# EWISH OURNAL A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

BUFFALO, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | WWW.JFEDBFLO.COM

OCTOBER 2017 | TISHRI - HESHVAN 5778

# Buffalo+Israel EXPERIENCE

F A L L 2 0 1 8



LOOK:
HATE HAS
NO HOME HERE
(4)



DON'T MISS:

GENETICS

AND YOU

(6)



INSIDE: FJP HONORS ARCHIVES (32)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation maintains a Sacred Trust.

We are the caretakers of seven Jewish cemeteries in Western New York. We provide burial places for members of the community and we maintain Jewish genealogical and burial records.

We preserve the past and provide for the future. Your support of our mission is appreciated as the highest form of Mitzvot.

Thank you.



JEWISH FEDERATION CEMETERY CORPORATION

# October 2017

# Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

What in the heck is the Buffalo + Israel Experience? Glad you asked! As you may know, Israel is celebrating her 70th birthday next year in May, 2018, and Jewish communities all over the world are gearing up for trips to the Land of Milk and Honey. Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is holding its General Assembly in Jerusalem next year (this year, it's in L.A.), and your Buffalo Jewish Federation is planning a community-wide journey to Israel at that time, called the Buffalo+Israel Experience. We are looking to bring at least 70 people to Israel to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday.

Why in the heck would you be interested in traveling to Israel next October? My answer is a simple question. Why would you not want to?

For many different reasons, I didn't go to Israel until I was in my 40s. Too many wars. My parents were afraid to send me, life was too busy, on and on. In 1999, I went on a JFNA Mission to Kiev and Israel. I was thrilled to be able to go to Kiev, because my mother's family, the Morris and Abraham Carrel Families, came from Sokalifka (it is spelled many different ways), which is just a little south of Kiev. I was excited to travel to my homeland to spend several days in towns and villages of Ukraine, meeting Jews who still lived there, grateful that I did not.

Then we got on the plane in Kiev and landed in Israel to spend several days there. I can honestly say that trip changed my life. First, I am eternally grateful to my ancestors for their courage to go through whatever they had to do in order to come to the United States, and I was able to understand this at that time. And second, I totally fell in love with Israel. You could say that it was an emotional Jewish Mission and a first timer's reaction. But every other time I have been to Israel, I have felt the same way.

Don't miss this opportunity to travel with Buffalo friends and acquaintances to one of the most amazing, heart-grabbing, beautiful places on earth. You can read

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

more about this trip on the facing page (page 3). This is a once in a lifetime trip! Don't miss it!

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Graphic designed by Kathleen Corff Rogers

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# The Buffalo + Israel Experience 2018

By Miriam Abramovich, Director of Engagement

In 2018, Israel will celebrate 70 years of independence. To mark this milestone, the Buffalo Jewish Federation is delighted to announce an extraordinary opportunity for a diverse group of Buffalonians to travel to Israel, together. The Buffalo + Israel Experience, scheduled for late October 2018, will offer the chance for many individuals to experience a week in Israel. A country of amazing people, rich history, and unique natural beauty - there is so much for both the seasoned traveler and the first timer alike to enjoy.

This weeklong trip will take place directly after the 2018 Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) General Assembly (GA) in Tel Aviv, October 22-24, 2018. We will begin our trip on October 25th in the Western Galilee, a lush green land full of food and outdoor adventures



to be had. This will be a special time to meet and get to know Israelis from Buffalo's Partnership2Gether region. From there we will travel to Tel Aviv and then Jerusalem. Specialized tracks will allow all those traveling with The Buffalo + Israel Experience to break into smaller groups for intimate classes

and explorations with local artists, adventure enthusiasts, and leaders in the entrepreneurial and technology

You can choose to soak up Israeli's Mediterranean cuisine one day, and choose to hike or bike another day. Each day will provide an opportunity to try something new. While these tracks offer personalized intimate adventures, communal experiences will abound with time to forge new and deepen existing friendships through day trips, group-wide reflections, and a joyfilled Shabbat.

To enable as many from the community to participate, The Buffalo Jewish Federation will be providing a variety of incentives for participation. The base per/person cost for participation in The Buffalo + Israel Experience 2018, including airfare, is \$3,600, and is fully inclusive of group transportation, hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy), most meals, site admissions, source materials and more. This cost does not include tips, meals on one's own, out of pocket expenses and travel and medical insurance. *Note: There will be a series of exciting incentives* that will help lower the cost of the trip!

More information about The Buffalo + Israel Experience 2018 will be available in November of 2017. To be added to a list of those interested, or to request more information, please contact Nicole Bard at nbard@jfedbflo.com.

# The 2018 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

The 2018 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo has begun! Federation kicked off the 2018 Campaign year at the Premier Dinner in August (see page 41) and at our Campaign Kick-Off Event featuring Abigail Pogrebin in September. Everyone enjoyed both events, and we want to let you know about the Annual Campaign.

Our Campaign for Jewish Buffalo is co-chaired this year by attorneys Kim and Steve Yonaty, who have committed themselves to this endeavor, despite their busy lives.

We invite you to contribute your time, energy and your financial resources to the building of community. We hope you will give because you believe, as we do, that it is our responsibility to ensure our community engages every person-- whether native born or new to Buffalo, retired or just beginning a career, single or married, gay or straight, religious or secular, affiliated or searching.

We ask you to stretch yourselves to help fortify our campaign for Jewish Buffalo and to make a generous commitment for the coming year. If each of us commits to a heart-felt gift, we know that our future will be bright and our community will be able to do the extraordinary.

When you receive a call to make your donation to the 2018 Campaign, we hope that you and any other donor in your household will take the time to speak with our volunteers that day.

Thank you for your commitment of tzedakah and of working together to build a vibrant and caring Jewish Community in Buffalo, in Israel and around the world.



# Hate Has No Home Here

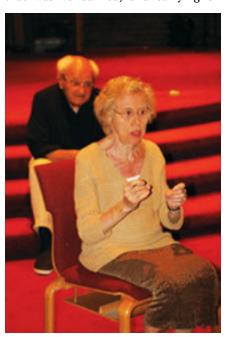
### By Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein

Hate has no home here because we believe in loving our neighbors as ourselves. Hate has no home here because we too were strangers and know what it means to feel isolated and alone. Hate has no home here, because as Hillel said standing on one foot, "Do not do to others what is hateful to yourself." Hate has no home here, because as members of the Jewish community, we have seen the worst of humanity and will do anything in our power to ensure that those types of atrocities never happen to any group, anywhere, at any time. Never again.

I write these words after a summer of hate, when the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia were lit up with Neo-Nazi propaganda. A summer in which swastikas were found on local playgrounds and Holocaust survivors felt they were reliving the 1930s. For me, as a product of the 1970s, this was the first time as an American Jew when I felt fear. But, because of other actions from this summer, I also found a great deal to be hopeful about.

Let me explain by taking you back to the week immediately after the Unite the Right rally in early August when our local community struggled to find a response. In the midst of our angst, a swastika and Jewish star was painted on a slide at my children's school playground at Windermere Boulevard School. I have written elsewhere about the response, the graffiti removed, the gathering at the playground, local media and school administration present, all within 24 hours.

For me, the most uplifting part-- by far-- was watching my children play with their friends, slide down the same slide that was vandalized, and carrying on



Sophia Veffer and Andre Toth at Congregation Shir Shalom



as if nothing had happened. And, then later, my 9-year-old daughter telling my wife and I she had no idea her non- Jewish friends would be at the anti-hate gathering. Because a swastika and Jewish star were involved, she thought it was only about our Jewish community. No, we told her, we are all in this together. Hate has no home here.

It certainly had no home two days later when two hundred or so people gathered at an African American church downtown and where politician after politician, clergy member after clergy member from many different religions, denounced the rally in Charlottesville and the message of hate that went with it. All except a colleague and friend, Rev. James Giles, of Back to Basics Ministry, who, as an aside, chose to point out that Jews really didn't have it so bad in America, that some of us were really pretty well off.

Now before you judge Rev. Giles, let me tell you about his response. Within 24 hours, he had written a letter of apology and called all the Jews that were present to hear his remark. I received my call at around 6 PM that Thursday night and listened as he admonished himself about his insensitivity. We all make mistakes, I told him, and then I did what I thought was the most sensible thing to do. I invited him to our Shabbat services that Friday night. He promised he would try to make it, and with that we ended the conversation.

With such a quick turn around, I did not expect him to follow through, nor did I expect him to give a full apology to our congregation. But, that is exactly what happened. On Erev Shabbat at Congregation Shir Shalom, Rev, Giles







The August Rally Against Hate at Durham AME Church in Buffalo

explained to the majority of those present-- who had no idea what had occurred the day before-- exactly what he had done, and then apologized, publicly, honestly, openly. If that is not the definition of *teshuvah* (repentance), I am not sure what is.

Better yet he and I are already planning to bring our two communities together and bridge the divide between African Americans and Jews in Western New York. This is the way we ensure we focus not on the insensitivity of the original comment, but instead on the humility and generosity that resulted from it. It is the way we ensure that hate has no home here.

Hate has no home here when the Muslim community comes en masse to a gathering at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville after a bomb threat that had been made on the JCC building

the week before. It has no home here when hundreds gather at the downtown Jewish Community Center in response to the bomb threats. It has no home here when congregants at Shir Shalom contribute money toward an arson fire at the apartment owned by a mosque in Lackawanna earlier in the year. It has no home here when we meet at Niagara Square each time one of our communities has been a target of discrimination. It has no home when clergy from all different faith backgrounds agree to tour in Israel together in early December.

There are many more reasons to hope than there are to be discouraged. As my daughter learned and as I learned with the help of Rev. Giles, we must realize that we are all in this together. That is the only way we can ensure that we live out our ideals, and that hate never, ever has a home here in Western New York.

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein is rabbi at Congregation Shir Shalom and past president of The Network for Religious Communities.

# Second Buffalo Area Jewish **Group Home Planned for 2019**

**Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force** Subcommittee on Jews with Disabilities Living in Group homes and Supported Residences Meeting Monday, October 16, 1pm, JCC (Holland building)

### By Janet Gunner

Three Buffalo area Jewish community families are actively planning a Jewish group home for their three sons ages 24 and 25 to open in 2019. The families are looking for a fourth housemate to complete this Jewish home. The families are envisioning a kosher home where the young men welcome Shabbat together each Friday evening with a festive Shabbat dinner and celebrate the Jewish holidays throughout the year as an integral part of the larger Jewish community. These young men will be transitioning from their family homes where they have grown up and lived all their lives thus far. Their parents now in their fifties, sixties and seventies recognize the critical responsibility of ensuring their sons' safety and wellbeing when parents are no longer able as a result of their own aging and ultimate mortality.

This 2019 Jewish group home, along with the Women's Jewish group home in Amherst that opened in 2007 and an anticipated 2022 Jewish group home, is part of the Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force vision of a fully inclusive Jewish community. The families hope that Jews with disabilities will be embraced by the Jewish community as full participating and contributing community members with the Jewish community providing a secondary layer of support for this most vulnerable sector of our population as an enduring commitment.

By way of example, the Women's Jewish group home is the site of a monthly Yad B'Yad program - Miriam's Well and the anticipated Task Force coordinated synagogue-led Havdalah program. Temple Beth Tzedek recently launched a new Lifelong Learning Program for Iewish adults with developmental disabilities and hopes to be able to hold a regular class at the Women's home. And Temple Beth Tzedek has been welcoming treasured friends from the Women's home as well as Jews with special needs, care providers, friends and

families from throughout the area at its Outstretched Arm program celebrating Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach and Shavuot together as community for over 15 years (next program, Sukkot celebration, October 1, 10:30 am, TBT).

In accord with the Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force mission of bringing together families, clergy, Jewish agency professional staff, lay leaders and volunteers to work collaboratively to ensure full and seamless lifelong inclusion in all aspects of our Jewish community and to ensure the well-being of those who are vulnerable and prone to isolation, the Task Force Subcommittee on Jews with Disabilities Living in Group Homes and Supported Residences will meet Monday, October 16, 1 pm at the JCC (Holland building), 787 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo 14209. The agenda will focus on development of upcoming Jewish group homes and supported residences and supports for Jews with disabilities living outside their family homes.

Please contact Janet Gunner (janet. gunner@gmail.com) for information on the 2019 Jewish group home, the Task Force and to RSVP for the October 16 subcommittee meeting.

### **Honoring Rabbi Shay Mintz**



A program to honor the life of Rabbi Shay Mintz will take place Sunday, October 22 at 11:00 AM at the University at Buffalo in the Student Union, room 210. Rabbi Sara Rich, Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo will lead the service. which is sponsored by The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Buffalo Jewish Federation and Hillel of Buffalo.

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### Upcoming Hops:

October 7th - 6:30 pm

Tot Havdalah Experience in the Sukkah at the Benderson Family JCC (Getzville)

October 13th - 6:00 pm

Tot Shabbat Service followed by a complimentary pizza dinner at Congregation Shir Shalom

October 20th - 5:45 pm

Complimentary pizza dinner followed by a Tot Shabbat Service at Temple Beth Zion's Broder Center (Amherst)

### See Full Event Details:







### COMMUNITY

# Israeli Artists featured @ CEPA



CEPA is excited to present the upcoming survey exhibition Place Relations: Identity in Contemporary Israeli Avant-Garde Art.

The inaugural iteration *Place Relations*: Identity in Contemporary Israeli Avant Garde Art will feature a shifting roster of artists from Israel whose rotating work will be placed in a series of conversations with one another. By providing audiences with an array of diverse individual perspectives shaped by varied and unique experiences, CEPA's goal is to elaborate upon, broaden, and humanize the unique historical, political, and cultural atmosphere of the Israeli diaspora. We hope to prompt critical engagement and an open dialogue about the ways in which identity is shaped by culture, and in turn, how notions of identity come to reshape culture.

### **ADINES**

### September 15 - November 4, 2017

Adi Nes, the son of Sephardic Jewish immigrants from Iran, is a photographer who makes meticulously crafted images that are both autobiographical and attest to living in a country in conflict. Nes's photographs are reminiscent of Renaissance or Baroque paintings, often based on parables and collective cultural memory. Sexual tension is ever-present in Nes' work, as he delves into complex explorations of homoeroticism. His goal is to reveal a universal humanism in his dramatic portraits.

### YAEL BARTANA

### October 13 - November 25, 2017

Yael Bartana is a video artist who explores the imagery of cultural identity. In her photographs, films and installations Bartana critically investigates her native country's struggle for identity. Her early work documents collective rituals introducing alienation effects such as slow-motion and sound. In her recent work



Above: work by Yael Bartana; work by Adi Nes

the artist stages situations and introduces fictive moments into real existing narratives. In 2011, Bartana represented Poland on the 54th edition of the Venice Biennale.

### TAMY BEN-TOR & MIKI CARMI

**October 26 - December 16, 2017** Opening Friday, October 27, 5-8pm w/performance at 8pm

Longstanding collaborators in life and art, performance artist Tamy Ben-Tor and painter Miki Carmi, excavate and analyze human archetypes through their philosophically oriented practice. Using different approaches, both artists strip their subjects bare, revealing the marks that define each subject's neurotic psychological state, resulting in the undeniable tension between material life and the desires of the soul. Tamy's performances and Miki's painting are made in a shared space through constant dialogue, and fuse into singular projects through video works.

For more information, contact CEPA Gallery @ 716-856-2717. CEPA Gallery is located in The Market Arcade Building, 617 Main Street in downtown Buffalo.

# **Dandes Family Honored** at Curtain Up!



Jonathan & Marcy Dandes with a friend at Curtain Up!

Jonathan and Marcy Dandes were tapped to serve as the Honorary Chairs of the 36th Annual Curtain Up! Event in mid-September and were honored at the event. Both enthusiastic and active supporters of the Buffalo theatre scene, Marcy and Jonathan have figured prominently in the grand resurgence of Buffalo and Western New York. Marcy is a licensed real estate agent with

Hunt Real Estate and a long-time Board Member of O'Connell & Company with ties to Nichols School. Jon is President of the Buffalo Bisons, President of the Canalside Management Group, Chairman of Visit Buffalo Niagara, Chair of the Buffalo Zoo and Chair-Elect of the ECMC Board of Directors. Their daughter, Erin, has appeared on stage at many of the JRT productions at the JCC.

# **Federation Sponsors** Synagogue Onegs

The Buffalo Jewish Federation will be sponsoring the Oneg Shabbat receptions at the following synagogues this coming fall. Join us for services at these shuls.

Kehilat Ohr Tzion • Saturday, October 21 Jewish Discovery Center • Saturday, October 28 **Temple Beth Tzedek** • Saturday, November 4 **Congregation Shir Shalom** • Friday, November 17 **Temple Beth Zion** • Friday, December 1 **Young Israel** • Saturday, December 9 Knesset Center • TBD





### **HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' OFFSPRING:**

The Next Generations **Continuing the Research and Education of the Holocaust's Effects.** 

- Were your parent or parents survivors of the Holocaust?
  - Were you born between 1945 and 1965?

If you answered YES to these questions, and are interested to participate in a study about the experiences of children of Holocaust survivors you can contribute to the understanding of the long-term effects of the Holocaust to the subsequent generations.

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of growing up in the United States with Holocaust survivor parent(s). Participants will engage in a one-time 1-2 hour interview in a location of their choice.

This study is being conducted By Nurit Fischer-Shemer, a PhD candidate, School of Social Work, UB.

For more information email nf24@buffalo.edu or leave a message at 716.380.1473

### Do you have a few free hours each week? Do you like reading to children?



If you answered "yes" to all these questions, why not consider becoming a volunteer with the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy? This Federationsponsored program takes place at Buffalo Public School #80, where you would help a child from pre-school-4th grade with reading skills.

Interested? Call Ellen Goldstein at 716-204-2243 or egoldstein@jfedbflo.

### **TICKETS ON SALE NOW**



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# Message and Appeal from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach and the **Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas**

September 14, 2017

Dear Congregants, Chai Members, friends, colleagues, members of my former congregations, and so very many others:

It is now a full week since the fury of Hurricane Irma hit our islands. St. Thomas has been hit quite hard. Conditions on St. John are significantly worse than that. We are only beginning to be able to take steps, take stock, and get a sense of what we need to do to move forward. Your heart-felt offers of assistance are deeply moving. We are so touched by your love - and we are so grateful for your support.

With humility and gratitude, we accept your many offers of help. We will use your support in four distinct ways: aid for recovery for the island, support for members in need, repair of the damage we sustained, and support for the congregation as a whole.

### As aid for the island and community as a whole.

Our island is in pain and in need, and, with your support we will be there to help everyone here get back on their feet. Heroes are born all around us; our members are, as we always have been, playing very important public roles here. We hope to use our community house as a distribution point or a health center. We are working directly with civic, volunteer and public agencies. To paraphrase Hillel: "If we are only for ourselves, what are we?"

### As support for members of our own congregation in need.

As you can imagine, we have among us those who have lost roofs, walls, or entire homes. The house my family is renting lost part of its roof, flooded, and we just managed to get a FEMA tarp today. And we fared better than many others. Businesses are, at best, in a state of uncertain suspension. Some are relocating for medical or other reasons. Insurance and disaster relief aid will help; it will not be enough. We are in the very early stages of assessing our own needs. "If we are not for ourselves, who will be for us?"

### To repair and restore our historic sites.

Our historic cemeteries have been very badly damaged. We face needs there to preserve and protect two of the most ancient Jewish cemeteries in the hemisphere. There is also damage from water and wind in the synagogue itself and in Lilienfeld House, our social and community hall across the street.

### For ongoing work to enhance Jewish life in the Virgin Islands.

We are reluctant to use a disaster as "fundraising." We find the prospect... distasteful. But we face a new reality here. Life-cycle events and special visits are already being cancelled. This may continue. Our synagogue is a living partnership, unique in this continent, with others all over the world. We are, indeed, a place where history and destiny meet. We need your help, to preserve this special story - and to be with us, as we write the next chapter. "If not now, when?"

We are establishing HIRE, a Hurricane Irma Relief Effort as a segregated line item to address all of these needs. Your support is, of course, tax-deductible to the extent permissible by law.

We expect US Postal Service to resume soon. Our address is:

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas,

PO Box 266, St. Thomas, VI, 00804-0266

Or you may contribute directly through our webpage, at synagogue.vi. As soon as internet connections are restored, we will update the site to make this easier.

Your assistance in picking us up, helping us recover from this devastating blow, including such basic acts as delivering and distributing food and water in some cases... it is... essential. And appreciated.

With love and with determination, and, always, L'shalom (in peace),

Michael L. Feshbach, Rabbi

Rabbi Feshbach is a former rabbi of Temple Beth Am in Buffalo.



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# Letting Your Blessings Catch Up

By Rabbi Ori Bergman

Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz once invited a professor to his Talmud class at the Hebrew University. He asked the professor, "Why don't you join the class? All of your colleagues come." The professor responded, "I don't belong in the class. We have nothing in common."

"What do you mean we have nothing in common?" asked the Rabbi.

"You don't understand!" said the professor. "I only eat pork! On Shabbat! Exclusively!"

"Only on Shabbat?" asked Rabbi Steinsaltz.

"Specifically! Spitefully! On Shabbat!" "Ahh, in that case," said Rabbi Steinsaltz, "we do have something in common. You see, the Torah enjoins us to honour the Shabbat. I have my way of honouring Shabbat and you have your way, I wouldn't necessarily do it that way, but you're doing something and that's significant."



Rabbi Ori Bergman

Shabbat belongs to the entire Jewish people irrespective of background or affiliation. Nevertheless, over the years, Iews have drifted away from their heritage and from one another. We even

define ourselves by what divides us. So we ask, what could bring us together? The pristine beauty and peace of Shabbat can!

Simply consider Friday night around the Shabbat table, which for many is the high point of the week. The candles send out their soothing light, and the blessings we make over the wine and special bread remind us that what we have is the gift of G-d. A Jewish Sabbath is family time. Husbands sing a song of praise to their wives, taken from the Book of Proverbs: 'A Woman of strength, who can find? Her worth is above rubies.' Parents bless their children, and together we sing our traditional songs. Those who observe the laws of the day do not work or shop, answer phones or emails, watch television or use the car. The pressures of the outside world disappear, and life becomes simpler and more serene.

I'd like to suggest a radical idea: that every Jew in Buffalo have a Shabbat table and experience to attend. What a fantastic impact that could have on our community. It's possible. If not now, when? If not us, who? Ahad Ha'am said, "More than the Jewish people has kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jewish people." What is it about Shabbat that makes it so important to the Jewish people and so powerful to the individual?

The Midrash says: Upon receiving the Torah, God told the Jewish people that Heaven would be their reward for keeping the commandments. The Jews asked, "How do we know that Heaven is so great? So God said, "No problem. I'll

send you a sample. Shabbat." Thus the Sages say Shabbat is "a taste of Heaven on Earth." If Heaven is pure spirituality, then Shabbat is a taste of that experience.

Says Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, "Shabbat creates space within our lives and within society in which we are truly free. Free from the pressures of work; free from the demands of ruthless employers: free from the siren calls of a consumer society urging us to spend our way to happiness; free to be ourselves in the company of those we love. It is the day we make space for the things that are important but not urgent."

Let's conclude with a story: Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev was looking out over the town square. Everywhere he saw people rushing. He called to one man, 'What are you rushing for?"

The man replied, 'I'm running to make a living.' Levi Yitzchak said, 'What makes you so sure that your livelihood is in front of you so that you have to rush to catch it up? What if it's behind you? Maybe you should stop and let it catch up with you.'

Sometimes we can travel so fast that we completely miss the view. At regular intervals, we need to stop, pause and breathe deeply. Jews used to say that food tastes better on the Sabbath. I think they meant that pleasures taste better when you have time to let them linger on the tongue. Happiness requires tranquility. As Rabbi Levi Yitzchak said, it is right behind us, waiting for us to rest so that it can catch up to us.

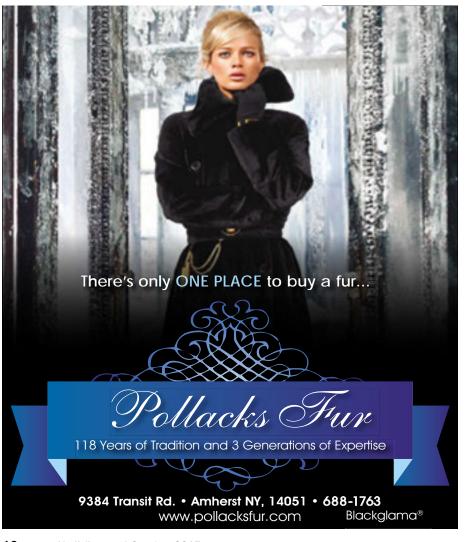
Rabbi Ori Bergman joined Kehillat Ohr Tzion, as its new spiritual leader this summer. Read more about Ori and his family on page 20.

# Moshe Shulman's Music to be performed 10/13 at UB

Moshe Shulman, Buffalo area musician, composer and Kadimah teacher, will have his composition "Seven (Jewish) Prophetesses" performed at UB Friday, October 13 at 7:30pm at UB's Slee Hall. The piece is based on poems by Juli Varshavsky, who is an Israeli poet and a friend of Shulman's from his service in the IDF. This piece was made possible by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation (Harvard). It premiered this past in March in New Mexico. The UB event will be its second performance.



For more information, contact him at 78momo24@gmail.com.



### **Assemblyman Ryan Allocates More Than** \$95.000 to Jewish **Family Service** Resettlement **Program**

New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan has allocated \$95,566 in funding to Jewish Family Service of **Buffalo & Erie County to support its** Refugee and Immigrant program. The allocation is part of \$2 million Ryan set aside in the 2017-2018 New York State budget to ensure resettlement agencies across the state continue to provide services in the wake of the Trump administration refugee ban.



Pictured (l. to r.): JFS New American Director Maria "Apple" Domingo, NYS Assemblyman Sean Ryan, JFS President and CEO Marlene Schillinger, NYS Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, JFS Past Board Chair Laurence Rubin, Esq.

Of the 5,028 refugees resettled in New York in 2016, 94% settled in Upstate New York, with 36% of that number living now in Erie County. This makes Western New York home to the largest population of resettled refugees in the state. Ryan allocated a total of \$681,980 to the four resettlement agencies in Western New York according to the number of refugees served by each agency in 2016.

Last year, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County resettled 324 refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Myanmar and other countries. As of August 28, 2017 the agency has resettled 187 people. "We are deeply appreciative of this funding, and congratulate Assemblyman Ryan and all those who supported this initiative," JFS President and CEO Marlene Schillinger said. "With this funding we will continue to provide services to new Americans and they will continue to help build our community."

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### COMMUNITY

# Tot Shabbat @ TBZ

This was a PJ Library program organized by the Jewish Federation.





















# Richard and Roberta Handel Educator's Conference

By Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D.

As a teacher of "War and Memory" at Hebrew High, I had the tremendous fortune to be selected to participate in the 2017 Richard and Roberta Handel Educator's Conference. Led by Lori Raybold, New Generation Initiative Member, and assisted by Holly Cannon, 2015 participant, Tara DeVay (Geneseo Senior High School), Wendy Dyment (Cassadaga Valley Central Schools), Alyssa Walsh (The Park School of Buffalo), and Megan Wright (Alexander Central School District), and I (a group of truly simpatico teachers) spent our first day at the USHMM exploring the permanent exhibit as well as temporary ones, "Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust," "Cambodia 1975-1979," and "A Dangerous Lie: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion." The evening of the first day culminated in a "monument crawl" of the FDR, MLK, and WWII Memorials. Day two began with a fabulous presentation

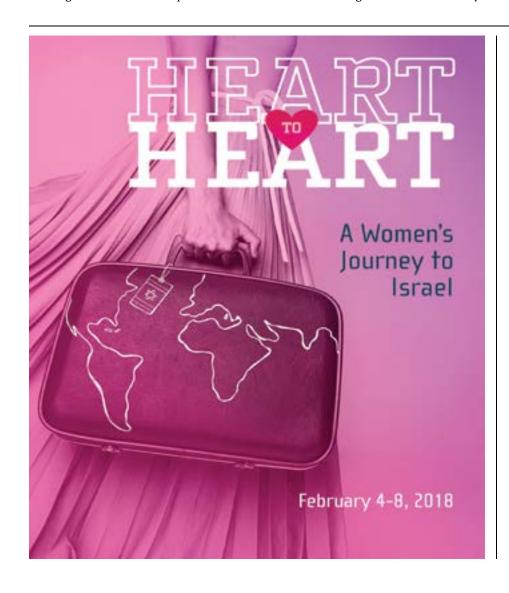


HRC's educators in Washington D.C.

by Megan Chabalowski, Program Officer, Public Education, at the U.S. Institute of Peace who stressed the importance of understanding that there will always

be conflict in the world but the key is to work towards non-violent resolution of conflict. After lunch, we headed to the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (formerly the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights) where John Heffernan, Executive Director of RFK Speak Truth to Power, spoke to us about various initiatives and how to get our students involved. The conference was undeniably a huge success. Keep an eye open for the group's post-trip projects and efforts.

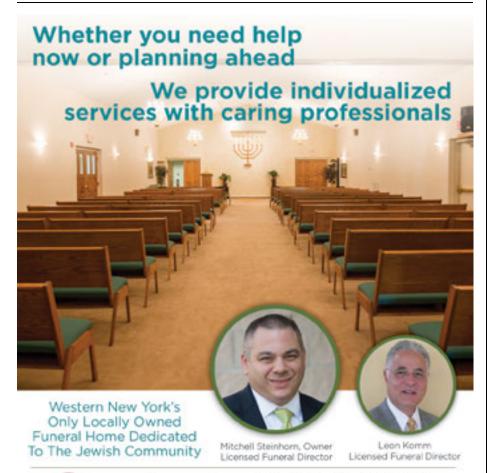
This project is a program of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.







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# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

# in October to repair the world

- Help support The Jewish Repertory Theatre in Buffalo! Join friends at the Hotel Henry Monday, October 2 for a JRT Gala from 6:00-8:00 pm. Tickets are \$125. You may purchase them at either JCC building, or go to www. jewishrepertorythreatre.com, or call Jordan Halpern at 204-2255.
- Come to Spruce Meadow Farm on Saturday, October 14th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm to enjoy the Autumnfest Benefit for Phoenix Rising Equine Rescue. Come rain or shine to meet talented crafters and vendors, experience fun pony rides, eat delicious food and participate in an amazing basket raffle. Meet our fabulous horses at Spruce Meadow Farm, 10333 Keller Road in Clarence.
- Buffalo Celebrates Israel Sunday, October 16 with Eagles' Wings. This free event takes place at 6:00 pm at New Covenant Tabernacle, 345 McConkey Drive. Contact Eagles'Wings at 1-800-519-4647 or www. eagleswings.to.
- Don't miss the David Blitzer Lecture at UB's Department of Jewish Thought Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 pm. "The Future of Jewish Tradition" is the topic. 109 Capen Hall is the place. Lecture is free, as is parking at UB after 3:00 pm.
- Share your knowledge! Become a volunteer for Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy. School began in September, as did the 16th year of this mitzvah project. If you are an adult and can spare an hour per week to help elementary school children better their reading skills, call Rise' Kulick or Ellen Goldstein at 716-204-2243.

# IN JBFLO?



### Where is this found in WNY?

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

E-mail your answers to egoldstein@jfedbflo.com

In September, Fran Paskowitz, Daniel Mink, and Cindy Stover correctly identified the Holocaust Memorial in one of the Jewish Cemeteries on Pine Ridge Road.

# **Stuffed Pumpkin for Sukkot!**

### By Robin Kurss

We celebrate Sukkot—our Jewish harvest festival—this year beginning the evening of October 4 and continuing through October 11, then Shemini Atzeret on October 12 and Simchat Torah on October 13. Stuffed vegetables symbolize being surrounded by the cozy walls of the Sukkah. Here's something fun and a little different for this year's celebration. Chag sameach!



1 medium sized pumpkin---cut a lid and scoop out seeds---save the lid 1 1/4 c stock

1 c Israeli couscous

1 red onion, chopped

1 green pepper, chopped

2 stalks celery, chopped 1 carrot, chopped

1 1/2 c ground beef or chicken or turkey

2 Tbsp. olive oil

3 Tbsp. honey

1/4 c golden raisins

1/4 c dried apricots, chopped

1/4 c dried cherries

3/4 c white wine

Place pumpkin on a rimmed baking sheet. In a saucepan, bring the stock to a boil, add couscous, bring back to a boil, cover and let sit off the heat for 10 minutes. In a pan, sauté veggies in olive oil until soft, add meat and sauté until meat is cooked through. Add honey, wine, dried fruits and couscous. Stir to combine. Add salt and pepper to taste. I also add a little cinnamon. Place all in the scooped out cavity of pumpkin, place on the lid and bake at 350 for 1 1/2 hours, or until the pumpkin is fork tender. To serve, scoop out some of the filling and pumpkin, enjoy!









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**Department of Jewish Thought** 712 Clemens Hall - University at Buffalo Buffalo, NY 14260 TEL 716-645-3695 Email: jewishstudies@buffalo.edu http://www.jewishstudies.buffalo.edu/ Dr. Sergey Dolgopolski, Chair

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

Congregation Shir Shalom (Reform/ Reconstructionist) 4660 Sheridan Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 TEL 716-633-8877 Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein Cantor Arlene Frank Joanne Marquisee - Executive Director Todd Sugarman - President www.shirshalombuffalo.org

Congregation Havurah 6320 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221 Bernard Schenkler, President Annette Pinder, Membership Chair TEL 716-689-2256 www.congregationhavurah.org info@congregationhavurah.org

### **Kehillat Ohr Tzion**

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Due to postal regulations, the Jewish Journal of Western New York will no longer be forwarded to "temporary change" addresses.

If you plan to be away from your permanent address and will have your first class mail forwarded to your temporary address and would like to continue to receive the Jewish Journal over the winter or the summer, please call Nadine Ryback at 716-204-2248 to give us your "temporary" address. Thank you!



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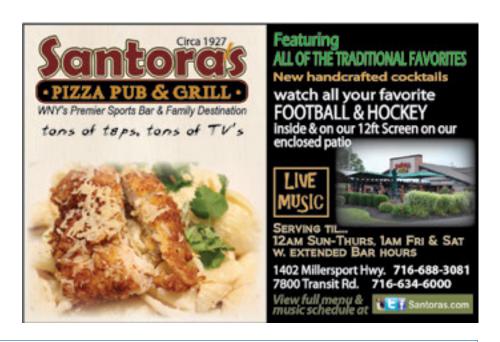
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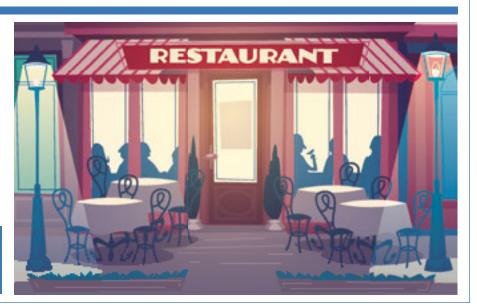
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Thursday, October 5, 10:30 AM **Temple Beth Zion** 805 Delaware Avenue Lunch following service

### **Erev Simchat Torah Service**

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Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 PM **Temple Beth Zion** 805 Delaware Avenue Potluck dinner in the Rabbi Fink Auditorium Please R.S.V.P. for dinner no later than October 6. 7 PM service in the Sanctuary

### **Simchat Torah Service** and Yizkor

Monday, October 12, 10:30 AM **Congregation Shir Shalom** 4660 Sheridan Drive

Light lunch to following service

These services are sponsored by Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom, Congregation Havurah and Temple Beth El in Niagara Falls.



# Visions of Zion: Meeting Kehillat Ohr Tzion's Rabbi Ori Bergman



### By Ezra N. Rich

With close family ties to Buffalo and Toronto, Rabbi Ori Bergman assumed leadership of Kehillat Ohr Tzion in August. Together with his wife, Nora, and their children, Reuven, Simcha, and Devorah Leah, they bring a special flame of warmth to Buffalo's Jewish community.

Rabbi Bergman employs an accessible and forward-looking vision which he packed with him during his move to Buffalo from Long Island, N.Y. "It's not if, but how," is his approach to the role of synagogues and Jewish life in ensuring a vibrant Jewish future. "We need to shift from looking at what we need to survive to what we are needed for. Let's look outside the box to respond to what the Jewish people need and how to best respond to the needs of every individual person," he adds with a smile.

### Kindling the Light

As spiritual leader of Kehillat Ohr Tzion, the Modern Orthodox shul on Hopkins Road in Williamsville, Rabbi Bergman savors the message he sees in the synagogue's name whose English translation is "Congregation Light of Zion". "The name conveys the opportunity we have in Buffalo," he explains. "That is, to become a shining light for Jews of all backgrounds. A light may sometimes appear dim but remembering that a tiny light banishes a lot of darkness

reminds us of the significance of every small act. A name represents its essence, signifying that our purpose is to bring light, hope and meaning to peoples' lives."

Rabbi Bergman also sees the name as a great representation of Buffalo, in general, and Kehillat Ohr Tzion, in particular. "My family has found elements of goodness and light here already. Just like Zion is open to all Jews, when we came, we felt completely embraced by the community, like we were amongst old friends."

The congregation is upbeat about their new rabbi. "Rabbi Bergman brings an enthusiasm and excitement to Ohr Tzion. He is constantly out and about in the community meeting as many people as he can. He has great plans on how to make our kehillah grow!" says Jeff Schapiro, president of Kehillat Ohr Tzion.

In addition to his congregational leadership, Rabbi Bergman recently joined the faculty of Kadimah Academy.

### **Buffalo Bonds**

Nora Bergman grew up in the Berkshires of Massachusetts as the daughter of a Buffalonian. Her grandmother, Tilly Lazerson, is an active member of the community, as are her cousins, Sruli and Adina Lazerson. "It is so special to be here in Buffalo, she says. "I have many childhood memories visiting family here and it is special to now live here with my young

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, she previously worked at Adamah, a Jewish environmental organization, and is currently becoming a certified Doula.

### **Caffeinated Connections**

Lately, Rabbi Bergman can often be found holding court at the Dash's MarketSide Café on the corner of Hopkins and Klein in Williamsville. In addition to working through Dash's coffee rewards cards at an impressive pace, the venue allows him to interact with a range of community members. "Traditionally, Jews connected via the shul (synagogue), but now the shul needs to come to the people. Everyone should feel embraced and invited. We must engage with them meaningfully,"

Reflecting on his encounters with Jews of various backgrounds, he observes, "I've never met a Jew who doesn't want to be Jewish; they just don't want to be judged allowing them to grow from their level. While we might not always agree, it's important to distinguish between approval and acceptance of other people. Love grows from acceptance," he explains.

### The Quest for Growth

A rabbi with a strong affinity for Chassidic teachings, he uses the famous story of Rabbi Zusya of Anipoli as an example. Laying on his deathbed, Rabbi Zusya was crying. Eager to comfort him, his disciples asked why he was crying, noting that he had been a great teacher, a luminary of his generation. "I'm not worried that God will say why weren't you as great as Moses," he replied. "How am I going to answer Him, when asked if I was the best Zusya I could've been." Rabbi Bergman believes in focusing on the individual's Jewish journey, "People want authenticity and to not be judged," he says. "Torah can speak to every person, allowing them to grow on their own level. Every additional Mitzvah (commandment) counts."

Emphasizing the importance of continued personal development, he quotes Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, "If I am not better yesterday than today, what need do I have for tomorrow?" Rabbi Bergman adds, "Everything has a time and place. The physical world is here for us to elevate it in the service of a higher purpose."

Reflecting on relationships, he cites the Tzemach Tzedek (the third rebbe of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement) who was asked why it is that children, if hurt, will quickly forgive and will play with the person again two minutes later, but an adult can hold a grudge his or her entire life. The

reason is because a child prefers to be close to a person rather than to be right, while an adult prefers to be right rather than to be close. "When the Torah says to "choose life," it's saying, choose closeness to God and to your fellow. If I had to sum it up, I would say, it's all about relationships," Rabbi Bergman

### Canadian and Israeli Influences

Rabbi Bergman was raised in Toronto, the son of a Romanian father and an Israeli mother from Nahariya. Israel's northernmost coastal city, Nahariya is part of the Western Galilee region, an area connected to Buffalo through Federation's Partnership2Gether Consortium. After earning Bachelor's and Law degrees from York University, Rabbi Bergman worked at an immigration law firm in Toronto during which he met his wife Nora.

They subsequently lived in Israel, first in Tzfat (Safed) then in Gush Etzion, where Rabbi Bergman participated in the Hesder Yeshiva system that combines, for Israelis, service in the Israel Defense Forces with advanced Judaic studies. He received ordination from Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg and Kollel Torat Yosef, an institution under the auspices of Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone and Chief Rabbi of Efrat.

Concurrently, Nora studied at Machon Alte Seminary while they both completed Amiel, a program focused on training rabbis and educators to work abroad with Jewish communities. Their oldest son, Reuven, was born in Tzfat. Rabbi Bergman then served as rabbi at the Stony Brook Hebrew Congregation in Long Island. During their two years there, they welcomed daughters Simcha and Devorah Leah into their family.

If you run into Rabbi Bergman around town, be friendly and say hello. It will be well worth your time.

Ezra N. Rich, a marketing communications professional, is fortunate that the Bergmans live down the block from his family.

### Rabbi Jonathan Porath to be Rabbi Isaac Klein Scholar In Residence at Beth Tzedek

### SAVE THE DATE: November 10-12

Temple Beth Tzedek is excited to host Rabbi Jonathan Porath as an honored quest as he speaks to us and educates us on a variety of timely topics. Rabbi Jonathan Porath is the nephew of the beloved Rabbi Samuel Porrath (of blessed memory,) who served for many years at Temple Beth El in Buffalo, a forerunner of TBT. More details will follow in the November issue of the Jewish Journal. Please contact Myra Werbow (myrawerbow@verizon.com) or Fern Bernstein (fbernstein31@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



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# PALS-Kadimah Learns about Honey for the New Year

Kadimah students were learning about Rosh Hashanah. Where did honey come from? Father Ryszard, a beekeeper and a Catholic priest taught us about bees and honey.

He grew up in Poland and loved to go to the library as a child. He'd go every day after school and would spend hours reading. When he was about 10 years old, the librarian gave him the job of collecting all the books that people brought back and return them to the shelves. One afternoon he saw a book way up high on the shelf. He got a chair and took down the book. It was written in 1902, 100 years before he found it. He noticed, as he turned to the back of the book, that nobody had ever taken this book out, so he decided he must read it. The book was all about bees and honey. It was then that his interest in beekeeping began. When Ryszard was in 6th grade, he saved enough money to buy his first bee box. He has been a beekeeper ever since.

Father Ryszard is now the secretary to the Bishop of Buffalo and does beekeeping in his spare time. He has over a hundred hives now, some of













them holding more than 100.000 bees. The different colors of the honey depend on what flower the pollen came from. The darker the flower, the darker the honey. The children dipped apples in both the dark honey and the light honey. It was a tie vote! Both were delicious! L'Shana Tovah from PALS-Kadimah

### **TBZ Sisterhood to Participate in Annual Breast Cancer Walk**



TBZ Sisterhood members at the 2017 Walk

### Saturday, October 14

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion has been walking as a team in the Annual Breast Cancer Walk, sponsored by our local chapter of the American Cancer Society, for many years and has raised more than \$1,000 to donate to this effort. Please join them this year! If you would like to walk or donate, please call Marilyn Schillroth at 832-4757.

### **TBZ Achim Hosts Mark Goldman** 10/8

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion's October Achim program will be held Sunday, October 8, at 10:00am at Weinberg Campus. The group will meet at the lounge in the Meadows Building, located on the second floor, at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road in Getzville. The program is held in the building across from the rear entrance to the Jewish Community Center.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Mark Goldman, a renowned local entrepreneur and civic activist who will lead a discussion entitled" Buffalo Stories: The People of Weinberg ". We hope to intertwine the life experiences of Weinberg residents and guests with the history of the Buffalo area. It will be very interesting, educational and enjoyable.

Achim is a monthly program for the benefit of the residents, and their quests, at the Weinberg Campus and is open to the public at no cost. All are welcome and questions will be encouraged. For further information, please contact Ken Graber, at 681-9885, Kamas5@ aol.com.

# **TBZ Women of** the Book

Temple Beth Zion's Cantor Penny Myers is looking forward to embarking on another year of learning, connecting and noshing with Women of the Book. After Anat Hoffman's powerful visit to TBZ in March, we are inspired to discover/study her Women of the Wall Siddur. Also as a supplement, a new publication is gaining tremendous ground and interest - Pirkei

Women of the Book meets once a month at members' homes from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and the dates correspond as closely to Rosh Chodesh (the beginning of a Jewish month) as possible and as schedules permit. Women of the Book will resume on October 10 at Cantor Myers' home. If you would like to come or have any questions, please contact Jennelle at 836-6565 or jennelle@tbz.org.

### **KOT Art Auction**



Planners for the Kehillat Ohr Tzion art auction included Karen Marks, Phyllis Steinberg, Beth Weiss, Chervl Weiss

Kehillat Ohr Tzion members and friends had a fun-filled evening at their successful art auction in September. Numbers were randomly distributed to the bidders at the silent auction so no one knew who acquired each lithograph until all the bidding was over. Throughout the evening quests mingled with each other while sampling desserts, liqueurs and wines and enjoying the micro-calligraphy art work.

### **Bereavement Support** Group @ TBZ

The Bereavement Support group of Temple Beth Zion is lay-led by members of the group in an informal and warm setting. All members of the community are welcome! The group meets once per month in the Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road. For more information, contact Carol Caserta at (716) 873-2836.

# **Blaine Schwartz: Jewish Community Advocate**

**By Peter Simon** 

The dramatic mid-career change of Blaine Schwartz was rewarded recently when a prestigious legal ranking service cited him for excellence in commercial real estate law. Yet, it wasn't supposed to be that way.



"I always wanted to be a journalist," said Schwartz, Chairman of the Board of Jewish Family Services and member of Federation's Executive Committee. "I think the appeal of it was the opportunity to get beneath the surface and explain what was really going on."

Schwartz, now 64, began his media career in 1975 as a Radio News Director in Rochester, and later was a News Anchor in Cleveland and a reporter and Midwest correspondent for National Public Radio and NBC. He broke the story of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame coming to Cleveland, and played a major role in a "60 Minutes" piece on questionable surgical practices.

The Kenmore native later earned a law degree from Cleveland State University and several years later became in-house counsel for the Benderson Development Company, where he worked from 1990 to 2004. Now a partner in the Buffalo firm of Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman, Schwartz said he decided to leave radio news because he sensed that stations were preparing to cut back on reporting and reduce staff and professional opportunities. "I think I saw the future of radio news earlier than most people," he said.

As an attorney, he was involved in a

\$2.2 billion multi-property transaction, as well as shopping malls, senior citizen and college student housing, hotels and apartments. He was recently cited by Chambers and Partners, a British ratings agency, for his skills and experience in commercial real estate law.

After many years of deep involvement at Temple Beth Am, now Congregation Shir Shalom. Schwartz is now Chairman of Jewish Family Services, Vice President of the Bureau of Jewish Education and Vice President of Buffalo Jewish Federation. The Amherst resident emphasizes the broad range of services provided by Jewish Family Services, and feels the contributions of Jewish institutions are substantial and growing.

"Our community is going through a tremendous transition right now," he said. "I think it will end up stronger and more cohesive than it's been in years."

Schwartz and his wife, Joanie, have been married for 33 years. Their son, Michael, is in his first year at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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

### **PJ Library Tot Shabbat** Friday, October 20, at 5:45 PM

### Temple Beth Zion Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

There will be snacks, song, stories, prayer and fun! Pizza and snacks will be served. Join us for this kid-friendly evening, sponsored by PJ Library. (See ad on page 6). For more information, contact Melissa Milch at 836-6565, Ext. 139, or pals@tbz.org.



Jewish Discovery Center









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Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 Kol Nidrei Services: 6:45 pm Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

Morning Services: 10:00 am Yizkor Memorial Service: 12:30 pm Neilah Closing Service: 6:30 pm Break The Fast Meal: 7:45 pm

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PHOTOGRAPH BY HC KRATT

### Thank you to Sylvia L. Rosen for her leadership as an artist, educator and philanthropist.

Join us at The Center on Saturday, October 14 from 6pm until 8pm for the opening of Art in Craft Media 2017 presented by the Sylvia L. Rosen Endowment for Fine Art in Craft Media.

The exhibition is on view though January 28, 2018 and features more than 50 works by 48 Western New York artists working in clay, metal, fiber, glass and wood.



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# September 29 Yom Kippur begins at Sundown

### September 30

Yom Kippur observed

### October 2

JRT Gala

Hotel Henry. 6:00-8:00 PM. \$125 /person.

Contact www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com or call Jordana Halpern at 716-204-2255

### October 3-4

Anne Frank Project-9th Annual Social Justice Festival at Buffalo State College www.annefrankproject.com. 716-878-5559

### October 4

Sukkot begins at sundown

### October 5-11

Sukkot, the harvest festival, is celebrated

### October 12

Shemini Atzerek celebrated

### October 13

Simchat Torah is celebrated

### October 15

Souper Soup Cook-Off for Jewish Repertory Theatre 2:00-4:00 PM. \$5 donation.

JCC/ Benderson Building. Contact www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com or call Jordana Halpern at 716-204-2255

### October 15

**Buffalo Celebrates Israel-Eagles'** Wings Event

6:00 PM. New Covenant Tabernacle. 345 McConkey Drive. 1-800-519-4647

### October 18

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies **Annual Meeting** 

5:30 PM- reception. 7:00 PM program. Mary Seaton Room, Kleinhans Music Hall. Free and open to the public. Call 716-204-1133 to reserve your space

### October 19

**David Blitzer Lecture** 

@ UB Dept. of Jewish Thought. 7:00 PM. 107 Capen Hall on the UB North Campus. Free.

### October 20

Tot Shabbat.

5:45 PM. TBZ Broder Building. Call Mandy Weiss at 716-241-2241

### October 23

"If Everyone Read The Same Book"

program through the BJE Adult Education dept. 7:00 PM. Audubon Public Library. 350 Audubon Parkway.

For information contact Susan Schwartz at susan@bjebuffalo.org

### October 24

Genetics and You- a program about Jewish genetic diseases like Gaucher's, breast and ovarian cancer.

7:00 PM. JCC/ Sellers Theatre. Free but reservations are a must! Call Keren Green at 716-204-2250.

Kids Sukkah Hop



Hop in to the limousine as we explore some of the local Succot in the neighborhood, while nashing and playing fun activities. Sunday, October 8th, 11:00 am

Jewish Discovery Center

757 Hopkins Road Williamsville, NY 14221 716 639-7600 JewishBuffalo.c

# Self-reflection strengthens the community!

Susan Goldberg Schwartz, Director of Adult Learning

The end of summer always signals the approach of the Jewish New Year. How lucky we are that our Jewish calendar provides us an entire month to prepare! Through introspection and reflection, we think about the possibilities and set new goals for the upcoming year. Hopefully, Jewish learning is on your list of goals for 5778!

The Bureau of Iewish Education's Adult Learning Department is pleased to offer a number of learning opportunities to encourage group conversations along with personal reflection and self-discovery.

### What if Everyone Read the Same Book?

You are invited to read the book, My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Iew, by Abigail Pogrebin, and join in community conversations being held throughout the year. The Jewish Book Council writes of this book, ""With wit, warmth, and the fierce, searching curiosity that is her trademark, Abigail Pogrebin takes us on an intimate, powerful journey as she reckons with her faith and commitment, and in so doing, gives us the gift of exploring our own." With guiding questions from the author, along with corresponding Mussar texts, we will begin our own exploration of why, as Jews, we live, celebrate and do what we do.

Our first meeting will take place on Monday, October 23, 7:00-8:15pm, at the Audubon Branch of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 350 John J. Audubon Pkwy., Amherst, NY 14228.

We will be discussing Chapter 8, Simchat Torah with the Mussar Middah of Zerizut/Enthusiasm. On Simchat Torah we rejoice with the Torah, ending and beginning our reading again on the same day. Mussar teaches us to do so with enthusiasm. Showing up is not enough!

Additional conversations will take place on the following dates (locations tbd):

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 Chapters 9-10: Chanukah Hakarat Hatov/Gratitude

Thursday, January 25, 2018 Chapter 13: Tu B'Shvat Chesed/ Loving-kindness

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Chapter 16:Passover Tzedek/Justice

Monday, May 7, 2018 Chapter 22: Shavuot Emet/Truth **JCC Benderson** 

Jewish Identity in Film, Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30pm, JCC Benderson Building Instructor: Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D. Session 1 (10/25 to 11/15):

Jews in the Arts and Entertainment What are some of the best films that accurately depict Jewish life, history, art, and values? Taught in an interactive and collaborative format where clips from feature-length and short films are examined and discussed, specific themes

GPS: A Guide to the Pages of the Siddur, Thursdays, 12:00-1:30pm, JCC Benderson Building

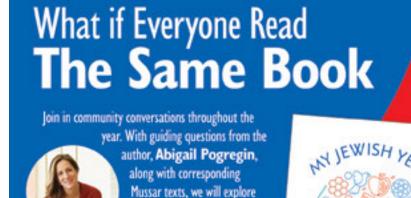
will be addressed and explored.

Instructor: Dr. Ted Steinberg October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7, 14, 21

The Siddur is not just a prayer book. It is arguably the most important anthology of Jewish literature, with writings ranging from antiquity to modern times! This course will serve as a guide to the history, organization, meaning, and significance of this central Jewish book by looking at that core and then at those differences and will include visits to a number of local synagogues

For more information about Adult Learning programs, please contact Susan Schwartz, Director of Adult Learning, susan@bjebuffalo.org or 716-204-5830. Please look for more details and registration information on our website www.bjebuffalo.org/adultlearning.

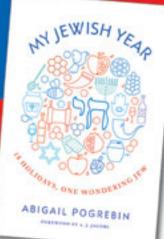
"The purpose of learning...is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live." (Mortimer Adler, philosopher and educator) Let's make Jewish Buffalo an engaged and transformative learning community!



why, as Jews, we live, celebrate

and do what we do.

October 23: Simchat Torah / Zerizut — Enthusiasm December 5: Chanukah / Hakarat Hatov — Gratitude January 25: Tu B'Shevat / Chesed — Lovingkindness March 27: Passover / Tzedek - Justice May 7: Shavout / Emet - Truth



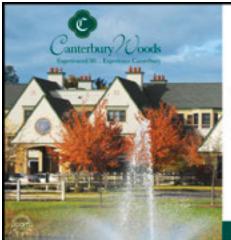
### **Events are Free and Open to the Community**

All meetings will be held @ 7:00 pm at different locations throughout Buffalo

For more information or to register, contact: Susan Schwartz, susan@bjebuffalo.org

BUFFALO IEWISH FEDERATION





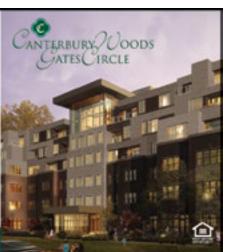
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# UB Dept. of Jewish Thought Presents New Book Launch

### By Cecile Shmookler

The Department of Jewish Thought at the University at Buffalo proudly announces the launch of Professor Alex Green's new book, The Virtue Ethics of Levi Gersonides (Palgrave MacMillan, 2016).

Rabbi Levi ben Gershom, otherwise known as Gersonides (1288-1344), was one of the foremost Iewish thinkers of the medieval period. He lived in Provence, which was a leading center of Jewish scientific and philosophical research and translation. There was a cohort of Jewish thinkers in Provence who were translating works of science and philosophy from Arabic into Hebrew, many of which had originally been in Greek. They were influenced by, and considered themselves students of, Moses Maimonides, who presented one of the most influential and controversial syntheses of the worlds of religion and science, in his legal code the Mishneh Torah, and his philosophical work, The *Guide for the Perplexed.* 

Gersonides was a philosopher, astronomer, mathematician and Torah commentator. He tried to show that science and the Bible were compatible and that one must interpret the Bible in a way that is consonant with the achievements of the intellect, that is to say, with observable facts and human reason. Some of the arguments he used raised the ire of later Bible scholars. For example, in looking for natural causes for the miracles in the Bible, he explained that the walls of Jericho fell down because the trampling of the feet and the loud noise of the trumpets caused vibrations to destabilize the city walls; on the problem of divine knowledge and free will, he proposed the astonishing theory that God knows beforehand only the possibilities open to man but not which actual choice an individual will make, since man was created with free will.

Dr. Green's book opens up new vistas in an area of Gersonides' writings which has hitherto been little explored, that is, his ethical thought. Gersonides follows the ancient (Greek) understanding of ethics, known as virtue ethics. Virtue ethics emphasize the development of good character traits for the successful pursuit of happiness. The assumption is that good character traits lead to proper conduct and the consequent ordering of human and social relations on a sound



basis. This is in contrast to rules based ethics which are framed by a legal code or an unambiguous moral framework. For example, under virtue ethics, I may give tzedakah because I am generous. Under a legal system I may be obligated to pay a tax to provide lunches for needy children whether I feel like it or not, or whether I agree or disagree with the policy. The first leaves good character development up to the individual; the other operates by force of law.

In his commentaries, Gersonides tries

to show that the narratives of Torah serve as examples of how to develop certain specific character traits (*middot*, in Hebrew). A simple example of this would be the trait of generosity, which Abraham demonstrated in his rush to provide hospitality to his three unknown guests. Gersonides posits that the Torah contains examples of two different types of character traits. The first set is a response to the seemingly capricious forces of the world, which require endeavor, diligence, and cunning – all in

the name of physical self-preservation. The second set comprises altruistic traits based on God Himself, who created the world and all the laws of the universe in lovingkindness, grace, and beneficence. It is the human task to develop both sets of traits, for without the ability to stand and speak and act (self-preservation), how then, would it be possible to enact the Godly attributes (altruism) among ourselves? On its face, this sounds eminently reasonable. But, there are those, like Nahmanides (also known as The Ramban), who would argue that endeavor, diligence, and cunning applied to the goal of self-preservation is in direct opposition to the notion of having faith that God will provide.

The study of medieval virtue ethics is especially relevant today in light of its revival by contemporary philosophers such as Alasdair MacIntyre and Martha Nussbaum. Both have attempted to reexamine the historical debates about the meaning of character and virtue as a framework in which to think about how different ethical models can co-exist in a modern pluralistic society.

Dr. Green will be speaking about his new book and its relevance at Samuel Friedman Library, Department of Jewish Thought, Room 708 Clemens Hall, North Campus of SUNY at Buffalo at 7:00 PM Wedensday November 1, 2017. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact jewishthought@buffalo.edu. Parking is free. Park in the Baird Lot. Clemens Hall is the tallest building almost directly in front of you as you gaze uphill.

### **DR. GREEN TO SPEAK**

Wednesday, November 1

### LEVI GERSONIDES: A Medieval Case for Why Character Matters

The Department of Jewish Thought at SUNY Buffalo proudly announces the publication of The Virtue Ethics of Levi Gersonides by faculty member Dr. Alexander Green. Dr. Green will be speaking about his book on Wednesday November 1 at 7:00 PM in the Samuel Friedman Library, Department of Jewish Thought, Room 708 Clemens Hall, North Campus of the University at Buffalo. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact jewish-thought@buffalo.edu. Parking is free. All are invited.

### **ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP LAUNCH EVENT OCTOBER 25TH**

The Israel Scholarship Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies in collaboration with the High School of Jewish Studies of the Bureau of Jewish Education will hold an Israel Information Night on Wednesday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lippman Lounge on the Second Floor of the Jewish Community Center Benderson Family Building. The program will feature a panel of teenagers who have recently traveled to Israel and will be moderated by Jill Komm, Executive Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education. The panel will speak about the amazing experience that they had in Israel when they participated in one of the numerous summer or semester programs sponsored by national Jewish organizations.

Catherine Shuman Miller, Chair of the Israel Scholarship Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, announced that a limited amount of financial assistance is available for high school and college age students to travel and study in Israel. Students participating in approved programs will be eligible for assistance for the upcoming summer based upon financial need. Over the past thirty-two years, 179

students have been recipients of grants totaling \$185,100.

Scholarships will be awarded from individual endowment funds, which have been established by donors for this special purpose. The Foundation administers the following funds, which provide Israel scholarships:

Jeannette & Sydney S. Abzug Fund Dr. Nathan & Toby Ticktin Back Fund Hvman & Ruth Benatovich Memorial Fund Joseph and Anna Gartner Foundation Fund Dr. Irwin & Sylvia Ginsberg Fund Mildred & Jack Haniford Fund Milton J. Hurwitz Fund Dvorah & Donald Joseph Fund Joel & Norman Katz Memorial Fund Mary F. Levine Fund Lila & Shay Mintz Fund **Nobel Family Fund** Harvey & Nancy Schiller Fund Anna Schwartz Memorial Fund Howard & Leslie Zemsky Israel Experience Fund



Donors have the satisfaction of helping young people have an experience of a lifetime and seeing the income from their gift used year after year for countless students into the future. Such funds are dedicated in the donor's name or to honor or memorialize loved ones. Donors may also designate qualifications for scholarship recipients; i.e., members of a particular temple or students at a particular school.

The goal of the Israel Scholarship Committee is to encourage participation of our young people in structured and supervised programs of travel to Israel under Jewish organizational auspices. Applications will be reviewed by a volunteer committee composed of members active in religious and communal institutions in the area and grants will be awarded on the basis of three factors:

- 1. Financial need
- 2. Demonstrated Iewish commitment
- 3. Potential to make a contribution to the Jewish community

Applications and information are available at the Foundation office, 2640 North Forest Road, Suite 200, Getzville, NY 14068; phone 204-1133. Deadline for submission of applications for the coming summer is Friday, December 1st.

Raymond L. Fink, President, and the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies cordially invite you to attend the



Keynote Speaker

Adina Schwartz from 21/64 - Next Generation Philanthropy "Engaging Families in Legacy Giving"



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Chana Kotzin Charlotte Gendler Ralph Halpem Harold Halpem





Remembering

Rabbi Shay and Lila Mintz **Legacy Leaders** 



Wednesday, October 18, 2017 Mary Seaton Room, Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo, New York 5:30 pm Reception with Stations · 7:00 pm Meeting and Awards

Kosher catering by the Hyatt Regency

Free and open to the community

Supervision by Buffalo Vaad HaKashrus

### A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST YEAR WITH YAD B'YAD

By Cindi Mikulik, Yad B'Yad Director

As we enjoy the time of the High Holidays and reflection, this is a good opportunity to take a look back at what Yad B'Yad did over the past year. A full calendar of programs and events was offered to all of the Yad B'Yad groups. Monthly meetings were held for adults with Aspergers'. Group participants engaged in discussions on various issues that were of interest and concern to them. This group is open and always ready to welcome new people!

There were also monthly programs with the residents of the Women's Jewish Group Home. Programs focused on Jewish holidays and Torah study. In addition, residents and their families enjoyed a summer evening on their back porch singing campfire favorites with Samantha Sugarman.

A wide variety of programs was offered to Yad B'Yad participants over the summer, including the Pride Festival, an outdoor Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra



Women's Jewish Group Home Residents singing with Sam Sugarman

concert, an evening with Elvis impersonator Terry Buchwald, the Glen Park Art Festival. a performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and the Canalside Boardwalk Bazaar.

We are looking forward to lots of fun and

varied programs in the coming year and will be working on expanding our reach in the community. 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.

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### A NEW YEAR AT HEBREW HIGH!

**By Melissa Schreiber,** Assistant Principal

A fresh perspective to Jewish learning is taking place at Hebrew High this year, which began on Wednesday, September 27 at the JCC. Hebrew High will be continuing experiential learning while teaching from the perspective of the students. New classes such as Mindfully Crazy, Today's Jewish Portrait, and What's Your Jewish Journey use experiential learning and focus on what is important in the lives of our students.



Teens today are very busy and have hectic schedules. Mindfully Crazy is a new class taught by Rabbi Adam Scheldt that focuses on helping students to unwind and take a breath with yoga taught through a Jewish lens.

Social media has taken over and is a direct impact to how students are forming their opinions. Another new class- Today's Jewish Portrait taught by Hannah Lapides will discuss the influence that social media and imagery has on forming students' Jewish identity. The students will be able to explore the art of photography and capture an image of what Jewish identity means to them.

Trying to find a place in the world is a difficult task, but with What's Your Jewish Journey, taught by Ori Bergman, students will explore past Jewish biblical journeys, how they have shaped us as a people, and use these stories to reflect their own journey and what path they want to take in life.

As technology progresses and the world changes, Hebrew High's continued focus is to incorporate new ideas and perspectives into our offerings. With these classes, and many more like them, students will be able to reflect on what is important in their life, and gain understanding through a Jewish lens. There is still room available! To register please visit our website at: WWW.BJEBUFFALO.ORG/HEBREWHIGH. For more information please contact Jill Komm, Principal - 716-204-5380 or, jill@bjebuffalo.org





(716) 885 5000 bpo.org

# **BILL MURRAY, JAN VOGLER** & FRIENDS: NEW WORLDS



### Wed. Oct. 11, 8pm

Experience the genius of Bill Murray in a one-of-a-kind evening; singing, reciting poetry, and other unforgettable moments, accompanied by a trio of internationally-renowned musicians.



### JUST IMAGINE Tribute to John Lennon featuring Tim Piper Fri. Oct. 13, 8pm

An extraordinary celebration of the life and music of John Lennon in a unique, multimedia concert experience.

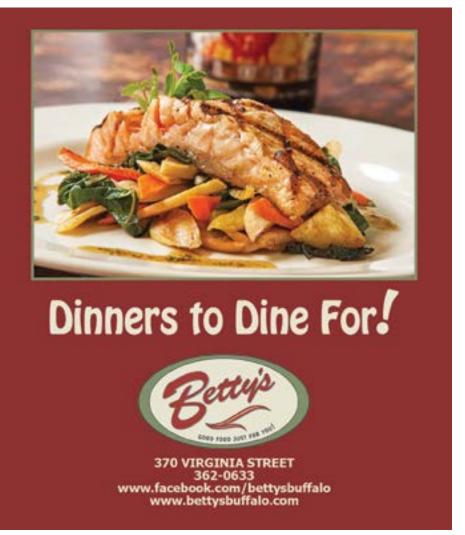


CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE Fri. Oct. 27, 10:30am KeyBank 🗪 Sat. Oct. 28, 8pm John Morris Russell, conductor



Sat. Nov. 4, 8pm Sun. Nov. 5, 2:30pm JoAnn Falletta, conductor Konrad Skolarski, piano

Classics





# **CATCHING UP WITH JEWISH** FEDERATION APARTMENTS



Jewish Federation Apts. Activities Director Carol Steuernagel with volunteers Jill Bronsky, Ellen Baum, Rhonda Wise, Nancy Greenberg, with Antoinette D'Alfonso in the front at the end of summer barbeque.



Master Grillers Steve Greenberg and Mike Wise



Award winner auilter. Judi Stern came to Jewish Federation Apts. to show her handmade quilts and tell a little about what goes into making a quilt.



The crowd enjoying the evening



A group of tenants went to Transit Lanes for an evening of bowling. Volunteer Jonah Slabodkin and Activities Director, Rhonda Wise accompanied them.



# DISCOVER THE POWER OF ALL-GIRLS AT **SEM**

Among the oldest girls' schools in New York State, SEM has been dedicated to creating a culture of achievement, scholarship, and leadership tailored for girls since 1851.

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# Updating History of the Jewish Community of Western NY

### By Harold M. Halpern

In 1960, Dr. Selig Adler, distinguished professor of history, and Dr. Thomas E. Connolly, professor of English, both of The State University of New York at Buffalo, published From Ararat to Suburbia: The History of the Jewish Community of Buffalo. Their research materials were subsequently deposited at the Buffalo State College, State University of New York Butler Library, together with the materials of the late Rabbi Isaac Klein, Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Buffalo and rabbinic scholar.

In 1980, Dr. Adler retired from his professorship at SUNYAB and was prevailed upon by the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo to consolidate the Jewish archives of the Buffalo community. At that time, Leonard Rochwarger was President of the Jewish Federation and Morris Rombro was the Executive Director. Dr. Adler was a preeminent historian, not an archivist. However, he developed a relationship with Sister Martin Joseph, archivist and special collections librarian at Buffalo State College who helped Dr. Adler become an "apprentice archivist" and out of their mutual work was born the seeds of the present day Jewish Buffalo Archives Project.

In 1984, their research materials were donated to the Buffalo State College, State University of New York Butler Library, together with the materials of the late Rabbi Isaac Klein, Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Buffalo and distinguished rabbinic scholar. On June 28, 1984, they were dedicated as the Selig Adler Jewish Archives of Greater Buffalo.

In the early 2000's Ralph L. Halpern, then the president of the Bureau of Jewish Education, promoted the idea of updating

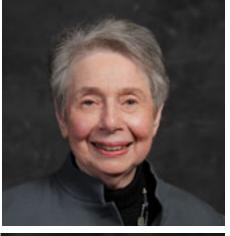
the Jewish history of Buffalo by gathering current and previously unavailable historical materials with the goal of publishing a sequel to the Adler/Connolly book. With the assistance of his son Rick Halpern, Professor of History at the University of Toronto, a detailed outline of the process was prepared together with the required budget.

In 2005 while I was BIE President and Evie Weinstein was Executive Director, the Bureau of Jewish Education continued the pursuit of Ralph Halpern's dream. Funding of the project was the immediate need. The project's initial funding request began as a memorable evening.

In November of 2005, the United Jewish Communities/Federations of North America General Assembly met in Toronto, Canada. The Buffalo delegation included Peter Fleischmann, CEO of The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. Before the opening session of the General Assembly, Evie Weinstein arranged a meeting in Toronto with Rick Halpern. Rick updated his previously prepared budget outline for the projected Archives Project and reviewed it with Evie and Harold. He broke it into separate and distinct elements to









From top left (clockwise): Harold Halpern, Charlotte Gendler, Dr. Chana Kotzin, Ralph Halpern

enable the project to fund portions over time. After meeting with Rick, Evie and I met with Peter Fleischmann in the lounge of the Royal York Hotel. Over glasses of merlot, Peter enthusiastically endorsed the Archives Project with the promise to aid the Bureau of Jewish Education in raising the necessary funds to get the project off the ground.

In 2006, the Bureau of Jewish Education approved the project and began making the community aware of the program and began its fund raising and planning. During the year, Peter and I met in Sarasota, Florida, with Nathan Benderson, prominent real estate developer and Buffalo philanthropist, about the project. He approved the Bureau of Jewish Education project and committed \$150,000

The project now was no longer a dream but a reality as the project officially began in 2007 under the auspices of the Bureau of Iewish Education. Chana R. Kotzin. Ph. D. a recent arrival in Buffalo from Baltimore, applied for a position to teach at the Bureau of Jewish Education. However, Evie Weinstein quickly determined that she would be perfect to lead the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project as its archivist and

historian. The past ten years has proven her intuition to be absolutely correct.

Again the timing proved perfect. Buffalo State's Butler Library contacted the Bureau and explained that it no longer had space to house the Adler and Klein papers. They needed to be moved. Evie Weinstein succeeded in arranging with John A. Edens, Director, Technical Services, SUNYAB Lockwood Library to move everything to the SUNYAB Special Collections. This was the beginning of an extremely cordial and beneficial relationship.

The Bureau appointed an Advisory Committee for the Project chaired by Charlotte Gendler, active community member and subsequently president of the Bureau. Members, drawn from academia, lay and professional leadership, included Heidi Bamford, Regional Archivist, NY State Documentary Heritage Program; Michael Cohen, M.D., Professor University at Buffalo; Richard A. Cohen, Ph.D. Director, Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage Professor, University at Buffalo; John A. Edens; Shonnie Finnegan, University at Buffalo Archivist Emeritus; Peter Fleischmann, CEO of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies; Michael A. Frisch, Ph.D. Professor of History and

### FOUNDATION HONORS ARCHIVES PROJECT

At its Annual Meeting on October 18th, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies will present the 2017 Community Service Award to the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project of the Bureau of Jewish Education. The meeting will take place in the Mary Seaton Room at Kleinhans Music Hall with a Reception beginning at 5:30 pm. It is free and open to the

The Bureau established the Archives Project in 2007 with the appointment of its Director, Dr. Chana Revell Kotzin, a historian and archivist. The Project fulfilled the shared vision of three distinguished community leaders: Charlotte Gendler, Ralph Halpern and Harold Halpern, all past presidents of the Bureau and all strong advocates for the Project. Along with Dr. Kotzin, they will be recognized by the Foundation and will accept the award on behalf of the Project, now marking its 10th Anniversary.

For over ten years, Chana, working with the Jewish Archives Steering Committee, has diligently assembled important collections from local Jewish community agencies, organizations, temples, synagogues and families. She established a formal affiliation with the University at Buffalo Archives to house and preserve our community's most essential historical documents and records. She authored the first pictorial history of Jewish life in Buffalo and Niagara Falls from the 1840s to the present day. Their collective efforts have created an invaluable resource which will benefit our entire community.

Senior Research Scholar, University at Buffalo; David Gerber, Ph.D. Professor and Department Chair, Department of History, University at Buffalo; myself, my brother Ralph Halpern, Esq.; my nephew Rick Halpern, Ph.D. Principal- New College, University of Toronto, Chana Kotzin, Ph.D.; Maxine Seller, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus University at Buffalo: Barbara Sitrin, Consultant, active community member; Wayne Wisbaum, Esq. Partner Kavinoky, Cook, LLP; and Evie Weinstein, then- Executive Director of the Bureau.

This committee has remained engaged in the project, providing guidance to it and to Dr. Chana R. Kotzin as she gathered historical material that documents the lives and contributions of Jews in Western New York for over 170 years as well as the process of taking oral histories. The vision of comprehensively documenting our community, and building archives to serve scholars, researchers and others who wish to explore our heritage is now served by 65 new collections and an online digital archives.

The Iewish Buffalo Archives Project under Dr. Kotzin's direction has collected. protected, and organized the records from our synagogues, agencies, professional,

fraternal and social organizations, oral histories, business and community records, and family papers highlighting our Jewish presence in Western New York. This has been accomplished with the help of many and in particular the indispensable assistance of the project's partner, the University Archives and Historical Collections within the University at Buffalo. This collection permits scholars and others to access our history and to tell the story of our contributions to our community, to society and to American and world events. And the project and the community owe a deep gratitude to Peter Fleischmann for his collaboration with Chana and for keeping the necessary funds flowing to complete our story -- not an easy task in these times.

And now we all look forward with great anticipation and excitement to the next step--commissioning an updated history of Jewish Buffalo to be authored by Dr. Chana R. Kotzin the director, archivist and historian of the BIE Iewish Buffalo Archives Project, with a targeted completion date of July 2019.

### TRAVEL WITH THE JCC TO

### The Cleveland Museum of Art

Cleveland, Ohio Tuesday, October 24, 2017

\$135 | \$125 JCC Members

This beautiful museum has a collection of more than 30,000 works of art, ranging over 5,000 years.

• Travel by air conditioned Coach bus • Lunch at Corky & Lenny's Deli

• Guided tour of museum

We leave from the JCC Benderson Family Building at 9:00 AM and plan to return by 8:00 PM.

Please register BEFORE October 10th ... Space is Limited!

Please call Karla at 204-2257 for more information. Register at the Front Desk or on-line.

### Mah Jongg Event Wednesday, October 18, 2017

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

\$25 for the entire afternoon

Mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun and Mah Jongg. Beginning with a buffet lunch, followed by an afternoon of play. Make new friends or come with your own group,

and bring your own Mah Jongg set.

Pre-registration required ~ Space is limited!

Register at the Member Services Desk at the Benderson Family Building or contact Karla Wiseman at (716) 204-2257 or kwiseman@jccbuffalo.org before October 10th. Proceeds benefit the JCC Scholarship Fund.

### Hillel Intl. Supports Buffalo Hillel!

Last November, Hillel International CEO Eric Fingerhut visited Buffalo and addressed our community at Federation's 113th Annual Meeting. He left encouraged by the commitment of so many leaders in our community to revitalize Hillel, and he pledged the support of his organization. Fast forward to today, and Buffalo's Hillel has an outstanding new leader, Rabbi Sara Rich, who comes to Buffalo after 6 years at the Princeton Hillel, a second full-time staff member, Logan Woodard, and new investments by Hillel International. The partnership



Eric, Sara & Logan at Hillel Institute

between Hillel International and the Buffalo Iewish Federation and a number of new investors, is a formula for future success on campuses across our community.



# The Future of **Jewish Tradition:**

What should Jewish Thought Be?

### DAVID BLITZER LECTURE SERIES

OCTOBER 19, 2017 7:00pm - 9:00pm

107 Capen Hall Located inside the Silverman Library

This event is free and open to the general public. Parking is free on all campus lots after 3pm

### GUEST SPEAKERS

### Martin Kavka

Florida State University

### David Metzger

Old Dominion University

record by The David Bitzer Lecture Fund & The Department of Jewish Thought jewishthought buffalo edu

elem Staircase with Boy by Eli Frucht www.elfnucht.com

Traditions always respond to new challenges and on that depends their future. At a time when technological thinking facilitates a tacit but dangerous move from democracy to technocracy, turning to intellectual resources of Biblical Ethics and its Jewish tradition as one of the three pillars of Western humanity (along with Greek philosophy and Roman law) becomes vital. It is about reclaiming the role of Jewish tradition as not only and not primarily promoting technological advancement, but also and more importantly developing new ways of thinking in the face of each new challenge and each new responsibility that greets us.

The program will include talks by two of the most intellectually powerful and creative leading scholars in Jewish Thought, professors Martin Kavka and David Metzger, followed by round-table discussion for faculty, students, and community members.

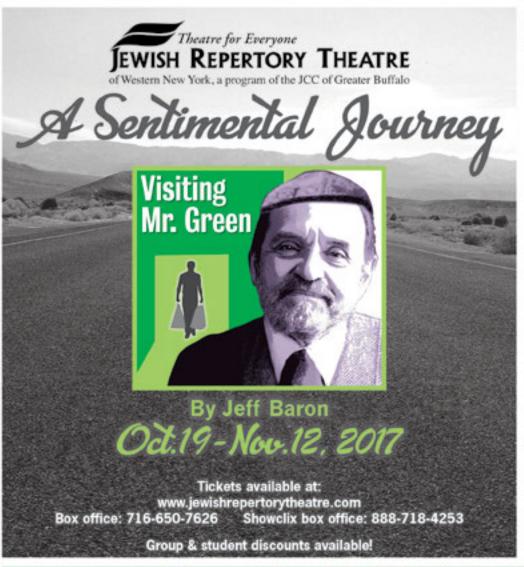






# Happening in October at the







55 donation suggested - children free Family friendly event - everyone welcome!

Savor Soup With JRT!

Join us for soup tasting and judging with WNY's top soup chefs! Hear stories about why each chef has a favorite soup. Sample secret family recipes, learn about curative powers and take home recipes! All soup tasters will be entered in a raffle for 2 tickets to the opening night of VISITING MR. GREEN at the JRT, Thursday, October 19.

RSVP: JRT@jccbuffalo.org or 716-204-2255 \*All soups will be kosher, although not Vaad Supervised

JCC Benderson Family Building, 2nd floor, Lippman Lounge 2640 North Forest Road in Amherst For more information: jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org



As parents enjoy a night out, kids will have a blast during after hours at the J. Swim, play, enjoy kid friendly treats and watch

> Full Member \$25 per child

Gym/CP 530 per child







# JCC Buffalo

### Sukkot

Wednesday, October 4 Center closes at 6:00pm Aquatics until 5:30pm

Thursday, October 5 Center closed

Friday, October 6 Fitness, Aquatics, KP, ECC open **Business Offices closed** 

### Shemini Atzeret

Wednesday, October 11 Center closes at 6:00° Aquatics until 5:30pm

Thursday, October 12 Fitness, Aquatics, KP, **ECCopen Business Offices closed** 

### Simchat Torah

Friday, October 13 Fitness, Aquatics, KP, ECC open Business Offices closed



Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo Benderson Family Building



Getzville

www.jccbuffalo.org

**Holland Family Building** 



Buffalo 787 Delaware Avenue at Summer Street

f iccbuffalo

### JCC Hours

# JRT Proud to be Part of the Buffalo "Buzz"

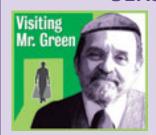
By Dr. Maxine Seller

Everyone is tuned in to the "buzz" about changes that are happening in Buffalo - new industries, new opportunities, new ideas, and new communities. As the city moves forward, it draws on the richness of its past. Old buildings, Buffalo's architectural gems, are being refurbished and filled with life again.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre is proud to be a part of the Buffalo "buzz." We are calling our 15th season, "A Sentimental Journey" because we, too, are honoring our past as we move forward. Our fall and winter productions will include revivals of two of our best loved plays, VISITING MR. GREEN, by Jeff Baron (October 19-November 12, 2017) and ROSE, by Martin Sherman (February 1-February 25, 2018). Our third production, SIGHT UNSEEN (April 19-May 13) will not be a revival, but it will be a new look at love, art, and Jewish identity by the playwright Donald Margulies whom we have featured in our theatre.

JRT is adding its own special note to the Buffalo "buzz." We are celebrating our fifteenth season, fifteen years of being part of the growing cultural scene of Jewish, and non-lewish Western New York. We have thrived for fifteen years because of the quality of our leadership, including founding Artistic Director Saul Elkin, founding Produce David Bunis and Jordana Halpern, Managing Director. We have thrived too because of the skilled and talented people behind

### SEASON INFORMATION



VISITING MR. GREEN by JEFF BARON October 19 - November 12, 2017

Thursdays @ 7:30pm: Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9 Saturdays @ 4pm & 8pm: Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11 Sundays @ 2pm: Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12

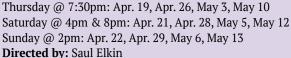
**Directed by:** Steve Vaughan Starring: Saul Elkin and Nick Stevens

### **ROSE by MARTIN SHERMAN** February 1 - February 25, 2018

Thursdays @ 7:30pm: Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22 Saturdays @ 4pm & 8pm: Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 17, Feb. 24 Sundays @ 2pm: Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25

**Directed by:** Saul Elkin **Starring:** Tina Rausa





Starring: Connie Caldwell, Josie DiVincenzo, David Lundy

and Peter Palmisano

century architect Henry Hobson Richardson. It is located just off Elmwood Avenue, adjacent to the Burchfield-Penny Art Center and Buffalo State University College and a short distance from the Albright Knox Art Gallery. Originally designed and used as a state-of-the-art hospital for the mentally ill, this historic facility has dramatically high ceilings and massive windows, thought at the time to have curative powers for the unfortunate inmates. Today these features create stunning interiors that you will want to see and enjoy.

The party will feature music, a delicious supper buffet, drinks, and a chance to chat with old and new friends as you stroll around this refurbished architectural gem. For the curious, tours will be available to see glimpses of the fascinating Buffalo history captured in this building, from the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Tickets for the party are \$125 per person. For tickets or for more information about the 2017-2018 theatre season or the October 2 party, please visit the JRT website at www. jewishrepertorytheatre.com or contact Managing Director Jordana Halpern, at 204-2255. Tickets for this special event, as well as subscriptions for the upcoming season may also be reserved by calling the box office at 716-650-7626.



as well as in front of the curtain — directors, actors, costume, sound, light and set designers, technical staff, and many others - who have maintained consistent high quality in every JRT production. Finally, we have thrived because of the support of the Jewish Community Center, our individual and corporate donors, and our loyal and enthusiastic audiences. On our fifteenth birthday we thank you all.

Join us in celebrating 15 years of JRT success. We will be having a party on Monday, October 2, from 6 to 8 pm at the historic Hotel Henry. An ideal place for our celebration, Hotel Henry is a handsome, modern facility located in an iconic Buffalo building, now a National Historical Landmark, designed by the famous nineteenth



# DÍAZ



A world renown string trio

Tuesday, November 14th at 8 pm

> Mary Seaton Room Kleinhans Music Hall

Program will include works by Mozart and Beethoven

> Dessert reception following concert



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ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Tickets: \$25 / Students free

Info: 716-462-4939

www.bflochambermusic.org

# Kadimah Students Embrace Israel

On their third bi-yearly trip, and in partnership with the Lippman School of Akron, OH, the 7th and 8th graders of Kadimah Academy spent two weeks in Israel this past spring touring the country from Tzfat to Eilat. Following are excerpts from the journals the students were asked to keep.

### **Iane Ablove**

One of my favorite things about the trip was the sand dunes. Into our second week, our tour guide told us we were going on a hike, but surprised us with a stop in desert. We started walking until we got to the dunes. We all started jumping off and rolling around in the soft, water-like sand. It was blissful.

### Norimi Truskinovsky

My Israel trip was an incredible journey, physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. I was very excited to go the Kotel (Western Wall) for the first time, because, as a child, I was told that this is the holiest place to pray. Words cannot explain how amazing I felt there and something in the atmosphere was different, more spiritual.

### **Hailey Epstein**

My favorite activity was rafting on the

Jordan River. My favorite visit to a historical site was the Kotel. It was so special to see all the women on the women's side, praying to G-d. They were all so focused, and emotional. I felt so connected to them. Towards the middle of the trip, we visited our partner school in Hod Hasharon, and got to see what it is like to be in an Israeli school. They had a special school-wide party for us. Our Israeli student guides explained that they have a "dance break" every month.

### Charlie Herman

When we were on the plane and we saw the Land of Israel for the first time, my whole body relaxed. It was beautiful. I saw the coastline, extending all the way across Israel. I had heard about the beaches in Israel.

















From Top left (clockwise):

Hailey Epstein and Norimi Truskinovsky camelback; Jane Ablove and Sophie Schechter; Shira Symons planting a tree; The Group; The Group at Masada; Maya and Jonah Slabodkin; Charlie Herman and Michael Sanders at the Wall; Michael Sanders looking out to sea

I wasn't there yet, but I could see them.

One of the highlights was the visit to the Western Wall. I cannot describe the feeling that I felt when I stepped up to it. It was sort of like meeting a new person; it was awkward at first, but then I felt more comfortable. For me, when I saw Israel for the first time, that IS when I felt at home.

### **Michael Sanders**

Walking into the Old City of Jerusalem is just like stepping back in time. I've never felt so close to my Jewish roots like I did in Jerusalem. Standing in the Old City of Jerusalem on Erev Shabbat gives you goosebumps. Not only do you hear the singing from those at the Western Wall, but the voices from those at the mosque resonate in your eardrum, and the harmony they chant

can bring you to tears. Never in my life have I felt so spiritually connected to a ritual that I've been doing weekly for my whole

I also couldn't help feeling moved at the Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem. I'll never forget the memorial for the children. The memorial was a room with 5 candles, and full of mirrors. The mirrors reflected the five candles and, and made them infinite. While you walk through, a voice recites the name of a child who died in the Holocaust, and their age. It's was one of



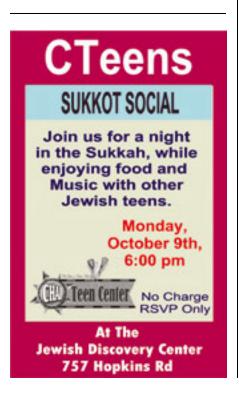
the most beautiful, emotionally draining experiences I've ever had.

### **Jonah Slabodkin**

Jerusalem. Capital of Israel. This place was by far my favorite city that I had visited on my Israel trip. From spending time in the Old City to buying souvenirs on Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem was eye-opening. In Jerusalem, I visited the Western Wall, and it was nothing like I had imagined. There was just some kind of spiritual presence that I felt that I couldn't feel at any other place. Jerusalem was outstanding and is definitely the first place I would visit when I go back to visit Israel.

### Maya Slabodkin

My most favorite part of the Israel trip overall had to be the jeep rides. I loved how I could see every part of Israel from each individual distance that I was standing from when I got to the end of the ride. Passing through houses that were bombed during the Six Day War was very emotional and very unreal to me, because of how long I've been learning about the Six Day War at Kadimah. Another very important highlight of my trip was, finally being able to stand on Masada. Finally getting to the top of the mountain was unreal. Being able to pray in Israel was also very touching, because you finally got to say your own Jewish prayers in the Holy Land that you've been waiting to say for very long time. And finally, the Kotel. Being at the Kotel was very emotional. I was finally able to touch it, and not see



it over a computer. Putting my notes in, made me feel very positive and hopeful that they would come true one day.

### **Shira Symons**

The one thing that no matter how much time passes I will never forget is the feeling of running, playing, and laying in the warm sand on the sand dunes in the middle of the desert. We were all having so much fun with the warm desert sand between our toes and our best friends by our sides. Kadimah has built up my strong connection to Israel and to my religion. Therefore, I cannot even begin to explain how intensely appreciative I am towards the school and the community as a whole. I am especially grateful to my mother, Einav (Symons, Head of School), who makes it all happen. I love you *Ema!* 

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





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The dental office is centrally located in Williamsville, NY at  $5462\,\mathrm{Sheridan}$  Drive and there are several things that set them apart from other offices. Altman Dental is committed to overall health and wellness. To help their patients, they began a food blog www.gardenfreshfoodie.com, committed to teaching patients how to decrease inflammation through their diet. It's important to Dr. Frank Altman that his patients understand the connection between disease and the food they eat. In addition, Dr. Frank Altman and his staff are committed to reducing their environmental impact by recycling, using a system that drastically cuts water use, LED lights and equipment made in the

Dr. Frank Altman is an active member of the Jewish community, and welcomes all to his practice. He, along with two associates and support staff, are available early morning and evening hours. Call them at 716-831-8018, visit their website www.altmandental.com, check out their Facebook page, and read their 5 star google reviews!



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## JFS HOSTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING SPREE FOR BUFFALO'S NEWEST AMERICANS

### by Jessica Thorpe

Back-to-school is a challenging time for nearly every parent and child. For new American, resettled refugee families, preparing their children to enter American school for the first time can be overwhelming.

That stress was eased for parents and children resettled this year through Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County. On Monday, August 28, about 50 children ages 5 to 18 and their parents -- guided by JFS dedicated staff and enthusiastic volunteers -- descended on Burlington Store on Walden Avenue to pick out coats, backpacks and sneakers to

start the school year.

"Burlington couldn't be more happy and proud to help immigrant children have a great first day of school and to begin their transition to life here in the U.S.," said Burlington Store manager Christopher Derisley, who generously provided school supplies to fill each child's backpack. For many of the children, this will be their









first formal education experience.

Amanda Hausmann, who interned this summer in the JFS Immigrant and Refugee program, said volunteering has made her realize that more people need to understand that when they talk about legislation regarding refugees, they are referring to real people with real families. "Their safety and well-being has just as much value as any other person's." she said.

Fellow JFS intern Alexa Pietrowski said volunteering helps to remove barriers. "Having the opportunity to share genuine laughter with people crosses the language and cultural carrier in a powerful way. My fellow interns and I received a lot of hugs and thanks from the refugees,















which made the entire day worth it. And seeing clients' progression in English, self-sufficiency and comfort in America is confirmation that JFS is providing an invaluable service and support for the Buffalo refugee community," Alexa said.

Volunteer Nathan Sull described the shopping trip as a wonderful display of what this country stands for. "The happy



Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.

# Join Us!



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a lifeline for all

www.jfsbuffalo.org 70 Barker Street Buffalo NY 14209



Photos of this special day were taken by JFS staff.











expressions on the children's faces were priceless," he said.

JFS board member Carri Milch agreed. The smiles on the faces of both children and parents were heartwarming and spoke volumes to the agency's commitment to the continued support of immigrants and refugees in Buffalo and Erie County. "As a former teacher of young children in Buffalo, I know how important it is to all children to feel that sense of security they feel by having the right tools and appropriate apparel. Feeling that they 'fit in' helps provide the children with a strong self-concept," she said.

"I have always felt the importance of giving back to our community. I now realize that by giving, one receives so

much more."

Other volunteers who came out to Burlington to support JFS and its Immigrant and Refugee program included Rabbi Laizer Labkovski and his son Mendy, JFS board vice chair Karen Greenspan and her daughter, Anna, and David Speizer.

In 2016, JFS resettled 324 children and adults from Somalia, Iraq, Myanmar, Sudan and other troubled regions in the world. As of August 28, the agency had resettled 187 people -- a reduced number due to the federal ban. "We need all kinds of help and assistance with our refugees. The gifts (of coats and backpacks) and helpful volunteers support the agency and the refugees we resettle. They know that the rest of the community cares about them and their children," said IFS Resettlement Coordinator Rashid Bhakri. who joined the staff in 2013.

JFS President and CEO Marlene Schillinger congratulated New American Director Maria Domingo and her team for an amazing job coordinating challenging logistics that went off without a hitch: Parents, children, staff and volunteers were bused from JFS offices at 70 Barker Street to the Burlington store in Cheektowaga and back on school buses. "It was a really special day. I am thankful for the generous support of the Benderson family and gracious hospitality of our host Chris Derisley and his helpful employees, and for our great JFS team and wonderful, wonderful volunteers who made it happen," Schillinger said. "It was tikkun olam at its best... in perfect practice."

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## **Jewish Mental Health**

















## Music for Rosh Hashanah with **Miss Rivky**

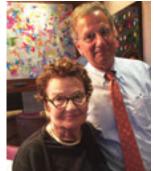


A large group of moms and children, many new to the group, enjoyed an exciting and fun-filled Pre-Rosh Hashanah experience in Rivky Greenberg's most recent holiday music class! The room was filled with magical energy, as the children sang and learned about the Shofar and its origin, about apples dipped in honey, the custom of round Challah filled with raisins for the holiday and much more... They used instruments and props, blew play Shofars, tasted honey cupcakes for a sweet new year and danced an "Apple Dipped in Honey" macarena and fun "Am Yisrael Chai" circle dance. They enjoyed a variety of other movement songs and learned some Hebrew words, too.

Pictured here is a group photo of most of the participating families at the Rosh Hashana class. Check out the happy faces of the children holding their play shofars in hand! "Music with Rivky" is a program of the Jewish Discovery Center and is held at the Amherst JCC. For more information about upcoming music classes or the Musical Shabbat Program on Fridays, please log on to www.musicwithrivky.com to sign up for the mailing list or contact Rivky at <a href="mailto:rivky@musicwithrivky.com">rivky@musicwithrivky.com</a> or <a href="mailto:rivky@musicwithrivky.com">(716) 906-8890</a>

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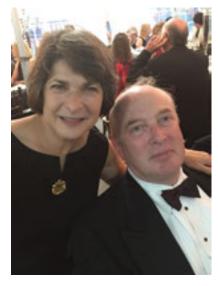
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# **Spa for the Soul**































# **Ahmadiyya Muslim Interfaith Eid Celebration**

















### (NOT) THE LAST WORD

# STUDENTS LEARN "WONDER" OF READING

by Lynn Williams

School is back in session, and Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy (BJCL), a project of Buffalo Jewish Federation, is back in schools. I have volunteered at Highgate Heights, P.S. 80, for four years, working with 4th and now 5th grade students. We focus specifically upon reading comprehension, and writing lucid essays which are well-constructed, grammatically correct, spelled accurately, and which show a depth of thought and subject comprehension.

The majority of our students do not read at home, do not read for enjoyment, are not provided with daily newspapers and magazines, and do not usually have adult role models in the homes who read regularly, for either information or pleasure. Reading is seen as a chore, something one does because a teacher assigns it. Usually, according to my students, they look for a word which might answer the question,

but they do not read the entire material for comprehension, they skim. Their answers are often wrong.

Each Fall I divide my class into three random sections, mixing abilities. These sections are called Lions, Tigers and Bears, from "The Wizard of Oz". I work with each group from 6 to 8 weeks on grammar, spelling, and comprehension of fairly basic materials. In the last two weeks of a session, we focus solely on writing. First, on opening paragraphs; then on constructing body paragraphs; and finally, on how to close a composition. Most of my students have never linked more than six to eight sentences together. They have not been taught how to develop a thought.

At the beginning of each session we discuss the differences between slang or regional/cultural "English", and "proper" or written English. We discuss the way



Lynn Williams with some of her students from school #80

a person might talk with his/her peers at a barbeque, and the way that same person might speak in a business meeting. Making students, any students, aware of these differences allows for comfort and security in one's own cultural dialect, while also being aware of the need to use another dialect in a different setting. For example, the language that a football player uses on the gridiron differs from the language he will need to use should he eventually become a sports commentator. Students do catch on when they feel respected and are allowed their own space.

The last part of the school season, for about two months, eight to ten students are chosen for the final group-- "Oh My" group. Again, think of the Yellow Brick Road. These students must now be willing, able, and enthusiastic about receiving a lot of at-home reading and writing assignments with a strict focus on the writing of essays.

I provide the group with copies of the book Wonder, by R.J. Palacio. They read the text at home; we re-read sections in group, and we discuss in depth, the meaning of this marvelous book. I, personally, will re-read this book every year of my life. Part of the book centers around a teacher's use of precepts. Our students discuss and name various precepts that they have heard or which they conceive. The group then divides into two teams. Each team chooses or creates their own precept, and the team jointly writes an essay explaining or expanding that precept.

In addition, each student must write an individual, personal precept essay. All of these were truly marvelous, both in their structure, more importantly, in their humanistic thought processes. At the last class of the season, "Oh My" gives a class presentation to their class, teacher, principal, and invited family members. They captains of each group read the group essays, and then each group member reads his/her own essay.

I find that students grow when given the tools of books, pens and paper, and most importantly, encouragement and respect. They become more confident, more self-assured, more willing and able to speak up in class, less fearful of a world they do not yet understand

BJCL does more than go into schools to read story books to children. It does, and should, provide a route out of the forest of illiteracy, into a more equitable field of discovery and enlightenment.

If you would like to be a literacy volunteer with the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Lieracy, call Rise' Kulick or Ellen Goldstein at 204-2243.

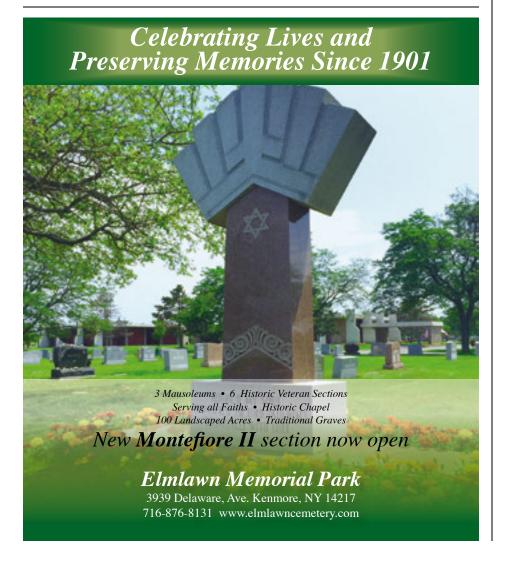


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