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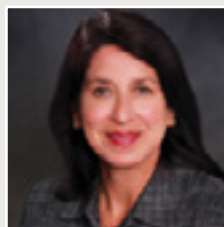
# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

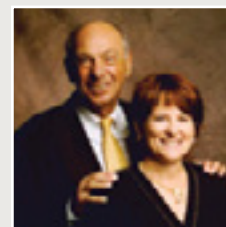
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MARCH 2018 | ADAR- NISSAN 5778

## BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH COMMUNITY RELATIONS (5)



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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

March winds blowing into the Queen City bring welcome change! The Buffalo Jewish Federation's new Community Relations Initiative is now underway, with the talented Mara Koven-Gelman taking the lead in this area, even while she continues to lead the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. Mazel tov to Mara on this wonderful opportunity! Read about her, and reflections of community members engaged in Community Relations on what Passover means to them (pages 4-6).

Registration is still open for the Buffalo Israel Experience, the much-anticipated community journey to Israel next October to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday. So far, more than 70 individuals have signed up for the experience, but there is still room for more. Read about Leslie Shuman Kramer's recent visit to Israel and Buffalo's Partnership 2Gether sister region on page 11 for a little taste of what awaits us in Israel in October. Then sign up or contact Nicole Bard with any questions you might have at Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org. And speaking of 70th birthday celebrations, our community is gearing up for a big one next month. A few highlights are listed on page 31.

Don't forget Purim, which begins at the end of February and continues into March, then Passover, which begins March 30 and ends in April. There are plenty of Purim Spiels and parties and community Passover Seders (page 9) to attend in costume (Purim) and meals at which to ask 4 questions (Passover). We also have a few Passover taste treats from Robin Kurss and Jessica Altman (page 10). Wishing you a joyous month of holidays and community!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom stands with Federation's new Community Relations Initiative Director Mara Koven-Gelman, Father Greg Jakubowicz, OFM, and Dr. Yonina Foster, Activities Director for Jewish Federation Apartments to discuss the March 20 Interfaith Remembrance Service at Federation Apartments.

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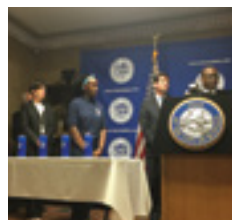
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## Mara Koven-Gelman Heads Community Relations Initiative

Mara Koven-Gelman has been appointed the director of the newly formed Community Relations Initiative. Koven-Gelman will split her time between this new initiative and continuing as Executive Director of Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

"The Buffalo Jewish Federation has recently reinvigorated a much-needed community relations and bridge-building role in greater Buffalo," said Jewish Federation President Steven Weiss. "We owe so much to the solid foundation built by former community relations director Lana Benatovich (now the CEO of National Federation of Just Communities) and Ellen Goldstein (now the Public Relations Director at Buffalo Jewish Federation.)"

"While we have much to be proud of in our Jewish and larger community, there are signs of anti-Semitism, bigotry and racism. Together, with other faith, ethnic and cultural communities, we can build a stronger, more civil society," Weiss added.

"The Community Relations vision



Mara Koven-Gelman

that seeks to sustain a more civil and caring community in Western New York and around the world is noble and honorable. I look forward to working with a dynamic and diverse group of Buffalo Jewish community volunteers on a concrete community relations agenda," said Koven-Gelman.

Koven-Gelman has been a Jewish communal professional for over 25 years in Boston, Toronto and London, Ontario and Buffalo. For the past two and half

years she has led the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. She was the lead consultant on the 2013 Buffalo Jewish Community Study conducted by Brandeis University for Buffalo Jewish Federation. She was the assistant executive director at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living in Toronto where over 50 percent of the membership were Holocaust Survivors. She also helped create the Jewish Hospice Program - a home based hospice in Toronto.

Additionally, in Buffalo, Koven-Gelman wrote the original Café Europa grant to fund a monthly social event for Buffalo Holocaust Survivors and their spouses and early childhood education grants for the Jewish Community Center. Koven-Gelman was the grant writer for Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy and national planner at the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation in Toronto.

She helped create the first-ever Jewish communal response to AIDS in Boston as part of the Jewish Community Relations Council. She worked at the Massachusetts State House for then Governor Michael

Dukakis. She has a Master's Degree in Jewish Communal Service from Brandeis University, a Masters in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario and Mass Communication Bachelors from Boston University.

Her past volunteer activities include: United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Investment Reviewer, Adult Congenital Heart Association Resource Development Committee Member, Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association Board Member and International Institute volunteer. She also is the editor/publisher of *Mourning Has Broken - A Collection of Creative Writing about Grief and Healing*.

She is married to Dr. Irwin Gelman, Professor of Oncology and Director of Research Integration at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has two children, Noah Koven, a senior at SUNY Geneseo and Maya Koven, a sophomore at University of Rochester and two step-daughters, Audrey and Maris Gelman who live in NYC.



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# Interfaith Remembrance, other programs an outgrowth of Interfaith Clergy Trip to Israel

Dr. Yonina Foster, a Buffalo NY native, moved back home last summer, following the death of her husband. With her recent move back, she opted to apply for the Activities' Director job at Jewish Federation Apartments—also known as Essjay—to develop relationships with residents, to listen to their needs and plan programs with and for them. The Remembrance program on March 20th is a part of that. (See page 7.) “In Maryland, at the Charles E. Life Communities, at the Revitz House, a comparable housing to Essjay, I worked with the social worker and Activities' Director there and created a Remembrance program. Federation Apartments had not had this kind of remembrance service in several years.” Because Dr. Foster's husband died in 2016, she knows and understands what it means and how important it is to remember loved ones. The service is designed to have a ritual, including songs, and give residents a chance to grieve and memorialize their friends and loved ones.

2018's service is an outgrowth of last December's Clergy Leaders' Trip to Israel. Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein was on the trip with Fr. Greg Jakubowicz, OFM of St. Joseph University Parish in Buffalo. Federation Apartments is a multi-faith environment, so when Dr. Foster contacted Rabbi Alex, to see if he knew a Catholic priest who would be part of the service, it was a natural fit, and father Greg agreed to participate in this new service. “Since our trip in December,” Rabbi



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom, Dr. Yonina Foster of Federation Apartments and Father Greg Jakubowicz of St. Joseph University Parish

Lazarus –Klein said, “there has been on-going cooperation among the members of the trip, representing different faith communities. As an example, Rev. Mark Blue joined me this past Hanukkah at a candle lighting ceremony at ECMC. And that's only one of many instances where we have worked together,” he added.

Fr. Greg is honored by the fact that Federation Apartments is a Jewish-centered place, whose origins are in keeping with Jewish traditions. “I am part of the Catholic tradition, and we feel connected to the Jewish tradition in so many ways,” he said. “On the Israel trip, I was so moved by the celebration of Jewish prayer at the Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat day services. The holiness of the traditions and connections of my religion to Judaism became apparent to me in Israel,” he said.

Dr. Foster has cantorial training, and five years of ALEPH (Alliance for Jewish Renewal) Rabbinic Seminary studies. The rabbinic program required a unit of clinical pastoral education and chaplaincy training. She took two units of Clinical Pastoral Education and combined her experiences, including a Ph.D. in American Studies, to create musical engagement for elders, including those in Memory Care while she was still living in Maryland.

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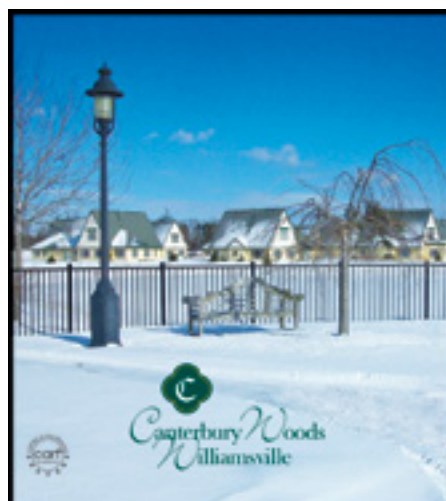
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Passover is a challenge for our family. Not because we're surviving on matzah like our ancestors, or due to the length of the Seder. Rather, it's challenging to arrange tables and chairs to fit 27 people into our dining room so that no one has their backs to each other. We tend to host eight families, none of whom are from Buffalo and, like us, none of whom have local family. My kids and I agree that we would host 27 more people if we needed to for Passover Seder or for any occasion, because our home is always open to those that need a place to warm up, eat, tell their stories, and share their traditions.

My three sons and I start gearing up for Passover two weeks before our Seder. Last year we delivered decorated goodie bags to each family attending. The bags included a 1,500 dot-to-dot picture (frog) and a bunch of Cry-Baby sour gum. We challenged adults and kids alike to chew the gum as a small way for them to recall the anguish of our ancestors enslaved in Egypt. We collect the pictures of their scrunched up, bitter faces, include the collage in our Haggadah, and discuss over maror on matzah!

**Nina Lukin is a leader of PJ Library, PJ Our Way, is involved in the new Community Relations Initiative and was a national 2017 Frank Fellow with the Jewish Council of Public Affairs.**

## "Let all who are hungry, come and eat"

### Reflections on the Meaning of Passover

*At the Passover season, we often take time to think about our lives, count our blessings and assess the world. The six people pictured on this page—Nina Lukin, Steven Schwartz, Ted and Phyllis Steinberg, Jessica Meyers Altman and Rabbi Sara Rich—are part of new programs and projects in Jewish Buffalo which involve working with members of other religions, ethnicities, beliefs—in short –community relations.*



#### Ted

These words from the Haggadah seem self-explanatory, and their clearest meaning is worth taking seriously: "We are having a seder, and no one should be excluded. If you don't have a seder, join ours." But these days and in our community, such an invitation is mostly a formality. Nevertheless, the words have a further meaning. First, in the Haggadah they are written in Aramaic, the everyday language of the time, not in the more formal Hebrew. They are meant to be taken seriously by everyone. On Passover we celebrate freedom, but freedom does not mean simply a license to do whatever we want. It means the responsibility freely to choose proper behavior, to do what we should do of our own volition. And what should we do? The Torah tells us. When Cain asks, "Am I my brother's keeper?" the answer is never given, but we know that the answer is "yes." And who is our brother? Well, if we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, whether literally or figuratively, then everyone is our brother or sister, and so we are all responsible for each other. Thus, if anyone goes hungry, we are all responsible. This is a primary meaning of Passover. As Isaiah says, "Learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, seek justice for the fatherless, plead for the widow." In short, create a society that we can be proud of.

**Dr. Ted Steinberg is a retired SUNY/Fredonia professor who moved to Buffalo fairly recently with his wife, Phyllis. He teaches adult classes at the JCC, Weinberg Campus and elsewhere, and is also a member of the Federation's new Community Relations Initiative.**



#### Phyllis

As each Jewish holiday approaches, it gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the significance of the holiday in our lives. It gives us an incentive to learn a little more each year about the origin and the meaning of the holiday, but it also gives us a chance to go beyond ourselves, to see how the this particular Jewish holiday can tie into how we can have a positive impact on our community. Starting this year, my synagogue—Kehillat Ohr Tzion—decided to "share the light and warmth of Chanukah" with those who needed warm clothes, and so we collected hats, gloves and scarves for children in a day care center who were in need of such items. When we lived in Fredonia, the phrase "let all who are hungry come and eat" always meant that anyone who did not have a Seder should come to our house. When we could no longer fit everyone in our house, we started holding community Seders at our synagogue in Dunkirk. Now that we've become part of the Buffalo Jewish community and members of the Community Relations Council, those words take on a broader definition for me as we work with other organizations to actually help feed the hungry in our community.

**Phyllis Steinberg is married to Dr. Ted Steinberg, and she is active in Buffalo Hadassah, Kehillat Ohr Tzion and the new Community Relations Initiative.**

"Let all who are hungry come and eat," is commendable but not sufficient. We must not merely fill empty bellies, but prevent them. Our responsibility is to provide safe and reliable nurturance to all before anyone feels the pain of hunger. If God is responsible for nature, then our responsibility is to nurture. I had been taught that to stay hydrated, you drink water before you are thirsty. Otherwise it is too late. If we see tzedakah not as charity, but as responsibility, we know our command should be "Feed all so that no one is ever hungry."

**Steven Schwartz, a retired psychologist, is a devoted Red Cross volunteer, traveling to natural disaster sites like Texas, Louisiana and other places with the Red Cross to help communities recover. He is a founding member of the Buffalo Jewish Service Corps.**



Truly, we all are hungry. Not always at the same time, and not always for the same thing, but hunger is something that we all experience. When we say "let all who are hungry come and eat," we are calling each one of us to the table, and recognizing the humanity in each of us, who share in the most basic of needs. And yet, once we are around the table together, we remember that recognizing our basic shared humanity is only a start, and that we are responsible for one another's deeper, more complicated needs as well. Only by coming together to talk and break "bread" will we learn what those needs are, and how we can best support one another.

**Rabbi Sara Rich is the Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo.**

# Interfaith Remembrance Program at Jewish Federation Apartments

**Tuesday, March 20  
11:00 am**

*for residents who have died  
in the last year.*

Join Essjay Activities' Director, Yonina Foster, Ph.D., Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, of Congregation Shir Shalom, and Fr. Greg Jakubowicz, of St. Joseph University Parish, for a Remembrance program in the Great Room. There will be table space to show photographs of loved ones from Essjay who have died in the last year or two. Their names will be shared during the half-hour service. Afterwards, during light snacks, there will be the opportunity to share stories of those friends and loved ones with those in attendance.



## Snowbirds, Save the Date!

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and the Buffalo Jewish Federation will again be visiting Buffalonians in Florida in March.

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# Winter-Spring-Summer – Living Jewish Seasons

by Rabbi Jonathan Freirich

**The Jewish holiday cycle reminds us of history, the earth, and how to preserve and enhance the future.**

The autumn cycle of holidays asks us to look at our communal and personal behavior, through repentance and forgiveness (the High Holy Days), and then turns to appreciation of the blessings of harvest and celebrating learning (Sukkot and Simchat Torah).

In a similar way, the spring cycle – starting in winter with Tu B'Shevat, continuing with early spring and Purim, hitting a high point at mid-spring with Passover, and then linking spring to early summer with the Counting of the Omer to Shavuot – asks us to take a deeper look at the interdependence of earth and life with our freedom and how we use it.

Tu B'Shevat, the fifteenth of the month Shevat, sets us on a journey of connecting our actions in the world to deeper ideas of the heart, mind, and spirit. We remember that good actions are informed by goodness to the earth and a balance of thought, emotion, and inspiration. All of this in the middle of winter when we are not distracted by growing things,



Rabbi Jonathan Freirich

and still dependent on the food we stored in Autumn.

Purim celebrates the glimmer of spring about to emerge. We can begin to see the buds on the grape vines poke out. This allows us to drink a little extra wine and juice, knowing that there will be more to come in the next season.

Passover cries out with the joy of spring flowers – we are free! We can eat a lamb and make an offering because we see that the next generation of sheep is on the way. We remember our story of liberation, retell it at the Seder, and tie it directly and profoundly to the freedom of a world renewed with the wonders of the rainy season and summer growing season on the way. This is clear in the symbols of the Seder plate which represent both spring (parsley and other greens, the roasted egg), and the Exodus story (haroset, bitter herbs, lamb bone, matzah).

Our teachings recognize the importance of freedom, and of carefully using it well. Our spring of celebration soon becomes a summer of planting and tending, the work after the celebration. Our freedom will be applied to agreeing to all that is in the Torah, which is the biggest spiritual moment of the Jewish people, when we encounter the Divine at Mount Sinai, and begin the implementation of all the commandments of Judaism.

Shavuot is such a big deal that we don't

count down to it, we count up. Starting on the Second Day of Passover we begin to Count the Omer, forty-nine days of reflection and anticipation that culminate in the revelation of our covenant with God at Mount Sinai on the holy day of Shavuot, which usually occurs in the second half of May (and always occurs exactly seven weeks, or "shavuot", after the Second Day of Passover, hence the name of the holiday – this year May 19-20).

Barren Winter means the contemplation of Tu B'Shevat. Early spring has the revelry of Purim. Mid-spring gives us the celebration of freedom on Passover. Late spring leads to early summer with the Counting of the Omer, our thoughtful approach to the application of our freedom through Torah that gets finalized on Shavuot.

The Jewish seasonal holiday cycle reminds us of our connections to the physical world, the stories that make us Jewish, and the behavior that Judaism offers us as ways to make the world better every day, through every holiday, and at every time of the year.

**Rabbi Joathan Freirich is Rabbi at Temple Beth Zion.**

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# Purim Celebrations

**Sunday, February 25**

Temple Beth Tzedek

**10:15 am- Purim Party with TBT's  
Outstretched Arm**

**Wednesday, February 28**

Temple Beth Tzedek

**Macaroni & Megillah**

**5:30 pm Pasta Bar**

**6:30 pm Megillah Reading**

RSVP 838-3232



Kehillat Ohr Tzion

**Megillah Reading at 7:00PM**

Contact [orihergman@gmail.com](mailto:orihergman@gmail.com) for more  
information

Congregation Shir Shalom

**A Country Purim-The Nashville Megillah  
@ 7:00 pm**

**Thursday, March 1**

Kehillat Ohr Tzion

**Megillah Reading 7:30 am**

**Party at Rabbi Bergman's home 4:00 pm**

Contact [orihergman@gmail.com](mailto:orihergman@gmail.com)  
for more information

Chabad of Buffalo & Knesset Center

**Purim at the Delicatessen**

500 Starin Ave

**5:30 pm Megillah Reading**

**6:00 pm Deli Dinner**

RSVP at [www.chabadofbuffalo.com](http://www.chabadofbuffalo.com) or call  
688-1642

**Thursday, March 1**

Jewish Discovery Center

**Purim in the Shtetl 5:30 pm**

757 Hopkins Road

RSVP [www.jewishbuffalo.com](http://www.jewishbuffalo.com)  
or 639-7600

**Friday, March 2**

Temple Beth Zion

**Purim Time Machine..Back to the 80's**

Broder Center- 700 Sweet Home Road

**Potluck dinner at 6 p.m.**

**Shabbat Service at 7 p.m.**

To sign up for the potluck dinner  
call 836-6565.

**Sunday, March 4**

Congregation Shir Shalom, Temple Beth  
Zion, Temple Beth Tzedek

**Community Purim Carnival 11:00 am**

There will be activities for children  
through age 13.

## Community Seders Around Town

**Chabad**

**Friday, March 30 8:00 pm**

**Saturday, March 31 8:00 pm**

2450 North Forest Road

For reservations, call 688-1642

**Congregation Beth Abraham**

**Saturday, March 31 6:00 pm**

1073 Elmwood Ave \$30/person

[info@congregationbethabraham.net](mailto:info@congregationbethabraham.net)

**Congregation Shir Shalom**

**Saturday, March 31 6:00 pm**

Buffalo Marriott Niagara

1340 Millersport Highway

For reservations call 633-8877

**Jewish Discovery Center**

**Friday, March 30 8:00 pm**

**Saturday, March 31 8:00 pm**

757 Hopkins Road

For reservations, [www.JewishBuffalo.com](http://www.JewishBuffalo.com)

**Temple Beth Zion**

**Friday, March 30 6:00 pm**

Brookfield Country Club

5120 Shimerville Road, Clarence

For reservations by 3/12/18-  
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### Peter and the Wolf

Sun. Mar. 4, 2:30pm | Stefan Sanders, conductor

Enjoy close-up video of the instruments as they represent each  
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Free pre-concert activities start at 1:30pm.

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# My Cousin Barbara's Passover Noodles

By Robin Kurss

My Cousin, Barbara Grossman Macks- also the Publisher of Spree Publications, makes the best part of our Passover festive meal each and every year! It just wouldn't be Passover without her egg noodles. With her permission, I am sharing her heirloom recipe for all to enjoy.

Happy Passover from our family to yours.

## Barbara's Egg Noodles

6 eggs, beaten  
(6) 1/2 shells of water  
9 Tbsp. of Potato Starch  
pinch salt



- 1) Add potato starch & water to beaten eggs with a pinch of salt.
- 2) Heat small Teflon or crepe pan and cover with peanut oil.
- 3) Spoon an even, thin layer into pan and cook on medium till set.
- 4) Flip and cook other side for a couple seconds and flip onto a towel.
- 5) With "wetter side up" roll tightly and then cut crosswise every 1/4 inch. Don't unravel the noodles.
- 6) Place in baggie and refrigerate until ready to use.
- 7) Bring chicken soup to a boil. Place desired amount of noodles in bottom of bowl and pour hot soup over them.

# Moroccan Carrot Soup

By Jessica Meyers Altman,  
also known as Garden Fresh Foodie  
[www.gardenfreshfoodie.com](http://www.gardenfreshfoodie.com)

Moroccan foods stem from many cultural influences; Arab, Jewish, and Christian cultures have all impacted the foods of Morocco. The area is rich in spices and ingredients and led me to create an entire party around it. If you aren't familiar with harissa paste, it's a chili garlic paste that is in a lot of Moroccan recipes, and Middle Eastern cuisine. It has a smoky, spicy flavor. If you aren't one for spicy things, cut back a little on the harissa, and add in the amount that suits your taste.

To sauté oil free, simply add your veggies to a hot pan. If they start to stick, add a little water or broth to loosen them up. Just enough so that they don't stick. This will still allow you to create a caramelized flavor and appearance.

This soup is made without oil, and is rich in vitamins and nutrients, while being low in calories, and fat free. It's also very high in Vitamins A and C which boost immune healthy and lower inflammation in the body. Let's hear it for this soup! It's great served with a little cashew sour cream too, and great for your spring holidays like Passover!



## Moroccan Carrot Soup

3 cups finely diced onion  
2 1/2 tbsp garlic  
3 cups chopped carrots  
2 cups cubed sweet potato  
3 cups diced red pepper  
1 1/2 tsp dried thyme, or 1 tbsp fresh  
6 cups of water, plus fresh bouillon (use 2 tbsp)  
OR use vegetable broth/stock-or water and 1 tsp salt  
1 1/4 cups of tomato sauce  
2 1/2 tsp harissa (this is a spicy garlic sauce)  
fresh parsley for garnish and cashew sour cream

- 1) Heat pan, add onions. If they stick, add a little water or broth to prevent burning. Cooking until translucent
- 2) Add in carrots, sweet potato, peppers, thyme, garlic, and cook until softened
- 3) Add in water, harissa, sauce and simmer for about 20 minutes until heated through, and flavors have blended.
- 4) Puree in Vitamix/blender or food processor until smooth
- 5) Serve topped with fresh greens herbs like parsley or pea shoots and drizzled with some cashew sour cream (thinned out cashew cream).

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## Want to make new friends in Israel?

You can, if you register today for the Buffalo Israel Experience October 24-November 2. One place you will visit is Buffalo's P2G Sister Region of the Western Galilee.

Last month Leslie Kramer, a member of the Buffalo Israel Experience Leadership Team, traveled to the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Partnership2Gether region in the Western Galilee. During her visit she participated in the region's Druze and Jews Early Childhood Coexistence Project. The purpose of this project is to expose children to different cultures at an early age. Kindergarten students from Akko came to visit their Druze friends in Julius. They played together and planted trees in honor of Tu B'Shevat.

Consider being a part of the Buffalo Israel Experience, which will take you to our Partnership2Gether region in the Western Galilee, where you can see first-hand amazing projects like this. There are still a few spaces left on this incredibly journey where we will enjoy great food, drink wonderful



wine, soak up the landscape, reflect on 70 years (and beyond) of modern Israel, and see how Buffalo connects with the Jewish state.

*To register for the Buffalo Israel Experience please visit [www.buffalojewishfederation.org/bie](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org/bie). Contact Nicole Bard at [Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org) with any questions.*

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BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

# ENGAGEMENT 101: April 29-30, 2018

*By Miriam Abramovich, Director of Engagement*

## What is Jewish Engagement?

If you or I were to paint a picture of North American Jewry, it would be hard to ignore the decline in the number of American Jews who affiliate and actively participate in organized Jewish life. This trend is of course not unique to Jewish life. Rather, affiliation with many religious and ethnic groups and organizations is in decline in all aspects of American life.

So how is this cultural shift playing out for American Jews? According to the 2013 Pew study on Religion in American Life, 94% of Jews said they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish People. However, more than 55% of American Jews say being Jewish is mainly a matter of ancestry and culture. This statistic highlights how quickly and how dramatically Jewish life in North America has changed.

If we apply these same statistics here in Buffalo, we can see that more than half of the individuals who comprise Jewish Buffalo and are likely not participating in our organized Jewish communities—Federation, synagogues and temples, or agencies-- involving themselves in traditional Jewish behaviors, or seeking out a historically “typical” Jewish experience. This is the reason that so much energy and thought is being directed toward this new field called “Jewish Engagement”, defined as the cultivation of relationships which nurture a relevant and meaningful form of Jewish life that places the person – not an organization – at the center.

## Why does Jewish Engagement matter in Buffalo?

The fabric of the American Jewish community of 75 years ago—where organizations were the hubs of Jewish life—was greatly successful into the end of the 20th Century—because Jewish life in America remained relatively the same. But Jewish life is different now. For many Jewish Americans (that 55%), traditional organized Jewish life such as belonging to a synagogue, taking classes at the JCC, being on a board of a Jewish social service agency, is not thought of as a meaningful enhancement to their busy, complex, overscheduled lives. The meaning they seek in life is through connection and relationships, a deep sense of purpose, and customized services which address their individual or family needs. And so, it is now OUR task to create the path forward...to take on the challenge of marrying millennia of Jewish tradition and life with the new realities of how individuals seek to live a meaningful life. This is Jewish Engagement.

## What is the Engagement Conference?

Have we peaked your interest in learning more about Jewish Engagement? Do you want to have a better understanding of “what is it?” and “how we do it?” The Buffalo Jewish Federation will present an Engagement Conference Sunday, April 29 at the Gicewicz Club at UB Stadium and Monday, April 30 at the JCC Benderson Family Building. This conference will be a learning experience designed to bring together leaders throughout Jewish Buffalo to dive deep and explore engagement in theory and in practice. Together we will learn why and how Jewish organizations are shifting to models and missions that have an engagement lens. We will learn with Rabbi Mike Uram, author of Next Generation Judaism and an expert in this field, along with local leaders who bring vast knowledge and experience to the questions we will be asking.

This conference is designed for current and emerging leaders from across Jewish Buffalo and has been built by an extraordinary Task Force of leaders from our community chaired by Ellen Weiss. Members include Marc Adler, Nicole Bard, Rabbi Ori Bergman, Hadar Borden, Beverly Holtz, Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, Meredith Levin, Nina Lukin, Jason Palevsky, Robin Raphael, Rabbi Sara Rich, and Sheri Rodman. Registration for the Jewish Buffalo Engagement Conference will open in mid-March at which point a conference program will be available at [www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org).

*For more information about the Engagement Conference, please contact Miriam Abramovich, Director of Engagement, Buffalo Jewish Federation at [miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org).*

What should we do when we care about the future of Judaism but things are changing so fast that many of the previous definitions (of Jewish community) no longer seem to apply?  
- Rabbi Mike Uram

**engagement conference**

**April 29th**  
**1:30 PM – 8:30 PM**  
The Gicewicz Club at UB Stadium

**April 30th**  
**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
Lippman Lounge at the  
JCC Benderson Family Building

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rabbi Mike Uram**  
Author of  
*Next Generation Judaism*

Contact Miriam Abramovich  
to find out if attending the  
Engagement Conference is a  
good fit for you.  
[miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org)

**BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION**

## [www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org)

Buffalo Jewish Federation is proud to launch our brand new website. New e-mails, too. Here's how to reach us at the Federation offices:

**Rob Goldberg**  
CEO/ Executive Director  
[rob@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:rob@buffalojewishfederation.org)

**Randi Morkisz**  
Assistant Executive Director  
[randi@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:randi@buffalojewishfederation.org)

**Deborah Pivarsi**  
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**Miriam Abramovich**  
Director of Engagement  
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**Mandy Weiss**  
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PJ Our Way  
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# Gretchen & Gordon Gross to Be Honored by NFJC March 21

Community leaders Gordon and Gretchen Gross will be honored by the National Federation for Just Communities Wednesday, March 21 at 6:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. The Citation Banquet, where the couple will be feted is an annual event that gives public recognition and honor to those whose achievements contribute to the advancement of NFJC's objectives and mission. Individuals are awarded this citation based, in part, on their devotion to the spirit of human relations.

The Grosses, through their leadership and legendary philanthropy, indeed have made Buffalo—not just Jewish Buffalo—a better place in which everyone can live. Most recently, they endowed a professorship with a lead gift to UB's Department of Jewish Thought, Heritage and Culture. The Jewish Community Center has been a beneficiary of the Gross Family generosity, through gifts to Camp Centerland, the JCC and having both Gordon and Gretchen serve as president and members of many committees, task forces and the board of directors. Gordon



has also served as president of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Kadimah School, chaired the Federation's United Jewish Fund Campaign, served on the SUNY and Roswell Park Cancer Institute's board, as well as many other local and national organizations.

Gretchen, an educator and retired school owner and director of the Audubon at College Park Early Childhood Center, has been very active in the Federation, the former AJC, the Bureau of Jewish Education, United Way's Success by Six, as well as many other groups. Both have been named the Federation's Nathan Benderson Award Winner, have been honored by the AJC, Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center, University of Buffalo, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and Federation, among others.

***Tickets and tables are available to purchase by calling 853-9596.***



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Photograph by Raj Nak

Art of Jazz is produced by Bruce Linton in association with Tony Zambato and organized by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. It is supported by Hunt Real Estate.



# Super Sunday Success - Thank You!

## Thank you, #SuperSundaySuperHeroes!

The Buffalo Jewish Federation's Super Sunday raised over \$50,000 on January 28 thanks to the hard work of so many people. The funds were raised to help Jews and agencies in Western New York, in Israel and around the world.

If you worked on Super Sunday and were inadvertently left out of this list, please let us know. Email [ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org)

**Craig Z. Small**  
Super Sunday Chair

**Stacey Block**  
Super Sunday Vice Chair

**Stephen Yonaty**  
**Kim Babat Yonaty**  
Campaign for Jewish Buffalo  
Co-Chairs

**Steven J. Weiss**  
Buffalo Jewish Federation President

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Noah Block  
Aaron Blum  
Seth Blum  
Miriam Greenberg  
Ruth Holzman  
Sarah Moyer  
Scheindel Munitz  
Yehudis Munitz  
Mishoali Nadarajah  
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## 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in March to repair the world

**1» Join your community in Israel October 24-November 2.** Register for the Buffalo Israel Experience TODAY and spend part of Israel's 70th birthday year in Israel with Buffalonians. **Go to [www.buffalojewishfederation.org/bje](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org/bje) to register.** For more information, contact Miriam Abramovich at [Miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org) or call her at 716-204-2247.

**2» Attend a Buffalo Purim Spiel or party** February 25, 28, March 1, 2 or 4 at a local Synagogue. Attend a community Seder this Passover March 30 and 31. **See page 9 for details.**

**3» Come Eat Lunch and help save horses March 4** at Spruce Meadow Farm's 9th Annual "Soup's On!" fundraiser which benefits Phoenix Rising Rescue Horses. \$7 will get you all you can eat soup or chili and dessert. 10:30 am- 2:30 pm at Spruce Meadow Farm's Winter Horse Show - 10333 Keller Road, Clarence. **Call 716-741-2346 for more information.**

**4» Attend the Mega Challah Bake Thursday, March 15** at 6:30pm at the Main-Transit Fire Dept.'s banquet hall. It's located at 6777 Main Street, and you will learn how to bake your own challah! **Register at [www.buffalochallahbake.com](http://www.buffalochallahbake.com).**

**5» Buffalo International Jewish Film Fest takes place March 9-15** at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, and you won't want to miss the offerings this year. **Check out the schedule at [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com), and get information or prices at the website, by emailing Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org) or calling 716-688-4033.**

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**E-mail your answers to  
[egoldstein@jfedbflo.com](mailto:egoldstein@jfedbflo.com)**

In February, Michael Paskowitz and Michael Littman identified the photo as part of the JCC's donation's wall at the entrance to the Benderson Building on North Forest.

# Dining Guide

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## SYNAGOGUES

## AGENCIES

# Jewish Community Agencies in Western New York

### Buffalo Jewish Federation

2640 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
TEL 716-204-2241  
[www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org)  
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](http://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](http://www.chabadbuffalo.com)  
Rabbi Moshe Gurary - Director

### Chai Early Childhood Center

757 Hopkins Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
TEL 716 580-4600  
[www.chainursery.com](http://www.chainursery.com)  
Chani Labkovski -Director

### Department of Jewish Thought

712 Clemens Hall - University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY 14260  
TEL 716-645-3695 Email: [jewish-studies@buffalo.edu](mailto:jewish-studies@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](http://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](mailto:buffalohadassah@gmail.com)  
Elaine Kellick, Annette Magid, Mickey Savit, and Rhonda Wise- Co-Presidents

### Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

2640 North Forest Road in JFP offices  
Getzville, NY 14068  
TEL 716-204-0542  
Sam Golden- Loan Officer  
Judith Katzenelson Brownstein- 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](http://www.hillelofbuffalo.org)

### Holocaust Resource Center

336 Harris Hill Road, Suite 302  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
TEL: 716-634-9535  
[www.hrcbuffalo.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.jewishdiscovery.org)

### Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And Erie County

70 Barker Street  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
TEL 716-883-1914  
[www.jfsbuffalo.org](http://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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TEL 716-204-2246  
[www.jfedbfl.com](http://www.jfedbfl.com)  
Deborah Pivarsi - Director  
Charlotte Gendler - President

### Kadimah Academy

1085 Eggert Road  
Amherst, NY 14226  
TEL 716-836-6903  
[www.kadimah.org](http://www.kadimah.org)  
Einav Symons - Head of School  
Alan Rosenhoch - President

### Kosher Meals on Sheels

757 Hopkins Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
Tel 716 639-7600  
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Rabbi Laizer Labkovski - Director  
Jeffery Pasler - President

### Ohr Temimim School

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### One Stop Jewish Buffalo

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Aaron Sull - Editor  
www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com

### Weinberg Campus

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Getzville, NY 14068  
TEL 716-639-3311  
www.weinbergcampus.org  
Robert Mayer- President & CEO  
Kenneth Rogers- Chairman of the Board of Directors

### Yad B'Yad

A program of the Bureau of Jewish Education  
TEL 716-204-5380  
www.yadbyad.org  
Cindi Mikulik - Director  
Laurie Criden - Chair

## 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 Elmwood 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

### Kneset 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 Maple Road  
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Jay L. Mesnekoff  
Director

## 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!

## TBZ Volunteer Opportunity

Temple Beth Zion will coordinate volunteers to serve at "Friends of Night People" on the second Tuesday of each month. We won't need to cook the meal, only serve it. Ten volunteers are needed from 4 to 7:15 p.m. (Minimum age is 14 - minors must be accompanied by parents.)

*Due to limited availability of parking, carpooling is necessary. Call Leslie at 839-0079 or email Ann Marie at [annmarie@tbz.org](mailto:annmarie@tbz.org) for more details and/or to put your name on the list of volunteers. You can volunteer once or on multiple Tuesdays.*



## Broadway Night with Shir Delight

Saturday, March 10, 7 p.m.



Broadway is back at 805 Delaware Ave! Mark your calendars for Broadway Night with Shir Delight! This year's edition will feature tributes to two more Jewish legends of musical theater—composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Dorothy Field. Cantors Penny Myers and Irwin Gellman, Susan Schwartz, Michael Harris and Grant Golden will serenade you with hits from ON THE TOWN, WEST SIDE STORY, WONDERFUL TOWN and SWEET CHARITY, to name just a few!

Call Temple Beth Zion at 716-836-6565 to RSVP.  
\$10 suggested donation at the door.

## TBZ Achim is March 11

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will present its March Achim program Sunday, March 11 at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road.

The featured speaker will be Nathan Sull, well-known in our community as the Publisher of the **One Stop Jewish Buffalo** and for his many veteran-related activities. He has served our country as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and as an RN at ECMC. He is also an avid fan of our late beloved President John F. Kennedy and will be presenting an interesting program about his assassination. This presentation will be based upon Sull's own research and travels. There will be an opportunity for discussion following the presentation. Achim is a monthly program for the benefit of the residents and their guests at the Weinberg Campus and is open to the public at no cost. *For further information, please contact Ken Graber at 681-9885.*



**Buffalo Jazz Collective Concert**



## The Music of George Gershwin featuring Rebecca Filsinger

Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.  
805 Delaware

Gershwin's compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) and *An American in Paris* (1928) as well as the opera *Porgy and Bess* (1935).

*Call Temple Beth Zion at 716-836-6565 to RSVP. \$10 suggested donation at the door.*

## TBZ's Purim Time Machine takes us back to.....the '80s

Friday March 2  
Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road



6 PM Potluck dinner • 7 PM Service and Homemade Megillah  
by our own Cantor Penny Myers

Come for an epic Purim Celebration! Temple Beth Zion clergy and congregants will be the players in this rad Megillah. Special Photo Booth - so dust off your leg warmers, get your jelly bracelets, wear your acid washed jeans because...YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SPECIAL PURIM.

*RSVP for dinner by calling the Temple office at 836-6565.*



Please join us as we share  
**Shabbat Across America**



Friday, March 9, 2018  
6:00pm Shabbat Dinner  
7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service  
8:30pm Oneg Shabbat

Congregation Shir Shalom is proud to once again be the only synagogue in Western New York taking part in Shabbat Across America and Canada.  
The Dinner catered by Johnny C's will feature roasted chicken, salad, green beans, roasted potatoes, challah and beverage.

Dinner Fees:  
\$13 per adult  
\$9 per child (12 and under)  
Kosher chicken and/or meal is available for an additional fee.  
RSVP by March 2nd.

### SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA AT SHIR SHALOM DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Please complete and mail form with your payment by March 2nd to:  
Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$13 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$9 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Children's meal choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Chicken Dinner or \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Fingers & French Fries

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me regarding Kosher food.

**Come and celebrate Shabbat together!**



4660 Sheridan Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716.633.8877

[www.shirshalombuffalo.org](http://www.shirshalombuffalo.org)



## The Music of the Middle East

### Ethan Fox Quartet

Saturday, April 7, at 7 p.m.  
805 Delaware Avenue

Come for the concert debut of the Jewish World Music Series. This will be a celebration of Jewish music of the Middle East, focusing on classical, folk and fusion musics of various countries such as Israel, Syria and Egypt. We will explore unique rhythmic and melodic aspects of this music. We will also discuss many historical aspects to this music.

Ethan Fox Quartet includes Ethan on percussion, Anna Bush on clarinet, Zack Steinberg playing bass and Mark Tobin on violin.

**RSVP by calling (716) 836-6565. A \$10 donation at the door is appreciated.**

## Temple Beth Zion 24th Annual Seder



Friday, March 30 at 6 p.m.  
Brookfield Country Club,  
5120 Shimerville Road, Clarence

All members of the community are welcome to come for the Annual Passover Seder. **Call the Temple Beth Zion office at (716) 836-6565 for more information or to place your reservation by March 12.**

## Intergenerational Women's Seder

Temple Beth Zion Broder Center  
Sunday, March 18, 3:45 p.m.

Reservations are now open for the Women's Seder which will take place Sunday, March 18 at 3:45 PM at the TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road.

Women are encouraged to invite other Jewish friends as well as non-Jewish neighbors and friends. This is a community multi-generational Seder and women of all ages are welcome to attend!

The Women's Seder liturgy is user-friendly and will be led by Cantor Penny Myers. The cost for each participant will be \$18.50 for adults, \$14 for ladies age 13-16 and ladies under age 12 are free. The cost includes a Passover Seder dinner with matzoh ball soup, roasted chicken, potato and vegetables.

**Reservations must be received by March 10. Checks, made out to TBZ Sisterhood, can be mailed to: Susan Bruckheimer, 472 Orchard Drive, Buffalo, NY 14223.**



## Shir Shalom PURIM SPIEL

"A Country Purim-  
The Nashville Megillah"

Wednesday, February 28th 7:00 pm

**02.28.18 PURIM SPIEL AT 7:00PM:** The CSS Purim Players and Tizmeret House Band will perform this lively production at 7:00pm. Come in costume for a Gran' Ole Tyme. Live band and good old country hospitality. Open to everyone.

**03.04.18 COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL AT 11:00AM:** CSS will host the festivities including games, music, bounce house and more. This is a great opportunity for families to have fun together at Temple. There will be activities for children through age 13.

## Congregation Shir Shalom Second Night

Seder Saturday, March 31  
at 6:00 p.m.

at the Buffalo Marriott Niagara

*Join your family and friends  
at our Second Night Seder*

Conducted by:  
Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and  
Cantor Arlene Frank

**Complete Seder dinner -**  
gefilte fish, chicken soup with  
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SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST,  
broccoli, roasted potatoes, matzoh,  
wine, juice, hot beverages, fruit salad,  
cookies and cake.

*Seder plates sponsored and prepared by CSS Sisterhood,  
Gefilte fish sponsored by CSS Men's Group and dessert  
sponsored by Shir Shalom.*

**Please call the Temple Office at 633-8877 for pricing.**

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## The BBC Band

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**Ticket Prices: \$30 advance sale; \$35 at the door**  
Go to [www.tbz.org](http://www.tbz.org) or call (716) 836-6565 to purchase tickets.

## Amherst Memorial Chapel Donates Life Saving Device

**Amherst Memorial Chapel took another step to strengthen its community commitment by donating an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to Congregation Shir Shalom in Amherst.**

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can potentially stop an irregular heart beat (arrhythmia) and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). SCA occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly. If not treated within minutes, it quickly leads to death.

The device is important because it can be used by non-medical personnel who are properly trained. This can reduce the amount of time to administer the needed electric shock, increasing the victim's chance for survival.

"Our basic business tenet is to serve our community, both the living and the dead," said Mitchell Steinhorn, owner of Amherst Memorial Chapel. "It's part of our mission

to partner with Congregation Shir Shalom on projects like this."

Amherst Memorial Chapel, the only locally owned, funeral home dedicated to the Jewish Community of Western New York, will also be sponsoring a series of classes to teach congregation members how to use the device properly.

Shir Shalom's Executive Director Joanne Marquisee said the congregation is extremely grateful to Mr. Steinhorn and Amherst Memorial Chapel. "We had no AED device in our Religious School where many parents, students and staff frequent. Mitchell came to our rescue and support. He is a kind and generous person."

Amherst Memorial Chapel is a full service Jewish Funeral Home that was built specifically to accommodate all Jewish practices, whether Orthodox, Traditional, Conservative, Reconstructive or Reform. It is the only funeral home in Buffalo, NY with a Mikvah for the traditional Tahara.

## Marching with PALS Kadimah with Art

The PALS Kadimah theme for the month of March is "Marching through the Arts". We will be studying many different types of artists. From the artist Wassily Kandinsky, the children will learn about the mathematical concept of concentric circles. Copying the style of Mary Cassatt we will draw self-portraits and from Frida Kahlo we will use bright, primary colors. Of course, this theme would not be complete without the works of Jackson Pollack and his splatter paintings. At PALS Kadimah, we will be dancing to Beethoven's 5th symphony, playing musical instruments such as percussion, strings and brass and writing our own poetry. If you can sing, play an instrument, dance or have the ability to draw a stick figure, we would so appreciate a visit to our classroom.

***Please call Shira Goldberg@ 836-6565 to set up a time to share your talent.***



Kadimah Preschool children enjoying a sunny and not too chilly January day on the playground.



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[info@amherstmemorialchapel.com](mailto:info@amherstmemorialchapel.com)

# Learning, Giving and Social Opportunities at KOT

Starting in January, Rabbi Ori Bergman has been offering several classes for members of Kehillat Ohr Tzion and interested members of the community. On Thursday evenings at 8 pm, the Rabbi is holding "Conversations on the Weekly Parsha" at his home. On Sunday mornings at 9:15am, he offers a class on "The Story of Jewish Living," which explores the history of questions in Jewish law from the Mishnah to modern day application. This class meets at Kehillat Ohr Tzion, 879 Hopkins Road in Williamsville. The second and fourth Tuesday of every month, Rabbi Bergman meets with a small group of people interested in learning about Basic Judaism at the Dash's Cafe off of Klein Road. Each of the class sessions has independent topics, so weekly attendance is not necessary for one to benefit from the learning opportunities. **For more information on any of the classes email [oribergman@gmail.com](mailto:oribergman@gmail.com) or call the Rabbi at 631-371-8311.**

Tu B'Shvat, the New Year of Trees, was celebrated with three different events at KOT. On January 25, the Rabbi and several teens from KOT and from NCSY met to celebrate the festival by packing cookies to give to homeless individuals, along with hot meals which are distributed by Hearts for the Homeless. The teens also discussed other ways to get involved with social action projects. Stephanie Segal, a member of the Social Action Committee, assisted with the event.

On Sunday afternoon, January 28th there was a special Tu B'Shevat celebration at KOT for children of all ages. There were snacks and lots of fun activities for everyone. Then on January 30 KOT held its second annual Tu B'Shevat Seder, which was open to the community with no charge. It was planned and coordinated by Cecile Shmookler, who talked about the origins of the celebration. A special Seder format was followed and delicious symbolic treats were enjoyed by all.

On February 3, KOT held its annual Trivia Pre-Super Bowl fun night. Teams worked together to answer the questions and win prizes. This event is not only a lot of fun but also a fundraiser for the synagogue.

A new book club has also been



NCSY celebrate Tu B'Shevat at KOT



Rabbi Bergman and NCSY



Teens hear about social action projects



KOT teens and NCSY pack cookies for the homeless

started where members get together every six weeks to discuss a book chosen by the group. There will also be plenty of food to be shared by the group. The group is calling itself Books

and Babka.

For membership information email [mdchazen@gmail.com](mailto:mdchazen@gmail.com)

## Opportunity for a Prayer Book Mitzvah!!

By Yonina Andrea Foster, Ph.D.

Please scour your bookshelves for copies of *Ma'amad Sinai*, the prayerbook used at former Temple Sinai, once located on Alberta Drive in Amherst. Former Temple Sinai members and others: do you recognize this book cover?



If you find one in your personal library and don't use it, please bring it to the Shir Shalom office on 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville. Or, call (716) 633-8877 and a congregant will pick it up from you home and bring it to the community for use. Thank you!! Shir Shalom services are held in multiple places in the community, so these prayer books are used constantly and your kindness is appreciated. Thank you for your support.

## Save the Date

Anne Bernstein  
Memorial Shabbat  
Speaker Series

"Human  
Sexuality and  
Relationships"

At Congregation Shir Shalom  
Presented by Andre Toth

Saturday, May 26th  
12:00pm Luncheon  
1:00pm Speaker

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# La Leche League of Amherst

Happy Mothers Breastfeed Babies

**Join Us!**

-2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm  
33 Melrose Road in Williamsville  
-3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am  
Egbertsville-Snyder Library

*provides education and  
mother-to-mother support to  
all breastfeeding mothers and  
those who plan to breastfeed.*

La Leche League of Amherst Leaders:  
Cindy Oppenheimer- 716-308-4843  
Cindy Daumen- 716-989-7070  
Stephanie Parkot- 716-997-4850

## PARK Summer CAMPS



*Where campers play, imagine,  
and laugh together.*

**Open House, May 5, 12-2 pm**

Weekly sessions run from **June 18–August 24, 2018**

Spots are limited, register now at  
**TheParkSchool.org/Camps**



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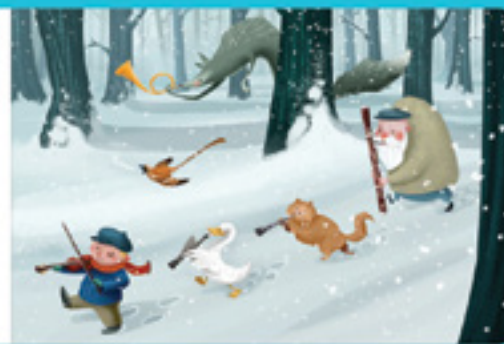
**BPOkids**

### Peter and the Wolf

Sun. Mar. 4, 2:30pm

Stefan Sanders, conductor

This symphonic fairy tale for children  
will feature close-up video  
of the instruments depicting each  
character in the classic story  
of Peter and his adventures.



A variety of free pre-concert activities in the Mary Seaton Room start at 1:30pm!

**BUFFALO  
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Sun. Apr. 15, 2:30pm

Stefan Sanders, conductor

Do you know what instrument we  
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**Dates:** August 19-26, 2018

**Ages:** 8-16 Years Old

**Location:** Camp Shalom, Gravenhurst, ON  
**Cost:** \$1000.00 + HST (Scholarships Available)

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**To learn more or apply to Machane Lev  
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For more information contact Risa Epstein  
at [risa@youngjudaea.ca](mailto:risa@youngjudaea.ca)  
or 416.781.5156 ex: 225



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## BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION ADULT LEARNING DEPARTMENT



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# JEWISH LIFE THROUGH THE MOVIE LENS

In collaboration with  
the ICC's annual  
Buffalo International  
Jewish Film Festival  
(<http://www.bijff.com/>)

**OPEN  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY**

**WEDNESDAYS, 1:00-2:30 PM**

**Session 3: Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival  
March 7, 14, 21, 28**

Films to be discussed: "Shalom Bollywood", "Rosenwald", "My Hero Brother"  
An overview of all the festival films will be provided during the first class.

**Session 4: The Holocaust & the  
70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Israel's Independence  
April 11, 18, 25, May 2**

Films to be discussed: "La France Divisee", "Sarah's Key", "La Rafle", "Fever at Dawn",  
"Barriers", "Cohen on the Bridge: The Entebbe Rescue", "Hannah Arendt"

All films with \* will be shown during the BIFFE.  
\*\* Registered students for either session will receive a voucher to one film of their choice.

**Jewish Community Center  
2640 North Forest Road, Getzville**  
Fee: \$48/session  
Instructor: Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D.

For more information, contact **Susan Schwartz**, Director of Adult Learning at the Bureau of Jewish Education  
at (716)204-5380, [susan@bjebuffalo.org](mailto:susan@bjebuffalo.org). Register online at [www.bjebuffalo.org/adultlearning](http://www.bjebuffalo.org/adultlearning).

### JEWISH LIFE THROUGH THE MOVIE LENS - Registration Spring 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$48/session (4-week sessions)  
Limited scholarships available

Session 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Session 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable and mail to:  
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Getzville, NY 14068  
Attention: Susan Schwartz

## CALENDAR

# M

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## March

	sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
9	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## March 9-15

**Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival**  
Amherst Dipson Theatre  
[www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com) for times, costs and films or  
pick up a brochure at either JCC buildings

## March 10

**Temple Beth Zion Broadway Night with  
Shir Delight**  
7:00 pm, 805 Delaware Avenue  
Call 836-6565

## March 15

**Mega Challah Bake**  
Jewish Discovery Center  
6:30 pm, Main-Transit Fire Dept.  
6777 Main Street.  
[www.megachallahbake.com](http://www.megachallahbake.com)

## March 21

**NFJC Citation Dinner honoring Gretchen  
& Gordon Gross**  
Hyatt Regency Buffalo, 6:00 pm  
Call 853-9596 for more information

## March 18

**Inter-generation Women's Seder**  
Temple Beth Zion Broder Center. 3:35 pm  
Call 836-6565

## March 20

**Lessons of the Holocaust Conference  
for Educators**  
Erie 1 Boces Education Campus  
355 Harlem Road, [www.e1b.org](http://www.e1b.org)

## March 30

**Passover Begins - First Seder**

**Community Seders taking place:**

**Temple Beth Zion** - 6:00 pm  
Brookfield County Club- 836-6565

**Jewish Discovery Center**- 8:00 pm  
757 Hopkins Road  
[www.jewishbuffalo.com](http://www.jewishbuffalo.com)

**Chabad of Buffalo** - 8:00 pm  
2450 North Forest Road., 688-1642

## March 31

**Community Seders taking place:**

**Congregation Shir Shalom** - 6:00 pm  
Buffalo Marriott,  
1340 Millersport Highway, 633-8877

**Congregation Beth Abraham** - 6:00 pm  
1073 Elmwood Ave 633-8877

**Jewish Discovery Center** - 8:00 pm.  
757 Hopkins Road, [www.jewishbuffalo.com](http://www.jewishbuffalo.com)

**Chabad of Buffalo**— 8:00 pm  
2450 North Forest Road., 688-1642

## March 1

**Purim**

**Kehillat Ohr Tzion**  
7:30 am Megillah Reading  
4:00 pm Party @ Rabbi Bergman's House

**Chabad of Buffalo**  
Knesset Center- 5:30 pm  
Megillah reading and deli dinner

**Jewish Discovery Center**  
5:30 pm Megillah reading and dinner

## March 2

**Purim Spiel & dinner**  
Temple Beth Zion, 6:00 pm  
Broder Building/  
700 Sweet Home Road

## March 3

**Buffalo International Jewish Film Fest  
Kick-Off Party**  
Taste of India, 3192 Sheridan Drive  
7-10 pm

## March 4

**Community Purim Carnival,**  
Congregation Shir Shalom, 11:00am

## March 9

**Shabbat Across America**  
Congregation Shir Shalom  
6:00 pm Dinner; 7:00 service  
RSVP to 633-8877

## COLLABORATION ENGAGES A COMMUNITY!

By Susan Goldberg Schwartz, BJE Director of Adult Learning

The Bureau of Jewish Education's Adult Learning Department is pleased to offer classes and other learning opportunities, in collaboration with Jewish agencies and other local organizations throughout the year! Most programs and classes will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 2640 North Forest Road, unless otherwise noted.

### Jewish Life through the Movie Lens

in collaboration with the Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival  
(<http://www.bijff.com/>)

Instructor: Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D.

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:30PM

Fee: \$48/per 4 week session

Session 3: March 7, 14, 21, 28

Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

Films to be discussed: \*Shalom Bollywood, \*Rosenwald, \*My Hero Brother

An overview of all the Festival films will be provided on the first class.

Session 4: April 11, 18, 25 and May

The Holocaust & the 70th Anniversary of Israel's Independence

Films to be discussed: La France Divisée, Sarah's Key, La Rafle, Fever at Dawn\*, Barriers, Cohen on the Bridge: The Entebbe Rescue, Hannah Arendt

All films with \* will be shown during the BIJFF.

\*\*Registered students for either session will receive a voucher to one film of their choice.

### What if Everyone Read the Same Book?

Tuesday, March 27

7:00pm

Audubon Branch of the Buffalo  
and Erie County Library

We are continuing our ongoing conversations on the book, **My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew**, by Abigail Pogrebin. Our March meeting will focus our discussion on the holiday of **Passover** and the Mussar trait of **Tzedek/Justice**. Space is limited!

### Part 2, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish Life and Thought

conversations with faculty from the UB Department of Jewish Thought.

Monday, April 16

7:00pm

JCC Benderson, Lipman Lounge

With great power comes great responsibility. What does it mean to have power? Is power different from physical force? What are the Ethical connotations? How does power relate to innovation?

Join Professor Noam Pines, in conversation with Professor Sergey Dolgopolsky on the topic of: "Jews won't Replace Us": Charlottesville as a Challenge to Jewish Thought

The conversation will deal with the question of how Jewish Thought in its intellectual, ethical, and political dimensions prepares us to think about and respond to the challenge of the recent Charlottesville events. Drawing on literary examples that involve Jewish thinking about, or involvement in, historical catastrophe, we will focus on the appeal of Nazism as a revolutionary consummation of history (too often dismissed as "mythical" in contemporary culture), and suggest possible modes of resistance provided by the victims themselves.

Moderated by Prof. Sergey Dolgopolski, this discussion with Professor Noam Pines will address these questions and more in light of Prof. Pines' most recent research.

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



## DANISH STRING QUARTET

Returning to Buffalo after a spectacular performance on our 2016 series



Tuesday, April 10th at 8 pm  
Mary Seaton Room I Kleinhans Music Hall

Program includes works by  
Mozart, Widmann and Folk Music from the Nordic Countries.

Tickets \$25 available at door or online at [www.bflochambermusic.org](http://www.bflochambermusic.org).  
Info: 716-462-4939

the buffalo gay men's chorus presents



MARCH 23, 2018 6:00PM CASH BAR/FOOD/  
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8:00PM MUSIC PROGRAM

Shea's Performing Arts Center, 646 Main Street

Tickets can be purchased at Spoiled Rotten / 831 Elmwood Avenue, online at [www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org), through a chorus member or at the door.

Follow Us: [buffalogaymenschorus](https://www.facebook.com/buffalogaymenschorus) @thebgmc

Program is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York.

# Zikaron '18 - A Call to Action Trip

## REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

**BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ.** It is 4:00 am on Sunday January 14, 2018 and fifty three 8th and 9th graders' alarm clocks are going off. It's time for them to wake up and make their way to the airport for this year's Zikaron 2018 trip. The Zikaron trip was an opportunity for these students in Buffalo and Rochester to travel to Washington D.C. to learn and engage in remembering the Holocaust and the Civil Rights Movement. The 30 Buffalo and 23 Rochester teens were accompanied by 6 chaperones and 2 Holocaust Survivors. The Buffalo Survivor was Dr. Sol Messinger. His attendance in this trip helped to bring new insight and give a genuine perspective to the teens.

As the students made their way to the airport, there was a sense of excitement and anticipation to start this adventure! And as the Buffalo teens landed at the BWI airport, they were quickly met by their Rochester peers, and the group was off to the Lincoln Memorial in D.C., which set the tone for the trip,--respecting and understating our history. The teens took selfies, walked along the reflecting pool, and spent time getting to know one another. Then everyone took part in a program, during which some big questions about civil liberties were posed, and the answers exemplified the purpose of the trip.

Back on the bus, we ventured to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). There, the teens' attitude quickly changed, and everyone respected the space we were in. The Survivors discussed the importance of the Museum with the group, and explained what it means to them personally. Everyone experienced all that the Museum had to offer, and we discussed its impact on the nation and on the teens themselves. .

Early the next day (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday) we got back on the bus and were off to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. We had planned a program for the teens to discuss and embrace this Memorial, but as we arrived things were very different than we had anticipated, and thus, our plans changed. We were greeted by a beautiful gospel choir, and stood for a minute listening to their songs on empowerment. A moment later, we saw a procession of people starting walking towards the Memorial. We discovered that it was led by Martin



Luther King III and his daughter, the granddaughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They filled the air with inspiration and hope for the future, while making reference to the past, how far our nation has come, and how much more work there is to do. To view some of their speech, please visit our Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/BJEBuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/BJEBuffalo).

As the teens went back to the bus, we all discussed the importance of what we had seen at the MLK Memorial, and how it related to everything they had experienced on this trip.

Later at lunch before we left for the

airport, the participants discussed what they enjoyed about the trip and why. One teen mentioned how incredible it was to see Survivors' stories displayed at the USHMM and to have the Survivor beside them as they read its content. Another teen exclaimed that the MLK Memorial was truly impactful. Knowing that so many people had gathered at that space out of love and hope for the future left a lasting impression on the Buffalo and Rochester students.

This trip created memories and new friendships for teens that they will cherish forever. Also, through their

experiences and discussions, it is our hope that they will continue to be Up-Standers in the face of adversity.

**For more information on other programs through the Bureau of Jewish Education please visit our website at [WWW.BJEBUFFALO.ORG](http://WWW.BJEBUFFALO.ORG) or call 716-204-5380 or email [jill@bjebuffalo.org](mailto:jill@bjebuffalo.org).**

# JDAIM PROCLAMATION, NEW INTERN HIGHLIGHT YAD B'YAD NEWS

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

January was a very busy month for Yad B'Yad. On Tuesday, January 16, the Amherst Town Council issued a proclamation declaring February to be JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS AND INCLUSION MONTH (JDAIM). Yad B'Yad participants, their family members and friends attended the ceremony in the Town Council Chambers. The proclamation was read aloud by Councilmember Jacqueline Berger, a former Yad B'Yad committee member, and presented to Robin Raphael, Yad B'Yad Co-chair and Lizzy Skerker, a resident of the Women's Jewish Group Home.

In addition to officially establishing February as JDAIM, the proclamation stresses the importance of all of us acting in accordance with our Jewish values, championing the rights of all Jews to be included in all aspects of Jewish life, and working to raise awareness of people in our community that have special needs. It ended with the Town of Amherst urging citizens from all walks of life to foster inclusion



Group shot at Proclamation Reading

of people with disabilities and their families during this month (JDAIM) and always.

In addition, Yad B'Yad welcomed **Shailee Herter** as our new intern. Shailee was born in Israel and moved to the United States with her family in 2008. She attended Williamsville East and received a dual BA degree in Political Science and International Studies from SUNY Fredonia. In addition to working with Yad B'Yad, Shailee is a lead teacher at the Chai Early Childhood Center, the second grade teacher for the Shir Shalom/Gesher school program, and she teaches a class on Israel for Hebrew High.



Shailee's passions are Israel, Hebrew, and teaching. She also has connections with many of the agencies in the WNY Jewish community. She recently celebrated her first anniversary with her husband, Michael Herter. Shailee looks forward to meeting and working with Yad B'Yad participants, and joined them for the first time at the Town of Amherst Proclamation Ceremony.

*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](http://www.yadbyad.org), find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/yadbyadbuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/yadbyadbuffalo), contact Cindi Mikulik at 716-204-5380 or through [yadbyad@bjebuffalo.org](mailto:yadbyad@bjebuffalo.org). We look forward to including you!*



Lizzy Skerker with Councilmember Jacqueline Berger

**ISRAEL AT 70**

**JEWISH  
BUFFALO  
CELEBRATES**

**April 15-22**

**Mark your calendars  
for the celebrations  
April 15-22**

- **Screening of "Exodus"** April 16, 7:00 pm at the North Park Theatre. \$10.50/ person
- **Community Rally in Niagara Square** Thursday, April 19 for at 4:00 pm
- **Gala Community Celebration** featuring live music and food at Acqua, on April 19. For tickets, call Joan at Federation at 716-204-2242 or [joan@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:joan@buffalojewishfederation.org)

For more information, contact Neil Block, Mitch Steinhorn, or David Schiller or email: [DavidLSchiller@gmail.com](mailto:DavidLSchiller@gmail.com).

## KICKOFF PARTY & FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, March 3**  
7:00-10:00pm



**Taste of India**  
3192 Sheridan Dr.  
Amherst, NY 14226

Join us for a screening of **SHALOM BOLLYWOOD: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema**. Enjoy a full buffet dinner (with vegetarian options), henna tattoos, basket raffle, cash bar and more!

This event includes one free ticket to any other film screening during the Film Festival at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, March 9-15.

Presale Tickets: \$45/person At the door: \$50/person

# Dr. Burstein Highlights Hadassah Spring Calendar

The Buffalo Hadassah Program Committee met in January to plan programs scheduled for the first half of the year. The committee chairpersons for 2018 are Marlene Katzel and Maxine Seller. The other members of the committee are Jan Presser, Sherri Davis, Ann Kellman, Rhonda Wise, Elaine Kellick and Phyllis Steinberg.

On February 14, Hadassah members met for an informal lunch in a private room at the Pancake House in Williamsville. New members and guests got a chance to introduce themselves and get to know all of the other members in attendance. It was also the kickoff for a new mitzvah project—the collection of small juice boxes which will be donated to Hearts for the Homeless. Since there is a real need for the juice boxes, Hadassah will be collecting them at all programs and meetings for the next several months. For more information on this mitzvah project or to make a donation, email [janeen@rocketscitech.com](mailto:janeen@rocketscitech.com) or [phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com).

Hadassah will be sponsoring the film “Across the Waters” on March 12 and March



Dr. Gail Burstein

15. Every year Hadassah supports The Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival by sponsoring one of its films.

On Wednesday, April 18, Dr. Gale R. Burstein, the Erie County Commissioner of Health, will be addressing relevant topics of health at a luncheon. Following her power point presentation, there will be a Q and A.

The May program on Sunday, May 13th, will feature David Bunis and Marvin Frankel talking about “The Glorious Days of Buffalo Shopping.” They will speak about their experiences with the Sample Shop and Berger’s Department Stores. This kosher brunch event will take place in the Lippman Lounge at the JCC. There will be a short amount of time after this program ends and before the Jewish Repertory Theatre presents the play Sight Unseen by Donald Margulies at 2:00 pm. During this short interval, Sophia Veffler will meet with interested people to discuss her experiences during the Holocaust.

On Sunday June 3, Hadassah has scheduled another exciting program. The Jon Lehrer Dance Company will perform in the Robert and Maxine Seller Auditorium at the JCC. This talented group of dancers has performed all over the world, and will present a few of their signature works. Following the performance, Jon Lehrer will take questions from the audience. Registration for the various programs will be available soon.

**For more information about any of the programs, contact [amrose@roadrunner.com](mailto:amrose@roadrunner.com) or [mseller@buffalo.edu](mailto:mseller@buffalo.edu). For membership information email [nangrnborg@gmail.com](mailto:nangrnborg@gmail.com).**

## JCC LAUNCHES FUNDRAISER IN HONOR OF IRV WEINSTEIN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo is launching a special fundraising campaign to honor the memory of WNY broadcasting legend Irv Weinstein and help the Variety Club of Buffalo and Western New York. Variety Club, the Children’s Charity of Buffalo & WNY, has been serving the needs of WNY’s sick, disabled, and disadvantaged children for more 80 years.

Irv Weinstein, a news director and anchorman at WKBW-TV of 7 Eyewitness News, who recently lost his battle with ALS and passed away December 27 at the age of 87, was a longtime friend of children with special needs, and an annual host of the Variety Club Telethon, where he famously will be remembered for singing “I’m a Little Teapot” every year to get the phones ringing.

Weinstein was also a loyal friend to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo as well as the Jewish Repertory Theatre of WNY. To honor his memory, the JCC is raising donations to be presented at The Variety Kids Telethon, now in its 56th year. One of the nation’s longest-running, locally-produced telethons – the Variety Club funds dozens of local children’s nonprofits, including the JCC’s Au-Some Swimmers program, a learn-to-swim program offered year round for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.



“Irv was a passionate supporter of both the JCC and the Variety Club. We are pleased to provide our communities with the opportunity to honor his memory with a gift to the Variety Club during the annual telethon,” said Richard Zakalik, Executive Director of the JCC. “Children at the JCC with physical challenges and those who are on the autism spectrum will be well served with the unique facilities and JCC programs generously supported by the Variety Club.”

“I’m continually impressed with how important our Au-Some Swimmers program is to individuals and their families,” said Eric Poniatowski, JCC Aquatics Director, who created the program in 2013. “People travel long distances, from as far as Ellicottville

and the Southtowns and Northtowns weekly, because the importance of teaching their children to swim, as well as having the support of our aquatics staff for the whole family, is so highly valued.”

Donations will also be collected from audiences during the theatrical run of Rose, the 2nd production of the season at the Jewish Repertory Theatre (JRT), which is located at the JCC on 2640 North Forest Road. “Irv and Elaine were financial supporters of the Jewish Rep from the very beginning,” said JRT Artistic Director Saul Elkin. “Irv frequently sent me two kinds of emails: play suggestions for the Jewish Rep and wonderful old Jewish jokes that still make me laugh.”

All proceeds from donations and raffle tickets will be presented to the Variety Club in memory of Irv Weinstein and his tremendous contribution to Western New York at the 56th Variety Kids Telethon which takes place March 4, 2018, 7 am to 6 pm, broadcasted live from the Seneca Niagara Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY. Raffle tickets may be purchased at either JCC (787 Delaware Ave., Buffalo and 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst) or online at [www.jccbuffalo.com](http://www.jccbuffalo.com).

**For more information, contact Eric Poniatowski, Director of Aquatics, Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, 716-886-3172, ext. 411 or [eponiatowski@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:eponiatowski@jccbuffalo.org).**

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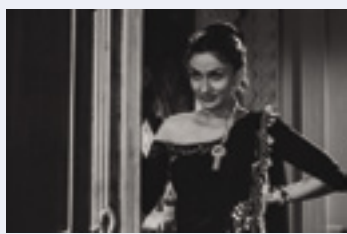
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# 33rd Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival March 9-15

The 33rd annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival (BIJFF) – the third longest running festival of its kind in North America – will present 12 award-winning and critically acclaimed films from around the world including Australia, Austria, Denmark, Hungary, India, Israel, Poland, Sweden and the United States.

“One of the most important elements of Judaism celebrated in film by the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival is diversity,” says festival chair Michael Silverman. “Jewish stories and culture appear in the most unlikely places. In this year’s version from March 9-15 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, the Festival endeavors to take viewers to a place not visited before - India. And not once, but twice, with *Shalom Bollywood* and *My Hero Brother*.”

Additionally, the Festival features films produced in Denmark and Hungary, with others partially-produced in Sweden, Poland, and Austria. One of the Israeli feature films - *A Tale of Love and Darkness* - marks the directorial debut of Natalie Portman, a film in which she also stars, while a film from the United States – *Menashe* - is made entirely in Yiddish.



## 2018 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

The following films will be included during the festival, March 9-15, at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street/Buffalo, (716) 834-7655. The schedule will appear in next month’s Journal or at [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com).

Friday, March 9	3:30pm .....The Last Laugh
Saturday, March 10	7:00pm .....Opening Night: Harmonia
Sunday, March 11	1:00pm .....Raise the Roof 3:30pm .....Fever at Dawn 6:00pm .....Menashe/preceded by How to Ride an Elevator on Shabat 8:00pm .....A Tale of Love and Darkness
Monday, March 12	1:00pm .....Shalom Bollywood 3:30pm .....Rosenwald 6:00pm .....My Hero Brother 8:00pm .....Across the Waters
Tuesday, March 13	1:00pm .....Raise the Roof 3:30pm .....A Tale of Love and Darkness 6:00pm .....The Testament 8:00pm .....Fever at Dawn
Wednesday, March 14	1:00pm .....Rosenwald 3:30pm .....Shalom Bollywood 6:00pm .....My Hero Brother 8:00pm .....Menashe/preceded by How to Ride an Elevator on Shabat
Thursday, March 15	3:30pm .....The Last Laugh 6:00pm .....Across the Waters 8:00pm .....The Testament

## TICKETS & PASSES

Tickets and passes may be purchased in advance at either JCC member services desk, [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com) or at the theatre door ½ hour prior to each film.

General Single Film Tickets \$10

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

Children 18 & under FREE with parent to all films except Shalom Bollywood (March 3 special event screening)

Films will be shown March 9-15 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street. Trailers, schedules and ticket purchasing at [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com).

For information about schedules, film trailers or donation opportunities for the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, please visit [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com) or contact Katie Wzontek at [KWzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:KWzontek@jccbuffalo.org)

A glass of red wine and a plate of matzah on a white lace doily.

# Seder Memories

Finding the afikomen. Hearing the four questions. Naming the ten plagues. Tasting the bitter herbs. Which is your favorite Seder memory? Which of our Jewish traditions, values or institutions do you cherish most?

When you leave a Jewish legacy, it's an enduring statement of what really matters to you. It keeps the Jewish community vibrant and strong. It will enrich and sustain Jewish life for generations to come.

To learn more about leaving a legacy and to arrange a personal and confidential consultation, contact Peter Fleischmann, Foundation Director at (716) 204-1133 or send an email to [peter@jewishphilanthropies.org](mailto:peter@jewishphilanthropies.org)



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# Hillel Birthright Group Connects with Authentic Israel

**By Rabbi Sara Rich,**  
Executive Director,  
Hillel of Buffalo

Thirty-four college students, including 24 from University at Buffalo, sit in the bleachers of the gymnasium in the Regba School near Nahariya in Israel. It is the third day of a ten day Birthright trip to Israel with Hillel of Buffalo, and the group has just dashed through a thunderstorm from the tour bus into the school. Two sixth-grade students welcome us in a beautifully written and rehearsed speech in English. Then, they tell us they are going to teach us a dance. All of a sudden, the music is blaring and dozens of Israeli pre-teens are pouring onto the gym floor to join in the dance, laughing and showing off their moves. The college students look at the kids, look at one another, and then run to join them on the newly minted dance floor. A beautiful cultural exchange ensues, as the college students learn a new Israeli dance, and in turn teach the Israeli students the Cha Cha Slide.



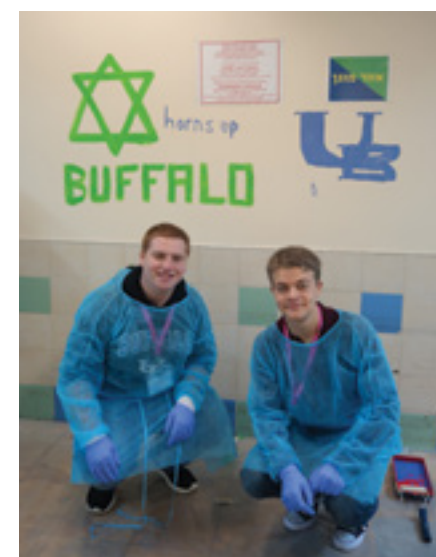
This visit to the Western Galilee region was coordinated through the Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether project, which creates a relationship between Buffalo and 13 other U.S. cities, as well as Budapest, Hungary. Although the Birthright participants cherished the opportunity to visit the Old City in Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea and Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, which are staples of any tour in Israel, they valued even more this opportunity to meet real Israelis and catch a glimpse into the daily life of children. The group also took a tour of the underground hospital in the Galilee Medical Center, which is used to treat patients in safety when there are



rocket attacks on Israel from the north. The students had the chance to give back in a small way by painting cheerful and encouraging designs on the bleak,



clothes, and love to have fun. And, at the same time, the encounter revealed how different their lives are: while young Americans are concerned with choosing a major and balancing work, school, and social commitments, Israelis of the same age are giving two or three years of their



lives to defend their country, and many risk their lives during their service. The *mifgash* offered important perspective for the students, and gave them new friends in Israel to stay in touch with and visit on a return trip.

This trip was the start of a journey for these students that will continue back on campus this semester. Hillel of Buffalo will be providing students with opportunities to maintain the relationships that were created during the trip and to return to Israel for internships and study abroad programs. This will include post-trip classes, Shabbat dinners and introduction to opportunities with the UB Department of Jewish Thought, MASA Israel Journey, Onward Israel and other partners.

***If you would like to learn more about Birthright or Israel programming on campus, please reach out to me, Rabbi Sara Rich – rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org. To see more pictures from the trip, visit the Hillel of Buffalo Facebook page at <http://fb.me/BufHillel>***

windowless walls, which will elevate the spirits of the patients, should the hospital need to use the below-ground area in the future.

Another highlight of the trip was the five-day *mifgash* (encounter) with a group of eight IDF soldiers who joined as participants in the trip. The addition of these men and women, who are the same age as the American college students, provided another way for the students to build relationships with real Israelis and learn inside views on Israeli life, politics, and culture. The soldiers showed that young Israelis have so much in common with American college students – they listen to similar music, wear the same

## HILLEL

Have a Hillel story to share? The Hillel of Buffalo is celebrating its 70th birthday this year! We are looking to collect memories from the community from all stages of Hillel's past.

***If you have a story, photos, or any documents that you would like to share, please call Hillel at 716-645-8787 and leave a message, or email Rabbi Sara Rich, rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org.***



# Experience Freedom!

**Celebrate the Seder with us!**  
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**Celebrate Passover in the great company of friends, family, and community!**

**The Community Passover Seder features a gourmet four-course meal, hand baked shmurah matzah, four cups of wine, personal English-Hebrew Haggadas and beautiful insights into the Festival of Freedom.**

**No charge**      **For reservations: [JewishBuffalo.com](http://JewishBuffalo.com)**



## Women & Girls Unite

Join Jewish women and girls ages 12 & up from Western NY for an evening of Jewish pride, unity and inspiration

# MEGA CHALLAH bake

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15 • 6:30PM**  
 Banquet Hall @ Main-Transit Fire Department  
 6777 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221

**Register at [BuffaloChallahBake.com](http://BuffaloChallahBake.com)**

## One Stop Buffalo

### TO THE GREATER BUFFALO JEWISH COMMUNITY:

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new and exciting website called **One Stop Jewish Buffalo**. This new site will be updated weekly and will bring you news and information about everything that is happening in the Buffalo Jewish community. THE WEBSITE IS FREE. To subscribe, simply go to the [www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com](http://www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com) and enter your email.



We will bring you news of all Jewish events from throughout the community, important local Jewish news, obituaries, updates from all the synagogues, weekly Torah portion commentaries from Buffalo and international Rabbis, videos of local events, Israel news and much more.

Please join us today to be a part of **One Stop Jewish Buffalo**.

**Thank you.**

**Nathan Sull**

*Publisher, [www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com](http://www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com)*



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# Kadimah Alums agree “The Future is Ours!”



*“I firmly believe Kadimah’s smaller class sizes and stimulating learning environment built my confidence in the classroom and helped place me far ahead of my high school classmates. Transitioning to high school was very easy thanks to the dedicated teachers at Kadimah... who instilled in me a work ethic that led to an intensive lab research program at Roswell Park. Most importantly, I am grateful for the community’s generosity in providing scholarships which has allowed me to develop a strong Jewish foundation and a solid connection to Israel.”*

Hannah Slabodkin '13, City Honors '17, Princeton Class of 2021



*“My amazing Kadimah education placed me out of a language requirement at Princeton, gave me the necessary Bible and Judaic studies topics to ease my way into a third minor, and helped me develop a personal and academic interest in the Middle East, leading to my BA in Politics/Int'l Relations, a summer program with the London School*

*of Economics, and the pursuit of a Master’s Degree in Global Governance, Politics, and Security at American University.”*

Ella Kesaieva '08, Williamsville East '12, Princeton '16, American University Class of 2018

Learn more at [www.kadimah.org](http://www.kadimah.org)



*“It was important for us to send our children to a school where they could learn Judaic content – Hebrew, Bible studies, Jewish history and laws – and to do so in a nurturing environment with a talented and dedicated faculty and with supportive peers. At the same time, living in an excellent school district (Williamsville), it was important that the secular content be at least as strong as the public school, so that our children would be prepared for high school and beyond. As a former Kadimah*



*student, Harvey was familiar with what Kadimah had to offer. We have been so pleased with the choice we made ... to entrust our children to Kadimah. They have grown into bright, knowledgeable young men who have not only done very well academically, but who are ready for what is to come as they continue in their schooling and as members of their community. Todah Rabah!”*

Harvey and Helaine Sanders, Ben '15, Williamsville North Class of 2019, and Michael '17, Williamsville North Class of 2021

Through the generosity of Richard and Roberta Handel, the New Generation Educational Initiative of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, in conjunction with Erie 1 and Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES are proud to present:

A Conference for Educators  
**LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST:**  
HOW DIALOGUE CAN PREVENT  
POLARIZATION, EXTREMISM,  
AND GENOCIDE

**March 20, 2018**

**8:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus  
355 Harlem Rd. West Seneca, NY

This conference is designed for ELA, Media Studies, and Social Studies educators. For the low registration fee of \$75.00 all attendees will receive six hours of professional development and Common Core classroom materials. Lunch is included with registration.



Dr. Michael Dobkowski  
Hobart and  
William Smith Colleges



Dr. Christian Sandvig  
Michigan University

Complete Information and Registration at [www.elb.org](http://www.elb.org)



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# Seniors and Substance Abuse Disorders

By Jessica Thorpe

Quiet as it has been kept, seniors make up a significant percentage of the people who develop substance use disorders. "At any age, there is no shame in talking about substance use. The shame is not getting the help needed," advises Marlene A. Schillinger, president and CEO of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County (JFS).

JFS works to de-stigmatize mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders through its leadership in the regional "Join the Conversation" ([www.letstalkstigma.org](http://www.letstalkstigma.org)) initiative and through Mental Health First Aid training.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an international, evidence-based training program which teaches individuals, employers and groups to better understand



medication' with alcohol and other drugs. Willpower and self-resolve are not always enough to change drinking and substance use habits, and reducing the amount of use may be an effective option to complete abstinence. It's important for family members, health providers and caregivers to give reassurance and provide information," Schillinger says.

At any age, many factors can contribute to the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs, alcohol and even the development of problem gambling, which is also considered a behavioral disorder.

Among others, warning signs of misuse include:

- Increased use over time
- Difficulty controlling use
- Continued use even after recognizing problem
- Giving up important activities

At Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County, compassionate care managers and mental health professionals help seniors and their families navigate through life changes and challenges that may contribute to the onset of addictive behaviors. "We work with each person to individualize a care plan and goals, and then coordinate access to medical providers, the licensed clinical social workers in our mental health clinic, when appropriate, and connection to any social service support they may need," Schillinger says.

"We believe absolutely that treating the whole person is critical to physical, emotional and spiritual well-being."

**For more information about JFS support for seniors, call 716-883-1914.**

mental illness; to identify and respond to a mental health emergency, and ways to reduce the associated stigma. JFS partners with Compeer and the Mental Health Association of Erie County to provide the training, which has now certified more than 1200 people in Western New York.

## According to MHFA:

- one in five older adults may be adversely affected by a combination of alcohol and medication misuse
- misuse of prescribed medications among older adults can cause serious falls, confusion and delirium associated with high rates of emergency hospitalizations and mortality
- psychoactive medications with the potential for misuse and abuse are now prescribed to approximately 25 percent of all older adults, who also face new challenges of living longer that can include income concerns, the loss of a spouse and old friends and increasing social isolation

"The co-occurrence of mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression – either diagnosed or undiagnosed from an earlier age, or instigated by new challenges of aging – can lead to 'self-



Addiction comes in many forms;  
None discriminate by age or sex.

March is  
**Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

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Have the Conversation.*

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*a lifeline for all*

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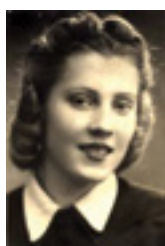
[www.jfsbuffalo.org](http://www.jfsbuffalo.org)   **716.883.1914**

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# U.N Holocaust Remembrance Event 2018

## OVER 1100 PEOPLE HEAR JEANNIE SMITH OVER 2 DAYS

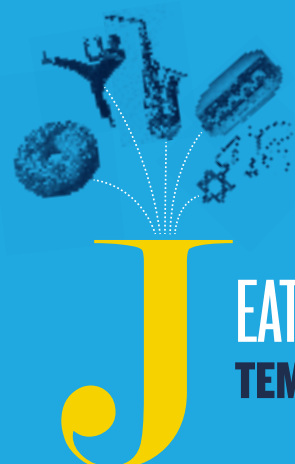
The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College in honor of UN Holocaust Remembrance Day presented One Person Can Make a Difference, a lecture by Jeannie Smith, daughter of **Irena Gut Opdyke**, Righteous Among the Nations, on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Over 200 people attended Ms. Smith's lecture focusing on the remarkable story of her mother's efforts to save Jews in WWII



in German-occupied Poland. Along with being named Righteous Among the Nations, Irena Gut Opdyke received Israel's Medal of Honor, was honored by the Vatican, was posthumously awarded the Commander's Cross from the Polish Government and the Courage to Care award from the Anti-Defamation League. Ms. Smith also spoke to 300 Canisius High School students and 600 students at Williamsville North and East High Schools on January 29.



Jeannie Smith



# THE GREAT BUFFALO JEWBILEE!

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## National Federation for Just Communities Annual Awards Lunch

Many Community leaders, including Charlotte Gendler and Sharon Mentkowski, were honored at the January 24 event.

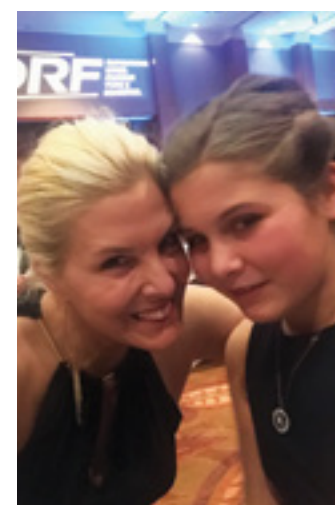


## Women's March 1st Anniversary



## JDRF Gala

The Myers and Shatkin families, among many others, were involved in the Juvenile Diabetes fundraiser this year in Buffalo.



# Honoring Rabbi Heschel Greenberg On His 70th Birthday



Recently, Rabbi Heschel Greenberg, Buffalo's senior rabbi, celebrated his 70th birthday and was honored at a small party on January 28. Many of his children and grandchildren, as well as friends from near and far, attended the lovely party held at the Jewish Discovery Center on Hopkins Road. Happy birthday, Rabbi Greenberg! May you have good health and live to celebrate 70 more!

## Cafe JDC Passover food

ב"ה

Leave it to the Jewish Discovery Center's Chef to create a gourmet menu of traditional, Passover Holiday meal.



See our selection @  
JewishBuffalo.com

## Tu B'Shevat at KOT

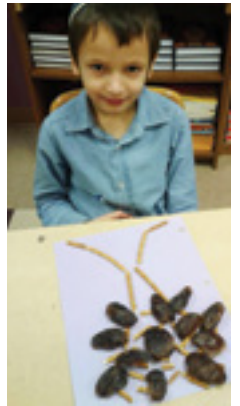


## Tu B'Shevat at Temple Beth Zion



## Happy Tu B'Shevat from Ohr Temimim!

The students at Ohr Temimim celebrated by sampling popular tree fruits such as grapes, pomegranate seeds, dates and olives. Each class was given a selection of fruits to taste. Teachers then conducted polls to see which fruit was the school's favorite. When the results were in, there was a clear winner- pomegranates. However, apples came in close second place. When it came to the olives, green were preferred over the black variety. "I don't know why anyone would like the green ones over the black ones," said Sheindel Munitz, grade 7. As it turns out, the teachers prefer the black olives over the green as they were the first item to be completely eaten on the staff trays. "This is such a treat either way," said Morah Adina Lazerson.



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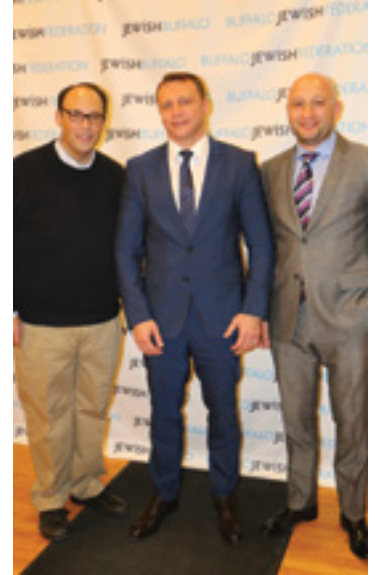
**THE JEWISH JOURNAL**  
A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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# MK Yoel Razvozov's Visit to Buffalo

Israeli Member of Knesset Yoel Razvozov visited Buffalo in February. He was hosted by the law firm Lippes Mathias Wexler, the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Zion at two events and met with members of the Buffalo community. Special thanks to Andrew Shaevel for working to organize his visit.



# (NOT) THE LAST WORD

## Finding Buffalove...Again

*By Jess Kent*

Over a decade ago, I ventured from the suburbs of Williamsville into Boston for college. While everything seemed new, familiar faces from Buffalo welcomed me on campus and I was grateful for the strength of loose ties: Lakeland campers attended college at other campuses locally, one other graduate from my high school also attended the same college, and a smattering of folks from pre-school at the JCC and my years in Jewish day school occasionally congregated on campus in passing en route to class. Folks from nearby Rochester, who I knew from youth group, wore Bills jerseys on game day, and every once in a blue moon I'd see a Sabres cap too. We weren't close, but we were there as youngsters and the Buffalo bond felt supportive.

Throughout my post-undergraduate experience, Buffalo remained a strong aspect of my identity and community, despite moving a significant distance away. After college graduation, I moved to Mississippi and took a road trip up the east coast, and Buffalo felt galaxies away. In 2013, I ended up east of Los Angeles for graduate school. A family friend from Buffalo lived in the city, and once a year I'd be invited to his

home for a convening of sorts. There, I realized several millennial Buffalonians were spread across Southern California. I became a member of a local synagogue during graduate school in exchange for teaching religious school, and the Cantor's family was even from Buffalo! While I buried myself in research, academia, and conferences, I always knew that "home" was a phone call away for Jewish holiday meals - someone



from Western New York would always invite me to their dinner table and I felt reassurance of the Buffalo bond in that generic reassurance. Throughout these experiences, I found that there were Buffalonians everywhere I went, helping to forge my path, giving me an outlet to actively participate in Jewish life as a millennial.

Six months ago, I returned to Buffalo to join my family as my grandmother was in the hospital. This is my initial review of the journey home from a Jewish Millennial's perspective.

August was a blast in #Buffalove. Everything was new - it was palpable how much Buffalo (or perhaps I) had changed. New restaurants, new stores, new companies, and new people writing in the newspapers! I called a local congregation and left a message on the Rabbi's voicemail then received a text from him quickly thereafter. He visited my grandmother in her new nursing home and promised to visit again soon.

As I've settled back into Buffalo, I've worked to find my place as an active Jewish millennial in the institutional Jewish community. Again, individual connections with outstanding people have allowed me integrate into the community again, ultimately helping me to find opportunities for leadership, growth, voice, and experiences.

In September, by chance, I walked out of the hospital room and saw a man in a kippah seated down the hall. Almost by instinct, I ran over and excitedly asked, "Are you a Rabbi?" No. "Are you from Buffalo?" No. "Hm, well - ha - this is funny. Lovely to meet you. I've been here with family for several days and it's wonderful to see a familiar symbol of Judaism." We spoke for a few minutes - and it turns out that he's the father of yet another Rabbi in Buffalo, who

frequently visits the sick. Appreciative of the conversation, he gave me his daughter-in-law's phone number.

By October, I was able to spend time getting reacquainted with Buffalo through dozens of coffee conversations with Jews and non-Jews across the city. Their willingness to warmly welcome me back, suggest where to go, or where to work, or who to meet next was wonderful! Still, I had the paper application for membership to join a congregation in the backseat of my car; no one could definitively tell me where the "best" community would be for "the next generation". Everyone shared their opinion about the Jewish agencies and organizational leadership. Everyone name-dropped Nickel City Jews, the Federation, this board or that dating site...the recommendations were endless and appreciated! I reached out to old friends (who were either partnered with babies or had never left Buffalo) and met up with a few of them to "pick their brains". I visited Toronto frequently and I was inspired by their cosmopolitan and suburban greater Toronto Area Jewish communities.

In November, while grocery shopping, a woman yelled my name and walked over to greet me - turns out she had heard I was back in Buffalo and recognized me. We talked for a few minutes in front of the early Hanukkah display. Without being prompted, she reintroduced herself to me, and it turns out that her son and I attended preschool together. We caught up about her three kids and she said it was nice to see me "all grown up". Truthfully, it felt lovely to be in connection with an acquaintance and I thanked her for reaching out amidst the frenzy of Sunday errands.

By December, I attended an event for young professionals about Jews in Budapest and I was impressed by the turnout. And two months later, I toured the JCC to see their renovated workout spaces. Baby steps, I told myself. Put yourself out there, and see how the Buffalo Jewish community engages young people.

Amidst the tribulations of moving cross-country to a simultaneously familiar yet unrecognizable city, I have been warmed by the people of Buffalo this winter. I am eager to meet you and hear about what makes you proud to be a Buffalonian. Moreover, I look forward to becoming an active member of our Jewish community who contributes to and invests in our area's future.

**You can reach Jess Kent at [jessicarachelkent@gmail.com](mailto:jessicarachelkent@gmail.com)**





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JCC of Greater Buffalo

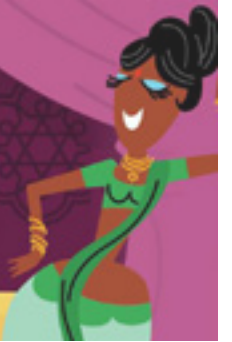


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