthusiasm for involvement!”

Why did she want to be the USY Tzafon Region president? “Ever since I started in USY, it has always meant so much to me, aside from the pink glittery cape the president wears, which is only the beginning. In 8th grade, I set my sights on the presidency,” she said. “I have so much respect for my peers involved in USY.”

Molly continued to explain her involvement. “I love Judaism, traditions, history. Without USY, I don’t think I would be such a strong Israel supporter, such a strong Jew. I went to Israel first in 8th grade on an amazing trip arranged and led by Kadimah’s Einav Symons. Then went again two summers ago through NCSY and was exposed to Orthodox Judaism, which I enjoyed. I plan to take a gap year between high school and college, possibly in a leadership program in Israel,” she said.

“So much of my Judaism and feminism comes from the incredible women of USY, as well as my family. I have received so much support from all of them. I started being a vegetarian in 2016, which makes keeping kosher much easier, on my path to becoming a vegan. And for me, keeping kosher is very important, along with the cultural aspects of Judaism, holidays, lighting Shabbat candles. USY made Judaism fun, but without Kadimah School, I wouldn’t be the committed Jew I am

today,” she said.

In USY, the Tzafon Region meets at weekend retreats in various cities, including Buffalo, Molly explained. A typical weekend USY convention means that attendees spend Friday night at the shul, and Saturday stay at a host home. “The first time I went, I had a great time and knew I would love it. A senior girl asked me to sit with her at shul and later for dinner. This way, I wasn’t by myself, I met really cool people. I loved it and it has continued to get better and better,” she said. “The night before the first convention I went to, which was in Buffalo, I wasn’t signed up. I called the Tzafon Director and begged her to let me come to the weekend event. I got to go to the convention, and have not looked back since!”

This December 25-29, nearly 1,000 Jewish teenagers, educators, professionals, and alumni from United Synagogue Youth gathered in Dallas, TX for five days of

Hanukkah celebrations, interactive learning, and hands-on social action at USY’s 66th International Convention. Molly and her friends from around the country attended, several from Buffalo. “We went to Ft. Worth, Texas one day. Two regions spent a day in a community center cleaning up, then at a soup kitchen, and also doing various other things to help people around the Dallas/Ft. Worth area,” she said. She noted that as part of Hebrew High in the Jewish Civics Initiative (JCI) course, she and her friends did the same thing, helping homeless people in Washington, D.C.

“USY has completely changed who I am. I see now how everything has led up to this, with USY having the biggest impact. I feel that I am the best version of the person I could be—Me—Molly Brownstein—due to USY. I get so inspired being a part of this community, and it is so important to me. It has helped me learn that life is really what you make of it!”

## Local USY Teens at National Convention

This December 25-29, several local Buffalo-area teens joined together with nearly 1,000 of their peers from across North America, Jewish educators, and alumni for a week at USY’s 66th International Convention in Dallas, TX. The teens explored their personal and collective strength through interactive educational programming, and gave back to local Texans in



The Buffalo Contingent at the 2016 USY Convention

need with large scale social action projects. They all belong to United Synagogue Youth’s Tzafon region, which covers all of upstate New York,

and included Jeremy Werbow, Maston Botwin, Leah Kramer, and Eth Milich, Molly Brownstein, Jared Wallenfels, Hannah Wallenfels, and Erin Lippa. Tzafon is one of United Synagogue Youth’s (USY) 16 regions across North America. USY is the youth group of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



Molly Brownstein speaking at the national USY Convention as president of the Tzafon Region

# Steve Schwartz:

## Volunteer for Life

By Susan Lichtblau

I was at a Congregation Havurah meeting having just returned to Buffalo with three sons and a shiny new BS degree. There, I met Steve Schwartz. Within five minutes he was telling me to take a civil service exam, and if I was in the top 3 he would hire me. I had no idea what he did, but I definitely needed a job so I did (take the exam) and he did (hire me), and that was 40 years ago. I only worked with him for about six months and then went on to graduate school - yet in that short period we became "siblings by choice." Steve is, was and always will be a wonderful mentor to me, and probably hundreds in this community.

His mentoring was apparent during his 30 years as Director of Stutzman Addictions Treatment Center, but in the 15 years he has been retired, he has done so much more. His retirement did not start out quite as planned. For a few years, Steve had been preparing to walk the Appalachian Trail, but as the Yiddish proverb states "Man plans and G-d laughs." Retirement date was October 31, 2002 and in December of that year, he was in the hospital for quadruple bypass heart surgery. It wasn't until spring of 2003 with rehab completed when dreams of the big hike were put to rest that that his life of volunteerism began.

Even when Steve worked in the addictions field, he had served on various state ethics projects but with retirement, he has been invaluable in Erie County working on those issues. He began serving on various



Steve Schwartz

bioethics committees. He served, mentored initially by Dr. Jack Freer, at ECMC, Kaleida and the VA. He was involved advocating for the implementation of the Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) which focuses on end-of-life wishes for people with no health

care proxy. He worked with families in conflict to help resolve their differing issues about choosing palliative care or extreme measures. This, as we know, is a very sensitive area for grieving family members and all too common when there is no health care proxy. [You do have one, don't you?]. Honoring patient preferences is a critical element in providing quality end-of-life care.

Next came the Erie County Board of Ethics, on which he has served as Chair since 2012, and has just been reappointed and thus will continue to serve until 2022. This board is charged with ensuring that elected and appointed officials as well as Erie County employees maintain high moral and ethical standards. The Board ensures that these people do not act for personal or financial interest while performing their public responsibilities.

The third phase has been his service on the IRB (Institutional Review Board) for SUNY at Buffalo medical research including the Research Institute on Addictions. This Board is guided by the principles regarding all research and clinical trials involving people as subjects. Steve's particular interest is the education of those patients involved so they understand all the implications in the tests and trials in which they will participate.

In addition to his ethics volunteerism, Steve joined a United Church of Christ (UCC) Mission to Honduras under New York Help. This mission was charged with setting up medical clinics in tribal areas helping the indigenous people. He joined a team which included Drs. Liz Zausmer and Lito Guitierrez as well as Drs. Jeffrey and Susan Hellmann Schwartz and Nurse Practitioner Ilene Alt. Steve's job was setting up classrooms and dispensing medications in the pharmacy while the medical team performed direct care to the patients.

After working in Central America, Steve decided that he wanted to volunteer with a US-based organization. He decided on the Red Cross and started his training in January 2010. In true Steve-fashion, he went from trainee to trainer in a short period. Sheltering and mental health were his initial focus. His first deployment was to Haiti after a tsunami. He soon moved into a position supervising volunteers. Locally he led trainings, responded to disasters and helped with sheltering those left stranded or homeless by the BIG November 2015 snowstorm. This was a monumental task. Next he set up a 200 bed staff shelter in Alabama after

a tornado and did conflict resolution between staff and volunteers during Superstorm Sandy in New York City.

Also with the Red Cross, Steve took his shelter supervision experience as a Staff Relations Manager and used it working toward conflict resolution between staff and volunteers during the wildfires in California and Hurricane Matthew in North Carolina. Some of the conflicts were behavioral, inadequate performance issues and general personality clashes. His work with the Red Cross was honored in 2015 when he received the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Award.

When Rob Goldberg (CEO/Executive Director of Buffalo Jewish Federation) asked Steve about a Jewish presence at these disasters, Steve responded that he had seen the Southern Baptists as well as an Islamic Relief group on the scenes but was unaware of any organized Jewish presence at these local and national disasters. Thus began his most recent volunteer project, The Buffalo Jewish Service Corps, which he helped establish with his wife Susan Goldberg Schwartz. Using both the Red Cross and the Federation for training and support, imbued with Jewish core values of *tikkun olam* this service corps he helped establish will provide humanitarian support following acute disasters or during period of prolonged need. Steve helped recruit many volunteers and continues to do so. He has already provided disaster relief training which attracted close to thirty potential volunteers. At this training we learned about not only disasters in the community but what we each needed to do personally in our homes and in our communities.

He also engaged psychologist Dr. John Northman to help him train approximately the same number of volunteers in Psychological First Aid—a certified Red Cross program. This training included recognizing disaster-related stress, principles of psychological first-aid and making appropriate referrals. Though this Jewish Service Corps is in its infancy, there has been a terrific response from the community.

For me personally and for the entire Jewish community, Steve is a *giber* - a hero of whom we can be proud. *Bist a molodyets!* Well done!

**Susan Lichtblau, a writer, is the retired Program Director of Gilda's Club of Western New York.**

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# A History of The Forum Club

By David Essrow

THE FORUM CLUB, as we know it today, had its humble beginnings in 1927 on Buffalo's East Side. It was formed by six Jewish teen-age boys - Izzy Criden, Lou Gitlin, Sy Herman, Sid Kushner, Al Weber and Joe Weber. The boys met weekly in each other's homes and paid five cents a week as dues. The club grew modestly until there was a membership of twenty young men.



The newly elected officers of The Forum Club for 2017 were installed by Past President Frank Levin at a Banquet held on October 16th at the Protocol Restaurant.

From L to R: David Essrow, Sergeant-at-Arms; David Norman, Second Vice President; Joseph Zackheim, Financial Secretary; Gerald Brownrout, President; Robert Ackerhalt, First Vice President; Leonard Weiss, Trustee; Robert Joseph, Treasurer; Harold Brody, Trustee. Missing: Joel Brownstein, Secretary. Photo credit: Grace and Milton Ehrenburg

During the Depression years, the club served the purpose of providing a focus for the young men as they were coping with growing up, their family's individual pressures and the overall anxiety of the times. The guys would play games, talk about their future aspirations and generally just hang out on the local streets. Much of their time was spent at the local Jewish Community Center Building, being together as a group. As the members got older, they sponsored dances and parties that brought their friends together. The group eventually became the "Premier" boys club on the North-Side.

The guys continued to sustain the club as they matured, and were continually able to find or develop things in common with each other. World War II interrupted the activities of the club, since many of the members were drafted, or enlisted in the Armed Services.

Upon returning home to Buffalo after the war, the members reunited to continue their association. Since the interests, needs and desires of the members had changed, the organization took on a new appearance. A credit union ("uksie") was formed to provide loans and advances to the members for worthwhile projects or a family's health and welfare issues. To prevent a member's survivor from having the burden to repay the loans, an insurance policy program was instituted to provide for loan repayment, or in the alternative,

the expense of a funeral for a member.

The activities of the club continued to take on new dimensions as the member's interests, once again, changed. Bowling was popular, an annual family picnic was instituted and monthly dinner meetings were scheduled. Speakers were solicited for dinner meetings to discuss timely topics that would be of interest. Field trips were scheduled for sightseeing, education, and mutual camaraderie.

In 1980, the credit union was dissolved because it had outlived its basic purpose. The insurance program was frozen. As the members continued to mature, an increased emphasis on entertainment developed. Group attendance at plays, concerts, theatre, recitals and sporting events became the principal focus of the group's activities.

The Forum Club, today, is the oldest continuing independent club for men of the Jewish faith in the Buffalo area. The club has fifty-five active members who range in age from fifty-five to ninety years. They meet every Wednesday evening throughout the year. Its expressed purpose is to continue to provide an informal and congenial forum for Jewish men to further the teachings and principals of the Jewish religion, as well as a forum to discuss matters of special interest to the Western New York, national and world-wide Jewish Community.

## "C" IS FOR CATARACT

Cataract, which is clouding of the eye lens, affects more than half of Americans aged 65 years and older. This age-related cause of vision loss can occur much earlier due to exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays and a host of other causes (including smoking, use of corticosteroids, and a family history). It is also thought that cataract formation is linked to oxidative changes in the human eye lens, which makes the case for consuming fruits and vegetables containing high amounts of antioxidants. In fact, recent research involving 324 pairs of twins over a decade showed there was a 33 percent lower risk of developing cataracts among women whose diets were rich in

foods containing vitamin C. The symptoms of early cataracts may be improved with new eyeglasses, brighter lighting, anti-glare sunglasses, or magnifying lenses. If these measures do not help, surgery is the only effective treatment. To learn more, please call

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# Richard Lipsitz, Jr.: Working People Matter

By Peter Simon

Deep and unwavering conviction has fueled Richard Lipsitz Jr.'s 38-year career as a local and national labor leader. "I have been passionate about the condition of working people from a very early age," Lipsitz said. "And passionate is probably putting it mildly." Lipsitz, referred to as Dick, got a taste of blue collar life while moving furniture and working at a grocery store and on a newspaper delivery truck. Building on his interest in economics, politics and history, he became a local union president and then a business agent.

Since 2010, he has been a training consultant for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and has conducted instructional sessions in 35 states. While he was a local business agent, Lipsitz led contract negotiations for workers at the former Buffalo General Hospital, Tops Market, Upstate Milk and dozens of nursing homes. Lipsitz, who is 66, remains deeply involved in local advocacy and political action as president of the Western New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, which is a volunteer position.

Lipsitz said he used -- and now teaches -- an approach that seeks the best possible contract for workers while also considering the needs of the employer. That, he said, involves blending advocacy with "honesty and straightforwardness." "We can disagree without being nasty," said Lipsitz, who has written a book on negotiating practices. "That's the only way you can survive in this field. You can't b.s. your way through it. That just doesn't work."

Lipsitz estimated that he has led 10 to 12 strikes, but that none of them drove companies out of business. "You don't sleep much during strikes," he said. "Stress levels are unbelievable. The stakes are very high." Robert A. Doren, an attorney who represented employers before his recent retirement, said Lipsitz -- who sits at the other side of the bargaining table -- has an accurate self-image. "He's really a pleasure to deal with," said Doren, a former partner with Bond Schoeneck and King. "He's a very pragmatic person and he's trustworthy.



Top: Dick Lipsitz and (bottom) speaking at a rally

You know he's not going to pull any nonsense. He's not going to lie to you."

Since about 1960, Lipsitz said, the percentage of workers who are unionized nationally fell from about 28 percent to 11 percent. In addition, he feels President Trump will "make life difficult for ordinary working people" by slashing funding for Medicaid, Social Security, OSHA and other programs championed by the labor movement. "I'm not afraid of that, but I view it as serious challenge," Lipsitz said.

Lipsitz also feels that anti-Semitism is on the rise, and that it is "coalescing" around President Trump through the attitudes of some of his appointees. "I think Jewish people ought to think about that," he said. Lipsitz has been married for 40 years to Elizabeth, a garden designer. The couple has two children: Josie, an attorney in Cleveland,

and Cassie, an art teacher at Buffalo's Lafayette High School. He has two grandchildren, and is the son of Rita and Richard Lipsitz, a long-time local labor attorney who is now retired.

While Lipsitz Jr. is a great believer in preparation, he has no specific game plan about when he will retire and what he will do then. But he looks at his career with a sense of achievement, and has the same general hopes as so many others who are weighing retirement. "There are no regrets about anything," he said. "Generally, I've been a pretty happy person. I want to be happy and healthy for about 25 years and do some more writing. I'd like to stay as youthful as possible as long as possible."

*Peter Simon is a retired Buffalo News reporter and an active Congregation Shir Shalom member.*

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# Kilby Bronstein:

## Leading by Example

By Jana Eisenberg

In the human experience, each of us tends to base our priorities on our combined life experiences. Young business owner, philanthropist and community member Kilby Morgan Bronstein is no exception, though she seems to have a laser-like ability to act upon and incorporate her clarifying moments, and all so far, in her first 24 years on this planet.

As a child, Bronstein lived in Boston, NY, and attended Elmwood Franklin School and Buffalo Seminary. She's aware of her upbringing's inherent contradictions. "I grew up on a horse farm, with few neighbors," she said. "We made our own fun: built forts in the woods and swam in ponds. That made me independent. It was also fun to come into the city—to visit friends in their neighborhoods, go to coffee shops, bike around."

Her parents, Jennifer Price Bronstein and the late Ronald Bronstein, brought her up to appreciate her dual heritages. "I am Jewish and Presbyterian," she said. "Mom is Presbyterian; she respected my father's culture, and made sure we understood both. Dad wanted us to believe and have faith in what we wanted. We celebrated Yom Kippur and Chanukah with my bubbe."

While her father set a disciplined example with a focus on business, the horses, and family, her mother also instilled the habit of helping others.

"My mom volunteered for Roswell's Paint Box Project. When I was in sixth grade, a close family friend got very sick with cancer," said Bronstein. "That was also when cancer started being spoken of more openly. I volunteered for Paint Box at the time, as well. Through the program, pediatric cancer patients' artwork is made into holiday cards and other products, and sold with the funds benefitting Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Working with those kids changed my life. They were so sick, yet they adored me; their parents loved me and I loved them. And so, I became a youth leadership member and got my classmates involved." As a high school senior, the Association of Fundraising Professionals honored her for this work as their youth philanthropist of the year.

For undergraduate work, she chose Hobart & William Smith Colleges, which were "far enough away, but still close to home," because she wanted to be nearby to remain involved in her younger sister's life. While there, several formative events occurred. First, after starting out as an economics/business major, feeling overwhelmed, she switched her major to writing. "My amazing advisor guided me through curating an independent studies curriculum. In addition to taking some of the



Kilby Bronstein

school's great classes, I also created my own newspaper," she said.

During college vacations and the summers, she'd come home, spending time with family. She also interned in New York City, a rite of passage for many Western New York young adults. A trip abroad added another layer to her growing experiences. Then, she started learning some harder lessons. "During my senior year, my sister was diagnosed with Bell's Palsy, which really threw the family," she said. And, in early 2014, before her final semester of college, her father passed away suddenly.

"I graduated—I gave the student commencement speech. But my dad's dying changed me, and changed our family; our lives had revolved around the strong bond we had with him," she said. "I realized how important it was to be here in Buffalo, and decided to come home. As I was healing with my mom and sister, and figuring out my life, I realized how cool the city of Buffalo was. Everywhere you looked, something was happening. I decided that I wanted to stay and be a part of it."

While helping her mother manage her father's real estate and development business, and also expanding her own experience as a social media professional,

several more things became apparent. "Working alongside my mom on my dad's business, we became business partners," said Bronstein. "Going through the process of selling a suburban apartment complex, we realized we didn't want to be landlords; we wanted to be part of Buffalo."

When family friend and founder of Half & Half Boutique Debbie Sidel called Bronstein out of the blue, it seemed like fate. "I had worked at Half & Half when I was in high school. When Debbie called, I thought maybe she needed someone to cover for a few hours," recalled Bronstein. "Then she said she wanted to sell the store, and asked if I had any interest in buying it."

So, at the age of 22, during what she calls "those exploring years" between college and "becoming an adult," Bronstein said "YES." It was, she said, a fast-forwarding of her plans. "I didn't just want to buy the business, we wanted to buy the building, and upgrade and modernize it," said Bronstein. "Jen (Kilby's mother) and I are fifty-fifty partners, but it was my project. I did the business plan, got a loan, worked with the architect, building inspectors, contractor, all the different vendors and types of people. I had ideas, and wanted things certain ways." The store's slogan is "Passionately chosen," and she says that everything—from the materials that make up the shop to the lines she carries—follows that dictum.

Her Jewish heritage and Buffalo's Jewish community have gained importance in her life. "My dad was my 'Jewish connection'; it was very meaningful to be asked to be an up-and-coming Jewish entrepreneur in Buffalo, because that was something that was his," she said. "I value being part of the really strong community here; I want to grow with it. There is a special connection between people who are Jewish; an instant bond and friendship. My best friends are all Jewish."

And, of course, philanthropy remains an integral part of her DNA. "We recently held an event in the store and raised \$600 for the WNY Food Bank. It didn't seem like a lot—but it's enough for 600 meals," she said. "Going forward, philanthropy will be a big part of everything. It's important to me and important to my mom."

***Jana Eisenberg is a frequent contributor to the Jewish Journal. She contributes to many other local, regional and national publications.***

# Heart Healthy Moroccan Stew

By Robin Kurss

Well, it is February...Heart Healthy Month. Trying to stick to my New Year's Resolutions, too.

This is a variation of my daughter Nicole's Moroccan Chickpea Stew....It will keep you warm AND healthy!

## Moroccan Chickpea Stew

Serves 6



- 2 T olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 t. cumin
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 butternut squash, 1" dice
- 3/4 lb. potatoes, 1" dice
- 2 c. veggie broth
- 2 c. chickpeas, drained
- 14 oz. can stewed tomatoes, with juice
- 1 c. green olives, pitted
- salt and pepper to taste
- couscous on which to serve stew

### To garnish:

- cilantro leaves
- slivered almonds
- plain Greek yogurt

1. Heat oil in Dutch oven
  2. Add onion, garlic, cumin and cinnamon; sauté until onions are soft
  3. Add squash, potatoes-cook 3 minutes  
Add broth, chickpeas, tomatoes. Bring to boil and reduce to low. Cover and simmer 10 minutes until squash and potatoes are tender.
  4. Remove from heat, serve in bowls over couscous and garnish with cilantro, almonds and yogurt.
- Just so you know how healthy this really is:

- 276 calories/serving
- 9.4 g of fat, only 2.2 saturated
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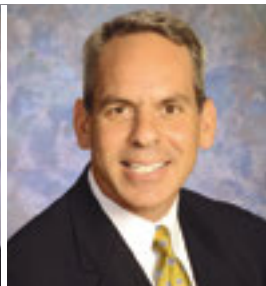
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## 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in February to repair the world

- 1» Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper offers four brand new snowshoeing tours**, so bring along your family and friends for some outdoor fun! Tours are free to attend and participants will have the opportunity to sign out a pair of snowshoes for no additional charge! **All tours will be in the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area. Contact Wendy Paterson, Community Liaison, at [wpaterson@bnriverkeeper.org](mailto:wpaterson@bnriverkeeper.org) or 716-852-7483 ext 26.**
- 2» 11th Annual Sweet Charity to benefit the Food Bank of WNY Thursday, February 2. 5-8pm Adams Mark.** Tickets are \$50 each. Call 852-1305 or go to [www.foodbankofwny.org](http://www.foodbankofwny.org) to buy tickets.
- 3» JCC Spinathon to benefit The Ride For Roswell** Sunday, February 12, 12 pm-4pm. JCC Holland Building. Take one spinning class for \$50 or all 4. Donations benefit the Ride for Roswell. **Get more info at [spin@flynnandfriends.com](mailto:spin@flynnandfriends.com), and sign up at [bit.ly/JCCSpinathon](http://bit.ly/JCCSpinathon).**
- 4» Fifth Annual Sweetheart Soiree.** HEART Animal Rescue and Adoption Team, Inc. hosts its 5th Annual Sweetheart Soiree event. Cocktails, dinner and desserts. The event is Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 6 to 10 pm. Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Road in Depew, NY. **Tickets are also available at both of Adoption Centers (4219 Transit Road in the Transitown Plaza behind TJMax -or- 48 Buffalo Street, Village of Hamburg) -or- by calling 716.225.1183. Tickets/ \$50 per person and includes an open bar**
- 5» 40th Anniversary Blizzard Ball: Resilience.** The Allentown Association presents the 40th Anniversary Blizzard Ball: Resilience, a fundraiser to support the Allentown community. Resilience will include: Two Music Acts showcasing live music and DJs, catered food from Allentown restaurants, Open Bar, Free Valet \* Dress to impress, but feel free to get creative. \*\* Send us any photos you may have from the big storm! **Sat, Feb 25, 2017, 8:00 PM. Porter Hall - Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 453 Porter Avenue. Call 881-1024**

## WHERE IN JBFLO ?



### Where is this Harvey Breverman painting found in Western New York?

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*In January, Marcia Carr, Wynne Trinca, Ellen and Steve Lipa and Karen Simon Nieman correctly identified the photo which is a monument at the gates of Holy Order of the Living Cemetery on Pine Ridge Road and is dedicated to the Sokelifkers who died in pogroms in Ukraine.*

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www.hillelofbuffalo.org

### Holocaust Resource Center

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### Jewish Discovery Center

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## Attention Snowbirds!

Due to postal regulations, the *Jewish Journal of Western New York* will no longer be forwarded to "temporary change" addresses. If you plan to be away from your permanent address and will have your first class mail forwarded to your temporary address and would like to continue to receive the *Jewish Journal* over the winter or the summer, please call Nadine Ryback at 716-204-2248 to give us your "temporary" address. Thank you!



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## CATS at Shir Shalom / TBT School

Cultural Arts Tuesdays (CATS) happen at the Shir Shalom/ Temple Beth Tzedek Hebrew School on Tuesday afternoons. In these photos, teachers Gunilla Kester and Ronna Glickman captivated the students with lessons on *gemilut chasidim* (kindness), *lashon hara* (gossip), internet safety, *tedukah* (giving) and being responsible individuals.



## TBZ Brotherhood's Achim 2/12

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion's Achim program will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 12, at the lounge in the Weinberg Campus Meadows Building, located on the second floor, at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068. The program is held in the building across from the rear entrance to the Jewish Community Center.

The featured speaker will be Steven Rice. Mr. Rice is a pharmacologist who will be speaking on "Safe use of Medication by Seniors". He has previously been our guest and was very popular. His information is timely and important for all. Achim is a monthly program for the benefit of the residents and their guests at the Weinberg Campus and is open to the public at no cost. All are welcome and questions will be encouraged. For further information, please contact Ken Graber, at 681-9885, Kamas5@aol.com.

## Rep. Brian Higgins @ Shir Shalom Brotherhood



## Hanukkah at Congregation Beth Abraham

Congregation Beth Abraham celebrated Hanukkah this past season, first with the Jewish Movie group in December where you can see a group shot of the audience singing a Hanukkah song before the start of the film, *My Lovely Sister*. The screening was followed by dinner at Tokyo-Shanghai Bistro. The second photo is from our Hanukkah party and golden oldies sing along, December 28. Pictured in foreground, Susan Braun and Jim Carr, background, Enid Edelman, Shelly Kerker, Deborah Goldman and Rachel Anderson



## Legislator Rath allocates funding for Jewish Community Center Cultural Arts

Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath, III announced that the Erie County Legislature has supported his requests to fund the Jewish Repertory Theatre \$8,400 in the 2017 Erie County budget. The Legislature approved the request at the annual budget meeting held in December.

"The cultural arts programming is a highly regarded aspect of The Jewish Community Center. For years it has been recognized for its commitment to preserving Jewish life themes and values for WNY audiences of diverse backgrounds. I am proud to increase the Erie County allocation of resources to the JCC including the Jewish Repertory Theatre so that its valuable programming and events can be augmented and expanded," said Legislator Rath.



"The Jewish Community Center is thrilled to learn of this announcement that demonstrates Erie County's commitment to cultural arts in our communities. This increased support will assist the JCC in providing a range of programs to participants of all ages and backgrounds, enhancing educational and cultural experiences through the Jewish Repertory Theatre, Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, JCC Book and Arts Fair and two art galleries. We look forward to continuing this partnership with Erie County and promoting programs that inspire creativity and innovation as well as showcasing talented Western New York artists," said Jordana Halpern, director of Cultural Arts at the Jewish Community Center of Western New York.

The additional funding was added into the 2017 budget without increasing overall spending in the next fiscal year. In fact, the property tax rate will decrease for the third consecutive year.

**Dust off your legwarmers, tease up your hair!**

**Come to TBZ for Sha-80's Shira or be square!**

**Friday, February 10th  
7 pm**

**SHABBAT SHIRA (Shabbat of Song)**

We will be digging deep into our mix tapes for songs of the 80's as the TBZ band and choir take us down memory lane!



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WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 22, 2017  
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## BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



### Itzhak Perlman's Cinema Serenade

Sat. Feb. 25, 8PM

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

The incomparable Itzhak Perlman joins the BPO to perform music from his favorite films: *Casablanca*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *Out of Africa*, *Schindler's List*, and more.

### Brahms' Requiem

Sat. Feb. 18, 8PM  
Sun. Feb. 19, 2:30PM

JoAnn Falletta, conductor  
Deborah Selig, soprano  
Darren Stokes, baritone  
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

**M&T Bank CLASSICS**



### A Valentine Romance

Fri. Feb. 10, 10:30AM  
Sat. Feb. 11, 8PM

John Morris Russell, conductor

Lisa Vroman, vocalist

Great love songs from Broadway and the American songbook, plus the BPO performs romantic classics. The annual Sweetheart Dance follows the Saturday concert.

**KeyBank POPS**

The Coffee Concert series is presented by



### Drums Around the World

Sun. Feb. 12, 2:30PM  
Stefan Sanders, conductor

Free pre-concert activities start at 1:30pm



**BPOkids**

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WET2016

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

## This Month's Events

### February 2

**East Side/West Side-BJE Adult Education Classes begin.** 1-2:30 pm.

Tuesdays for 8 weeks. Taught by Dr. Chana Kotzin. \$90 + textbook.

Call Ethel Melzer- 204-5380

for info or to register.

### February 5

**S'More of Centerland**-12:30-2:30pm.  
JCC/ Benderson Family Building. Registration for Camp Lakeland's 2017 summer kicks off with fun, games and surprises. Call 688-4033 for more info.

### February 9

**JRT's production of After the Revolution**

begins at 7:30 pm.

It runs through March 3.

Go to [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com) for ticket price, dates and times, or call 204-2084

### February 10

**PALS Tu B'Shevat Seder.**

11:15 am. TBZ.

700 Sweet Home Road.

**Shabbat Shira @ TBZ**

celebrating Cantor Penny Myers'

10 years at TBZ. 7:00 pm.

805 Delaware Ave.

Call 836-6565.

### February 11

**Tu B'Shevat—the New Year of Trees** Observed.

**TBZ Stained Glass—**

Colored Musicians Club Concert. 7:00 pm. 805 Delaware Ave.

Call 836-6565 for more information.

### February 12

**Temple Beth Zion's Achim Group.**

10 am at Weinberg Campus Meadows Building featuring Steve Rice speaking on Pharmacology for Seniors.

Call 836-6565.

**JCC Spin-A Thon to Support the Ride for Roswell.** 12 noon-4 pm.

JCC Holland Building,

787 Delaware Avenue. 4 spinning classes, \$50 each to support Ride for Roswell. Call 881-2697 for more info.

### February 20

**Presidents' Day Observed**

### February 26

**Mental Health Series on Caregivers**

at Temple Beth Tzedek. 621 Getzville Road. 10:00-11:30 am. Call 838-3232.

**Dungeons & Droidles:**

**Purim Campaign** at the JCC/Benderson Building from 12:00 pm-5:00 pm. Contact [www.DungeonsNDroidles.org](http://www.DungeonsNDroidles.org).

## "Federation Subcommittee on Israeli Food" meeting in Jerusalem:

Dr. Gil Wolfe and David Schiller with Sgt. Moshe of the IDF, combat veteran from 2014 Operation "Tzuk Eitan," enjoying lunch at Azura in Jerusalem. Dave and Bev Schiller met Sgt. Moshe on the Federation mission during "Tzuk Eitan." Gil's mother, Chaya, and Dave's friend, Dan, are also pictured. Azura is considered by some the best place to eat in Jerusalem, located in Machane Yehudah market, serving slow-cooked Jewish Turkish cuisine.



## SENDING OUR HANUKKAH GELT TO THE NEEDY



At Buffalo Jewish Federation, the end of the year often means exchanging gifts with co-workers. This year, however, the staff of Federation decided to donate the money they would have spent on gifts to Ladies of Charity, a recipient of funds from *The Buffalo News* Neediest Fund. More than \$300 was donated to the holiday fund. In the photo above, you can see Carolyn Kwiatkowski, daughter of Buffalo Jewish Federation Executive Assistant Joan Kwiatkowski, packing up boxes to send to families for the holiday. Carolyn works for Catholic Charities, which oversees Ladies of Charity.

## Curtiss Hotel lit up in Buffalo during Hanukkah! Thank you Mark Croce!



Here is a photo taken of the lighting at the new Curtiss Building where the Curtiss Hotel & Chez Ami Restaurant will be opened in a few months. Owner Mark Croce (who also owns the Buffalo Chophouse) decked the new place out and arranged the lights in celebration of Hanukkah and to acknowledge all of his Jewish friends and patrons.

Celebrate your next event with us.

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## Celebrate Children's Dental Health Month

Schedule Your Child's Dental Cleaning and Check Up



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# Plant it.

Tu B'Shevat, our "Jewish Earth Day", marks the New Year of Trees. We celebrate by planting trees and eating dried fruits and nuts. Which parts of Jewish life nourish and inspire you?

When you leave a Jewish legacy, you ensure that what you cherish most about Jewish life will continue to sustain, nurture and delight the generations to come.

To learn more about leaving a legacy and to arrange a personal and confidential consultation, contact Peter Fleischmann, Foundation Director at 716-204-1133 or send an email to him at [peter@jewishphilanthropies.org](mailto:peter@jewishphilanthropies.org)

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2640 North Forest Road, Suite 200  
Getzville, New York 14068

# FEBRUARY IS JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS AND INCLUSION MONTH

*Cindi Mikulik, Yad B'Yad Director*

February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. It is an opportunity to reflect on the varying abilities of the members of our community and to ask ourselves if we are including and properly accommodating everyone.

Traditional Judaism takes a very compassionate approach to the disabled. Many of our Biblical leaders were disabled in some way. Moses had a speech impairment. While he tried to convince G-d to choose someone else to lead the Jews to the Promised Land, G-d wanted Moses for the job because of his abilities. G-d gave Moses the accommodation he needed to effectively lead the people — his brother Aaron would be his interpreter. With Aaron at his side, Moses led the people. Like Moses, members of the Jewish community with special needs are expected to fulfill the mitzvot to the best of their ability and to participate in Jewish life — traditions, holidays, life cycle events, learning, etc.

The Rabbis explain and give many examples of how someone with a disability can fulfill the mitzvot. Individuals with vision impairments are encouraged to thank G-d for creating light. While a person who is vision impaired may not be able to see the light, those around him/her that are able to see, can prevent accidents. In short, "The Rabbis restricted a disabled person's duties and eligibility only to those areas affected by the disability." (Rabbi Elliott Dorff)

Rabbi Elliott Dorff proposed a "Copernican Revolution" when dealing with people with special needs and society. He suggests that, since we will all eventually be disabled in some way, we should view society as primarily disabled with some members being less disabled than others. "Instead of thinking about humane treatment for the disabled as being motivated by our own compassion or G-d's commandment, we would see it as simply caring for ourselves."

To that end, Yad B'Yad is spearheading a community-wide program aimed at raising awareness of individuals with special needs in our community and "normalizing" Jewish life for all members — regardless of their abilities. Yad B'Yad is partnering with the Board of Rabbis and Cantors and the Education Directors



to raise awareness of the varying abilities among our community members and asking all of us to look at our community through the eyes of a person with special needs — and make the adjustments so that all of our "Jewish places" become normal for everyone.

During Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, our Clergy and Yad B'Yad committee members will be addressing all congregations at a Shabbat Service during the month of February. In addition, there will be Religious School and Hebrew Day School programs. Schools will be given lesson plans on this topic, and students will enjoy a performing arts presentation given by performers with special needs.

Yad B'Yad (*Hebrew for Hand in Hand*) provides outreach, advocacy and program support that assists people with disabilities to achieve full participation in the Jewish and Buffalo communities. Our goal is to enrich the spiritual and communal lives of individuals with and without disabilities by expanding friendships, sharing mutual talents, and fostering an appreciation of individual differences. Yad B'Yad participants represent all races and faiths. Everyone is welcome!

**If you have any questions about Yad B'Yad programs or if you, or someone you know, would like to get involved as a participant or volunteer, please contact: Cindi Mikulik, Director at 716 204 5380, or by e-mail: [yadbbyad@bjebuffalo.org](mailto:yadbbyad@bjebuffalo.org). You can visit the Yad B'Yad website at [www.yadbbyad.org](http://www.yadbbyad.org).**

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

# JCC Spin-A-Thon for The Ride For Roswell



**Times:** Take 1 to 4, 45-minute sessions at 12, 1, 2, and 3 p.m. on Sun. Feb. 12

**Place:** JCC Holland Family Building, 787 Delaware Ave.

**Donation:** \$50 per session

**Register:** [bit.ly/JCCSpinathon](http://bit.ly/JCCSpinathon)

**More Info:** [Spin@flynnandfriends.com](mailto:Spin@flynnandfriends.com)

**February challenge!** Spin 1, 2, 3, or all 4 sessions for cancer research and patient care at Roswell Park!

Expect great music and workouts, snacks, energy drinks, prizes, and more. All funds raised will credit towards JCC spinning instructor Ken Rogers' goal of raising \$10,000 for this year's Ride For Roswell.

**Can't spin? Support Ken at [bit.ly/KenRogersRide](http://bit.ly/KenRogersRide)**



JCC of Greater Buffalo



**Register at: [bit.ly/JCCSpinathon](http://bit.ly/JCCSpinathon)**

# Dungeons & Dreidels

By Matthew L. Schwartz

On Sunday, December 18, community members came together to re-enact the Maccabees' historic revolt (through electronic games) against Antiochus to reclaim the Temple, and the miracle of light that occurred there! Our adventurers came together for hours of Jewish history, folktales, lore, and gaming fun!

Dungeons & Dreidels, a new group in Buffalo, uses the Dungeons & Dragons game's 5E Players Guide (abbreviated as D&D or DnD) as a roadmap for imagination, storytelling, acting, turn taking, and fantasy.

D&D, originally designed by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson was first published in 1974, and continues to be a popular way today for folks of all ages to come together and tell interactive, collaborative stories, where the ending is never certain, and the plot can change at a moment's notice! Dungeons & Dreidels has embraced this platform as a way of diving headfirst into Jewish history and spirituality by placing each adventurer in the shoes of our heroes and heroines.

Please join us for our Purim Campaign on Sunday, February 26, 2016 from 12:00-5:00PM at the JCC in Getzville (2640 North Forest Road, Room 210, Getzville) as we join forces with Esther and Mordechai to fight Haman and save our people! Snacks (including gluten free) will be served, there is no charge, no RSVP, and no experience necessary!

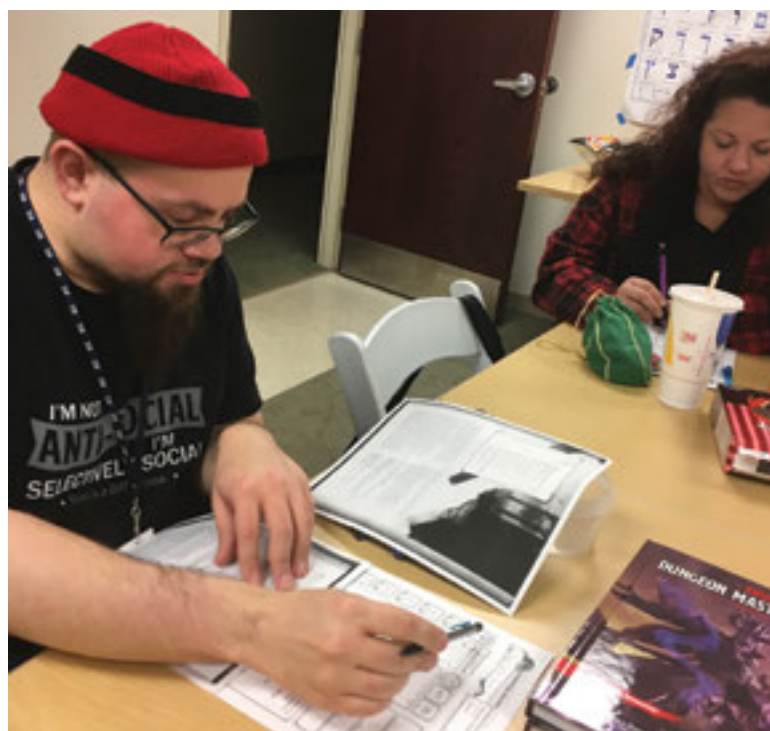
*Dungeons & Dreidels brings together Jewish gamers across Western New York for tabletop role playing games with a Jewish twist. Open to all, free of charge, and family friendly, we pass on a love of our history and heritage through interactive storytelling and the power of imagination. We are a fully inclusive group, and have braille dice, non-verbal communication aids, and American Sign Language (ASL) gamers and story tellers to create a welcoming environment for all. Please connect with us at [DungeonsNDreidels.org](http://DungeonsNDreidels.org) or find us on Facebook at [FB.com/DungeonsNDreidels](https://www.facebook.com/DungeonsNDreidels)*



All participants received a free, Blue & White D20 (D20 is slang for a 20 Sided Die) as a Chanukah Present from Dungeons & Dreidels.



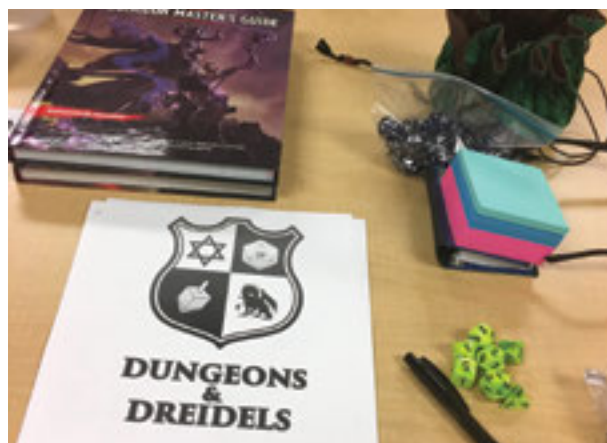
Robert Rondinaro from Hillel of Buffalo getting ready to play a Bard!



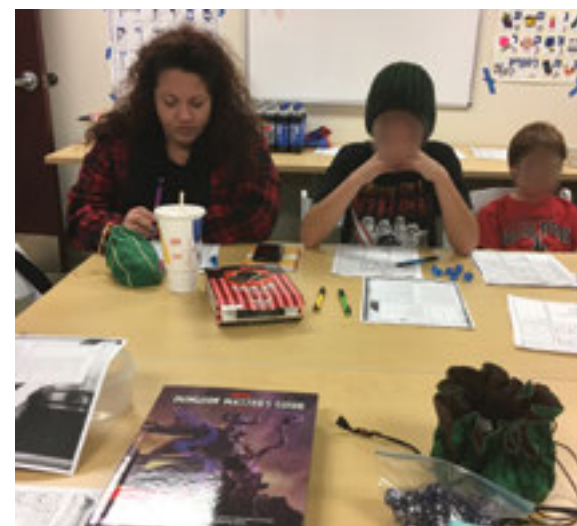
Zach Berue and Jackie Rodriguez going over character sheets before the game starts to learn what skills their characters do and don't have, and to figure out how they're going to play Maccabees.



Neil Striker & Emma Duncan; Neil is going over his Character Sheet to learn what skills his character does and does not have, and to figure out how he's going to play a Maccabee. Emma is ready for her role as a NPC (Non-Player Character).



Gaming Supplies ready to go! Dungeons & Dreidels logo generously created by Yan Shmatnik, local artist, graphic designer, entrepreneur, and leader.



Jackie Rodriguez and the Striker Boys preparing to set off from the House of Matityahu ben Yoanan HaKohen toward Jerusalem

“

I am the sole survivor of a large and loving family ...  
Torture and mass murders of numerous ethnic groups  
throughout thousands of years have scarred mankind's history.  
It is my mission to eliminate the scourge of all  
genocides from the human race.

”

B"H



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# DR. JACOB EISENBACH

SHARING HIS MIRACULOUS JOURNEY FROM OPPRESSION TO FREEDOM



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7:00 PM

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AN EVENT HONORING THE 4TH YARTZEIT OF REBBETZIN SHAINA O.B.M CHARITONOW ON THE 14TH OF SHVAT

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There's  
something about  
the JCC

# It's happening at the



## S'MORE OF CENTERLAND

Join us as we kick off  
**Summer 2017**  
camp registration!



New for Summer 2017, now accepting campers entering K-10

Huge Discounts for those that put a \$25.00 deposit  
down per child per week on this day!  
Early Bird discounts also available!

**February 5 12:30-2:30pm**

**FREE and open to everyone**

**Activities include:**

**magician • bounce house • basket raffle • rock wall • s'more snack • crafts**



**Grades: K-6 | 8:00am-6:00pm**

When schools are closed, camp  
is in session. CCVC days include  
a field trip or special guest and  
some of our popular Centerland  
activities such as sport, omanut  
(arts & crafts), climbing, madah  
(science), and more.  
Bring a lunch, sneakers, swim suit  
and towel.  
Open to all.  
member discount \$50/day | \$60/day



February Recess  
Feb. 20-24 | #17809



February Recess  
Feb. 20-24 | #17820

For more information - Shea Akers: 688-4114 x303

**Grades: K-6 | 6:00-10:00pm**



**Saturday Night Out**

As parents enjoy a night out, kids will  
have a blast at the J. Each Saturday  
Night Out (SNO) offers a different  
twist! To ensure proper staffing,  
RSVP by 5:00pm the Thursday prior  
to the event. Kids should eat dinner  
prior to drop-off.  
Open to all.

member discount \$20/child | \$25/child



March 4 | #17810  
May 6 | Save the Date



Feb. 4 | #17819  
April 8 | #17824

For more information - Christine Dusher: 886-3172 x420



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**A SEASON OF  
AMY HERZOG**

**AFTER THE REVOLUTION**  
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Jewish  
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[www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org)

Benderson Family Building



**Getzville**

2640 North Forest Road  
behind UB North  
(716) 688-4033

Holland Family Building



**Buffalo**

787 Delaware Avenue  
at Summer Street  
(716) 886-3145

**JCC Hours**

Sun	8:00am - 6:00pm
Mon-Thurs	5:30am - 9:30pm
Friday	5:30am - 7:00pm
Sat	8:00am - 6:00pm

# MIDOR L'DOR- FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION AT OHR TEMIMIM

By Mrs. Laurie Rashkin

More than 20 years ago, a few parents gathered to discuss what possibilities there were to provide their children with a Torah-based education in Buffalo. There was a new challenge. The previous Orthodox day-school, Torah Temimah, which, under the direction of Mrs. Miriam Gurary (ob'm), had served the community so well for many years had closed. It was decided to open a new school even though there would only be 12 students.

We searched for a principal and a young couple applied. Rabbi Shmuel Shanowitz and his wife, Rochie, proved to be an extraordinary and dedicated team. Year by year, they nurtured the school's students, parents and faculty. They navigated the endless challenges and crises that had to be surmounted to keep the school growing and to ensure high academic standards. Today the school is housed in a new building with over a hundred



Mushkie Avtzon with daughter Chaya; Jonathan Gellman, with daughter Elisheva and Gila; Yehudis Lorber with daughter Rivkah and sons Eli and Mendel



students. The greatest challenge every Jewish family has today is to instill their children with a genuine love for Torah, Israel, and their Jewish brethren--all while growing up as good citizen in our country. Jewish continuity can only be assured if children receive a deep and meaningful Jewish education and grow up in homes

that are illuminated with Torah values. It is a great source of pleasure to see our children now sending their children to Ohr Temimim.

Alumnus and now parent Jonathan Gellman noted, "It is remarkable to see how the school has grown. When I began attending Ohr Temimim (JHDS at the time), there were 16 children in the school. When I graduated in 2001, the school was

still renting space in the JCC. Today, my eldest daughter has more than 16 children in her class."

Yehudis Lorber said, "I graduated in the year 2000. When I was at school, we were located in the JCC building and shared the hallway of our school with the Kadimah school. Because there were so few students, my class consisted of 4-8th grade and was co-ed. For many classes, we were given individual work while the teacher worked with a specific grade, and I was the only 7th grader in the school. Now, by contrast, the school has its own building which was recently renovated to cater to its growing numbers."

Mushkie Avtzon said, "I graduated in 2004. The school is very different because there are so many more students. The school building has expanded and with it there is an added energy! But the same great staff is running the school."

## 32nd Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

**13 critically acclaimed films** from around the world including Canada, France, Germany, Israel, the United Kingdom and USA

**Director Alan Feinberg** at Bagels over Berlin, March 17 3:30 p.m.

**4 Films** from The Ma'aleh School of Film and Television (Jerusalem)

**Kickoff party** Monday, March 6, 7 p.m., at The Screening Room, now at its new location in the Boulevard Mall, 880 Alberta Drive, Amherst, NY.

*Includes: Sweet & Savory movie snack buffet station, beverages & film (cash bar) plus 1 free ticket to any other film during the BIJFF, March 17 - 23 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre.*

**\$36/person**



# Nickel City Jews Celebration!

Jewish Buffalo was shining bright at LiFT Nightclub on December 17th, 2016 when Nickel City Jews celebrated the Festival of Lights. The night featured an interactive performance from Musicality Central dancers, flash metallic temporary tattoos, latkes and donuts and an Artisan Hanukkah Menorahs raffle, which benefitted Jewish Family Service refugee Families. It was an amazing night in the Nickel City. Cheers to everyone who celebrated with us!



# Hannukkah at Chabad

Hanukkah celebrations in 5776 for Chabad of Buffalo took place in the Tops International parking lot, at Canalside this year for the first time with Mayor Byron Brown and New York State Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul and at the Wonderland at Kneset Center.



## Hanukkah at Havurah



Maynard Luterman, Rich Besesi, Nadine Stein, Len Katz and Art Edelman were among Congregation Havurah members who prepared and served a turkey dinner at the South Buffalo Community Table's Christmas Soup Kitchen. Havurah members also served and prepared Christmas meals at the Durham AME Zion Church in Buffalo in its long tradition of serving meals to feed the hungry and needy among us

## TBZ Family Chanukah party



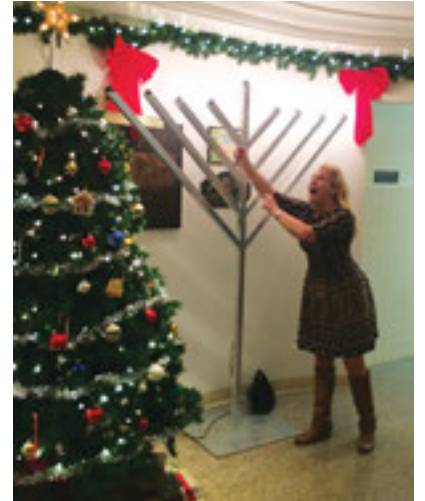
Temple Beth Zion's Junior Choir sang during Sisterhood's Family Chanukah party.

## Kadimah Academy Celebrates Hanukkah!

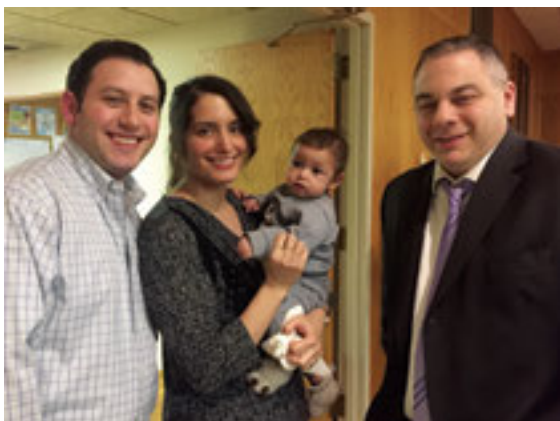


## Menorah Lighting in Amherst Town Hall

Photos from the lighting of the Hanukiah at Amherst Town Hall: Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and his children lit night four. Cantor Mark Spindler lit night five. Cantor Penny Suzanne Myers lit night six. The clergy gave a short enjoyable history lesson and then led the various town employees and guests in attendance in the prayers and a Hanukkah song. For night six, everyone was treated to latkes and apple sauce from the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café compliments of Deputy Supervisor Steven Sanders.

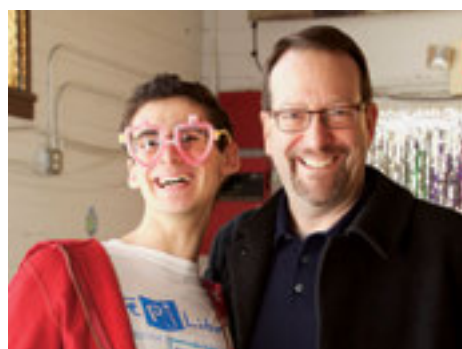
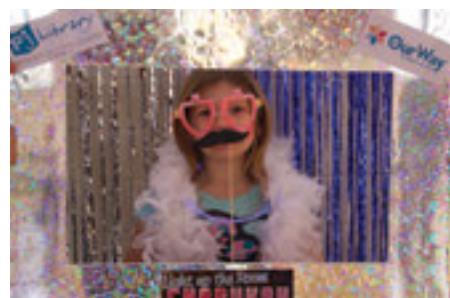
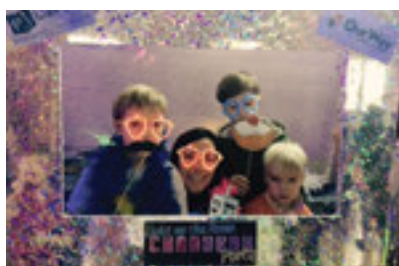
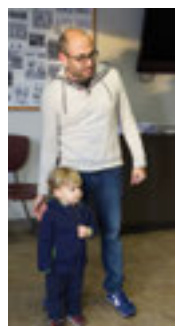


## Young Israel Hanukkah Celebration



# PJ Library

PJ Library and PJ Our Way hosted a Gala Hanukkah party at the Park School in December.



# Hanukkah with JDC and Miss Rivky

The Jewish Discovery Center hosted a large group of mothers and children in Rivky Greenberg's Pre-Chanukah music class. Miss Rivky welcomed many new families to this class, who all loved their first "Music with Rivky" experience.

The children sang about the dreidel while shaking their dreidel shakers, jumped together into a jumbo Magic Dreidel, hopped with the giant inflatable dreidel, learned about the Chanukah miracle, sang several Menorah counting songs, did a fun Maccabee March, the "Dreidel Hokey Pokey" and learned a cool Twinkle Twinkle Chanukah Lights song to slow down at the end of music class! They loved the delicious homemade doughnuts, as well as the chocolate Chanukah gelt Miss Rivky handed out to each child.

For more information on upcoming classes or to join the mailing list, please log on to [www.musicwithrivky.com](http://www.musicwithrivky.com) or contact Rivky at [info@musicwithrivky.com](mailto:info@musicwithrivky.com) or (716) 906-8890.



Tyler and his mom, Heather, enjoyed this new music class and loved the inflatable dreidel!



Brady loved his first experience at Music with Rivky. Pictured here with his grandma, Ruth.



Trey and his mom Lisa shook the Maccabee shakers. Pictured here with Miss Rivky



Penelope loved her dreidel shaker!



A wonderful Pre-Chanukah music class with lots of new and old families!



Miss Rivky, sporting a Menorah pair of glasses, sang and taught about the Menorah!



Binah, Nissa and their children shook the dreidel shakers!

## Hanukkah @ Buffalo's Jewish Group Home

By Vickie Rubin

Buffalo has a Jewish Group home, which is administered by People Inc, but this is more than a group home, it is a family. For over eight years, five women have been living together as mishpachah. Each woman and her extended family celebrate joy and sadness, health and illness, holidays and other life milestones.

Hanukkah means dedication and if you visit our daughter's home, for even a short moment, you will see dedication from families, staff and friends. This Hanukkah we had the pleasure of sharing it with Rivky Greenberg. Rivky came with her keyboard, Hanukkah spirit, holiday gear and of course, her beautiful voice. She led our daughters, friends and family in an energetic, gleeful chorus of songs and music!

The smiles on everyone's faces are proof of the spirit and joy that Rivky brought to our celebration. Our guests ranged from 5 months to almost 91 years of age and each person enjoyed the musical evening!

Each woman lit the Haniukkah candles and their glow, representing the Festival of Lights, was evident in the smiles and voices of our group. It's a beautiful thing, as a parent, to see dedication to our daughters from family, our friends, People Inc. and our community! Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year! May you have health, love, joy, music and friendship this year!



# (NOT) THE LAST WORD

## Teaching a Love for Reading (With Love)

By Karen Wiseman

Volunteering to tutor students with reading. It just seemed the most natural thing for me to do. I am a retired special education teacher, having taught in the Buffalo Public schools for 29 years. Retirement came a little too early for me. It was totally unexpected and I found that I missed the kids dearly. Friends had spoken about the Federation-sponsored Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy Program at Highgate Heights (Buffalo Public School # 80) so I knew that once I retired I would want to participate in the program. With that in mind, four years ago I called Amy Heumann, one of the coordinators of the program and offered to volunteer on Thursday mornings.

Highgate Heights is an under-performing Buffalo Public school with most of the population living under the poverty rate. The children come from poor inner-city homes, and many of them have meager educational resources at home. Most children probably are not read to at night or have not had a lot of

enriching experiences outside of their daily school program. Thanks to Amy Heumann's book donation project though, each child-Pre-K to Grade 4 receives 9 books a year as part of Amy's Book Giveaway program.

So the children may have books at home, but the home environment may not be conducive for parents to read to the children



Karen Wiseman with her class at School 80

each night. This is the population where I spent my teaching career, and I am very much at home working with these children. The Literacy program involves volunteering 1 hour a week in a classroom up to 4th grade and listening to one student or a small group of students read to you. Studies show that increased opportunities to read will improve children's reading scores. Studies also show that children who can read by 4th Grade have a much better chance at lifelong success. I believe that this is the foundation of the national Jewish Coalition for literacy program, of which the Buffalo Jewish Federation has been affiliated for 15 years.

This is my second year volunteering with first graders and it is so much fun! The kids greet me with such enthusiasm! They always ask, "Can I work with you today, please?" And I always say, "I would love to, but we have to see what Mrs. Burke says." The two hours I

am there on Thursday mornings go by so quickly. Mrs. Burke, the classroom teacher, has prepared a basket of reading games and books for me and a list of the kids I will be working with each day. It's fascinating to watch young children emerge into readers. They use a variety of methods to decode words and no two kids ever learn in the same way. That is why there is so much value in giving the kids individualized attention.

As December approached, Mrs. Burke asked me to do a lesson on Hanukkah for the class. I also wanted to give them something that they could take home and use throughout the winter. In the picture, you will see the children sitting in front of me wearing the warm hats I found for each of them. In their goody bags, they also received small dreidels and chocolate gelt. They were very excited to receive these special gifts. When one of the kids said, "this is the best Christmas present I ever had", I thought "that was the best holiday present anyone could ever give me."



Karen Wiseman volunteers every Thursday

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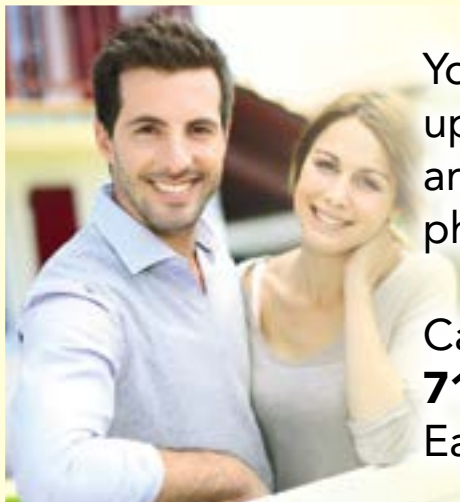
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