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THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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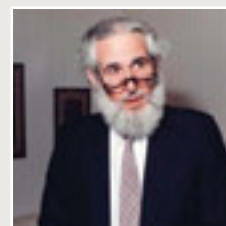
JULY 2017 | TAMMUZ-AV 5777

Hey, Mom!
We made it!

2017 Hebrew High Graduates (4-6)



INSIDE:
ISRAELI
ART SHOW
(10)



LOOK:
REMEMBERING
RABBI MINTZ
(12)



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The Magazine of Western New York

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Standing at her parents' dining room table, filled now with momentos of time passed

instead of family and favorite foods, Dalia pulls up a box and opens it.

Inside, under the stack of old cards, awards, scribbled children's drawings her mother had kept and cherished, is a smaller box of black and white snapshots she has never seen. Among these is a small photo of her great grandparents Aviel and Golda, dressed in their Sabbath best, young and smiling triumphantly. On the back is written: "Avi and me, safe in Brooklyn, June 1943."

Pushing back a pang of grief, Dalia drifts back to a childhood sweet remembrance of family gatherings in this same house. When Great Uncle Aaron told the story of his parents' journey from the Old World to America, she would hold her breath when he described how they had hidden in a cold cellar with no light and little food to escape the concentration camp. When he came to the part where they descended the ship onto Ellis Island, holding hands and safe in New York, she always clapped her hands and cheered.

Years passed and soon Dalia's own children clapped and cheered as the story was told first by her own grandmother Bubbe Ora after Uncle Aaron passed on – and then by her mother Maddie Esther. Now Maddie Esther was gone too, and Dalia is now the matriarch. This year, she will tell the story, and smile broadly as her own granddaughter Ruthie, now seven, claps and cheers.

That evening Dalia and her husband Seth, and their three children and their children's young families, are all together again in the house where she grew up. After the memories have been packed away for posterity, and the table has again been filled with favorite foods and then cleared, Dalia tells the wondrous family story one last time in her parents' home.

The next morning Dalia, Ruthie and daughters Kara and Dorah – just a few months away from the birth of her first child – rise early to go to the cemetery to pay respects to the elders. They drive down a winding path to the rose marble monument where Savta Golda and Sabba Aviel rest eternally, where Bubbe Ora and Zayda Mordechai are laid nearby – and where now Maddie Esther has joined her beloved.

"This bench is beautiful. I'm glad the family decided to put it here," Dorah says, easing gingerly down to sit. Beside her, younger sister Kara says coming here still makes her feel like their family is forever.

"Family *is* forever," Dalia smiles. Sitting next to her daughters, she pulls Ruthie into her lap and hugs her tightly.



*"The ones
we love are
never gone.
They live
forever in
our hearts."*

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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

This month, we welcome summer in Buffalo with a huge embrace! Camp Centerland is open at the JCC, as is the outdoor pool, and other summer camps are welcoming campers, too.

This month in the *Jewish Journal*, we are highlighting the many areas of Jewish education and experience that are found in our community. We begin on the cover and pages 4-6 with essays by the 2017 graduating Seniors of the Bureau of Jewish Education's Hebrew High about what influenced who they are as Jews today. Please take the time to read these excellent pieces and catch a glimpse of the impact that Hebrew High has had on these gorgeous teens.

Steve Weiss tells us on page 3 about a new tzedakah opportunity which is creating camper scholarships at Camp Seneca Lake. On page 9, you can learn how the national Hillel Ezra Fellowships are impacting Hillel in Buffalo. Read about Buffalo college students at the national AJC Global Forum on page 8; reflect on your relationship with Rabbi Shay Mintz as you read the tributes to the late Buffalo Jewish educator on page 12, and join us in welcoming Susan Goldberg Schwartz as Director of Adult Learning at the Bureau of Jewish Education. Enjoy the photos taken at the Kadimah Dinner, which paid tribute to Avy Sterman in June, then call him to congratulate him on how much he has done for Kadimah Academy.

The overall vision this issue reflects is the dynamic Jewish education landscape in our Buffalo Jewish Community, and at so many places, agencies and synagogues.

And speaking of learning, I am going to be boning up on botany during this summer's Garden Walks, as well as continuing to read about Israel's Six-Day War in 1967, and David Grossman's latest book and recent Man Booker Prize winner, *A Horse Walks into a Bar*. Wishing you a rejuvenating summer.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



The Bureau of Jewish Education's 2017 Hebrew High graduates at their graduation: (from left) Erin Lipppa, Eva Muir, Jared Wallenfels, Alex Kane, Ben Wolfson, Leah Kramer, Zachary Bloom, Molly Brownstein, Nicholas Lowinger, Sophia Kaplan.

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Camp is a Key to the Jewish Future

By Steven J. Weiss

Jewish camping is seen by many as a key to the Jewish future. In fact, research has indicated that this is where young people find Jewish role models and create enduring Jewish friendships. It's also where they forge vital, lifelong connections to their essential Jewishness and begin their own Jewish journeys. You needn't look very far to see that the notion of camp is a Jewish concept, remembering that the Israelites spent 40 years camping as they wandered in the desert, *sans* the ropes courses, waterfront and *amanut*.

Several years ago Camp Lakeland closed and the property in Franklinville, NY was sold. As sad and disappointing as this was, our community then embarked on a regional collaboration by promoting Camp Seneca Lake (CSL), a Jewish camp operated out of the Rochester JCC. Looking at the current success of CSL, and considering the struggles of Camp Lakeland in its waning years, one could argue that the closure of Lakeland and the collaboration with Rochester could have and probably should have happened years earlier (and might we consider this result for other of our



fledgling organizations?).

When Lakeland was in its heyday, a robust Camp Lakeland Association existed to raise funds for scholarships for those

in our community who couldn't afford the expense of overnight Jewish summer camp. After all, the experience and the benefits shouldn't be reserved only for those who can afford it, particularly since Jewish camping is arguably one of the most important acts of Jewish continuity.

Fast forward a few years, and the proof is in the pudding. Nearly 25% of the CSL campers reside in Buffalo, and yet there was minimal scholarship funding being provided for Buffalo campers. Until now. Recently, a few of us got together with the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

and raised close to \$15,000 to seed a fund that will be used to send Buffalo kids to CSL. The scholarship fund will be maintained by the Rochester JCC. Thank you to all of those who contributed, and if you'd like to make a donation please contact Ellen Weiss at erweiss1@gmail.com or CSL Camp Director Aaron Cantor at acantor@jccrochester.org.

The benefits of Jewish camping experiences are truly endless and the recently created scholarship fund is a way to preserve that opportunity for those in our community who need it, despite the absence of a Buffalo camp. To those of you who "get" Jewish sleep-away camp, whether you are previously associated with Lakeland or currently involved with CSL, you'll know what I mean by "Anderson's at 9."

Steven Weiss is President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Board of Governors.

JEWISH BUFFALO

SAVE THE DATE!

9-25-17

Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Kick-Off Event

5:30 PM

Hyatt Regency Buffalo

Hebrew High Reflections...

The ten high school seniors pictured on the front cover graduated from Hebrew High in May. At their graduation ceremony, they each reflected on their Jewish lives today, and the path they took to arrive here. The students, in alphabetical order, represent a beautiful mirror of Jewish young people, committed to living important Jewish lives as they continue in college and beyond.



Molly Brownstein

There is an idea in Judaism that all Jews have a light within them that guides them closer to their spirituality, their culture, and their history. And while most search for this light, many will never find it. For me, I am convinced that my light came in the form of Kadimah Academy. My education was not only fundamental to developing my Jewish identity, but it also ignited within me a passion for learning and for Israel. These passions were further realized through my participation in Hebrew High and USY, specifically in my role as the Tzafon Region USY President this past year.

These three experiences collectively have influenced my decision to study abroad next year in Israel on *Nativ*. This program will be an opportunity to further discover my heritage and make connections with other Jews from across the globe. But, before I embark on this journey, I would like to take the time to reflect on where my light has led me most recently.

This past year, at the international USY convention, a friend and I stood on our chairs and chanted *Adon Olam* at the top of our lungs. As I hovered above everyone who was seated—and being the tallest person in the room is an experience in itself for me—I was instantly struck by the sea of kippahs below. Hundreds of Jews, dressed in tefillin, were all singing together in joy. This moment, and other moments like this, are novelties for me because I currently attend public school where I am the only Jew. Without USY and Hebrew High, and Kadimah for starting it all, I would not have the same enthusiasm for Judaism because I simply would have never had the exposure.

I am eternally grateful to the Buffalo Jewish community for giving me the foundation necessary to grow into the person and the Jew that I am today. I feel very privileged to stand here before you. And my hope is that I may be a

pillar of the community who inspires other Jewish teens to find their light and to follow it wherever it may lead. I know that next year when I go on *Nativ*, I will be packing all my memories and knowledge in my suitcase.



Alex Kane

Reflecting back on my youth and growing up as part of the Jewish community, I remember always feeling like I finally found my place in the world. Attending religious school on Sunday mornings never seemed to be fun but it got easier to attend as I got older and enjoyed being there more. I found myself back in the building as a *madricha* my eighth grade year, which has truly helped to shape my life thus far. Without becoming a *madricha*, I definitely would not be the Jew that I am today. For this, I can thank all of the teachers at Temple Beth Zion religious school who have not only taught me, but continue to teach the next generation and make the experience all the more worthwhile.

Not only has religious school shaped me, it led me to take classes at Hebrew High. Spending my Wednesday nights out in Amherst, most definitely after some sort of sports practice, I found myself among other teens who wanted to continue learning and continue actively practicing their religion in some way. Through Hebrew High I made wondrous friends and reconnected with some that I had lost touch with. While reconnecting with my friends and solidifying new friendships was great, it also helped me to continue my Jewish education and secure my Jewish identity, knowing I was participating in something other than youth group to keep my mind active and knowledgeable about the one thing that has always made me different: my Judaism.

Along with Hebrew High and religious school, there was also youth group and NFTY-NEL. Both of these groups have

changed me for the better. Because of youth group, I know where I stand when it comes to my interaction with the local Jewish community and have learned how to be a true leader. Being a part of the youth group board for four out of five years also meant that I was a consistent participant of NFTY-NEL events and through these events further found what I stand for, my beliefs, and of course, some of my best friends. Through NEL I have made friendships that will never die, though our time has been short and we rarely see each other for most of the year.

Because of these three wonderful places and the experiences I have had growing up, I know that I will be better off for the rest of my life. The experiences I lived through will follow me for the rest of my journey and will influence all of the decisions I make from here on out. I am sad to be leaving, but it is bittersweet as I know I will be moving on to other great things but never losing the pieces of myself that NEL, religious school, and Hebrew High were able to help me find.



Sophia Kaplan

I was immersed in my Jewish community at a very young age at the Jewish Community Center. I grew up going to Sunday school and temple, with my mother reminding me that having a Jewish community is important. And I did have one, a small one, but I didn't yet understand what the big deal was about having a Jewish community. Not until I entered NFTY.

In NFTY, I met people from Rochester, Ohio, and Canada and it was a crazy experience to see all of the similarities we had. I loved being in a room of people who would understand what I meant by "Yom Kippur" and I liked not having to explain everything when talking about my religion.

I liked sharing one of the most important aspects of my life. Even at this young age, in seventh grade when I was first introduced to NFTY, I loved discussing Judaism—sharing my



Zachary Bloom

Last summer I had the honor of volunteering at the Jewish Family Services' Immigrant and Refugee Services. While interning there, I performed many different jobs, such as helping refugee children register for school and obtaining working papers for refugees. I was able to work alongside a fantastic staff who were very warm and supportive. They put many long hours into their work and were completely dedicated to refugees on their cases. Being a social worker at Jewish Family Services seemed like a very difficult job, but a necessary one for our community.

From personal experience, I can definitely say that being an intern at Jewish Family Services is not an easy job either. Many times I faced language barriers with the refugees while trying to communicate important information to them. I was also put into many situations I have never been in before with only my own devices to help me. This experience really taught me the importance of non-verbal communication and how to think on my feet. Interning at the Jewish Family Services' Immigrant and Refugee Services was one of the most interesting experiences I have ever had and I really hope we can all appreciate what they do for the community.

views and hearing others'- and having serious discussions on moral issues. I loved seeing everyone else enjoy it as well. It was completely different from school, where every eighth grader was apathetic towards everything including the Holocaust.

After this introduction to NFTY, my relationship to the Jewish community was forever changed. I felt the networks forming with everything I did. It reignited my interest in Israel, it made me want to be involved at temple and go to services, it's what drove me to come to Hebrew High every week even when I was swamped with homework, and it's what helped me grow into my morals, political views, and standings. Without all of that, I would be a much different person.



Leah Kramer

Every Sunday as a 5 year old, I was allotted a 50 cent allowance by my parents. I treasured the two quarters with every morsel of my tiny body, as they depicted a future full of independence, and the freedom to buy as much candy as my heart desired. However, despite how much I wanted to keep those two quarters for myself, each Sunday I would give one of my precious coins to my Hebrew School *Tzdekah* Fund. While watching my hard earned change fall out of my hand and into the *Tzdekah* box was not easy, it showed me the importance of giving back to one's community. Furthermore, this weekly ritual marked the beginning of core values being instilled within me due to a Jewish experience.

As I grew up, my Jewish experiences broadened from Geshur Hebrew School to United Synagogue Youth (USY), Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI), and Hebrew High. These organizations allowed me to engage with other Jewish teens, and further discover the other Jewish values that began to shape my character. While each of these organizations differed in their structure, they all shared the similarity of growing Jewish leaders through the strengthening of Jewish values.

Through USY, I learned the value of inclusivity and commitment; through AMHSI, I learned the value of knowledge and perseverance; through Hebrew High, I learned the value of community and engagement. I feel privileged for the opportunities these organizations have provided me with, and owe most of my confidence as a Jewish, and teen, leader to those opportunities. If someone had approached me at the beginning of my high school career and told me that when I graduated high school I would have served on an International Board, and studied abroad in Israel for 4 months, I would have looked at them extremely puzzled. Yet now as I reminisce on my life as a Jew, I feel proud of what I have accomplished, and as I look forward, I am excited for what is to come. Most importantly however, I know that whatever my future holds, I will take with me the prized values I have learned, and use them to become the best Jew, person, and 'menschette', I can be.



Erin Lipka

Every summer for nine summers I attended Camp Ramah in Canada. The moment I exit the bus, I fill with excitement. The sight of the brown, wooden cabins with the signature red roofs, the beautiful waterfront, and the view of my friends waiting for me makes the experience all the better. We participated in Hebrew learning, sports, hobbies, and water front activities daily. On Fridays, we ended our day early to prepare for Shabbat. Attending a Conservative Jewish camp, allowed me to be exposed to the Jewish religion in a different way that being at home with distractions.

The friends that I have made throughout my camp experience have helped infuse different traditions of Judaism. Some are more religious, and some less, each teaching the customs that they perform every week. All of these Jewish people living in the same vicinity form a community. A bond that can't be broken. We all feel the same way about

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Hebrew High Reflections (cont'd)

this place that brought us all together, that taught and continues to teach us so much about Judaism and ourselves. Also, living with eleven other girls in the same cabin allowed me to prepare to deal with living with other people such as college roommates. This is very important as I start my college career. Being able to understand how my roommate lives will allow me to be able to not get upset when she is messy or loud. Additionally, I will have these friends forever. Every time I visit one of their cities, I will always have a place to call home and someone to turn to. The connections and experiences I have had with them make our bond stronger. Camp Ramah in Canada has done so much for me and will continue to do more.



Nicholas Lowinger

Throughout my life there have been multiple experiences that have helped shaped my Judaism into what it is today. The first and most major experience that shaped my Judaism was Kadimah. I went to Kadimah from kindergarten all the way up to 8th grade, and I've had some of the most incredible times of my life. Kadimah gave me my roots to Judaism and educated me on Jewish history, prayer and Hebrew. Kadimah wasn't only a school to me, it was my home, and it's where I've made friendships that will last a lifetime. Instead of going to Washington, D.C. like a normal 8th grade class trip, we went to Israel, a place where I've been taught so much about but never before had experienced. It made everything I had learned come to life before my eyes and I got to share my experiences with my classmates. Kadimah truly set me on my path to become more religious and who I am today.

The second major experience that has shaped my Judaism is NCSY. NCSY is an Orthodox youth group that accepts Jews from all different sects. I went to my first convention last spring and I only knew

one person that was going. Immediately when I came, I was welcomed with open arms. During that one convention I was inspired to go deeper into my Judaism to find out who I was. It was then that I met other teens who were going on the same summer program as I was and I felt like I was already a part of the family. During that summer, I went to Israel on an advocacy trip and I made it my mission to learn something new every day. I came across things that I had never seen before, and made long lasting experiences with my NCSY family. I became more religious and more involved with NCSY that I started going to all of the events. I know that what I've learned from NCSY has definitely impacted my life and that I will continue to grow.



Eva Muir

In the fall of 2013, while at an event for the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), I was introduced to a social justice program called Mitzvah Corps. Essentially, this program is for Jewish teens to volunteer and to meet others from across the country. I decided that Mitzvah Corps was an opportunity I could not pass up. From there, I applied for scholarships and saved money to make the trip happen. And it did happen.

The following summer, after continuing to raise money so I could participate in Mitzvah Corps again, I traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana. In the two weeks I spent there, I learned a lifetime's worth of lessons. On our first full day, 30 Jewish teens rode a bus to the Lower Ninth Ward, the poorest part of New Orleans and the section that was most affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Four others and I went to the future home of Jonathan and Elizabeth, a couple who wished to restore a beautiful historic house that had been abandoned for 27 years. From the driveway, I saw an overgrown garden, debris covering the pavement, and an inspiring couple. Jonathan and Elizabeth simply wanted

to make this place their home because they saw the potential in a community that had been deprived of love. For many hours, I worked in intense Louisiana heat pulling weeds, removing glass shards from the yard, and eventually finding a pathway hidden under "artifacts" and "novelty items" carried there by the storm.

After being in Louisiana, my connection with Judaism has grown stronger. The fundamental social value of Judaism, *Gemilut Hasadim*—hands-on acts of loving kindness—has shown me that actions matter. Since Mitzvah Corps, I have lobbied for Climate Change alongside my state representatives, voiced my opinion about gun control, and led programs on topics such as domestic abuse and homelessness, a term I use in place of homelessness.

Jonathan and Elizabeth showed me that a home is much more than a house. My home is my family, my friends, and all of my surroundings. It was in New Orleans that I learned that it does not matter where you come from, you can still make positive change wherever you happen to be. If it wasn't for Judaism, I would not be the person I am today, because I would not be exposed to such wonderful experiences and opportunities.



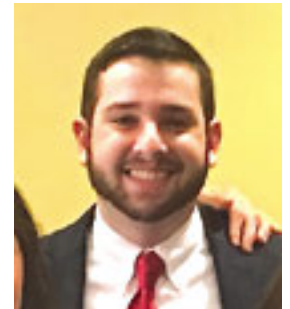
Jared Wallenfels

I found myself in South Dakota as part of the United Synagogue Youth on Wheels program in the summer of 2015. USY on Wheels is a summer trip during which teens travel on a bus across the country for 6 1/2 weeks. We stopped at landmarks in 27 states. We did this while living Jewishly, eating only kosher meals and praying twice daily.

Congregation B'Nai Isaac has eight members. It's the only conservative synagogue in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Actually, it's the only conservative congregation in all of South Dakota. They have not been able to make a minyan since World War I. One of the most meaningful experiences of my life was being able to help them. The 48 people

in my group allowed them to make a minyan; it was their largest service ever. We brought *ruach* to their community that brought some of the members to tears. I am sure they will remember that for a long time.

It will hard for me leave the USY community when I go to college, but my Jewish identity will never leave me. I plan to use the knowledge and leadership skills I have gained to become actively involved with Hillel and Jewish campus life at the University of Maryland.



Ben Wolfson

For the last three years, I have volunteered every Tuesday afternoon at Congregation Shir Shalom's religious school. I was a student at the same religious school from kindergarten to seventh grade, culminating with my Bar Mitzvah early in my eighth grade year. As a student, I viewed attending religious School as just something I had to get through in order to achieve the goal of becoming Bar Mitzvah.

When I was in tenth grade, my parents urged me to be a Teacher's Assistant at the school, and I reluctantly agreed. I was assigned to work with sixth and seventh graders, and help them learn the Hebrew language and other aspects of Jewish traditions. Most of my job required monitoring the class while the teacher, Mr. Horowitz, would teach the students.

Although the class was geared for the younger kids in the class, I began learning an immense amount on topics I had previously ignored. I tried my best to help engage the students and make sure they were gaining knowledge from the class. I learned the students' names and attempted to strike up conversation with them before class began.

My time helping the class has taught me how to listen, engage, and interact with different age groups. I took on a leadership role in my Jewish life that I hope to continue as I become involved in college at the University of Michigan.

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AJC Global Forum

Thirteen students from the Buffalo area attended the AJC Global Forum in Washington, D.C. in early June, thanks to support from the Benderson Family. Here are reactions to the event from three of them.

The AJC Global Forum was an incredible experience. Being able to hear from world leaders such as the President of Cyprus and the President of Romania, as well as Skyping with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is something I never imagined I'd get the opportunity to do. Delving further into conversations with world-renowned experts on topics such as ISIS activity in Syria, and Zionism and the contemporary case for Israel, made me begin to think about how I can bring this new knowledge to the UB campus, as well as the Buffalo Jewish Community. AJC's bipartisan stance allows for all leaders and people of the world to be accepted and welcome to express their views. AJC's goals are about principles and ideals that are not polarized; they

understand that in order to gain the largest amount of success, they need support of both sides. Watching everyone work together to create an inclusive, safe community for the Jewish people globally, I left the conference feeling energized and empowered to continue that spirit here in Buffalo.

Nicole Bard, University at Buffalo – Senior

I found the AJC Global Forum to be an incredibly informative and educational experience. There was a lot of discussion about the BDS movement and how to address it on campus. By hearing from



Some of the members of Buffalo's student delegation to the AJC Global Forum in June in Washington, D.C.

leaders of AJC, the US government, and the world, as well as the advocacy training component of the conference, I gained a better understanding of what it takes to combat anti-Semitism at a national and international level. My favorite panel was Black-Jewish relations and Coalition building. I'm grateful for having

had the opportunity to participate in this forum.

Alexander Shapiro, University at Buffalo – Sophomore

Attending the AJC Global Forum was an amazing opportunity that I am very thankful I got to experience. Upon return from the Global Forum, I am feeling more refreshed and inspired to speak up for Israel, the Jewish people, and also other injustices that are happening world wide. I loved the focus of Israel throughout the conference, and I especially enjoyed listening to the speakers and their various opinions and stances on global issues as well as issues related to the conflict in the Middle East. I look forward to putting what I learned in those short few days to use and responding to comments but also starting discussions about Israel and Judaism on my campus and also in my everyday life.

Sydney Bluman, Buffalo State College - Senior



Photograph by Tom Loonan.



On Five Dollar Family Funday, the second Sunday of every month, museum admission for the entire family is just \$5 and includes an array of activities for both children and adults.

Please visit www.albrightknox.org or call 716.270.8292 for more details.



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**Sunday,
July 9,
2017**

Hillel International's Ezra Fellowship Expands to Buffalo

In an ongoing effort to recruit and train young Jewish professionals on campus and help students explore their Jewish identities, Hillel International will expand its Ezra Fellowship to bring 15 new fellows to campuses across the country this fall, including Hillel of Buffalo. Logan Woodard will be the Buffalo Hillel Ezra Fellow, working with Rabbi Sara Rich, Buffalo Hillel's new director. Ezra Fellows are young professionals with a passion for Jewish education who, through the full-time, paid fellowship, receive up to three years of training in pluralistic Jewish education, including seminars in experiential Jewish education and professional career coaching.



Logan Woodard

"I am excited to meet and engage with students and learn of the Jewish concepts and ideas that excite them. I look forward to deepening and expanding my own Jewish knowledge too," said Woodard.

While working as Hillel professionals on campus, Ezra Fellows learn to infuse their Jewish knowledge into day-to-day programs and interactions, including informal conversations with students, organizing weekly Shabbat dinners or launching new educational and outreach programs.

"Ezra Fellows bring Judaism off the page and into the everyday life of their campus communities. They learn innovative ways to bring students to a new appreciation of what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century, and show them why their Jewishness is something to celebrate," said Laura Yares, Director of Educational Research and Innovation at Hillel International. "The fellows are able to engage with students through Jewish teachings, and increase the level of Jewish education at the campus Hillels where they work, creating the foundation for a lifetime of Jewish leadership." The Ezra Fellowship is supported in part by the Maimonides Fund.

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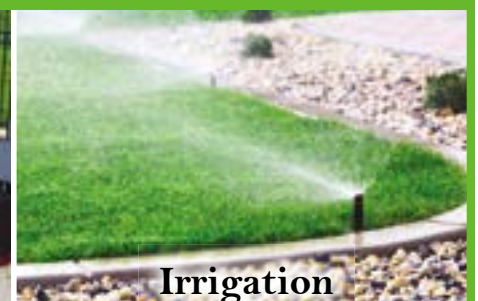
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Israeli Art at CEPA Gallery June 29



Adi Ness's "The Last Supper Before Going Out To Battle."

By Elizabeth Licata, Buffalo Spree

It's rarely possible for artists to make work uninflected by the nature of their sociopolitical surroundings, especially when those surroundings are as geopolitically charged as the Middle East. In an ongoing series that—over the next six months—will include a rotating group of artists, CEPA Gallery presents the first installment: **Place Relations: Identity in Contemporary Israeli Avant-Garde Art.**

Working in (mostly) still photography and video, the artists employ traditional documentary practices, fictional narrative, dramatic portraiture, performance, and other strategies to explore personal and political identity in uneasy times. This is the kind of project CEPA does best; it's a wide-ranging and fascinating window into conceptual art as a global practice, as well as a survey of how artists interpret political upheaval.

Thankfully, humor often alleviates tension, as in the work of Tamy Ben-Tor, who uses over-the-top costumes and makeup for her character-driven performances and videos. Adi Ness's large-scale photographs are somber in nature, but they immediately appeal through their use of familiar iconography, as in "The Last Supper Before Going Out to Battle," (pictured above) which presents fourteen young Israeli soldiers seated at a long table in the postures we know so well. Other Nes images draw similarly upon mythological, art historical, and biblical imagery. Additional artists



Re'em Aharoni: Self Portraits

include Omer Fast, Guy Ben-Ner, Keren Cytter, Yael Bartana, Re'em Aharoni, and Barak Zemer. Not all of the artists make work that might be considered ripped from the headlines. Cytter's videos, for example, include more personal matter; the artist explores relationships in a highly stylized manner, based on cinematic and literary classics. Ben-Nur includes his family members in absurd adaptations of classic works of literature.

This is not a political show as much as it is an opportunity to experience different world views and different aesthetic possibilities from a compelling group of artists. There is no statement here, but there could be a conversation. **Place Relations: Identity in Contemporary Israeli Avant-Garde Art** runs through 2017 at the Market Arcade, 617 Main Street, Buffalo NY.



FESTIVAL EVENTS

- Family-friendly barbecue
- Chef challenges and live cooking experiences
- First-ever "Taste of Chautauqua"
- How-to demonstrations from skilled food artisans
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- Food truck rodeo featuring trucks from Buffalo, Rochester, and beyond
- Beachside clambake
- Red wine and s'mores with a view from the Athenaeum porch
- Daily activities for kids and adults

ENTERTAINMENT

- Daily bands in Bestor Plaza
- An Evening with Chris Botti
- Irene Rodríguez Compañía
- The Joey Alexander Trio
- The Texas Tenors
- And more to be announced!

For more information, visit:

ciweb.org/foodfestival

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We will publish the Honor Roll thanking all donors to the 2017 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo at our Campaign Kick-Off Dinner Monday, September 25 and in the *Jewish Journal of WNY*. Your name will appear exactly as it did last year unless otherwise requested. Should you wish to make any changes, please contact our Campaign Director Randi Morkisz at rmorkisz@jfedbflo.com or 716-204-2245. Your gift helps so many here in Buffalo, in Israel and throughout the world! Thank you!

PLACE RELATIONS:

IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI AVANT-GARDE ART

presented by:
Hodgson Russ LLP
ATTORNEYS

A roster of Israeli artists will kick off CEPA's newest initiative, *Place Relations*, a dynamic exhibition series exploring notions of cultural identity from regions around the world. This exhibition will feature work by:

Re'em Aharoni
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Guy Ben-Ner
Tamy Ben-Tor
Keren Cytter
Dor Guez
Adi Nes
Barak Zemer

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Image © Adi Nes

Summer in the City

Friday, July 7th

5:45 pm

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Temple Beth Zion,
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Saturday, August 19th

10:00 am

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Rabbi Shay Mintz (1937-2017)

Rabbi Shay Mintz (z"l) passed away last month in Jerusalem. A Jewish educator and spiritual leader, he spent more than 40 years in Buffalo as part of our community. He was the son of Benyamin and Chedva Mintz who immigrated to Israel from Poland in 1925. He was born in Tel Aviv, served as a chaplain with the Israeli Defense Forces, and graduated from Jerusalem Rabbinical School in 1960. His father was a member of the first Knesset after Israel won independence in 1948, and later went on to be vice speaker of the Knesset. A few years ago, Shay published a book about the career and other accomplishments of his father, which is currently only available in Hebrew; a translation to English is in progress.

Rabbi Mintz came to the United States in 1965 to South Bend, Indiana, where he worked as the principal of United Hebrew School and also lectured on Judaic Studies at the University of Notre Dame. While in South Bend, he met his wife, Lila Mintz (Podolsky/Katz) (z"l) who was widowed several years earlier after a tragic car accident took the lives of her husband and oldest son. Shay and Lila married on March 2, 1969, in South Bend, a loving union that would last 46 years until Lila's passing in 2015. Shay fully embraced his new family and together Shay and Lila continued to raise three children, Martin L Katz, Ronald M Katz, and Sharon F (Katz) Dubrow.

In 1970, Rabbi Mintz brought his family to Buffalo to accept a position, offered by Rabbi Isaac Klein, as the educational director of Temple Shaarey Zedek. Rabbi Mintz was also involved in the Hebrew schools at Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai, and he later established the United Junior High School that brought teen-aged students together from all three synagogues. He created an innovative and creative curriculum of study that included the Arts and Shabbat retreats to beautiful camp settings, in addition to traditional studies. This type of creativity was a staple of Rabbi Mintz's life work. Many students who passed through these schools credit Rabbi Mintz for their spiritual grounding, and many later sought him to officiate at ceremonies marking their family's lifecycle milestones even after they moved from Buffalo.

In 1986, Shay became the director of Hillel at the University at Buffalo.



Rabbi Shay Mintz

Portrait of Rabbi Shay Mintz created by UB Alumnus Scott Herman that adorned a Memory Book he created on the occasion of Shay's 25th Anniversary with Hillel



Lila and Shay Mintz

He served in that position for 14 years, after which he continued to lead High Holiday services that attracted current and former students, and community members. From his early Hebrew School days through UB Hillel, Rabbi Mintz led vibrant services with purpose and feeling, and connected personally with those assembled for prayer. Rabbi Mintz remained strongly connected to Israel throughout his life in the United States. He and Lila led groups to tour Israel, an experience that many recount as a highlight of their life. In recent years, Shay and Lila spent several months each year, scheduled around Jewish holidays, in Jerusalem. Rabbi Mintz cared deeply for Judaism, Israel, and for all humankind.

Rabbi Mintz is survived by his three children: Martin L Katz (married to Beth Katz) of Larkspur, California, Ronald M



Katz (married to Ellen Katz) of Fairfax, Virginia, and Sharon F (Katz) Dubrow of Arlington, Virginia. Lila predeceased her devoted husband less than two years ago. They were the proud Saba and Grandma of ten grandchildren: Joel, Talia, Aaron, Ethan, Hannah, Rebecca, Maya, Deena, Rachel, and Nathan; and two great-grandchildren, Rosie and Millie.

Memorial donations may be sent to The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, 2640 North Forest Rd, Amherst, NY 14068 for funds to publish the book about Rabbi Mintz's father in English, and also for Israel trip scholarships. A memorial service in Buffalo to celebrate the life of Rabbi Shay Mintz, will be announced at a later date. Read the obituary in The Buffalo News: <http://buffalonews.com/2017/06/10/rabbi-shay-e-mintz-80-jewish-educator-spiritual-leader/>

Sharon Katz Dubrow provided most of the information for this article.

Rabbi Perry Netter Remembers his friend, Rabbi Shay Mintz

This is a note Rabbi Netter sent to Temple Beth Tzedek members when Rabbi Mintz died in June.

It is with a profound sense of sadness that I announce the passing on Shabbat of Rabbi Shay Mintz, a foundational pillar of the Buffalo Jewish Community.

The prayer known for its first word, *Tzidkatkha*, which is recited at Shabbat Minhah, was written to commemorate the lives of three great Jewish leaders who died on Shabbat: Joseph, Moses and King David. Rabbi Mintz now joins the list of great Jewish leaders who passed on Shabbat.

Many in our community carry with them the memories of important and transformational events in their lives that are bound up with Rabbi Mintz. He is remembered for running the religious school, and the overflow Yontiff service, and for his work with Hillel. So many of the stories I am told of significant experiences with Rabbi Mintz include trips to Israel with him, or being in the basement on High Holidays, and so many other moments. He had a profound impact on the lives of so many.

And he had the amazing capacity for remembering everyone by their Hebrew names.

Two months ago Safi and I were going to a place in Netanya, on the coast between Tel Aviv and Haifa. I got lost and had to turn around. I looked up at the street sign to discover that I was turning on Binyamin Mintz street. Binyamin Mintz was Shay's beloved father, a member of the first government of Israel and the Minister in charge of the Post Office. Rabbi Mintz was born into a family of Jewish "royalty."

He was brilliant, learned, passionate, erudite, gentle with a great sense of humor. All of us who knew Rabbi Mintz, who learned at his feet, who were touched by his gentle soul, are privileged. He will be sorely missed.

Yehi Zikhro Barukh. May his memory be a blessing.

Gazpacho for the 4th!

By Robin Kurss

Here's a great recipe for the 4th of July, easy to take on a picnic or to serve at home....chilled or room temperature.



My Favorite Gazpacho-serves 6

- 4 c tomato juice (I use V-8)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow pepper, chopped
- 1 cucumber, seeded and chopped
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 3 large tomatoes, chopped
- 1 c corn kernals (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 jalapeno, minced (optional)
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 1/4 c lemon juice
- 1/4 c lime juice
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1/4 c basil, chopped
- 1/4 c parsley, chopped
- 1/4 c olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste

You can either hand chop veggies or pulse in a food processor to the rough chop stage. I like the soup to be chunky, not pureed. Mix all ingredients and chill overnight. Enjoy!

Small Business Administration Honors Amherst Memorial Chapel

The United States Small Business Administration and SCORE Buffalo Niagara honored Amherst Memorial Chapel with a Small Business of the Year Award. Nominated by M&T Bank, Mitchell Steinhorn, accepted the award for Western New York's only locally-owned Jewish funeral home. Mr. Steinhorn purchased



Mitchell Steinhorn

the facility in early 2016. Amherst Memorial Chapel is a full service Jewish Funeral Home that was built specifically to accommodate all Jewish practices, whether Orthodox, Traditional, Conservative, Reconstructive or Reform. It is the only funeral home in Buffalo, NY with a Mikvah for the traditional Tahara.



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Ryan Announces \$25 Million To Fund Safety And Security Upgrades

On April 27, 2017, New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan announced at the JCC of Greater Buffalo, Holland Family location, that the 2017-2018 New York State Budget includes \$25 million to fund a grant program to finance safety and security upgrades at religious schools, community centers, and day care centers that are at risk of being targeted for hate crime attacks.

Incidents of hate crimes and threats directed at Jewish, Muslim and LGBTQ community Centers, as well as religious schools and day care centers have increased at alarming rates in the last year. From January to March of this year, dozens of threatening phone calls were made to Jewish community and day care centers and Jewish schools throughout the country, including the Jewish Community Center locations in Buffalo and Amherst. The Anti-Defamation League estimates that there has been an 86% increase in anti-semitic attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions so far this year. Incidents of hate crimes

against Muslims have also risen sharply. According to the most recently available FBI hate crime statistics, hate crime attacks

LGBTQ people, especially transgender individuals, have also spiked recent months. According to data from the

"The \$25 million in funding will create a competitive grant program to provide for safety and security projects at nonpublic religious schools, community centers and day care facilities at risk of hate crime attacks because of their ideology, beliefs or mission. The risk assessment of the eligible facilities will include consideration of the vulnerabilities of the organization based on its location, membership, and potential consequences of a hate crime attack at the facility. The grant program will be administered by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services."

against Muslims jumped from 154 to 257 between 2014 and 2015.

Hate crime attacks and threats against

FBI, LGBTQ people are more likely to be targets of hate crimes than any other minority group. In February, LGBTQ community centers in Los Angeles and Milwaukee were targeted by vandals who spray-painted anti-LGBTQ messages of hate. In March, a Universalist Church in New Orleans had a brick thrown through one of its windows just days after the church hosted a town hall meeting to discuss violence against transgender people. Also in March, a LGBTQ community center in Washington DC was broken into by an individual, who then assaulted a staff member, then fled while saying he would return to kill someone. All of these incidents demonstrate a profound need to protect individuals who are targets of hate crime attacks.

Assemblyman Sean Ryan said "There has been an alarming rise in the number of attacks targeting people of the Jewish and Muslim faiths, as well as LGBTQ people in recent years, and especially the last few months. This critical funding will ensure that facilities across New York State that are at risk of hate crime attacks are properly protected with the most up-to-date safety and security infrastructure. This funding will help give peace of mind to millions of New Yorkers who simply just want to live their lives."

Marci Birzon Remembered



BBYO alumni from Buffalo and Toronto in attendance on June 5th at the BBYO leadership award ceremony

The annual BBYO Celebration of Teen Leadership took place on Monday, June 5, in Vaughan, Ontario. BBYO alumni including Ken Polk of Buffalo and Yehuda Kochanowski of Toronto presented the Award for Outstanding BBYO Leadership in Memory of Marci Birzon, who passed away 25 years ago. Aaron Rubinoff of Toronto won this year's award.

Kochanowski and Polk have presented the award on behalf of the Birzon family a number of times, but were especially honored to attend this year given that 2017 was the 25th time the award has been presented. Polk shared memories with the 250 attendees from three of Marci's friends, along with comments from her sister, Kathy Birzon Kule, of Florida, and her brother, Keith Birzon, of Buffalo. A donation was also given to BBYO from Marci's parents, Jerry and Gloria Birzon.



Yehuda Kochanowski (left) and Aaron Rubinoff (center), both of Toronto, and Ken Polk (right)




Keith Birzon said, "I would like to extend my appreciation to two of Marci's dear friends, Ken and Yehuda. For a part of the last 25 years these two have dedicated themselves to give out this special BBYO Leadership Award in Marci's memory. Ken and Yehuda are a reflection of what kind of person Marci was. I am so honored that these guys were part of Marci's life. I can't thank them enough. Every time I see them they remind me of Marci."

Marci grew up as an active BBYO member and later became an advisor. The leadership award was created and originally given to members in Buffalo but has continued in the Lake Ontario Region after Buffalo chapters closed.

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- 1» **Make a gift to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation** in honor of your parents, grandparents, or any other important person in your life. The Cemetery Corporation maintains and repairs several Buffalo Jewish cemeteries and your help is greatly needed. *Go to www.jfedbflo.com and click on "Federation Cemetery Corporation" or call 716-204-2246.*
- 2» **Wines in the Wild @ Buffalo Zoo July 19.** Sponsored by the Buffalo Zoo ProZoo Board and the Women's Board, guests must be 21 and over to attend. \$45 and up. Buffalo Zoo, 300 Parkside Ave. *Call Jessica Ritch -716-995-6133 or buy tickets at www.buffalozoo.org.*
- 3» **Team Up with Congregation Shir Shalom and the Jewish Federation for Walk Off Hunger July 29,** and try to beat the best fundraiser around—Jennie Pohl! This Fundraiser benefits The Food Bank of WNY, and takes place at Island Park in Williamsville from 10:00am -2:00 pm. There is a fee. *Call 716-935-6717 or email jhayes@foodbankwny.org.*
- 4» **Arts and Culture in Public Places invites you to attend the Annual Glen Park Art Festival in the Village of Williamsville,** presented Saturday, July 29th and Sunday, July 30th on Glen Avenue between Mill and Rock Streets with free admission. Enjoy great food, crafts and fine art from 10am-5pm with a Pre-Art Concert on Friday evening, July 28th at 7:00 PM.
- 5» **Don't Miss Buffalo C.A.R.E.S Animal Rescue Boozicle Benefit** July 30 from 3:00-7:00 pm. It benefits Buffalo C.A.R.E.S Animal Rescue, features music and drink and takes place at Buffalo Iron Works, 49 Illinois St. in downtown Buffalo. \$20 admission.

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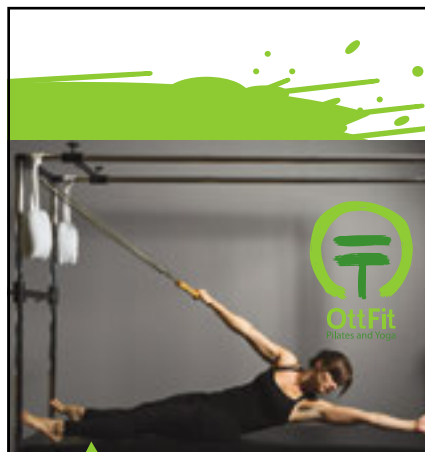


Where is this found in WNY?

The first 5 people to correctly identify the location and the person will win a \$10 lunch to the JCC's NEW Tel Aviv Café.

E-mail your answers to egoldstein@jfedbflo.com

In July, Myra Horowitz and Marcia Weiss identified the photo of the Ner Tamid in Temple Beth Tzedek's Social Hall. It formerly was located at Temple Beth El and was donated by Alan and Ellen Bernstein in memory of their daughter, Anne Bernstein.



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Community Relations Stepping Up

Federation's new Community Relations initiative has taken a giant leap in the past several months. The overriding goal of this new effort is to represent the Buffalo Jewish community by building meaningful and collaborative relationships with other faith, ethnic and cultural communities toward the goal of building a more civil society.

Federation has been able to raise significant funds toward community relations which will enable the hiring of

a dedicated professional this fall. In the meantime, staff members at Federation have been creating a variety of new efforts.

One of the most exciting is a Clergy Interfaith Trip to Israel in December. Working in partnership with the NFJC (National Federation for Just Communities), the purpose of the trip is to engage a cadre of local clergy in an open-minded and holistic exploration of the challenges facing Israel, while at the same time enabling them to partake of



2017 Interfaith Mission to Israel

Falls; Sister Margaret Carney, president emeritus of the Franciscan Institute of St. Bonaventure; and Rabbi Sara Rich, incoming Executive Director of the Hillel of Buffalo and former Director of Education of Princeton University's Center for Jewish Life. The trip will be staffed by Lana Benatovich, President of the National Federation of Just Communities of Western New York and Mara Koven-Gelman, the Director of The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. To date, 12 clergy from throughout Western New York have agreed to participate.

Finally, Federation is pleased to be joining Congregation Shir Shalom which is a co-host of the 10th Annual Walk Off Hunger this July in Island Park. Federation is proud to be a Gold Sponsor of the event. You can read more about the origins of Walk Off Hunger and the leadership of Gary Bluestein on page 22.

If you would like more information about our Community Relations initiative, please contact Ellen Goldstein at 716-204-2243.



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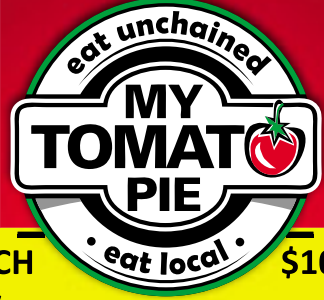
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- Celebrate our 5 year anniversary as Congregation Shir Shalom!
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Shir Shalom Spotlight

By Peter Simon

Gary Bluestein: Feeding The Hungry

Shortly after joining the board of the Food Bank of Western New York, Gary Bluestein decided to organize a community walk to raise funds for the needy. Food Bank officials welcomed his initiative and said they would be pleased if the event raised \$1,500. Instead, it netted \$36,000 and quickly became a key element in the group's effort to feed the needy.

In nine years, the Walk Off Hunger and Summerfest has raised a total of nearly \$600,000 and provided about 2.9 million meals to needy persons through 41 agencies across Western New York. Bluestein, who has been chair or co-chair of each of the walks, said he expects this year's program -- scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 29th -- to provide another \$100,000, the largest one-year total ever.

A long-time member of Congregation Shir Shalom and a member of the Temple's Board of Trustees, Bluestein said his idea took off because of strong support from individuals, businesses and houses of worship. "I enjoy fundraising, and I wanted to do it for an organization that means a lot to me," said Bluestein, an attorney who represents clients with tax difficulties. "I'd rather tackle something significant, and make a difference, than just be a board member."

The event was initially sponsored and held at Temple Beth Am -- now Shir Shalom -- but was later moved to Island Park in Williamsville and co-sponsored by Calvary Episcopal Church. The two-mile walk is followed by musical entertainment, children's activities, food and raffles. Bluestein said Shir Shalom Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein and Shir Shalom leaders Todd Sugarman, Ralph Kushner and Bruce Corris were especially instrumental in the program's growth.

Rabbi Lazarus-Klein said it is "inspiring" to see the commitment and spirit of the participants. "Feeding the hungry is not only a basic Jewish value, but also a basic human value," he said. "Gary has not only helped stem hunger in this area, but he has created community. Kol HaKavod (all the honor) to Gary and all that he has been able to accomplish in this area."

More information about the Walk and about the Food Bank of WNY is available at www.foodbankwny.org.

David Safir: Coaching Teens for Maccabi Games

Ten local teenagers are preparing for an athletic competition August 6th-11th in Albany in which everyone goes home a winner. The Jewish Community Center Maccabi Games revolve around team and individual contests, but focus even more on *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), a general emphasis on health and fitness and the richness of a communal Jewish experience.

"They feel like they're part of something larger than themselves," said Patricia Simonson, Associate Executive Director of the Greater Buffalo JCC and coordinator of the local Maccabi effort. "It's a great, well-rounded experience for them."

This year's local contingent includes swimmers Nikita Andriyets, Ben Chukhanenko, John Gorgush, Isabella Rubin and Emma Wexler, along with golfer Gabe Schulefand. The local basketball team includes Jacob Adelman, Ethan Neu, Gilad Symons, Zachary Goodman and three players from Rochester.

In addition to the sports events, there will be an elaborate opening ceremony, opportunities for the Jewish teens to meet young people from other cities and countries, and a day dedicated to preparing and delivering meals for needy families in and around Albany.

Buffalo-area teams participated previously in San Antonio, southern California, Stamford, Connecticut and other host cities, said David Safir, coach of the local basketball squad. Safir, a life-long member of Congregation Shir Shalom, agreed to tackle that responsibility at the urging of his son Jonathan in 2006. "When your kid asks you to do something, you find a way to make it happen," Safir said. "It's a way of giving back." Jonathan went on to play basketball at Vassar College, and is now Director of Basketball Operations at Columbia University. At the same time, players lacking basic basketball skills are just as welcome to take part. "They come out and they play," David Safir said. "It's wide open. It's about the experience."

Rabbi Perry Netter honored by Beth Tzedek, Shabbat, July 29

On July 29, 2017 during Shabbat morning services, Beth Tzedek will be honoring Rabbi Perry Netter on his final Shabbat as our rabbi and spiritual leader of the highest caliber, as he retires and makes Aliyah to live in Zicharon Yaakov, Israel, with his wife, Safi, and children, Nadav and Sivan. Rabbi Netter has touched so many people with his passion for Torah and Israel, his compassion, warmth and humor, his magnificent sermons and teachings,

and his pastoral skills. There will be a special Kiddush sponsored by the Board of Directors in gratitude and appreciation for his visionary dedication to Temple Beth Tzedek and the Buffalo Jewish community. We will be wishing Rabbi Netter and his beloved family a rich and full life of health and well-being in Eretz Y'Israel, with the hope of seeing them again soon – *Lehitraot!*

USY Seniors



Molly Brownstein, Ben Geist, Leah Kramer, Ben Wolfson and Jared Wallenfels at a recent USY event.

TISHA B'AV – THE NINTH OF AV

Movie Night, No Popcorn

Monday, July 31, 7 PM

Sisterhood Chapel, 805 Delaware Ave.

The Ninth of Av is the worst day on the Jewish Calendar: the day on which both ancient Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed, the opening of the First Crusade, and the day on which the Spanish Expulsion began.

Jews traditionally commemorate this day with fasting and reading of Lamentations. Contemporary Reform Jews seldom take note of this mid-summer holy day. This year we gather to reflect on the past, and see how we might learn from our experiences of difficulty to make a better future.

Please join Rabbi Jonathan to view and then discuss "The Gatekeepers", a profound reflection on the consequences of right and wrong as Israeli counter-intelligence services attempt to combat terrorism.

No refreshments will be served in honor of the fasting of the Ninth of Av.



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- Bring an item or items from the Haven House Wish List (*see below*). Even if you are unable to attend the luncheon, we welcome donations for Haven House. Please bring items to the Broder Center prior to July 18.

Seating is by advance purchase reservation only and tickets are \$36 for Double Chai Patrons, \$18 for Chai Patrons or \$15 for Patrons. Reservations are required by Monday, July 10. Please mail your check to Marilyn Schillroth, 116 Hilton Boulevard, Amherst, NY 14226).

Haven House Wish List

New baby toys (newborn to 2 years old), slippers, hair products, conditioner, sunscreen, coloring books, pens, folders, sunscreen, hand soap, hand sanitizer, small kitchen appliances/kitchen items, gift Cards. Haven House welcomes any donations of new items for women and children.

Temple Beth Zion Summer Celebration

The premier social event of the summer!

Save Monday, August 14, for the Temple Beth Zion Summer Celebration featuring the 19th annual Golf Tournament and 7th annual Wine Tour.

This event raises vital funds for education programs at TBZ. The day begins at Transit Valley Country Club with a fabulous lunch on the newly renovated outdoor patio. At noon, those on the Wine Tour board a luxury air-conditioned coach to tour wineries in Niagara County. Temple sommelier Mark Criden leads this popular tour.

The Golf Tournament has a 12:30 shotgun start with 18 holes on this premier golf course. Our golfers love the "best in foursome" format that allows

them to play their own ball.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres follow the Wine Tour and Golf Tournament. The event is capped off with a delicious dinner and rousing auctions in the country club dining room.

David Goldberg and Sandy Schechter are Chairs of this amazing and highly successful event. Join us for the wine adventure (space is limited), on the golf course, or just come for cocktails and dinner.

If you are interested in participating and/or being a sponsor for this event, please contact Julie Feldman at (716) 836-6565, Ext. 134.

Spirited Jewish Chats with TBZ

Regular opportunities to dine and discuss. Talmud Lunches, Jolt of Judaism, and our exciting Torah Study on Shabbat mornings.

Jolt of Judaism

Thursdays, July 13, August 17

Noon – 1 PM

The SPoT, 1406 Hertel Ave.

Have a burning Jewish question and a mid-day need for caffeine?

Join the Jolt of Judaism and discuss any and all topics from a Jewish perspective over wake-up beverages and light lunches. Rabbi Jonathan will hold the Jolt of Judaism open forum on any topic you suggest, so send questions and topics for discussion to Rabbi Jonathan Freirich at rabbifreirich@tbz.org. Open to all! No host refreshments.

Talmud Talk

Tuesdays, August 8, September 5

Noon – 1:00 PM

Milos, 5877 Main St., Williamsville

All our Judaism, especially Reform Judaism, starts in the Talmud.

Everyone welcome – we are all beginners in the ocean of Jewish learning.

Materials provided. No host lunch.

Deli Judaism

Tuesdays, July 25, August 29

Noon – 1:00 PM

Joe's Deli, 534 Elmwood Ave.

What does Judaism say about...?

We start with Torah and Talmud and we end up in the Big Bang and Evolution?

Could happen! Have an opinion – bring it!

No prerequisites – everyone welcome.

Materials provided. No host lunch.

Torah Study

Saturday mornings

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave.

TBZ's clergy delve into the week's reading from Torah, the Five Books of Moses. Learned and open-ended, join this group and discuss how our ancient texts still bring meaning to our Twenty-First Century lives. Coffee provided.

Looking for something that's not here?

Let us know by e-mailing Rabbi Jonathan (rabbifreirich@tbz.org.)

“Exploring” (& More) with PALS

Douglas Love, Director of Explore & More Children's Museum, came to visit PALS at TBZ in June. The children had fun expressing themselves through movement. Through their Tzedakah Fund, PALS presented Mr. Love with a check for \$360 for the new museum.



A Wing and a Prayer

Tuesday, July 25, 7 PM
Anchor Bar, 1047 Main St.

A minister and a rabbi walk into a bar for some wings, in search of...a punchline? Join Rev. Lee Miller and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich for an informal evening of meaningful chit chat and tasty refreshments, along with your Temple Beth Zion friends. No formal collars or white shirts for these two clergy – relax! Opening topic for the evening: Spirituality and Action – what action in the world does a rich religious life demand of us?

PALS 2017

**Registration is now open
 for Summer PALS.**

Plans for the summer include weekly cooking, art projects, music and field trips. Six weeks of Monday/Wednesday/Friday camp are available for 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Tuesday/Thursday camp is available for children ages 18–24 months. The first week of Summer PALS begins July 10.

For the fall, we encourage you take advantage of our early registration discount. Applications received by May 31 will lock in current year pricing. Call Melissa Milch at (716) 836-6565 for complete details.

Spring Activities at Kehillat Ohr Tzion

It's been a very busy few months at KOT with dinners, luncheons and *simchas*. With all the preparations for Passover, members of KOT really appreciated having Shabbat dinner at the shul three days before the first seder. The dinner was well attended as everyone relaxed and enjoyed each other's company.

On April 22, KOT celebrated the bris of Jake Alexander Kaplan. Family and friends from Long Island and Toronto joined the KOT family in the celebration. His parents Aaron and Jessica Kaplan, sponsored a delicious luncheon after the bris. Another wonderful event, a *simchat bat*, was celebrated on May 6 for Claire Emma Haccoun. Family and friends from Chicago, Montreal and New York City as well as KOT members were overjoyed to welcome another new member to the kehillah. Claire's parents, Laurent Haccoun and Sophia



Rabbi Josh Strosberg

Balderman, sponsored another delicious luncheon.

Another wonderful KOT *simcha* was held on May 14 as Karen and Joel Marks celebrated their wedding under the chupah accompanied by their handsome sons, Asher and Ben. Rabbi Strosberg performed the ceremony and Andrea Strosberg played the violin as they were escorted to the chupah. All those in attendance sang, danced and after

the ceremony enjoyed a festive meal together. In the evening Lag B'omer was celebrated by KOT at a barbecue at the home of Barb and Mark Chazen.

Dr. Zev Minkoff and Eva Lana Reichenberg were married at the KOT synagogue on May 28.

The Kehillat Ohr Tzion family celebrated Hannah Freundel becoming a bat mitzvah on June 10.

On Sunday, July 2 at 11:30 am, KOT will host a going away party for our Rabbi Joshua Strosberg, Andrea and their children Maayan and Yonah. Although our congregation and the Buffalo Jewish community are sad to see them leave, we all want to wish them well in their exciting new endeavors where Rabbi Strosberg will be teaching at the Farber Hebrew Day School in Detroit, Michigan.

The summer months will also be busy as KOT welcomes a new rabbi in August and plans for an art auction on September 10. For more information about KOT contact President Jeff Schapiro at jefrs@verizon.net

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CALENDAR



July 1

Canada Day-
Canada's 150th birthday
celebrated

July 4

U.S. Independence Day celebrated!
Our country is 241 years old!

July 7

**PJ Library's Shabbat Hop
in the City.**
5:45pm. Temple Beth Zion.
Contact Mandy Weiss
at mweiss@jfedbflo.com
or call 716-241-4221.

July 18

**TBZ Sisterhood's Haven House
Scholarship Luncheon.**
12:00 noon.
Broder Building,
700 Sweet Home Rd.
Call 716-826-6565.

July 25

**Buffalo Hadassah Card Party
@ Canterbury Woods.**
Contact
buffalohadassah@gmail.com
or call 716-688-5260.

July 25

**Interfaith Study with TBZ at
"A Wing & A Prayer"**
7:00 pm, Anchor Bar,
1047 Main Street

July 29

**Special Service
at Temple Beth Tzedek**
honoring Rabbi Netter at Shabbat
morning services.

**Walk Off Hunger,
benefitting the Food Bank of WNY.**
10am- 2pm. Island Park,
Williamsville.
Co-Sponsored by
Congregation Shir Shalom.
Call the Food Bank at
716-935-6717
for more information.

July 31

**TBZ Movie Night
to honor Tisha b' Av.**
Movie - No Popcorn. 7:00 pm.
805 Delaware Ave.
Call 716-836-6565.

THE JEWISH JOURNAL
A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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Women*



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THE BJE WELCOMES SUSAN GOLDBERG SCHWARTZ

Susan Goldberg Schwartz is very excited to join the Bureau of Jewish Education as Director of Adult Learning. She brings an extensive knowledge of and experience in the local Jewish Community, national recognition for her decades of work and leadership in Jewish Lifelong Learning, as well as a strong connection to Israel. Since her return to Buffalo from Israel in the fall of 1989, Susan immersed herself in the Jewish community, teaching 3 & 4 year olds in pre-school and Hebrew in the Religious School at the former Temple Beth Am, working summers at Camp Centerland, and leading music for Congregation Havurah. Susan has served as the Director of Early Childhood Services at the JCC – Holland Family Building and was the Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo, providing cultural, spiritual, educational and social programs for Jewish university students in the Western New York area. Most recently, Susan completed 16 years as the Director of Lifelong Learning at Temple Beth Zion, where she was responsible for all aspects of Jewish learning, from preschool, religious school, youth and adult learning.

Susan is passionate about Lifelong Jewish learning and practices what she teaches. She has continued her personal Jewish learning through informal and formal Torah study, attendance at national Jewish conferences and participation in Jewish leadership training through The



Susan Goldberg Schwartz

Mussar Institute. Susan is a Mussar course facilitator, and serves in leadership positions on a number of committees at the Mussar Institute.

"We are thrilled to welcome Susan to the BJE," said Jill Komm, Executive Director. "Her experience and passion for Jewish learning will enhance our programs tremendously."

Susan is happily married to Steven Schwartz, mother of two adult children and is most proud to be grandma to Liora! For more information on Adult Learning opportunities at the Bureau of Jewish Education, please contact Susan at 716-204-5380, susan@bjebuffalo.org, or visit www.bjebuffalo.org/adulted.

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Summer Pops Concert

Shake, Rattle & Roll With The King!

Join nationally acclaimed "Elvis" tribute artist Terry Buchwald. Move and groove down memory lane with rockin' tunes at our outdoor patio party.

**Wednesday, July 19
6:30 p.m.**

Weinberg Campus
2700 North Forest Road
Amherst, NY 14068

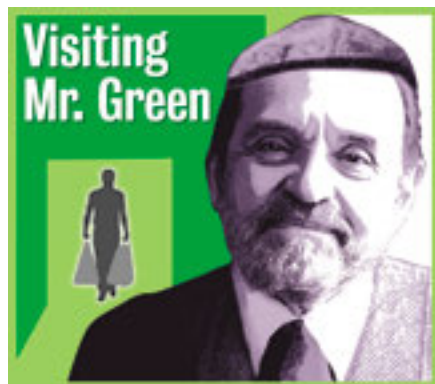
**It's free! RSVP to (716) 512-0925
or rsvp@weinbergcampus.org**



WeinbergCampus.org

Jewish Repertory Theatre Announces 2017/2018 Season

The Jewish Repertory Theatre has announced its 2017/18 season. "This season we are looking forward to bringing back a couple of "old" friends – VISITING MR. GREEN and ROSE - who helped us start our JRT journey as well as SIGHT UNSEEN, which along with BROOKLYN BOY and COLLECTED STORIES will be the third Donald Margulies play that we have produced," says Saul Elkin, JRT Founding Artistic Director. "These are productions that we first presented in other Buffalo theatres before we had a home of our own. Revisiting these wonderful stories and characters in our own theatre space is an exciting venture which we are pleased to offer our audiences."



VISITING MR. GREEN

By Jeff Baron

October 19 – November 12, 2017

In 2017 the theatre world will celebrate 20 years of this much-loved and awarded play which has been produced more than 500 times in 46 countries and in 23 languages. Mr. Green, an elderly, retired dry cleaner wanders into New York traffic and is almost hit by a car driven by Ross Gardiner, a 29-year-old corporate executive. The young man is given a community service of helping

the recent widower once a week for six months. What starts as a comedy about two men who do not want to be in the same room together becomes a gripping, moving drama as they get to know each other, and open old wounds they've been hiding and nursing for years.

Directed by Steve Vaughan. Starring Saul Elkin and Nick Stevens.



ROSE

By Martin Sherman

February 1 – 25, 2018

This story chronicles the life of a remarkable woman who traveled from

a tiny Russian village to the Warsaw Ghetto, to a ship called The Exodus, and finally to the boardwalks of Atlantic City, the Arizona Canyons, and salsa-flavored nights in Miami Beach. ROSE, by the author of Bent and played by Olympia Dukakis at the Royal National Theatre in London and at New York's Lincoln Center, is a vivid portrait of a feisty Jewish woman, and a reminder of events that shaped the 20th century.

Directed by Saul Elkin. Starring Tina Rausa.



SIGHT UNSEEN,

BY Donald Margulies

April 19 – May 13, 2018

Jonathan Waxman is a superstar artist, so popular that collectors will buy his work "sight unseen." Winner of the 1991-92 Obie Award for Best New American Play, SIGHT UNSEEN poses questions about art, money, love, and inspiration and the ways in which they

are inextricably entangled.

Directed by Saul Elkin. Starring Connie Caldwell, Josie DiVincenzo, David Lundy and Peter Palmisano.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo.

All productions take place at The Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building at 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY. For more information on JRT, productions, dates and tickets, visit www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com. Tickets are available at 716-6507626, through Showclix at 1-888-718-4253 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EST) or at either JCC reception desk.

JCC BOOK AND ARTS FESTIVAL



Native Buffalonian and Book Fair Author Mindy Fried (4th from left) and friends at her reading this spring



Gunilla Kester and Shiri Kester, a talented mother-daughter duo, presented poetry and photography at the JCC Book & Arts Fair, Thursday, June 1. Thank you for a memorable evening!



Buffalo author Brian Castner, event sponsor Gabe Ferber and Israeli/Canadian author Matti Friedman at their talk in June at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, co-presented by Just Buffalo Literary Center

TRAVEL WITH THE JCC...

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CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS Trip

At the Corning Museum of Glass, glass isn't just for looking at or through. At this museum, you can explore, research, touch, work with, and interact with glass.

Travel by Coach Bus Guided Tour

Time to shop!

Lunch voucher included

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

\$125 / \$115 JCC member discount

Bus will leave the JCC Benderson Family Building at 9:00 AM

Paid Registrations by July 21, 2017

For more information contact: Karla Wiseman at 204-2257 or kwiseman@jccbuffalo.org

THE 2017 BUFFALO JCC MACCABI TEAM

*By Patricia Simonson,
Buffalo Delegation head*

The Buffalo JCC is pleased to announce that it will be sending a delegation of 16 athletes to the 2017 JCC Maccabi Games in Albany, NY, August 6 to 11th. This summer the JCC of Greater Buffalo will return after a ten year hiatus. Patty Simonson, Buffalo Maccabi Delegation head has taken teams to the Games over the last 22 years. In the past teams have traveled to Dallas, Orange County California, Rochester, Miami, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, West Palm Beach and Detroit. This year Buffalo will be taking a team of 16 student athletes including: 10 Basketball players coached by David Safir, 5 Swimmers coached by Inna Goldfarb and Julie Kingsley and 1 Golfer coached by Randy Simonson to compete in the Games. Teams from all over the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Mexico and Israel will compete. We are excited about participating and hope that we will bring home some "bronze", "silver" or "gold".

The JCC Maccabi Games kicked off in 1982. This athletic event offers the opportunity to compete with Jewish teens from all over the United States including International teams from Israel, Mexico, Great Britain, Canada, and Australia to name a few. The Games were designed to provide Jewish youth with a supportive environment that fosters mutual respect and sportsmanship, where they can interact in an atmosphere of fun, democracy, and peace and cultivate a deeper understanding and instill an appreciation of Jewish values. It fosters Jewish youth to enrich their identity in an informal setting, and encourage their identification with the state of Israel; promote and encourage the health, physical fitness and well-being of Jewish youth through participation in recreational and athletic activities; and introduce Jewish youth to the international Maccabi Movement.

Participation is open to Jewish teens 13 to 16 years old. The cost to participate is approximately \$1500. Buffalo will be recruiting teens for the 2018 delegation in the following sports: Boys Basketball, Swimming, and golf. If you would like more information please contact Patricia Simonson, Buffalo Delegation Head at (716) 204-2073 or pattysimonson@jccbuffalo.org. In addition please visit www.jccmaccabi.jcca.org to get more info and to see a video about the Games.

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2017 Arts and Writing Contest Awards Presentation

By Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D.
Member of the Board of Directors of the HRC

More than 100 students, parents, teachers and community members attended the 2017 Arts and Writing Contest Ceremony June 1 held at Congregation Shir Shalom. The theme of the annual event, sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), the Renée and Boris Joffe Foundation, and the Mary Deane Freeland Foundation, was “Getting at the Truth.” WNY students in grades 7 through 12 were given the two following prompts to inspire them in their writing and artistic endeavors: “What do YOU know of the roles of Victim, Perpetrator, and Bystander during the Holocaust and other Genocides? How will YOU, with a fuller understanding of the Holocaust and other Genocides, help to stop such events today?”

To begin the evening, I had the honor of conducting a brief Q&A with Holocaust Survivors and members of the HRC Speakers Bureau Renée Joffe and Stephan Lewy. I first asked them about a defining moment in their survival or during the war; Renée spoke of the good smuggler who had helped her mother, her sister, and her cross over Nazi-Occupied France’s demarcation line from the Occupied Zone to the Free Zone to reach safety. Stephan spoke of how one year after finally arriving in the U.S. at the age of 17, he served in the U.S. Army. While serving in the U.S. Army, he was part of the division that liberated Auschwitz where Nobel Laureate and human rights advocate Eli Wiesel was held. A poignant memory for Stephan was when a female survivor called out to the U.S. servicemen to ensure that they knew which Nazi had conducted medical experiments on the concentration camp internees. After the awards were distributed, Stephan and I never made it to the reception as students and family members came over to ask individual questions. Meanwhile, Renée was busy answering questions during the reception. It was clear that for many students, it was their first experience in speaking with a Holocaust Survivor and they were deeply impacted.

After the Q&A with Renée and Stephan, Eve Everette, Vice President of Education, presented the Toby Ticktin-Back Educator Award to Megan Wright, English Teacher at Alexander Middle-High School. In her acceptance speech, Megan explained that after taking a graduate-level class titled *Literature of the Holocaust*, she was inspired to develop and implement two new courses within the Alexander School District: “This one class deeply impacted my life, and I wanted the opportunity to share what I learned with the students so perhaps they could develop a similar



Deborah Goldman accepts an award from Pieter Weinreib



Robert Freeland and Pieter Weinreib, president



Roberta Handel and Pieter Weinreib



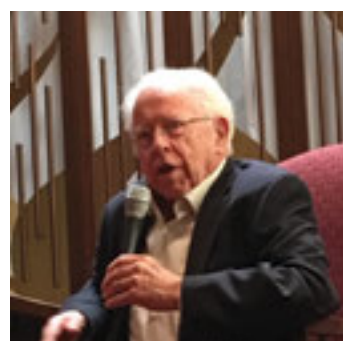
HRC Director Mara Koven-Gelman and Pieter Weinreib



Rachel Kranitz McPhee



Sophia Veffor and Stephan Lewy with Eileen Angelini



Stephan Lewy



Robert Freeland and Renee Joffe



Student art award winners



Student Writing Award Winners



Sophia Veffor and friends

respect for the Holocaust and World War II.”

Boris and Renée Joffe Award Winners for Art were Norinne Truskinovsky, Makenna Poissant, Isabella Conde, Irisa Drake, Hannah Maxick, Madeline Catalano, Alexandra Lint, Michaela Reimers, HanLin Wu, and Katherine

Mills. The Mary Deane Freeland Award for Best of Show for Art went to Hannah Maxick, 10th Grade, Williamsville North High School.

Boris and Renée Joffe Award Winners for Writing were Caleb Senick, Sarah Beckage, Hannah Miller, Jessica Avila-Shah, Sarah Chan, Matthew Kozinski,

Bryan Renzoni, Hannah Johnston, Hailey Cullen, Maddie Diodate, Carly Burgio, and Megan Lanphere. The Mary Deane Freeland Award for Best of Show for Writing went to Hannah Johnston, 10th Grade, Mount Saint Mary Academy.

UB receives prestigious NEH grant to support educators' summer seminar

By Suzanne Chamberlain

The 2017 summer seminar “Emmanuel Levinas on Morality, Justice, and the Political” is the fifth in a series presented by Professor Richard A. Cohen of UB’s Department of Jewish Thought, but the first funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

“I’m honored and happy to receive this grant,” says Cohen, former director of the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage, and first chair of the Department of Jewish Thought in UB’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Cohen believes the success of the first four Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminars and a change in the NEH funding process to include one-week programs helped UB win the prestigious grant. The \$70,000 award covers free tuition and stipends for the 16 NEH Summer Scholars taking part in the seminar.

Seminar participants — college

and university faculty from across the country — come from diverse disciplines, including philosophy, English, psychology, religion and legal studies. They will spend an intense week in Buffalo July 17–21 involved in learning and discussion, or as Cohen notes, “renewing the essence of learning and education.”

The Levinas summer seminars frame all conversations around the thinking of Emmanuel Levinas (1906-95), recognized as one of the most original and important philosophers of the 20th century. But each year the location of the seminar is considered when choosing



Dr. Richard Cohen

the particular topic.

The first seminar in Vilnius, Lithuania, looked at the origin of responsibility, which lies at the core of Levinas’s thought. The next, in Buffalo, focused on the primacy of ethics in philosophy. Since Levinas is a comprehensive philosopher, Cohen says, the 2015 seminar in Rome, Italy, examined Eros/love. Last year’s seminar in Berkeley, California, addressed the concept of free speech and the difficulty of real freedom.

Cohen, a leading expert on

Levinas, is eager for this year’s seminar because the topic dovetails with his research into how politics can be ethical. He says he appreciates the opportunity to reframe the relationships between morality, justice and the political. Cohen notes that to think about ethics is not a fad, but rather draws from thousands of years, providing a profound, yet relevant way to consider “the most important questions in the deepest way.”

Why hold these seminars? “On ethics? So we can better be kind to one another and know better how to create a just world,” says Cohen, who admits to being an unabashed idealist. He adds that while Levinas is not easy, his thinking is humanist and applies to all who want to be broadly educated.

NEH officials say that by supporting the humanities and educators across the country in various activities, including original research and discourse leading to new intellectual insights, their grants “strengthen the nation’s cultural fabric and identity.”

Cohen serves as director of the Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminars. James McLachlan, professor of philosophy and religion at Western Carolina University, North Carolina, assists with the seminars, as does Jolanta Saldukaityte, who teaches philosophy at the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences and the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

From UB Now- June 7, 2017

HADASSAH OFFERS CLASS ON MEMOIR WRITING



Emeritus Professor of English at UB Dr. Howard Wolf, author of the forthcoming play – *Home at the End of the Day* (Prestige Books International) – will offer a course on memoir writing in which “travel experience” will serve as the blueprint for constructing one’s “story” and forming a coherent image of the larger world. The important “sites” of life, organized in chronological order, will provide a convenient time-line for this life-writing and will yield insight. This type of writing might be called “Memoir as Travel-Log.” Dr. Wolf has published a collection of travel essays – *Far-Away Places: Lessons in Exile* (Tel Aviv and New York), that can be read as an autobiography. Dr. Wolf’s new play will be part of JCC Book Fair in 2018.

The course, sponsored by Buffalo Hadassah, will begin September 12, 2017, Tuesday, 1:00-3:00, at JCC Getzville, and run for ten weeks. The cost is \$75, payable to Buffalo Hadassah. Please call Susan Bergman, 716-688-7581, to enroll or for further information.

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HADASSAH SUMMER HAPPENINGS

The Buffalo Hadassah Program Committee meets regularly to plan interesting, fun, and educational programs throughout the year. There has been a variety of programs every month during the spring and summer. In May a group of Hadassah member toured the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site and then walked to the Lenox Grill for lunch. Rhonda Wise, Program Co-chair planned this program. The June program featured Kimberly Fenter, a certified health and nutrition coach. Fenter shared many practical ideas for living a more healthy life style. The program was planned and hosted by Sherri Davis at her lovely East Amherst home.

On July 25, Hadassah will hold its annual card party and luncheon at Canterbury Woods Retirement Home, and on August 22 there will be a mini fundraiser purse party held at Amberleigh Retirement Community. Mickey Savit planned both of these programs. Contact buffalohadassah@gmail.com for more information or to make reservations.

Buffalo Hadassah sends money throughout the year to Hadassah International, which through the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), provides medical care to over a million patients a year regardless of race, religion or nationality in Israel and around the world.



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BuffaloSeminary.org/SAS

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Mental and emotional health conditions affect all of society, including the Jewish the community. Jewish Family Services and other community volunteers are joining the coalition to destigmatize mental illness and raise awareness. Please join us for an important women's event:

State Of Mind: A Jewish Women's Journey with Mental Health

**August 17th, 7:30pm
at the home of Cantor Penny Myers**

*Kosher refreshments
Suggested donation: \$10*

Rebbetzin Shana Rosenfeld will talk about her personal experience navigating anxiety and depression. She will share strategies to support, educate, and empower others to end mental health stigma. The Rebbetzin will expound on how she has drawn strength from Jewish teaching and practice. Mrs. Rosenfeld will share the lessons and truths she has discovered during her own struggles and triumphs with mental illness.

Mrs. Shana Rosenfeld is the executive director of the McMaster University Jewish Student Center in Hamilton, Ontario. She is a mother and Jewish educator. Mrs. Rosenberg is certified in Mental Health First Aid. For more info and to RSVP please email stateofmindrsvp@gmail.com

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\$20, \$15 with member discount

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2 Hour sessions include orientation, ground school and plenty of time to get your fill of climbing in. Ages 10+.

\$25, \$20 with member discount

11:00am-3:00pm

Climbing Wall & Zipline High Ropes Challenge Course

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July 4	#18718	#18720
July 16	#18575	#18576
July 30	#18577	#18578
August 13	#18579	#18580
September 3	#18719	#18721

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Bring your own picnic dinner at 5:30pm

Concert to begin at 6:30pm

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Sunday Fundays

1:00 - 5:00pm

July 23 Aug. 13 Sept. 10



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Aug. 12 Aug. 26 Sept. 2



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July 4

11:00am- After UB Fireworks

Labor Day

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Buffalo

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

Free babysitting

Kadimah Dinner Honors Avy Sterman

Kadimah Academy honored Avy Sterman at its annual dinner June 12 at Acqua Restaurant. Several hundred people turned out to thank Avy, show their support for the school, and hear speaker and new Buffalo developer Douglas Jemal.



YAD B'YAD'S 5TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW BRINGS JOY!

By Cindi Mikulik,
Yad B'Yad Director

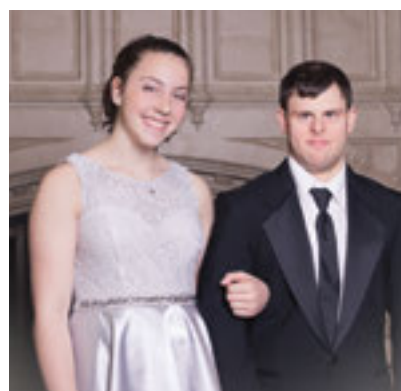
On Sunday morning, May 9, friends and family gathered at Park Country Club for Yad B'Yad's 5th Annual Fashion Show. The models began arriving early to prepare. They were a perfect mix of Yad B'Yad participants, Hebrew High students, and UB Hillel members. Beautiful formal dresses from TT New York were modeled by the women while their male partners sported Tuxedo Junction tuxes in a variety of colors and styles. There was a lot of pre-show excitement and some jitters. But, when it came time for each pair of models to walk down the "runway" they were all smiles and the guests loved them.

Against a backdrop of the stone walls and wood beams of a century old country club, guests "schmoozed", enjoyed a gift card wall and basket raffle, and sat down to a delicious brunch. The program opened with remarks from Yad B'Yad Committee chair- Laurie Criden. She was followed by WIVB news anchor Marissa Perlman, who emceed the program, introducing each pair of models and describing the details of their outfits.

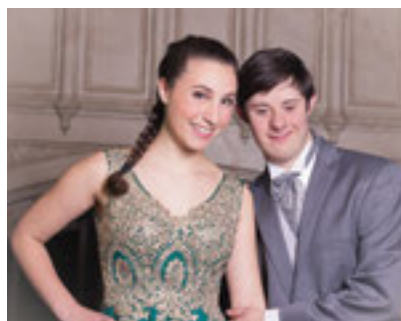
Guests thoroughly enjoyed the couples as they strolled down the walkway and were treated to a promenade of all of the models at the end. There were non-stop smiles and, despite the gloomy, grey day, sunshine abounded inside the club. Due to lots of hard work by many, many people, the program was a wonderful success. Excitement ran high, and there is already talk about next year.

Now that the fashion show is over and summer approaches, Yad B'Yad is preparing for many, fun, engaging programs for its participants. The meetings that have been held indoors all winter will venture outside. New participants will be welcomed, friendships will grow, and the connection with the Jewish community will get stronger.

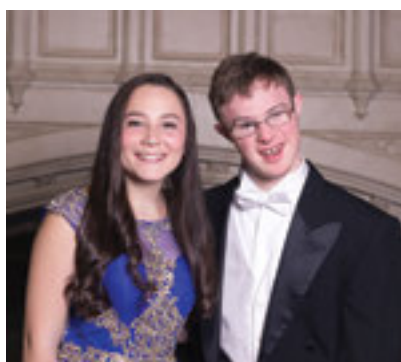
If you know of anyone who will benefit from Yad B'Yad programs, please don't hesitate to have them contact us. Yad B'Yad is a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education that provides outreach, advocacy and program support to assist people with disabilities in achieving full participation in Jewish life in Western New York. To join us in our programming, or to volunteer, please visit our website at www.yadbyad.org, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yadbyadbuffalo, or contact Cindi Mikulik at 716-204-5380 or yadbyad@bjebuffalo.org. We look forward to having you!



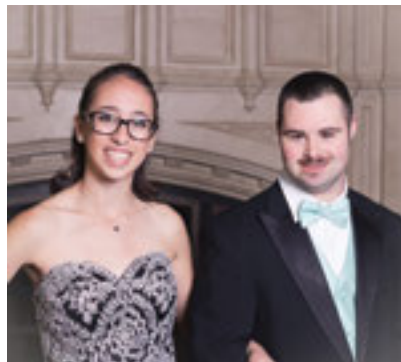
Abby Block and Cody Redding



Emma Isenberg and Stephen Ballow



Madeleine Weinmann and Drew Boehnlein



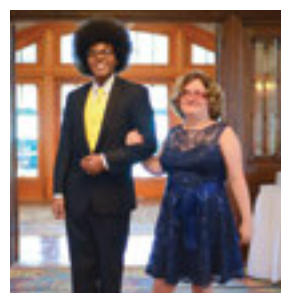
Hannah Maxick and Eric Lehrman



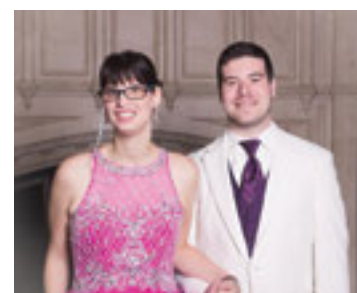
Laurie Criden, Chair of Yad B'Yad



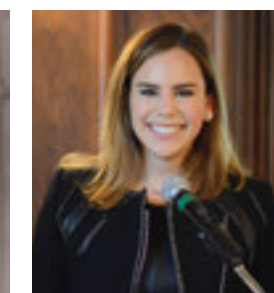
Amanda Michaels and Logan Woodard



Sarah Doueck and Michael Sanders



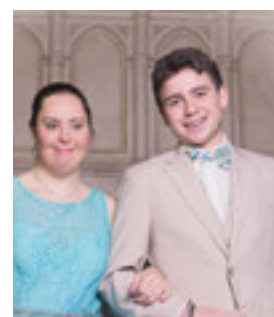
Taylor McLanahan and Ben Balderman



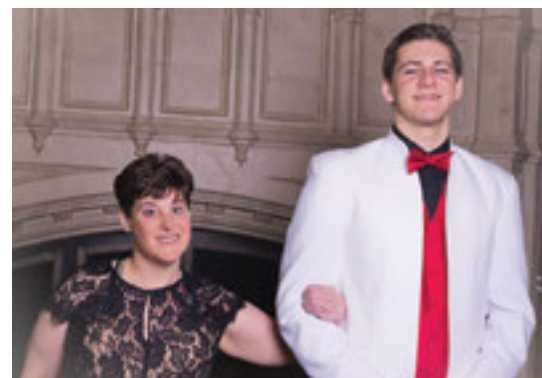
Marissa Perlman was the emcee



Ariella Yonaty and David Rosenhoch



Brianna Schmidt and Noah Block



Leah Silkes and Seth Blum



All the models in the show



Sisters Sue Carrel and Bette Davidson



Ethel Melzer with JimmyLee and Ashley Steinfeld



Committee Members Leah Blum and Nikki Boehnlein



Committee Member Valerie Rosenhoch



Sharon Kostiner



Mitch and Linda Steinhorn



Kim Yonaty and Judy Babat

ב"ה



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Session 2: Aug 2-23

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PARTNERSHIP, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT CORE FOCUS AT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE ANNUAL MEETING

The core message at the 153rd annual meeting of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County was: “We can’t do it alone, and we are better together.” Peter Fleischmann, CEO of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, was honored with the Abram and Ruth E. Pugash Family Fund Award; and Deaf Access Services received the 2017 Community Partnership Award at the May 16 gathering at Temple Beth Zion.

In accepting his award, Fleischmann credited his wife Ilene Fleischmann, a past JFS board member and recipient of the 2016 Pugash honor, for helping him fully understand the scope of JFS service to the community. “I now have

a deeper understanding of the mission of this agency and the work it does, and the very deep connection between the work of the agency and the most fundamental core values of the Jewish people,” Fleischmann said.

Blaine S. Schwartz, Esq., JFS board chair, reported that despite the funding strain resulting from a sharp reduction in the number of refugees the agency will be allowed to resettle this year, the JFS will continue to be a leader in the provision of social services to everyone in need. “To do that we are going to need your help... as volunteers, supporters and people who, frankly, just go out and talk about JFS,” he told the nearly 40



Jewish Family Service board members and friends (l. to r): Seated Front Row: (L to R) Marlene Schillinger, Zabrina Reich, Karen Greenspan, Carri Milch. Standing (L to R) Peter Silverman, Blaine Schwartz, Paul Michaels, Nancy Nathan, Ruth Wiseman Spivak, Juliana Teibel, Ilene Fleischmann, Robert Portin, Nikki Balsom, Peter Fleischmann, Rabbi Laizer Labkovski

board members, staff, supporters and friends in attendance.

Schwartz lauded staff for work that has led to national recognition of the JFS Deaf Refugee program, and said he was proud of the agency’s refugee resettlement services, which include the Western New York Center for Survivors of Torture. He also credited JFS president and CEO Marlene Schillinger and the JFS mental health staff for successfully steering the agency through a “minefield of changes” related to the delivery of mental health services.

JFS is has been a New York State-licensed psychiatric clinic for many years. The agency also is a founding

cornerstone of the Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition and is at the forefront of the recently launched “Join the Conversation” campaign. “Join the Conversation” (www.letstalkstigma.org) is a comprehensive regional communications initiative to reduce the stigma that still surrounds mental illness and prevents people from getting help they need.

Among other institutional advancements, Schwartz also reported that Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County currently is:

Working with Shaun Benderson and the Benderson family; Peter Fleischmann and the Foundation for



The only thing as dangerous as not treating a mental health disorder . . . is not talking about it.

End the stigma. Join the Conversation at letstalkstigma.org

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County is proud to be a cornerstone of the Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition and its initiative to get people talking about mental health stigma and improve mental wellness in Western New York.



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Deaf Access Services

(l. to r.): Blaine S. Schwartz, JFS Board Chair, Andrea Russell, DAS Community Services Navigator, Patty Tadak, DAS Board Secretary, Marlene A. Schillinger, JFS President / CEO, Petra Saunders, DAS Director of Community Services, Pam Kefi, DAS Executive Director and DAS Director of Interpreting Services Nelson Gannon.



Peter Fleishmann and JFS President Blaine Schwartz

New board members Ellen Sterman, MD., Peter Silverman, Ana Stearns, MD and Ruth Wiseman Spivak were installed at the meeting: Retuning directors include Jonathan A. Dandes, Zabrina V. Reich, Esq. and David A. Schlein. Rotating off the JFS board: Lisa Kovel, Paul J. Michaels, Nancy Nathan and Julie Dressler Weinberg, LCSW-R.

Schillinger said in her remarks that compassion, respect and dignity guide every action at JFS.

"We believe that the only thing that matters as much as what we do is the spirit in which we do it," she said, thanking honorees, board members, staff, donors and supporters.

"We believe in community. We believe in people. We believe in partnerships. We believe things can be better. Money is tight and change seems the only constant, but we believe that we are all better together."

Jewish Philanthropies to redesign and raise funds for major renovations to its offices on the top floor of Temple Beth Zion.

Inviting the former executive director of the Sarasota Jewish Family Service, thanks to the assistance of Shaun Benderson, to consult with JFS on its operations and to help develop strategies to provide enhanced services.

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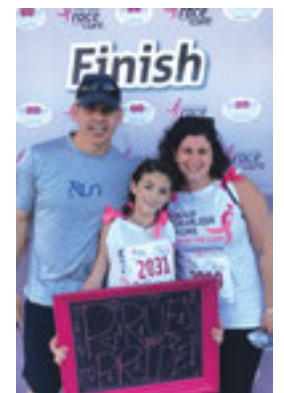
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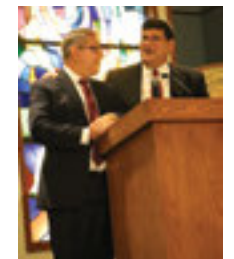
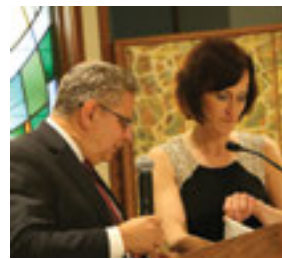
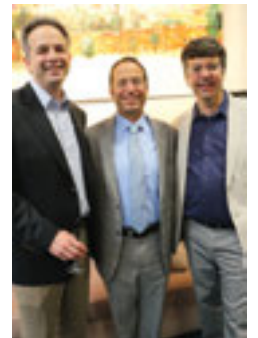
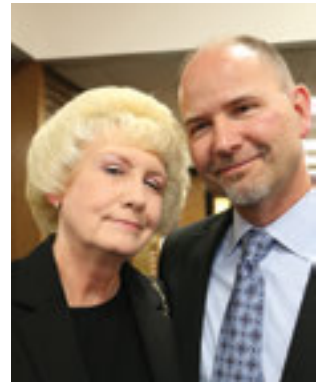


Women of Distinction Luncheon

Buffalo Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy presented the biennial luncheon which honored 20 local heroines in our midst. It took place June 16 at Temple Beth Tzedek, sharing the broad array of talented women volunteer leaders from our synagogues and agencies which make up vibrant and caring Jewish Buffalo.



Temple Beth Tzedek Says Farewell to Rabbi Netter



Family Justice Center Voices Against Violence



Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy needs YOU!

*By Amy Heumann,
Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy Co-chair*

At a library table, a volunteer listens and provides gentle encouragement as three fourth graders take turns reading from copies of a book provided by their teacher. In a school hallway, a volunteer high fives with a third grader who has successfully completed an assignment. In a Pre-K classroom, a volunteer helps a four-year-old identify letters of the alphabet and then shares a special story.

A classroom of first graders comes to the school library with their teacher to select books to take home and keep. From tables filled with new and like-new books, the children choose three titles that appeal to them and then take them to be personalized. Volunteers place glossy bookplates and a sticker with the child's name inside each book's front cover. These volumes may be an addition to a small home library, or the only books he or she will ever own. When the first graders leave clutching their books, a second grade class is already peering eagerly through the library door.

These scenes, and countless others like them, occur at P.S. #80, Highgate Heights, where Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy supports staff and students as they work to improve reading skills. As school year 20016-2-017 draws to a close, BJCL celebrates its sixteenth year of service.

Located just over the Amherst/Buffalo border, Highgate Heights sometimes seems like a world away from the relatively prosperous suburbs. Many of the students who attend school here face challenges which most of us have never experienced. At the same time, these children often remind me of my own. They delight in personal attention, love to share confidences, and bask in well-deserved praise. In short, they're kids.

For the past twelve years, I've worked with young children, collected and distributed books to kids from Pre-K to fourth grade, met many wonderful volunteers, and found a way to feel challenged and fulfilled through BJCL. This type of volunteerism isn't for everyone. But for those of us who enjoy connecting children with books, the rewards are immense.

Does this sound like something you might enjoy? Do you have an hour or so each week to read with a child? Would you like to assist with a book giveaway a few times a year? Do you have children's' books to donate? If so, contact Ellen Goldstein (egoldstein@jfedbflo.org) for more information. In September, BJCL will begin its seventeenth year of service. We'd love to have you join us!



(NOT) THE LAST WORD

RUMMAGING THROUGH BUFFALO HISTORY

By Robin Raphael

Have you ever dreaded taking on the task of cleaning out a basement or attic? Here I was, a new retiree, asked to do just that for a not-for-profit organization called the Network of Religious Communities (NRC). I did not know what I was getting into. Turns out that a job that was presumed to take six months is now still going strong after more than two years. However, this has become a fascinating venture because of the history/artifacts, and in many cases, the treasures that have been uncovered.

The Network of Religious Communities (NRC) is a venerable institution whose roots date back to 1857 (I know because we found the notebooks with the information just a few weeks ago). It is an organization whose purpose is to find common ground among its constituent members: all the major religions in the Western New York Area. The ability to work together when there are substantive differences in belief is so critical in this divisive era. Buffalo Jewish Federation is a member agency of this interfaith organization which began as the Council

of Churches.

However, this is a column about its history. As a member of a very small group of people who committed to organizing the papers of the NRC and its predecessor organizations, I have found projects that the Network has preserved that could be right out of today's headlines. For example, the Coalition for Police and Community was created in Buffalo as a response to the beating of Rodney King. This led to modifications in the Buffalo City Charter dealing with policing. Once again this is a "hot"



Robin Raphael

topic in Buffalo. Perhaps a review of the NRC records (Box 158!) can facilitate the conversation that will begin in March.

Buffalo was the site for major national demonstrations around abortion in 1992. As a result, the NRC facilitated the Buffalo Coalition for Common Ground which created a model for dealing with

conflict over social policy issues. This model spread nationally. The timeliness of these issues would suggest that the study of the history of community efforts who seek to work together would once again be valuable.

The photos, newspaper articles and flyers we've found from days gone by have provided much comic relief as well. One of our favorites was the orange poster that states "I am pledged to FIGHT THE FILTH COLUMN. The poster has a shield with the words CLEAN MINDS MAKE STRONG BODIES FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP". The conclusion is "I do hereby agree that I will not possess, sell, lend or give away any indecent or suggestive book, magazine or article". The proprietor signed the poster and displayed it.

One of my favorite treasures is a handwritten letter dated 1909 written to the Honorable Board Federation of Women's Clubs, Buffalo, NY. The letter was written to "abolish the nuisance created by the Jacob Told Packing Company and Joseph Salter by driving their pigs and cattle through our streets between the hours of 3 AM and 7 AM and the yelling and whistling of the drivers greatly disturbs our night rest".

Despite the dust, mold and cold, it has been an honor to find and organize these documents and photos that show how similar we are to our grandparents and great grandparents in so many ways. By inventorying these records along with a plan to digitize them for posterity, our goal is to make it easy for the reader to access this information. We can then learn from our past and not reinvent the wheel every single time. (And clean out the attic too!)

An advertisement for The Oliver's Manhattan bar. The image shows a bartender in a blue shirt pouring Buffalo Trace whiskey into a glass with ice. A bottle of Buffalo Trace is prominently displayed in the foreground. The text "The Oliver's Manhattan" is written in red at the top, followed by "A staple at our bar." in white. A red circular logo with the word "Oliver's" in white script is on the right. At the bottom, the phone number "716.877.9662" and address "2095 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14216" are listed, along with the website "oliverscuisine.com".

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