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THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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MAY 2017 | IYAR- SIVAN 5777

SHALOM



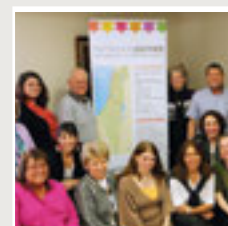
“Hello” to new
Hillel of Buffalo professionals



“Goodbye” to our college-bound
Hebrew High seniors



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Princeton Rabbi to lead Buffalo Hillel

Hillel of Buffalo is pleased to announce the appointment of Rabbi Sara Rich as the Hillel Foundation's new director. The successful search that landed Rabbi Sara was led by Hadar Borden and Marc Adler, both of whom are associated with University at Buffalo.

Rabbi Sara brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served the past six years as the Director of Education of Princeton's Center for Jewish Life/Hillel. In her role, Rabbi Sara taught classes on topics such as Jewish Biomedical Ethics and engaged students in conversation about leadership and Jewish identity, the college experience, and leadership.

"Sara is an intelligent, warm, dynamic woman," writes Scott Brown, former VP of Talent for Hillel International and current Executive Coach. "She will bring her rabbinic know-how and her ability to connect with all types of Jewish students and her experience creating meaningful programs at Princeton University to Hillel of Buffalo and the entire community."

Rabbi Sara is a strong emerging leader in the Hillel movement. She has received specialized training through the Weinberg Accelerate Executive Training Program to prepare her to lead a Hillel as the executive director. Mimi Kravetz, Hillel's Chief Talent Officer notes, "We're thrilled that Sara is now joining Hillel of Buffalo as the



Ezra and Rabbi Sara Rich with their children

new Executive Director, and know that her special presence, energy, warmth, and dedication to learning will engage Buffalo's students and community."

Sara is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park and received her ordination from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. She received a certificate in Experiential Jewish Education from Yeshiva University and

has participated in learning programs at Limmud New York, Yeshivat Hadar, the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, and the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies. Later this spring, Sara will be moving to Williamsville with her husband, Ezra, and their daughters Miriam and Sivan.

Hillel Receives Major Talent Grant

At the Jewish Federation's 113th Annual Meeting last November, outgoing President Howard Rosenhoch announced the Federation's new partnership with Hillel International, seeded by an infusion of \$300,000 of local gifts. The funds represent leadership gifts from Marilyn Shuman, Gordon and Gretchen Gross and Dr. Sol Messenger, with additional support from the Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies. Thanks to Hillel International's new Hillel Talent Grants program, Hillel of Buffalo has been awarded an Executive Director Talent Grant in the amount of \$75,000. Buffalo is one of Hillel International's first partner campuses in this new program. This grant is just one aspect of Hillel's commitment to creating a Hillel movement advancing toward excellence and pursuing the shared vision of inspiring every student to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel.

Logan Woodard Named as Hillel's First Ezra Fellow

Logan Woodard, the Coordinator of Jewish Student Life of Buffalo's Hillel, has been awarded a spot in Hillel International's prestigious Ezra Fellowship program. The Ezra Fellowship is a paid full-time fellowship that brings 15 young professionals with a passion for Jewish education and leadership to college campuses across North America.

Ezra Fellows work to engage students in Jewish life by infusing Jewish knowledge into their conversations and programs. The Fellowship provides up to three years of exclusive training in pluralistic Jewish education, including immersive Jewish learning, seminars in experiential Jewish education, and career coaching. Fellows also work with some of the most innovative organizations in contemporary Jewish life, including Mechon Hadar, M2, iCenter, and more.

In his current role, Logan is responsible for planning student programs, mentoring leaders, and

engaging students across Buffalo. As an Ezra Fellow, he will add an educational dimension to his work, one that is a natural use of his talents and interests. "Logan will excel in this role because of his deep Jewish knowledge, his love of building substantive relationships with students, and his bright vision for the impact that Hillel can have on the student experience on campus and beyond," says Rabbi Sara Rich, incoming Executive Director of the Hillel of Buffalo. "Through his participation in the Ezra Fellowship, Logan will contribute to Hillel's goal of providing relevant and meaningful educational opportunities for Jewish students across Buffalo." Mazal Tov, Logan!



Logan Woodward

**Celebrate
Shavout
May 30-June 1**



**Chag
Shavuot Sameach!**

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Shalom! Hello! Meet Rabbi Sara Rich (page 1), the new Director of Hillel. A Reform rabbi who comes to Buffalo from Princeton Hillel, she will be an exciting addition to the UB campus, for the Jewish students on campus and for our Jewish community. She comes to Buffalo with her husband, Ezra, and their two children, eager to participate in as well as help shape Jewish Buffalo. Make sure you find a chance to welcome her.

Shalom! Hello! Logan Woodward, who has been Coordinator of Jewish Student Life this past year at Hillel has received a prestigious national Hillel Ezra Fellowship to stay at Hillel for at least another year. Logan has made himself known to the community-at-large by participating in AIPAC last year with the large Federation delegation, supporting students for the past several years and keeping Hillel on campus alive, well and fun! If you have not yet met Logan, again, make sure you find an opportunity to engage with him. If you already know him, send him an e-mail, text or make a call to say “Mazel tov!” Welcome back, Logan!

Shalom! Goodbye! We will be saying farewell to our wonderful, enthusiastic, Jewishly-involved Hebrew High students this month at their May 3 graduation. I think this year's Hebrew High graduating class is special, because I have made several friends in the group. I wish them well, on behalf of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, and can't wait to hear about and see where they journey to next!

Did you know there are precisely 50 days from the first day of Pesach to the first day of Shavuot? I know now, because I have been studying and am engaging, like some Jews the world over, in counting the Omer. What's an Omer? Well, it's an ancient measure of grain used by our ancestors during this time—the grain harvest season. And it's a way to be present in one's life in a Kabbalistic manner. Every day, using a special app on my phone, I count the day and say a prayer which includes “Blessed are you, our God, who has commanded us to count the Omer.” It is a way for me to slow down my life and appreciate today, and it is a way for me to learn more about the custom and about Judaism. At the end of the count—on Erev Shavuot—I invite you all to attend the Community Tikkun Layl Shavuot service at 9pm on Tuesday, May 30 at Temple Beth Tzedek for an evening of community study and eating — cheesecake, of course! See you there.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Photo of Rabbi Sarah Rich courtesy of Sara Rich. Photo of Logan Woodard and the Hebrew High seniors by k.c. kratt. Cover art by Kim Miers.

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Published by
Buffalo Jewish Federation
2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-204-2241
www.jfedbflo.com



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The Buffalo Jewish Federation is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America and the American Jewish Press Association



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Past Federation President Ann Holland Cohn (1926-2017) z”l

Past Federation President Ann Holland Cohn passed away March 25 in Houston, Texas, where she had moved four years ago to be closer to one of her daughters. She was active with leading Jewish and Western New York organizations for over 50 years. She left Buffalo, the Jewish Community and the Jewish Community Center much better places than she found them when she first arrived in Buffalo as a child.

She served as president of the Rosa Coplon Home from 1978-1980, and president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo from 1984-1986. She was also president of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and sat on the boards of the Buffalo Seminary, the Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross, The Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation Housing (now Jewish Federation Apartments), Temple Beth Zion, and chaired the former Federation’s Women’s Division of the United Jewish Fund Campaign, now called Women’s Philanthropy. She also was very committed to Hospice Buffalo.

A large poster hanging today in the lobbies of both Jewish Community Centers with a photo of Ann and JCC Executive Director Rick Zakalik reads the following: **“Ann was a dear friend and generous supporter of the JCC who will be missed. Her mark on our community is everywhere. Ann was among the last of a group of strong women who led before it was fashionable to do so. Ann supported the Holland Family Building with a generous endowment. Children’s programs and arts were among her favorite interests. Her kindness, graciousness, generosity and wit are a memorable blessing. Her soul will be bound up with those who have attained greatness through quiet, kind and compassionate acts. May God bless her soul. She will be forever present in our hearts.”**

Rick Zakalik, Executive Director of the JCC said of Ann, “while Ann’s monetary generosity was exemplary, and included a million dollar gift which ensured the viability and sustainability of the Holland Family Building and encouraged large future gifts to the



Ann Holland Cohn

JCC, her generosity of spirit was too great to measure. If you admired a plant in her garden, you were likely to find a piece of it sprouting on your doorstep the next morning. People new to community volunteer work were immediately welcomed by Ann and mentored in a caring and grateful manner. Ann’s quick wit, wealth of historical insight and kind smile were gifts she was eager to share.

While we are grateful for the decades of leadership Ann gave us, we are at a loss for her equal.”

Peter Fleischmann, Director of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies hosted a luncheon for Ann before she moved to Houston at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. The memorable event in June 2013 was attended by members of Ann’s family and representatives from over 16 nonprofit agencies and charitable organizations which Ann has supported for decades as a volunteer, board member and major donor. Peter Fleischmann served as Master of Ceremonies and praised Ann for her “years of service, leadership and generosity.” He thanked Ann for her unwavering commitment to our community and expressed our collective gratitude to her for all she has done to improve the quality of life in Western New York.

He said “It was really Ann’s commitment to the Delaware Avenue JCC Building and that neighborhood that stimulated the major donor involvement to renovate it, modernize it and turn it into the viable community center that it is today. She wanted the Jewish Center to be a place of pride for the Jewish community and the entire city,” he said. Fleischmann also announced that the Jewish Community Center was dedicating the Grounds and Gardens at the Holland Family Building on Delaware Avenue in honor of Ann and would display one of Ann’s paintings in the lobby of the Center. Ann was a longtime Art Teacher at the Center and an avid gardener.

A Dover, Delaware native, she was a talented painter and sculptor who taught art and painting as a volunteer at the JCC for decades, and an expert gardener. She was the daughter of the late Henry and late Regina Holland, wife of the late neurosurgeon Dr. George Cohen, and mother of the late neurosurgeon Dr. Kenneth Cohn. She is survived by her son, Thomas Cohn, her daughters Martha Claussen and Erica and their husbands, her daughter-in-law, Diane, and several grandchildren.



Buffalo celebrates 150 years of Frank Lloyd Wright. The party starts June 5, 2017.

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Avy Sterman to be honored at Kadimah Dinner June 12

As Buffalo garners new attention nationwide for its renewed growth and renaissance, Kadimah Academy will once again gather hundreds of people from diverse sectors of the community to celebrate Jewish Buffalo's new potential and the importance of Jewish education for the future. Buffalo's only community Jewish day school will hold its Annual Dinner this year on Monday, June 12, at Acqua Restaurant on the Niagara River.

This year's event will honor Avrom (Avy) Sterman - long-time Jewish community advocate and devoted Kadimah Academy supporter, and will feature Douglas Jemal as the distinguished speaker. Jemal is the founder and CEO of Douglas Development Corp., and the new owner of One Seneca Tower -- the 38-story former HSBC building in downtown Buffalo. Reviving this landmark building that towers over the city has been at the top of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown's economic development agenda for several years, and Jemal is now poised to take on the massive task.

Thus, this year's Dinner will honor the school's past, with all that Sterman has given to the Jewish community, and look ahead at the bright future of Jewish Buffalo and the greater Buffalo region, as demonstrated by Jemal's significant investment. "Past, present and future will come together this year, as we not only remember from whence we came but also look to where we are going as a community," said Kadimah Board President Jonathan D. Epstein. "Buffalo is positioned to take its place once again as a city on the rise, and Jewish Buffalo should be in the forefront of its success. To achieve this goal, a thriving day school must be at the center of our collective efforts."

Sterman, a Buffalo native and salesman extraordinaire, has been involved in the



Avy Sterman



Douglas Jemal

Jewish community for over 50 years. He served overseas in World War II, and worked a series of jobs that led him "up the corporate ladder" to eventually become President of Hy-Grade Distributors, a local company with annual sales of over \$25 million. When Sterman sold his share in the company in 1996, he started Avrom Sales Company, while devoting more time to his religious and philanthropic involvement.

Sterman's involvement in the greater

Buffalo community has spanned from his service as a two-time chair of the Buffalo Jewish Federation's United Jewish Fund Campaign, and past president of Temple Shaarey Tzedek, Chabad House and Montefiore Lodge 70 of B'nai Brith, to his roles at Kadimah as trustee, advocate and major fundraiser for the past 20 years. "I'm honored to be this year's Dinner honoree and to express to the community why a Jewish education is vital to the success of our youth," said Sterman. "But remaining involved in the Jewish community after graduating from Kadimah is key to our community's ability to thrive for years to come."

Every year, Sterman encourages dozens of local philanthropists to sponsor the Kadimah Dinner, providing thousands of dollars for scholarship assistance every year. Without his dedication, the school's major annual fundraising event would not be the success it has become.

"I see the difference that Kadimah education has made in the lives of kids who are now grown up, and succeeding in various fields, while holding onto a strong Jewish identity," said Sterman. "Kadimah really prepares students to excel in high school and college and then launch their lives successfully."

While Sterman has been a proven backbone to the Jewish community for decades, this year's featured speaker, Douglas Jemal, brings a breath of fresh air

to the Buffalo region. Jemal is the founder and CEO of Douglas Development Corp., the second-largest commercial real estate developer in the Washington, D.C., area, and one of the most successful when it comes to historic and adaptive-reuse projects.

Jemal, who is Jewish, has achieved a reputation for taking on older, underused buildings and challenging projects in the nation's capital, turning them into vibrant new destinations. He recently burst onto Buffalo's burgeoning development scene, acquiring the region's only skyscraper and announcing plans to invest more than \$100 million to redevelop it into a 21st-century mixed-use complex. Jemal has been a philanthropist in Washington, donating notably to Children's Hospital, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and other organizations. And he's been honored with various economic development, historic preservation, civic and humanitarian awards.

He is placing a major bet on Buffalo and the region's resurgence, so Kadimah leaders felt he was the ideal representation of this year's dinner theme: Celebrating Buffalo's Bright Future.

"For an outsider with such a proven track record to invest so significantly in our community speaks volumes to the region's prospects for continued growth," said Alan Rosenhoch, Kadimah Board's Treasurer, President-Elect and co-chair of this year's dinner with his wife, Gabrielle Balderman. "Jewish Buffalo is lucky to have someone of Mr. Jemal's caliber and Kadimah is thrilled to offer him the opportunity to introduce himself to our community."

Celebrate Buffalo's bright future with Kadimah Academy and all of Jewish Buffalo at the school's largest single fundraiser of the year. Tickets are \$125 per person, and tables of eight can be purchased for \$1,000. Or join Kadimah's larger philanthropic efforts as a leading supporter of Jewish education with a direct gift to the school that will help ensure a vibrant day school for future generations.

To purchase tickets for this year's annual Kadimah Dinner, to make other donations, or for more information, please contact Kadimah Academy Head of School Einav Symons at: 716-836-6903 or visit the website www.kadimah.org.

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

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- Community "Mosaic" artwork
- Picture this – have your picture taken "in Israel"
- Story time in the Bedouin tent
- Climb "Masada" in the gym
- Music
- Face Painting
- GaGa
- Bounce House
- Re-Enactment of the signing of the Declaration of the State of Israel
- Kol Rina Choir performing at the Weinberg Campus



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

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

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

Sandra A. Block graduated from college at Harvard, then returned to her native Buffalo



for medical training and never left. She is a practicing neurologist and proud Sabres fan, and lives at home with her husband, two children, and impetuous yellow lab Delilah. She has been published in both medical and poetry journals. *Little Black Lies* is her debut, and *The Girl Without a Name* is the next novel in the series. Book sale/signing and reception will follow the author presentation.

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

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Women of Valor

By Steven J. Weiss

The poem, "Woman of Valor," comes from the *Book of Proverbs*. In Hebrew, a "Woman of Valor" is *Eshet Chayil* and it is a Jewish custom for many husbands to sing or recite this poem to their wives when welcoming in Shabbat, and thinking about and expressing gratitude for all his wife has done for him and their family throughout the past week. It is really a beautiful poem. The English translation is as follows:

A Woman of Valor—seek her out, for she is to be valued above rubies.

Her husband trusts her, and they cannot fail to prosper.

All the days of her life she is good to him.

She opens her hands to those in need and offers her help to the poor.

Adorned with strength and dignity, she looks to the future with cheerful trust.

Her speech is wise, and the law of kindness is on her lips.

Her children rise up to call her blessed,

her husband likewise praises her:

'Many women have done well, but you surpass them all.'

Charm is deceptive and beauty short-lived,

but a woman loyal to God has truly earned praise.

Give her honor for her work; her life proclaims her praise.



Steven Weiss

In Hebrew, this poem has an acrostic arrangement in which the verses begin with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in order. According to some noted Jewish scholars, the *Eshet Chayil* poem was originally composed by Abraham as a eulogy for his wife Sarah. According to Kabbalah—Jewish mysticism—this poem is a reference to the "Shabbat Queen," the spiritual soulmate of the Jewish people. It has also been interpreted as a reference to the *Shechinah* (Divine presence), the Torah, wisdom and the Jewish soul.

To me, this poem represents a sign of respect to all women and the various meaningful roles reflected in our homes, at work and in our community. Our Buffalo Jewish community is fortunate to have many leading ladies and an active and dynamic presence. At the Lion of Judah conference last September, 9 women from our community attended out of a total of 1300 women. In February, our WNY community had 11 representatives on the Heart-2-Heart

Mission to Israel, the largest delegation of any community out of the 66 women who attended, and in June, over 350 women will attend our community's Women of Distinction luncheon where Viola Sterman will be honored, among many other well-deserved women, as Jewish Federation's nominee. Viola has been and continues to be a role model for many in our community, including my wife, Ellen, who followed Viola as the Women's Philanthropy Chair several years ago. Our Federation staff includes ten women, each of whom is doing an amazing job. Thank you to Debbie Pivarsi, Randi Morkisz, Ellen Goldstein, Miriam Abramovich, Mandy Weiss, MaryJo Fragale, Joan Kwiatkowski, Lori Lewkowicz, Nadine Ryback and Keren Green. We couldn't do what we do without you!

In an attempt to improve the diversity on our Board among all religious areas of our community and to improve the gender make-up of our Board, at our most recent annual membership meeting last fall, Jewish Federation nominated six women to fill Board spots. We welcomed the following new Board members at our January and March meetings – Hadar Borden, Marjorie Bryen, Sariti Kaganoff, Nina Lukin, Sheri Rodman and Cheryl Stein. Doing so means the officers and at large Board members are split almost equally among women and men. We are making progress indeed!

As you can see our community is filled with Women of Valor – women who are committed to making our Jewish community vibrant and caring. We are all better off because of your individual and collective efforts. On a personal note, I would like to wish all Moms a Happy Mother's Day, especially my Mom – Marcia Weiss, my Mother-in-Law – Judi Romer and my Wife – Ellen Weiss. B'Shalom.

Steven J. Weiss is the current President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

Dr. Gerhard Falk publishes 25th Book

Dr. Gerhard Falk, a scholar and historian, has published his 25th book, *The Assault on Democracy*. This book describes the centuries old struggle of Western Europeans and Americans to gain freedom and rights for the individual, with the result that American democracy finally succeeded in the 18th century. The book then shows that there are many Americans, born in this country, who seek to undermine freedom by such methods as killing abortion doctors, promoting anti-Jewish hate on college campuses, stealing the taxpayer's money while holding political office, and engaging in racist conduct.

Dr. Falk has published several books of Jewish interest including *The American Jewish Community*, *The Jew in Christian Theology*, *The Restoration of Israel* and *The German Jews in America*. He has also published in the area of criminology, including *Murder: An analysis of its Forms, Conditions and Causes*; *Assassination, Anarchy and Terrorism*; *Fraud and Deceit Among Scientists* and *The American Criminal Justice System*.

Dr. Falk's other books deal with various aspects of social change, including *End of the Patriarchy*; *Women and Social Change*; *Sex and Gender: The Great Revolution*.

Dr. Ursula Falk (Gerhard's wife) and Dr. Gerhard Falk are co-authors with Dr. Thomas Weinberg of a forthcoming book *The American Drug Culture*. Together the Falks have also written *The Youth Culture* and the *Generation Gap*; *Deviant Nurses and Improper Patient Care*; *Grandparents: a New Look at the Supporting Generation*; *Aging in America and Other Cultures*; and *The Nursing Home Dilemma*.

Dr. Gerhard Falk has won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence; the Buffalo State College Presidents' Award for Creativity and the SUNY Research Foundation Award for Scholarship. Both Dr. Ursula Falk and Dr. Gerhard Falk are Holocaust survivors who have lived in Buffalo for 60 years. They are members of the Jewish Community Center and Temple Beth Tzedek.



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Reflecting on a Decade of Service at Temple Beth Zion

By Cantor Penny Myers

Serving the community in which I grew up lends itself to advantages: knowledge of family connections, Jewish businesses and retelling my favorite 'urban Jewish myth' of Buffalo--that all Jewish people in Buffalo are really just descendants from 4 families. All the while, serving the community in which I grew up presents itself with its own sets of challenges. Examples: "Really Mr. So and So, I am not the same person as the 12 year-old girl who used to hide in the bowels of Temple Beth El during USY shul-ins. Yes, it was me, Mrs. So and So, the same 'Penny Sonnenreich' who hung out in the Braille room of Temple Beth Am during NELFTY events."

I have served Temple Beth Zion for a quarter of my life and, no, I didn't grow up at this shul. I became Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Am and in high school switched to Temple Sinai, all while my grandparents (z"l) were longtime members of Beth David Ner Tamid, living through every iteration to what we now know as Temple Beth Tzedek. This is a characteristic all so familiar here in WNY. One of the most unique traits about Buffalo is how every family is connected in one way or another to most



Cantor Penny Myers

of the synagogues at any given time.

Although I have been back in Western New York from North Carolina (Go Tar Heels!) since 2002, I first came back to serve Temple Sinai until 2006, and then moved to Beth Zion.

This past February during Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song), the community of Temple Beth Zion honored my decade of service. The evening was blustery, and even good friends from Toronto couldn't make it in due to the storm. However, much to my surprise and delight, the sanctuary

was packed and the evening was warm and so memorable. A moment that will be crystallized in my memory forever occurred when fellow colleague and dear friend Hazzan Irwin Gelman spoke sweet words of Torah on my behalf and blessed me. How deeply powerful to have that treasure bestowed upon me by him! I was beyond humbled and felt extremely undeserving of such *zechus* (good fortune).

I wish to share with you what I offered in my clergy column this past February in the Bulletin of Temple Beth Zion, whose congregation I have come to love dearly:

"Sometimes, on our bimah, I gaze out into the congregation and see all of you, and I have come to know your stories, your blessings and your own personal journeys into Judaism. I have had the privilege of being with you as you celebrated simchas and mourned your losses. So many memories, too many to share for this column. Therefore, I will summarize below:

5 Facts I Have Learned About TBZ:

We have fiercely loyal congregants who serve this Temple wholeheartedly.

We are open to different pedagogy and worship experiences.

TBZ is not at the top of the list for best synagogues in Buffalo, rather we **are** the top of the list.

To have faith in myself as your Cantor to serve TBZ wholly and completely.

To have faith in all of you who have wholly and completely placed your trust in me.

5 Reasons Why TBZ Is Special to Me:

The schmoozes during Onegs and Happy Half Hours.

Color Day (On Wednesdays, a pre-selected color or pattern is chosen, and the entire staff wears that color. Pop into Broder on a Wednesday and check us out!)

The dried etrogs in our arks, whose lemony fragrance make the ark smell so yummy.

The huge band and Kids Choir that transform our services each month.

Having my children and family grow in partnership with you, as we explore Judaism together.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you for this past decade. I look forward to what the next decade holds for us at Temple Beth Zion. May G-d continue to bless each and every one of you.



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This year's lecture platform features a week on the "Crisis of Faith?" with lectures by Bill Moyers, Andrew Sullivan, Eboo Patel and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. Additional lecturers include Beau Willimon (creator, Netflix's "House of Cards"), Jacques Pépin (master chef), Kathleen Hall Jamieson (co-founder, FactCheck.org), Lewis Black (comedian) and Stella Remington (former director general, MI-5). Evening entertainment includes Aretha Franklin, Sheryl Crow, Chick Corea Elektric Band, Béla Fleck and the Flecktones, An Evening with Garrison Keillor, the Joey Alexander Trio and the Beach Boys.

Chautauqua also offers world-class performing arts. The Chautauqua Theater Company schedule includes *Noises Off*, *Detroit '67* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The Chautauqua Opera Company will present *Hydrogen Jukebox*, *L'Orfeo* and *Don Pasquale*. The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra will also provide a live score to *Harry Potter* and the *Sorcerer's Stone™* in Concert on July 29.

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Israeli Visionaries Inspire

Noa Kali, Yoram Posklinsky, and Sandee Ilouz- three outstanding Israeli leaders from the Western Galilee – inspired hundreds last month during their four day visit to Buffalo. Our special guests spoke at Friday evening services at Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Zion, addressed congregants at Shabbat morning services at Temple Beth Tzedek, and visited with religious school and day school children, Hillel leaders and community professionals.

“It was a great honor for us to be with all of you in Buffalo,” Sandee Ilouz wrote to Federation CEO Rob Goldberg. “We had a wonderful experience, and hope we were able to contribute something to furthering the ties between Buffalo and the Western Galilee.”

This past fall, Federation joined a consortium of 14 communities (13 in the US as well as Budapest) as part of a partnership with the Western Galilee region in Israel. The program, entitled “Partnership Together,” seeks to build a living bridge between Buffalo and this unique part of Israel.

Each of our guests, including Danit Bornstein from the Jewish Agency who led the delegation from Israel to the US, were hosted by members of our community, including: Leslie and Jim Kramer, Lori and Armand Morrison, Linda Pollack, and Susan and Steve Schwartz.

In addition to participating in a variety of programs in the Jewish community, our guests also spent time with organizations outside of the community, including Sandee’s visit with Erie1 BOCES and Yoram and Danit’s visit to The Tabernacle in Orchard Park.

But perhaps the highlight of the visionaries’ time in our community was dinner and conversation at Fiero Ristorante on Sunday, April 2. Hosted by Joanne and Michael Berger, over 60 individuals enjoyed a delicious Middle Eastern meal following by a conversation focusing on “The Rich Tapestry of the Western Galilee.”

“While several women in our community visited the region in January while on the Heart 2 Heart Mission, this was the first program we’ve hosted through Partnership,” commented Randi Morkisz, Federation’s Campaign Director. “The program is critical to our goal of strengthening our connection with not only the land of Israel but the people of Israel as well.” For more information on how you can become involved in Partnership, please contact Randi at 716-204-2245.



Joanne & Michael Berger outside their fabulous restaurant, Fiero on Evans in Williamsville, where the event was held.



Noa



Sandee



Danit from the Jewish Agency



The Visionaries at Fiero Ristorante



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Yoram



Sandee and Linda Pollock



Yoram, Sandee, Noa and Rob



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BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

ESSEN 'N FRESSEN

Cheesecake for Shavuot

By Robin Kurss

It's Shavuot...time for blintzes and cheesecake, oh my! Here is the recipe for my favorite cheesecake...it's simple AND delicious. Happy Spring!



Heat oven to 350.
Grease 10" spring form pan

Crust:

2 c graham cracker crumbs...can
use chocolate wafer crumbs
instead
1 stick butter, melted
1/4 c sugar

Mix all together till combined and
press onto bottom and up sides of
pan.

Bake for 5-7 minutes till golden.
Turn oven off and let it cool...
(this is the secret step! You want to put
cheesecake into a cool oven.)

Filling:

32 oz. cream cheese, room temp.
4 eggs, room temp
1 c sugar
1 Tbsp. flour
2 tsp. vanilla (can use lemon or
almond extract instead)

Put cream cheese into mixing bowl
and add sugar and flour. Beat till just
combined...you don't want to add too
much air to mix. Add eggs, one at a
time along with vanilla till combined.
Pour filling into baked crust and place
in cool oven. Turn oven to 375 and
bake 40 minutes. Take out of oven to
cool while mixing topping.

Topping:

2 c sour cream
4 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all together. Spread on top of
cooled cheesecake and bake at 375 for
5 minutes.

Cool overnight in fridge before
serving.

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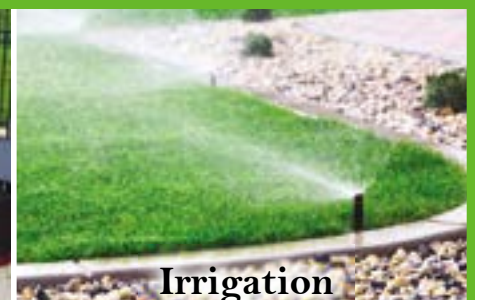
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Honor Your Mother or Grandmother with a Gift to the Federation Cemetary Corp.

Cradling the sleeping peace of her newborn granddaughter, Dalia remembers looking down on her own son Joel – now the doting new father – when he arrived in the world. The memory seems like only yesterday, not that 30 years that had passed.

Now Joel, with his wife Vida, is together again with his sisters Dorah and Kara under one roof, in Dalia's childhood home for the annual family gathering. Dalia's heart swells as she watches her son discuss politics with his father Seth and Uncle Gabe. The girls are helping her mother, now Savta Maddie, the great grandmother, fill the table with wonderful foods; Thaddeus and Tomas, her oldest brother Daniel's two-year-old twin grandsons, play hide and seek around their legs.

After the meal and prayers Savta Maddie takes on the role her mother Bubbe Ora once held. With great flair she begins the story of her own grandparents



Golda and Aviel, remembering every detail of their difficult journey from the Old World to America – of their strength and courage and great fortune of survival.

Dorah and Kara's eyes still shine at the image of their great great grandparents clasping hands as they descend the ship, safe in New York, carrying all that they own in one little carpetbag.

The next morning the sky is blue and bright as the family caravan pulls into the cemetery to honor their elders. At the stone monument etched with Golda and Aviel's names – and at the smaller one inscribed with the names of Bubbe Ora and her husband Mordechai – the twins are busy helping the girls pull away dried leaves.

Joel places the newest generation again into his mother's arms. Looking down into the tiny face, wide eyes now looking back as her little hand grips her new grandmother's finger, Dalia marvels that she herself is now "Bubbe": One day she will tell the story of the elders at the family gathering...

"Remember, my little love," Dalia whispers softly to her new granddaughter. "What is ours in memory we keep forever!"

To make a gift to the Federation Cemetery Corporation in honor or in memory, go to www.jfedbflo.com and click on "Federation Cemetery Corporation." Or call 716-204-2246.

Do you have a tot? want to celebrate Shabbat?

Tot Shabbat Hop!

Join other PJ Library families each month for a Tot Shabbat or Havdalah experience around the Buffalo area. Enjoy the company of families you already know, or meet new ones!

UPCOMING HOPS:

May 12th - 10:00 am
Shabbat morning program at Kadimah Academy, complete with singing, dancing, crafts and of course, challah and juice

May 19th - 5:45 pm
Complimentary pizza dinner followed by a Tot Shabbat Service at Temple Beth Zion

See Full Event Details:
[facebook.com/PJLibraryBuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/PJLibraryBuffalo)

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5 THINGS YOU CAN DO *in May to repair the world*

- 1» Make a gift to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation** in honor of your mother or grandmother, or any other important woman in your life for Mother's Day May 14. The Cemetery Corporation maintains and repairs several Buffalo Jewish cemeteries and your help is greatly needed. **Go to www.jfedbflo.com and click on "Federation Cemetery Corporation" or call 716-204-2246.**
- 2» Don't miss the chance to learn how to bake your own challah** at the Jewish Discovery Center's Mega Challah Bake Thursday, **May 11 from 6:30 - 9pm at the Jewish Discovery Center, 575 Hopkins Road. Call 716-639-7600.**
- 3» Celebrate Lag B'Omer with your Nickel City Jews pals** Saturday night, May 13 at the JCC's Shuman Camp Grounds at 2640 North Forest Road. **Go to the NCJ Facebook page or call Miriam Abramovich at 716-204-2247**
- 4» The JCC Book & Arts Fair presents *Two Soldiers' Stories: Lebanon, Iraq & Back***, featuring best-selling authors Matti Friedman and Brian Castner, Tuesday, May 16 from 7-9 pm at the Burchfield Penney Art Center auditorium. This innovative educational program will help to connect the community with US military and Israeli military experiences as well as share insights into human experiences from two soldiers who served different cultures and countries (Canada/Israel and USA) in their respective wars. **Call 204-2084.**
- 5» Celebrate Shavuot with other young families** and PJ Library Sunday, May 21 from 3-6 pm at Burchfield Nature Center, 2001 Union Road in West Seneca. \$5 per family. **Contact Mandy Weiss at 716-241-4221.**

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

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In April, many people correctly identified the photo of new Buffalo Jewish Federation's logo sign in the Lippman Lounge at the JCC/Benderson Building. Mazel tov to Jan Sandberg, Fran Paskowitz, Nancy Greenberg, Herm Engel, Jack Lukin Johnson, Jacquie Marcus and Harvey Schiller. Mazel tov!

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CALENDAR



April 29

Congregation Shir Shalom's Special fundraiser for The Food Bank of WNY.

6:30 pm. Fiero Restaurant,
408 Evans Street, Williamsville.
\$40/ person. **RSVP to Joanne at 631-4090 or Gary at 633-3200.**

April 30

Yom Ha'atzmaut-

Israel Independence Day

11:30 am- 2:30 pm. JCC/ Benderson Family Building. Family fun and activities, including food and games. Also Kol Rina Concert at Weinberg Campus.

Call 688-4033.

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May 3

BJE Annual Meeting and Hebrew High Graduation.

6:00 pm. Weinberg Campus - Meadows Entrance, 2700 North Forest Road, FREE.

May 7

Alternate SAT Exam date.

BJE. 7:30am -12:30 pm. Students MUST register through Educational Testing Service. **Call 204-5381.**

Yad B'Yad Fashion Show.

11:30 am- 1:30 pm. There is a charge. **Call 204-5381**

May 11

Jewish Discovery Center Mega Challah Bake. 6:30-9 pm. 757 Hopkins Road. **Call 639-7600.**

May 12

PJ Library's Tot Shabbat Hop. 10am-12 pm. Kadimah School. 1085 Eggert Road.
Call Mandy Weiss at 241-4221.

May 13

Nickel City Jews celebrate Lag B'Omer. 7-11 pm. JCC Shuman Campgrounds, 2640 North Forest Road.
Call Miriam Abramovich at 204-2247.

May 14

Mother's Day Celebrated

Lag B'Omer Celebrated

Lag B'Omer BBQ at the Jewish Discovery Center. 12:30-2:30 pm. 575 Hopkins Road.
Call 639-7600.

May 16

JCC's Jewish Book & Arts Fair- Matti Friedman and Brian Castner: 2 Soldiers' Stories. 7-9 pm.

Burchfield Penney Art Center, 1300 Elmwood Ave. FREE.
Call 204-2084 for info.

May 19

PJ Library's Tot Shabbat Hop. 5:45-7:45. Temple Beth Zion, 700 Sweet Home Road.
Call Mandy Weiss at 241-4221.

May 21

Celebrate Shavuot with PJ Library. 3-6pm. Charles Burchfield Nature Center. 2001 Union Road, West Seneca.
Call Mandy Weiss at 241-4221.

May 24

Yom Yerushalaim (Jerusalem Day)

May 25

JCC's Jewish Book & Arts Fair- Mindy Fried, author of *Caring for Red*. 7:30-9pm. JCC Benderson Building. \$10.
Call 204-2084 for info. Call 639-7600.

May 28

Jewish Discovery Center presents Pre-Shavuot Kosher Mini-Chefs. 4-5pm. 757 Hopkins Road.
Call 639-7600.

May 29

Memorial Day Observed in the U.S.

May 30

Erev Shavuot. Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Community study session for Shavuot. 9pm. Temple Beth Tzedek.
Call 836-3232.

May 31- June 1

Shavuot Celebrated Shavuot Pizza Party. Jewish Discovery Center. 757 Hopkins Road. 5-6:30 pm.
Call 639-7600.



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www.bjebuffalo.org
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Chai Early Childhood Center

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Williamsville, NY 14221
TEL 716 580-4600
www.chainursery.com
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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

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TEL 716-688-5260
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www.hillelofbuffalo.org

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Congregation Beth Abraham

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Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

879 Hopkins Rd
Williamsville, NY 14221
Email: jstrosberg@ohrtzion.org
Rabbi Joshua Strosberg
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TEL 716 876 1284
www.SaranacSynagogue.org

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TEL 716- 838-3232
www.btzbuffalo.org

Temple Beth Zion (Reform)

Sanctuary: 805 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
Religious School and Offices:
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Amherst, NY 14226
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Rabbi Adam Scheldt
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www.tbz.org

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Attention Snowbirds!

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

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Marie Levy Meyers to be Honored May 12 by TBZ Sisterhood

Please join Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood at 7 p.m. Friday, May 12 at 805 Delaware Avenue when Marie Levy Meyers will receive the Nancy J. Borins Woman of the Year Award. Born and raised in London, England, Marie Meyers grew up during the Second World War, and came to Buffalo at 20 years old. In the early 1950's, she worked in a jewelry store on William Street, next door to the "famous" Steinhart's Restaurant. In 1954, she joined Temple Beth Zion, and later in the 50s joined Sisterhood. She also became a valued office worker at Temple Beth Zion.

As her two daughters grew up, Marie became more active in Sisterhood. She started by handling correspondence, sending cards to members who were ill, had a death in the family, or needed cheering. Throughout the years, Marie was in charge of Sisterhood activities such as Uniongrams, Entertainment books and knitting groups. Marie also typed our entire most recent edition of the "From Generation to Generation" Sisterhood Cookbook! Marie continues on the Sisterhood Board, volunteering



Marie Levy Meyers

whenever and wherever she can. In her spare time, Marie knits and crochets, and is an "armchair sports addict," with a special love for hockey and football. Marie's husband, Sam, two daughters, Beverly and Sharon, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter are all so proud of her.

TBZ's Kulanu Participates in Pride

Kulanu at Temple Beth Zion has begun planning for Pride 2017. Mark your calendars now for the annual Pride Service, Friday June 2, at 6 p.m. at the Delaware Building. This annual tradition at Temple Beth Zion is an inspiring celebration of our commitment to diversity, and specifically to support of our LGBTQ members.

Pray for good weather, and get your walking shoes ready for the annual Pride Parade on Sunday, June 4. TBZ will again march with Jewish Pride of WNY, and will staff a booth at the annual Pride Festival at Canalside. We invite all members of the community to join us.

If you are interested in participating in the Pride parade, please contact Rabbi Scheldt at (716) 836-6565, ext. 137 or RabbiScheldt@tbz.org.

Kulanu is a collective of individuals dedicated to making our community a just, safe, welcoming, and inviting place for Jewish members of the LGBTQ community. Kulanu explores and engages educational, social, and supportive opportunities to cultivate TBZ as a home for all people.

Marylalice Demler to Speak at Annual Donors Luncheon

The TBZ Sisterhood will hold its annual Donors Luncheon Sunday, May 21 at 11am at Protocol Restaurant. This event helps the Sisterhood raise funds for philanthropic projects. Women and men are welcome to come to lunch at Protocol Restaurant and participate in the raffles and auction. The featured speaker for the event is Maryalice Demler, anchor and reporter with WGRZ-TV.

The cost per person is \$36 and reservations must be placed by May 12.

Mail your reservation to: Susan Nadler, 130 Fennec Lane, East Amherst, NY 14051. Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. If you have questions, contact Susan at (716) 689-4682.

Broadway Night with Shir Delight

Broadway is back at 805 Delaware Ave with Broadway Night with Shir Delight May 20 at 7 PM! This year's edition will feature tributes to two more (Jewish) legends of musical theater, composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Dorothy Field. Cantors Penny Myers and Irwin Gellman, Susan Schwartz, Michael Harris and Grant Golden will serenade you with hits from *ON THE TOWN*, *WEST SIDE STORY*, *WONDERFUL TOWN* and *SWEET CHARITY*, to name just a few! So come listen, nosh, and maybe learn a little something as we present yet another sparkling night of musical theater!

There is no charge for the event, but pre-registration is required. Call 836-6565 and reserve your seats today!

Temple Beth Zion
Shabbat Halimud –

Teacher Recognition Shabbat

Friday, May 5
805 Delaware Ave.
Shabbat Service
7 p.m.

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Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood presents the Sylvia Morris Theater Bus Trips

'Me and My Girl' in Niagara-on-the-Lake Tuesday, June 27 • Festival Theatre

This delightful comic romp from the '30s follows the fortunes of Bill Snibson, a proud Cockney who is amazed to learn that he's actually the 14th Earl of Hareford. But if he wants to claim his title, it looks as if he will have to shed his old life—and love! With well-loved classic songs updated in 1986, this play won many awards, including Tonys. The bus will leave TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, at 10:15 a.m. The cost of the trip, which includes the bus, buffet lunch and play, is \$130.

'Beautiful' in Toronto Wednesday, July 26 • Ed Mirvish Theatre

The smash hit "Beautiful" is the inspiring true story of Carole King's rise to stardom, featuring a stunning array of beloved songs. The luxury motor coach bus departs from the TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, at 10:30 AM. Bring a lunch and drink for the bus. After the matinee we will enjoy a delicious dinner at nearby Joe Badali's Ristorante. The cost, which includes the bus, play and dinner, is \$168.

For both trips, all participants must have proper identification to cross the border: You MUST have either an enhanced license or a passport. Space is limited, so call Marilyn at 716 832-4757. The reservation deadline for both trips is May 12.

Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale

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1:00 pm
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Norman Weinberg was born in Toronto and received his PhD at the University of Ottawa and did a post-doctoral at the Technion in Israel. He holds the prestigious title, Fellow of the Electrochemical Society, in recognition of his many scientific publications and achievements in the field of electrochemistry.

In 2001, Norman and his wife, Hannah Weinberg, also a scientist by training, sold their successful R&D business, The Electrosynthesis Company, located in Lancaster, NY and in their retirement, with the help of hundreds of volunteers and donors worldwide, established their organization, Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project (PJCRP).

They have participated in successful restoration of more than 35 cemeteries to date with another 40 in various stages. Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project is a charitable organization and Norman is the Executive Coordinator and



Norman Weinberg

Hannah is the US Coordinator and Chief Financial Officer. Both serve as volunteers and are significant donors through their Norman and Hannah Weinberg Charitable Fund, administered by the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

Their first very first project was restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Norman's ancestral "former shtetl" of Ozarow.

The Weinbergs were honored at the US Embassy in Warsaw, in May 2006, celebrating the 5th year of operations of the Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project (www.pjcrp.org). They are recipients of many other awards.

The Weinbergs are proud co-founders and supporters of the Foundation for Holocaust Education, an organization which provides Holocaust education to students in the US, Poland, Belgium and soon in Israel. Students in the Foundation's highly-acclaimed school play, "Who Restored My Soul" act out the stories of actual Survivors. We believe this is a very effective method for teaching Holocaust to the young.

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Shir Shalom Is Founding Synagogue For Rocks Of Unity Project

By Peter Simon

In a world increasingly driven by fear, mistrust and conflict, Alexa Zappia has launched a rapidly growing community effort that instead stresses kindness, acceptance, diversity and unity. Nice concepts, but far more powerful when backed up by action, determination and drive. And that's just what Ms. Zappia, a member of Congregation Shir Shalom, is doing.



Alexa Zappia and friends

Her "Rocks of Unity" initiative has prompted several thousand students – from the elementary grades to college seniors – to decorate garden rocks with symbols of positive self-image or inclusiveness. The rocks – the centerpiece of Ms. Zappia's "Rocks of Unity" program – are then permanently attached to highly-visible public places as constant reminders of decency and hope.

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 21st, students from the Geshur religious school, which is housed at Shir Shalom, will place their self-designed rocks around the existing larger stone honoring Cantor Susan Wehle, who died in a plane crash in Clarence in 2009. Ms. Zappia, then 12, was very close to Cantor Wehle, and helped her with a variety of programs at what was then Temple Beth Am. Ms. Zappia's Bat Mitzvah was the last at which Cantor Wehle officiated and the fatal crash was Ms. Zappia's first encounter with tragedy. But even in death, Cantor Wehle's memory helped Ms. Zappia work through her pain. "She wouldn't want me to sit in a corner and sulk," said Ms. Zappia, who is now 20. "She would want me to be active."

Shir Shalom remained Ms. Zappia's place to grow and contribute. Just as she did with Cantor Wehle, she developed a very strong connection with Cantor Sharon Colbert. Accumulating 1,400 volunteer hours at Shir Shalom, Ms. Zappia helped

Cantor Colbert with the children's choir, talent shows, administrative details and even the planning of services. "She and I have a very close bond," said Ms. Zappia. "I think of her as part of my family." Cantor Colbert has since retired and now lives in Houston.

If Cantors Colbert and Wehle are family, Shir Shalom is home. When Hope Bongiono was hired as Religious School Director about four years ago, Ms. Zappia told her about her work with the cantors and offered to assist as well in the Religious School. "I almost fell down," said Ms. Bongiono. "She's just a dynamo. She is a kind and sensitive person. I think she's offended by injustice."

Ms. Zappia, a graduate of Williamsville South High School, took her values and determination along to St. John Fisher College in suburban Rochester, where she is a junior majoring in inclusive childhood education and serves as Vice President of the Teacher Education Student Association. "I have realized that in a world filled with so much intolerance of others based on our differences, we must respond by affirming diversity as strength through kindness and acceptance," said Ms. Zappia, the daughter of Tracie Zappia, a former member of Beth Am's Board of Trustees. "In order to stop the spread of intolerance, change must occur. Instead of merely being present, we must be active. I am willing to take on the



Alexa (center) and more friends

responsibility in order to make a better society for our future."

With what Ms. Zappia describes as a "driven mind-set," she is making a difference at St. John Fisher. Her first collegiate Rocks for Unity effort there was a rousing success, including an agreement with college administrators to display the rocks on the outside wall of a prominent campus building. "An hour before the event, we had a line that wrapped all across the campus center, and even outside on the steps of the campus quad," she said. "There was an hour's wait (to decorate rocks) because we had so much participation. It truly was heartwarming and remarkable."

In addition, Ms. Zappia posts a "daily dose of kindness" on social media outlets. Ms. Zappia, who has attracted media attention in Rochester, is now seeking to interest high-visibility television shows. "I want this to go national" she said. "It's a national issue." **The project's website is: <https://alexazappia.wixsite.com/rocksofunity>.**

Dr. Taublieb to address Achim

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion is pleased to announce that its May Achim program will be held May 7, 2017, 10 a.m. on in the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068. The program is held in the building across from the rear entrance to the Jewish Community Center. The featured speaker will be Dr. Amy Beth Taublieb. She will be addressing the residents and their guests on the topic "Fighting the Dementia Battle".

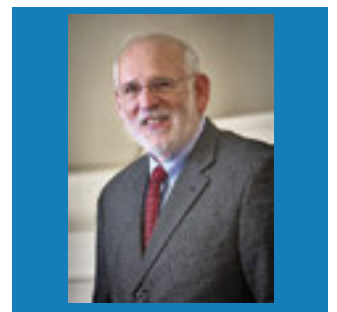
Dr. Taublieb is a licensed Psychologist who has been in private practice for over twenty-five years in the Amherst area. She is a frequent participant in many local programs, including being a regular guest on Channel 7 AM Buffalo and can be found on the Channel 7 website. She is a contributor to national and local news media, a frequent guest on local and national radio and TV programs, the author of three books, the most recent being *The Tail Wags The Dog*, a member of Temple Beth Tzedek, a lifelong resident of the Buffalo area and a frequent speaker at Achim. There will be a period for questions and answers following the presentation.

Achim is a monthly program of learning 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 or Kamas5@aol.com.

Rabbi Steven Mason To Visit Shir Shalom In June

Rabbi Steven S. Mason, the rabbi at Temple Beth Am from 1985 to 1997, will return to Buffalo June 9-11, 2017 as a Scholar in Residence at Congregation Shir Shalom, sponsored by the annual Freda Berger Scholar Program. Rabbi Mason, who will be accompanied by his wife Patty, will discuss "Inevitable Change, Remarkable Continuity: A Few Reflections Since We Were Last Together" at an Erev Shabbat Service at 7 p.m. on June 9th. He will also speak on "Humility and Patience – Attributes of Leadership?" at a Shabbat Lunch and Learn at noon on June 10th. On Saturday evening, there will be a dinner with the Masons at Fiero Restaurant. "Why Did This Happen to Me – How the Rabbis Might Answer," will be Rabbi Mason's topic at a 9:00 a.m. breakfast on Sunday morning.

Except for the Saturday evening dinner, all the activities will be held at Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660



Rabbi Steven Mason

Sheridan Drive, Williamsville and are free of charge. Shir Shalom was Temple Beth Am during Rabbi Mason's tenure, and has since merged with Temple Sinai to become Congregation Shir Shalom. Rabbi Mason recently retired from North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, IL.

Rabbi Isaac Klein Scholar In Residence Weekend At Temple Beth Tzedek June 9 - 11, 2017

Temple Beth Tzedek is excited to welcome Dr. William Miles as the scholar in residence for the Klein Scholar in Residence Series this June. Dr. Miles is a professor of political science at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Previously, he held the position of Stotsky Professor of Jewish Historical and Cultural Studies at Northeastern.

Dr. Miles is a five-time Fulbright scholar and has authored many books on Africa most notably, *Political Islam in West Africa*. Dr. Miles wrote *Zion in the Desert* which traces the origins of the kibbutz movement of Israeli Progressive Zionism. His book, *Jews of Nigeria: An Afro-Judaic Odyssey*, earned him the position as finalist in the National Jewish Book Awards. His most recent publication in which he also served as an editor is entitled: *In the Shadow of Moses: New Jewish Movements in Africa and the Diaspora*.

Dr. Miles will offer four presentations over the course of the weekend. Friday night at 6:00 pm during Kabbalah Shabbat services he will speak on "Moses' Marital Problem, and My Mother." Saturday morning

he will explain: "What's a Nice Jewish Boy Doing in Muslim Black Africa?" "The Rabbi of Timbuktu" will be his topic for Saturday evening during Seudah Shlishit. Sunday morning, Dr. Miles will offer us a multimedia presentation entitled: "Who is a Jew?" Comes to Africa.

Temple Beth Tzedek invites all in the community to share in learning about our Jewish brothers and sisters in Africa. Please call the office at 716- 838- 3232 to make reservations for Friday night Shabbat dinner (with an African flair) as well as for brunch Sunday morning prior to Dr. Miles' presentation. Any other questions may be sent to Fern Bernstein (fbernstein31@gmail.com) or Myra Werbow (myrawerbow@verizon.net).

Buffalo Vintage Jewish Movie Group



Join us at Congregation Beth Abraham, 1073 Elmwood Ave, for a screening of the historic documentary, ***A Wall in Jerusalem.***

This rare 16mm print will be shown in commemoration of Yom Ha'atzmaut on Sunday April 30 at 4:00 PM.

Details on the film and the Buffalo Vintage Movie Group (now in its 4th year) can be found on the CBA website:

www.congregationbethabraham.net

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

The first week of Summer PALS begins July 10. Call Melissa Milch at (716) 836-6565 for complete details.



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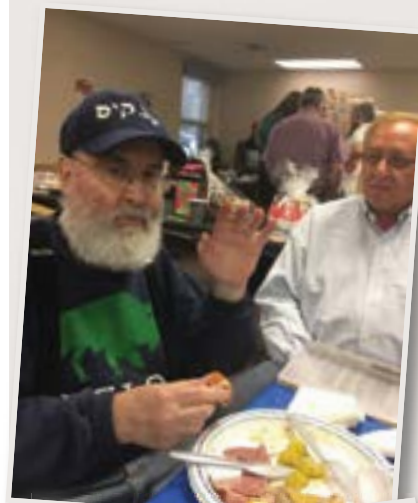


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Kehillat Ohr Tzion Celebrates Together

Kehillat Ohr Tzion celebrated its annual "big event" March 26 this year. There was a fabulous kosher dinner, a showing of the film *Deli Man* and lots of fun for everyone!





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JCC Arts & Book Fair

US and Israeli—Two Soldiers' Stories

Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m.

Burchfield Penney Arts Center Auditorium

The JCC Cultural Arts Program and Just Buffalo Literary Center will collaborate to present a community program called “Two Soldiers’ Stories: Lebanon, Iraq & Back,” featuring best-selling authors Brian Castner and Matti Friedman and, Tuesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Burchfield Penney Arts Center Auditorium, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY.

This innovative educational program will help to connect the community with US military and Israeli military experiences as well as share insights into human experiences from two soldiers who served different cultures and countries (Canada/Israel and USA) in their respective wars.

Brian Castner is a Buffalo-born war veteran turned memoirist, who served three tours of duty in the Middle East. Castner served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer in the US Air Force from 1999 to 2007, deploying to Iraq to command bomb disposal units in Balad and Kirkuk in 2005 and 2006. His memoir *The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life That Follows*, is the story of his struggle to survive modern combat in Iraq and his personal tale of confronting

the new person he had become upon returning to his family. Castner astonishes audiences with his powerful and harrowing story of the terror, excitement, and camaraderie of combat, and the lonely battle against the unshakable fear, anxiety, and survivor guilt that he—like so many veterans—carries inside.

After leaving the active military, Castner became a consultant and contractor, training Army and Marine Corps units prior to their tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His writing has appeared in a number of national and regional publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Foreign Policy*, *Publishers Weekly*, and Garry Trudeau’s *The Sandbox*, an online forum for dispatches by



Brian Castner and Matti Friedman

Iraq and Afghanistan service members.

Toronto-born Matti Friedman was a reporter and editor in the Jerusalem bureau of *The Associated Press* (AP) news agency between 2006 and the end of 2011. During his journalistic career, he also worked as a reporter in Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Moscow and Washington, D.C.

Following the 2014 Israel–Gaza conflict, Friedman wrote an essay criticizing what he views as the international media’s bias against Israel and undue focus on the country, stating that news organizations treat it as the “most important story on earth”. He said when he was a correspondent at AP, “the agency had more than 40 staffers covering Israel and the Palestinian territories. That was significantly more news staff than the AP

had in China, Russia, or India, or in all of the 50 countries of sub-Saharan Africa combined. It was higher than the total number of news-gathering employees in all the countries where the uprisings of the ‘Arab Spring’ eventually erupted.”

Friedman’s first book, *The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible*, was published in May 2012 by Algonquin Books. The book is an account of how the Aleppo Codex, “the oldest, most complete, most accurate text of the Hebrew Bible,” came to reside in Israel. It was believed the codex had been destroyed during the 1947 Anti-Jewish riots in Aleppo when the Central Synagogue of Aleppo, where the codex was housed, was set on fire and badly damaged. In the book, Friedman also investigates how and why many of the codex’s pages went missing and what their fate might be.

The Aleppo Codex won the 2014 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, was selected as one of *Booklist*’s top ten religion and spirituality books of 2012, was awarded the American Library Association’s 2013 Sophie Brody Medal and the 2013 Canadian Jewish Book Award for history, and received second place for the Religion News writers Association’s 2013 nonfiction religion book of the year.

Friedman’s most recent book, *Pumpkinflowers: A Soldier’s Story of a Forgotten War* (Algonquin 2016) focuses on the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. The title is derived from the name of the hill in Lebanon, Pumpkin, and the military code word for casualties, “flowers.” Yossi Klein Halevi, author of *Like Dreamers*, describes the book as “Inspiring, heartbreaking, illuminating...Part memoir, part reportage, part military history, this powerful narrative captures the birth of today’s chaotic Middle East and the rise of a twenty-first-century type of war in which there is never a clear victor, and media images can be as important as the battle itself.”

This event will include presentations from both authors about their experiences and how they came to write their respective books, as well as a discussion and Q&A with the audience. Both authors will be available for book sales and signings following the event. “Two Soldiers’ Stories: Lebanon, Iraq & Back” is sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Just Buffalo Literary Center, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Gabe and Andrea Ferber. Admission is free, but seating is limited so early arrival is encouraged. For more information contact Jordana Halpern, JCC Cultural Arts, at 716-204-2255.




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JCC ARTS & BOOK FAIR



Author Mindy Fried
Caring for Red

Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.
Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre,
2640 North Forest Road,
Jewish Community Center

Caring for Red: A Daughter's Memoir, is Mindy Fried's moving and colorful account about caring for her 97-year-old father, Manny Fried – actor, writer, labor organizer, and survivor of political persecution during the McCarthy Era – in the final year of his life. Mindy Fried grew up in Buffalo, and her father, Manny Fried, taught and wrote and produced plays in Buffalo, as well.

Fried is a sociologist and co-principal of Arbor Consulting Partners (www.arborcp.com) and a teacher of Evaluation Research at Boston College. She co-produces music/arts festivals in Boston that provide opportunity to local talent, and bring people together across race, culture and class.

Sponsored by the Tanya Ganson Memorial Fund. \$10/general, \$5/student.



Gunilla Kester and Shiri Kester
Poetry Readings and Photography Show from
If I Were More Like Myself

Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre,
2640 North Forest Road,
Jewish Community Center

Gunilla Theander Kester (Ph.D.), a native of Sweden, has published and edited six books in three genres. An accomplished guitarist she often performs and also teaches classical guitar. Her CD with Cantor Susan Wehle was released in 2007. Shiri Kester graduated *summa cum laude* from the University at Buffalo with degrees in English and Media Studies. She loves to travel and has visited nearly 30 countries on six continents. She currently works with children at the Jewish Community Center and Congregation Shir Shalom.

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

Coming in June–JCC Book & Arts Fair Continues

*All Events at the
Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre,
2640 North Forest Road,
Jewish Community Center*

Gunilla Kester and Shiri Kester
Poetry Readings and Photography Show
from *If I Were More Like Myself*
Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

Preston (Pete) Niland
From History to Hollywood
Tuesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.

Author Daniel Horowitz
On the Cusp, The Yale College Class of 1960 and a World on the Verge of Change
The experiences of a single college class as a barometer of cultural change
Thursday, June 8, 7:30

Barry Schonfeld
Piano Concerto, based on the artwork of Goya
Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.

Author Dick Hirsch
A New Bathtub for the White House
Tuesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.

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

Author Sandra Block (see page 5)
The Secret Room
Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

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The drawing will take place on **Thursday, June 29th**,
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Book & Arts Fair

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Tickets for events requiring admission may
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JCC Holiday Hours
Tuesday, May 30
Center Closes at 6:00pm Aquatics 5:30pm

Wednesday, May 31
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Thursday, June 1
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Friday	5:30am - 7:00pm
Sat	8:00am - 6:00pm

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April 2017 Update from Weinberg Campus

By Kenneth Rogers,
Chair, Board of Directors

Weinberg Campus has been making great strides forward over the past year, especially when it comes to the quality of care we provide to our residents. All that hard work has paid off with our Rosa Coplon Living Center (nursing home and post-acute rehabilitation) receiving two top quality ratings from New York State and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. First, Rosa Coplon was named a Top Performer by the New York State Department of Health, one of 22 Western New York organizations to receive a top 20% designation for high quality skilled nursing care. [https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/nhqi/2016/1st_quintile.htm]

In addition, the federal government's 5-Star Rating system placed Rosa Coplon as a 4-Star facility. Over the past 15 months, Rosa Coplon has steadily improved in this rating system, which looks at survey inspections, quality



Kenneth Rogers

measures and staffing in comparison to all nursing homes in the country. Rosa was one of eight facilities in the Western New York region to be rated Above Average. [https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html]

These excellent ratings are a result of the focused efforts of the Rosa Coplon team under the leadership of the administrator, Bill Gillick, and are a

tribute to all of the staff who provide care to the 180 residents at Rosa Coplon. We hope that our whole community will take notice of this achievement.

There is not much to update the community on in regard to our process to sell the campus facilities. While the majority of the campus will be sold as one package, there will be some components

that are sold either before or after as separate deals. Weinberg remains in negotiations, which will continue until agreements are reached, contracts signed and deposits are received. Once a contract is signed and a deposit is received, then New York State must approve the transfer of the licenses, which can take a year or more. While this process is lengthy, Weinberg is committed to continuing its work to enhance quality, attract new residents and provide resources for staff.

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 Sat. May 6, 8pm | Sun. May 7, 2:30pm
 JoAnn Falletta, conductor | Doug Zschiegner, narrator
 Your BPO presents a multimedia production of the mythological tale about giants, gods, and a magical golden ring.
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SUPERB SIBELIUS
 Fri. May 12, 10:30am | Sat. May 13, 8pm
 Christopher Wilkins, conductor
 Sibelius' grand Symphony No. 2 highlights a program that also includes Mark Bebbington performing John Ireland's Piano Concerto.
M&T Bank Classics
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SWINGIN' STARS AND STRIPES
 Fri. May 26, 10:30am
 Sat. May 27, 8pm
 Matt Catingub, conductor
 Anita Hall, vocalist
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 The Collier Concert series is presented by **elderwood** RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT CARE.

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 Stefan Sanders, conductor
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BJE'S ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

By **Ethel Melzer, Director**

The month of May at the Bureau of Jewish Education is very often the time when the school year and the program year are both winding down. This year is somewhat different, however, as Chana Kotzin's *East Side/West Side* course will be continuing on Thursday afternoons until June 22. Students will be tracing the movement of Buffalo's Jewish population from its beginning on Jefferson and Ferry to Transit and Casey, and beyond.

The Introduction to Judaism class took their field trip to visit the Buffalo Mikvah, where Brocha Leah Greenberg spent an hour with the class teaching them about the commandment of Mikvah and its importance to the Jewish people. Michal Shmuel-Lewis' two Hebrew courses and Ted Steinberg's Yiddish class handed out Certificates of Completion to all their students.

Following Mother's Day, Professor Sergey Dolgopolski will speak at the Jewish Community Center at 7:00 PM on



Outside of the Buffalo Mikvah. **Back row:** Michael Myers, Kayla Zemsky, Adam Poss, Christa Karet, Michael Karet **Front row:** Ethel Melzer (BJE Adult Education Director), Amanda Fennell, Mindy Weinman, Tim Dogmanitz

Wednesday, May 17 at the fifth and final lecture in the "Exploration of Justice in Jewish Thought" series co-sponsored by the University at Buffalo's Department

of Jewish Thought and the Bureau of Jewish Education. His very timely topic will be: "Can a Law be Unjust? - Talmudic and Contemporary Perspectives." Dr.

Dolgopolski is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Jewish Thought. Professor Dolgopolski explains how the newly established Department of Jewish Thought at UB stands at a critical point as it expands its efforts to attract faculty and students, develop academic and community outreach programs, and build its infrastructure. To realize the vision and the potential of this new department, he points out the vital need and help of the community to lend its financial support, so they can offer scholarships and fellowships, workshops and conferences, library materials and adult education programs for students and life-long learners in the community.

The month of May ends with Memorial Day, the holiday of Shavuot and my last day as Director of the Adult Department at the Bureau of Jewish Education. I will be writing more about my thirteen years with the BJE in the June issue of the Federation's *Jewish Journal*.

For more information about BJE's Adult Education program, please contact mindy@bjebuffalo.org or 716-204-5380 or www.bjebuffalo.org/adulted.

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A COMMUNITY MEMORABILIA TREASURE TROVE

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

Of the over sixty different collections organized under the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project, one of the most unusual, is a group of boxes that comprise the collection, "Individual and Community Memorabilia, 1890s-2016 (bulk 1942/1987)." Together, they form a truly unique resource of photographs, speeches, clippings, writings, minutes, printed materials, memorabilia and more! Drawn from personal and organizational materials, they include donations from individuals and families who saved items that had meaning from specific moments in their lives, or in the lives of family members.

A gilt engraved cup given to a volunteer officer of the Jewish Mother's Club sheds light on women's volunteerism and local Jewish organizational life. School of Citizenship and Literacy certificates highlight acculturating immigrant efforts. A pharmaceutical formula book, with handwritten entries from over a century ago, documents the movement into the professions. Clippings highlighting Jewish volunteer work, and fraternity and sorority photographs capture many moments of fellowship.

The range of items is very broad, and it includes "missing items" from organizational archives, interspersed with unique family items. Delving into these records is to see the breadth of participation within Jewish agencies and smaller organizations across time. From the Knights of Pythias to the Family Shul, the Individual and Community Memorabilia Collection is a treasure trove!

To explore these materials and more, please check the BJE website at <http://www.bjebuffalo.org/jbap2> and click on the link, Individual and Community Memorabilia Collection, 1890s-2016 then 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.



Cite: Bessie Wander, Jewish Mother's Club, Cup 1924, Individual and Community Memorabilia Collection, 1890s-2016 (bulk 1942/1987) MS 200.33, 2.6, University Archives, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. Photograph Credit © Don Dannecker/IZON



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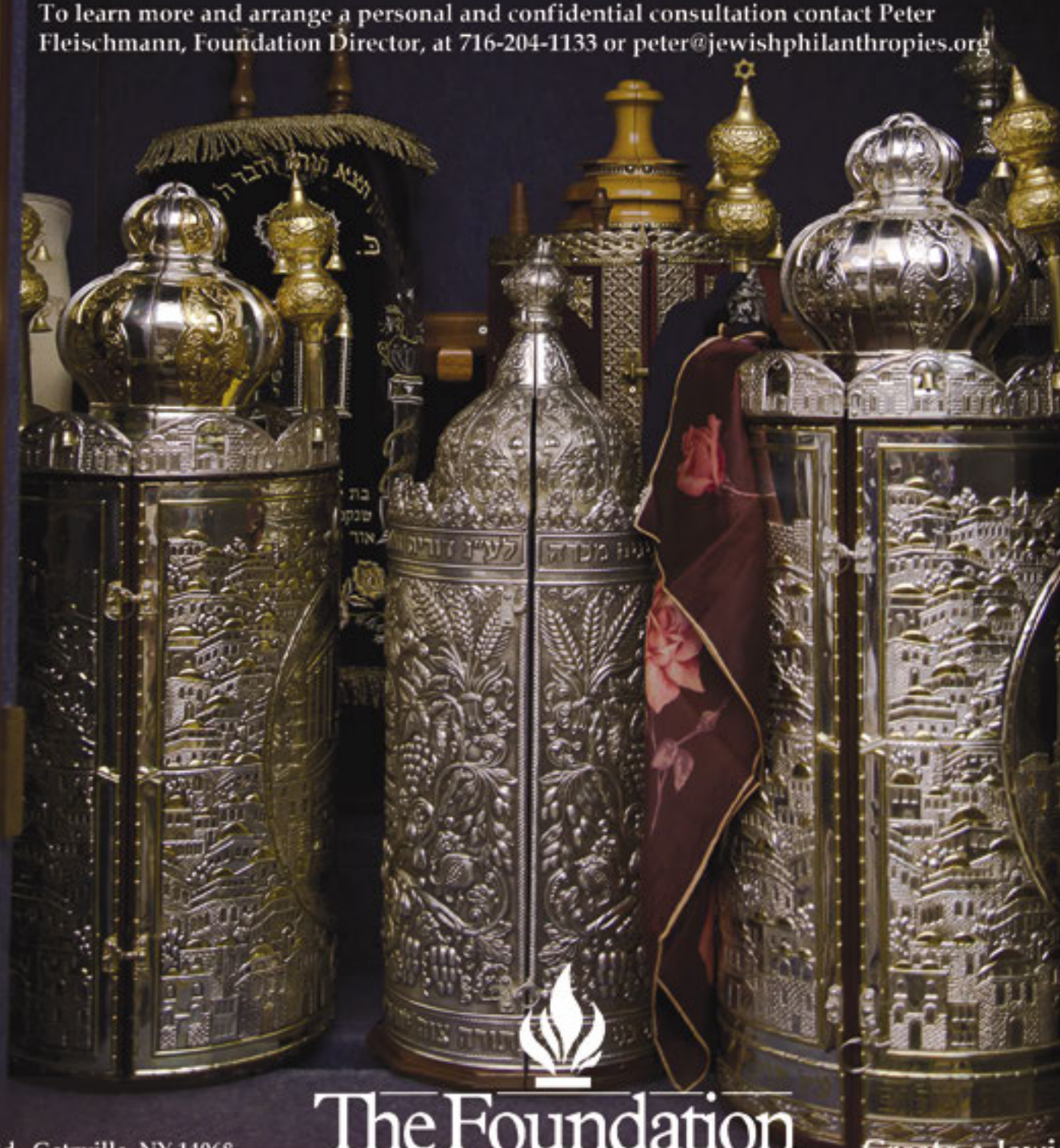
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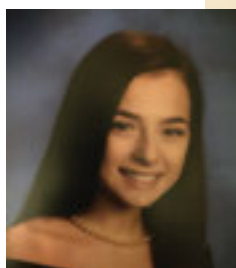
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Molly Brownstein



A friend & Leah Kramer



Hebrew High Seniors

BUFFALO AND ROCHESTER TEENS JOIN TOGETHER TO SEE *WICKED THE MUSICAL* – JUNE 4

Wicked the musical is a fun popular show, but there are many parallels to the Holocaust. These significant and sometimes tough issues are highlighted through the musical “*Wicked*” with the role reversal from the story, “*The Wizard of Oz*.” In *Wicked*, the classic “Wicked Witch” is featured as the heroine of the story. She endures pressures to fit in, conform to what is “normal” and fights to be treated as an equal. In the end her message of individuality and being an upstander is displayed through her courage and perseverance.

Join Buffalo and Rochester Jewish teens (8th-12th graders, regardless of affiliation) for a fun afternoon of friends, food and theatre on Sunday, June 4. Teens will first get together for a workshop focusing on parallels from *Wicked* to the Holocaust and will be looking at the issues this play brings to surface that parallel the Holocaust, such as being an upstander, and fighting for personal beliefs. Teens will discuss how to preserve their Jewish Identity in challenging situations, and what lessons we can take away from this



play. Afterwards, the group will enjoy a kosher lunch and travel to Shea’s Performing Arts Center to enjoy the Broadway sensation, *Wicked*, all for only \$15/teen (scholarship available upon request)!

Space is Limited! For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Melissa Schreiber at the Bureau of Jewish Education at 716-204-5380 or melissa@bjebuffalo.org. This joint Rochester/Buffalo teen program is made possible through a grant from the Wolk Foundation.

WILLIAM S. HEIN & CO., INC. DONATES FULL SET OF THE NUREMBERG TRIAL OFFICIAL RECORD TO HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER OF BUFFALO

William S. Hein & Co., Inc. recently donated the full set of *The Nuremberg Trials 1947-49* to the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. The 42-volume set of this monumental publication is the official record of the famous trials held at Nuremberg by the International Military Tribunal between November 1945 and October 1946 in which leaders of Nazi Germany were tried for war crimes. It records the charges, abuses, and conduct of high-ranking Nazi officials during World War II.

Williams S. Hein, chairman of the board and Kevin M. Marmion, president of the international legal publishing and on-line legal subscription service headquartered in Getzville, New York donated the set valued at \$3,100 after they heard of the Nuremberg Re-enactment Event in January sponsored by HRC.

Gabe Ferber, HRC board member and past president who starred in the re-enactment performance said, “this donation will reach many students of history for generations and keeps connected to our mission: to teach the lessons and remember the events of the Holocaust.”

William S. Hein said his organization was pleased to help support this important mission. “The Nuremberg Trials is one our most popular sets with law school libraries.” Students of all ages will be able to review the set at the Holocaust Resource Center offices. Please contact Kelsey at 716 634-9535 for an appointment.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: Make Mental Wellness Your Priority With JFS

By Jessica Thorpe, JFS

We live in a hectic world where there never seems to be enough time to juggle all the adult daily living tasks at hand. As a result, maintaining mental wellness can be difficult for anyone – and is often more challenging for people who live with a mental health disorder. Yet despite consistent advertising of medications to help manage anxiety and depression, mental illness remains among the most stigmatized of medical challenges.

“This is an unfortunate reality that continues to impact on our overall health and well-being. Untreated mental health issues connect to many chronic medical conditions such as hypertension and obesity, which in turn can lead to diabetes, heart disease and other serious illnesses. In every form, for any reason, stigma is damaging to the individual or group being stereotyped, and to the society as a whole,” JFS president and CEO Marlene Schillinger says.

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County has provided comprehensive New York State-licensed mental and behavioral health diagnosis, counseling and treatment since the 1950s. Its confidential, client-centered care is delivered by compassionate medical and social service professionals and available to children, adults, seniors and families.

“In recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month, and Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week from May 1 to 7, we are encouraging anyone who thinks they or someone they love may be experiencing a mental health issue to reach out to JFS,” Schillinger says.

“We especially encourage parents to call if they are concerned about a child who might benefit from help. Parents sometimes choose not to acknowledge warning signs their children exhibit for many reasons, including fear of labels such as ‘crazy’ or ‘threatening,’ that often follow individuals with mental health challenge.”

Warning signs that young children may benefit from psychiatric assessment include, among others, behavior changes and acting out aggressively. Red flags for older children and adolescents may include sudden withdrawal from family and friends changes in mood, physical complaints self-harming, engaging in high-risk behaviors and substance abuse.

“It is important for families to overcome stereotypes, educate themselves and accept that mental illness does not have to define the individual who is struggling with it,” Schillinger advises.



In addition to its clinic, JFS works with the Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition and provides Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to help people of all ages better understand how to manage the social stigma connected to mental illness and respond appropriately to individuals who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Under the umbrella of the Erie County Department of Mental Health, the agency collaborates with 15 other area mental and behavioral health providers to define ways to change regional attitude and behavior toward people with mental health challenges.

“We want to promote the idea of mental wellness as opposed to mental illness, to promote prevention and raise awareness among the general public that recovery is possible,” reports Erie County Commissioner of Mental Health Michael R. Ranney, CRC-R, LMHC, who oversees the initiative which began in 2015.

Schillinger is a founder of the alliance, which is launching a comprehensive, long-term education campaign this month. Primary outreach targets include people who manage a mental illness, families and caregivers; the general public, opinion leaders, primary care physicians, mental health community partners and managed care organizations.

Part of the campaign will direct people to the international, evidence-

based MHFA program which teaches individuals, employers and groups to better understand mental illness; identify and respond to a mental health emergency, and ways to reduce the associated stigma. JFS partners with Compeer and the Mental Health Association of Erie County to provide the training, which has now certified more than 1200 people in Western New York. In 2015, the partnership was recognized by the P2Collaborative of Western New York for “stigma-reducing advocacy and education.”

“The more people we can get into Mental Health First Aid, the better. I think it is a starting point to get the dialogue going,” says Schillinger, who is certified as a MHFA trainer.

At the end of the day, JFS is focused on helping clients develop tools and define strategies for maintaining mental wellness and managing stigma they must often confront. “For someone who thinks they may have a mental health challenge, getting treatment is the first and most important step. And JFS is here to help.”

For more information about Jewish Family Service Mental Health services and other important services call 716-883-1914, email generalinfo@jfsbuffalo.org or visit us online at www.jfsbuffalo.org.



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YAD B'YAD MAY UPDATE

*By Cindi Mikulik,
Director of Yad B'Yad*

Now that the spring holidays are over, Yad B'Yad is wrapping up the final details of its 5th Annual Fashion Show – which will take place on May 7 at 4949 Sheridan Drive in Williamsville. If you have not purchased tickets yet and would like to attend this event, please call the office at: 204-5380 to check availability. It promises to be an unforgettable afternoon!

At the end of February, the students of Kadimah Academy attended a presentation on Disability Etiquette, given by David Mack-Hardiman, Associate Vice President of People, Inc. As part of the Yad B'Yad community-wide Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month program, students learned how to address, approach, and include people with disabilities. Students learned about some of the common myths and misconceptions about people with disabilities and were given tips for interacting with them. In addition, they engaged in an exercise designed to let them feel what it is like to be a person with a disability. Finally, they listened to guitar music written and performed by a musician with disabilities.

This wide-spread Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion program was successful because so many community members joined in the effort. Clergy members addressed the issues from their pulpits, Yad B'Yad committee members spoke at Shabbat services, Religious schools and day schools included lesson plans specially prepared for this and invited Yad B'Yad into their



David Mack-Hardiman addressing the Kadimah Academy students on the topic of Disability Etiquette.

schools to meet with the students. Even with this successful effort, there is still a lot of work to be done. Many thanks to all of the people that joined in spreading the word, and bringing the issues to the attention of so many.

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

If you know of anyone who will benefit from Yad B'Yad programs, please don't hesitate to have them contact us. Yad B'Yad is a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education

that provides outreach, advocacy and program support to assist people with disabilities in achieving full participation in Jewish life in Western New York.

To join us in our programming, or to volunteer, please visit our website at www.yadbyad.org, find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/yadbyadbuffalo>, or contact Cindi Mikulik at 716-204-5380 or yadbyad@bjebuffalo.org. We look forward to having you!

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SHABBAT MUSIC CLASS WITH MISS RIVKY

A lovely group of moms and grandmas joined Rivky Greenberg's Friday morning "Shabbat" music classes with their little ones this winter. They had so much fun learning and singing about Shabbat, exploring instruments and a wide variety of Shabbat action songs, tasting grape juice and delicious homemade Challah rolls and meeting new friends! The children used a felt board to hang up photos of their favorite Shabbat items like Challah, candles, pretty flowers and grape juice! Every week, Miss Rivky chose a boy and a girl to be "Shabbat Abba" and "Shabbat Ima" and the "couple" got to wear special Shabbat crowns, which they loved.

For more information or to sign up to future classes, please log on to www.musicwithrivky.com or contact Rivky Greenberg at info@musicwithrivky.com or (716) 906-8890.



The Shabbat Music Class in action



Julie truly enjoyed the Shabbat experience with daughters Lilah and Evie



Emmy and Jenna showed off the "Savta" (grandma) and "Ima" (mom) signs when singing Shabbat Shalom to all family members.



Hallie and son Micah loved their first Music with Rivky class



Racheli and Melody, new best friends at music class



Little Penelope enjoyed the music class with her mom, Samantha



Shabbat Abba, Lev and Shabbat Ima, Melody sporting their beautiful crowns



Baby Ezra loved his soft Challah roll

"Do Not Go Gentle" by Charles Gelman- MEMOIR OF RESILIENCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST NOW FOR SALE



Charles Gelman was a teenager in Poland in June 1941 when the Holocaust had finally reached Kurenits, near the Soviet border. Gelman lost his family, and felt the cold, dead hand of the "Final Solution" even as its victims continued to hope. But he had one chance many did not have, and he took it. Charles Gelman fought back. Gelman was part of the Russian resistance; very few partisans survived to talk about their experiences. It was a difficult task for Gelman to find the desperate warriors hiding in the forests. Food had to be begged for; shelter was scarce; weapons were nearly impossible to come by and were a condition for joining the partisans.

Courage, ingenuity, and self-sacrifice were both shared and assumed in the underground. Gelman became part of an organized force and attacked German outposts, derailed trains, blew up bridges, ambushed tanks, and neutralized the occupation infrastructure. But most of all, Gelman gives us a participant's story of the armed resistance to Nazi genocide- and the story of those who did not go gentle. All proceeds donated to HRC in memory of Charles Gelman z'l.

To purchase a copy, which is \$25 including postage, contact the Holocaust Resource Center at 716-634-9535.

JCC Film Festival



Former Buffalonian Donald Katz is seen in Alan Feinberg's *Bagels over Berlin*, which was shown at the JCC Film Festival in March



Film Festival Committee member David Williams taking tickets at the door



Family together: Alan & Nancy Jo Katz Feinberg, Janet Katz Wisbaum and Wayne Wisbaum and Kenneth Polk



Film Director and former Buffalonian Alan Feinberg



Ralph and Harold Halpern at the Buffalo Premiere of their cousin's film *Les Yatzkan*



Alan Feinberg and Dr. Philip Glick talking about Jewish soldiers in WWII at the film showing (see related story on p. 44)



A clip from *Les Yatzkan* shows Harold Halpern and his cousin, the film's director



Three generations of the Halpern Family at the Buffalo film showing



The Enis children worked at the Box Office

Federation @ AIPAC



Andrew Shaevel, Mike Wise, Hillel International's Eric Fingerhut, Dave Lefkowitz and Ellen Goldstein in D.C.



The entire Buffalo delegation to AIPAC in the Washington Convention Center



Joe Enis, Congressman Brian Higgins, Carol and Dr. Brian Joseph at Congressman Higgins's Washington office



A Delegation to Congressman Tom Reed's office in Washington included Howard and Valerie Rosenhoch and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich (back row)



Buffalonians meeting with Congressman Higgins



Dr. Phil Glick and Congressman Brian Higgins



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand at AIPAC meeting with the New York State delegation

Foundation and Federation in Florida



Evan & Rachel Benderson and their baby



Buffalonians meeting on the West Coast of Florida



Buffalo folks enjoying the visit



Rob Goldberg and Peter Fleischmann at the West Coast event



Buffalo Snow Birds



Federation President Steven Weiss speaking at the Florida event

FBI @ Hadassah



Hadassah program chair Phyllis Steinberg welcomes attendees to the program at the JCC

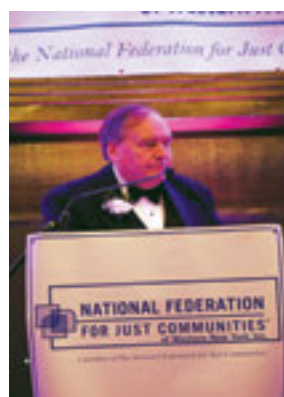


FBI Special Agent in Chair Adam Cohen talks to the Hadassah group about his work in Buffalo and the FBI

Desmons honored @ NFJC



Peter Fleischmann, David and Janet Desmon, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich at the Hyatt Buffalo April 6



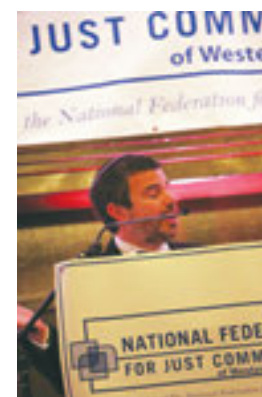
Peter Fleischmann introduced David and Janet Desmon before their award



David Desmon, speaking at the event, with Janet next to him



NFJC President Lana Benatovich



TBZ's Rabbi Freirich gave the benediction



Event Chairs Danielle Shainbrown and Robert Clark listen to Rabbi Freirich



Friends and family of the Desmons



Sandy and Marge Nobel, Shira and Rob Goldberg



Jeremy, Janet and David Desmon

Anat Hoffman @ TBZ



Ralph Halpern and Women of the Wall founder Anat Hoffman at TBZ. Anat's visit was sponsored by the Halpern Memorial Fund as part of the Halpern Scholar in Residence Events



Ms. Hoffman speaking in the TBZ Chapel



Anna Marie Richmond, Anat Hoffman, Corinne Myers, Cantor Penny Myers, Susan Goldberg Schwartz



Cantor Penny Myers and Susan Goldberg Schwartz



Cantor Penny Myers and Sydney Bluman

Women's Seder



Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood hosted its annual Women's Seder right before Passover. It took place at the Broder Building and the attendees loved it!



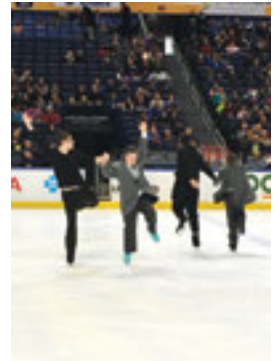
Bernie Schenkler as Moses plays accordion at Congregation Havurah Seder at the Brookfield Country Club

Havurah Seder



Havurah Seder attendees enjoyed a lovely Passover Seder together

SABAH



Skaters Alan and David Rosenhoch appeared in the annual SABAH skating show

Richardson Complex Ribbon Cutting



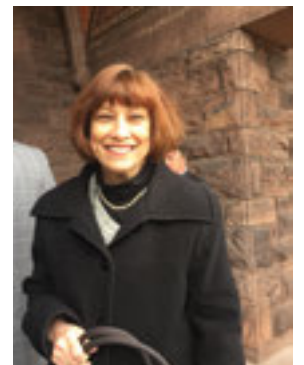
Empire State Development Board Chair Howard Zemsky speaks at the Richardson Complex on Forest Avenue before the much-anticipated ceremony



Officials at the opening ceremony of the Richardson Complex included Mayor Byron Brown, Howard Zemsky and County Executive Mark Poloncarz



M & T Executives Shelly Drake and Nancy Brock attended the event



Psychiatric Center PR Exec Sue Joffe attended the event as well

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(NOT) THE LAST WORD

MY REFLECTIONS OF MY FATHER, LEWIS L. GLICK, AFTER VIEWING “BAGELS OVER BERLIN”

By Philip L Glick, MD MBA

I'm an “orphan;” my only sister Sandy died way too young; my dad died at age 84; and my mom died peacefully in her sleep a few years ago at age 95.

But attending the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival screening of Alan Feinberg's *Bagels Over Berlin* with my Dad's military burial flag in hand and his dog-tags around my neck was like spending the evening in my parents' living room reminiscing with my Dad's old war buddies who all told the same stories over and over again.

“The “Japs” bombing Pearl Harbor; all the young men, including the Jewish guys, rushing down to enlistment offices to join up; picking the Army Air Corp for many different reasons; finishing basic training, finishing flight training and shipping out to England to fight the Nazis. Praying every night that they flew out in the cover of darkness that they would be the ~50% of the planes and crews that returned in one piece; the losses of planes and lives was as great in the campaign to bomb Germany as any theater in WW2. The noise, the cold, the gore, the



Philip Glick holding the flag that covered his father's casket at the showing of *Bagels over Berlin*.



Lewis Glick's B-24 crew. He is bottom right front row. ~ 50% of the crew in this picture did not survive their tour!

shrapnel, and the fear they all felt in the non-pressurized B-24 “flying fortresses” trying to fly high enough to avoid anti-aircraft munitions but low enough to have enough oxygen to function. Would they find their Allied fighter escorts before the German fighters or the anti-aircraft guns found them? How long would it take to get in their 35 missions? If asked, would they fly more? If they played to their patriotism and said yes, the likelihood of making it home alive diminished arithmetically. And most importantly to the Jewish Army airmen, if they were shot down, what would the “H” (Hebrew) on their dog tags mean for them if captured by the Nazis; presumed torture and death!

The evening at the Amherst Theatre not only allowed me once more to reminisce about my father's life as a loyal family man dedicated to my mother, my sister and me, but to celebrate his pride as a patriotic American. My Dad's love for his country was second only to his love for my mother and his family. At the age of 25, shortly after WWII started, with a young wife who was pregnant with my sister, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. During his training period, his inherent leadership abilities and his innate intelligence superseded the Army's requirements for enlisted men to have a college education to be an officer. Dad was selected, trained, and promoted to be a young Lieutenant Navigator in the Army Air Corps. He was assigned to a B-24 crew and sent to England with a group of other young “kids” to save the world from the despot of the day, Adolph Hitler.

It's probably easy to joke about now,

but who did this boy from California find as his commanding officer, but a Hollywood movie star, Jimmy Stewart? But this was not a movie. They were in for the fight of their lives and my Dad and his fellow boy-soldiers (for those who did come back) grew into men from this experience. Although no one talked about it back then, in retrospect many had PTSD; my Dad really enjoyed a good scotch every night “to sleep better”. My Dad earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the American European Theater Ribbon, the Reinvasion of Europe Combat Award, and 4 Battle Stars for service to his country. As anyone who ever sat down and chatted with my Dad knew, this was a very powerful time of his life. Experiences during the war were embossed in his psyche and indelibly imprinted in his memory. All of the family members, friends and even acquaintances heard his stories dozens and dozens of times; *Bagels over Berlin* contained all of the same stories and facts.

In keeping with the title of this column, since Jews have the need to get in the last word, many thanks to Alan Feinberg for making this documentary happen. Also many thanks to Janet and Wayne Wisbaum for sponsoring the showing of *Bagels over Berlin* Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival and allowing me to have another special evening thinking about my Dad. With tears in my eyes I just want to say, “Dad you were a great role model. I wish you could see your great grandson, Lewis, named in your memory. We miss you and we love you and your memories!”



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— Cate Blanchett, Academy Award-winning actress



"The orchestra is phenomenal.
They are very, very on top."

— Roger Tallman, Seven-time Emmy Award-winning composer/producer



"It's the most amazing, uplifting,
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— Margaux Brooks, executive film producer and veteran comedic actress



"It's inspirational. It puts me in
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— David H. Koch, Co-Owner Koch Industries, Philanthropist



"So fabulous! So marvelous and
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— Margaret O'Brien, legendary Academy Award-winning Actress



"My heart was open and I started
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"Startling and breathtaking, we
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— William Baldwin, film actor and producer



"This is my 6th time. This is the greatest
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— Joe Heard, former White House Photographer



"The entirety of the show was very
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