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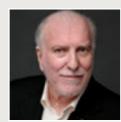
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JUNE 2017 | SIVAN- TAMMUZ 5777

WELCOME BUFFALO

SUMMER

# IN REMEMBRANCE (8)



INSIDE: LARRY LEVITE Z"L (1)



LOOK: MADE **IN BUFFALO** (4-5)



DON'T MISS: **ETHEL MELZER** RETIRES (44)

# In Loving Memory of Larry Levite

Larry Levite was a force of Nature. From his career in broadcasting and media, to his foray into publishing through Spree Publications, which included Buffalo Spree Magazine, and all its other resource and shopping guides, Forever Young, 585 Magazine in Rochester, the Jewish Journal of WNY and all sorts of program books for the BPO, Kavinoky Theatre and more, plus special events, he was driven to succeed while making the community better here in Buffalo. As Gene Warner wrote in his Buffalo News obituary for Larry (http://buffalonews.com/2017/04/27/laurence-levite-spree-publisher-former-wben-ownerdies-77/) "he ran radio powerhouse WBEN and later Buffalo Spree magazine during his 50-year local media career that earned him a spot in the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame." (Also see the June issue of Spree Magazine featuring an interview with Larry on Spree's 50th birthday at www.buffalospree.com).

Larry loved Israel! He was the driving force and leader of so many of our Jewish Community's missions to Israel in the 70s and 80s, and he inspired an entire generation of Jewish leaders. His "heineini" (Here I am) attitude of stepping up to lead put him at the center of the group of young leaders who traveled to Israel and began taking their place in Federation's echelon of leadership in the 1980s. By the 1990s, he and his group were getting involved in Federation's board of directors, UJF Campaign, journeying to the General Assemblies in various cities, and especially for Larry, traveling to Israel either leading- together with his wife, Sharon-a group, or several times, embarking alone out of Buffalo to Jerusalem in times of Israel's wars, to show solidarity. He also chaired the United Jewish Fund Campaign (today's "Campaign for Jewish Buffalo") for Federation in the early years of the 21st century, while recovering from a serious motorcycle accident.

He was a high profile civic and regional lead-



This photo was taken in Israel in 1981 on one of the many Missions Larry led or was a participant. Included in this photo of the group sitting on an Israeli tank are Larry (far right wearing a WBEN shirt) and Sharon Levite, Michael and Terri Feinberg, Jim and Joanne Biltekoff, Lana and Howard Benatovich, Jay and Joni Stopper, Steve Schwartz and Sheila Halpern Higgins.

er who was honored by many organizations. In 2016, *(see next page)* he was the recipient of the prestigious Citation Award for Community Service from the National Federation for Just Communities.

And he loved his family! He adored his wife, Sharon, his two sons Adam and Josh and their wives Heather and Francine, and his six grandchildren. He was very close to his sister, Sylvia Pastor, her husband and their children and families, and his brother, Brian. In his memory, Sharon Levite and the Levite Family have established the Laurence A. Levite Legacy Fund at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies to perpetuate Larry's generous support for a range of local charities, including Jewish Federation.

– Ellen Goldstein

This was a billboard that the Jewish Federation used in the 2005 UJF Campaign. It features Larry and Sharon with daughter-in-law Francine and grandson, Asa.



# *1940-2017*

A little over a year ago—April 6, 2016—Larry Levite was honored by the National Federation of Just Communities at its Citation Dinner. Larry's dear friend Jim Biltekoff was asked to introduce Larry at the dinner. The following were his remarks, which sum up the joy, vitality and leadership of Larry Levite:

Congratulations to tonight's honorees. Like all of you, I am awed by their accomplishments. Perhaps you have asked yourself, how can I get to know the person behind the organizations and the boards? So let me tell you about Larry Levite.

These are all the stories I know about Larry. These are the ones I can tell in public. Larry wears his heart on his sleeve. Sure it sounds trite, but it's true. You want to know Larry's state of mind? Look at his face. How is business? What do you think about the election? What about Brussels? What's happening in Israel? Is it good for the Jews?

Larry grabs life by the lapels, embraces it, and internalizes it. His reaction is there for all to share. We bask in the richness of being human and alive. Joy and grief. Laughter or tears. Success or setback. Larry leads with his emotions.

Larry is a huge Buffalo Booster and a terrific communicator. Professionally, from WEBR to WBEN radio and now at Buffalo Spree, he has been witness, reporter, advocate, and shaper of our community. He is a member of the Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame

So here are a few things maybe you don't know:

Larry is a polymath. Before his career in radio, Larry attended the University of Pennsylvania; graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts; worked at the 21 Club and CBS-TV in NYC; was in the army; and matriculated at UB law school.

You want loyalty? Larry went to Camp Tamakwa 60 years ago and still goes back every summer to check in and check up on things.

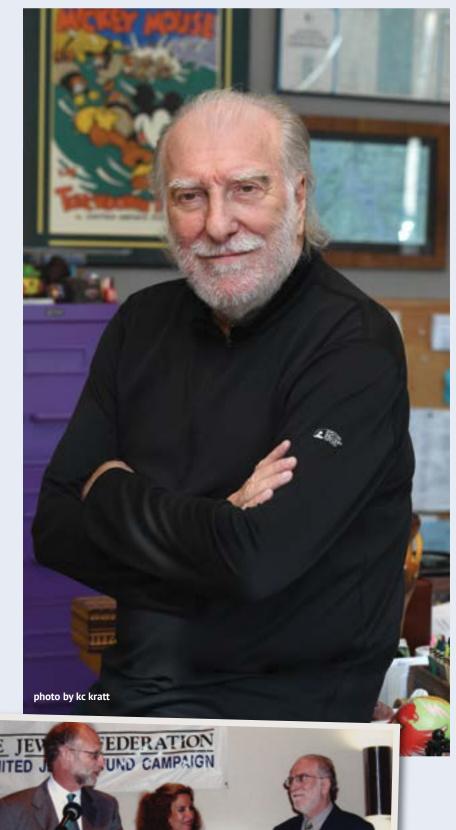
To have Larry as a friend is to experience unqualified support and extraordinary generosity.

Can generosity be a fault? I went to Israel with Larry in 1980, where I had the honor of soliciting his commitment to the United Jewish Appeal. Like many of us, Larry was deeply moved as he experienced a personal connection to the 3000 year history of the Jewish people. Finally the time came for our "business" discussion. Larry offered a pledge that was so generous, coming from so deep in his heart, that I insisted he reflect for a day to make certain his head - and his accountant - agreed his heart. A decade later Larry was campaign chair of the United Jewish Appeal, and he has returned to Israel more than a dozen times.

Larry is generous, committed, and sincere. He loves and supports his family, his friends, his community, and those less fortunate. That's the person behind the resume, the man we honor tonight.

- James Biltekoff April 6, 2016





Larry Levite and Bonnie Clement led the United Jewish Fund Campaign and the UJF Women's Campaign , respectively. They are shown with Federation President Howard Benatovich at a community meeting, receiving awards for their service.

# WHAT'S INSIDE...

# **June** 2017

# Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

This month, I am writing about two dear friends—Larry Levite and Ethel Melzer. By now, you must know that Larry Levite, the President of Spree Publications, our partner in creating, publishing and producing the *Jewish Journal of WNY*, passed away last month on his birthday, April 26.

I first met Larry in the 1970s at media personality Kevin O'Connell's wedding. I remember very clearly that Larry was very hip, wearing a bright plaid jacket and funky dancing shoes. I came to know him better when I began working for Federation in the 1980s. If you knew anything about Larry, you knew how much he loved his family, Buffalo, Israel and the Buffalo Jewish community.

In 2012, when Mike Wise became Executive Director of the Federation, he and Larry had a few "newspaper" conversations, the *Federation News* ended, and the *Jewish Journal of WNY* became a new reality. The first issue debuted in March 2013. Larry created the circumstances with which a Federation paper produced by Spree Publications could be possible. First, in 2012, he and Associate Publisher/Senior Vice President of Sales Barbara Macks hired Cynthia Oppenheimer, now *JJWNY* Sales Director. Then they brought the production and design departments of *Spree* along, too. I was named editor by Federation, and we all got to work.

Larry and I traveled together to Seattle for the American Jewish Press Association meeting in 2013. He had been to the meeting in past years, loved the connections he made and was so excited for me to become part of that group, out of which I have gained knowledge, friendship and an award for the *JJWNY*. But really, the most important thing for me is that Larry took a chance on me with the new Spree/ Federation joint publication, and he gave me that opportunity of a lifetime. I can never repay his kindness, wisdom and friendship. But I can continue to pass on his enormous love of the Jewish community through the *Jewish Journal of WNY*. I will remember the *mensch* he became to me and to so many others for the rest of my life. May his beautiful soul rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing forever.

Finally, this month also marks Ethel Melzer's retirement from the Bureau of Jewish Education. On page 44, you will find her "Thank You and Good Bye" piece for the *Journal*. She has been such an important part of the Jewish community for so many years, and I know I will miss seeing her in the JCC building

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

every day. I know I can't thank her enough for my rewarding time in Buffalo's Melton Mini-School. I wish her a happy, restful, interesting and fun retirement.

# On The Cover



The Peace Bridge spanning the international border—the Niagara River—between the United States and Canada. Photo taken by kc kratt April 23, 2017 when the Peace Bridge Authority lit up the Peace Bridge in yellow to commemorate Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Memorial Day.

Memorial Day.	
1	In Loving Memory of Larry Levite
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	Falafel Bar opens at JCC Tel Aviv Café
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# Harold, Seth and Larry - All in one week

#### By Steven J. Weiss

The week of April 24th was an extraordinary week for Jewish Buffalo. It began with the highest of highs, featuring a visit from Buffalo-bred marketing guru Seth Godin for the inaugural Made in Buffalo event, which honored the memory of Bill and Lenore Godin, the parents of Seth, Marjorie Godin Bryen and Emily Godin Epstein (see pages 4-5.)

We experienced a high level three-day visit to our community by Jewish Federation of North America National Campaign Chair Harold Gernsbacher. Harold met with dozens of leaders and community members to share his experiences throughout the Jewish community. Harold has been involved locally in Ft. Worth and Dallas through Federation, Hebrew Free Loan and his synagogue, as well as nationally with JFNA and the Jewish Agency. He helped to create and lead Partnership2Gether, a program that Buffalo has recently joined, which provides a living bridge between US Jews and Israelis. Through his work with Partnership, Harold led an effort to raise funds for an underground emergency room at the Medical Center of the Galilee in Nahariya, Israel.



Steven J. Weiss

Then, the week plummeted to the lowest of lows with the passing of an icon in the Jewish community, Larry Levite. Larry was a great human being. Loud and fun and larger than life, but serious about his support for Israel. He and his wife, Sharon led many trips to Israel, and his commitment to that special place on earth was unwavering, even when, or perhaps especially when, bombs were falling and our Jewish homeland was being threatened. When Larry heard Ellen and I were taking our first trip to Israel, he called me and asked if he could come to my office and meet with me. I didn't really know him then and only knew that he was Sylvia Pastor's brother and a client of my father-in-law's. It

didn't take me long to conclude that this was a guy who knows how he wants to live his life and that he had an infectious love for Israel. I remember Larry asking me all about our itinerary and who our guide was going to be. He told me there was a certain stand in the shuk market in Jerusalem that we just had to go to. Like any seasoned veteran, his advice was sound and helpful. I remember getting a phone call from Larry later when Ellen and I were helping to lead a mission to Israel and when I answered the phone, without even saying who it was, I remember Larry saying "I hear you're taking a group to Israel. That's great. Way to go- Steve-o."

I wouldn't say that I knew Larry well, but I felt like I did - he made me feel that way. I'm sure like others, I saw in him something that I could only wish for myself. I will miss him and I know our community will miss him. *Baruch Dayan-Ha-Emet*.



# Made in Buffalo Soared!

# **A Family POV\***

By Marjorie Godin Bryen

The Made In Buffalo speaker series was kicked off on April 27th with great success. Made In Buffalo was brought to the community by the Buffalo Jewish Federation, underwritten by our family, and we were all thrilled to be a part of this project. The energy started several months ago in the planning phase, then continued to gain momentum with a culmination on a Thursday night in late April, when Seth Godin, its inaugural speaker, blew the roof off the Albright-Knox Art Gallery (AKAG) auditorium. Challenging the audience, ranging in age from 17 to 87, to "not be afraid to make a ruckus" when you have passion about something.

The idea behind **Made In Buffalo** came when a few members of the Leadership of the Buffalo Jewish Federation were brainstorming new ideas that would engage a broader cross section of the Jewish community. The concept was to showcase "Buffalo culture" and feature a personality with Buffalo roots. Thus, the purpose of **Made in Buffalo** is to celebrate a personality who can lay claim to being "made" in our region, and allow the Buffalo Jewish Federation to provide a dynamic program as a gift to the greater community. For many famous Buffalonians—ex-pats and residents—there is a deep connection and love of this place, and the Buffalo Jewish Federation leadership thought that it should be celebrated.

My parents were strong supporters of the Buffalo community in the city and suburbs, active in education, the arts, and the Jewish Community. Both had volunteer/leadership roles in several organizations, including Jewish Federation. The linkage between this program's goals and my parents' interests in the community was clear, and so the Jewish Federation partnering with UB and the AKAG was especially meaningful for the Godin family. Bill received his PhD from the UB School of Business and was an adjunct professor there for several years. Business leaders in the community today mention that they had Bill as a professor, and still remember those classes where he brought real business problems to the students to solve. Lenore served as a volunteer, Gallery Shop manager and Board Member at the AKAG. She has been gone for over 17 years, yet she made such a lasting impact on the AKAG and more importantly on the people who had the opportunity to interact with her over the thirty years, that it felt like we came home for this event.

We know we have set a high bar for future events in the **Made In Buffalo** series, but that's the only way my family would have it. Aim high and you have a much better chance of reaching your goals.

\* Point of View





















#### COMMUNITY







# A Purple Cow for the Buffalo Jewish Federation

#### By Miriam Abramovich

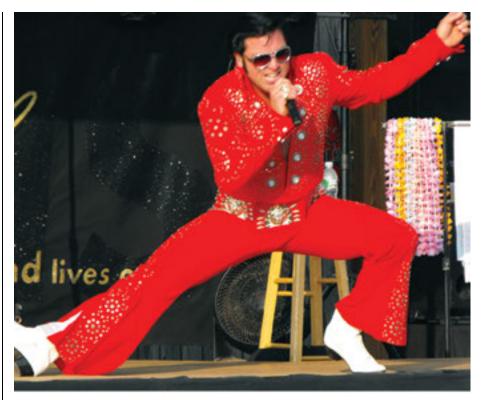
"Our job is to connect to people, to interact with them in a way that leaves them better than we found them, more able to get where they'd like to go."

This was the inspirational message from Seth Godin, who kicked off the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Made in Buffalo Speaker Series in honor of his parents Lenore & Bill Godin in late April. Made in Buffalo, held at the Albright Knox Art Gallery, was attended by more than 375 individuals from the Jewish community, the creative and innovation sector and many other industries in Western New York. Many in the audience were already subscribers to Seth's daily blog and avid follower of his thoughts on the ways ideas spread and what it means to be working at the dawn of a new economy.

The evening began with an event for donors to the Lenore & Bill Godin **Made in Buffalo** Fund. That extraordinary group of generous individuals and families spent time with Seth, Emily Godin Epstein and Marjorie Godin Bryen, the **Made in Buffalo** Chair exploring a few of Seth's favorite art works in the Gallery's collection. Then, for Seth's lecture in the Gallery's auditorium, the room was filled beyond capacity, hearing first from AKAG Director Janne Siren, Federation Campaign Chair Leslie Kramer, Marjorie Godin Bryen and then Seth. Highlights of Seth's talk focused on themes from his book *Tribes*, and the idea that "people like us, do things like this" and the notion that is our turn to step up, to make connections, solve a problem, and to take risks.

After Seth's inspired words, a select group of 40 individuals who applied to win a "golden ticket" had an opportunity to meet with and share with Seth the work they do that matters.

True to Seth's quote, **Made in Buffalo**'s success was all about connections and relationships. The Buffalo Jewish Federation was so fortunate to be able to work closely with the Godin family, our Chair Marjorie Godin Bryen, our bright and dedicated committee members Kelly Lignos Ziv, Julia Jornsay Silverberg, David DuBow and Leslie Kramer. In addition, we are so grateful for our partners at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Telesco Creative Group, and UB School of Management who devoted many hours and much creative spirit to this project. What's next? You'll just have to wait and see!



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### C O M M U N I T Y

RABBI'S COLUMN

# Rabbi Adam Scheldt

Here in Western New York, June is a month of growth. All the plants, having sprouted and reawakened in the weeks before, truly start to grow and bloom. And all our hopes and expectations for our famous summers—filled with great weather (usually) and great festivals (always)—start to come to fruition as well. It's a fantastic time to be in Western New York. And it is the perfect time to be with friends and family, having fun and enjoying the company. Yes, June is a month of growing and enjoying. And generally speaking, it's a month in which we rarely look behind ourselves.

When the warm weather comes, we here in Western New York are eager to let the winter go. We readily and easily let the cold, long months of winter fade into memory and we enjoy all that surrounds us. Jewish culture, however, operates in a way that is very counter to the month of June in Western New York. The bedrock of Jewish life is memory. The perpetual engine of Jewish culture is the very act of looking back. But it is not the winters past to which we draw our minds near. We don't just remember the past months so that we can enjoy our present and forecast a future. Instead, we consistently remember the past, both the recent past and the past long left behind; we draw it near to our hearts, and it fuels us. Within Iudaism, our sense of history and the past infuses itself within our present lives. And truly, this wonderful, warm month of June-with its growth and excitement--in a sense invites us to truly remember and recollect how life has unfolded.

Our sense of the past, our memories both individually and collectively, help to connect us to each other and to those around us. Take for instance, the Peace Bridge and Yom HaShoah. This year, the Peace Bridge was lit with yellow light in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day (see the front cover of this issue, as well as page 8). Not only was it beautiful and reverent, but it also represented a massively powerful and defining point of memory. And the lighting of the Peace Bridge offered connection between the Jewish community and the greater community in which we live.

Memory, however, is not static. Studies have shown and taught us that as we grow, change, and age, our specific memories change as well. Memory is, in a sense, malleable. Each time we recall something gone



Rabbi Adam Scheldt

by we integrate that memory deeper into our minds. And yet each time we recall a memory, we gently reshape it, viewing that memory through a slightly different lens with each new remembering. Equally, as stories and tales get passed from one generation to the next, our collective memories likewise evolve and change.

So what are we to do with all these recollections—all these memories, evolutions, and connections? In this fine month of June, here in Western New York, we have a true gift to enjoy. We can walk about, go for a drive, or simply enjoy the warmth outdoors. And while we do so, as Jews, we can infuse our current wonderful month of growth with our ever growing memories-connecting, smiling, and blessing our warm present with the true warmth that can come from within.

Rabbi Adam Scheldt is rabbi at Temple Beth Zion.

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# Yom Hashoah • April 23, 2017 • We Remember

Two Buffalo landmarks were bathed in yellow light to commemorate Yom HaShoah the evening of April 23: The Peace Bridge, and Mark Croce's newly renovated Harlow C. Curtiss building on Franklin Street were lit up beginning at dusk that Sunday night. This was important to our community, signaling that the death of Six Million during the Shoah was remembered by more than the Jewish people. Indeed, the two landmarks lit all in yellow were testaments to those crimes against humanity perpetrated during the 1940s in Europe, and served to remind us that we must be vigilant in preserving civil liberties for all.

Together, our community remembered those whom we lost in Shoah while



we honored the survivors, rescuers and liberators. We remember and honor and never forget. Elie Weise (z"l) said, "Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future."



#### photos by kc kratt

# In Memoriam ... May their Lives be for a Blessing ...

By Dr. Eileen Angelini, Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) Board member

The Buffalo Jewish community lost several members who were close to the Holocaust Resource Center—two Survivors and one benefactor. Their memories and legacies will continue on through their good works and through the life lessons they all taught.



### Julius "Joe" Diamond (February 1, 1929 – March 19, 2017)

Joe Diamond was raised in Czechoslovakia in the Carpathian Mountains region. In October 1938, Germany invaded Czechoslovakia. On March 19, 1939, Germany's ally Hungary annexed part of the Carpathian Mountains region and 90% of the Jews fled to Hungary. May 14, 1944, a month after the German occupation, the first train left for Auschwitz. Joe was on that train. At Auschwitz, Joe was separated from his mother and younger brother (both were gassed that day). Joe and his father were forced to work. When the Soviet Army invaded Poland, Joe was sent to Mauthausen, his father to Buchenwald. Fortunately, both were liberated by the

liberators, Joe would reply, "It was a miracle from G-d." Joe's friend, Sophia Veffer (also a Holocaust survivor) summed up perfectly the importance of Joe's work and how very much he will be missed: "For many years, Joe lectured in schools, colleges and other organizations. He was the voice of the Six Million Jews, who perished. Many of the Holocaust victims left diaries and letters and they all had the same message: 'Tell the world what happened to us, so it will never happen again.' Joe became their voice! He dedicated his life, telling the stories of the Holocaust to students, teachers, in churches and temples. He never evoked pity: they recognized that he was a righteous man with a message: 'Be an Upstander and become involved in your communities, whenever you encounter hatred, discrimination, crimes based on sexual and religious orientation and social, cultural and economic differences."

U.S. Army. When asked about his



Vera Coppard-Leibovic (September 15, 1926 – March 7, 2017) (Photo by Mark Mulville)

Vera Coppard-Leibovic was born in Berlin and at the age of 12, escaped from the Nazis on the Kindertransport that allowed 10,000 children to flee over 10 months in 1938-39. While waiting with 100 children to take the Kindertransport, Coppard-Leibovic noticed that in each corner of the room, a Nazi stood guard with a German shepherd. After all 100 names were read, two children were left. Their mother became hysterical. So the four Nazis unleashed their dogs on the woman, before the children were rushed out of the room. "What pain that woman must have gone through to take her children to the Kindertransport and find out that they weren't on it," Coppard-Leibovic told The Buffalo News in 2009. "All I remember were the woman's screams and the dogs tearing at her clothing." Seventy years later, the sight of a German shepherd still brought back that vivid image. Coppard-Leibovic devoted her time to the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) of Buffalo, speaking to students and adults and sitting for interviews and web productions to preserve her story.



Richard M. Handel (April 17, 1923 – January 21, 2017)

Richard M. Handel, along with his wife Roberta, who survives him, was a loyal benefactor of the HRC and a long-time exemplary member of the Jewish community. Because of their generosity, the HRC's mission reached new heights, most specifically that of the New Generation Initiative (NGI). The focus of the NGI is to train educators and professionals on the lessons of the Holocaust. Recent NGI programs include a teacher's conference - "Debunking Holocaust Denial in the Classroom" and a legal conference - "70 Years After Nuremberg - Legal Ethics and the Holocaust. The 3rd Handel Teacher Conference to Washington, D.C. is being planned for this summer. Sites include the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. May the Handel legacy continue to inspire future generations.

# Robin's Recipe: Larry Levite's Birthday Brownies By Robin Kurss

Ellen Goldstein asked me to share a recipe that was one of Larry Levite's favorites. I am hoping that he enjoyed these brownies that I made for him for his birthday every year as much as I loved baking them for him.



These treats made by Robin were decorated with a cartoon (by Josh Flanigan) of Larry Levite for his birthday in 2016.

# Larry's Birthday Brownies

2 sticks unsalted butter 17 oz chocolate chips 3 eggs 2 Tbsp espresso powder 1 T vanilla 1 c sugar 1/2 c flour plus 2T flour 1 1/2 t baking powder Pinch salt

Preheat oven to 350 Butter 9 x 12" pan Melt butter and 11 oz of chips till combined...cool.

In a bowl, stir together eggs, espresso,vanilla and sugar. Stir in chocolate mixture.

In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, remaining chips and salt...add to chocolate mix above.

Pour into pan and bake for 35 minutes.

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### COMMUNITY

# **Chautauqua Institution:** Now a Welcoming Place for Jews

By Leonard Katz, MD

A full house in the Parlor of the beautiful Athenaeum Hotel laughed and cheered as Amrom Chodos (of Buffalo) led his klezmer band before kosher refreshments were served. That amazing scene took place in 2015 and will be repeated this summer on Sunday morning, August 13.

Not so many years ago, such a scene would have been unthinkable. Chautauqua began in 1874 as a training ground for Methodist Sunday school teachers. Over the years, it gradually welcomed other religious group to the campus. Initially other Protestant sects arrived and each has a large house on the grounds reelecting their presence. The same is true of the Unitarians, the Catholics and even Seventh Day Adventists and Mormons.

The most recent arrivals are the Jews. In 1960, a small Shabbat celebration began and that evolved into the flourishing Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua (http://www. hebrewcongregationchautauqua. org). In 2009, the elegant Everett Jewish Life center opened. The Everett Center has a small number of beautiful rooms for overnight guests and has become a lively center for lectures and other programs relating to Jewish life (http:// www.jewishcenterchautauqua. org). And now there is Chabad of Chautauqua with a wide array of activities that include, lectures, challah baking, co-sponsorship with the Hebrew Congregation of the klezmer concerts and regular orthodox minions (http://www. chabad.org/).

The first Jewish home owners, Ken and Zeta Fraidin, appeared in 1979 and others followed quickly afterward. During the 1970s Chautauqua Institution had fallen on hard times and its future was in doubt. New buildings and faculties built by Jews as well an influx of Jews benefited Chautauqua greatly. The Archivist of Chautauqua does not hesitate to say, "The Jews saved Chautauqua. Jews now account for at least 20% of the total population and quite a few are from Buffalo."

This summer again promises to be a great one for Jews at



Chautauqua. The Hebrew Congregation offers a regular one hour Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service at the lake 5:00-6:00 PM. Last summer, some of those services were attended by over 300 people...Jews and non-Jews. Shabbat mornings offer a choice of a Reform/Conservative service of the Hebrew Congregation or the Orthodox service of Chabad. Two Buffalonians, Dr. Andy Simons and Susan Goldberg-Schwartz participate in Hebrew Congregation services. In addition to the lectures at Everett, The Hebrew Congregation has a Sunday evening lecture series and a Tuesday afternoon conversation for new or established Chautauquans; this year, Dr. Sol Messinger will lead a discussion on Tuesday, July 11. There is more, much more, such as occasional Havdalah services, a Yiddish speakers table at Everett, a student music concert, Shabbat dinners, etc. The Institution has incorporated Jewish speakers this year, including world famous Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks on July 13, and others.

A number of Jewish groups from a variety of cities have outings at Chautauqua from Jewish Centers and Federations. The Buffalo Jewish Federation has organized visits for the Campaign Cabinet and Board members for several years. All are welcome and the Chautauqua Jewish community assists to help make the visits delightful. If you visit Chautauqua, you will be amazed. There are many new homes and the new Amphitheater will be functioning; it is attractive, safe and will look much like the one before, only better.

### COMMUNITY

# Ride for Roswell June 23-24

The Jewish Community will once again be well represented at the 22nd annual Ride for Roswell this year June 23-24. On Friday night, June 23 before the Peloton takes off to ride from Roswell to UB's North Campus, we will have a Shabbat service at 5:00 PM on the Roswell Campus. In addition, The Nickel City Jews have formed a team and will be riding this year in honor of Leon Komm. *If you are interested in the* 

Shabbat service, contact Ellen Goldstein at egoldstein@jfedbflo.com. If you want to ride with the NCJ Team or contribute, go to www.rideforroswell.org.

# Senator Tim Kennedy Salutes Israel



In Early May, the New York State Senate honored the 69th anniversary of Israel with a resolution. Senator Tim Kennedy spoke on the floor in support of the resolution. The Israeli Consul General in New York, Dani Dayan, attended the session. Above is a photo of Senatory Kennedy with Ambassador Dayan on the floor of the NYS senate.

# Myers Tel Aviv Café at JCC - NOW OPEN



The owner of the Falafel Bar, Oded Ravenpour, has opened the Tel Aviv Cafe at the JCC! Here Rabbi Levi Greenberg puts up a mezzuzah on the new cafe!

Tel Aviv Café is open from at 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with dinner hours possible in the future

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#### COMMUNITY

# Nickel City Jews: Shabbat with Refugees and Survivors

#### *By Sheri Rodman* Co-chair-NCJ Executive Committee

Recently, the public conversation around diversity and tolerance has been especially prominent. With this year's temporary travel ban on several countries, and the recent uptick of anti-Semitic acts around the nation, these conversations are especially critical. It gives me a sense of pride and gratitude to be part of a community that values diversity and works to strengthen our future through embracing it and remembering the past.

In February, Nickel City Jews partnered with Jewish Family Service of Buffalo to host Shabbat with Refugees, the third program of its kind aimed at bringing together refugee newcomers and young Jewish leaders. The evening was filled with the sharing of Jewish rituals, delicious food and meaningful conversation. Many of the refugees were able to share their stories with the group including one refugee from The Democratic Republic of the Congo who opened up about losing his father just weeks before he left for America and the struggles





he encountered after he arrived. He concluded his remarks by thanking the U.S. Government for allowing him to come, which gave pause to everyone in the room. The cross-cultural dialogue with him and the other refugees was eyeopening for all and will hopefully continue in the coming months.



Nickel City Jews enjoying Shabbat dinner with Stephen Lewy and Sopha Veffer

In April, we brought together young Jewish professionals with two leaders in our community who were refugees themselves many years ago and, perhaps more importantly, Holocaust Survivors. In partnership with the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, we hosted the dinner on the Shabbat before Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The usually chatty young Nickel City Jews members in the room were again at pause as they listened to Stephan Lewy talk about growing up in Berlin, remembering Kristallnacht, joining a Kindertransport and living in France, finally making his way to the United States to join his parents, enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving among the first Americans to liberate Buchenwald Concentration Camp. Similarly, they heard from Sophia Veffer talk about going to school with Anne Frank in Amsterdam and how her experiences being hidden as a child in several different homes varied greatly from those we've read about in *The Diary of a Young Girl*. We know that opportunities to hear these firsthand stories will not be around forever and were fortunate to bring together different generations for conversation.

Connecting with both the survivors who fled persecution during the middle of the last century and the refugees who have resettled in Buffalo in recent months and years has deepened my appreciation for growing up in this country and being part of such a warm community. I hope we never forget the past. I hope we carry the Survivors' and the refugees' stories forward into the future. I hope we remember to be Upstanders in our global society, fighting injustices near and far. And finally, when we count our blessings, I hope we feel proud and thankful to live here, in the city of good neighbors, Buffalo.



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When Leslie and Jim Kramer were in Israel this past year, they met Dr. Yehuda Peled from our Partnership2Gether (P2G) Region of the Western Galilee. Soon, a discussion about bicycle riding took place, and a great idea was born: Buffalonians biking in Israel. Dr. Peled will be in the States at the end of June to participate in P2G meeting in Youngstown, Ohio, and then travelling to Buffalo with his wife to speak with us about riding bikes together in Israel this fall. Plans are still being made, but if are interested in cycling in Israel, contact Ellen Goldstein at egoldstein@ jfedbflo.com or 716-204-2243. She will be organizing his later June Buffalo visit, which will include one or two meeting about the proposed cycling adventure and maybe even a ride in Buffalo.

# Gniza- Burying Religious Articles June 25



Amherst Memorial Chapel LLC, in conjunction with Elmlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, is pleased to announce a second annual burial of Gniza (religious articles not suitable for use). This respectful and dignified event will be held on Sunday June 25, 2017 at 11AM. This event is open to the entire Jewish community. Feel free to bring any items to the cemetery on that day. For any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Mitch Steinhorn at 716-636-4174.





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# The Secret's Out at the JCC Arts & Book Fair!

The Secret Room, Sandra Block's third engrossing novel of psychological suspense featuring psychiatrist Zoe Goldman, was hot off the press April 18th! Hear Sandra talk about her newest book at the JCC Book & Arts Fair, Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 pm at the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre in the Jewish Community Center, 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY.

Tickets to this event are \$10, but you can save 50% when you buy an advance copy of *The Secret Room* at Talking Leaves Books at either location (3158 Main Street, near UB Main St Campus and 951 Elmwood Ave, near Bidwell). When you make your purchase, you will receive



a coupon for a half-price ticket to any JCC Book & Arts events.

This event is presented by JCC Book & Arts Fair and Buffalo Jewish Federation, and sponsored by Brian and Margery Block. Tickets are \$10/ general, \$5/students.

# Helen Weinstein Honored at NRC

At its annual meeting the interfaith group Network of Religious Communities honored several individuals in the Jewish community. The NRC's Appreciation Dinner enabled member organizations to honor their own members. The Buffalo Jewish Federation honored Helen Weinstein as the first female president of Congregation B'nai Shalom, and now that the congregation has merged with Temple Beth Tzedek, as a facilitator



of that merger.

Temple Beth Zion honored Leslie Garfinkel, and Congregation Shir Shalom honored Mindy Weinman, Joe Morris, Millie Topper and Todd Sugarman *(see photos on page 41)*. Mazel tov to all the award winners for their service to our Jewish community!

# Mikvah of Buffalo 60th Anniversary June 10

The Mikvah of Buffalo, in honor of its anniversary, is calling upon all rabbis and Jewish lay leaders to devote Shabbat Parshat Behaalotecha — June 10th to discuss the importance of the mitzvah of mikvah in Jewish life. *For interest in the Mikvah of Buffalo please call the following: For men 716-632-0467. For women 716-908-8972* 

# The Six Day War-June 1967

June 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War (June 5-10, 1967) between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries. The war altered Israel, the Middle East and Jewish history, and some of its results remain unfinished.

Viewers will experience the events of May and June 1967 as they unfolded, learning about the key players, their motives and the maneuvers that led to the war and its outcome. The videos are being produced by Jerusalem U and the Jerusalem Post. The project is a partnership between Jerusalem U, Jerusalem Post, Israel Action Network/ Jewish Federations of North America and Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and the Center for Israel Education (CIE).

View the webpage: www. sixdaywarproject.org. You can sign up on this page to receive emails, each corresponding to the video released. May 17, May 24, May 30, June 4, June 5, June 6, June 7, June 8, June 9, June 10, June 13, and June 14.



hotograph of Collective Soul courteey of the artists. Photograph of Our Lady Peace by Ashley Osborn.



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### COMMUNITY

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# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO *in June to repair the world*

Make a gift to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation in honor of your father or grandfather, or any other important man in your life for Father's Day, June 18. 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.* 

Do your part to fight breast cancer this month by participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 2017, Saturday, June 10 this year at Riverworks, 359 Ganson Street. The day begins with registration at 7:00 am. You can form a team or join a team online. For more information, contact the Komen Foundation in Buffalo at 716-887-2646 or teams@ komenwny.org. or go to http://wny.info-komen.org/site/TR/RacefortheCure/ BUF\_WesternNewYorkAffiliate

**3** A cure for Juvenile Diabetes is the goal for walkers this month from the JDRF One Walk, Sunday, June 12 at Delaware Park. The registration begins at 9:00 am and the Walk starts at 11. Contact the WNY Chapter of Juvenile Diabesters Research Foundation at 716-833-2873.

**Enjoy Catillion at the Buffalo Zoo Friday,** 300 Parkside Avenue in the city, June 9 from 5:00 pm- 11:30 pm. This fancy fundraising event features a variety of food and desserts and a wild time! *Go to www.Buffalozoo.org, or call 716-837-3900.* 

The 22nd Annual Ride for Roswell, which raises fund for Roswell Park Cancer Institute, begins Friday night, June 23 with a Peloton Ride from RPCI to the UB Stadium, and continues Saturday, June 24 with 12 different routes for cyclists of all abilities. There is a Nickel City Jews Team Riding in honor of Leon Komm. To register, or donate or volunteer, for the www.rideforroswell.org.

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In May, many people identified the photo of Rabbi Isaac Klein. The photo was taken in Temple Beth Tzedek's hallway, but apparently, there is also a photo of him at Kadimah Academy. So this month, all the people who guessed "Rabbi Klein" will win. They are Gloria Tetewsky, Cindy Stover, Linda Steinhorn, Karen Simon Neiman, Marcia Weiss, Howard Katz, Harvey Sanders, Cheryl Tobias and Robin Adel who located the painting at Temple Beth Tzedek. Beth Steinberg, Bonnie Zotara and Anne Earne located the photo at Kadimah Academy.



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#### **Bureau of Jewish Education**

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336 Harris Hill Road, Suite 302 Williamsville, NY 14221 TEL: 716-634-9535 www.hrcbuffalo.org Pieter Weinrieb- President Mara Koven-Gelman- Executive Director

# Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

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#### Holland Family Building

787 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209 TEL 716-886-3145 | FAX 716-886-1367 www.jccbuffalo.org

#### Jewish Discovery Center

757 Hopkins Road Williamsville, NY 14221 212 Exeter Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221 (office) TEL: 716-639-7600 TEL: 716-632-0467 Rabbi Heschel Greenberg Rabbi Laizer Labkovski www.jewishdiscovery.org

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**Congregation Beth Abraham** (Conservative) 1073 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 www.congregationbethabraham.net

### **Congregation B'nai Shalom**

(Conservative) 1641 North Forest Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221 TEL 716-689-8203 office@bnaishalombuffalo.org www.bnaishalombuffalo.org

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Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox) 879 Hopkins Rd Williamsville, NY 14221 Jeff Schapiro - President jeffs@verizon.net http://ohrtzion.org/kot

Knesset Center (Orthodox) 500 Starin Avenue Buffalo, NY 14214 TEL 716-832-5063 Rabbi Shmaryahu Charitonow www.chabad.org

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(Conservative) 621 Getzville Road Amherst, NY 14226 Rabbi Perry Netter Cantor Mark Spindler Lisa Wallenfels - President TEL 716- 838-3232 www.btzbuffalo.org

#### **Temple Beth Zion**

(Reform) Sanctuary: 805 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209 Religious School and Offices: 700 Sweet Home Road Amherst, NY 14226 Rabbi Jonathan Freirich Rabbi Adam Scheldt Cantor Penny Myers Amy Schaefer - Temple Administrator miriam treger honig - President TEL 716-836-6565 www.tbz.org

### **Temple Beth El**

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### **Temple Emanu-El**

(Reform) 124 Bank Street Batavia, NY 14020 TEL 585-343-7027 Stan Schumann - President

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## Young Israel of Greater Buffalo (Orthodox) 105 Maple Road Williamsville, NY 14221 Rabbi Eliezar Marcus Richard G. Berger- President TEL 716-634-0212 www.yibuffalo.org

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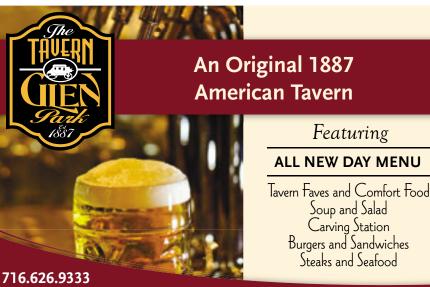
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# Rabbi Steven Mason Returns To Buffalo To Lead A Scholar In Residence Weekend

#### By Peter Simon

It was the mid-1990s, and — unlike other local congregations — Temple Beth Am was flush and vibrant. A dynamic and creative clergy team set an upbeat and inclusive tone. The budget was balanced and membership soared. A new wing to house the rapidly growing religious school was financed by Marshall and Marlene Glickman. "I call that period the 'Camelot Years' at Temple Beth Am," said Dr. Mindy P. Weinman, Vice President of Worship both then and now. "Everything was good."

Central to Beth Am's success was Rabbi Steven S. Mason, whose leadership both at Temple and in the larger community personified the Amherst congregation during his tenure there from 1983 to 1997. Rabbi Mason, who retired from a Temple in suburban Chicago in 2015, will return to Buffalo to lead a scholar-in-residence weekend sponsored by the Freda Berger Scholar Program June 9th-11th.

In a recent telephone interview, Rabbi Mason spoke warmly about his years at Beth Am — now Congregation Shir Shalom after its merger with Temple Sinai — and his eagerness to reconnect. "It was really in a way a magical time," he said. "We had 14 exciting, happy years at Beth Am, both personally and professionally. I think what I tried to do was give people access to Jewish tradition and Jewish life in a way that was fitting and appropriate for them. It really was one person at a time, one moment at a time."

The leaders of North Shore Congregation Israel, located in suburban Chicago, took notice. The large and highly prestigious Temple was seeking a greater sense of connection, warmth and community – the very same qualities that led Temple Beth



Patty and Steve Mason

Am to adopt the motto "Family of Families." When Rabbi Mason agreed to join North Shore in 1997, congregants there were a bit startled — and very pleased — to find that the rabbi often left his door open. They soon realized that was symbolic of something much greater.

"He is a rare combination of a compassionate person, thoughtful leader and outstanding scholar," said Dan Kaufman, a North Shore congregant and a town council member when Rabbi Mason retired in 2015. "But he also has a great sense of humor and an incredible ability to celebrate with us or comfort us."

Rabbi Sara Mason-Barkin, an Associate Rabbi in San Mateo, California, and Rabbi Steve Mason's daughter, said the personal touch is the key to her dad's success. "When you listen to him preach or teach or play guitar, when he sits with you at your hospital bedside, when he

Capital.

celebrates with you at a family *simcha*, you are seeing him *'panim el-panim'* (face to face)," Rabbi Mason-Barkin said. "This is a man who doesn't ever fake it."

Steve Mason and his wife, Patty, are also very proud parents and grandparents. Rabbi Mason-Barkin has two children, and Michael, Director of Youth Education at a synagogue near Palo Alto, Calif., has three. Danny, the Mason's younger son, works for a consulting firm in Chicago. Now a Rabbi *Emeritus*, Rabbi Mason and Patty have the travel bug. For pleasure or on educational and religious missions, they have been to France, Italy, Croatia, Morocco and Ethiopia in the last few years.

While he works on his upcoming presentation at Shir Shalom, Rabbi

Mason has a broader message for his former congregants and for all of Jewish Buffalo. "Keep the faith," he said. "Stay with it. The sacred work the congregation performs really does matter." Rabbi Mason will speak at an Erev Shabbat Service at 7 p.m. on June 9th; at a Shabbat luncheon at noon on June 10th, and at a 9 a.m. breakfast on June 11th. All of those activities will be held at Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, and are open to the public and free of charge. In addition, a dinner will be held at 7p.m. Saturday, June 10th at Remington Tavern, 184 Sweeney Street in North Tonawanda. Capacity for the dinner is limited and there will be a fee. Reservations for the Saturday dinner can be made by calling Shir Shalom at 633-8877.

Peter Simon, a retired Buffalo News reporter, was president of Temple Beth Am in 1997 when Rabbi Mason took the job in Chicago.

# Shir Shalom Honors Larry Posses with President's Award

Congregation Shir Shalom is proud to announce Larry Posses as the 5777/2017 recipient of the President's Award. Larry is Vice President of Finance at Shir Shalom. He was honored at Shir Shalom's Annual Congregational Meeting May 16 with a champagne reception.

The annual President's Award is given to honor an individual who exemplifies extraordinary service and dedication to Congregation Shir Shalom. Each year, the President of the congregation selects one or more recipients who have enhanced the ethics of Judaism, leading by example and demonstrating the true meaning of *Tikkun Olam*.



President's Award Recipient Larry Posses with Temple President Todd Sugarman



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### S Y N A G O G U E S

# Shir Shalom Honors volunteers with NRC Awards

Each year, Network of Religious Communities (NRC) member organizations have the opportunity to nominate individuals in congregations or organizations for an excellence in volunteer work and service to our WNY community award. Congregation Shir Shalom is proud to share its nominees for 2017, who were honored with other NRC winners at a dinner at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in May.

Joseph Morris – A newcomer to the Buffalo area and a scientist by training, Joe has played an invaluable role in sharpening the environmental focus of Congregation Shir Shalom. He singlehandedly got the Green Committee off the ground, a committee that has already put recycling bins throughout the building and created an interfaith Earth Day service. His passion and commitment to making CSS more environmentally friendly and spreading the word about global warming is truly an inspiration.

**Todd Sugarman** – The current President of Congregation Shir Shalom, Todd was instrumental in making the merger between Temple Beth Am and Temple Sinai in 2012 possible. During his presidency, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that CSS has a sustainable and long term future. For his countless hours of dedication to the needs of



Dr. Mindy Weinman, Joseph Morris, Millie Topper and Todd Sugarman at NRC Awards event.

community he has set an example for everyone.

**Mindy Weinman** – The current head of Congregation Shir Shalom's Ritual and Liturgy Committee and an active member of its Executive Committee, Mindy has dedicated many, many hours to improving CSS's worship services. As a former president of Temple Beth Am, she brings a great deal of expertise and warmth to board deliberations. CSS salutes her hard work and "can-do" attitude about communal life.

Millie Topper – Throughout her participation at Congregation Shir Shalom's Religious School, and as a current teacher's aide, Millie has brought humor and thoughtfulness to her role in the community. She never misses a day of class and is a wonderful role model to the younger students. She has also been an active participant in Rabbi Alex's Mussar (ethics) classes. There is no doubt she has a bright future in front of her.

# STATEMENT ON REFUGEES

Adopted by Congregation Shir Shalom Board of Trustees at its April 18, 2017 Board Meeting

In the U.S. and around the world, there has been a disturbing surge in acts of anti-Semitism, islamophobia, xenophobia, hate crimes, and terrorism. The Board of Trustees of Congregation Shir Shalom joins Jewish, Christian, and ecumenical organizations, Muslim communities, and refugee service organizations in condemning these acts and seeking to move beyond them.

Of particular concern to us as Jews is the pending temporary U.S. ban on <u>all refugees</u>. These are often people fleeing for their lives, in the most desperate of circumstances. To even temporarily refuse them refuge is to condemn many to death. We know this from our own experience—it took only weeks for the Jews on the ship **S.S. St. Louis**, categorically refused entry to the US, to be returned to Europe and death in the Holocaust.

Congregation Shir Shalom stands with Emma Lazarus, a young Jewish poet whose words on the Statue of Liberty--inspired by Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia—are a statement to the world: "Send these, the homeless, tempesttossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

In the spirit of the Statue of Liberty, the Board of Trustees of Congregation Shir Shalom opposes a blanket ban on refugees. We strongly support and applaud those locally, including Jewish Family Services, the International Institute, and others, who offer compassionate support and services to refugees.



# **Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Hosts 38th Annual Merrill Molien**

## Haven House Scholarship Luncheon Tuesday, July 18, Noon Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

# Want to help us help Haven House? Here's how:

• Join us for an interesting speaker, a delicious lunch and our fabulous basket auction. All proceeds to benefit an educational scholarship for victims of domestic violence.

• Join us and bring friends. Tables for eight may be reserved by calling Marilyn Schillroth at 832-4757 by July 10.

• If you would like to bring a dish or dessert for the luncheon, contact Lynn Klein at 689-9207 or Mary Anne Clarke at 633-9190.

• 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.

# **Pride Weekend at TBZ** June 2-4

This year's Pride Shabbat service will take place at 6 p.m., Friday, June 2, at the Delaware Building. The service will kick off TBZ's participation in the annual WNY Pride Festival. All members of the community are welcome.

Plan to march with Kulanu at the Pride Parade, or visit our table at the Pride Festival on Sunday, June 4. The parade will step off from Buffalo State College at noon, and the festival will be at Canalside from 1 to 7 p.m. TBZ will be marching under our B'etzelem Elohim banner, with the members of Jewish Pride of Western New York, and will once again staff a table at the festival. If you are planning



to march, please register at the TBZ website: www.tbz. org. If you are not marching, come and cheer us along on Elmwood Avenue between Forest and Allen. And if you come to the festival, please stop by the table, say hi, and pick up a goodie!

For more information, or if you are interested in Kulanu, please contact Rabbi Scheldt at the Temple (836-6565, Ext. 137) or rabbischeldt@tbz.org.

# **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.





# Spirited Jewish Learning Chats with TBZ

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

Rabbi Jonathan Freirich will hold the Jolt of Judaism open forum on any topic you suggest!

### Jolt of Judaism

### Thursdays, June 15, July 13, August 17 Noon – 1:00 PM

The SPoT, 1406 Hertel Ave. Have a burning Jewish question and a midday 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.

Send questions and topics for discussion to Rabbi Jonathan.

Open to all! No host refreshments.

### **Talmud Talk**

### Tuesdays, June 20, 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, June 27, 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 listed here? Let us know by e-mailing Rabbi Jonathan (<u>rabbifreirich@tbz.org)</u>.

# Rabbi Netter Honored by Beth Tzedek June 4

By Lisa Wallenfels, TBT President



Rabbi Perry Netter. Photo by Kimberly Jones.

On June 4, 2017, Temple Beth Tzedek will be honoring Rabbi Perry Netter at a gala. Rabbi Netter has served our shul since August 1, 2009. Under his leadership, we have been guided to learn more, do more, give more of ourselves to each other and to the Temple Beth Tzedek and Greater Buffalo Jewish communities, and deepen our connection to the State of Israel.

Rabbi Netter will be making Aliyah and will live in Zichron Yaakov with his wife Safi and their children Nadav and Sivan. We wish him all the best and we want him to know how much he will be missed.

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# Israel Blessing June 16 at TBZ Shabbat Services

Headed to Israel? We at TBZ know that many of our kids who attend Camp Seneca Lake are headed to Israel for a month and we'd like to offer them and you a special blessing for travel, *tfilat* haderech. Please join TBZ Friday June 16th at 6 pm at the Broder Center building to enjoy an energetic and ruachfilled service, where we will offer a special blessing for those who will be sojourning to Israel.



Temple Beth Zion's Clergy: Rabbi Adam Scheldt, Cantor Penny Myers, and Rabbi Jonathan Frierich





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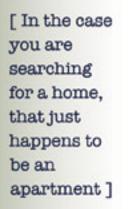
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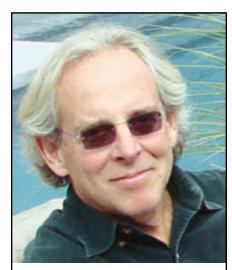
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### CALENDAR



June 1 Holocaust Resource Center Annual Meeting. FREE. 5:30-7:30 PM. Congregation Shir Shalom. 4660 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY www.hrcbuffalo.org

Poets Gunilla and Shiri Kester @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. FREE. 7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084.

### June 4 Pride Parade.

FREE. The parade steps off at 12:00 noon. The Parade begins at Elmwood Avenue & Forest Avenue and ends at Elmwood Avenue & Allen Street. Join friends from TBZ Kulanu and Nickel City Jews on the Elmwood Avenue walk, followed by Pride Festival at Canalside.

Dungeons & Dreidels, Shavuot Campaign. 12-5 PM at the JCC. For more information contact dungeonsNdreidels@gmail.com

Temple Beth Tzedek Honors Rabbi Perry and Safi Netter. 5:00 PM- 11:00 PM. Temple Beth Tzedek. 621 Getzville Road. Reservations a must. 716-838-3232

# June 6

Preston (Pete) Niland @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. Free. 7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084.

# June 8

Daniel Horowitz @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. \$10.7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084.

# June 12

Kadimah Academy Annual Dinner. There is a cost. 5:30- 9:00 Acqua, 2192 Niagara Street. Call the school at 836-6903 for more information or to purchase tickets.

# June 15

Barry Schonfield Piano Concert on the Works of Goya @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. \$10.7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084.

# June 16

Women of Distinction Luncheon. 12:00 noon. There is a charge. Temple Beth Tzedek, 621 Getzville Road. *Call Randi Morkisz at 716-204-2245.* 

# June 20

Dick Hirsch @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. \$10. 7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. *Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084*.

# June 22

Linda Pellegrino @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. \$10.7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084.

# June 28

Sandra Block @ JCC Book and Arts Fair. \$10.7:30 PM JCC. 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. Call Katie Wzontek at 716-204-2084.

June 29

JCC Annual Meeting and Fantasy Raffle. 7-9PM. JCC, 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. *Call 688-4033*.

# Remembering Temple Sinai



Photograph Cite: Temple Sinai Leaders, Elliot Shapiro Papers, 1962-2007, ms 200.29, 2.6, University Archives, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.

### **By Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D.** Historian and Community Archives Project Director, Jewish Buffalo Archives Project, Bureau of Jewish Education

Personal collections often shed unique perspectives on organizations. Three diverse collections relating to Temple Sinai allow us a range of insights, from earliest years, later developments, and new beginnings as the first joint Reform-Reconstructionist synagogue in the Jewish world. These collections add to materials collected by Dr. Selig Adler in the 1980s, when he organized a synagogues collection (ms150.5) which has a specific section devoted to Temple Sinai.

Temple Sinai initially formed at a meeting organized by Louis Bunis on August 24, 1952, where the need for a "new liberal Conservative temple" in Buffalo was accepted. Twenty-eight men and women signed the Articles of Incorporation, and the first service was held at the former home of the Lyndale Evangelical and Reformed Church on October 24, 1952, with Rabbi Harold Weisburg, Cantor Kaufman, and organist Ruth Axelrod as service leaders. Eventually the building was purchased and formally dedicated on April 26, 1953 with Dr. Ira Eisenstein, then editor of the *Reconstructionist Magazine*, as guest speaker.

Just a year later, on April 1, 1954, Rabbi Nathan Gaynor, was installed as the Temple's rabbi by Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of the Reconstructionist Movement. In 1955, the congregation held a groundbreaking ceremony on Alberta Drive in Amherst. The cornerstone laying for the new synagogue took place on Sunday, November 3, 1957 and the first service at the site was held on August 22, 1957. Temple Sinai remained on this site for the entirety of its history, before it began a new life on Sheridan Drive in Williamsville, through a merger with Temple Beth Am.

Among board and committee minutes, the Elliot Shapiro Papers, 1962-2007 (ms200.29), provides several special publications including a pamphlet issued on the tenth anniversary, "What Temple Sinai Means to Me," and a copy of the Rabbi Gaynor Memory Book, 1954-1965. Photographs, taken by Max Frey in the 1970s, are found in the collection of Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein (ms200.08), capturing a very specific time in the congregation during the 1960s and 1970s and a focus on Temple youth. Covering a much later time, Jill Hamilton's materials include papers relating to her role as President of the Temple at its merger with Temple Beth Am and the emergence of the first joint Reform-Reconstructionist Temple: Congregation Shir Shalom.

By looking at all three collections and the materials collected by Dr. Adler, you get a broad and inclusive understanding of the activities and meanings Temple Sinai held for its members, clergy and leaders over the decades. To explore these materials and more, please check the BJE website at www.bjebuffalo.org/jbap2 and click on the links for the Elliot Shapiro Papers, 1962-2007, Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein Collection, 1957-1982 and the Jill Hamilton Papers, 1952-2012, then plan your trip to the University at Buffalo archives, where they are housed. You can also contact Chana Kotzin at archivesproject@bjebuffalo.org or call 716-204-5380 for more information.



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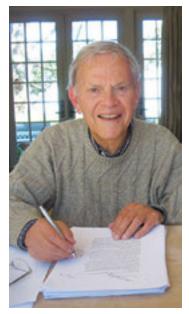
# DICK HIRSCH-BOOK FAIR JUNE 20TH. 7:30 PM. JCC/ BENDERSON

#### And now a few words about bathtubs

Book titles are important, designed to attract potential readers as well as communicate a sense of what is inside, on the pages between the covers. That is the opinion of Dick Hirsch, Buffalo columnist and author, as he discusses his latest non-fiction book, *A New Bathtub for the White House*.

"It is a collection of some of my favorite columns and I had to settle on a simple statement that would grab the attention of a browser when displayed on a shelf or in a display in a store," Hirsch said. "Of course, it had to directly relate to one of the stories in the book. I hope you are intrigued by the title. It still makes me smile."

The title refers to one of over 100 stories in the 288 page hard-covered book. They include a variety of topics, many of them off-beat and all of them readable. He said some people call them essays, explaining "I met a woman recently who said she enjoyed reading my essays every week. I was momentarily startled, probably because it was so candid, complimentary and unexpected. But I thanked her and said what I often say to



Dick Hirsch

those who approve of my work: 'I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoy writing them.' That is the truth. We talked briefly and went on our separate ways. It was later that day when I began to wonder about the use of the term essay to describe my writing. Do I really write essays? While it was intended as a very flattering comment, I believe the term may be a little too pretentious for current use when applied to my specialty," Hirsch said.

A native of Buffalo, Hirsch had a long career as a columnist, starting at the *Courier-Express* and currently continuing for over three decades writing the BfloTales column every week in *Business First*.

He is the author of *The Bubble Didn't Burst*, the story of the late Nathan Benderson, *Firm Beliefs*, the history of Phillips Lytle, the prominent law firm headquartered in Buffalo, as well as five other non-fiction works. The book is available at the two Talking Leaves bookstores.



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The JCC Book & Arts Fair thanks M&T Bank for being its 2016-17 Corporate Cultural Arts Presenting Sponsor. All JCC Book and Arts Fair events are open to the community. Events will be followed by dessert receptions with the artists and will include book sales and signings as well as dessert receptions. Tickets to events may be purchased in advance at either JCC location or at the door, space permitting. For more information, visit www. jccbuffalo.org or call 716-204-2255.

### **Events include:**

### **Dick Hirsch**

A New Bathtub for the White House \$10 Tuesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center Sponsored by The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies



### **Gunilla Kester and Shiri Kester**

Poetry Readings and Photography Show from *If I Were More Like Myself* **Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m. Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre,** 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center

Gunilla Theander Kester (Ph.D.), a native of Sweden, has published and edited six books in three genres. An accomplished guitarist she often performs and also teaches classical guitar. Her CD with Cantor Susan Wehle was released in 2007.

Shiri Kester graduated summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo with degrees in English and Media Studies. She loves to travel and has visited nearly 30 countries on six continents. She currently works with children at the Jewish Community Center and Congregation Shir Shalom.

Sponsored by People of the Book Fund FREE – due to limited seating, reservations recommended. 716 - 204-2084

### AGENCIES

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# June 28, 2017

## Preston (Pete) Niland

From History to Hollywood Tuesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m. Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center

Pete Niland grew up knowing about his family's contribution to WWII and D-Day but never imagined he would one day be invited by Stephen Spielberg to attend the Hollywood opening of *Saving Private Ryan*, the film based on his father and uncles. Join this very special presentation to learn about the "real" Private Ryan, and this remarkable family.

Niland is a native of Niagara Falls, NY whose love of sports led him to Ithaca College and later to Buffalo State College where he received a Master of Science Education. Now a retired teacher and coach, you can find him most mornings working out at the JCC Fitness Center.

Sponsored by Amherst Memorial Chapel FREE – due to limited seating, reservations recommended. 716-204-2084



Daniel Horowitz On the Cusp, The Yale College Class of 1960 and A World on the Verge of Change The experiences of a single college class as a barometer of cultural change Thursday, June 8, 7:30 Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center

A Jewish "townie" from New Haven, Horowitz reconstructs the undergraduate career of the class of 1960 and follows its story into the next decade. He ponders the role of the university in protecting the prerogatives of class while fostering social mobility, and examines the growing significance of race and gender in American politics and culture.

Daniel Horowitz graduated from Yale in 1960 and later earned a doctorate in history at Harvard. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the National Humanities Center; the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, Harvard; and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. *Sponsored by Judy and Len Katz \$10/general, \$5/student* 

## **Barry Schonfeld**

Piano Concerto, based on the artwork of Goya **Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m. Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre,** 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center

Barry Schonfeld presents a Buffalo WNY premier concert of Goyascas, pieces for the piano, inspired by the paintings of Francisco Goya, the Spanish romantic painter and printmaker. These wonderfully rhythmic music pieces evoke colorful imagery as they "gallop along, racing to a fantastic finish."

Sponsored by the Schonfeld Family \$10/general, \$5/students



Linda Pellegrino Still Smiling Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center

Join Linda Pellegrino for a compilation of memories of a life in front of and behind the camera by one of WNY's most known and respected reporters.

Pellegrino has made her mark in both Buffalo radio and television, especially as the longtime host of WKBW, Channel 7's AM BUFFALO. Pellegrino's work at Channel 7 has earned her awards from the New York State Associated Press Broadcasters and two New York State Emmy nominations. As a breast and thyroid cancer survivor, Pellegrino has also been a vocal advocate of women getting annual mammograms.

Sponsored by Northtown Automotive Companies. \$10/general, \$5/student



Sandra Block The Secret Room Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 pm (See Page 14) Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Jewish Community Center Presented by JCC Book & Arts Fair and Buffalo Jewish Federation Sponsored by Brian and Margery Block \$10/general, \$5/students

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# Shavuot

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Create a Jewish Legacy www.jewishphilanthropies.org

# Kadimah & Weinberg: Making New Friends

Kadimah Academy gratefully acknowledges the prominent national funder which has enabled our 7th and 8th grade students to develop meaningful relationships with seniors at Weinberg Campus and with residents at Jewish Federation Housing. Kadimah has benefitted tremendously from its participation in the Better Together Program by visiting seniors at Weinberg and Jewish Federation Apartments, inviting them to school to participate in model seders and other programs, and by exploring our local community together on field trips.

The Better Together Program also includes the Better2Write writing contest. Entries for the writing contest centered on how the students were impacted by the program, as reflected in their feelings about seniors, aging, and the mitzvah of caring for the elderly. Of the essays that were submitted, Charlie Herman has won both the local (1st place) and national (3rd place) competitions, which includea a \$5,000 scholarship toward a summer program for Charlie, and \$5000 for the general scholarship fund at Kadimah Academy! Mazal Tov Charlie! Below, you can read a little bit of the essay written by each student, and if you want to read the whole essay, they are printed in their entirety at www.kadimah.org.

### A Full Life, by Jane Ablove

It was 1925 and a baby was being born. The baby was my Savta (grandmother), Helen Cooper. She was born during the roaring 20s and was a young child during the great depression. Now my Savta didn't necessarily have a bad life during the great depression. Her dad was a plumber so her family had a pretty steady income. When Savta was growing up she didn't have much but she had enough. Savta had two sisters: Lillian the middle sister, and Claire the older sister (late). When Savta grew up she went to college to become a schoolteacher and was a teacher for about 40 years...

### Mrs. Anastasia and Me, by Hailey Epstein

I stood, staring at the red door, silently arguing about whether to ring the doorbell or not. My finger, an inch from the doorbell button, shook. I calmed myself and pushed the button...

#### Mr. Roberts, by Charlie Herman



I walked into the vestibule and divested myself of the heavy and wet outerwear. I entered the front doors and walked over to the front desk. Carrying the big box into the building with me, I had used all of the money I had to buy it...



Kadimah and Weinberg together

### Aging is Unstoppable, by Michael Sanders

The scariest part for 18-year-old Morris Berman wasn't the moment he discovered he was drafted. It was the agonizing anticipation between the time he read the letter, and the time he would be sent to a bloodbath. It was that day in 1959 when dawn turned to dusk, walls tumbled, light was extinguished, and his life changed forever...

### My Grandma, by Caleb Senick

My grandma is 73 years old, and had four kids. She hides it pretty well, but I know that she had a very sad life...



Fun at Chanukah



Working on a project



Better together!

### A Crime Turned Good, by Jonah Slabodkin

David nervously searched his pocket for his weapon as he speedily walked across the snow-covered sidewalks of Frederick Avenue. He mumbled to himself comments of reassurance and encouragement that went along the lines of, "Everything will be alright". David, getting closer and closer to his destination, started to see his whole life flash right in front of his eyes...

### Stroke After Stroke, by Maya Slabodkin

Swimming isn't just a sport. Swimming is my life. My name is Elias Wiener. I currently live in the suburbs of downtown Washington D.C, in the state of Maryland. I began swimming when I was just three-years old. When I start swimming, every thought and worry in my foggy mind starts to go away and begins to vanish in the water. Ever since I was little, I've always wanted to beat the world record for the fastest five-hundred front-crawl. I am currently twenty-one and still working towards my goal...

#### M'dor L'dor, by Shira Symons

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge" Ezekiel 18:2

I remember being very close with General Aaron R. Rabow, or to me, Dad. Or at least I was before that summer. He was a well brought up, strong, confident man, full of integrity. He was a perfect leader. He just wasn't the perfect father. I remember all the ruckus that had happened that week. I was young, so I didn't necessarily understand. It started with the increase in stress around the house. I was the only child, so I was alone most of the time. My mother would be out at work most of the days at her underpaid teaching job downtown and my dad will be out at the base or training. I had become a very independent child for my age. By the age of seven, I was packing my own lunches, doing my own laundry, and making my own meals...

### One Last Thank You, by Norimi Truskinovsky

August 9th, 2016, less than a week after my 12th birthday. On this day, I could no longer say "thank you" to my Grandpa. He always said, "I love you very much!" and gave me a hug and kiss. He had weak legs so while he sat in a big chair, he gave my family a hug, one by one, giving my dad, my mom, my brother, my two elder sisters, my little sister, and me his wonderful, warm, big hugs. We bumped into his big tummy, but he didn't seem to mind. He always had a smile on his face...

For more information, visit: www. kadimah.org. To make a contribution, please contact Marci Wiseman, Director of Community Engagement and Relations at 716-836-6903 or marci. wiseman@kadimah.org

# BJE Annual Meeting & Hebrew High Graduation BJE CELEBRATES HEBREW HIGH GRADUATES,

# HONORS ETHEL MELZER

In early May, Weinberg Campus was packed with members from the community who celebrate 10 graduating seniors from Hebrew High, 10th grade Hebrew High students who recently completed a year-long project with residents from Weinberg Campus *(see page 33)*, and honored Ethel Melzer upon her retirement from the BJE!

The evening began with the graduation ceremony of 10 outstanding students. The program continued with highlighting the incredible work that 10th grade students completed this year with residents at Weinberg Campus through the Better Together program. A video was shown to document the year-long program. Sarah Moyer was also named our local writing contest winner. Sarah will receive a scholarship worth 50% of her Jewish summer camp tuition! The evening concluded with the BJE's Annual Meeting and a special tribute to Ethel Melzer, Director of Adult Education at the BJE, who retired at the end of May after working for the past 13 years at the BJE.



Ethel Melzer and her family



Hebrew High 2017 Grads Front L-R: Eva Muir, Alex Kane, Leah Kramer, Molly Brownstein, Sophia Kaplan Back L-R: Erin Lippa, Jared Wallenfels, Benjamin Wolfson, Zachary Bloom, Nicholas Lowinger





#### AGENCIES

# ART EXHIBIT BY JERRY BIRZON AT THE BUNIS FAMILY ART GALLERY, JCC THROUGH JUNE 30

An exhibit of paintings by Jerry Birzon is on display at the Bunis Family Art Gallery, JCC of Greater Buffalo, through June 30, 2017. Jerry Birzon was born in Buffalo, January 25, 1929. His interest in art began as a child, when he recalls sending letters with cartoons on the envelopes to his older brothers who were in the service. At age five he was stricken with polio, a condition that paralyzed him for a year, and at age 7, he was run over by a car by a negligent neighbor, but despite these setbacks, he wasn't down for long and went on to play football and soccer at Bennett Hiah School.

After graduating, Jerry worked for Becks Shoes before he was sent to Fort Rucker in Alabama for army service. In 1952, he married Gloria Podolsky who joined him in Alabama for six months to finish his service. When the young couple returned to Buffalo, Ierry joined with his brother Sid to build Birzon Jewelers, a wholesale jewelry business that continues to this day. "We attended all the major wholesale shows, shipped across the country, to Canada and South America, and even met celebrities like Liberace and Donny and Marie Osmond along the way," recalled Jerry.

In addition to his successful jewelry business, Jerry built a landmark amusement park that continues to thrive today. "Gloria and I had four daughters and a son and when our second child was born, Gloria remarked that it would be nice if we didn't always have to go to Canada and Crystal Beach when we wanted to take our children to an amusement park. So I thought up the idea and design for an amusement park and we found a builder and along with Buffalo partners including Sid Birzon, Larry Grant, Gordon Gross, Oscar Smuckler, we opened Fantasy Island." Jerry recalls that the original name for the park was Fantasy Land, but when the Disney Corporation heard about the name which they already owned, they threatened to sue. "Since we were





building on Grand Island, we changed the name to Fantasy Island and that worked fine," says Jerry.

Jerry began painting in the 1960s after meeting artist Laszlo Szabo, (1895-1970) who came to Buffalo in 1924, from Budapest, Hungary. Szabo, who studied art at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and at the Art Students League in New York, became one of the city's leading portraitists, and his paintings hang in many Buffalo area homes and public buildings. Internationally known and a fellow of the British Royal Society of Arts, Szabo was acclaimed in Budapest as one of the four outstanding Hungarian-born painters in the world.

"He was a wonderful artist and wonderful teacher," recalls Jerry. "He was very strict about what his students painted and insisted that we always paint real subjects, and never from photos." Today, Jerry continues to paint daily, both at his home in Buffalo and his home in Florida where he and Gloria spend their winters.

All proceeds from sales of his current exhibit will be donated to the Jewish Community Center. Gallery admission is free and the gallery is open during JCC business hours, 7 days a week. For more information visit jccbuffalo.org.



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# It's happening in June at the



# What would you do if you won \$10,000?

Ultimate Fantasy Raffle tickets are \$100 each or three (3) for \$250.

The drawing will take place on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> foring the JCC's Annual Meeting at the Benderson Family Building in Getzville. All ticket sales must be issued and received by June 22<sup>rd</sup> to be entered in the drawing. The Grand Prize Winner receives 10,000 in cash. The Second Prize Winner will.





## www.campcenterland.org



Campers entering K-10 July 3-August 18 | 9:30am-4:00pm

# SPECIALTY CAMPS

Campers entering K-9 June 26-30 & August 21-25 | 9:30am-4:00pm

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Aug. 12 Aug. 26 Sept. 2

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a"a

## OHR TEMIMIM STUDENT MIRIAM GREENBERG WINS INTERNATIONAL JEWISH KNOWLEDGE TOURNAMENT IN NYC

Once again, Ohr Temimim School of Buffalo joined the International Chidon of Jewish Knowledge this year. This worldwide "Chidon" or "Contest" requires students to study the 613 Biblical Commandments or "Mitzvot" with all their intrinsic details, their Biblical sources, as well as their practical applications in today's day and age. A five-book cycle covers all the material over a 5 year period.

After a long period of rigorous study, students who passed a series of tests on their respective books were invited to compete on a grand level at the program's headquarters in New York City. Over a thousand students across the globe, from Argentina to England, Israel to Russia, and even as far as Australia, all came together to vie for medal. Last year, Ohr Temimim Buffalo had a medal winner, Rivka Munitz. This March. Ohr Temimim was proud to send 29 local contestants to the program! Each grade would have a worldwide gold, silver and bronze trophy award winner.

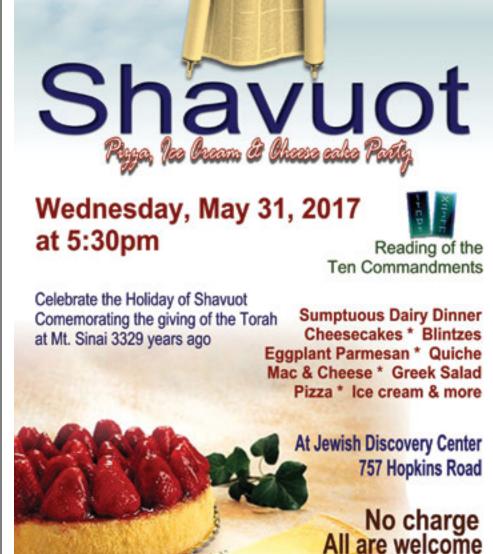
This year, it was **Ohr Temimim's 8th Grade Student, Miriam Greenberg**, who won second place at this Worldwide Chidon Tournament, earning the **International Silver Trophy Award!** She and the other students who accompanied her in the tournament really made Buffalo proud. "A big Mazel Tov goes to Miriam Greenberg for this incredible achievement," said Rabbi Shmuel



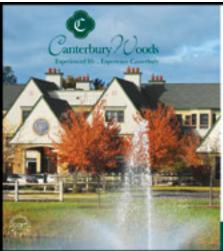
Miriam Greenberg with her mom, Rivky, after receiving her International Silver Trophy Award in NYC.

Shanowitz, principal of Ohr Temimim School. "Miriam made us all so proud and proved to us just how much a city as small as Buffalo has to offer in terms of quality Jewish education. I can't adequately express how proud I am of her and of the dedication and achievements of all the students who participated. The many hours they poured over their books committing all that information to memory is astounding. The wealth of knowledge and the insights into each one of G-d's unique Mitzvot that they have accumulated will be with them for vears to come."

Miriam is the 14-year old daughter of Rabbi Levi and Rivky Greenberg of Williamsville, and 8th grade student at Ohr Temimim School.



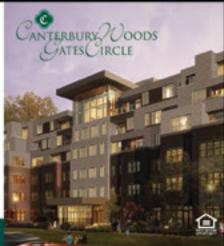
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#### AGENCIES



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Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County

716.883.1914 www.jfsbuffalo.org 70 Barker Street Buffalo NY 14209



# Jewish Family Service Career Counseling Helps Young Adults, Parents Navigate Through "Gap" Years

Your son completes his freshman year of college, only to announce that he now wants to take time off to find his true calling. Or, your daughter decides at the end of her junior year that pursuit of a college degree is not for her - at least not right after high school graduation. "It's not uncommon, and often a healthy choice, for young people to decide to take a year off after high school or the first year of college to decide what they want to do with their life," explains Marlene Schillinger. president and CEO of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County. "JFS has more than 50 years of helping them navigate through what is sometimes referred to as that 'gap' year between high school graduation and deciding on a viable, sustainable career path. Our counselors have expertise in evaluating qualifications and transferrable skills, and in assessing individual abilities, interests and other factors that are critical to meeting this objective. And the summer months can be a really good time to do that."



JFS Career Services program manager Lisa August advises individuals of all ages and stages in life to seek career counseling when they need the assistance of someone who is objective, honest, realistic and supportive. This includes not only high school and college students who are undecided about choosing a college major or career path, but students who decide not to continue in college, people returning to the workplace after a long absence – and seniors who want to supplement retirement income. "A career counselor is knowledgeable about career development and can help people gain insight into their interests, abilities and personality, and to access specialized information related to careers and the workforce," says August, who has worked for more than 20 years in the career development field.

August has managed vocational counseling, job searching and recruitment initiatives at Buffalo State College, University at Buffalo and Bryant & Stratton College. She has held leadership positions with the State University at New York Career Development Organization (SUNYCDO) and the

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Western New York Association of College Career Centers (WNYACCC), of which she is a past president, and is a current member of the American Counseling Association and the National Career Development Association. "Our expert counselors utilize a personalized process that is driven by the client's individual needs. The first thing we do is speak briefly with individuals by phone to find out exactly what they may need help with, and whether or not we can be of assistance. If so, we set an in-person appointment. Our goal is to have each client gain a clear idea of the steps they can take to move forward with productive changes in their worklife," explains August.

#### Affordable Jewish Family Service Career Services counseling can help with:

- Career change direction
- College major selection assistance
- Interest, personality, values, and/or ability assessment
- Evaluation of qualifications, transferrable skills and marketability
- Occupational and job market information
- Job search planning, strategy, and support
- Resume and cover letter review
- Interview coaching
- College, graduate school or training program search

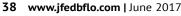
"Making the transition from high school life to independent adult daily living can be a challenge for both young people and their parents. Jewish Family Service is here to help all involved along each step of the way," Schillinger says.

For additional information or to make an appointment with JFS Career Services, call 883-1914 or email Peter Scott at pscott@jfsbuffalo.org. Jewish Family Service is located at 70 Barker Street, Buffalo, NY 14209 about Temple Beth Zion. Visit us online at www.jfsbuffalo. org

## **Discrimination and Retaliation**

Do you think you are a target of disability discrimination?





#### AGENCIES

# ALL ARE WELCOME AT YAD B'YAD!

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

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

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# JDC's Mega-Challah Bake, May 16



# **Desmons Honored by NFJC**



Peter Fleischmann, David and Janet Desmon, and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich at the event



NFJC President Lana Benatovich thanks guests for supporting the organization



Friends and family of the Desmons



Sandy & Margery Nobel and Shira & Rob Goldberg



Jeremy Desmon with parents Janet and David Desmon

# **Buffalo Welcomes Rabbi Sara Rich**



Steve and Ellen Weiss hosted a reception for Rabbi Sara Rich, who will become head of the Hillel Foundation in Buffalo.



Rabbi Sara Rich speaking to guests



Dr. Gil Wolfe and Mitch Flynn



Host Ellen Weiss and Patti Adler

# **Volunteers Recognized by NRC**



Helen and Dr. Bernie Weinstein, and Helen's award



Millie Topper and her mom, Jessica Topper



Mindy Weinman, Joe Morris, Millie Topper and Todd Sugarman honored by Congregation Shir Shalom



Rabbi Freirich and Lislie Garfinkel, who was honored by Temple Beth Zion



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein offering greetings at the Network of Religious Communities event



Federation Honoree Helen Weinstein with her family at the NRC dinner



Todd Sugarman receiving his award



Shir Shalom members and their honorees at the dinner



Rabbi Freirich and Leslie, Charlie and Adina Garfinkel

# Photos from celebrations at the JCC and Kadimah Academy Yom Ha'atzmaut 5777: Israel @ 69



# BUFFALO JEWISH COMMUNITY 2017 YOM HASHOAH

## OUR COMMUNITY UPSTANDERS – THE LEGACY OF ELIE WIESEL Z"L

#### By Mara Koven-Gelman, Executive Director

Over 500 people attended this year's Yom HaShoah Commemoration organized by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and chaired by Rachel Kranitz McPhee. The standing-room-only crowd participated in a tribute to Holocaust Survivor, teacher, humanitarian and leader, Elie Wiesel z"l. and his strong legacy to be an inspiration to other community Upstanders.

Highlights from the hour-long event included, words by Professor Wiesel's son Elisha, which were read by Alex Rubin, grandson of Holocaust Survivor and liberator Stephan Lewy, and the honoring of six individuals who have made a strong difference in Greater Buffalo and lit six candle lighters in memory of six million Jews killed in the Shoah. Honorable Lisa Rodwin and Honorable Penny Wolfgang read the biographies of each honoree who has worked to improve the lives of refugees in Western New York. Honorable Judge Lisa Rodwin also shared how her family story of fleeing Nazi Germany impacts her work with refugees and acculturation programs in Buffalo.

Using the theme of honoring Elie Wiesel z" l, several University at Buffalo Hillel, Hebrew High and Kadimah Academy students read quotes from Wiesel. Rabbi Ionathan Freirich led the participants in Kaddish edited by Wiesel to include names of concentration camps. Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Cellist Robert Hausmann accompanied on piano by Alfred Frenning performed Yizkor v'HeKhazak (Remembrance and the Strength to Overcome) by Christopher Ziemba. As a 12-year-old student, Christopher Ziemba visited the Mauthausen concentration camp. The event was sponsored by the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Tzedek.

# Yom Hashoah Commemoration in Mayor Brown's Office



# Yom Hashoah Community Remembrance at Temple Beth Tzedek



## (NOT) THE LAST WORD

## **TO EVERYTHING, THERE IS A SEASON**

By Ethel Roblin Melzer, Director, Adult Education Bureau of Jewish Education

Webster's Dictionary defines "retirement" as: "withdrawal, retreat, departure, separation and ending!" I find all these terms negative, limiting, depressing and unacceptable! My personal definition of "retirement" is the opportunity to travel; time to spend with those I love; re-connecting with friends; some lunches and card games; additional time to exercise and attend classes; and time to return to some volunteer activities in the community. These are the positive aspects that I had in mind when I handed in my letter of resignation to the Bureau of Jewish Education as Adult Education Director last February after 13 years, and then officially retired from the BJE on May 31st.

My letter expressed the hours of introspection, soul-searching and discussion that took place before my decision. It took into consideration that I would no longer be able to guide students towards learning opportunities with community rabbis and other excellent teachers. It pointed out nothing pleased me more than to see students "leaning in" and participating in classroom discussions or beginning a Hebrew or Yiddish class knowing nothing, and ending up reading prayers, articles, and text. There is no question I will miss the students I have come to know and love.

Thanks to Evie Weinstein, my eight years as Director of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School gave me the opportunity to engage and learn from brilliant individuals in our community. International Melton Conferences also put me in touch with extraordinary teachers in Israel. I even met with



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Ethel Roblin Melzer, former Adult Education Director at the Bureau of Jewish Education

Florence Melton, whose touch upon my shoulder I can still feel.

For the five years as Director of Adult Education with the Bureau, I have been privileged to work with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis, and listen and learn as they have shared their wisdom with over 165 students in the Introduction to Judaism courses. Watching Hebrew and Yiddish students study – watching them change, from non- reading individuals to several who have gone on to become B'nai Mitzvot, and others who can read Yiddish articles - has been very exciting. Staffing the Asher Lev program and the lecture series with the University of Buffalo's Department of Jewish Thought on Love and Justice, has also been rewarding.

I began my involvement with the Jewish community many years ago, on the board of the Jewish Community Center. I was very fortunate to be mentored and coached by Bill Grossman, and to be able to use Ruth Kahn Stovroff as a role model. Camps Centerland and Lakeland and the Lakeland Association soon followed. I moved on to the Jewish Federation Board and the UJF Women's Division Campaign with its Missions to Israel, where I encountered the Western Wall for the first time, arm in arm with Gerda Klein. The Israel Expo '76 Steering Committee was a highlight for me and the community. I am indebted to the many volunteers and lay leaders I have worked with on boards, committees, and projects. They have all enriched my life.

I am also very grateful for the colleagues I have been privileged to work with through the years at the Bureau. They have all become friends, and now are like family. To my always patient and very supportive husband, Dick - thank you for your patience, love and support since I began my journey! To the Board of Directors and the staff at the Bureau of Jewish Education, my sincere thank you to you, as well, for your support and your friendship. My special thanks to my administrative assistant and friend, Mindy Ponivas, who has been my on-going "invisible means of support" for the past thirteen years!

In Ecclesiastes 3, we read from the Tanakh: "A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven." I have had a multitude of incredible experiences that I will treasure always, but now it is time for me to retire. I am not withdrawing, retreating, or separating - I plan to be around and I hope to see all of you as I move on to the next chapter!

L'hitrot and Shalom!

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