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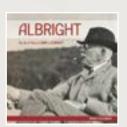




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June 2018

Editor's **Note**



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

It is already June and as a community, we barely caught our collective breath festively celebrating Israel's 70th birthday, when Buffalo Jewish Federation hosted a 2-day Engagement Conference at UB's beautiful Murchie Family Football Center. And in short, it was AWESOME! One hundred and thirty community leaders came together around the concept of Jewish Engagement, featuring quest speaker Rabbi Mike Uram as the keynote. In Buffalo, we define "engagement" as "the cultivation of relationships to support people in building a relevant form of Jewish life that places the person-not the organization-at the center." Kudos and hugs to Ellen Weiss and her Committee as seen on the front cover, and Federation professionals Miriam Abramovich and Nicole Bard for molding such an important, critical event for Jewish Buffalo.

Engagement is a different way to look at the structure of "THE Jewish Community," at Judaism overall and especially, but not solely, how we can connect more deeply with many within our region. And, as we can see by our changing Jewish institutions, it is an important way to look at the Jewish world in 2018.

Time travel back with me back to 1996 at Washington University in St. Louis, where Buffalo's Rob Goldberg is the director of the Wash U. Hillel. He reaches out to a fraternity leader who he's been told is a guy he should meet. He takes him out for coffee at a favorite joint near campus and they talk, not about how to get him involved in Hillel, but his life as a student, a Jew, simply a kid from Cleveland. At the end of their coffee date, the Kid says, "I get it. You want me to bring my guys to Shabbat dinner at Hillel. No problem!" But Rob, with an intuitive understanding of engagement, suggests a different approach. "No, I don't want you to come to Hillel, but perhaps you can bring Shabbat to your brothers at the House." And Rob and this Kid-Mike Uram-click. He develops a deep relationship with Mike, who later not only becomes a rabbi, goes on to lead the Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania, but also pens an extraordinary book on Jewish Engagement: Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish Organizations.

What if Rob had insisted that he would only meet this Fraternity Kid at Hillel? What if his goal was only to get him to come into the building and support the one Shabbat dinner that Hillel hosted? When we understand Jewish engagement, we understand and accept that individuals matter, that there are many portals into Jewish experiences and many ways to "be" and "do" Jewish.

So jump into this "Engagement" issue of the Jewish Journal and see what you think. Open your heart as well as your mind. And ask someone new out for coffee. Or in my case, iced tea! Wishing

you a beautiful, restorative month of June in the Miami of the North right here on the shores of Lake Erie.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Engagement Task Force members plus Rabbi Mike Uram at the April Engagement Conference. From Left- top row: Rabbi Mike Uram, Marc Adler, Jason Palevsky, Sheri Rodman, Robin Raphael, Merredith Levin, Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and Rabbi Ori Bergman. Bottom row from left: Hadar Borden, , Rabbi Sara Rich, Nina Lukin, Federation Engagement Associate Nicole Bard, Beverly Holtz, Federation Director of Engagement Miriam Abramovich, Engagement Task Force Chair Ellen Weiss.

Photo by Ellen Goldstein. Photo art by Kim Miers.

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Talking Jewish Engagement

By Miriam Abramovich, **Buffalo Jewish Federation** Director of Engagement

So much in American Jewish life has changed in the last three decades. According to the 2013 Pew study on Religion in American Life, (www. pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewishamerican-beliefs-attitudes-culturesurvey/) Jews of all ages and stages of life feel a strong sense of belonging to Jewish peoplehood, but are increasingly secular and do not seek out the typical 20th Century iteration of Jewish life where many Jews affiliated and remained committed to organizations, often for generations.

Today, many American Jews seek depth and meaning in their Jewishness, but this search regularly happens outside the walls of organizations. Why are American Jews not looking to our institutions and organizations? We are learning that too often people have been told that there is a right way and a wrong way to practice Judaism. Essentially, they feel Jewishly insecure. Some prefer Jewish experiences that happen in private, intimate settings like at home, and others yearn for Jewish community, but the rhythms of institutional Judaism aren't compatible with the rhythms of their personal lives.

For a growing number of individuals and families, there is a disconnect between the people we are trying to engage, and the fundamental organizing principals of Jewish institutions.

Many of us are intimately acquainted with what organizations need in order to thrive. Organizations need members, program participants, leaders, donors and dollars. But, what do individuals need in order to thrive? They need deep friendships, love, support and meaningful and relevant Jewish experiences. So, fabricating Jewish life, reweaving Jewish community, requires us to be in relationships that are focused on the needs of the individual, not the needs of our organizations. This is new Jewish Engagement.

Of course, the principles of new Jewish Engagement cannot dispense with the organizational-centric model of Jewish life. That model works for many. It is rich, sustaining, beautiful, and worthy of praise. However, Jewish Engagement suggests that you need both the organizationalcentric and the person-centric models working side-by-side. The role of leaders



Keynote speaker Rabbi Mike Uram



Pastor Craig Pridgen, True Bethel Baptist Church, Niagara Falls; Sheri Scavone of WNY Women's Foundation; Brad Hahn of Explore Buffalo; Hadar Bordon, an Engagement Task Force member



Engagement Task Force members Robin Raphael and Beverly Holtz with Kathleen Haggerty



Rabbi Uram signing copies of his book for attendees

is to support both legacy organizations and new post-institutional ways of being Jewish.

What does Jewish Engagement look like in practice? There is not one singular approach to Jewish Engagement. Rather, it is a set of tools or tactics that can be a catalyst for deep, personal, relevant, and meaningful Jewish growth. Engagement practice is still emerging, but here are the core elements that we use here in Buffalo:

• Begin with a relationship. Engagement starts with an authentic peer-to-peer relationship that

pivots around Judaism and is built over a long period of time.

- Meet people where they are; in places and spaces that are intimate and meaningful to them.
- Help people access relevant and meaningful Jewish content that is valuable, personally significant and worthy of an individual's time.
- Stav open minded when individuals take Iewish content and transform it into something relevant personally meaningful.
- Support micro-communities. These are peer-based and interest-based communities where people CREATE and LEAD their own meaningful Jewish experiences.

Engagement is not getting others to do what you want them to do. Engagement is



Federation CEO Rob Goldberg

not about bringing more people into our spaces or starting new programs. Rather it is about hearing the other, learning about what they are seeking, and connecting them to the power and beauty of Judaism. Engagement is hard and slow. The communal culture and systems of organizing and behaving that have been in place for decades are now undergoing a seismic change on their own.

Does reading this scare you? It shouldn't. If you belong to or are deeply rooted to a synagogue or Jewish organization, that is wonderful. But not everyone is, and we want to celebrate and encourage the many ways in which you practice and live your Judaism. There is not just one way to be Jewish. I would love to talk with you over coffee, let's connect! Miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Buffalo Lions of Judah...the Story Continues

Last month, we introduced three women from our community –Cantor Penny Myers, Janet Wisbaum and Kim Yonaty—who are proud Lions of Judah (LOJ). In this issue and the coming issues, we will highlight our Lions of Judah, women who play an essential role in creating social justice, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, preserving human dignity and building Jewish identity.

"A Lion of Judah is an activist and philanthropist. Her passion drives her work and her giving," said Kim Yonaty, Chair of the 2018 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, together with her husband, Stephen Yonaty. "The Lions of Judah are the most dynamic philanthropic Jewish women in the world. We are strong women of all ages, an international sisterhood of thousands of global activists who care deeply about the Jewish future," she said, herself a Lion of Judah. "We demonstrate our dedication to the Jewish community by contributing of our time

and resources. Each woman makes an annual individual donation to their local Jewish Federation that reflects her capacity to give. In most communities, the threshold annual commitment is \$5,000."

This month, The Jewish Journal is profiling three Lions of Judah: Maxine Awner, Dina Benderson and Bonnie Clement.

Maxine Awner



Maxine Awner, is a Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Buffalo, where she has worked for more than 25 years. She has proudly been a Lion of Judah since 2009. Growing up in Buffalo, her family valued synagogue and Federation involvement. Married to Dr. Steven Awner and mother of two daughters, she continues her family's Jewish connection, which began with her parents, Roz and Herb Weiss. has served on the Federation's Board of Governors, the Women's Philanthropy Campaign Cabinet, and is a past recipient of Federation's Ruth and Milton Kahn Young Women's Leadership Award. She served on the board of the former Temple Beth El, and is involved with Temple Beth Zion and Hadassah, as well as other civic and community organizations.

"Giving back in the Jewish community is important to me," she said. "We have to take care of our heritage. I grew up in a strong Buffalo Jewish Community, and I want to see it remain strong." In remembering when she made to commitment to become a Lion, she explained "the late Irv Shuman was the one who talked to me about making this kind of gift around ten years ago, and he spent time explaining the importance of giving to your local community, how

important it is to give to keep the local community strong."

"I give because I like to give," she explained. "It makes me feel good. I like to help people. That's why I do it. I learned charitable giving from my parents, and I also think it is so important to teach the next generation about tzedakah. If people don't think it is important to help others in need, we are not going to have future generations of Jews and Jewish values."

Dina Benderson



Dina Benderson represents the third generation of Benderson family philanthropists. Her husband Todd's grandfather was Nathan Benderson, whose generosity and bold vision helped to establish the Benderson Family Building of the Jewish Community Center, as well as many other philanthropic successes. Dina, a Ruth and Milton Kahn Young Women's Leadership Award recipient, has been involved with Federation's Campaign, Women's Philanthropy Campaign Cabinet, as well as a past chair of Super Sunday. She has also held leadership positions with Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York. A mother of two young children, she feels so lucky to have known Nate Benderson, and to be able to have learned about giving from him.

"I became a Lion of Judah about 15 years ago," she explained. "My husband's

grandfather made me a Lion as a gift, introducing me to the Jewish Federation and the wonderful people in the community. It is important to me as a woman to be represented as a donor in this Buffalo Jewish community and to set an example for other women to donate to causes they feel passionate about," she said. "We women are very strong leaders and love working together."

"Being a Lion to me means being dedicated to our Jewish community. It means being a leader and stepping up to help the community, and making positive changes and bringing people together from all walks of life. I also feel that as a Lion, I am honoring a family tradition and respecting the great legacy of Nate Benderson," she explained. "When I'm asked to co-chair an event or be part of a committee, I feel that I am not just representing myself at the event or the meetings, but I also am living our family's legacy. That is a wonderful gift," she added.

Bonnie Clement



Bonnie Clement is one of Western New York's leading realtors. A #1 selling salesperson with Hunt Real Estate ERA, Bonnie puts her heart into everything she does, including philanthropy. She began her involvement many years ago when she moved to Buffalo from Pittsburgh. Bonnie and her late husband, Bernie

Clement, traveled to Israel on trips with the–then "young leaders" who have led the Buffalo Jewish community for the past generation. She is a past chair of the Women's Philanthropy Cabinet of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, chaired Israel Missions as well as local projects and programs. Passionate about Israel, Bonnie was on the national UJA planes to Israel in times of trouble more than once. She also was co-leader of the 2008 Israel Mission which brought 60 women from the Buffalo area to the Holy Land.

Bonnie first became a Lion of Judah more than 20 years ago—in 1994, and she also has endowed her gift by becoming a LOJE, establishing a Lion of Judah Endowment through Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, which will enable her gift to continue in perpetuity.

Bonnie has a simple answer about why she became a Lion of Judah and a LOJE: "Because I wanted to give back. And I wanted to give back as much as I could, because I have such strong feelings about the Jewish Federation and Israel and always have. When I could afford to become a Lion, it was my greatest pleasure to be able to do so. And, particularly to be able to give back to the Buffalo Jewish community, which has been so wonderful and welcoming to me," she said. "And it is a way also for me to remember all those who came before me."

"Ilove being a Lion because I have joined the ranks of so many other wonderful women who care about their Judaism, care about the lives of the Jewish People all over the world, are giving what they can, and thus are being recognized with a worldwide group of committed women in Buffalo and around the world. My hopes are that other women will recognize the golden Lion pin, and then want to join these wonderful Jewish sisters in making their gifts as well," she said.

"I am so proud to be part of our Jewish community, and to do what I can for my grandchildren and future generations," she added. "Our gifts together help to keep Judaism alive. Without giving, we will not have the same vibrant community here in Buffalo." she said.

If you are interested in becoming a Lion of Judah or endowing your gift to The Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, contact Federation's Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at 716-204-2245 or Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org.

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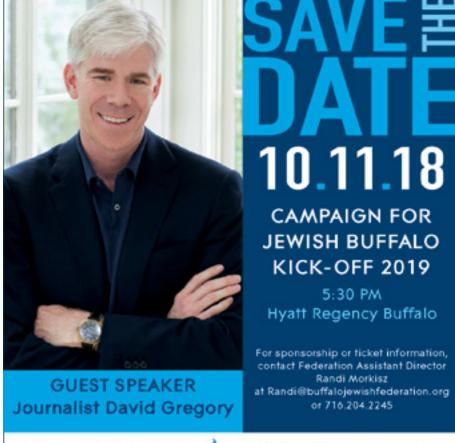
Federation dollars support the Jewish Community Center's Jewish Repertory Theatre (JRT) and Jewish Cultural Arts in our community.



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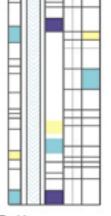
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Camp Seneca Lake to Honor Weiss Family at Golf Tourney

Jewish camping experiences are one of most effective ways to strengthen Jewish identity. Countless studies have shown a direct correlation between the Jewish camp experience and deeper connections to one's Judaism. But overnight camp is costly and the need to provide camp scholarships has never been more important. Ellen and Steven Weiss are passionate supporters of Jewish camping and have made a deep and ongoing commitment to provide camp scholarships for children in our community to attend Camp Seneca Lake (CSL), the outstanding Rochester JCC camp.



Steven and Ellen Weiss

This past summer, nearly 25% of CSL campers were from Jewish Buffalo, yet the amount of camp scholarships available to them have been minimal. That reality inspired Ellen and Steve to work with the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies to create a special camper scholarship fund at Camp Seneca Lake. "The benefits of Jewish camping experiences are truly endless and the recently created scholarship fund is a way to preserve that opportunity for those in our community who need it," Steve wrote in an article last July for the Jewish Journal.

Close to \$15,000 was raised to seed the fund that supports Buffalo children to attend CSL. At the Camp's annual golf tournament this month in Rochester, the Weisses will be will be one of two families honored. The Tournament will be held Monday, June 11, 2018 at the Irondequoit Country Club in Rochester.

If you would like to attend this event, a single golf ticket including lunch and dinner is \$325, lunch or dinner alone is \$100. You can make your reservation or call for information at 585-4611-2000 x 225. You may make a donation to the Weiss Scholarship in honor of Ellen and Steven Weiss by calling the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies directly at 716-204-1133.

Engagement Conference: April 29-30































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The JCC at 70...a new story

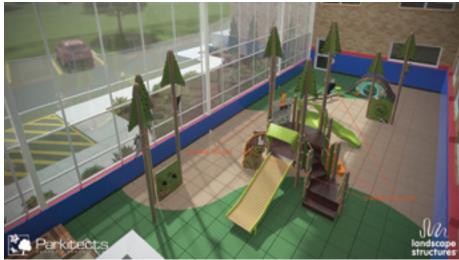
By Rick Zakalik, Executive Director of the JCC

As the 70th anniversary celebration of the JCC's Holland Family Building approaches later this summer, the building at 787 Delaware is witnessing a monumental transformation. Roughly \$4,000,000 will have been invested in this round of renovations. While work over the previous ten years has provided additional space for Early Childhood Education, Fitness and Kids' Place afterschool programming, a surge in demand for each of these programs prompted additional work at the building.



Renovations will include new, stateof-the-art lighting, HVAC systems, windows, offices and rooms for infants and toddlers, and our more than 100 after-school program participants. Installations of environmentally-friendly materials including carpeting, paints, linoleum and mechanical systems are in process. On the lower level of the building new spaces for Spinning, Yoga







and Group Fitness have been created and are in use. A multi-purpose sport court, expected to attract families and young teens has been created in space formerly used by Racquetball players. The Zemsky Family indoor playground has been moved to a newly-created, bright and sunny space on what was formerly the back patio. Attractive space for older adults and others has been created in what was formerly a maintenance shop.

The former gymnasium is in the process of being refurbished with new wood walls, carpeting, ceiling tiles, windows, fitness equipment and other decorative elements. The lobby has been expanded and is expected to be completed in time for a grand celebration in August.

While it was once a consideration to close the JCC's Holland Family Building, generous gifts from the Benderson Family and others facilitated the transformation of the building. Some perceived the building as a burden, but the Holland Family Building is now understood to be a significant element in ensuring the financial viability of the entire JCC. Growth at the nearby Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, new housing and a shift of young people from the suburbs

to the city, along with the concomitant demand for childcare, fitness and aquatics have more than doubled membership at the building. A significant number of young Jewish singles and families, along with an inclusive assortment of people from many backgrounds, have created a "center of communities" where diversity, friendship and understanding dominate.

Although interim funding for the entire project has been secured, significant additional funds need to be raised to meet a dollar for dollar match from a Benderson Family gift. Donor naming opportunities are available for many spaces for individuals and institutions that are proud to witness the resurgence of a strong Jewish presence on Delaware Avenue in the City of Buffalo.

For information regarding donor opportunities including lifetime gifts, planned giving and other gifts, please contact Rick Zakalik, at 204-2071 or Peter Fleischmann at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at 204-1133.

Buffalo Jewish Service Corps Helps install Smoke Detectors

The American Red Cross, Western New York Chapter, recently installed 711 smoke alarms in over 220 homes across the eight counties of Western New York. The program Sound the Alarm also taught families about home fire safety. Additional homes were reached in the following weeks. Buffalo Jewish Service Corps (BJSC) members assisted other Red Cross volunteers and local partners organizing supplies, canvassing neighborhoods, installing free smoke alarms, replacing batteries in existing alarms and helping families create escape plans.

For more information on the work of the BJSC, contact Rob Goldberg at rob@ buffalojewishfederation.org.



Cliff and Ronnie Mahler BISC and Red Cross volunteers help in installations and support activities.



Howard and Karen Wiseman of BJSC assist Red Cross volunteer Steven Schwartz in preparing equipment and supplies.





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Rabbi Ori Bergman Rent a Jew for \$2000!

A congregant of a rabbi lost his mother. After the funeral, the man turned to his spiritual leader with a question. "I know that I am now supposed to sit shiva. I'm aware of my religious obligation to stay home and refrain from work for seven days. But this is really my busy season. I'm wondering if it's possible for me to hire someone to sit shiva for me."

Outsourcing has become a popular trend, as described by sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild in The Outsourced **Self.** Today, you can outsource anything from a friend (rentafriend.com) to someone to potty-train your child (http://www.thepottytrainer.com/).

Jewish law long ago set the parameters for when it is permissible to delegate a task and when personal responsibility trumps this possibility. There is the role of a "shaliach" in Hebrew, a personal agent that acts on your behalf in certain situations. A writ of divorce, for example,



may be sent from husband to wife by way of a messenger. The goal here is merely to have something delivered.

But when the great 18th-century

Rabbi Yechezkel Landau was asked why the Talmudic principle of "the agent of a person is like himself" wouldn't apply to delegating someone to perform a mitzvah on his behalf, he clarified the distinction by way of a simple concept: A responsibility predicated on personal and emotional involvement can never be passed over to another. The person must perform it himself.

No one can listen to the shofar for you. Its call to repentance is directed to you specifically. No one can fast for you on Yom Kippur. The internal cleansing process that wipes the slate clean can only be fulfilled by you. No one can spend quality time with your family for you. The intimate bonds nurtured by quality family time can only be done with you there.

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch said over 150 years ago that if he could, he would close all the synagogues in Germany of his time in order to push back Judaism into the home. I believe this was his protest against outsourcing Judaism to the synagogue sphere at the price of relinquishing Judaism which is practiced and lived within the home.

Nowhere does Judaism become more personal, relevant and alive than in the

Attaining the inspiration, elevation refinement that comes through fulfilling mitzvot (divine commandments) and living a Jewish life can't be done by proxy. There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth. We need to take the time and care to be personally engaged and perform these treasured tasks ourselves. We can only inspire to the extent we are inspired. We need not settle for a mediocre Judaism that comes at no cost. The most cherished accomplishments - family, career, personal development - all require giving of your time (sometimes many years) and your energy (sometimes to the point of exhaustion). Nothing worthwhile comes on a silver platter, or can be bought. The pleasure, privilege and the empowerment in living a Jewish life requires putting "skin in the game" since the greatest things in life take lots of time and lots of effort.

The key is to be an active Jew, not a perfect one. The key is to be growing and not stagnant. Each of us - from the secular to the most observant – has parts of Judaism that we either don't do, or could do better. Find something - one or two things a year - and do it. Anything Jewish - and enjoyable. Maybe reading Jewish books. Or joining a weekly class. Switching your family dinner night to Friday, even celebrating a Jewish holiday you've never celebrated before. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me at oribergman@gmail.com.

Rabbi Ori Berman is rabbi at Kehillat Ohr Tzion in Williamsville.

Federation @ JRT



Buffalo Iewish Federation honored its volunteers by treating them to a night at the Jewish Repertory Theatre (JRT) production of "Sight Unseen." Among the full house of guests enjoying the evening were Maryanne Saccomando Freedman, her daughter Judge Brenda Freedman and IRT Artistic Director Dr. Saul Elkin.



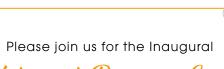
JFS Annual Meeting

Highlights of the 2018 JFS Annual Meeting May 16 at Temple Beth Zion were Rabbi Dr. Pinny Young's invocation, meeting and hearing the stories of those helped by JFS, and Federation CEO Rob Goldberg receiving JFS's prestigious Pugash Award from president Blaine Schwartz.









Holocaust Resource Center Upstander Breakfast

Monday June 11, 2018, 8:30 A.M.

Burchfield Penney Arts Center, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222



Honoring Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, President, Buffalo State College, Who Will Receive The Sophia Veffer Upstander Award

Remarks by Leslie Zemsky, Buffalo State College Council

For event details and tickets, visit the Holocaust Resource Center's website at www.hrcbuffalo.org/upstander-breakfast

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The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo





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Strawberries in June

by Robin Kurss

It's strawberry season and who didn't love the fresh strawberry pie years ago at Gleason's? Here's the closest thing to it. Enjoy and Happy Father's Day!!

Fresh Strawberry Pie

1 pre-baked 9" pie shell 6 c hulled, whole strawberries 3/4 c sugar 1 Tbsp. cornstarch 1 c water 1 3oz package strawberry Jello 1 tsp. butter 1 c whipping cream, whipped with a little confectioners sugar

Place berries in a large bowl. In a saucepan, mix sugar, cornstarch and water, bring to a boil stirring constantly for 1-2 minutes until mixture becomes thick and clear. Off heat, stir in Jello until dissolved. Pour over berries and gently toss until all are coated. Arrange berries in pie shell and refrigerate at least one hour. Serve with plenty of whipped cream! It's best eaten the same day.









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5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

in June to Repair the World

- Buy your seats for the June 11 Kadimah Dinner at Acqua, which will honor Dr. Sol Messinger, a major Kadimah benefactor. Tickets are \$125 per person, and tables of 8 are \$1000. This annual event is much anticipated. You can purchase your tickets by calling the school at 836-6903 or go to www.kadimah.org.
- Make a gift to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation in honor of your father or grandfather, or any other important man in your life for Father's Day June 17. The Cemetery Corporation maintains and repairs several Buffalo Jewish cemeteries and your help is greatly needed. Go to www.buffalojewishfederation. org and click on "Federation Cemetery Corporation" or call 716-204-2246.
- Help send needy kids to Summer Camp via the Rochester JCC's Golf Tourney to support Camp Seneca Lake and others. It's Monday, June 11th and is a benefit golf tournament to raise funds for camp scholarships. This year's tournament honors the families of our own Steven & Ellen Weiss, and Saul & Susan Marsh. For ticket and sponsorship information, visit www.jccrochester.org or contact golf@ jccrochester.org or call 585-461-2000, ext. 225.
- Ride for Roswell June 22 & 23 Get your helmets on, pull your friends together and Ride for Roswell. The 23rd annual, very popular bike ride to raise money to fight cancer takes place the last weekend in June. Headquartered at UB, the Ride has participants riding all over WNY to raise funds. Go to www.rideforroswell.org.
- Welcome summer with Summer Cleaning Donations. Senior Transition Realtors are gratefully accepting collection of scarves, hats, socks and gloves for various charities in Western New York. All donations can be brought to Howard Hanna Real Estate at 5462 Sheridan Drive Williamsville, NY 14221. Please call Connie Wheeler 716-864-4500 for more information.

WHERE IN JBFLO?



Where is this found in WNY?

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

E-mail your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org

In May, Deborah Bokobza correctly identified the photo of the stained glass windows at the Saranac Synagogue. Thanks to Jane Jacobson for taking the photo and sending it to the Jewish Journal.



Local & Israeli vendors Stay tuned for more information
TO BE A VENDOR,
contact Keren Green at

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Sleepaway@SEM for girls entering grades 6-9 1-Week Sessions July 8 - 28

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BuffaloSeminary.org/SAS



facebook.com/SummeratSEM

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June 1

"Bagels over Berlin" on WNED TV

Film by Buffalo's Alan Feinberg 2:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Pride Shabbat Service

7:00 PM

Temple Beth Zion - 805 Delaware

June 3

Temple Beth Tzedek 10th Anniversary Party

Recycling event, ice cream & cake, music & fun 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON 621 Getzville Rd., Amherst

Pride Parade

Gather beginning at 10:00 AM at Buffalo State Parking Lot Step-Off at 1:00 PM Elmwood Avenue

Hadassah presents Jon Lehrer Event

2:00 PM

JCC/Benderson Building Seller Theatre

June 4-21

JCC Book & Arts Fair (see page 30 for events)

June 7

Holocaust Resource Center Annual Meeting

5:30 PM

Congregation Shir Shalom 4660 Sheridan Drive

June 8

PJ Library's Tot Shabbat Hop

6:00 PM

Congregation Shir Shalom 4660 Sheridan Drive

June 8-10

Freda Berger Scholar Weekend

Congregation Shir Shalom Friday & Saturday

June 9

JCC Grossman Outdoor Pool opens

June 11

Holocaust Resource Center Upstander Breakfast

8:30 AM

Burchfield Art Center 1300 Elmwood Avenue

Kadimah Dinner Honoring Dr. Sol Messinger

Acqua 2192 Niagara Street Call 716-836-6903 for info or tickets

June 15

Service in Honor of Rabbi Adam Scheldt

7:00 PM

Temple Beth Zion - 805 Delaware

June 20

Bureau of Jewish Education 90th Annual Meeting

5:00 PM Tour of Darwin Martin House 6:00 PM Meeting 125 Jewett Parkway, RSVP for tours - 204-5381

June 22

Jewish Renewal Service with Dr. Yonina Foster

7:00 PM

Congregation Beth Abraham 1073 Elmwood Avenue

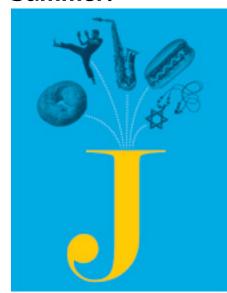
June 28

JCC Annual Meeting

7:00 PM

JCC/Benderson Building Seller Theatre

Inaugural Jewish Festival Highlights Summer!



The Great Buffalo Jewbilee is just under 3 months away! On Sunday, August 19th, thousands of Buffalonians of all faiths will gather to celebrate the vibrancy that is Iewish Buffalo. An indoor and outdoor summer festival, the inaugural Jewbilee will be at Temple Beth Zion and the JCC Holland Family Building on historic Delaware Avenue. The festival will feature a weekend of celebration, kicking off on Thursday, August 16th with the Jamboree to the Jewbilee, an evening family celebration of food and entertainment at Larkin Square and co-hosted by Temple Beth Zion and the JCC. We are grateful to our Jamboree co-chairs Laurie and Mark Criden for leading this pre-event.

And after a ribbon cutting and opening ceremonies, the festivities will be bountiful, just like the food! Food vendors will feature BVK supervised delicacies that represent Jewish culture, each serving for \$5 or less. Rick Recht, sponsored by PJ Library, and other local musicians, including an all new All Girls Band, will be performing throughout the day. There will also be an Israeli marketplace, krav maga demonstrations, Israeli folk dancing, and an entire Children's Wing crafted by the Jewish Discovery Center. The Jewbilee will also feature a beer tent featuring Shmaltz Brewery and wine tasting by Tzafona

We thank Wegmans and Amherst Memorial for being our Sweet Honey Cake/Gold level partners. For more information, to register as a vendor (food and art), to be a partner and advertise with us, or to perform at the Jewbilee, please contact Keren Green at 204-2250 or at keren@buffalojewishfederation.org.









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Dining Guide





370 VIRGINIA STREET● BUFFALO ● 14201 www.facebook.com/bettysbuffalo www.bettysbuffalo.com 362-0633

WEEKEND BRUNCH: Sat. & Sun.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH: Tues.-Fri. **DINNER**: Tues.-Sat.

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 Moderately Priced

 Eclectic Cuisine

Quirky Digs

Funky Staff

Local Art









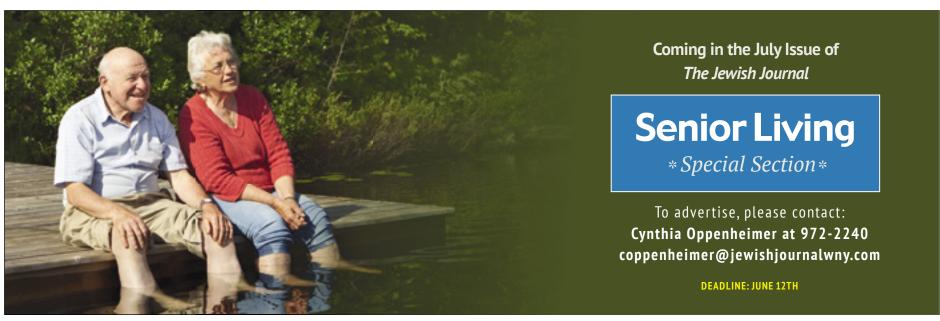
Dining Guide











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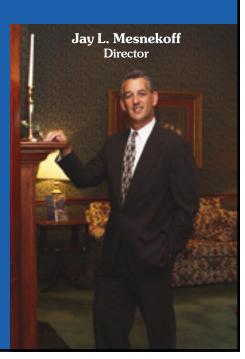
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Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

Buffalo Jewish Federation 2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-204-2241 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 Jill Komm - Executive Director Michael Berger - President

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

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

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

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

Hadassah

2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-688-5260 buffalohadassah@gmail.com Elaine Kellick, Annette Magid, Mickey Savit, and Rhonda Wise- Co-Presidents

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association 2640 North Forest Road in FJP 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

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

Iewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

Benderson Family Building 2640 North Forest Road

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

Holland Family Building

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

Jewish Discovery Center 757 Hopkins Road Williamsville, NY 14221 831 Maple Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (office) TEL: 716-639-7600 TEL: 716-632-0467 Rabbi Heschel Greenberg Rabbi Laizer Labkovski www.jewishdiscovery.org

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

Jewish Federation Apartments 275 Essjay Road Williamsville, NY 14221 TEL 716-631-8471 www.jewishfederationapartments.org Kathleen Haggerty - Property Manager Shawn Frier - President

Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Inc. 2640 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-204-2246 www.ifedbflo.com Deborah Pivarsi - Director

Kadimah Academy 1085 Eggert Road Amherst, NY 14226 TEL 716-836-6903 www.kadimah.org Einav Symons - Head of School Alan Rosenhoch - President

Kosher Meals on Wheels 757 Hopkins Road Williamsville, NY 14221 Tel 716 639-7600 www.koshermow.com Rabbi Laizer Labkovski - Director Jeffery Pasler – President

Ohr Temimim School 411 John James Audubon Parkway W. Amherst, NY 14228 TEL 716-568-0226 www.ohrtemimimschool.com Rabbi Shmuel Shanowitz - Principal Jonathan Gellman - President

One Stop Jewish Buffalo
A free website updated weekly about all that's happening in Jewish Buffalo Nathan Sull - Publisher Aaron Sull - Editor www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com

Weinberg Campus 2700 North Forest Road Getzville, NY 14068 TEL 716-639-3311 www.weinbergcampus.org Robert Mayer- President & CEO Kenneth Rogers- Chairman of the Board of Directors

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

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 (Reform) 6320 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221 Bernard Schenkler, President Enid Edelman, Membership Chair TEL 716-689-8059 www.congregationhavurah.org info@congregationhavurah.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attention Snowbirds!

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

If you plan to be away from your permanent address and will have your first class mail forwarded to your temporary address and would like to continue to receive the *Iewish Journal* over the winter or the summer, please call Joan Kwiatkowski at 716-204-2242 to give us your "temporary" address. Thank you!

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Temple Beth Zion to Honor Rabbi **Adam Scheldt**

Friday, June 15, at 7 p.m. 805 Delaware Avenue

Please join us at Temple Beth Zion as we say "l'hitraot" to Rabbi Adam Scheldt. Rabbi Scheldt served Temple Beth Zion from June 2013 through February 2018. One of his many strengths is his ability to connect with others on a spiritual level, making him an excellent choice in his new role as Director of Pastoral Care for Hospice Buffalo. Join us as we wish him well!



39th Annual Merrill Molien **Haven House Scholarship Luncheon**

Tuesday, July 17, Noon • Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Join the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood for a delicious lunch, interesting speaker and our fabulous basket auction. All proceeds to benefit an educational scholarship for victims of domestic violence who are able to stay at Haven House. For more information, call (716) 836-6565.



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

TBZ, CSS, Jewish Federation Summer Celebration

Temple Beth Zion is teaming up with new host partners Congregation Shir Shalom and Buffalo Jewish Federation for the Annual Summer Celebration at Transit Valley Country Club on Monday, August 6.

The event includes the Twentieth Annual Golf Tournament. This long-running tournament has the distinction of being the only Golf Tournament in WNY that supports the Jewish Community.

For those who are not interested in golfing, there is also an option to board a luxury air-conditioned coach to tour wineries in Niagara County.

For both the wine tour and golf tournament, the day begins with a fabulous lunch on the outdoor patio. At noon, those on the Wine Tour board the luxury conditioned coach to tour wineries in Niagara County. Seating is limited, so don't delay in reserving a spot.

The Golf Tournament has a 12:30 shotgun start with 18 holes on the premier TVCC golf course. Golfers love the "best in foursome" format that allows them to play their own ball.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres follow the Wine Tour and Golf Tournament. The event is capped off with a delicious dinner and rousing auctions in the country club dining room.

Sign up for the wine adventure (space is limited), on the golf course, or just come for cocktails and dinner.

If you are interested in participating, donating auction items and/or being a sponsor for this event, please contact Julie Feldman at (716) 836-6565, Ext. 134.

TBZ Shows its Pride

Temple Beth Zion will hold its annual Pride Service on Friday, June 1, at 6 PM at 805 Delaware Avenue. This year Buffalo Jewish Federation CEO Rob Goldberg will address the theme of engagement of the Buffalo LGBTQ Jewish community.

Once again, TBZ will proudly march in the community's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 3. We will join with other marchers from the Jewish community. At the time of this writing, we welcome Temple Beth Tzedek, Nickel City Jews and the Jewish Community Center. This year, we will again march under our "B'etzelem Elohim" ("We are all created in the image of God") banners. Our theme expresses in two words our Jewish commitment to embracing and supporting all of our diverse members, as well as the Biblical inspiration for that commitment.

Marchers will assemble at the parking lot at Buffalo State College beginning at 10 AM. The parade steps off from Buffalo State College at noon and marches down Elmwood Avenue to Allen Street. The festival happens at Canalside, from 1 to 7 PM, and will feature music, other entertainment, and exhibitors. If you'd rather not march, come and cheer from anywhere along Elmwood Avenue. It should be a beautiful day; spend part of it with TBZ.

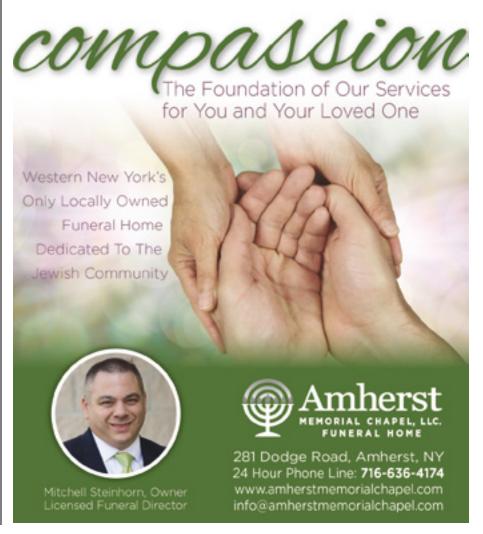
Defensive Driving Class is Back at **Shir Shalom**



Here's your chance to save money on your car insurance, become a safer driver, and help the Congregation Shir Shalom. Back by popular demand, the New York State Defensive Driving Class will be offered at Congregation Shir Shalom on Saturday, June 2nd. Taking the class will save you 10% on your liability, collision, and no-fault insurance for three years. The average driver saves about \$100 a year. The class will run from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost is \$30 for temple members and \$35 for non-members. A portion of the proceeds will go to temple. The class size is limited to 40 people, so sign up soon.

NOTE: If you took the class at temple in June 2015, you're up for renewal. If you'd like to attend, contact Bruce Corris at corrisb@hotmail.com or 636-8387.





Jewish Renewal Service June 22 at Beth Abraham

Join Dr. Yonina Foster Friday, June 22 at 7:00 PM for a Jewish Renewal at Congregation Beth Abraham on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo. The Shabbat program will draw upon the mystical tradition from which it arises, contemplation, and, songs, old and new.

Summer has begun. It is Shabbat Chukat. Our essence is pure. What ritual do we use to purify ourselves after a death, or something within us dies? The ashes of the Red Heifer may be our tool in beginning that process. We may thirst for a connection to the Source after Miriam's death, and become angry and hit a rock when we don't have the answer. How do we open the way to our healing?

Dr. Foster studied in the rabbinic Seminary of ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal, has led, co-led, and created services in Maryland, before returning to Buffalo last July.



Dr. Yonina Foster

Where: Congregation Beth Abraham Address: 1073 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222 Bring cushion for your chair, and something to share at the Oneg. Time: 7:00 p.m.



Dave Weinman: A Boy of Summer

By Peter Simon

Dave Weinman feared that hip surgery in 2005 would end his playing days on the softball diamond. Instead, it relieved his hip pain, got him back on the field and allowed him to build an international reputation as both a player and an advocate for the game he loves. In recognition, Weinman will be inducted into the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame this fall.



The photo was taken at a ballfield in Maui. Hawaii. in 2014. Dr. Dave Weinman is on the left, with his good friend Dr. Bart Neckers, also a dentist, on the right.

The honor feels good, almost like a hard-hit line drive. "It's really nice," said Weinman, a dentist and a member of Congregation Shir Shalom. "Who wouldn't be thrilled by being honored for something they enjoy doing?"

Baseball and softball - both fast pitch and slow pitch— have been key elements in Weinman's life, starting with Little League at age 8. He pitched in semiprofessional hardball leagues until he developed arm pain in his late 20s, and switched to softball. In addition to taking part in highly competitive local leagues, he played ball on winter trips to Florida for the last 27 years with local friends who call themselves the MOGS, or "Mostly Old Guys."

Seven years ago, Weinman and his wife and dental partner, Mindy Paticoff Weinman, learned about Senior Softball USA, which sponsors international tournaments for older athletes. "We decided to give it a try," Dave said. "It turned out to be great. It's a blast. You meet a lot of nice and interesting people."

The Weinmans have traveled to softball competitions in Spain, Ireland and Scotland; London and Paris; Germany and Austria; and Italy. In addition, they have gone to Hawaii each of the last five years for tournaments for players over 60years old. They have made friends throughout the world, toured much of Europe, and found a way to make softball work for both of them. While Dave chases fly balls in Olympic stadiums, Mindy reserves the right to stay behind at poolside.

Weinman, 64, said softball gives him a great incentive to stay fit so he can continue to do what he loves. "For me, there's no feeling like running hard after a fly ball and making the catch," he said. "It's inspiring to me that there are guys my age and older who can do that."

Another honor materialized recently when Weinman was asked to manage a U.S. team this June in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Weinman said he and his teammates aren't as strong or fast as they once were, but use their experience and savvy to play smart, efficient games. And while the competition is friendlier in senior leagues, this is no walk in the park. "It's serious ball," Weinman said. "We're all trying to win."

PALS-Kadimah Registration

Broder Center for Jewish Education 700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst

PALS-Kadimah is a warm, welcoming Jewish community pre-school with an enriched Judaic, Hebrew and values-based curriculum. Through creative play and experiential learning, our children thrive and discover the world around them. For more information and/or a tour, contact Melissa Milch: pals@tbz.org or (716) 836-6565, Ext. 139













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Anniversary

Sunday, June 3, 10:00 - 12:00 621 Getzville Road, Amherst Come celebrate and help repair the world: Free cake and ice cream Jazz music by Josh Ribakove

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Safe Drug Drop off with thanks to the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Department of Health drive up and drop off no longer needed and/or expired medicines, both prescription and over the counter, for safe, security disposal.



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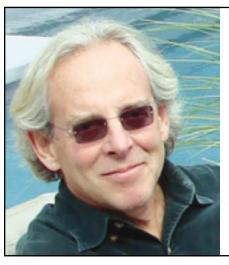


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123 Harbridge Manor

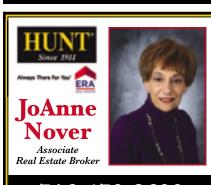
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New Price! Stunning & sophisticated w/all the finest materials used best describes this patio home in Greythorne community. Lg covered patio w/gas grill. Open flr plan w/ both hdwd & porcelain tile flrs on 1st flr. Kit w/granite ctrs & island, top s/s appl, & cherry cabs. LR & DR w/ gas fp, opens to patio. 1st flr mstr w/lg walk-in closet, sitting area, double sink w/vanity & oversized stall shower. Loft area on 2nd flr also includes 2 bdrms, & adl full bath. This is one of the largest lots in Greythorne

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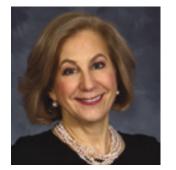
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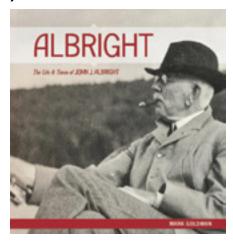


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52ND JCC BOOK AND ARTS FAIR JUNE 4 - JUNE 21

The 52nd JCC Book and Arts Fair will showcase authors and presenters from Western New York and beyond, June 4-June 21, 2018. The following events will be included during this year's Book and Arts Fair:



Sunday, June 10, 2018

The Fred H. Sales Music Fund presents: A SPECTACULAR VARIETY SHOW

STARRING The Twins from France: Yaakov and Yisroel Gurion and Magician Todd Nelson FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!

2:00 - 4:00 PM Location: Temple Beth Tzedek, 621 Getzville Rd, Amherst

Tickets General Admission: \$10. Families: \$60 (parents and their children)

Monday, June 4

ALBRIGHT: The Life and Times of John J. Albright **Author: Mark Goldman** 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, in the Benderson Family Building Book sale/signing and reception to follow author presentation.

Tickets: \$10.00/General, \$5.00/Student ALBRIGHT: The Life and Times of John J. Albright is a revealing story of one of Buffalo's most important and least known industrialists, as well as of the turn-of-thecentury city in which he lived.

Wednesday, June 6 Home at the End of the Day:

An American Family Drama in Three Acts **Playwright: Howard Wolf Directed by: Virginia Brannon** Starring: Richard Lambert, Joy Scime and Steve Rosenthal 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, in the Benderson Family Building Book sale/signing and reception to follow author presentation.

Tickets: \$10.00/General \$5.00/Student Home at the End of the Day includes three related one-act plays that portray the complex history of an American family in the second half of the 20th century.



Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Word Weavers Writing Group 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, in the Benderson Family Building Reception to follow event

Tickets: \$10.00/General \$5.00/Student THE WORD WEAVERS, a program of the JCC, is a group of women who write memoirs. This evening is an intimate invitation to share a selection of their work.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Poet: Philip Terman "A Reading from Our Portion: New and Selected Poems" 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, in the Benderson Family Building Book sale/signing and reception to follow author presentation.

Tickets: \$10.00/General \$5.00/Student Terman is the founder and co-director of the Chautaugua Writers' Festival, and a contributing poetry editor for the journal Chautaugua.

Monday, June 18, 2018

Author: Arlene Burrows A Return to Chelm 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, in the Benderson Family Building Book sale/signing and reception to follow author presentation.

Tickets: \$10.00/General \$5.00/Student The author's paternal grandparents' families were residents of Chelm, Poland for generations. Seventy-two of them were murdered in the Holocaust.

The Bunis Family Art Gallery, at the JCC Benderson Family Building, will feature the exhibit Art From The Heart by artists from Yad B'Yad (Hebrew for Hand in Hand) a group that provides outreach, advocacy and program support for people with disabilities. The exhibit will run May 15 - June 29, 2018.

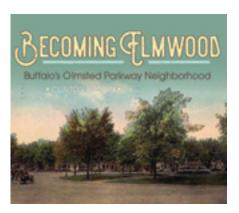
During the month of June, books will be collected for preschool - grade 4 students attending Highgate Heights Elementary School in Buffalo, in collaboration with Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy, a program of Buffalo Jewish Federation. For the past 15 years, Buffalo Jewish Coalition volunteers have been bringing donated books to students, as well as reading to and tutoring children. Collection boxes will be at or near membership services desks at both JCC buildings. (Please note, to comply with the school's preference, no holiday books will be distributed)

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Film: Keep the Change Presented with the Buffalo **International Jewish Film Festival** and Yad B' Yad 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, in the Benderson Family Building Tickets: \$10.00/General \$5.00/Student This film is a romantic comedy set in a world where no character is typical. Director Rachel Israel; Narrative, 2017, USA, 94 min, English. Trailer: https://www.

youtube.com/watch?v=rLAwe5KRyjg



Thursday, June 21, 2018

Author: Clinton Brown Becoming Elmwood: Buffalo's Olmsted Parkway Neighborhood 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave

Book sale/signing and reception to follow author presentation.

Tickets: \$10.00/General \$5.00/Student The book tells of the arrival on the Niagara Frontier of Joseph Ellicott, continues with the role of Fredrick Law Olmsted in the parks and parkways, and steps into the modern era.

The JCC Book and Arts Fair is open to everyone. Most events conclude with dessert receptions as well as books sales and signings. Tickets for events requiring admission may be purchased at the door, or prior to the events at either ICC member services desk as well as www.jccbuffalo.org.

JCC Book and Arts Fair

Tickets & Passes

Tickets and passes may be purchased at the door or in advance at either JCC member services desk or at www.jccbuffalo.org

New this year:

Flex Pass \$50

Six tickets for the price of 5!

Pass may be shared.

Please note: Flex Pass and student tickets may not be used towards A SPECTACULAR VARIETY SHOW on June 10.

For information about schedules, or donation opportunities for the JCC Book and Arts Fair, please visit www.jccbuffalo.com or contact Katie Wzontek, **Cultural Arts Director** at Kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org

Jewish Community LGBTQ Inclusion Committee Forms!

By Janet Gunner

Representatives from Jewish Pride of WNY, Temple Beth Tzedek, Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom and Hillel gathered in an uplifting meeting at the JCC, April 23 to build upon the work over LGBTO issues in Jewish Buffalo that has been underway in individual organizations over the past several years. Our evolving goals and approach are to include all individuals and organizations in the Jewish community to collaboratively identify, develop and implement meaningful and effective programs and approaches for LGBTO inclusion and well-being on an enduring basis.

Rabbi Sara Rich, Executive Director of Hillel, opened our meeting with a D'var Torah highlighting the commandment from the week's parashah K'doshim "Love your neighbor as yourself" as a central principle of Torah and an

underpinning of our committee's work as we strive for holiness.

Committee members shared their reasons for engaging in this work: Torah B'tzelem Elochim, we view all human beings with infinite dignity, created in the image of God. We are concerned for the well-being of LGBTO friends, family and community. We are inspired by each other's dedication and work for a compassionate, inclusive community. We enjoy working together and learning from each other to advance these goals.

TBZ's Kulanu has long been a leader in Jewish community LGBTO inclusion. TBT has been accepted to participate in the USCJ/Keshet Leadership Project that provides our leaders with intensive training and a year of support for making substantive changes for LGBTO inclusion. Matthew Schwartz put in motion his vision for Jewish community LGBTQ inclusion by creating Jewish Pride

of WNY, bringing together 14 partners in the Jewish LGBTO community of WNY.

Plans underway for the Jewish community include a Jewish presence at the Buffalo Pride Parade, Sunday, June 3 coordinated by Jewish Pride of WNY(http://jewishpridewny. org/pride); LGBTO training sessions focusing on youth, adults and organizations; a safe space with professional support for Jewish youth discovering themselves in the LGBTQ community; and a Community Pride Friday Evening Shabbat Service.

Please also join us at TBZ's Pride Shabbat, Friday, June 1, 6:00 PM at 805 Delaware Avenue, and Pride Shabbat at TBT, Saturday, June 23, 9:00 AM at 621 Getzville Road in Amherst.

For further information or if you would like to join the Jewish Community LGBTQ Inclusion Committee, contact Janet Gunner (janetgunner@gmail.com) or Matthew Schwartz (matt@themattschwartz.net).

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 PM. (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 for more details and/ or to put your name on the list of volunteers. You can volunteer once or on multiple Tuesdays. We welcome new and returning volunteers.

HEBREW HIGH CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATES

On Wednesday, May 2, five teens graduated from Hebrew High. Graduates read essays about their Jewish experiences growing up and their plans for the future. Hebrew High faculty and clergy gave tributes to each teen to celebrate the major milestone. Mazel Tov to our grads!



L-R: Seth Blum, Elliot Snitzer, Charlotte Long, Drew Boehnlein (not pictured: Jordan Grubea)



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JCC Welcomes Rogue Cellar to Getzville Location

The Myers Family Tel Aviv Café, located in the Benderson Family Building, Jewish Community Center, 2640 North Forest Road, has reopened with an all new, healthy focused menu, under the direction of Annie Krause, founder of The Roque Cellar.

"As a community center that prides itself on offering programs and services that enhance health, wellness and socialization in a safe, welcoming environment, we are excited to offer our ICC members and members of the community healthy, homemade, freshlysourced food from our on-site café," says JCC Executive Director Richard Zakalik.

Visitors to the café can choose from a seasonal dairy menu that includes salads, wraps, panini, homemade soups, freshly baked pastries and breads, vegan and vegetarian baked goods and entrees and daily options for customers with allergies or dietary restrictions, all certified kosher, under the supervision of the Vaad. Working with seasonal products, Krause is maintaining a menu that is as organic as possible, using sustainable sources and many local

"Bringing the Rogue Cellar into the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café is a wonderful opportunity for people to try new foods, relax after a workout or meet before a group class, program or meeting at the JCC, says Zakalik. "In addition to our members, we're seeing a lot of visitors who stop in for breakfast or lunch or take meals to go, so we're happy to be bringing this new food experience to the



Annie Krause of Rogue Cellar

community."

The Myers Family Tel Aviv Café was a gift to the Jewish Community Center from Cantor Penny and Dr. Bennett Myers and their children, Hunter, Saul and Corrinne. During major renovations seven years ago, the Myers' approached the JCC and made a gift to build the

kitchen and café, which features state of the art equipment. "Bringing people together to enjoy good food or a coffee and a nosh is such an important part of every culture," says Cantor Penny, who has been the Cantor at Temple Beth Zion since 2006. "We wanted to give something to the community that promoted nourishing people not just with food, but with social sustenance as well. When you stop by the café, that's what you see - young families enjoying a meal with their kids, seniors engaged in conversation, and JCC staff and members taking a few minutes to do something good for themselves, usually with others."

The Rogue Cellar at the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café is open Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Special catering orders are available with 48 hours advance notice. Menus change daily. For more information, visit the café or contact Annie Krause at theroguecellar@gmail.com.



The Myers Family

"BAGELS OVER BERLIN" **PREMIERES ON WNED-TV**

When former Buffalonian Alan Feinberg sat down with his wife's uncle, Donald Katz, to capture his memories of World War II, he didn't intend it as the start of a documentary about WWII Army Air Corps veterans or as a documentary about Jewish veterans. He simply wanted to capture the memories of a family member for younger generations.



Donald Katz in the film "Bagels Over Britain"

"Just like a lot of the guys, he never talked about it," Feinberg said.

And just like a lot of veterans, when Feinberg told Katz his stories were incredible, Katz deflected the praise and told Feinberg that he knew other veterans with better stories. Feinberg decided to capture those, too, for a documentary about World War II.

After filming a few other veterans, Feinberg shared the footage with his brother, Gary Feinberg, who noted that they happened to all be Jewish veterans. Initially, that was just a coincidence. Katz referred Feinberg to a fellow veteran who was Iewish who referred him to another veteran who was Iewish. But after discussing it with his brother, Feinberg decided the documentary shouldn't just be about WWII veterans. The stories of Iewish veterans needed to be told.

"Bagels Over Berlin," an hour-long documentary, will have its broadcast premiere at 9:30 pm Sunday, May 27 and again June 1 (2 AM and 2 PM) on WNED-TV, following The National Memorial Day Concert. Several of the men featured in the film have roots in Buffalo, including Katz and Hollywood producer Norman Lear, who trained in Buffalo.

Feinberg laments that the prevailing stereotype of Jewish men of the era was they were shopkeepers and peddlers, but more than 500,000 Jewish Americans served during World War II. Feinberg said his documentary showcases the bravery of Jewish veterans and upends the erroneous stereotype.

Bagels Over Berlin has been featured in film festivals around the country, including the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival last vear.

Department of Jewish Thought First **Graduation Celebration**

By Professor Alex Green,

Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Jewish Thought, SUNY-University at Buffalo

UB's Department of Jewish Thought hosted its first graduation celebration April 24 in the Samuel J. Friedman Library in Clemens Hall. The Department, which offers a BA (Major) and a Minor in Jewish Studies, has been growing steadily in numbers over the last few years. The first student who graduated with a BA in Jewish Studies, Jordan Einhorn, and two of the graduates with a Jewish Studies minor, Nick Ottati and Will Gorman, all spoke about their experiences in the program.

Jordan graduated from UB with a major in Jewish Studies, Political Science and Economics, was the 2017 winner of the Harold J. and Arlyne



Nicole Caine, Will Gorman (graduate), Dr. Alex Green, Nick Ottati (graduate)

G. Levy Award, and is graduating in 2018 with a Dean's Outstanding Senior Award. His academic achievements are

impressive—completing three majors, winning awards and producing high level academic writing. But he also has

run the UB Poet's Workshop and been involved as a student leader on campus in both Hillel and the Jewish Student Union. In describing his Jewish Studies courses, he proclaimed that the "insight I have gained ... has been invaluable to my success as an academic, as a professional, and as an individual."

Nick and Will both completed a Major in History and Political Science and a Minor in Jewish Studies. Will felt that he was "privileged to be here in this Department" and that he has "to thank the faculty and students for making me feel welcome". He especially emphasized one of the strengths of the department, how "our faculty is excited and passionate about what they teach and it spills over to the students." Nick added that "it is here that I learned perhaps the most valuable lesson of my college career, that I am perplexed," referring to the fundamental introspective questions that the classes he took raised. He stressed the strong sense of community the department offered, that "it is though I, just a familiar face on the floor, was a member of a close knit community of scholars" and "I only wish I discovered





Jordan Einhorn, a 2018 graduate, was awarded the Dean's Oustanding Senior Award for the Department of Jewish Thought

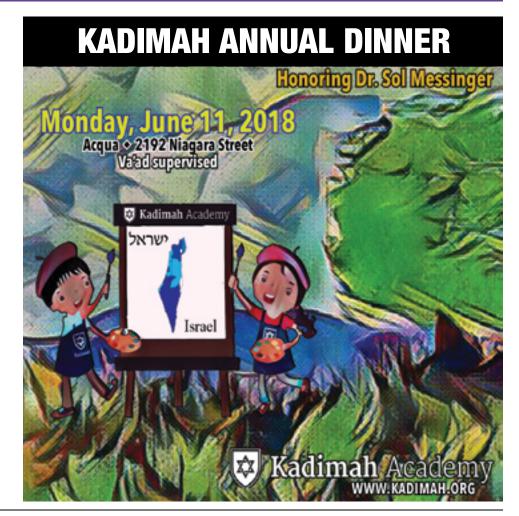
it, in all its glory, earlier in my UB career."

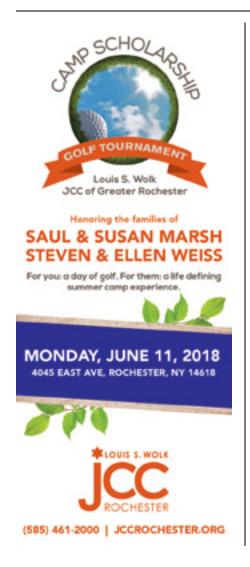
We also invited back one of last year's graduates, Nicole Caine, who graduated with a Major in Genders Studies and a Minor in Jewish Studies, to be the keynote speaker. Nicole has gone on to an MA at Syracuse University in Public Administration at The Maxwell School. She is also currently a research assistant supporting disability-related research

initiatives in policy development at the Burton Blatt Institute. She spoke on her UB honors thesis on the concept of shalom bayit ("peace in the home") and its relation to women's empowerment and disempowerment in the Jewish community.

The celebration was bittersweet. We celebrated the achievements of our graduating students and are excited by all their future accomplishments, but we also are sad to see them leave. This is especially true in a small department, like ours, where we pride ourselves on our students getting to know their professors and their fellow students. I can think of all the wonderful conversations that have happened in class and in office hours, hopefully ones that will last a lifetime. I can personally still remember many of my great classes that I had as an undergraduate, and they are ones that have shaped who I am today.

We thank everyone who could be with us to celebrate our students. For those who missed the event, you will soon be able to watch a video live on our website http://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/jewishthought.html.









Happening now at the JCC J







Book & Arts Fair

June 4 - 21, 2018

The JCC Book & Arts Fair is celebrating 52 years. We are once again proud to showcase authors and presenters from Western New York and beyond, with a line-up that offers something for everyone.

For a schedule of events visit www.jccbuffalo.org.

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June 28, 2018 7:00-8:00

Meeting followed by Ice Cream Sundae Bar! Everyone Welcome! At the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre in the Rochwarger Auditorium 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY 14068

Summer Fun at the J

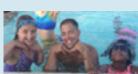


Grossman Family Outdoor Pool Complex Opens June 9!

Sun 9:00am-7:30pm Mon-Thur 9:00am-8:00pm Fri-Sat 9:00am-8:30pm

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12:00 - 4:00^{pm} July 15 August 12



Movie Night

At the Grossman Family Outdoor Pool Complex Begin at 7:30pm August 4

At the Rein Family Amphitheater, Camp Centerland Begin at 7:30pm **July 14 & July 28**



Holiday Parties

9:30am- After UB Fireworks Labor Day Sept. 1 12:00-4:00pm



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CHOREOGRAPHER JON LEHRER HIGHIGHTS HADASSAH CALENDAR

On Sunday, June 3 at 2:00 PM Jon Lehrer, a well-known Buffalo choreographer, will be speaking in the Robert and Maxine Seller Theatre at the Benderson JCC. He will talk about his own choreography and about contemporary dance as an art form. In addition the audience will see an original modern dance number performed. Following the presentations there will be a Q and A and then refreshments will be served just outside the theatre.

There are several other exciting programs planned for the summer and fall. On August 27, Dr. Ben Bensadon, Assistant Professor of Integrated Medical Science at Florida Atlantic University and the Associate Director of the Residency Programs for Geriatrics and Palliative Care will be speaking at the home of Maxine Seller on "New Research in Aging." Dr. Bensadon is the son of Hadassah member Judy Cohen.



Hadassah participants enjoying the program



Margit Weinmann, Madeleine Weinmann, Amelida Weinmann

In September, Buffalo Hadassah and Temple Beth Tzedek are co-sponsoring a talk by Judaic professor and author Dr. Sharon Hart-Green. A panel discussion is being planned for mid-November on the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish Community. More details about these upcoming programs will be provided in upcoming issues.

In April Hadassah members and friends attended an enlightening power point presentation by Dr. Gale Burstein about

current health concerns in the area. Dr. Burstein, Erie County Health Commissioner discussed the medical ramifications of the opioid crisis and the steps that her department has been taking to try to alleviate the crisis. A buffet luncheon preceded the presentation, which was then followed by an informative Q and A.

Hadassah's Program Committee, which is chaired by Marlene Katzel and Maxine Seller, meets monthly to plan a variety of enjoyable educational programs. The program in May was a trip down memory lane for long time Buffalo residents. It featured David Bunis, and Marvin and Marcie Frankel talking about the "Glorious Days of Buffalo Shopping". A collection of memorabilia from the Sample and Berger Department Stores was on



Phyllis Steinberg, speaker Dr. Gale Burstein, Nancy Greenberg

display, and a video made by Rich Kellman, which featured some Hadassah members like Elaine Kellick and Melania Puius, was shown. Everyone in attendance in the Lippman Lounge of the JCC enjoyed the program and the kosher buffet lunch.

If you are interested in more information about becoming a member of Buffalo Hadassah email greenie66@verizon.net.

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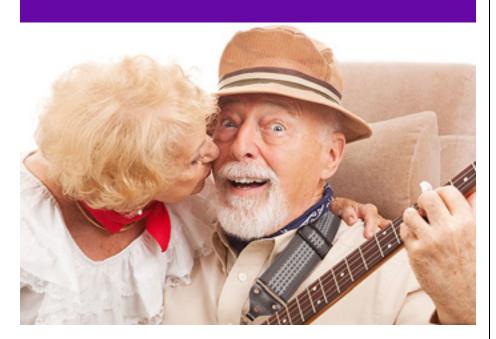
Wisdom for aging wisely, with grace

With 60 now considered the new 40, the paradigms of aging, and aging well, have changed considerably. The venerable old image of granny in the kitchen baking cookies or sitting by the fireplace knitting mufflers has been almost totally replaced. The picture is now more likely to be one of her and grandpa (or a new boyfriend she met online at OurTime.com) -- riding off into the sunset on an old Harley or setting off on a backpacking trip across Europe -- sans kids.

Such a definitive shift in the concept of growing old brings lots of sage advice and recommendations from people determined to live out their "golden years" to the fullest. "At Jewish Family Service, helping seniors age well with grace is a key mission focus, says JFS President

and CEO Marlene Schillinger. "We have always been committed to making sure our elders are well supported, by family and the community in which they live. Now we have systems like our IFS Health Home, which helps seniors enrolled in Medicaid coordinate medical and mental

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Tobey Lintz and her great grandchildren.

health care, and connect to social service supports that will make their lives easier."

IFS board member Carri Milch relies in part on role models and friends to help her navigate the aging well road. "First and foremost is my 90-year-old mother, Tobey Lintz, who two years ago made the decision to move from Florida to Buffalo. In my mind, this was a courageous move, since she was board and raised in Chicago. She made this decision on her own. She just felt it was time to live near family and create new friendships," says Milch, a retired educator who lives in Williamsville with her husband Philip. In addition to her mother. Milch considers the women in her bi-weekly Wise Aging Group -- whose ages range from 50 to 90 -- as key role models.

"Our discussions revolve around the book Wise Aging, Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal. These women truly have helped me realize the value in this quote from the text: 'We cannot grow old alone. Not if we want to do it well. When we share stories with others, we realize our own personal story is deeply connected to larger narratives."

Maintaining good connections with family and friends are is consistently cited among the key ingredients for aging gracefully. Other guidelines from the National Institute on Aging, and from

Oprah Winfrey herself, include finding the right stress level, thinking positively about aging ("it brings wisdom, retirement and more time with family"), eating well and getting enough sleep.

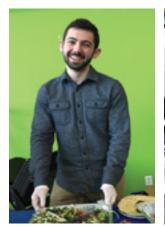
"The best advice I have received from these wonderful examples of people who are aging wisely is to be more aware of gratitude and awe in daily life; make time to enjoy the pauses too," counsels Milch. The elderly, she continues, are often stereotyped in our youthful centered society—but with age comes the opportunity to learn so many things one never had time for before.

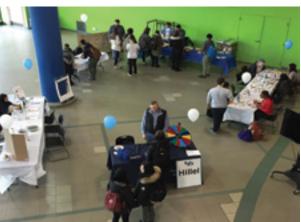
"The best advice I can give for aging with grace is to be a continual learner by staying connected with family, friends and community. Get up every morning and feel blessed for what you have!" - J Thorpe

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County is located at 70 Barker Street, Buffalo, NY 14209, above Temple Beth Zion. For more information about JFS support for seniors, families and individuals call 716-883-1914. Visit us online at www.jfsbuffalo.org.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO ENJOYS A TASTE OF ISRAEL

Even with a robust Birthright program in place, Hillel can't bring every UB student to Israel. We can, however, bring a taste of Israel to UB, and that is exactly what Hillel did to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on campus. On April 10, Shaya Kalmanofsky and Blake Lobel, Hillel's Israel Interns, along with help from their fellow student leaders, held a Taste of Israel event in the lobby of the Student Union. The event showcased the multi-faceted nature of Israel's cities through its different stations and activities. At the Dead Sea station, students pampered themselves with mineral mud and enjoyed aromatherapy hand massages provided by the UB Stressbusters program. They wrote notes for the Kotel at the Jerusalem station that will be hand-delivered by UB's student delegation that is attending the AJC Global Forum in Jerusalem this coming June. Students painted wooden hamsas at the Tzfat station and created bracelets with Hebrew name beads. All participants were treated to a free, delicious falafel lunch.





Over 120 students took part in the Taste of Israel activities, most of whom were not regular participants in Hillel programming and, in fact, were not Jewish. Although Hillel primarily serves Jewish students, the organizers of the event chose a public space because they wanted to draw a larger crowd. Shaya reflected, "So many students have a skewed sense of Israel based on what they have heard in the news. This event was an opportunity to present Israel as a vibrant cultural center that is greater than a political conflict."

"By making this event free and open to the public, Hillel had the opportunity to actively welcome students, which is an important Jewish value."



Shaya and Blake plan to continue hosting public space Israel events in the fall semester so that more members of the campus community can experience Hillel's hospitality while gaining new, fresh perspectives on Israel.

JCC RECEIVES GRANTS

The Jewish Repertory Theatre (JRT) has received a \$10,000 grant from the Cullen Foundation. This is the second year The JCC program has received a generous award from The Cullen Foundation. The JCC's original contact with them was intended to obtain a capital grant for the Holland project, which didn't work out, but theatre funding did. The funds will be used for operating and marketing the next JRT season. Congratulations to Jordana Halpern for securing the grant, and Saul Elkin and David Bunis who provided leadership during the Cullen Foundation's site visit.

In addition, the JCC will soon receive a a grant for \$7,500 from Erie County for the Holland Family Building 's AuSome Swim program for children with Autism. Eric Poniatowski continues to run this outstanding, mission-based program which serves an at-risk population, and is being replicated at several other JCCs around the country.



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Kadimah Academy End-Of -Year Art Show

From May 1-14, the Kadimah Academy End of Year Art Exhibit took place at the JCC Benderson Bunis Family Art Gallery. Artwork from grades K-8 ranged from 3-dimentional birds, mythological and golem-inspired sculptures influenced by the work of artist Niki de St. Phalle, drawings and mixed media paintings influenced by Pop-Art, children's books, and more. Some favorites include mixed media jungle paintings with monkeys, inspired by the work of Henri Rousseau (grades 1 and 2), Pop Art still lives (grade 8), playful dog collages in mixed media (Kindergarten), and jelly fish mixed media paintings (grades 3 and 4). Work was done under the instruction of Cathy Shuman Miller.



















TELLL Fund Event in Memory of Dr. Samuel and Joan E. Shatkin: April 22







Nickel City Jews Celebrate Lag B'Omer: May 3





















PJ Library Tot Shabbat Celebrates Israel's 70th Birthday: April 20



















Earth Day at Shir Shalom: April 22













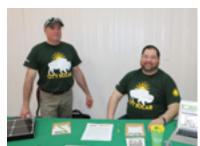














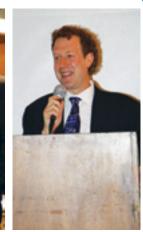






Network of Religious Communities Appreciation Dinner: May 3









Jewish Women's Connection: April 26



















Kadimah Academy Celebrates Israel's Birthday: April 19

































(NOT) THE LAST WORD

Engagement...this is just the beginning

By Miriam Abramovich

About a year ago, Rob Goldberg, CEO of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, walked into my office and put the book *Next Generation Judaism* down on my desk. He said, "You should really read this! My friend Mike Uram just wrote a book about Jewish Engagement." "A book, about Jewish Engagement?" I thought.

Jewish Engagement is the cultivation of relationships to support people in building a relevant form of Jewish Life that places the needs of a person before the needs of an organization. For the past 18 years, my career as a Jewish leadership professional across the Northeast involved working with Baby Boomers, families with young children, and young adults. For years, I had been meeting Jews, who felt deeply Jewish, but didn't express their faith or spirituality through a connection to an institution. For years I had been building relationships with people in places and spaces where they felt comfortable - and with no expectations and no offers, other than a relationship. For years, I had been using relationships as a tool to deepen personal connections to Judaism and reweave communities.

But when *Next Generation Judaism* landed on my desk, I understood its power to transform Jewish engagement into a field of practice. It provides validity, intellectual heft, and structure to merit efforts. Between Rabbi Mike Uram and other emerging thought leaders, like Beth Cousens at the Jewish Federations of North America, the practice and science of Jewish engagement now had a concrete shape.

Around the same time I was reading

Mike's book, Ellen Weiss asked if I wanted to grab coffee. We met at SPoT Coffee and just talked—about life, about being Jewish, about healthy eating, and the kinds of books we liked to read. I also offered Ellen a copy of Next Generation Judaism. She read the book very quickly and the got back to me, sharing how moved she was by Mike's ability to express how the nature of Jewish identity, how Jews relate to one another, and how Jewish institutions had fundamentally changed. Ellen also shared that she sometimes prefers Jewish experiences that happen in private, intimate settings (like at home) and how she also personally experienced the sense of disconnect between the fundamental organizing principals of Jewish institutions and the people we are trying to engage.

Ellen also knew that if we really wanted to make a difference through our work, if we wanted to make an impact on the lives of Jewish individuals and help re-weave a network of communities here in Buffalo, we needed to bring Mike Uram here to share his ideas. But what would it look like to bring Jewish professionals, volunteers leaders, and individuals who were not associated with any agency (but have a passion for their Jewishness), together in a room to teach them about













Mike's ideas? Could we challenge leaders to think about flipping the model of a singular Jewish Community centered on the needs of organizations towards becoming a network of communities focused on the needs of individuals? These were the guiding questions that shaped our recent Engagement Conference.

So we looked to build a team; a diverse group of individuals who understood what engagement meant and could feel it in their bones. We needed people who were already doing some of this work on their own, people who were seasoned practitioners, and others who maybe didn't have the language to clearly express what they did naturally. Nicole Bard, Federation's new Engagement Associate, was pulled in to be a thought-partner in this process, and, together with Ellen Weiss, we ultimately spent



months having conversations with a spectacular group of individuals who eventually came together to form the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Engagement Task Force: Marc Adler, Rabbi Ori Bergman, Hadar Borden, Beverly Holtz, Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, Merredith Levin, Nina Lukin, Jason Palevsky, Robin Raphael, Rabbi Sara Rich, and Sheri Rodman.

The Engagement Task Force, Chaired by Ellen Weiss, was committed to making the conference, as well as our planning process, engaging at every step and stage. We talked about our Jewish stories and shared our most uncomfortable Jewish experiences. We thought about every aspect of the conference: what kinds of different learners would be part of the experience, what kind of information did we want to impart, what would conference attendees be interested in experiencing, and how could we engage with each unique individual who would participate in the conference. We broke all that down to its components, then built it back up, which helped us tell a cohesive story about what we were trying to accomplish. We built upon the individual strengths and interests of each



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person who was a part of Engagement Task Force and, most importantly, we built our own micro-community.

We, the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Engagement Task Force, hope that if you attended the conference, you felt heard and seen. We hope that the conference content was provocative but also understandable. We hope that you left the conference with new relationships of your own and feeling empowered to ask hard questions about what it really takes to change.

In Next Generation Judaism, Rabbi Uram shares this thought: "While it may feel overwhelming to consider how quickly our society is changing and how dramatically establishment organizations must adapt, times of disruption are a great opportunity... they are an opportunity for transformation." This is only the beginning and opportunities abound. We as a community are indeed transforming. Transformation is messy, and it's sometimes very difficult to gauge whether or not progress is being made while going through the process.

But look at it another way. If you are out on a starry night, trying to identify the constellation Orion, staring at the stars won't always enable you to see the stellar Hunter of the winter sky. Sometimes you have to look at a group of stars from several different viewpoints to see if they create the constellation. And sometimes you have to look away, then out of the corner of your eye, sneak a look back at the stars, and all of a sudden it appears. Orion. And you found it. The same with engagement.

If you would like to talk about engagement with me, or just connect over coffee, contact me at miriam@buffalojewishfederation. org. I would love to opportunity to get to know you!

Miriam Abramovich is Buffalo Jewish Federation's Director of Engagement.



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