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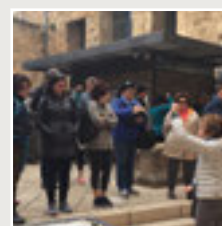
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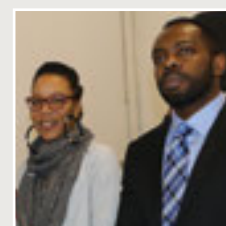
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Israelis Educators From W. Galilee Come to Buffalo

By Rob Goldberg

Later this month, Buffalo Jewish Federation is bringing Israel to Buffalo! Three outstanding educators from the Western Galilee region, Noa Kali, Yoram Posklinsky, and Sandee Illoouz, will be coming to Buffalo from Friday afternoon, March 31 through early afternoon April 3.

Federation is now a member of a consortium of 14 communities (13 in the US as well as Budapest, Hungary) as part of a partnership with the Western Galilee region in Israel (which includes the port city of Akko). Several women from our community, who participated in February's Heart to Heart Mission to Israel, spent Shabbat in the region and met with leaders from the community and visited important sites in the region, including the Western Galilee Medical Center (see page 6). I had the privilege of spending five days in the region as well and met with leaders of our consortium as well as each of our three distinguished guests.

We are in the process of finalizing the program calendar for the visit, which will include speaking engagements at local synagogues, meeting with children in religious schools and Kadimah Academy, as well as an evening event for the entire community on Sunday, April 2. Information on each program will be on Federation's website and shared through our weekly e-blast.

We hope that you will be able to join us and meet our three "visionaries" from the Western Galilee.



Noa Kali

Born and raised in an Orthodox community in Jerusalem, Noa was educated at Pelech High School for religious girls, a place that planted the seeds of open mindedness, social activism and liberal Judaism.

Noa served in the IDF as an officer educating soldiers from underprivileged families. After earning her M.A. in History after the army, Noa began a 24-year career in teaching. In between being a Middle School and High School teacher, she became a facilitator in Holocaust education and dialogue workshops for Jews and Arabs at the Center for Humanistic Education at the Ghetto Fighters Museum.

At Kibbutz Regba, Noa was involved in creating a framework for learning and practicing Liberal Judaism in a secular community. In 2013, Noa became a leading member at Kadar Center, a training center for the implementation of innovative learning approaches in schools.



Yoram Posklinsky

For 30 years, Yoram has been leading community centers in the Galilee, most recently, directing the Community Center Network in Akko, comprised of five branches. In this position Yoram has overall administrative and operational responsibility for a wide variety of extra-curricular, sports, cultural and recreational activities. Yoram's achievements include the establishment of a hydrotherapeutic pool that is widely used in the Upper Galilee; he launched a Music School and an Orchestra in Rosh Pina; established many instrumental services for children, youth, and the wide community such as Early Childhood Centers, Youth Centers and programs that strengthen Jewish identity for Olim and the general community. From 1997-2000, Yoram served as the Israel Center Director and Community Shaliach of the Jewish Agency for Israel in Tucson, Arizona. He has also served outside of Israel and North America as the director of an agricultural project in Guatemala in collaboration with that country's

Ministry of Agriculture. Yoram received his Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering and Management from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, followed by a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Clark University a decade later. While in the IDF, Yoram served as an aircraft mechanic and electrician with the Israel Air Force.



Sandee Illouz

Sandee was born and grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa and



University of Arizona, majoring in Education, Speech, and Mathematics. In 1971 she worked as an airline hostess for TWA and prior to making Aliyah to Israel in 1975, worked for four years in the Jewish Agency in New York in various capacities. In Israel, Sandee studied Hebrew in the Ulpan in Kibbutz Gan Shmuel, and in Jerusalem, volunteered in the Alyn Crippled Childrens' Hospital, studied Social Work at Hebrew University, initiated and coordinated educational seminars for students on One-Year Abroad study programs at all the universities in Israel. In 1978, Sandee moved to Shlomi, a small development town on the western Lebanese border. There she studied Organizational Psychology at Haifa University, and served as coordinator of volunteers and absorption of new residents. In 1983, she founded the Erez Vocational Training School (later known as Erez College) in Shlomi and served as CEO until retiring in April of 2015.

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

This month—the Jewish month of Adar—we celebrate Purim. While we are enjoying the many Purim carnivals, Megillah readings and hamantaschen around town, let’s not forget that this gleeful and sometimes drunken holiday (for us) commemorates the near-annihilation of the Jews in ancient Persia. By chowing down on poppy seed, prune and apricot hamantaschen, we are symbolically eating the hat of our old nemesis, Haman. And as we do so, we remember and honor Esther for her bravery.

But Esther didn’t save the Jews by herself. She worked with other people. Just as our cover highlights partnerships we in the Buffalo Jewish Community are forging. Interfaith partnerships, inter-religious partnerships, working with other Jewish communities to help all types of Israelis in the Western Galilee region, working with other religious groups, ethnic groups, political groups and agencies in Buffalo to make our Jewish and general community the best it can be. We must all work together in partnerships to make our world one that we can sustain, support and thrive!

During this stormy political climate, I think it is critical to remember who we are and what we as Jews stand for. Though sometimes overused, this teaching from Pirkei Avot is perfect for this time in history. “Hillel says, ‘If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?’ (Ethics of the Fathers, 1:14)” Jewish Family Service issued a statement (see page 9) when a refugee ban was created by Executive Order last month. Please be sure to read it, knowing that Jewish Family Service reminds us all that we were once strangers here, too.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

Be Happy! It's Adar!
May you make this month meaningful for yourself and for us all!

On The Cover



Hands photo by K.C. Kratt. Photo art by Kim Miers.
Photos clockwise from left: Women at Jan. 21 Women's March; Interfaith Mission in Abu Gosh with Brother Olivier; Interfaith Mission at Ben Shemen; JFS Staff at a recent “Know Your Rights” program; Super Sunday Volunteers; Members of the Heart to Heart Women's Mission in Israel; Amherst Town Council Member Steve Sanders withy Howard and Valerie Rosenhoch at Super Sunday; Women's Philanthropies Chair Julie Weinberg and Campaign Chair Leslie Shuman Kramer with JFS President Blaine Schwartz; Interfaith Trip to Israel at Ben Shemen; Yael Friedman-Vatury and Camie Greene at Machne Yehuda Market in Jerusalem; Interfaith Mission in Lod, Israel; Ethiopian girls who the Heart 2 Heart Mission participants met; Atop Masada with the Interfaith Mission in Israel.

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Super Sunday Success

Thank you, Super Sunday Super Heroes!

The Buffalo Jewish Federation's Super Sunday raised nearly \$80,000 on January 29, 2017 because of the hard work of the following people. The funds go to help Jews and agencies in Western New York, in Israel and around the world. We couldn't have been so successful without you. Mazel Tov and THANK you from all the people your work touches.

If you worked on Super Sunday and were inadvertently left out of this list, please let us know. Email egoldstein@jfedbfl.com

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Kevin O'Connell- WGRZ-TV
Don Postles- WIVB-TV
NYS Senator Michael Ranzenhofer
Amherst Town Board Member Steve Sanders
NYS Assembly Member Ray Walter



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Thank You!

The 2017 Buffalo Geo-Political Interfaith Israel Trip

By Ellen Goldstein

On a cold January morning, 23 Buffalonians departed from the parking lot of Congregation Shir Shalom, on our way via three minibuses to Toronto's Pearson Airport, where we boarded an El Al flight bound for Tel Aviv. Some sixteen plus hours later on Monday afternoon (Israel time), we tottered off the plane at Ben Gurion Airport to be met by our delightful and knowledgeable guide, Yael Friedman-Vatury of SY Travel, a former paratrooper commander in the IDF. By the end of the trip we were all part of her family!

This trip was specifically designed as a "geopolitical" journey (see Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein's message on page 8 for a further explanation) to strengthen ties between Buffalo synagogues and churches—Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom, Westminster Presbyterian Church and North Presbyterian Church—working within and without Middle East perceptions.

We began our journey in Israel exploring the winding small streets of the old city of Jaffa (Joppa), a city where Jews and Christian Arabs mingle freely in business and geography, looking at ancient churches and Ottoman era (400 years old) edifices where early Christianity broke away from Judaism and grew separately. From there, we travelled to Tel Aviv, Tiberius, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Masada, and much further in friendship.

"It's complex. It's complicated," is a phrase we heard every day over and over. By the end of our trip, we felt the complexity in our hearts. One speaker we heard in Tel Aviv, former Israeli Air Force Lt. Col. Reuven Ben Shalom, set the scene for us on our first night. He described Israel's 100 years of Zionism and nearly 70 years of statehood as complex and filled with success and drama as an ongoing battle of narratives. He also reminded us that the Israeli-Palestinian issue is not the center of the Middle East conflict. That central problem has been and continues to be the Sunni/Shiite conflict.

Our travels took us to many places where Arabs and Jews live among each other and continue to create sustainable partnerships. One such example was Ben Shemen Youth Village outside of Tel Aviv which takes at-risk students from all faiths and abilities, and turns out such elite graduates as the late former Israeli President and Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Another was Giv'at Haviva, a center for shared society. Still another was in Buffalo's Partnership 2Gether community of Akko at the Arab-Jewish Community Center with the visionary Dr. Muhamed Fahili. He is a man who can see a peaceful future between Arabs and Jews and works to make it so every day.

We were sightseers at important Christian places in the Galilee such as the Church of the Beatitudes and the Church of the Nativity in Nazareth, important Jewish sites such as Masada, Yad Vashem, the Western Wall, the northernmost kibbutz of Misgav Am, and such vibrant community gathering spots as Machne Yehuda market, the Old City, a Reform synagogue for Erev Shabbat and a Sunday morning church service. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem where our group was welcomed by my friend and journalist colleague Allen Abbey and led by Rabbi Leon Morris in a discussion on the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel through David



Members of the Buffalo Jewish-Presbyterian Geopolitical Trip to Israel on a tel (hill) in Jaffa, Israel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Hartman's perception. All of us, fresh from a tour of Yad Vashem came to grips with the struggle of the Jewish people's survival and its present day implications.

And finally after ten days of delicious food, a gorgeous and changing landscape, geographic

reality and hearts filled with hope and compassion, our days in Israel came to an end.

My Takeaway

- Yes, it is complicated. But that does not mean that it is hopeless.
- Leadership matters! Good,

strong national leadership for Israelis and Palestinians—as well as for other nations in the region is the key. Leaders who put the welfare of their people above themselves are a must. And leadership on a local level—in Israeli cities, towns, villages

Lines in Israel

By Alex Lazarus-Klein

The lines in Israel do not go straight.

Not the green line of despair that winds around the Old City.

Not the black line the archeologists used at Masada stamping the buildings like from a child's hand.

Not the invisible line in the sand signaling the Dead Sea's retreat.

And, certainly not, the line at the shuk that screamed at us the closer we got to the shopkeeper.

It is your line and my line that could still be straight.

The lines of our hair as we age,
The lines beside our eyes as we laugh,
The lines of our eyebrows, when we are thinking too hard,
And, the lines of our arms, reaching, to no avail, toward one another,
to make peace with all that we have seen.

and organizations can and does make a difference.

- Given half a chance, people can and do accomplish remarkable things. We saw so many examples of this almost everywhere we went.

- Local partnerships, friendships, relationships are of primary importance. This is about partnerships in Israel as well as in Buffalo. Our group intends to continue meeting with each other and finding ways to make a difference.

- Israel means more to me as a Jew than ever. In Israel, I am fully present as a Jew, and returned home ever more committed to doing what I can to keep Israel as a place Jews NEED to be a part of, connected to and interested in (please forgive my ending this sentence with 3 prepositions).

Thank you to my fellow travelers and pilgrims: Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom, the staff of Temple Beth Zion, Rev. Tom Yorty of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. William Hennessey of North Presbyterian Church and my new best friends in alphabetical order: Robin Bronstein, Lee Carlson, Richard Dopkins, Shelley Drake, Kathryn Foti-Crawford, Molly and Bill Gray, Camie Greene, Ellie and Reid Heffner, Ellen Johnson, Alice and Marc Joseffer, Karen Rumsey, Stuart and Caren Shapiro, Bob Silkes and Diane Ziarkowski, and Linda Wadsworth. Thank you also to Sfeir Harris- our bus driver, Yael Friedman-Vatury of SY Travel and her parents, and to the Buffalo Jewish Federation for its leadership, support and commitment to making Buffalo interfaith partnership and community building a reality.

Higgins Recognizes International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26) entered remarks into the Congressional Record in recognition of International Holocaust Day, observed on January 27. Higgins said, "This is a time to mourn the millions of victims of the Holocaust. And it serves as an annual reminder to Americans, and indeed to all humanity, that we must never forget the evil that mankind has visited upon itself." Earlier this week Congressman Higgins paid tribute to a Western New York WWII veteran who fought for and witnessed the liberation of concentration camps.

For a historical overview and current day conversations visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at: <https://www.ushmm.org>.



FBI's Cohen to Address Hadassah March 19

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

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



SAC Adam Cohen

Operations.

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

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Heart to Heart Mission – A Joyful Journey

By Ellen Weiss

“Life changing. Awe-inspiring. Amazing. The best trip ever.” These may be some comments you will hear when you talk to someone about the recent Heart to Heart Mission to Israel.

On Sunday February 5th, 68 women from 19 communities participated in the Jewish Federation of North America’s (JFNA) Heart to Heart 8 mission to Israel. Our Buffalo Federation represented the largest delegation with 11 women – Leslie Kramer (National Chair), Ellen Weiss (Buffalo Chair), Randi Morkisz (Buffalo Federation Staff), Eileen Fine, Shira Goldberg, Jody Kramer, Lori Morrison, Ellen Reis, Laurie Sadler, Linda Dwor Pollack, and Amelida Ortiz Weinmann.

Eight Buffalo representatives started the trip with a pre-mission to our Partnership region in the Western Galilee. We had the honor of welcoming Shabbat in the home of Chef Uri Arnon, the owner of Arnold’s restaurant in Netiv Hashayara. Saturday we toured Akko and after Shabbat we enjoyed home hospitality with two female leaders in our partnership community. Sunday we visited the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya. This hospital is the sole medical center of the Galilee, serving 600,000 diverse residents as well as the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Heart to Heart is not a typical tour of Israel. Most of our time is spent visiting agencies so we can learn how we are helping the people in Israel and talking to our “sisters” in Israel to gain a better understanding of the culture in our homeland. *These are a few highlights of our trip.*

- Met teenage girls serving as ambassadors through a World ORT initiative.
- Learned cooking skills at a local JCC and shopped for hand made crafts from Jewish Agency and JDC-supported programs.
- Experienced a traditional Ethiopian dance workshop.
- Met Holocaust survivors participating in an art therapy photography program.
- Traveled to Beir Neir to witness the damage and repair taking place after the recent fires.
- Participated in a Bat Mitzvah ceremony and celebration along with Ethiopian girls.

Hats and Shoes

By Alex Lazarus-Klein

At the church we took off our hats.
At the synagogue we put them on.
At the mosque we took off our shoes.

Soon, going building to building,
hat, shoes,
shoes, hat,
we lost track.

At the entrance of any building,
We found our hands reaching for our head,
or our feet,
in an unending cycle of removal
and return.



Members of the Buffalo Delegation of the JFNA Heart 2 Heart Mission in the Western Galilee, above at the new hospital and right, above Jerusalem.

Here are reflections from some of our participants:

“The heart to heart mission was a joyful, educational, and spiritual journey. I’m looking forward to telling people about the current relevant work of the Jewish Federation and our part in Israel.”
- Linda Pollack

“I always knew that the money that we were sending to Israel was well spent, but now I am more aware of just how well spent. The projects we saw were amazing and I am so proud that the dollars that I give and the funds that I help raise are being put to such well managed, professionally run programs. The Heart to Heart mission was an overwhelming, emotional experience that I am so very grateful to have had, and was even more significant as I was able to be with my beautiful daughter, Jody Kramer, who lives in California. Our group from Buffalo was a shining example of intelligence and commitment. The trip was, however, by no means always serious. We laughed together and enjoyed each other’s happiness to the fullest.” - Ellen Reis

“If you’re interested in traveling with a diverse group of smart, motivated, FUN, interesting and interested women in Israel, learning how our Federation dollars and our involvement make a difference, about the latest fashion, arts and culture in Israel, and earning about the hot issues facing Israel and the Jewish world, this trip is for you!!! (sorry guys....women only!). Not to mention the professional level of planning, service, programming and outstanding food. Join us next year on Heart to Heart 9!” - Leslie Kramer

“This trip was a truly amazing learning experience. Watching Ethiopian girls at their Bat Mitzvah, knowing where they came from and what they had to learn, was truly inspiring!” - Lori Morrison

“When I decided to go on the Heart to Heart mission, I had little in the way of the expectations. Traveling with 68 women from across the country and sharing in so many unique, interactive experiences was beyond



amazing. Heart to Heart is a very special way to experience Israel.” - Laurie Sadler

“What an amazing ingathering of Jewish women from the Diaspora in Israel! Whether celebrating at OlMaya with the families of 8 Ethiopian Bat Mitzvah girls as they start their adult Jewish journey, davening in unison at the Kotel, visiting the Northern Galilee Hospital servicing everyone, or dancing at the home of a Lion of Judah, we all came back as Lionesses of Eretz Israel, rejuvenated to help in Tikkun Olam, tzedakah & mitzvot in our communities-, here, the great communities, & Israel.” - Amelida Ortiz Weinmann

I’ve been back from Israel just a few days and I already miss so many things about it. During this trip, 66 women from all over the United States, (Largest group of 11 were from Buffalo) experienced a hands-on, interactive trip that rivaled no other. This was my third trip to Israel, yet so many things felt new. It is an amazingly beautiful country. Israel’s rich ancient history and its new growth seem to blend together in a seamless way. As I unravel each day, I realize how the people, the flavors, the sights and the sounds, seem to all be more intense in Israel. The hummus, pita and falafel, the tomatoes, cucumbers, and even the chocolate tasted better! The Israeli people are quick to yell and quick to laugh. They are colorful, move and speak really fast and are always willing to give you their perspective. Israel is surrounded by enemies, and sometimes, is its own worst enemy, yet the people are passionate about their tiny country and will insure that future generations will prevail. - Shira Ziller Goldberg

Please join us next year Feb. 4-8, 2018.

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Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein

In June of 2014, the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted to divest from three American companies (Catepillar, Inc, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions) with ties to Israel and the West Bank at its General Assembly. The American Jewish community reacted in horror. Here, in Buffalo, we chose to do something about it.

Several local Presbyterian ministers, Rev. Tom Yorty of Westminster Presbyterian Church and Rev. William Hennessy at North Presbyterian Church, were upset at what happened at their General Assembly. In private conversations with me and Temple Beth Zion Senior Rabbi (at the time) Gary Pokras, we decided what we needed to do was not pull away from one another, but instead to deepen our relationships between our faith communities.

Temple Beth Zion and Westminster Presbyterian had a friendship that extended back for generations. Likewise, Congregation Shir Shalom and North Presbyterian had similar ties. This was



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein says a blessing before eating a meal in Tel Aviv with members of the Interfaith Mission

a wonderful starting point and in the Fall of 2014, our four congregations launched a series of classes and programs intended to teach one another about our respective communities. We brought in national speakers, Dr. Katharine Henderson from Auburn Seminary and

Rabbi Steve Gutow from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). We held summer picnics under the Shir Shalom tent. We watched movies together about Israel and the current conflict, all supported generously by our Buffalo Jewish Federation.

The end goal was a joint Israel trip between all four congregations. And, after two years of planning, we finally had our trip this past January. It was amazing!!! Twenty-three of us touring the Holy Land, visiting religious sites, and meeting with speakers from a wide spectrum of Israeli and Palestinian society.

This was not meant to be just a fun trip, but a true learning experience. We

arrived in Tel Aviv on Monday, January 9th and for ten days, often starting as early as 8:30 am and going to well after dinner, we immersed ourselves in Israeli society. This was the first time I would tour Israel with Christians. For most of the other participants, this was their first time in Israel altogether.

Collectively, we came away a lot more confused than when we started. After meeting with settlers, peace activists, clergy, community leaders, and normal people living out their day to day lives, we knew that Israel, while not perfect, is a complex, diverse, beautiful society. And, most importantly, we strengthened our relationship between one another and between our four communities. Hopefully, building bonds that will stand the test of time.

March is the month of Purim, a holiday where the Jewish community of Persia felt isolated and alone. When Haman set out to destroy us, no one spoke up. It is only the daring of Esther and Mordecai that rescued us from total destruction. Here in Buffalo we have many allies, individuals and groups that will stand up for us when we need it most and that count on our support in difficult times as well.

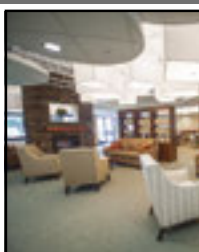
I am so very grateful for the friendship of Westminster Presbyterian and North Presbyterian Churches and for the cooperative relationships communities of faith share with one another in the Buffalo area, and in this great country we call the United States of America.

Rabbi Lazarus-Klein is the spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Shalom.

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JFNA Jewish Disabilities Advocacy Day



Last month, Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) held its first Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill to mark February as Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month. Seen in the photo are Buffalonians Valerie, Howard and David Rosenhoch, along with Cindi Mikulik, Director of Yad B'Yad, and Temple Beth Tzedek advocate Janet Gunner, who met with Aaron Kaufman, JFNA Senior Legislative Associate in Washington, D.C.

JFS Statement on Refugees



Staff of the JFS Refugee Resettlement program

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County has worked for more than 150 years providing individuals and families with the support they need to live with dignity and respect, without fear or pain. While we are working hard to enhance the services that we provide to the Jewish frail and elderly in our community, we are proud that JFS is a leading agency settling those refugees who are fortunate enough to receive visas to move to the United States after undergoing years of substantial vetting.

For more than 30 years, we have worked tirelessly to resettle individuals and families fleeing from terror perpetrated by terrorists in their home countries to safety and new hope here in the United States.

Jewish Family Service mission to provide a lifeline of new hope for refugee individuals and families from Syria, Iraq, Sudan and other strife-torn nations cannot be deterred by the callous inhumanity of President Trump's actions. Refugees selected for admission to the United States have waited up to ten years to enter this country, are fully documented and been fully vetted by the United Nations, Interpol, the CIA, the FBI and numerous other governmental agencies. There is an unfortunate misnomer that they are among the displaced persons who are flooding Europe. They are not!!

JFS stands in firm solidarity with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society(HIAS) and the many other organizations and agencies here in Erie County and across the nation preparing to fight against policies that jeopardize freedom, justice and safety for the innocents of the world.

Such policies jeopardize each and every one of us, and cannot stand. We must raise our voices collectively as one, in a message of protest to Washington so loud and profound that cannot be ignored. We cannot do it alone...but together we will succeed.

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Traveling from the Darkness to Light—Part 2

By Nina Lukin

The following is a continuation of a piece from last month by Nina Lukin following her inspirational journey to Poland and Israel with Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

In Israel, as in the US and Europe, the topic of immigration provokes passion concerning political and human rights. So, it was inspiring to visit an exceptional multicultural school governed by a unique model where children of refugees and migrant workers, some of them with little or no schooling, are integrated into Israeli society. The Bialik-Rogozin School is funded by the Israeli Government and educates more than 1,150 students from 1st to 12th grades. Many of the student's family's are fleeing poverty, political adversity and even genocide. All have low socio-economic status and include children of work immigrants, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, refugees from Darfur, poor third-generation Israeli -born families, and minority Arabs. Eli Nechama, the energetic principal who seemed to know each child and his or her circumstances, described his educational approach aimed at using art as a means to individual empowerment and development of communication abilities. In 2011, Bialik-Rogozin was awarded the National Prize for Education by the Israeli Ministry of Education and an HBO film about the School, Strangers No More, won an Academy Award for Best Short Documentary.

One of the JCPA Fellowship mission objectives was to help local CRCs and the larger Jewish Community become more nuanced advocates for Israel in the United States. Accordingly, it was gratifying to observe Israel operating as a true advanced society by providing access to education and healthcare regardless of religion, nationality or race. But it's important to recall that Israel is a relatively young 70-year old democracy, and it is actively struggling with issues our own, much older country, continues to grapple with such as gender equality-- e.g. women in larger numbers elected to the office and promoted within corporations.

We heard from Michal Yudin, Founder and Director of WePower, the only non-partisan Israeli NGO actively promoting women's leadership and gender mainstreaming targeting women's integration at all levels of society, specifically top influential positions and decision making echelons. "There is no way we can have social change without women at the table," was Michal's clear call to engagement and actions. National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) representative, Hamutal Gouri, who is also the director of the Dafna Fund explained how her organization is dedicated to advancing gender mainstreaming and gender equality for all women in Israel and promoting the vision of Israel as an inclusive, tolerant, egalitarian and democratic state.



Nina Lukin

Regarding equalitarian religious prayer, Orly Erez-Likhovski, an attorney and Director of the Legal Department with the Israeli Religious Action Center of the Reform Movement, shared that specifically among Conservative and Reform Jews, the struggle around conversions, marriages, mikvahs and prayer at the wall are "very much a two steps forward, one step back dance." Even with a Conservative Government in place and despite strong objections by the ultra-Orthodox, 2016 began with a landmark resolution to create a new Western Wall area where mixed prayer services could be held for men and women. Unfortunately, the seemingly progressive move quickly stalled hopes of providing religious diversity at the Wall, and several Knesset members confirmed to our group that while they are supportive, they would not prioritize it over other politically sensitive issues. At this juncture, Ultra Orthodox/Haredi and Israel's political establishment must feel further pressure to recognize the pluralistic and egalitarian commitments made in Israel's Declaration of Independence rather than continue to discount community unity, support of Zionism, and

Diaspora Jews in their defense of the State of Israel. Therefore, I felt deeply conflicted when on Shabbat, I stood at the sacred Wall of ancient stones and prayed....still separated from the men and conspicuously secular.

Far less tangible than a hospital, a school or even egalitarian prayer at the Western Wall is the uncertainty and instability pending a two-state solution. We met with Aluf Benn, Editor-in-Chief, of the *Ha'aretz* daily newspaper, who sees Benjamin Netanyahu as having transformed into a right-wing, majority rules Prime Minister, and we heard from Dr. Shuki Friedman at the Israeli Democracy Institute (IDI) who concurred that Israeli society has become increasingly less empathetic to other points of view. Gal Berger, a journalist with Israeli Public Radio covering the Palestinian territories, provided us with an insider's context as he escorted us past the 'green line' and into the West Bank. He described the history and challenges associated with Fatah vs. Hamas negotiations and shared his research of Palestinian Authority (PA) school text books omitting references to the Holocaust, presenting erasure of Israel's physical existence in maps of Palestine subsuming Israel completely, and celebrating martyrdom. So it was with trepidation that we arrived in Ramallah for lunch with Dr. Saed Erekat, the chief architect of the 1993 Oslo Accords and Fatah's PLO Chief Negotiator for most of the past two decades. Western educated, Dr. Erekat, reaffirmed his support for a peaceful two state solution among the 1967 borders, especially at a time when Israel and the Palestinians have an opportunity to unite against ISIS and extremism.

While the conflict is generally framed as a geographic dispute over land rights, a key element of the equation is the terrorist's covenant to eliminate the Jewish people and the dissolution of Israel. So while Fatah tells the International community and Erekat stated to us that they are seeking a peaceful end to the conflict, they have lost Gaza to Hamas and factions in the West Bank to Fatah militia who are committed to an 'armed struggle' to liberate Palestine. It seems that the continued dispute between Fatah and Hamas will make a Palestinian State and a peaceful Israel increasingly unattainable.

We met with more than forty people from the Knesset, Arab World Research Center, Anti-Defamation League, Bureau of World Jewish Affairs and World Religions, Counsel General Office, Interreligious Coordinating Council, Latin Archbishop of the Holy Land, Ethiopian National Project or Roots (Jewish Arab Co-Existence effort), and many others. So it is with so much more information, many outstanding questions and mixed emotions that I describe my recent time abroad. Through exposure to and awareness of the intersectionality of the various topics we covered, I recognize how complex a time and situation in which Israel finds itself. Yet I come away convinced that the Diaspora must continue to engage in discussions with their communities and abroad even as domestic U.S. and Israeli priorities seemingly diverge. This journey re-instilled in me how critical it is to focus energy towards reinvigorating support for Israel, so I am thrilled to be engaging in the Buffalo Federation's efforts to create dialogues with and among community members and civic leaders. The Buffalo Federation's vision of a vibrant and caring Jewish Community begins with building bridges and creating opportunities like the one from which I have just returned.

I am deeply grateful to Lois Frank with whom it was a treat to learn and travel with, Rob Goldberg, whose energy and mentorship inspires my development, and the Buffalo Jewish Federation for investing in me. I'm thrilled to be serving on the Buffalo Federation Board as Chair of PJ Our Way, collaborating with the Nickel City Jews Executive Committee with a focus on Engagement, and a part of the new CRC efforts underway.

Nina Lukin, a Buffalo community member, was awarded a prestigious national Frank Fellowship to travel on this mission.

Taking Action!

In an effort to Repair the World, community members are taking action in a variety of ways. First, the Community Relations Council is in the process of gearing up after a quiet interval. Next, committee members and community leaders are making their voices heard. Seen in these photos at a recent community action meeting sponsored by the WNY Peace Center in the Network for Religious Communities building are (bottom) Sara Schultz, representing the Sierra Club, talking about ongoing work of the organization, Jessica Altman and Nina Lukin, looking to see what other activists are doing in WNY, and Jessica Altman, talking about recent efforts she is organizing.



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Jews and Melancholia International Symposium

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The connection between Jews and melancholia is a long-standing one in Western thought and culture, and is grounded in religious, medical, astrological, artistic, literary, and philosophical traditions that extend all the way to antiquity. The association begins in late Roman antiquity, when the Jewish Sabbath was identified with the worship of Saturn, the planet of melancholics; it continues throughout the Middle Ages and early modern times, when melancholia was linked in the Christian imagination with the Jewish cannibalistic lust for Christian blood; and culminates in such twentieth century Jewish figures as Walter Benjamin and S. Y. Agnon, who identified their Judaism, or certain forms of modern Jewish mentality, with a melancholic disposition. What is at stake, then, in the notion of melancholia, and why is it frequently associated with Jews and Jewish identity? The symposium will present an opportunity to think about these questions and discuss them in an interdisciplinary academic forum. The purpose of the symposium is to promote an interdisciplinary dialogue on melancholia—while drawing on classical, medieval, and modern notions—not only by charting the specific relation of such notions to Jews, but also by identifying how they came to influence certain artistic, theological, and literary practices local, national and international speakers for the event will include:

Sergey Dolgopolski (Jewish Thought, SUNY at Buffalo)
Anne Golomb Hoffman (English, Fordham University)
Nitzan Lebovic (History, Lehigh University)
Vivian Liska (German Literature, University of Antwerp)
Noam Pines (Jewish Thought, SUNY at Buffalo)
Irven Resnick (Philosophy and Religion, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

This event is sponsored by the Department of Jewish Thought, the Department of Comparative Literature, The Humanities Institute, The Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture, and by Ewa Ziarek, Julian Park Professor of Comparative Literature.

Women of the Wall Activist Anat Hoffman in Buffalo March 25



Anat Hoffman

Anat Hoffman, a leading visionary and activist of our time, who, most recently, has been the inspirational and practical leader of the Women of the Wall movement will speak at Temple Beth Zion Saturday, March 25th at 8:00pm.

Her fight for religious pluralism, especially for the equal inclusion of women's prayer at the Western Wall, has rallied international Jewry to the cause of Jewish Civil Rights in Israel. Anat is the Executive Director

of the Israel Religious Action Center and will speak with our Buffalo community on the topic of "If it ain't broke – break it!" following the great Jewish traditions of breaking the tablets.

The event takes place at 805 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. A brief reception will follow.

The event is free of charge and open to the community through the generous support of the Halpern Memorial Fund and Temple Beth Zion. Reservations are greatly appreciated, please contact the temple office at 716-836-6565.

Peter Fleischmann recognized as Amherst Senior Citizens Foundation Older Adult Advocate



At its 23rd Anniversary Celebration, the Amherst Senior Citizens Foundation (ASCF) recognized individuals who have made significant contribution of their time and talents to positively affect the lives of area seniors, enabling them to age within our community. Peter Fleischmann was honored with the ASCF Creative Advocate Award, which was established to recognize an individual, or organization, which has taken a creative new idea and developed it into a successful program, service or policy to support senior citizens. The Foundation presented this award to Peter Fleischmann who has served as director and CEO of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies since 1982, where he leads all development, grant making, investment and administrative operations. The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies administers over 1,000 endowments, charitable trusts and other philanthropic funds serving broad charitable purposes, with assets of more than \$165 million.

Polish Community Talk @ Niagara U. March 21

Niagara University's Department of History and the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society present a program on the pre-World War II Jewish community in Przemysl, Poland, and the current effort to restore its cemetery Tuesday, March 21. The speaker will be Dr. Andrew Wise, Professor of History, Daemen College. 7 p.m. at Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Room 127, Lewiston. Free and open to the public. 716-434-4984 for more information.



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Persian Purim Treats

By Robin Kurss

Purim is celebrated the night of March 11 and March 12 during the day. The holiday celebrates Jewish survival. It's traditional to eat foods that have symbolic meaning linking to the Purim story. These easy dishes come from Persia--now Iran-- the setting of the Megilla story. Happy Purim!

Persian Eggplant Dip-serves 4

1/4 c. olive oil
1 onion, thinly sliced
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 eggplant, roasted and mashed
2 Tbsp. fresh mint, chopped
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. Greek yogurt
salt
pepper



Garnish:

1/4 c walnuts, chopped
1 Tbsp. mint, chopped

1. In sauté pan, heat oil and sauté onion and garlic until lightly browned
 2. Add mint and eggplant, stir to combine
 3. Add yogurt and lemon juice, season with salt and pepper
 4. Place in bowl and sprinkle with nuts and mint.
- Can be served warm, room temp or chilled. Serve with pita and veggies

Spinach Borami-serves 4

4c. chopped spinach, cooked
and drained very well
2c. plain Greek yogurt
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. olive oil
2/3 c. walnuts, chopped
pinch saffron or turmeric
salt and pepper

1. Sauté garlic in olive oil for 1 minute. Add rest of ingredients except walnuts and stir to combine. Cool.
 2. Place in bowl and put in fridge for at least 1 hr. Sprinkle with nuts before serving.
- Serve as appetizer with pita and veggies or it is also a lovely topping for fish.

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6th & 7th graders had a super Super Sunday!

By Melissa Schreiber – Program Director, Bureau of Jewish Education

On Super Sunday, students from local Jewish day schools and Sunday schools had the opportunity to gather for the 6th-7th grade Super Sunday program. Students learned about five different organizations and the process of allocating funds. This event was organized by the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Educators' Council of WNY.

Students listened and interacted with representatives from five different organizations, which included Camp Centerland, Town Square Food Pantry, Hillel of Buffalo, Yad B'Yad, and Partnership 2Gether. The representatives from these organizations introduced the students to their mission and explained how they help to improve and support Jewish Buffalo.

After the students gathered information, they broke up into 5 groups and were each given \$160 (totaling \$800) to allocate among the 5 organizations. The funds for this program came from tzedakah collected at Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Tzedek schools as well as Kadimah Academy and Ohr Temimim. The Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies graciously matched their contributions.

Following much discussion and deliberation, this is how the students allocated their funds:

Hillel of Buffalo: \$150

Camp Centerland: \$95

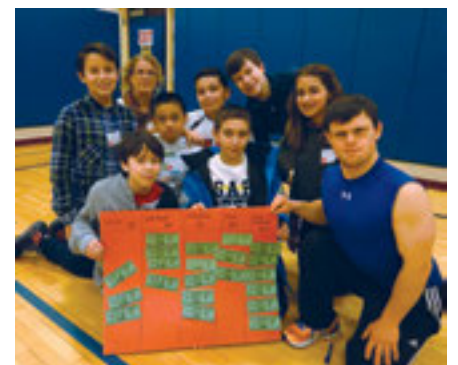
Yad B'Yad: \$180

Town Square Food Pantry: \$230

Partnership 2Gether: \$145

We are so proud of our students taking the time and thought in allocating their funds. They all showed genuine interest and concern for each organization and their missions towards Jewish Buffalo.

For more information on the Bureau of Jewish Education and its programs, please contact Melissa Schreiber at 716-204-5380 or melissa@bjebuffalo.org.



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May 19th - 5:45 pm
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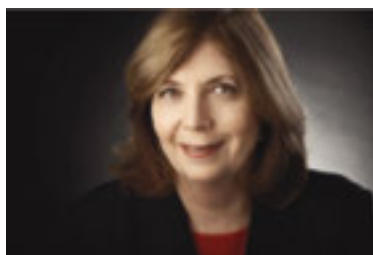
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Scenes from Super Sunday 2017

These are just some of the people working and volunteering on Super Sunday for the 2017 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Photos by Jessica Altman, Craig Small and Ellen Goldstein.



An Evening with Anat Hoffman through the generous support of The Halpern Memorial Fund



Anat Hoffman is a founding member of the Women of the Wall and has served on many Israeli organizations for social change. She currently speaks to audiences on current issues of social justice, religious pluralism, and equal rights.

Saturday, March 25th

Schedule of Events

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(all events are open to the community)

9:15am Torah Study

8:00pm Discussion with Q&A

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- 1» Pony Up to the 7th Annual "Soup's On" Fundraiser to Benefit Phoenix Rising Rescue Horses at Spruce Meadow Farm, 10333 Keller Road in Clarence. Sunday, March 5th from 11am to 3pm.** Come for lunch and save the horses. For \$7 you get soup, beverage, dessert and the Winter Horse Show. All of the funds collected are used to pay for the feeding and medical care of the Phoenix Rising Rescue Horses. **Call 716.741.2346, SpruceMeadowFarm.com, HelpSaveHorses.org**
- 2» Lights! Action! Don't miss the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival Kick Off Party March 6!** *It takes place at the Screening Room, 880 Alberta Drive in the Boulevard Mall at 7:00 pm* and for \$36, you get delicious Sweet & Savory snacks, a screening of *A Borrowed Identity* plus an additional ticket to any other film during the festival. **Go to www.jiff.com or contact Jordana Halpern at jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org.**
- 3» BOO, Haman! BOO! March 11- 12!** Celebrate Purim at one of the many group parties and carnivals around town: **Purim in the Palace- March 12 @ Jewish Discovery Center- 4:30- 6:30 pm** (JDC, Family Shul, Kadimah, KOT, Young Israel), March 12 Purim Carnival @ TBT - 11 am-1:30 pm (TBT, CSS, TBZ, Kadimah), plus Chabad and individual synagogue Megillah readings.)
- 4» Women of the Wall, March 25 @ TBZ.** Women of the Wall and Israeli religious pluralism activist Anat Hoffman will speak at Temple Beth Zion Saturday night, March 25 at 8:00 pm at 805 Delaware Avenue. You won't want to miss this special event. **Tickets are free, but reservations are recommended at 836-6565.**
- 5» Visionaries from P2G.** March 31st brings 3 visionaries from Buffalo's P2G Israeli partner to Buffalo. You won't want to miss the events happening that weekend, including visits to Shabbat services. **More info will be available soon at www.jfedbflo.com.**

WHERE IN JBFLO ?

Where is this found in WNY?

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

E-mail your answers to egoldstein@jfedbflo.com

In February, Jordana Halpern and Ethel Melzer correctly identified the photo which is a beautiful Harvey Breverman painting that proudly hangs outside the office of Rick Zakalik, the JCC Executive Director, at the Benderson Family JCC Building. In addition, Fran Paskowitz also correctly identified the January photo of the Sokelifker Monument at the Holy Order of the Living Cemetery.



This Month's Events

Through March 5

@ The Central Library-Lafayette Square: The Ulma Family Exhibit about the Ulma Family in Poland
who were murdered for their attempts to save Jews during the Holocaust.

March 5

TBZ's Achim Program at Weinberg.
10:00 am. Weinberg Meadows Lounge, featuring Dr. David Davidson on Foot Care.

Free and Open to the Public

March 6

Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival (BIJFF) Kick-Off Party.
6:30 pm. The Screening Room, Boulevard Mall next to Macy's. \$36.
Call Jordana Halpern at 688-4033.

March 10

Tot Shabbat Hop sponsored by PJ Library. 5:45 pm Temple Beth Zion, 700 Sweet Home Road.

March 11-12

Purim Celebrated.

Look for carnivals and Megillah readings at various places in Western New York in this month's *Jewish Journal*.

March 17-23

Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival (BIJFF).
Amherst Dipson Theatre. Various times. Go to www.bijff.com for schedule and prices.

March 19

Mussar Spirituality Event.
1:30-4:00pm. Temple Beth Zion, Broder Building.
700 Sweet Home Road.
Call Susan Goldberg Schwartz at 836-6565

Hadassah Event with FBI Special Agent in Charge Adam Cohen.
3:00 pm. JCC/Benderson

March 25

Women of the Wall's Anat Hoffman
at Temple Beth Zion,
805 Delaware Avenue.
8:00 pm

March 26

TBZ Women's Seder open to all.
1:00 pm. Broder Building,
700 Sweet Home Road.
Call 836-6565

March 26-28

AIPAC National Policy Conference in Washington, D. C.

March 30-31

Jews and Melancholia Symposium @ UB. Samuel Friedman Library, Clemens 708. For more information, contact Michele Parente at 645-3695.

March 31-April 2

Israeli Visionaries from the Western Galilee.
Watch for more information on programs and events for this.
Or call the Buffalo Jewish Federation at 204-2241.



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www.jfedbflo.com
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director
Steven J. Weiss- President

Bureau of Jewish Education

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-204-5380 | FAX 716-688-3572
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www.chabadbuffalo.com
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www.chainursery.com
Chani Labkovski -Director

Department of Jewish Thought

712 Clemens Hall - University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14260
TEL 716-645-3695 FAX 716-645-3473
Email: jewish-studies@buffalo.edu
<http://www.jewishstudies.buffalo.edu/>
Dr. Sergey Dolgopolski, Chair

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

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Hadassah

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-688-5260
buffalohadassah@gmail.com
Marlene Katzel - Co-President
Maxine Seller - Co-President

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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www.hillelofbuffalo.org

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www.hrcbuffalo.org
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Benderson Family Building
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TEL 716-688-4033 | FAX 716-688-3572
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www.jccbuffalo.org

Jewish Discovery Center

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212 Exeter Rd.
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www.jewishdiscovery.org

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www.chabadbuffalo.com

Congregation Beth Abraham

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1073 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
www.congregationbethabraham.net

Congregation B'nai Shalom

(Conservative)
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info@congregationhavurah.org

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

879 Hopkins Rd
Williamsville, NY 14221
Email: jstrosberg@ohrtzion.org
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Dr. Ted Steinberg- President
http://ohrtzion.org/kot

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



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---	---

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Beth Zion's Achim March 5 @ Weinberg

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will offer its March Achim program at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, March 5 at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068.

The featured speaker will be Dr. David M. Davidson, a renowned local podiatrist and educator who will present a program on the health of the feet and legs and will be particularly discussing the problem of diabetes in regard to foot health. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Achim is a monthly program for the benefit of the residents, and their guests, at the Weinberg Campus and is open to the public at no cost. For further information, please contact Ken Graber at 681-9885.

TBZ Play And Learn School (PALS)

The Play And Learn School 2 year-olds are experimenting with art and the science of freezing and thawing. The youngest members of the PALS community explored their ice art skills. Students also learned more about polar bears and their life in the Arctic, and how animals adapt to their environment.



PALS students welcomed a special visitor during their Jan Brett author study. Carrie Milch joined us to read a story and teach us all about knitting.

Kehillat Ohr Tzion Cares!

For the past month and a half, Kehillat Ohr Tzion has been collecting sheets and blankets for clients of Jewish Family Services of Buffalo. These items will be distributed to immigrant families who have settled in the Buffalo area. The Social Action Committee of KOT has done targeted collections of needed items for JFS in the past. Fourteen large bags of blankets and linens were delivered in early February.



Donation Drive to Benefit Refugee Families

The Temple Beth Zion Religious School is holding a Squeaky Clean Drive to create gift boxes of new toiletries and bathroom items for newly arriving refugee families. Donations of any of the following items are welcome. Items can be dropped off at the TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road during office hours Monday through Friday or on Sunday mornings. The wish list includes: Cotton swabs, shower curtain liners, curtain rings, shower curtains, hand soap, shampoo, toilet brushes, toilet paper, toilet plungers, toothpaste, bath towels, comb, deodorant, hand towels, razors, sanitary napkins, shaving cream, soap, adult and child toothbrushes.

Temple Beth Zion Celebrates Clergy Team Friday, March 24, 7 PM @ 805 Delaware Avenue

During a special Friday Evening Service, the Temple Beth Zion community will formally install their clergy team and honor them with brief remarks by those who shaped their spiritual journeys, which brought them into the TBZ family. Immediately following services, the congregation and guests will enjoy a light reception sponsored by the TBZ Sisterhood, TBZ Brotherhood, and Buffalo Jewish Federation. This special Shabbat service begins the year-long celebrations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of TBZ's Spiritual Home at 805 Delaware Avenue.

Sharing Shabbat Through Song

Congregation Beth Abraham and Temple Beth Zion

Friday, March 17, 7 PM

Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue

On Friday March 17, Congregation Beth Abraham will join Temple Beth Zion for their annual Sharing Shabbat through Song. The entire community is invited to join these two synagogues as they lead an inspiring worship experience.

"The Jewish Spirituality Challenge: What Do You Need?"

Sunday, March 19, 2017

1:30 - 4:00pm

**TBZ Broder Center
for Jewish Education
700 Sweet Home Road**

You are invited to join local Mussar facilitators Evie Weinstein and Susan Goldberg Schwartz for a special afternoon of thoughtful introspection and meaningful conversation. This program is brought to you by The Mussar Institute and will bring a wide cross section of people together to discuss individual and communal spiritual challenges we face.

The program will kickoff with a live message from Alan Morinis, founder and dean of The Mussar Institute. The live streamed program will be followed by Mussar text study in communities around the world, meeting in local groups, having lively discussions about the challenge, and reporting back to the international audience. It will be a time of fellowship, study and excitement.

The local program is co-sponsored by the Buffalo Jewish Federation with support from Temple Beth Zion. For more information please contact Susan Goldberg Schwartz - sgpardo@aol.com or Evie Weinstein - evieweinstein115@gmail.com.



**The Jewish Spirituality Challenge:
What Do You Need?**

Sunday, March 19, 2017

2:00 PM EDT / 1:00 PM CDT
12:00 PM MDT / 11:00 AM PDT
4:00 PM Sao Paulo, Brazil
8:00 PM The Netherlands
9:00 PM Israel

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Alan Morinis will welcome the international community
and give a Mussar teaching via a live webcast.
The talk will be followed by small group text study and a discussion with a local Mussar facilitator.
The webcast will accompany with communities identifying their top challenges.

To register for this worldwide event by March 18, go to
<http://mussarinstitute.org/jewish-spirituality-challenge>
Cost for the event is \$18, light refreshments will be served.
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Thursday, March 30, 2017, 7:30 pm

Photograph by Luke Copping.

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Buffalo Chamber Players concerts are made possible by a grant from the Cullen Foundation, the
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Talmud Talk

Tuesday, March 7

Noon – 1 p.m.

Milos, 5877 Main St., Williamsville

All of our Judaism starts in the Talmud. Everyone welcome – we are all beginners in the ocean of Jewish learning. Materials provided but lunch is not.

Jolt of Judaism

Thursdays March 9

Noon – 1 p.m.

The SPoT, 1406 Hertel Avenue

Have a burning Jewish question and a midday need for caffeine? Join the Jolt of Judaism and discuss inquiries over wake-up beverages and light lunches (Buy your own).

Send questions and topics for discussion to Rabbi Jonathan. Open to all!

Deli Judaism

Tuesday, April 4

Noon – 1 p.m.

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 Theory. Could happen! Have an opinion – bring it!

No prerequisites – everyone welcome. Materials provided but lunch is not.

Torah Study

Saturday mornings

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue

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.

Purim



Is Taylor Swift Jewish?

Well, not really....BUT on Saturday March 11, her music will be Kosher! Purim at Temple Beth Zion will feature the Megillah according to the music of Taylor Swift. A 6 pm dairy potluck dinner will be followed by the 7 pm megillah reading and Taylor Swift Purim Spiel.

Come in costume and bring your groggers to the Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road. Reservations for dinner are required by March 9, so call the Temple office at 716-836-6565.

Saturday Night Fever Purim Spiel!

**Saturday, March 11 7:00pm
Congregation Shir Shalom**

Cantor Frank and her cast will present the Story of Esther in Studio 54 Disco-Style.

Come in 70's disco garb. Complimentary pizza dinner.

RSVP to the Temple Office at 633-8877 by March 9.

Havdalah Wine Tasting!

Gesher School, Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School and Kadimah Academy families, Josh Blumberg with TBT Cantor Spindler enjoyed another successful Havdalah Wine tasting! Attendees tasted great wines while their children enjoyed their own grape juice tasting and pottery painting.



Pesach



Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Women's Seder March 26

Reservations are now open for the Women's Seder which will take place on Sunday, March 26 at 1 PM at the TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road. Women are encouraged to invite other Jewish friends as well as non-Jewish neighbors and friends. This is a community multi-generational Seder and women from ages 10-110 are welcome to attend! Girls age 10-18 are free with a paid adult.

The Women's Seder liturgy is user-friendly and will be led by Cantor Penny Meyers and others to be announced. The cost for each participant is \$18, which will include a Passover Seder, matzah ball soup and salad lunch, including gefilte fish, hard-boiled egg, symbolic foods, wine or grape juice, matzah and Passover desserts.

If you choose to help with our meal by bringing a requested dish to serve



12 people your cost will be lowered to \$12. Reservations must be in by March 17. **Questions and foods requested for the Seder can be directed to Susan Bruckheimer (716) 835-0421 or via email to susan_b@roadrunner.com. Please note the change in time and menu this year.**

"C" IS FOR CATARACT

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

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

the Legarreta Eye Center at **716-633-2203**. Our practice is based on the philosophy of providing high-quality comprehensive eye care. We have served the community for over 35 years. We have office locations in Williamsville, Cheektowaga and Lockport.



P.S. Blurred vision, glare and difficulty reading can be early symptoms of cataracts.

www.LegarretaEyeCenter.com



Temple Beth Zion 23rd Annual Second Seder

Tuesday, April 11 at 6 PM
Brookfield Country Club, 5120
Shimerville Road, Clarence

All members of the community are welcome to come for the second night of Passover.

Call the TBZ office at (716) 836-6565 for more information or to place your reservation by April 4.

Congregation Shir Shalom 2nd Night Seder

**Tuesday, April 11
at 6:00 pm**

At Buffalo Marriott Niagara



Join in the 2nd seder.

Call CSS office at 633-8877 for prices. Kosher food available. Reservations due 4/3/17. NO WALK INS.



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Sat. Apr. 1, 8pm

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Sun. Mar. 26, 2:30pm

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Angela Hewitt, piano
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PETER RABBIT and other Tales

Sun. Mar. 19, 2:30pm
Stefan Sanders, conductor
Free pre-concert activities start at 1:30pm.



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and other Tales
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SUPER HEROES AND HEROINES
Sun. Apr. 2, 2:30pm
Who is your favorite hero – Batman, Superman? Perhaps Elsa or Anna from Frozen? There is great music to celebrate them all, including community heroes like police, firefighters, and athletes. Come dressed as your favorite!



BPOZoo
Sun. May 14, 2:30pm
Go wild for music! Take a musical menagerie tour with *Carnival of the Animals*, and watch the instruments take on critter characteristics in *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.



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BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL: MARCH 17-23

The 32nd annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival (BIJFF) – the third longest running festival of its kind in North America – will present 13 award winning and critically acclaimed films from around the world including Canada, France, Germany, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The festival is also pleased to welcome Director Alan Feinberg who grew up in Buffalo and now lives in Florida. His film, *Bagels over Berlin*, celebrates Jewish veterans of the Army Air Corp who contributed to the Allied victory in World War II. Feinberg interviewed 30 Jewish veterans and learned about the many American Jews that served in the Army Air Corps, later named the Air Force, and delved into the personal and emotional stories the veterans had to share. Feinberg will attend the March 17 film screening that begins at 3:30 p.m. and will introduce the film and lead a Q&A session following.

This year the BIJFF includes four films from The Ma'aleh School of Film and Television for the first time. Situated in the heart of Jerusalem, Ma'aleh is the only film school in the world devoted to exploring the intersection of Judaism and modern life.

2017 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

AMHERST DIPSON THEATRE

3500 Main Street, Buffalo, NY, 14226
(716) 834-7655

Friday, March 17

3:30 pm BAGELS OVER BERLIN
preceded by the short film
EVA AND MOE
Speaker: Alan Feinberg, director

Saturday, March 18

6:30 pm OPENING NIGHT
THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

Sunday, March 19

3:00 pm NORMAN LEAR: JUST
ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU
6:00 pm FANNY'S JOURNEY
8:00 pm A BORROWED IDENTITY

Monday, March 20

3:30 pm THE GREEN PRINCE
6:00 pm THE LITTLE DICTATOR
THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE
8:00 pm BAGELS OVER BERLIN/EVA
AND MOE

Tuesday, March 21

3:30 pm A BORROWED IDENTITY
6:00 pm BARRIERS/A STORY ABOUT
RAIN/11 MINUTES
8:00 pm THE YATZKANS
*Speakers: introduced &
sponsored by Harold Halpern &
Ralph Halpern, Buffalo relatives
of the Yatzkan family*

Wednesday, March 22

3:30 pm THE LITTLE DICTATOR/
THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE
6:00 pm THE WOMEN'S
BALCONY
8:00 pm THE GREEN PRINCE

Thursday, March 23

3:30 pm BARRIERS/A STORY ABOUT
RAIN/11 MINUTES
6:00 pm FANNY'S JOURNEY
8:00 pm NORMAN LEAR: JUST
ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU

Tickets & Passes

Tickets and passes may be purchased in advance at either JCC member services desk, online at www.bijff.com or at the theatre door ½ hour prior to each film.

General Single Film Tickets \$10

May be used for any film except March 6 screening of *A Borrowed Identity*

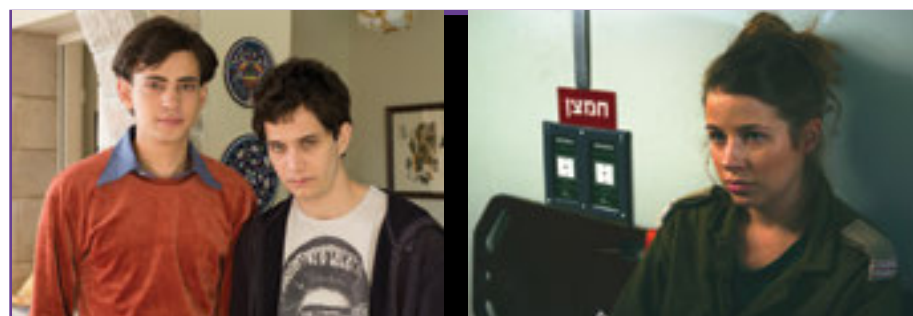
March 6 festival kick-off party includes screening of *A Borrowed Identity*, sweet and savory fancy snack buffet, beverages AND 1 free ticket to any film during the festival March 17-23 \$36

Flex Pass \$50 - Six tickets for the price of 5! Pass may be shared.

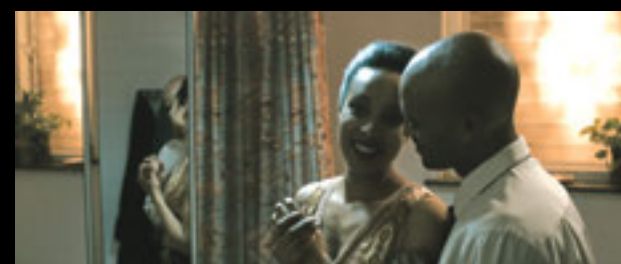
Children 18 & under FREE with parent to all films except A Borrowed Identity (March 6 screening)

Films will be shown March 17-23 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street. Trailers, schedules and ticket purchasing at www.bijff.com and both JCC buildings.

For info about schedules, film trailers or donation opportunities for the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, please visit www.bijff.com or contact Jordana Halpern at jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org



Films:
(clockwise from top left)
A Borrowed Identity,
11 Minutes,
The Ambassador's Wife,
Bagels Over Berlin,
A Story About Rain,
The Little Dictator,
and *Barriers*



Film Festival KICK OFF Party

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017, 7 p.m.
THE SCREENING ROOM,
880 ALBERTA DRIVE

(new location in the Boulevard Mall, 880 Alberta Drive, Amherst, NY)

Party includes:

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

\$36

WERE YOU BORN ON BUFFALO'S EAST SIDE??

If you were born on Buffalo's East Side, and now live in the city of Buffalo, Amherst or Clarence, we need your stories!! The course that the Adult Education Department of the Bureau of Jewish Education is offering: **EAST SIDE/WEST SIDE – ALL AROUND THE TOWN** needs two things to make it memorable: teacher: Dr. Chana Kotzin, our community archivist and historian – and YOU!

Chana can provide the history and trace the migration of the Buffalo Jewish Community from Pine, Humboldt and Butler, to Linwood, Ferry and Richmond, to Hertel and Parkside, to Colvin and Kenmore, to Sheridan and North Forest, and to Transit Road and Spaulding Lake...but only YOU can provide the stories and tell about the journey!

We are postponing the winter/spring dates of February 2 – March 30 until the “snow-birds” fly home and can attend

the course...telling wonderful tales of what it was like “in the good old days!” The new dates will be after Passover: Thursday, April 27 – Thursday, June 22, 2017 (with one day off for Shavuot). Please check your calendars, join us, and have some fun sharing your experiences on 8 Thursday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:30 PM at the Jewish Center on North Forest Road in Getzville. Tuition is \$90 and the textbook is “The Jewish Community of Buffalo” written by Dr. Kotzin.

Tell your friends and register early as this course with its new dates will fill up fast! Scholarships and payment plans are available. Go to www.bjebuffalo.org/adulted to register or email Ethel Melzer, Director of Adult Education at the Bureau of Jewish Education at ethel@bjebuffalo.org or call the BJE office at 716-204-5380.

A Temple on Delaware: 805 Delaware Avenue

By Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D. - Jewish Buffalo Archives Project

In April 2017, the Temple Beth Zion sanctuary building at 805 Delaware Avenue will turn fifty. This “new” sanctuary replaces an earlier “Temple on Delaware” at 599 Delaware, which was completely destroyed in a fire in 1961. For the following six years, temporary sites served as “homes” for the congregation in churches and office buildings in the city, and the Delaware Jewish Community Center, as well as the school building at Sweet Home. As the former sanctuary had been a landmark on Delaware Avenue for over sixty years, discussions varied as to where to locate the new synagogue and a number of sites were considered including the existing site, which was eventually deemed too small. Talks also swirled around the architect, and several nationally renowned designers were approached, including Marcel Breuer and Minoru Yamasaki, as well as the Buffalonian and Albright Knox addition architect, Gordon Bunshaft. Eventually, architect Max Abramovitz was secured to design the new sanctuary, on the same street, just up the road at 805 Delaware Ave. Groundbreaking was celebrated in 1964, and the project was completed in 1967. A week-long series of dedications ceremonies began on April 19 and concluded on April 23, 1967.

The new building was a breathtaking and bold break with the former temple design, and by a designer more commonly known for his industrial, commercial and military buildings. Yet Max Abramovitz had always dreamed of designing a temple as an early college paper outlined, and while he had devised chapels, this was his first and only synagogue. Utilizing Brutalist elements, he designed his open, spacious and light-filled temple with the goal of connecting individual congregants to “the heavens” with the use of light above and at the sides of the building through the great art windows designed by Ben Shahn, an artist he recommended for the project. The building was shaped into ten scalloped curves, and set at an angle outwards of 15 degrees to replicate hands raised in prayer, and was built to hold 1000 people downstairs and a further 400 people upstairs. In order to bring Max Abramovitz’s design to fruition, anchoring innovation required significant foundational depths, and poured concrete went into handcrafted molds made by journeyman carpenters. The inside concrete walls were bush hammered to give an aged effect and the external concrete was clad in Alabama limestone. J. Fruchtbach, Engineers, and Siegfried Construction managed the technical side of translating design into reality.

The design and angle of the building was not the only technological feat. Each part of the sanctuary was in some way exceptional. The two magnificent stained glass art windows anchored the building opposite each other, and were


innovative in several ways as well. In order to enable unobstructed views of the beautiful window designs while still incorporating the essential structural elements to support their size and weight, Robert West of West, Preston and Sollenberger Associates of Lawrenceville, New Jersey, gave technical engineering advice in consultation with Ben Shahn. The beautiful Ben Shahn window design was created by Willett Glass and their stained-glass artist, Benoit Gilsoul, used specialized glass that utilized a fused technique rather than a surface one in order that a lasting luminescence was achieved.

The largest window illustrated a verse from the Book of Job, and the smaller window facing onto Delaware Avenue, featured Psalm 150th which was sung at the dedication of the first Temple Beth Zion in 1865. Ben Shahn’s artistry continued in the calligraphy design of the letters on the bimah, and a free-standing menorah. A 46 rank organ, opus 2870, was made by Casavant Frères Limitee, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, with trumpets from the Lafayette Theater, under the Tonal Director of Lawrence I. Phelps of Casavant and Hans Vigeland of Westminster Presbyterian Church. It was installed in front of the smaller Shahn window by Paul-Guy Servais of Casavant with voicing under the direction of Roger Chicoine and Gérald Archambault also of Casavant. By commission, Darius Milhaud, composed Cantata for Job, Opus 413, for the opening of the new sanctuary with a first performance on April 24, 1967 dedicated to the memory of Nellie B. and

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For more information contact **Ethel Melzer**, Director of Adult Education of the Bureau of Jewish Education, at 204-5380, ethel@bjebuffalo.org. Register online at www.bjebuffalo.org/adulted.

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Attention: Ethel Melzer



Building Temple Beth Zion's Sanctuary

In April 2017, the Temple Beth Zion sanctuary building at 805 Delaware Avenue will turn fifty.

Eugene Warner.

Designed as a complex to facilitate religious and community life, the site also included the Sisterhood Chapel running in parallel, slightly south of the sanctuary and the Joseph L. Fink Auditorium, which was built to seat 1000. The complex also included classrooms, a kitchen and a rabbis' study, as well as a library and a boardroom among other features. The outstanding building design, and especially the Ben Shahn windows were

recognized in 1971 with an award from New York State Council on the Arts. Parts of the space were eventually adapted into a significant regional Judaica Museum, the Benjamin and Dr. Edgar R. Cofeld Judaic Museum of Temple Beth Zion. The Delaware Avenue entrance was also restored and refurbished in 2005 and further renovations were made to the Sisterhood Chapel in 2011. As Temple Beth Zion approaches the fiftieth anniversary of this unique modernist building, the sanctuary continues to inspire and uplift.

To explore these materials and more, please check the BJE website at www.bjebuffalo.org/jbap and click on the Temple Beth Zion link to plan your trip to the University at Buffalo archives. You can also contact Chana Kotzin at archivesproject@bjebuffalo.org or call 716-204-5380 for more information.



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FORMER REFUGEE YOUTH PERFORMED FIDDLER ON THE ROOF FOR HEBREW HIGH

In mid-January, Hebrew High students, along with other members of the Jewish community, filled the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre of the Jewish Community Center to see a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, performed by former refugee youth.

The performers, all members of Our Lady of Hope youth choir, was made up entirely of former refugee youth hailing from both camps and protracted urban settings. The ethnicities of the youth included Karen and Karenni from Burma, as well as youth from Burundi, Togo, and Rwanda. The performance was directed by Jennifer Serniuk, a Ph.D. graduate student in Educational Culture, Policy, and Society at the University at Buffalo.



Image: Teens from Hebrew High with the Our Lady of Hope youth choir

FJP ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Catherine Shuman Miller, Chair of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies' Israel Scholarship Committee, has announced the award of scholarship grants to 8 Buffalo-area students totaling \$13,000 to support travel to Israel in the summer of 2017. These grants are made from the income from endowment funds managed by the Foundation for this unique program. These funds are:

Jeannette & Sydney S. Abzug Fund
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Hyman & Ruth Benatovich Memorial Fund
Joseph and Anna Gartner Foundation Fund
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Anna Schwartz Memorial Fund
Howard & Leslie Zemsky Israel Experience Fund

"It is important to send young people to Israel especially if they are passionate and interested in broadening and deepening their Jewish identity, which our recipients are. The opportunity we help give them strengthens them as individuals and us as a community," said Mrs. Miller.

These young people come from both observant and secular upbringing. Their families are both affiliated and unaffiliated with synagogues. The common thread among all of the applicants is their intense curiosity and a deep interest in visiting Israel. They wish to learn more about Israel and see it and experience it themselves.

We have only assisted students travelling on well organized, established national programs such as:

Mitzvah Corps Israel

In this 22 day program, participants will experience Israel off-the-grid,

engage with refugees from Syria and Sudan, and meet with people of all faiths and ethnic identities. They will snorkel in the Red Sea, feel the spiritual energy of Tzfat, and sleep under the desert stars. They will be part of a kibbutz community; learn and practice Hebrew. They will hike in the mountains and float in the Dead Sea. They will support integration of Ethiopian immigrants and find the beauty in Israel's complexities.

March of the Living

Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut are two of the most important days in modern Jewish times. By taking part in these special events, students will share unforgettable moments in Jewish history and bear witness to the undying spirit of the Jewish people. Like those who participated in previous Marches (beginning in 1988), attendees return home with a new sense of themselves, their people

and history. It is an experience that will remain for a lifetime. In Poland, students visit the concentration camps of Auschwitz/Birkenau, Treblinka and Majdanek and historic Jewish sites in Warsaw (the Ghetto Memorial, Mila 18, the Jewish Cemetery, the restored Nozyk Synagogue), Cracow (the Jewish Quarter, the Ramah Synagogue) and Lublin (the famous Yeshiva). The highlight will be the March of the Living. In Israel, attendees take part in many special events organized specifically for participants of the March. On May 2nd, Israel's 69th Independence Day, all of the groups from around the world will join thousands of Israelis in this national celebration.

Camp Seneca Lake in Israel

This month long program exposes participants to the beauty, depth, and complexity of Israel from the inside out. Participants will travel the entire country – hiking, touring, tasting, learning, and exploring. Each Shabbat will be celebrated with a different community, enabling participants to experience some of the many ways that Israelis celebrate and observe Shabbat.

Lippman – Kadimah Israel Trip

In this two week program, 7th and 8th grade participants will experience the history and culture of Israel, will visit many historical sites, and will converse in the Hebrew language.

"Going to Israel helped me find out where I belonged, who I am, and about my Jewish identity. My trip inspired me

to do more in Judaism and to continue learning and expanding my Jewish education. I've made long lasting friends from all over the world," stated one of our past Israel Scholarship recipients.

The young people uniformly have incredible, meaningful experiences in Israel and come back ready to engage in our community.

For more information on how you can help more young people travel to Israel from our community, please contact Lynn Catalano at Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at (716) 204-2259. For more information on applying for the summer of 2018 Israel Scholarship which we will begin accepting applications in September 2017, please contact Lisa Collins at Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, (716) 204-1134.

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KADIMAH ALUMS WAVE SHALOM

By Marci Wiseman

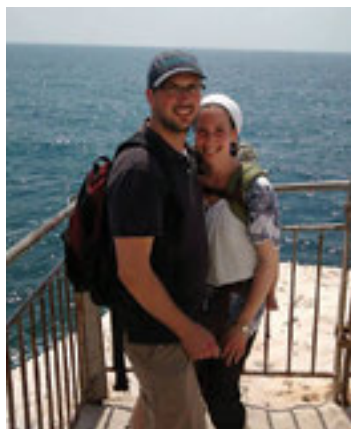
Giving the first non-denominational, Jewish day school of Western New York a Hebrew name at its inception in 1958 was no accident, and only the first step in creating a community of Diaspora Jews with an unbreakable link to both ancient and modern Israel.

The name Kadimah, meaning “forward,” was chosen by calculated design, and meant to convey the confidence and dynamism felt by Jews around the world with Israel celebrating its hard-won 10th anniversary.

The curriculum, initially designed to include both general and Judaic studies, included modern Hebrew through language, conversation, song, play, and prose. American and Israeli flags were proudly displayed in every classroom; Hatikvah and My Country ‘Tis of Thee sung every morning. A statement in the 1962 Testimonial Dinner program affirms: “Upper Grade students attain a fluency in modern Hebrew and a familiarity with the Bible in its original beauty. During the course of their instruction, they...master an appreciation of Hebrew literature of all ages.” Also included at every Annual Dinner was the public singing of both the Star Spangled Banner and the Hatikvah.

“In our day at Kadimah, Zionism was based purely on a love for the land and its people,” wrote a 1970s alumni in an email. “There were never discussions about the various political and philosophical approaches to how the State and its institutions and policies should be looked at. Like Joshua reported to the children of Israel, ‘This land is very, very good.’” He added, “Keep in mind, we had a few Israeli teachers over the years and Mrs. Merlin was/is a walking ambassador for the country in so many ways!”

Who could ever forget the staff, the incredible staff of native Hebrew speakers who instilled in students that perfect, and beautiful Hebraic accent, the rolling “rrrrrs” of the resh, the soft, guttural intonation of the het, and hahf, and the difficult-to-master difference between the ayin and the alef? Teachers like Mr. Yehudah Siegel, Mr. Haim Arzouan, Mrs. Anna Post, Mrs. Leah Schneider, Mrs. Ruthie Merlin, Mrs. Esther Shalit (z”l), Messrs. Touvian, Zaharani, and Ashkenazi (z”l), Mrs. Hannah Weinberg, Mrs. Berdugo, Mr. and Mrs. Elmelach,



Abby Finkelstein in Israel: Abby Laub Finkelstein with husband Joe



Rachel Shmookler

Mrs. Maslow, Mrs. Etgar, Mrs. Farkash, and more recently, Mrs. Orna McNamara, Mrs. Becky Laufgraben, Mrs. Michal Shmuel-Lewis, to name but a few Israeli educators throughout Kadimah’s near 60-year history.

But more important than reading and speaking skills, that Israeli staff created a connection, an indelible link to our homeland by sharing and spreading their love of Israel to all students in all grade levels. Beginning with the youngest learners, Nursery staff such as Mrs. Safi Netter introduced the Alef-Bet through multi-sensory experiences, playing with and tasting the sweetness of the words. Mrs. Einav Symons, first, as a teacher introducing Israel’s people, culture, crafts, and lifestyle, now, as Head of School, brought Israel to Kadimah initially through pen

pal friendships, then with the online technology of Skype, and now, coming full circle, by taking Kadimah to Israel with the highly anticipated middle school trip in May.

And where does it all lead? Kadimah students come away with an unconditional love for Israel - its land and its people, all its people. Whether it’s a gap year, summer excursion, IDF program, yeshiva or college – Kadimah kids take their education on the road and to the desert, experiencing the country in a personal, meaningful way few others can achieve.

Then there is the ultimate: making Aliyah. Kadimah has created such a bond that some students pick up and move to Israel, making it their permanent home. Jack Kaminker (’74) did so in 1982 and said in an email, “I always had a strong belief that Israel is the homeland for all Jews and I had a historic opportunity to take an active part in the rebuilding of the land. I was able to appreciate the historic and spiritual significance of Israel due to the knowledge and strong sense of Jewish identity that I received at Kadimah.

Abby Laub Finkelstein (’01), who made Aliyah in 2008, agreed. “A deep love for Israel and the Jewish People was so tangibly and genuinely passed on to us by Kadimah staff and the greater community that to me, Aliyah felt like a natural extension of my childhood education.”

Ellen Rossen Maiman (’74) made Aliyah in 1983 after a year in Israel at Haim Greenberg Teachers’ College in Jerusalem, and the completion of a BA and MA from Hebrew University. Her sister, Sandra Rossen Lahrey (’79) followed in 1990, and explained, “My sister Ellen’s wedding brought our family to Israel. For me it was a magical moment. It was exciting being immersed in a culture so familiar but yet so foreign, becoming a translator, and walking and climbing places which I had [learned] about.”



Shira S. and family in Israel



Ellen and Sandie (L-R): Ellen Rossen Maman, Tamar Maman, Sandra Rossen Lahrey

“It’s hard to pick out where my drive for Aliyah came from - my parents, Kadimah, NCSY, visiting Israel, my brother serving in the army,” said Rachel Shmookler (’01) in an email, who made Aliyah this past October. “Learning in Kadimah about Jewish history made the disasters and the highlights that befall our people feel real to me. I couldn’t ignore the fact that a Jewish state had been resurrected right before and into my lifetime. It [was] an incredible opportunity that I felt I had the privilege and the responsibility to take.”

Shira S. (’96) replied, also by email. “Kadimah strengthened my Jewish identity and practice, and I made Aliyah to improve the overall quality of life for my family. I felt confident with my knowledge base and exposure to Hebrew language and Israeli culture as an adult because of Kadimah’s curriculum, so I didn’t mind exploring my options for Aliyah. [The] intense Israel/Judaic/Hebrew education at Kadimah improved my immersion and integration experience...and made it much easier.” Shira made Aliyah in 2014.

We celebrate the nearly 50 alumni for their brave decisions to put their Kadimah education and love for Israel into action by creating a life in the Land of Milk and Honey. We also salute the hundreds who’ve spent time in Israel on a semester or year-program, or who supported our homeland with a fabulous vacation. Whether for a short visit or a lifetime, it is proof that a Day School education stays with you forever! If you or a Kadimah alum you know is in Israel this year, please be sure to alert them to our Kadimah and Friends Mesibah on Thursday, March 16, in Jerusalem. They should contact marci.wiseman@kadimah.org for further details.

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



Israel 68: Kadimah Academy celebrates Israel's 68th birthday

LEARN ABOUT JUSTICE @ UB/ BJE PROGRAM MARCH 7



Professor Marla Segol will be speaking at the third lecture in the series on "Justice: An Exploration of Justice in Jewish Thought and Tradition." The series is co-sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education and the University's Department of Jewish Thought. Dr. Segol's talk will take place on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Jewish Community Center on North Forest Road in the Lippman Lounge. The program is open to the community at no charge and light refreshments will be served.

NEWS FROM HADASSAH'S MITZVAH COMMITTEE

The Buffalo Hadassah Chapter has many active committees such as Programs, Fundraising, Education, Women's Health, and Hadassah Hospital. Another committee that has been busy throughout the year is the Mitzvah Committee. Mickey Savit, one of the co-presidents of Hadassah, has been collecting personal care items for Jewish Family Services. These items are then distributed to new immigrants living in the Buffalo area. This project will continue as long as the need exists. The items are collected at all Hadassah events and can also be dropped off at the Benderson JCC earmarked for Hadassah.

Another recent mitzvah project was held on February 1 in the Great Room at the Federation Apartments on Essjay. A sing-a-long was enjoyed by many of the residents in the apartments. Hadassah members provided the desserts that were shared after the sing-a-long. Rhonda Wise, Program co-chair, coordinated the event and Ted Steinberg played the piano.

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JCC of Greater Buffalo

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

www.jccbuffalo.org

JRT presents *The Great God Pan*, By Amy Herzog APRIL 27 – MAY 21, 2017

The Jewish Repertory Theatre continues its 2016/17 season with **THE GREAT GOD PAN**, the third of three productions in a season of Amy Herzog plays. **THE GREAT GOD PAN** runs from April 27 – May 21, 2017, and is directed by Saul Elkin, starring Kelly Beuth, Jordan Louis Fischer, Darleen Pickering Hummert, Amelia Scinta, Steve Vaughan, Lisa Vitrano and Adam Yellen.

Jamie's life in Brooklyn seems just fine: a beautiful girlfriend, a budding journalism career, and parents who live just far enough away. But when a possible childhood trauma comes to light, lives are thrown into a tailspin. Unsettling and deeply compassionate, **THE GREAT GOD PAN** tells the intimate tale of what is lost and won when a



hidden truth is unloosed into the world. "Haunting, deeply affecting, and unflinching, honest. Amy Herzog is one of the bright theatrical lights

of her generation. She writes with a keen sensitivity to the complex weave of feelings embedded in all human relations. **THE GREAT GOD PAN** is not something I'll soon forget." — New York Times

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo. This season's original artwork is created by artist Eta Rottenberg. For more information on JRT productions, dates and tickets, visit www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com. Tickets are available at 688-4114, ext. 391, through Showclix at 1-888-718-4253 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EST) or at either JCC reception desk.

HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER AND BUFFALO STATE MUSEUM STUDIES AWARDED GRANT

The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo (HRC) together with Cynthia Conides, director of the Museum Studies Program at Buffalo State were recently awarded the E.O. Smith Arts and Humanities Faculty Development Award. The award will support a project developed in collaboration with the HRC and will create a public history exhibit at Buffalo State's E.H. Butler Library and fund a speakers' event. The exhibit, opening in late fall/winter of 2017-2018, will highlight six examples of local Holocaust Survivor testimony.

The joint initiative will provide a unique research opportunity for local history with national and international significance. It will also introduce Buffalo State Museum Studies graduate students to current methods for researching, interpreting, and presenting primary source materials. The exhibit organizers expect to submit a research paper on this process to a major museum journal, *Heritage and Society* in mid-2018.

The proposed research focuses on an important World War II era collection of primary source materials, including

photographs, official documents, a scrap book that belonged to a concentration camp liberator, and three-dimensional artifacts that inform first person narratives of Holocaust Era survivors who relocated to Western New York. The collection is part of the holdings of the Holocaust Resource Center in Williamsville.

"The resulting exhibit and publication will present a unique research project, promote campus/community collaboration, and foster knowledge of the HRC nationwide," said Dr. Cynthia Conides, director of Museum Studies at Buffalo State.

"The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo is extremely grateful to work with a wonderful Buffalo academic institution dedicated to preserving and promoting learning about the Holocaust. We hope this exhibit not only trains a new generation of Museum Studies specialists, but we hope the exhibit will travel thereby teaching many people about the events of the Holocaust," said Pieter Weinrieb, HRC President.



Members of the cast of The Nuremberg Tribunal Re-enactment

NUREMBERG TRIAL RE-ENACTMENT PERFORMED

Over 150 students and community members attended the 1946 Nuremberg Tribunal Re-enactments Performance January 15 at the Amherst Middle School. The volunteer cast was comprised of lawyers and students. The Trial was of the German Major War Criminals which opened November 29, 1945. More than ten months later, on 1 October 1946, of the twenty-two defendants, 12 were sentenced to death, three to life imprisonment, four received prison terms (10-20 years) and three acquitted. Goering committed suicide shortly before he was to be hanged.

The event was sponsored by the Bar Association of Erie County and Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. Event Co-Chairs were Gabriel J. Ferber and Roberta Handel, and the event benefitted The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.



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JFS—Meet The Board: Carri Milch

PASSIONATE ABOUT “A TERRIFIC AGENCY”

By Jessica Thorpe

Carri Milch, chair of the nominating committee on the board of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County (JFS), loves telling people about the wonderful work of the agency. “I think JFS is at a really exciting time. There’s a lot happening. JFS offers a variety of services. All people have to do is reach out and they will help in any way they can in the community,” she says.

Born in Chicago and raised in Milwaukee, she came to Buffalo from Albany in 1973 after her husband Phil, a native Buffalonian, earned his law degree from Albany Law School. They now have two children and five grandchildren. Milch herself holds a B.S. in education from the University at Wisconsin, earned her master’s degree at SUNY-Buffalo, and has had a fulfilling career as a teacher in the Buffalo Public School system. She taught at Futures Academy and Campus West, among other schools, and in 1998 helped to open the Discovery School in South Buffalo. “I helped write the curriculum there. The school emphasized a ‘hands-on, minds-on’ experience for young children in a reduced class size,” she explains, adding that what began as a neighborhood school now serves children in grades K through 8 throughout the city.

After leaving the classroom in



Carri Milch

2005, she co-authored a book with Carol Woodard, PhD, a former colleague. “It has a lot of integrated hands-on activities for children and takes educators back to the importance of reinforcing communications and relationships between children,” Milch says of *Make Believe Play and Story-based Drama in Early Childhood: Let’s Pretend!*, which is available at amazon.com. Milch says her extensive experience as an educator helps to fuel her passion for uplifting the human condition -- an enthusiasm she has translated to her service on the JFS board, which she describes as a “doing, hands-on” group that talks about people, not just numbers.

“JFS does not just deal with one dimension of the human condition,” she explains. “JFS has woven itself into the fabric of this community in a positive, seamless way. I am just astounded by the plethora of areas of the human condition that JFS has involved itself in.” Among these, she cites the agency’s provision of comprehensive mental and behavioral health wellness counseling and treatment, support for the infirmed and elderly, and career planning services. She also champions JFS for its support of present day immigrants and refugees,

remembering the journey of her own grandparents to America from Poland and Russia – and that her grandfather, involved with HIAS, used to meet refugees at the Chicago train station.

“The president and CEO, Marlene (Schillinger), is top notch. I just think the whole staff is great. You walk in and everybody is willing to help and it’s just a nice atmosphere. The culture is wonderful.” Milch credits JFS for continuing to do a wonderful job in taking care of the Jewish community, in keeping with its founding mission of more than 150 years.

“But we also need to realize that we’re not a little isolated Buffalo. We’re part of a greater picture and Jewish Family Service does a really good job of providing services to everyone in this area.” Ultimately, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County is committed to helping all in need, she adds. “We need to continue to make the Jewish community aware that we are here to help. But our focus is on the human condition, no matter who you are and what your circumstances may be. We’re here to help. I just hope people really understand how terrific this agency is.”

Jewish Family Service is located at 70 Barker Street, above Temple Beth Zion. For more information about JFS services and social action opportunities, call 716-883-1914 or visit www.jfsbuffalo.org. You can also join us on Facebook at “jfsbuffalo”.

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**HOLOCAUST RESOURCE
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FOR 2017 U.N. HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT**

Over 150 students, teachers and community members attended a talk at Canisius College January 29 in remembrance of International Holocaust Memorial Day. Entitled “The Future and Challenges of Holocaust Education in the 21st Century,” the talk was delivered by Kelley Szany, Director of Education at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (IHMEC), in Skokie, Illinois. The IHMEC is the second largest Holocaust Museum in the United States.



She described one of the new technologies the IHMEC has acquired -- the 3D Hologram project created by the USC Shoah Foundation. It is an interactive hologram of a Holocaust Survivor. Over 1000 questions were asked of the Holocaust Survivor; it has now been expanded to seven Survivors in the Chicago area. Their answers and a range of emotions and seated positions were recorded. The hologram is in a theatre where students can ask questions and interact. As numbers of Holocaust Survivors dwindle, this new interactive technology will keep stories and memories of the Holocaust alive, she said.



Ms. Szany is a Canisius alumna and credits her passion for teaching Holocaust and other genocides to Dr. Larry Jones, professor of history at Canisius College and currently a member of the Strategic Planning Task Force of the Holocaust Resource Center, which co-sponsored this program.

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TORAH & TEA

A large group of Buffalo women enjoyed an inspiring Chanukah gathering, hosted and led by Rivky Greenberg, in which they explored finding one's own miracle and how to discover light in our darkest moments. They started the evening with Rabbi Levi Greenberg and his children lighting the Menorah and Rivky wrapped up the evening with a beautiful song about the power of one small candle. Women got to schmooze, discuss, enjoy delicious desserts and enjoyed an uplifting evening. This was part of the "Torah & Tea" series, a program of the Jewish Discovery Center. You may email Rivky at TorahandTea@gmail.com or contact her at (716) 906-8890 to learn more about this program.



Purim in the Palace

Fun for the whole family

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1

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2

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3

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4

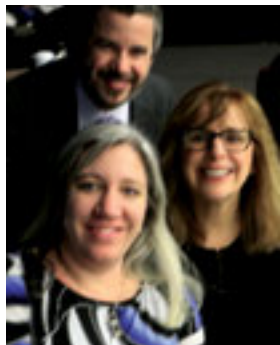
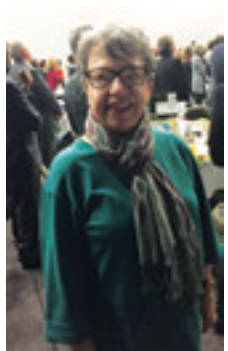
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5

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NFJC Awards Luncheon 1.25.17

The Buffalo Community paid tribute to those leaders honored at the National Federation for Just Communities annual luncheon in January. Among those leaders were the Rosenhoch Family and Kristie Kantor. Cantor Penny Myers gave the invocation, and President Lana Benatovich addressed and thanked the attendees.



Chanukah @ Women's Group Home



A Chanukah party was held in December at Buffalo's Jewish Women's Group Home. Residents and their friends and families enjoyed the holiday festivities.

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JRT



Attending a Jewish Repertory Theatre program was Kevin Kulick and David Bunis



Sima Lewis and Arlene Merowitz enjoyed the program



Michael Frisch and a friend and Dorothy Lewis discussed the program on radicalism and the arts



David Bunis, Rise' Kulick, Kevin Kulick and Saul Elkin spoke following the event



Regina Groll and Sophia Veffor

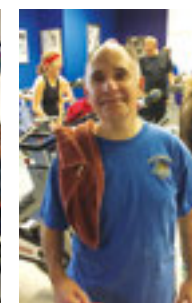
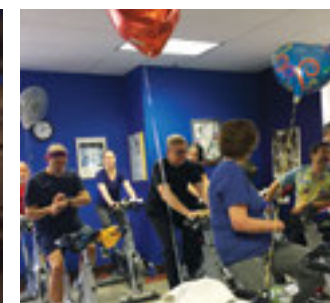


Amy Heumann, Eileen Markzon, Joan Alexander and – Marian Lustig

Spinathon 4 Roswell @ JCC

2.12.17

Friends of Kenneth Rogers organized a spinathon to benefit the Ride 4 Roswell in his honor February 12 at the Delaware Avenue JCC. The event, which the JCC partnered with Roswell Park Cancer Institute, raised over \$4000 for the 2017 Ride for Roswell coming in June.



Mitzvah Tank @ Chanukah

Mendy Greenberg, age 17, son of Rabbi Levi and Rivky Greenberg, organized a Chanukah Mitzvah Mobile or "Mitzvah Tank" for the Buffalo Jewish community this Chanukah. He covered a rented RV with beautiful commercial size Chanukah posters, and even hooked up an all-weather trumpet speaker to play lively Chanukah music! For most of the week of Chanukah, the Mitzvah Tank drove around town spreading the holiday light and joy with all! The back of the truck had a Menorah with electrical candles and an additional candle was "lit" every night, even if just symbolically, to help keep track of what night it was. The "Tank" also stopped by near various Jewish institutions, inviting friends to come inside for a doughnut, latke or Menorah and candles if they needed it! Men had an opportunity to don Tefillin and children had a chance to play a fun dreidel game or hear a Chanukah story! All left with a beautiful and informative Chanukah booklet and a treat. Mendy fundraised the \$3,000 that was needed to cover the expenses of this amazing project. He thanks the wonderful Buffalo community and friends for contributing and helping make this Mitzvah Tank a reality. A special thank you goes to his friend, Shmuly Zalmanov, for driving up from NYC to be the official Mitzvah Tank Driver.



Mendy Greenberg and his friend, the Mitzvah Tank Driver, Shmuly Zalmanov from NYC in front of the "Tank".



The Mitzvah Tank was parked at the Amherst JCC, spreading the joy of Chanukah with all!



A group of children hopped onto the Tank excitedly when they heard it approach their home. They all enjoyed doughnuts!

Juvenile Diabetes Gala in Buffalo



Women's March-Buffalo & DC 1.21.17



(NOT) THE LAST WORD

MY SEMESTER ABROAD IN ISRAEL— WHAT A JOY!

By Emily Cohen

Studying in a foreign country, away from friends, family, and the support system I have always known, is not easy. Though I can say, while this is my first time in Israel, I have always considered this country as a second home. Choosing to study in Tel Aviv the second semester of my junior year was a simple decision for me. The land is beautiful, the culture is rich, and the food is wonderful. On top of all that, I get to experience the land of many of my ancestors, and reconnect with my religion. This is hard to do in New York State at my University.

Growing up in the heart of Buffalo, my being Jewish has always made me feel like a member of a minority. In Tel Aviv, I am the norm. Not only is Tel Aviv University respectable and beautiful, but spending the next five months here will give me the opportunity to explore a part of my identity that I want to enrich.

When I arrived in Israel, I had no idea what to expect but I can say I have not been disappointed. During my first day here, I was accidentally placed in an all kosher apartment with 3 other girls. To

my dismay I was told that I would not be allowed to eat cheeseburgers, and that every dish had its own sponge. I was then given the option of moving, but after a few hours of thought I decided the best solution was for me to become temporarily kosher. I realized that it was pointless for me to come all this way just to reject one of the most important traditions of my religion.

A wonderful fun fact that I quickly learned about living here is that every Friday, at approximately three o'clock,



Emily gazing at the Mediterranean Sea in Israel

all the stores close, and the public transportation stops running. If this system was to be implemented in the U.S, there would be chaos, but here a sense of peace falls over the city. In Tel Aviv we turn off our phones, put on our walking shoes, and take to the streets. Last Shabbat, my roommates and I walked from our apartment all the way to the beach just in time to see the

sun sink into the sea.

Tel Aviv University itself is great. There is a lively student body, a huge and beautiful campus, and an active staff. For this first month, I have been in the Ulpan, an intensive Hebrew course. It is not easy, but with the small class sizes and determined teachers I have learned a lot. I would not say my Hebrew is 'shuk bargaining' ready but it is getting there.

After my month of Ulpan is over, I will be enrolling in a wide variety of classes, ranging from History to Environmental Sciences. On top of that I also plan on seeing every part of Israel that is accessible to me. So far I have gone to the far corners of Tel Aviv, Jaffa, and to the Baha'i Gardens of Haifa. Next week I plan on going with my roommate to celebrate Shabbat with her rabbi in Jerusalem.

I am afraid to say that by the end of these five months I am not sure that I will be ready to return home; I have only been in Tel Aviv two weeks, and I have discovered more about myself and my Jewish identity than I ever thought possible. If I have any advice for my younger Jewish peers, it is to go to Israel. Whether through Birthright or an alternative program, until you have experienced this land and its people, your Jewish identity may never feel complete.

Emily Cohen is a Junior at SUNY/Geneseo. A Graduate of City Honors School, she is the daughter of David Cohen and Norah Lincoff, and the granddaughter of Dr. Gary & Debby Cohen.

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