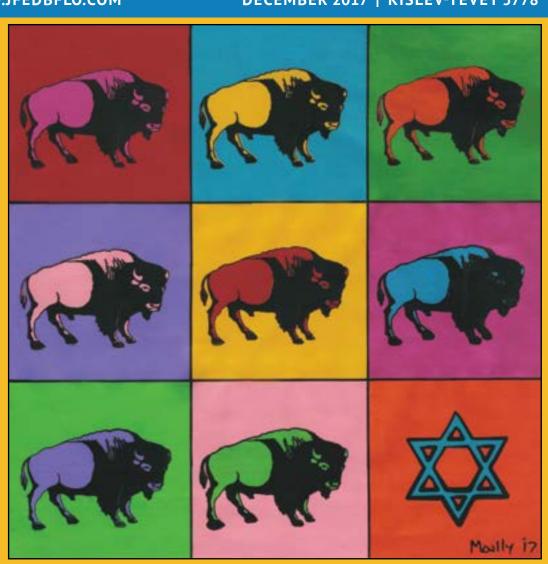
# EWISH OURNAL A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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

**DECEMBER 2017 | KISLEV-TEVET 5778** 

## 114TH ANNUAL MEETING

- Thursday, December 7 •
- Buffalo History Museum •
- Special Awards Ceremony
- Honor Difference Makers •



### **CELEBRATE JEWISH BUFFALONIANS (2)**



LOOK: NEW LEADER AWARDS (5)



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## December 2017

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### Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

This year at Federation's Annual Meeting December 7 at The Buffalo History Museum, we are having a party to honor Jewish Buffalonians. We will be acknowledging the nearly 50 Difference Makers who have been highlighted in several issues of the Jewish Journal. Also being honored are my friends and former colleagues Dan & Judy Kantor and Mary Jo Fragale for their work at Jewish Federation, as well as the legacies of Ann Holland Cohn (z"l) and Larry Levite (z"l) for their work throughout Western New York. Reservations may be made at 716-204-2243.

As I write this, 15 Community members have just returned from the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly (GA) in Los Angeles. Led by our Board President Steven Weiss and CEO Rob Goldberg along with a number of emerging leaders and veteran leaders, we were able to jump into the American Jewish landscape as active and vocal participants. Among our experiences included being called to the Torah at Ikar, a dynamic synagogue in LA, where the Bar Mitzvah was related to Buffalo's Lippa family; thoughtful, energetic discussions on Jewish authenticity, tolerance and acceptance, inclusion, engagement; learning language for new rituals, and discussion about reaching and respecting Jews where they are in their Judaism. We heard from Israel's President Reuven Rivlin, Natan Sharansky, and Rabbi David Wolpe. We skyped with Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu. We watched videos, including a beautiful story from Honeymoon Israel created by our own Mike Wise, talked with Americans and Israelis, ate meals together and laughed, shared stories and created bonds of community and friendship. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend three days creating community and bringing it on home to Buffalo, where we will continue to share our knowledge and newly gained insight with you.

Sending you wishes for a bright and hopeful Hanukkah.

Be the light that glows this winter!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

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**Full details** will be available in January 2018





Buffalo Jewish Federation will salute Difference Makers, Thursday, December 7 beginning at 6:30 at its 114th Annual **Meeting.** Join us for the festivities as we honor these unique leaders as well as others who have or are putting Jewish Buffalo on the map! Call 204-2242 for reservations.



































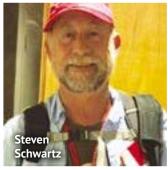














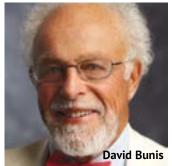










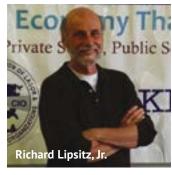
















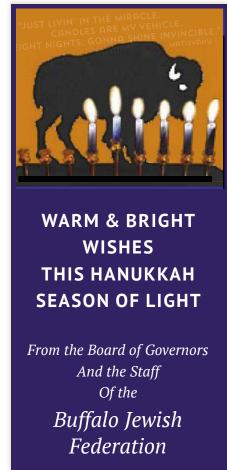
















### Jewish Federation's 114th Annual Meeting December 7th to honor Jewish Buffalonians, Unveil 2 New Awards

Andrew and Amy Shaevel will chair the 114th Annual Meeting which will be held for the first time at The Buffalo History Museum, and will honor nearly 50 Jewish Buffalonians recognized by The Jewish Journal as Difference Makers. "Amy and I are honored to chair this year's Annual Meeting. We are thrilled that the focus of the evening will be celebrating Jewish Buffalo and those that have contributed to make our community so special, warm, and vibrant. We hope the change in program will attract a larger audience so that we can come together and joyfully celebrate Jewish Buffalo," Andrew Shaevel explained.

The Dr. Milton and Ruth H. Kahn Emerging Leadership Award will be presented to Stacie Greenfield Stone, and Jordan Balsom will receive the Dr. Meyer and Ann S. Riwchun Emerging Leadership Award. In addition, two brand new community leadership awards were created this year. The first will honor past Federation President Ann Holland Cohn (z"l) and will be presented in memory of the late Larry Levite. The second will honor former Jewish Federation Campaign Director Judith Kantor and former Jewish Federation Executive Director Daniel Kantor to pay tribute to an excellent Jewish Communal professional, and will be presented this year to Mary Jo Fragale, who recently retired after 35 years at Federation.

Annual Meeting Chair Andrew Shaevel conceived of this award to honor the late Mrs. Cohn, a woman he saw as his mentor in the Jewish Community. "We would like to create a new community leadership award for members of Jewish Buffalo who lead with courage and determination and have made a significant impact in the greater Buffalo community, dedicate this award to Mrs. Cohn, and name it the Ann Holland Cohn Community Impact Award," Shaevel said. "We believe that Ann was the ultimate role model of these attributes, and our hope is to keep her memory and spirit alive by bestowing this honor on deserving recipients every year or two." Ann Holland Cohn was also past president of the Jewish Community Center, and so active in many other WNY organizations especially the Red Cross and Buffalo Seminary.

Larry Levite (z"l), the recipient of the Ann Holland Cohn Community Impact Award, was a force of Nature. From his career in broadcasting and media, to his foray into publishing through Spree Publications, which included Buffalo Spree Magazine, and all its other resource and shopping guides, he was driven to succeed while making the community better here in Buffalo. As Gene Warner wrote in his Buffalo News obituary for Larry, "He ran radio powerhouse WBEN and later Buffalo Spree Magazine during his 50-year local media career that earned him a spot in the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame." (Also see the June issue of Spree Magazine featuring an interview with Larry on Spree's 50th birthday at www.buffalospree. com).

Larry loved Israel! He was the driving force and leader of so many of our Jewish Community's missions to Israel in the 70s and 80s, and he inspired an entire generation of Jewish leaders. He also chaired the United Jewish Fund Campaign for Federation in the early



**Ann Holland Cohn** 



Larry Levite



Daniel & Judith Kantor



Mary Jo Fragale



Andrew and Amy Shaevel

years of the 21st century, while recovering from a serious motorcycle accident. He was a high profile civic and regional leader who was honored by many organizations. In 2016, he was the recipient of the prestigious Citation Award for Community Service from the National Federation for Just Communities.

Federation CEO Rob Goldberg said of the new Kantor Award, "It provides a great opportunity to thank Judy and Dan Kantor for their extraordinary service to the community and for Federation to acknowledge a great professional each fall."

Mrs. Kantor began her career in 1984 as UJF Campaign Women's Division Director at Jewish Federation, and retired in December, 2012 as Director of the entire UJF Campaign. In the nearly 30 years at Federation, she served 5 executive directors and 15 Federation presidents. She also traveled on Israel Missions more than 15 times, serving as staff member on most of them. When she began her Federation career, Mrs. Kantor had just served as the Women's Division lay chair-the mirror image of her position as Women's Division Director. Her experience and knowledge as a lay leader propelled her to a long and successful career in Jewish community organizing.

Daniel Kantor served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation from July 1999 through October 2011. During that time, he worked extensively with the interfaith community in Western New York through the Jewish Federation, his board service for the past 12 years with the National Federation for Just Communities (NFJC), and for the past 10 years has been involved with the Network of Religious communities, included 4 years as a trustee and board member. He created

the celebrated Dosberg Notable Speaker Series. Also important was his expertise with the Network's aging edifice on Delaware Ave., and bringing the Interfaith Passover Seder-the largest of its kind in the United States-to the Jewish Federation from the now defunct AJC. He has also served on the WNED board for 3 years, and as an Officer of the Agency Executive Association (AEA) of United Way agencies.

Mary Jo Fragale was a Jackof-all-Trades at Federation. A colleague of Lana Benatovich at City Hall's Division for Youth, Mary Jo followed Lana to Federation in 1982. She began at the front desk answering the phone and using an IBM Selectric typewriter. And, like the rest of the office, she moved into the computer age, and went on to work in the public relations, community relations, planning & allocations departments, and finally the Campaign department.

"During my time working for Federation, the people in the office have become my second family," Mrs. Fragale said. "Through the 35 years, along with some personal illness and loss, these people have been here for me all the time. I am deeply connected to everyone at Federation," she noted," and am especially grateful to be the recipient of the Judith & Daniel Kantor Professional Service Award, especially since I worked with Judy for more than 30 years, and also with Dan for more than 10 years."

The event will be held Thursday, December 7th at 6:30pm at the Buffalo History Museum, in Buffalo at the corner of Nottingham Terrace and Elmwood Avenue. Self-guided tours of the Museum and its brand new exhibit, "ICONS: The Makers and Moments of Buffalo Sports" will be available and will begin at 6:30pm. The Annual Meeting is free, but reservations are requested.

To make reservations or for more information, please call the Federation at 716-204-2242.

### Stacie Greenfield Stone, Jordan Balsom named Emerging Leader Award Winners

The Jewish Federation's 114th **Annual Meeting on December 7th will** honor Stacie Greenfield Stone and Jordan Balsom as the 2017 Emerging Leadership Award Winners. Stacie Greenfield Stone is the 2017 Ruth and Milton Kahn Emerging Leadership Award Winner. Currently, she is a member of the Nickel City Jews Street Team as well as its executive committee, and Co-Chair of the PI Library Committee.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Stacie left for a decade for school and business opportunities, earning an MBA in International Business along the way. Stacie, daughter of Gary and Carin Greenfield and wife of Nathan Stone and mother of two young children, is proud to be a fourth-generation member of a family business, Goldman Titanium, where her role as New Business Development Director includes business development, safety, environmental compliance, and marketing. Prior to joining Goldman Titanium, Stacie worked for a market research firm in Rochester, New York City, and London,

Upon moving back to Buffalo in 2011, she was excited about the resurgence that was occurring within the young Jewish community. In 2015, she eagerly joined the Nickel City Jews Street Team and continues to be an active member of its Executive Committee. When the Buffalo Jewish Federation was looking to grow PJ Library from a "program" into an "engagement strategy," Stacie was the natural person to lead this effort. Under Stacie's leadership with PI Library and Nickel City Jews, the Federation has developed a holistic approach to both families (as a unit) and parents of young children as young adults-independent of their role as parents. The Buffalo Jewish community and PJ Library have both been the beneficiaries of Stacie's professional expertise in marketing, and her humble, yet thoughtful and patient, leadership style.

Jordan Balsom is the Ann & Meyer Riwchun Emerging Leadership Award Winner. A Board Member of the Jewish Community Center since 2013, a member of Nickel City Jews' Street Team, the Jewish Federation's Leadership Think Tank in 2016, and a Super Sunday Volunteer, he also was born and raised in Buffalo.



Stacie Greenfield Stone



Jordan Balsom

By the time Jordan moved back to his hometown of Buffalo to join his family business, Carpet Factory Outlet, in charge of Sales and Business Development, Judaism was playing an important role in his life. When Jordan lived and worked in Vail, CO., he became very involved with Chabad, and developed an interest in Jewish life and learning. Upon his return to Buffalo five years ago, he channeled his desire to grow and strengthen his Jewish identity into leadership, first by joining the board of the JCC, then in building Nickel City Jews by joining the Street Team leadership cohort, and then by participating in the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Leadership Think Tank. Jordan's positive, joyous attitude toward everything he is involved with inspires others.

The son of Denise and Jeffrey Balsom, Jordan is married to Nikki Joseph, and this fall they welcomed their first child to the family.

To reserve your place for the Annual Meeting December 7th at the Buffalo History Museum, call 204-2242.

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### Hanukkah in 716

#### **December 12**

Chanukah in Outer Space 5:30 PM. 757 Hopkins Rd.

#### **December 15**

Hanukkah Star Wars 6:00PM. Congregation Shir Shalom

#### **December 16**

**Nickel City Jews-**The Big Fry 6:30-9:30 PM. Artisan Kitchens & Baths

#### **Now-December 17**

TBZ Sisterhood Hanukkah Bazaar Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Call 836-6565 for times when Bazaar is open.

#### **December 17**

**TBT Kesher Program** 10:30-noon. 621 Getzville Rd

#### **December 17**

**TBZ Shlock Rock** 11:30 AM. Broder Center 700 Sweet Home

#### **December 17**

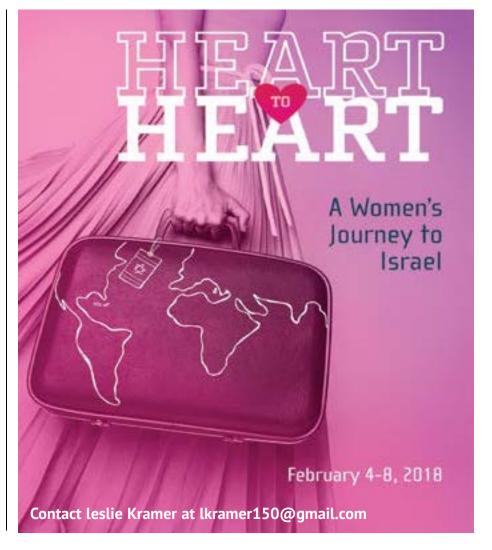
PJ Library Hanukkah on Ice 3:30-5:30 PM The Ice at Canalside

#### **December 19**

**TBT Sisterhood Hanukkah Lunch** 







## Jay Mesnekoff installed as President of Kavod

In late October at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston, MA., Jay Louis Mesnekoff- President of Mesnekoff Funeral Home, Inc., was installed as President of Kavod-the National Independent Jewish Funeral Directors organization. Jay's family attended the event, including his father, Melvyn who served is a Past President of the Jewish Funeral Directors of America. Jay's first business meeting as President followed the next morning at the Convention Center where the National Funeral Directors Association convention was taking place.

Kavod was founded in 2002 and is comprised of over forty funeral homes from around the United States and Canada. The group was formed to create a network of independent family owned Jewish funeral providers to support one another in this changing environment.

"Kavod" in Hebrew means honor, respect, esteem, strong moral principles and a source of pride. It is through incorporating these ideals that this organization has dedicated itself to having only the highest level of familyowned Jewish firms as part of its organization.

The organization became recognized other national organizations, including the National Funeral Directors Association, Selected Independent Funeral Homes, the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards and the International Order of the Golden Rule, as consultants for Jewish funerals.

Locally Jay is one of two funeral directors on the Erie County Opiate Task Force. At Kavod's recent meeting, Jay introduced a new "Opiod" booklet from the Order of the Golden Rule on How Funeral Directors can respond to this current issue. Jay and his wife, Rebecca, are members of Temple Beth Tzedek

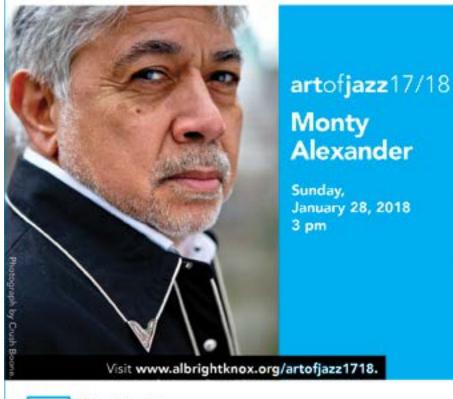


From left: Rachel Mai, Rebecca, Jay, Melvyn and Brooke Mesnekoff in Boston at the ceremony

where Jay is currently on the board of directors, Temple Beth Zion and Congregation Shir Shalom. He is on

the board of the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association and the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, a member and chairman of the membership committee of the Forum Club, The Erie-Niagara Funeral Directors Association, The NYS Funeral Directors Association, the Jewish Funeral Directors of America, The Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo's Kol Rina Choir, Congregation Shir Shalom's musical group Tizmeret as a guitarist and singer, and an officer of Perseverance Lodge #948 as Sr. Master of Ceremonies. Jay is an avid outdoorsman and sportsman and loves his Buffalo Bills and Sabres.

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### Rabbi Laizer Labkovski: Chanukah

Festival of Lights. Holiday of Lights. Miracle of Lights. What can be said about Chanukah when it seems all the stories, all the insights, all the inspirational sermons have already been said?

Everyone surely recognizes that Chanukah has received a renewed emphasis in our times. While celebrated for thousands of years - since the times of the Maccabees, and the subject of many miraculous and inspiring stories over the centuries, the emphasis on the spiritual significance and practical observance of Chanukah - and we're not talking about the gift-giving part - is something relatively new.

In the "olden days," there were no electric street lights. There were kerosene lanterns on every corner whose light shined forth and made going through the streets less threatening. Lamplighters trudged from lamp to lamp with a torch, kindling its flame. Even in the cold and the dark, these lone figures would make their way through the night, leaving a



path of light behind them.

We are all lamplighters, charged with the mission of illuminating the world with the light of the Torah and its mitzvot. While this theme is always relevant, at certain times its importance resonates more forcefully than others. Chanukah is one of those times. As we put our menorahs near the doors or windows of our homes with the intent that they shine light into the darkness, we convey a message to the world: "Darkness is temporary. With a little bit of light, it can be banished."

The Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe would tell his Chasidim. "We must listen carefully to what the Chanukah candles are saying." For the light of the Chanukah candles points us toward many important goals. The Rebbe taught us:

Firstly, the Chanukah lights should be kindled after sunset and must burn into the night.

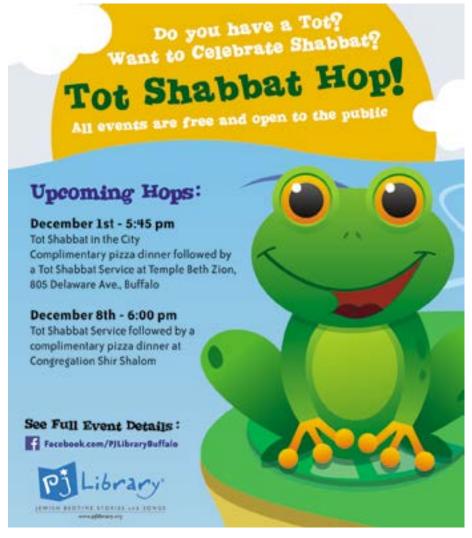
The Chanukah candles teach us not to accept darkness as reality, but instead to kindle light. Moreover, we place the candles at our doorways or in our windows, indicating that we should not remain content with lighting up our own homes. Instead, we must reach out and spread light as far as

we possibly can, lighting up the public domain.

Going further: On each night of Chanukah, we add to the number of candles lit on the previous night. Implied is that we can't sit still and rest on our laurels. Instead, we must increase our endeavors every day to spread light throughout the world. Though we illuminated our environment on the previous night, we cannot remain content, but instead must strive to make a further and greater contribution.

This message is illuminated by the light of the Chanukah candles. They recall the miraculous burning of the menorah in the Temple and imbue us with the awareness that the Menorah will soon be kindled again, spreading G-dly light openly throughout the world.

Rabbi Laizer Labkovski is Rabbi at the Jewish Discovery Center and Director of Kosher Meals on wheels and Bikur Cholim of greater Buffalo.





### **Apple Fritters** for Hanukkah

**By Robin Kurss** 

It's Hanukkah...here's a bite of easy and delicious fried goodness to remember the miracles of the Maccabees.

Happy Hanukkah! Enjoy!



#### **Apple Fritters**

2 granny smith apples, peeled, cored and cubed into 1/4" pieces

2 c flour

1/3 c sugar

1 Tbsp. baking powder

1 tsp salt

1 tsp cinnamon

3/4 c apple cider

2 eggs, beaten

2 Tbsp. butter, melted

3 c oil

#### Glaze:

2 c confectioners sugar 1/4 c apple cider 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

- 1. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and cinnamon in a large bowl. Stir in cider, eggs, butter and
- 2. Heat oil in heavy pot until it reaches 350. Ready a paper lined baking sheet nearby.
- 3. Drop about three 1/3 c of batter into the oil and cook till golden brown. Drain on paper.
  - 4. Repeat to make 9 fritters.
- 5. For glaze, whisk together ingredients. Dip fritters in glaze and set on rack to dry.



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#### COMMUNITY

### The Evidence Room places Auschwitz gas chamber alongside dinosaurs: **Exhibit examines the Holocaust in** terms of "Forensic architecture"

By Gil Zohar

Visitors through January 2018 to the august Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Ontario will see an obscene display among the collections of dinosaur fossils, Egyptian mummies and suits of armor - a 1:1 scale model of a gas chamber from Auschwitz where some one million Jews were put to death from 1942 to 1944.

The temporary installation, called "The Evidence Room," consists of white plaster replicas of elements of the Nazi death camp murder machine. While the actual gas chamber, disguised as a shower, contained four steel mesh columns through which pellets of Zyklon B insecticide were lowered to asphyxiate the hapless prisoners locked inside, the replica displays a single column. Similarly, it depicts the heavy door, which was bolted from the outside.

The exhibit also includes a reproduction of the original architectural prepared drawings German architect, engineer SS-Sturmbannführer Karl Bischoff, who served at Auschwitz as chief of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS. Visitors note the meticulously planned airtight seal around the gas chamber's door to prevent toxic leaks, and the grillcovered peephole that allowed visiting dignitaries to watch the prisoners die.

"To understand this room... we first have to acknowledge that it's related to the most murderous place," said the exhibit creator Prof. Robert Jan van Pelt at a "ROM Speaks" lecture here last June. Van Pelt's grisly display is the first in the ROM series intended to engender discussion of contemporary issues. And the issue here is forensic architecture – a relatively new field which uses planning and design tools to understand





Top: Photo of the Auschwitz exhibit from the Venice Biennale; bottom: Prof. Robert Jan van Pelt reviewing the

Photos courtesy theevidenceroom.com

human rights abuses, and in this case genocide.

For van Pelt - a Dutch-born architect who teaches at the University of Waterloo in southern Ontario not far from Toronto - The Evidence Room represents the culmination of two decades of work. Van Pelt, 61, served as an expert witness in the infamous David Irving Holocaust denial trial in London in 2000. There, as popularized in the 2016 movie Denial, Emory University professor Deborah E. Lipstadt was accused of libel by the World War II pseudo-historian for calling him a Holocaust denier.

Irving famously quipped "No holes, no Holocaust". Lipstadt's defense team charged van Pelt with proving that indeed there were apertures in the gas chambers' ceilings through which poison

#### COMMUNITY



The Royal Ontario Museum Exhibit

pellets were introduced. His testimony at the trial led to his 2002 book The Case for Auschwitz: Evidence from the Irving Trial. The 590-page volume greatly impressed Alejandro Aravena - the curator of the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale. The Chilean, who was awarded architecture's prestigious Pritzker Prize for his work transforming slums and making architecture a tool of justice and social change, commissioned van Pelt to create an exhibit explaining the workings of an Auschwitz gas chamber. That model was on display at last year's Venice Biennale.

In preparing for the current exhibit at the ROM, van Pelt together with his colleagues Donald McKay, Anne Bordeleau and Sascha Hastings, wrote a supplementary book, The Evidence Room, which was published by the New Jewish Press (http://www. newjewishpress.ca/) associated with the University of Toronto's Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies.

"It is difficult to imagine the details of a gas chamber, where humans were locked in



Grill-covered Peephole at the exhibit

to die," says one Holocaust survivor, quoted in van Pelt's new book. "One has to feel the double grates that protected the bucket filled with poison pellets from the desperate hands of the condemned, peer into the bucket, imagine the pellets melting away, the poison oozing out of them," says the survivor. "I knew a good deal about the Auschwitz-Birkenau murder factory, but the gas column really shocked me. Because of what I had read about people thinking they were going into a shower room, I had always imagined the gas being dispersed by sprinklers. Touching that construction had a profound effect on me – a new visceral recognition all these years later."

And what of the pristine white plaster van Pelt and his architecture students used to fabricate the reproduction? For this writer, it jarringly evoked a sense of peace and innocence. But as well, it called to mind that those murdered in the gas chamber defecated and urinated as they died. Sonderkommandos (literally special duty unit workers slave laborers who removed gassed corpses and hauled them to the crematoria) had to whitewash the gas chamber after each usage.

The Evidence Room will be on display at the Royal Ontario Museum until January 28, 2018.

Gil Zohar is a writer living in Israel. You can contact him at GilZohar@rogers.com.

www.GilZohar.ca.





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

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- December 8, is the season's fancy party for kids: The Maria Love **Charity Ball.** It takes place at Buffalo –Niagara Convention Center. Tickets prices range from \$60-up. For more information, go to www.marialovefund.org
- SHLOCK ROCK! Sunday, December 17 Come join your TBZ friends for lunch and a special afternoon program. Shlock Rock is a Jewish Rock Band that encourages Jewish pride, identity and awareness through music. Sunday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. TBZ Broder Center 700 Sweet Home Road. All are welcome! \$54 /family of 4, \$18 individual (includes pizza lunch). RSVP to 836-6565 or email cantor@tbz.org by Friday, December 15.
- Kesher Hanukkah! event. This Hanukkah, Join members of Temple Beth Tzedek of all ages and abilities to celebrate the holiday with music, Torah, latkes, friends and fun surprises. Sunday, December 17, at 10:30 until Noon. Temple Beth Tzedek, 621 Getzville Road, Amherst, NY. To RSVP, to volunteer and/or to get more information on the TBT Kesher Inclusion Outstretched Arm Program for Jews with Special Needs, contact the TBT office at 716-838-3232.
- TBZ Hanukkah Bazaar. Buy your goodies for Hanukkah right now! The Sisterhood's Bazaar is open Sundays through December 17 from 9am-noon at Broder, 805 Delaware Avenue Friday nights from 6-7 pm, and other times at Broder during the week. Call 836-6565 for more information.

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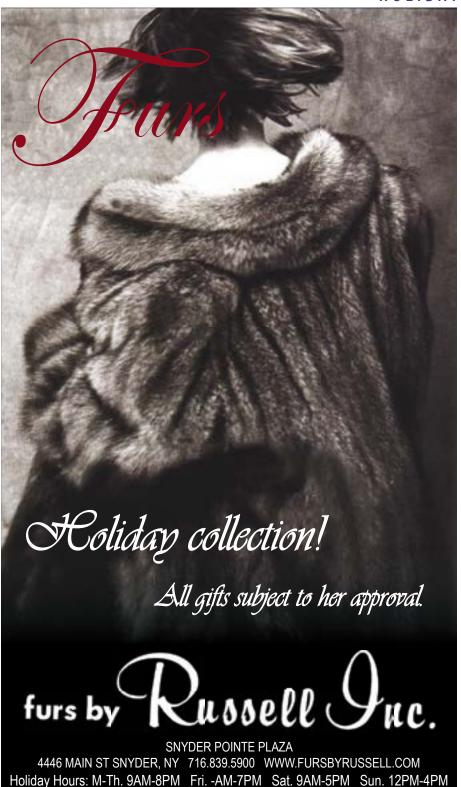
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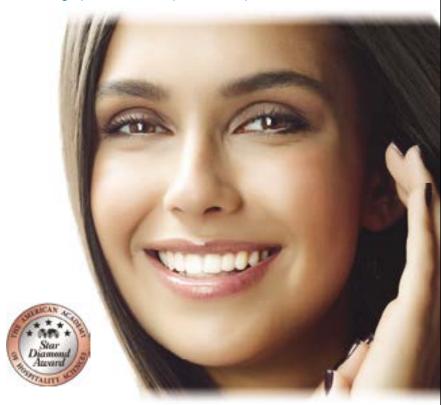




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### **Jewish Community Agencies** in Western New York

AGENCIES

#### **Buffalo Jewish Federation**

2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-204-2241 www.jfedbflo.com Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director Steven J. Weiss- President

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

2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-204-5380 www.bjebuffalo.org Jill Komm - Executive Director Michael Berger - President

#### Chabad House of Buffalo

2450 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-688-1642 www.chabadbuffalo.com Rabbi Moshe Gurary - Director

#### **Chai Early Childhood Center**

757 Hopkins Road Williamsville, NY 14221 TEL 716 580-4600 www.chainursery.com Chani Labkovski - Director

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

#### Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-204-1133 www.jewishphilanthropies.org Peter Fleischmann- Director & CEO Ray Fink- President

#### Hadassah

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

#### **Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association**

2640 North Forest Road in FJP offices Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-204-0542 Sam Golden- Loan Officer Linda S. Boxer- President

#### Hillel of Buffalo

520 Lee Entrance/UB Commons Suite # 210 W. Amherst, NY 14228 TEL 716-645-8787 Rabbi Sara Rich - Director www.hillelofbuffalo.org

#### **Holocaust Resource Center**

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

#### **Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo**, Inc.

#### **Benderson Family Building**

2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-688-4033 Richard Zakalik - Executive Director Susan Freed-Oestreicher - President

#### **Holland Family Building**

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

### Jewish Discovery Center 757 Hopkins Road

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

#### Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And

**Erie County** 70 Barker Street Buffalo, NY 14209 TEL 716-883-1914 www.jfsbuffalo.org Marlene Schillinger - Executive Director Blaine Schwartz - Chair

#### **Jewish Federation Apartments**

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#### **Jewish Federation Cemetery** Corporation, Inc.

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#### **Ohr Temimim School**

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#### **Western New York** Synagogues and Temples

**Chabad House of Buffalo** (unaffiliated) 2450 North. Forest Rd, Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-688-1642 www.chabadbuffalo.com

**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**

(Modern Orthodox) 879 Hopkins Rd Williamsville, NY 14221 Rabbi Ori Bergman Jeff Schapiro - President http://ohrtzion.org/kot

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

**Saranac Synagogue** (Orthodox) President - Shmuel Rashkin Vice President - Reuven Alt Gabbai David Kunkel 85 Saranac Avenue Buffalo New York 14216 TEL 716 876 1284 www.SaranacSynagogue.org

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

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

Temple Beth El (Reform) 720 Ashland Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14301 Rabbi Ellen Franke Cantorial Soloist Barry Rose William Bell - President TEL 716-282-2717 www.niagarafallstemple.com

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

The Family Shul (Unaffiliated) 757 Hopkins Road Williamsville, NY 14221 Rabbi Heschel Greenberg Rabbi Laizer Labkovski 716-639-7600

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

### Attention Snowbirds!

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

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

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### Hanukkah: A Star Wars Story

#### Friday, December 15, 2017

Happy Hour & Latke Bar 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Service 7:00pm Oneg Shabbat 8:30pm



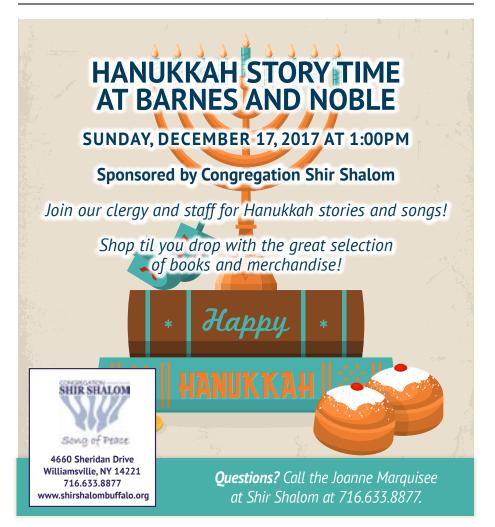
Join characters from Star Wars as we transform our festival of lights into a festival of light sabers. Traditional songs, festive food. An out of this world experience. May the Schwartz be with you as we usher in Hanukkah in intergalactic style.

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#### **TBZ Hanukkah Bazaar** Marks 50 Years

Did you know that TBZ's Hanukkah Bazaar was started more than 50 years ago? In the public schools, the PTA held a Secret Santa Shop to provide students with a way to shop for Christmas. Most of the items sold were screwdrivers, mugs, combs, picture frames, etc..with a Christmas theme. Sue Bruckheimer remembers asking her parents for money to buy presents. With four daughters, Sue's dad, Arnold, got four screwdrivers that year, each with a picture of Santa on it.

So the women of TBZ Sisterhood decided to provide the children of Temple Beth Zion the opportunity to purchase Chanukah themed presents to give to their parents and family. Please help continue this tradition

Shop Temple Beth Zion's Bazaar Mondays-Thursdays @ Broder starting November 27 through December 14. Sundays @ Broder 9noon December 3, 10, 17. Fridays at Delaware Ave. from 6-7 December 1, 8, 15. For more info, call 836-6565.

#### **TBZ Achim December 10**

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will present its December Achim program at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 10, 2017, at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus. The program is held in the building across from the rear entrance to the Jewish Community Center.

This will be the Annual Chanukah program and will feature the Temple Beth Zion Junior Choir, under the direction of Cantor Penny Myers. The choir appears annually and sings many of the traditional Chanukah melodies we all have enjoyed for years. 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. For further information, please contact Ken Graber at 681-9885.

#### Temple Beth El's Niagara Falls Hanukkah Luncheon

Temple Beth El 720 Ashland Ave, Niagara Falls

Thursday, December 14th @ 1 PM

Call 716-297-2574 for details.

#### **Federation Sponsors Synagogue Receptions**

The Buffalo Jewish Federation continues to sponsor the Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush receptions at synagogues this fall. The Federation was delighted to sponsor Kiddush luncheons at Kehillat Ohr Tzion, Jewish Discovery Center, Temple Beth Tzedek, The Knesset Center and Congregation Shir Shalom. An Oneg Shabbat will take place at Temple Beth Zion Friday, December 1, and a Kiddush luncheon will take place at Young Israel Saturday, December 9.

#### **TBZ Mitzvah-Making Opportunity for Dec. 25**

Friends of Night People has been serving meals and providing essential support services daily to the homeless, destitute and working poor in our community for more than 30 years. Join Temple Beth Zion volunteers for Christmas and help continue this mitzvah tradition.

When: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

on December 25

Where: 394 Hudson St., Buffalo What: Set up, serve dinner to guests and clean up

RSVP: Please call Ann Marie at 836-6565, Ext. 111. Let us know if you can bring a dessert to serve. Desserts are welcome even if you cannot come and serve.

Please note: Due to Friends of Night People restrictions, no one under 16 years of age is allowed to participate here.

#### Temple Beth Tzedek-Kesher **Inclusion Outstretched** Arm Program for Jews with **Special Needs**

This Hanukkah, Join members of Temple Beth Tzedek of all ages and abilities to celebrate the holiday with music, Torah, latkes, friends and fun surprises.

December 17, 2017 Sunday morning 10:30 until Noon Temple Beth Tzedek 621 Getzville Road, Amherst, NY.

To RSVP, to volunteer and/or to get more information on the TBT Kesher Inclusion Outstretched Arm Program for Jews with Special Needs, contact the TBT office at 716-838-3232

### Kehillat Ohr Tzion- Shabbat Project and other events

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (KOT) is a small and very welcoming progressive Modern Orthodox shul that has always been active, but this October its activity level increased many fold.

In October, KOT's new rabbi, Ori Bergman and his wife. Nora, hosted a Sukkot barbecue in their backyard. More than 100 people from all parts of the city attended the event and lots of introductions took place throughout the afternoon. Both the Rabbi's and Nora's parents were in attendance, which allowed the members of the congregation to introduce themselves. The backyard was filled with kids having a good time together.

Simchat Torah is always a festive time in all synagogues but this Simchat Torah, KOT celebrated with even greater exuberance than usual as the dancing continued for hours and even went into the parking lot. A luncheon was held on Friday after the last hakafah and the end of services.



Community women making challah for the Shabbat Project

Food was a big part of KOT's celebrations throughout the month. On the Shabbat after Simchat Torah, a surprise

luncheon was sponsored by Dr. Paul Kuritsky in honor or his wife, Dr. Sharon Kuritsky to celebrate her birthday. The following Shabbat, a kiddush luncheon sponsored by the Federation was well attended and appreciated by the congregation.

KOT has participated in the Shabbat Project since its inception four years ago. Each year more activities were added, and this year a challah bake was held with more than 25 people participating, including several teenagers. Demonstrations of different challah braiding techniques were watched, videoed and then copied by some of the participants. Some of the challahs that were prepared on Thursday were served Friday evening when over 100 people attended Shabbat dinner at the shul. Preceding Shabbat, there was a children's drumming circle designed for children and led by a special quest musician, Eldan Cohen from Toronto. A beautiful and melodic Kabbalat Shabbat followed. The Shabbat Project weekend concluded with a Havdalah concert at the Joseph's home, again led by Eldan Cohen.

In addition to the religious and gustatory celebrations, KOT continues to be involved in



Enjoying Rabbi Bergman's sukkah

social justice. Throughout the month they were collecting food items to send home with children in some Buffalo schools as part of the Backpack project.

For more information about Kehillat Ohr Tzion contact oribergman@gmail.com.



Children of the congregation playing in Rabbi Bergman's yard during Sukkot

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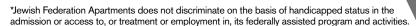
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#### SYNAGOGUES

### First Lifelong Learning Havdalah Service for Jews with Special Needs **Held at Temple Beth Tzedek**



#### By Marian Lustig

Under the auspices of TBT's Kesher Inclusion Committee, our new Lifelong Learning Program for Jews with special needs has completed its inaugural fourmonth session. Since June, three adult students-Nancy Ackerman, Eric Lehrman and Taylor McLanahan-have been studying the Havdalah service and Jewish customs with their teachers, Larry Boxer, Beverly Schiller and Bernie Weinstein. During these private lessons, the students learned and mastered the Havdalah service, culminating in their leading the congregation in prayer.

The evening during which the students led the Havdalah service started with the Mincha service, led by Cantor Mark Spindler and Rabbinic Intern Yaakov Dermer. Michael Sanders, TBT USY VP of Religious Education, assisted with the Torah reading. The students were called to the Bimah for the third Aliyah. We adjourned to the auditorium for a festive seudah shlisheet followed by teachings by Mr. Dermer on Parshashat Va-yera and the binding of Isaac. After benching, we were back in the sanctuary for the Ma'ariv service. The three students came onto the Bimah, along with their teachers,





Top: Marian Lustig speaking to Eric Lehrman, Nancy Ackerman and Taylor McLanahan; Bottom: Bernie Weinstein with Eric Lehrman, Nancy Ackerman and Taylor McLanahan



Top: After Havdalah services at TBT; bottom: Larry Boxer speaking with Nancy Ackerman and Taylor McLanahan

to lead us in the beautiful Debbie Friedman tunes of the Havdalah service. Their voices overflowed with excitement and prayer as they looked out to the congregation praying with them. The members of TBT's USY chapter surrounded the Lifelong Learning students with havdalah candles, and it was a beautiful, uplifting service. Finally, we were back in the auditorium for an extended dessert reception and sing-along, led by Mr. Dermer.

According to Bernie, Larry and Beverly, their students were always ready, willing and able to master their lessons. The teachers felt that they, personally, got so much out of the sessions with their students, as they bonded and learned from each other. During a presentation, each teacher spoke to his or her student about the experience and how the program affected them personally.

Yasher koach to Taylor, Eric and Nancy, along with their teachers, Beverly Schiller, Bernie Weinstein and Larry Boxer, for all of their hard work and dedication. They are truly an inspiration to us.

This is the first of our Lifelong Learning programs; additional students have been identified who will be a part of our next session. If you are interested in participating as a teacher, or know someone who would benefit as a student, please contact Marian Lustig at mblustig@gmail.com or 716-465-2705.

#### **Shabbat and Bringing Light into the Darkest Time of Year**

The Chanukah candles are dark now and winter in Buffalo has barely set in.

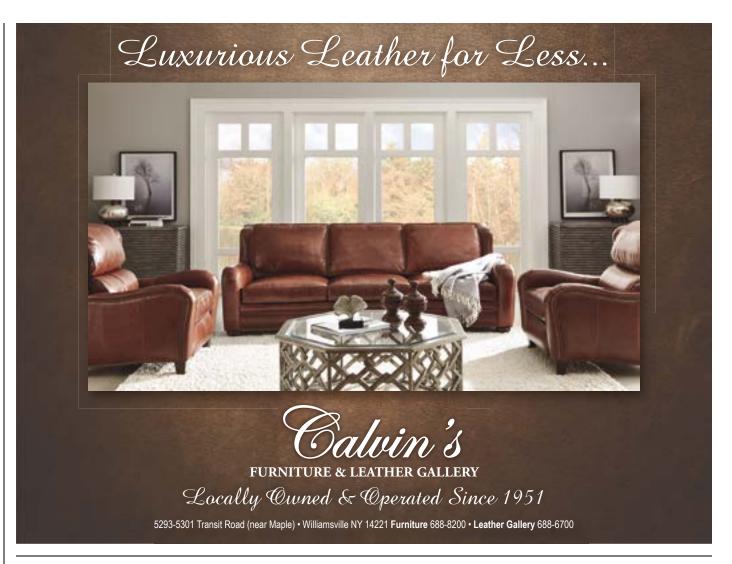


In this spirit, Dr. (Yonina) Andrea K. Foster welcomes you to share in Jewish Renewal at Congregation Beth Abraham's building on Elmwood Avenue, Friday night, December 22. All are welcome. The Shabbat program will draw upon tradition, song, contemplation, and the mystical tradition it arises from, with a mix of more contemporary tunes that reflect the themes of Shabbat. Bring your rhythm instruments, stories, songs, and thoughts about bringing light into the darkness, and into you, so through the next weeks and months you can reimagine the light of Shabbat each day into spring.

Location: Congregation Beth Abraham, 1073 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222 Time: While Shabbat officially begins at sundown, the event will convene at 6:30 p.m. Bring: your own cushion!! Depending on numbers, we may set up chairs in a circle in the basement. Otherwise we will meet upstairs in the Sanctuary. Cushions may be desired there. Oneg after: bring a light dairy snack to share. Fruit and veggies always welcome.

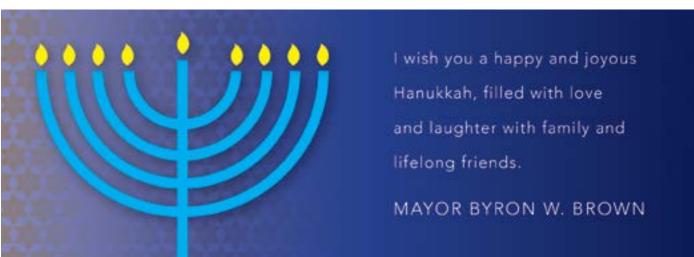
Dr. (Yonina) Andrea K. Foster, class of Amherst 1975, returned this summer to live in Buffalo after an almost 42 year absence. Foster had lived in suburban Maryland for more than 30 years. While missing New York for decades, Foster never expected to be back. By June of 2017, this year she'd packed up her belongings and moved them to Buffalo.

Foster originally found Jewish Renewal in her Maryland community in the late 1990s through Rabbi David Shneyer, and ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal begun by grandfathers of the Renewal movement. Shlomo Carlebach (z"l) and Reb Zalman Shachter-Shalomi (z"l). Contact Dr. Foster at (301) 452-7847 and bflogalagain@gmail.com. For more information about Jewish Renewal, go to www. aleph.org.

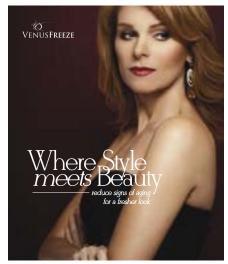




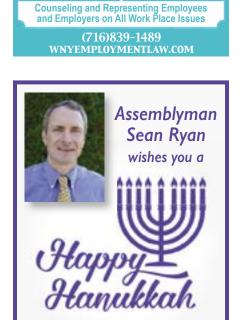




Dr. Leonard & Beth Kaplan would like to wish you a very Happy Holiday and **Healthy New Year!** 



\$100 in gift cards and get a \$25 gift card free!



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## Happy Hanukkah!

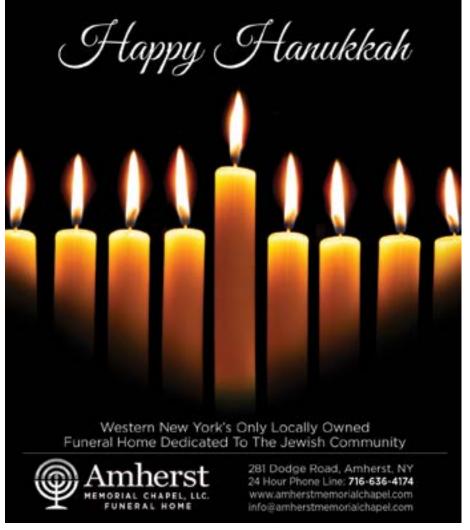


Charles R. Niles, MD Louis J. Antonucci, MD Joseph R. Berardi, MD Barry M. Epstein, MD Thomas J. Guttuso, MD Deepan Selvadurai, MD



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# Happy Hanukkah

















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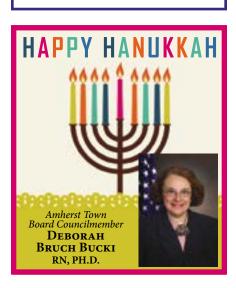




Wishing You and Your Family Peace and Happiness this Hanukkah Season



Assemblyman Ray Walter 146th District





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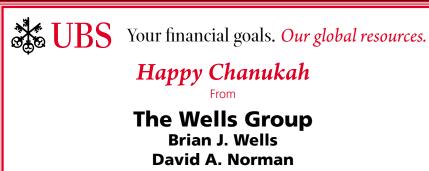
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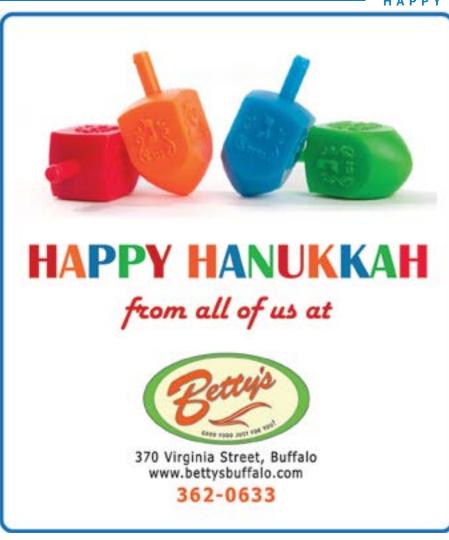






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ubs.com/team/thewellsgroup







### Wishing **Everyone** а Нарру Hanukkah



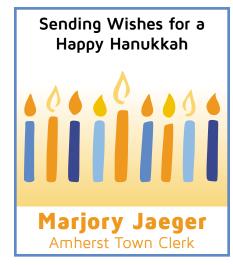


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Wishing you and your family a **HAPPY** HANUKKAH!





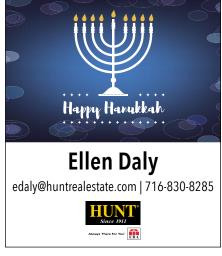
### HAPPY HANUKKAH

May this Festival of Lights bring blessings upon you and your loved ones for happiness and health.



1300 Liberty Building, Buffalo, N.Y. | www.hurwitzfine.com | 716-849-8900



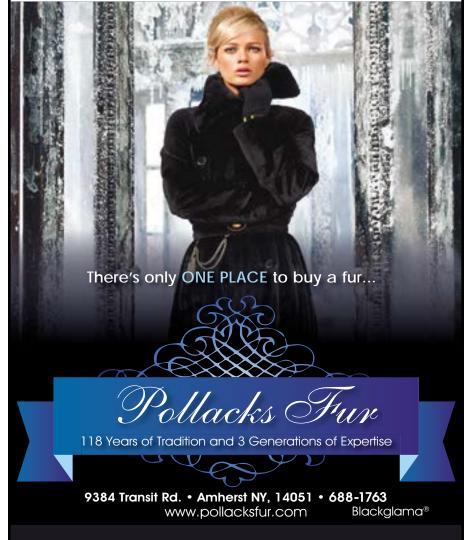






# Happy Chanukah!

from Linda & David Pollack





### Happy Hanukkah

Sheryl Kardaman Silverberg SRES, ABR

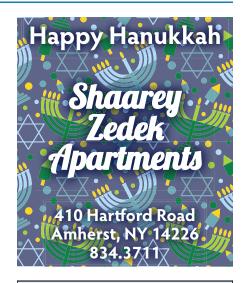
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Friday, December 15th, 7pm

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#### December 1

**Tot Shabbat Hop** 6:00PM. Temple Beth Zion 805 Delaware Ave. FREE

Federation-sponsored Oneg Shabbat at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave.

#### December 5

BJE's "What if Everyone Read the Same **Book?** Adult Education 7:00PM. Audubon Library, Amherst

#### December 7

**Buffalo Jewish Federation** Annual Meeting

6:30PM. The Buffalo History Museum Nottingham Terrace and Elmwood Avenue FREE. Call 204-2243 for reservations

#### December 8

Tot Shabbat Hop 6:00PM. Congregation Shir Shalom. FREE

#### December 9

Federation-sponsored Kiddush at Young Israel

#### December 12-20

Hanukkah celebrated Light an additional candle each night

#### December 12

Hanukkah Begins Light the first Candle

Chanukah in Outer Space 5:30PM. Jewish Discovery Center 757 Hopkins Rd. 639-7600

#### December 13

**Hebrew High 2nd Session begins** 6:30PM. JCC/Benderson Building Call Melissa at 204-5380 to register

#### **December 15**

Hanukkah Star Wars Congregation Shir Shalom. 6:00PM Reservations a must! 633-8877

#### December 16

Nickel City Jews -The Big Fry - Latkes & Cocktails 6:30-9:30PM. Artisan Kitchens and Baths. Facebook.com/NickelCitvJews

#### December 17

**TBT Kesher Inclusion Hanukkah Party** 10:30AM-noon. RSVP 838-3232

**TBZ Shlock Rock concert** 11:30AM. 700 Sweet Home Road \$18/ person. \$54/ family of 4 836-6565

PJ Library Hanukkah on Ice. 3:30-5:30PM. Ice at Canalside RSVP by Dec. 11 www.jfedbflo.com/pj-library

#### December 19

TBT Sisterhood Hanukkah lunch There is a charge Call 634-6330

#### December 20

Last night of Hanukkah Light the last Hanukkah Candle on your menorah

#### December 22

Renewal Shabbat @ Congregation Beth Abraham 6:30 PM. 1073 Elmwood Ave.

#### December 31

New Year's Eve Happy New Year 2018!

#### TBT Sisterhood Hanukkah 12/19

On Tuesday, December 19, the Women's Network of Temple Beth Tzedek will host a Hanukkah luncheon prepared by their chef, Mark McGranahan. Dr. Yonina Foster, a music professional with seminary, chaplaincy, and cantorial training, will present a program entitled, "Musical Memories." It will be an interactive program with voice and guitar accompaniment and rhythm instruments using traditional, folk, and popular songs. She promises to engage body, mind, and spirit through an enlivening and singing program in which people are encouraged to share a story and participate. There is a charge. For more information, please contact: Linda Steinhorn at 634-6330 or oralin330@aol.com



### CALIDORE STRING QUARTET

Tuesday, January 16th at 8 pm Mary Seaton Room I Kleinhans Music Hall

Program will include works by Haydn, Shostakovich & Mendelssohn

Tickets: \$25 / Students free

Info: 716-462-4939 www.bflochambermusic.org



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#### MENDELSSOHN & MOZART

Sat. Dec. 2, 8pm Sun. Dec. 3, 2:30pm André Raphel, conductor

French violinist Arnaud Sussmann makes his debut with the BPO performing Mendelssohn's beloved Violin Concerto in a program that includes Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin and Mozart's grand Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter."



M&TBank Classics

Fri. Jan. 12, 10:30am Sat. Jan. 13, 8pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Roman Mekinulov, cello

This sizzling program of French masterpieces includes Fauré's emotional Pelléas et Mélisande Suite, Debussy's Ibéria from Images,

Roman Mekinulov performing Saint-Saens' demanding Cello Concerto No. 1, and closes with Ravel's spectacularly dramatic Boléro.

M&TBank Classics









#### KADIMAH AT THE HALF: MID-YEAR CHECK IN

#### By Marci Wiseman

Writing seems to be an all-around favorite hobby with the 3rd and 4th graders at Kadimah Academy under the direction of general studies teacher, Beth Steinberg. In a recent midyear check-in that included practicing their essay skills, several students listed writing as their favorite subject.

Gabe Epstein writes: "I love third grade because we have so many awesome activities to do! My favorite is writing books. So far I'm writing a book called Indiana Jones: The Final Adventure... The book is about Indi as a kid on his first adventure, hence the name..." Did you catch that modifier?

Talula Enis concurs on the subject, "My favorite thing that I've learned in 4th grade is that writing is fun! Last year writing was my worst subject! I hated writing! But I was so wrong. Writing is awesome! Writing is my 2nd favorite subject now!" The emphasis is hers.

Some students are succinct. Emily Weed writes, "My favorite thing to do in 4th grade is handwriting and Gym." Rozie Herman, a 3rd grader, agrees. "My favorite thing I learned is cursive. I like it because of the twirls."

Many of the students love reading, as well. Rozie's favorite book is Harry Potter, because of the magic. Daniela Licea also loves to read. "My favorite activity in 3rd grade is books. My favorite books are animal books...I like to read about snakes..." Ana Karcz says, "My favorite thing to do in third grade is to read my favorite books and write the coolest stories."

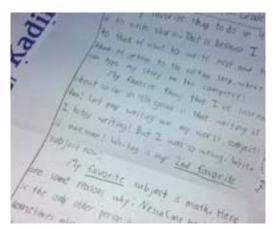
These students have keen interests that are diverse and well-rounded, a trait shown by studies to lead to successful personal and academic futures. Fourth grader Nessa Grol-Norris loves learning to play the recorder, and found the papiermâché birds she made in art class to be the most interesting thing she's done so far. She continues, "I also hope to learn about states and their capitals [sic]. Being the younger sister of a geography lover and expert (that would be Haya, grade 6)... I've learned to love geography too."

Looking ahead, the students have a wide range of requests for what they'd like to study. Eliana Purizhansky: "I really hope in 3rd grade that we're going to learn about rocks and minerals." Rozie is hoping to learn about bugs "because they are cool," and Ana is "hoping to learn about how people build houses."

Nessa sums it up by anticipating "the rest of the year is as packed with as much amazing stuff as the beginning," and Gabe rounds it out with, "I have a great teacher, and best of all, a Jewish school."

Kol HaKavod (well done), Kadimah Kids! For more information, visit: www. kadimah.org. To make a contribution by phone, please contact Marci Wiseman, Director of Community Engagement and Relations at 716-836-6903 or marci. wiseman@kadimah.org.





#### **HEBREW HIGH SESSION 2 BEGINS DECEMBER 13!**

By Melissa Schreiber Assistant Principal, Hebrew High

Attention all 8th - 12th graders! On Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30pm at the Jewish Community Center (2640 North Forest Rd. in Getzville) Hebrew High will be starting its second session. This means teens will be able to try all of our new classes and pick the one that interests them.

We will have some classes that were so popular last year we were asked to continue them. **Texting for Teens** is back for Part 3 and will continue to teach students how to handle life's big questions with inspiration and guidance from the Torah. War and Memory will dive back into the stories of Holocaust survivors through different forms of media. A new class to take notice of is Jews and Jewish Culture on TV. Local actor Adam Yellen, will teach how Judaism has evolved on TV from the 1950's to today.

At the beginning of every session, our students participate in a group activity, allowing teens to make new friends and rekindle friendships. Last Session, our students had an edible Sukkah building contest, and last year a highlight was an egg drop challenge. Please join us on the first night of Session 2 to find out what activity we will be doing!

Registration is open online - bjebuffalo.org/hebrewhigh! For more information on Hebrew High or other teen programming, please contact the Bureau of Jewish Education at 716-204-5380 or melissa@bjebuffalo.org.



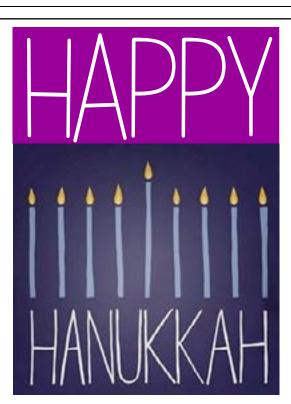
### **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF BUFFALO** & ERIE COUNTY:YEAR-END REPORT

At the beginning of 2017, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County board chair Blaine Schwartz, Esq. cited "collaboration, cooperation and re-connection" as agency priorities. We are pleased to report we have met that challenge and exceeded our goals.

Every day our goal is to provide services that integrate physical wellness and emotional well-being - and ensure that spiritual and religious believers are honored and respected. We focus this objective with help from the wisdom of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, who eloquently said: "All are entitled to live with dignity and respect, without fear or pain."

#### **Holocaust Survivor Support**

On October 11, New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan announced a \$25,000 set-aside grant specifically for JFS support of Holocaust Survivors. The funds will assist survivors with the purchase of medical equipment, air conditioners and home improvements for



May this season of beauty and light fill your heart and home with happiness.



 $www.jfsbuffalo.org \qquad 716.883.1914$ 

🚺 "jfsbuffalo" 🔰 #JFSbuffalo 🛮 70 Barker Street Buffalo NY 14209



(l. to r.): JFS Presdent and CEO Marlene Schillinger, JFS Board Treasurer David Schlein, Holocaust Survivor Stephan Lewy, Assemblyman Sean Ryan, Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) Vice Chair Rachel Kranitz-McPhee, HRC **Executive Director Mara Koven-Gelman and Cantor Penny Myers** 

disability access, and to support a part-time social worker. The job description for the social worker position can be accessed by clicking "Employment" under the "More" menu at jfsbuffalo.org.

#### Mental Health Counseling and Treatment

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County is one of only a few resources in Western New York with the capacity to deliver mental health and physical health care with an understanding of Iewish faith and culture.

Our agency has provided comprehensive mental and behavioral health counseling and treatment services for adults, children, teens, seniors and families since the 1950s.

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County is also breaking new regional ground as a lead collaborator in an innovation designed to address the stigma still surrounding mental illness.

We are playing a key role in "Join the Conversation." The web-driven communications campaign at www.letstalkstigma. **org** is facilitating open dialogue that will help change perception and response to people with a mental health challenge. It is also helping to improve outreach for mental health counseling, treatment and support. For more information call 883-1914 and ask for intake.

A critical part of the JFS role in this effort involves Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA), which teaches individuals, employers and groups to better understand mental illness; identify and respond to a mental health emergency, and ways to reduce the associated stigma. With president and CEO Marlene Schillinger as a certified trainer and founding member of the Erie County Anti-Stigma Coalition, in 2017 JFS helped to provide MHFA training to over 2,500 people living in Western New York. To schedule or learn how to participate in a group MHFA



Together with the Bureau of Jewish Education and Federation, JFS sponsored a powerful musical called "Freedom Song," which highlighted addiction issues in the Jewish Community.

training, contact Karl Shallowhorn at 883-

#### The JFS Health Home Care Management

JFS has long been the place where members of our Jewish community go when they need comprehensive health care. In the case of our elders, our goal is to keep the person aging at home in his or her own community for as long as safely possible, and to help them access whatever available resources are needed to reach this objective. Our expanded Health Home / Care Management services are now helping a broad community of eligible seniors, adults, children and people living with a physical and/or mental health challenge stay healthy and out of the hospital. Each is paired with a care coordinator who works with the primary care physician, specialists and social service providers to integrate the social, emotional and physical care that makes up the whole person. For eligibility information contact Sarah Utkin at 883-1914, ext. 303.

#### JFS Career Counseling

JFS continues to help people make choices about how they want to earn a livelihood at all ages and stages of life. In our own Jewish community, you will find many recognizable faces that have benefitted from JFS career counseling.

This year, Career Counseling updated its assessment program with new, state of the art applications; identified vocational programming and established collaborations to better serve those with special needs, including Buffalo's deaf refugee community. We also continue to assist the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies with administration of its important Academic Scholarship Program. For information ask for Peter Scott at 883-1914, Ext. 333.

#### **Immigrant & Refugee Services**

JFS Refugee and Immigrant services also received "huge congratulations" in October from HIAS for achieving a 91.80 percent 180-day self-sufficiency rate in FY 2017, above the national average: In August, a generous corporate donor sponsored backto-school shopping at Burlington Stores for 50 refugee and immigrant children. Apple Domingo is happy to answer questions at 883-1914, Ext. 339.

In the year ahead, let us know how we are doing and what you would like to see. Please visit us online at www.jfsbuffalo.org and take our short, five-question survey. All the best to you and yours in 2018!

#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY** YAD B'YAD **INTERN**

Yad B'Yad (Hebrew for Hand in Hand) is a non-profit outreach and advocacy program of the Bureau of Jewish Education that promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Jewish and Buffalo communities. The purpose of these efforts is to enrich the spiritual and communal lives of individuals with and without disabilities by expanding friendships, sharing mutual talents, and fostering an appreciation of individual differences.

We are seeking a part-time paid Intern (10 hours/week) beginning immediately to assist in research, outreach, program facilitation, and posting on social media. Interested candidates should possess a passion for working with individuals with disabilities. Hours are flexible, and at times, may be completed off site.

The Yad B'Yad Intern will report to the Director of Yad B'Yad.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to yadbyad@ bjebuffalo.org.

#### YOUNG ARTISTS **EXHIBITS**

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY** 

The Bunis Family Art Gallery at the **Benderson Family Building** 



The ICC Art Galleries are open to all members of the community. Admission is free and galleries are open whenever the JCCs are open. JCC Art Galleries are a wonderful opportunity for local artists to showcase and sell their work, with a portion of all sales donated to support gallery operations.

For information about how to apply for a two-month exhibit at either of our galleries, contact JHalpern@jccbuffalo. org or call 716-204-2255.









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something about the JCC

## Happening in December at the



## What are your kids doing during School Vacation?



Grades K-6 | 8:00\*\*-6:00\*

When school's out for holidays or conference days, the JCC is in! Daily activities typically include a field trip, games. Bring a lunch, sneakers, swim suit and towel each day. TERRITY



Winter Recess class#18822

class#18834

Register by December 12 and save 10%



Grades: K-5 | 6:00-10:00

enjoy kid friendly treats and watch a movie. Full Member Gym/CP \$25 per child \$30 per child





#### WIM VACATION CLUB

Ages: 3-10 | 9:30\*\*\*-12:30\*\*\*
Swimming, tumbling, and gym fun!
Register in advance, we accept same
day registration if there is room!
Full Member Gym/CP 20 per day 23 per day





JCC Gift Cards are Perfect for



#### Member Only Special

Every day during Hanukkah (Dec. 13-20), enter to win one of the following

great gifts!

1st day: 3 1/2 hour personal training sessions (land or water)

4th day: 3 1/2 hour personal training sessions (land or water)

8th day: 3 1/2 hour personal training sessions (land or water)

You can enter once a day at the Member Service Desk. Open to everyone, certain restrictions apply. One entry per day per person please. Winner will be notified by mail, phone or letter.

Holiday Hours Monday, December 25 Fitness Open 8:00<sup>am</sup>-3:00<sup>pm</sup> Aquatics until 2:30<sup>pm</sup>

Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed Monday, January 1 Fitness Open 8:00 -3:00 Aquatics until 2:30 Aq Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed

2™ day: JCC mug & Myers Tel Aviv Café bucks

5th day: JCC mug & Myers Tel Aviv Café bucks

7th day: 2 JRT tickets for a 2017/2018 show

6th day: 3 month individual membership certificate

3™ day: One hour massage

Buy a \$50 gift card and the JCC will make it a \$100 gift card!

Can be only be used by non member on anything the JCC offers including membership, camp or a JRT production! 1 card per program/service.



Benderson Family Building



#### Getzville

behind UB North 688-4033

# jccbuffalo

Holland Family Building



787 Delaware Avenue at Summer Street

www.jccbuffalo.org

#### JCC Hours

8:00 -- 6:00 m Mon-Thurs 5:30\*\*-9:30\*\*\* 5:30°m-7:00°m Friday 8:00 -6:00 m Sat

**36** www.jfedbflo.com | December 2017

#### Learning to Brighten up the December Darkness!

By Susan Goldberg Schwartz,

Director of Adult Learning, Bureau of Jewish Education

The Adult Learning Department at the BJE has been very busy this fall! Over 75 people, new and old, have participated in different learning opportunities which have encouraged group conversations along with personal reflection and self-discovery.



Introduction to Judaism Class with Rabbi Sara Rich



Jewish Life through the Movie Lens class

The Intro to Judaism class has attracted Jews and non-Jews; those in the process of conversion, along with interfaith couples who are getting married; people who wanted to learn more than what they had learned in Sunday school; people who want to come back to the religion that they had stepped away from. This course will be offered again, beginning January 17, 2018.

Both beginners and intermediate Hebrew learners are studying with Michal Shmuel to learn basic Hebrew reading and vocabulary as well as learn Modern Hebrew and Israeli culture. The 2nd semester begins January



**Wise Aging Group** 

3rd and is open to new and returning

Our first Wise Aging group is meeting every other week and sharing stories, worries and blessings about getting older (and wiser)! We are in the process of forming new Wise Aging groups and are looking for participants. If interested, please let me know!

The first session of Jewish Life through the Movie Lens, with Eileen Angelini, focused on Jews in the Arts, highlighting films which included: Hava Nagila, Orchestra of Exiles, The Klezmatics and Fiddler on the Roof. The next session in December focuses on Jews in Sports and Jewish Life in America.

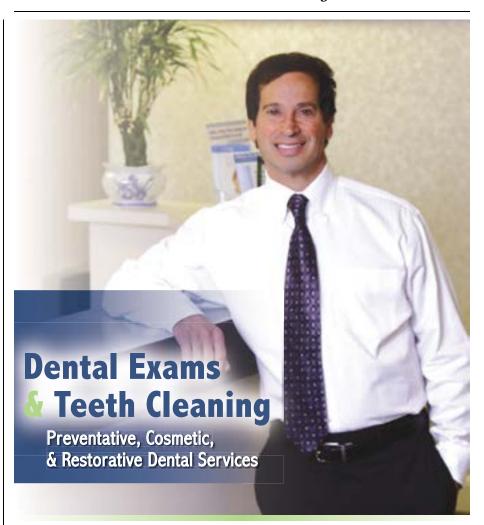
During the first sessions of GPS: A Guide to the Pages of the Siddur with Dr. Ted Steinberg, the participants began learning about the origins of the Jewish prayerbook and why the particular prayers and readings were included.

Discussions on What if Everyone Read the Same Book? continue Tuesday, December 5. We will focus our discussion on the holiday of Hanukkah and the Mussar trait of Gratitude. We will be meeting at 7:00pm at the Audubon branch of the Buffalo and Erie County Library.

As Hanukkah approaches, consider reading a new book, learning something new and joining in inspiring conversations! As the Hanukkah candles

are lit, so can your minds be lit up to brighten up the dark days!

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.





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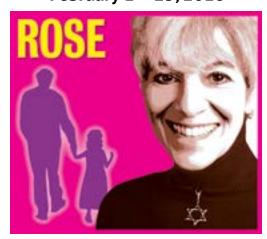


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#### **Jewish Repertory Theatre presents:**

#### A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

**ROSE**, by Martin Sherman February 1 - 25, 2018



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

Directed by Saul Elkin. Starring Tina Rausa. Laurence Olivier Award nomination 2000!

#### Save \$\$\$ with a two play subscription still available! Great holiday gift!!

Subscriptions and Tickets at: JRT Box Office: 716-650-7626 Group & Student discounts! www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com Showclix Box Office: 888-718-4253

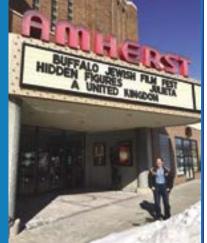
The Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Bldg, 2640 North Forest Rd, Getzville, NY 14068

#### Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

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#### **HADASSAH HAPPENINGS**

Don Paul, a well known Buffalo meteorologist, was the guest speaker at a Buffalo Hadassah luncheon at Milo's restaurant in October. Nearly 50 people listened attentively as he discussed his television career in weather reporting and his recent interest in climate change. He now also writes online about climate change for the Buffalo News. He has been reading the research on this topic and although the evidence clearly points to climate change, there are still restraints on broadcast











Captions from top, clockwise: Rich Kellman, Don Paul, Rich Newberg; Amy Zeckhauser; the planning committee; enjoying the luncheon; Ann Kellman at the podium

meteorologists who want to discuss the topic on television.

His informative talk was peppered with humor and was very well received by all those in attendance. His talk was followed by a very interesting Q and A, with additional comments and insights about television news broadcasts offered by former TV journalists Rich Kellman and Rich Newberg.

This very successful event was planned by Rhonda Wise, Ann Kellman, and Nancy Greenberg, members of the program committee.

For more information about the next program or about joining the Buffalo Hadassah chapter contact nangrnberg@gmail.com

#### (NOT) THE LAST WORD

#### THOUGHTS ON AN EXPEDITION **TO AFRICA**

By Jeff Hirshberg

To call it a "village" is perhaps an overstatement. Kitenga, in northwest Tanzania, about a two hour drive from Lake Victoria, is not much more than a few huts ("bombas," as they're called) and shacks that mask as general stores. But Kitenga is now also the home of the Kitenga School for Girls, run by the nuns of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Africa, four of whom have advanced degrees from D'Youville and Daeman Colleges here in Buffalo, and supported by the Buffalo-based Girls' Education Collaborative (GEC).

That's where we-me and my wife, Shelley-fit in. The GEC was formed as a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit corporation in 2012, and it has since raised substantial funds to collaborate with the Sisters in the creation, management, and programming at this brand new school. Shelley and I joined nine others, mostly from the Buffalo area, to celebrate the grand opening of the school at the end of May. Upon our arrival we were more than greeted by the school's first class: fifty-nine 9th graders who swarmed out of their mess hall to embrace us and thank us before we could even exit our safari trucks.

This was but the first of four days at the school. While there, we helped paint (an unrelated) kindergarten building, planted trees and flowers, shucked soybeans for our dinner, and we gave gifts of school supplies, science experiments, and books. The books. All the kids speak and read English as well as their native Swahili, some of course better than others. But every single one of them eagerly grabbed whatever books we brought for them. In fact, as we unloaded the books for the girls to bring to the Alice Kryzan Library (named for our late friend, Buffalo lawyer and one-time congressional candidate), the girls started reading them before they reached the shelves.

Among the most welcome gifts were the soccer balls and post cards with selfies from the New York students of one of our co-travelers, along with requests for return cards and pictures of their writers. After the giving of gifts (you can see in the accompanying photo where Shelley and I are pictured among the girls) the girls spontaneously formed a kind of chorus line, one grabbed a makeshift drum, and they beat out several rhythmic songs for our benefit.

The singing resumed the following day, when 200-300 representatives from nearby towns, the Episcopal and Catholic Dioceses, joined us for the Inauguration of the school. Buffalo's own Father Bob Perelli of D'Youville College adorned, with the vestments of his office, spoke with pride for all of us.

That pride was reflected by our two incredible guides, Zev and Alois, who shepherded us through most of our travels and adventures, from Arusha in the east, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater further west, and Kitenga itself. Alois captured the significance of this



Shelley and Jeff Hirshberg in Kitenga

school as well as any of us: "You know," he said, "what you are doing here will change the lives of each of these girls, each of their families, and each of their communities. It's not just what they learn in the classroom. It's how they've learned to work and live together."

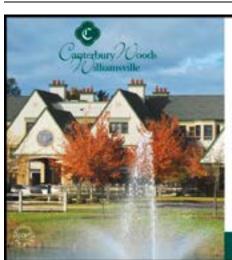
Were they not in school, these young girls might well be traded in marriage for a goat or a cow...after the ritual genital mutilation. Now, when you ask them about their future, their eyes glow with dreams of being doctors, nurses, teachers and even accountants. The Sisters have done a wonderful job of convincing families that their children would be worth much more to them if they had an education, which has allowed them to pursue these dreams. Plans now are for a second class next year-a new 9th grade as these kids matriculate to the 10th, and for raising additional funds to build additional classrooms, dorms, and teachers' living quarters over the next several years.

For us, the school's grand opening was an emotional and eye-opening experience-the highlight of a trip that also included three day- and one night-

safaris, where we thrilled to see prides of lions, herds of elephants, zebras, wildebeests, warthogs, who knows how many flamingoes, troops of various types of monkeys and baboons, swamps filled with hippos, the most beautiful birds, and on and on. The Serengeti, after all, is larger than Belgium, and there's little there but these freely roaming animals.

Traditional Judaism has taught us the value of education; the need to respect and honor women; and the necessity of community. Our trip to Africa allowed us to see all of these values in harmony: a powerful collaboration of community actively engaged in the education of beautiful and bright young girls. And so, at the end of the day of the school's inauguration, as we retired with the nuns to their convent overlooking Lake Victoria, I was humbled that the nuns allowed me, in lieu of the evening's Grace, to say a Shehechiyanu. What a blessing this has been.

Jeff Hirshberg is a Buffalo tax accountant and active supporter of the Girls' Education Collaborative.



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#### Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies Annual Meeting

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies held its 106th Annual Meeting in October. President Ray Fink welcomed guests and offered his report, and the 2017 Community Leadership Award was given to the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project (JBA). Those honored for the JBA were Charlotte E. Gendler, Harold M. Halpern, Ralph L. Halpern and Dr. Chana R. Kotzin.























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#### Rabbi Shay Mintz Memorial Service 10/22

A Memorial program for Rabbi Shay Mintz (z"l) was held in October at the North Forest site of Temple Beth Tzedek (Formerly Congregation B'nai Shalom.) Friends, family members and community members from far and near came together to talk about the impact this learned man had on their lives and on the Buffalo Jewish Community.



























New UB Law School Dean Aviva Aviva Abramovsky was welcomed to Buffalo by the Jewish Community at a fall









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