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A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

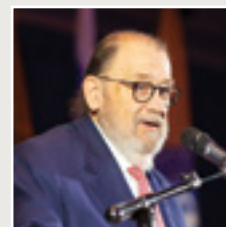
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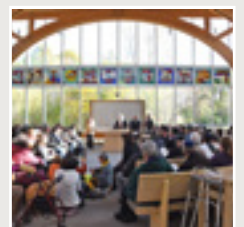
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REMEMBERED
(4-7)



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BETH TZEDEK'S
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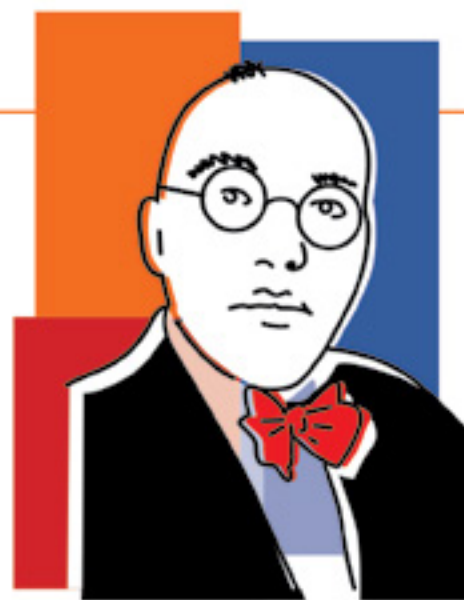
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FESTIVAL



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Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Adam Turner, conductor
Lisa Vroman, soprano
Hudson Shad, vocal quartet
 visuals by **Peter Bogdanoff**

This multi-media program explores Weill's dramatic saga of immigration – from Hitler's Germany to Broadway, where his smash hits were *Lady in the Dark* and *One Touch of Venus*. Part One begins with *Mack the Knife* (condemned by the Nazis) and his Paris sensation *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Part Two is a sparkling and witty Broadway medley including *September Song*, and Weill himself singing *That's Him*.

Tickets: \$49 reserved;
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This performance is funded in part by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc., New York, NY

Lisa Vroman Adam Turner Hudson Shad



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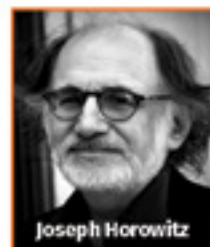
For Updates:
bpo.org/tickets-events/weill

Supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the "Music Unwound" orchestral consortium.

Wed Jan 16, 7pm

JCC Holland Family Building, 787 Delaware Ave, Buffalo NY 14209

Artists in Exile, Joseph Horowitz



Joseph Horowitz

Guest speaker Joseph Horowitz explores patriotic musical responses to WW II -- specifically Pearl Harbor and FDR's declaration of war -- by two Jewish refugee composers: Kurt Weill and Arnold Schoenberg. The presentation-- with audio/video clips -- will be a study in contrasts: Weill became a super-patriot; Schoenberg remained ambivalent about America.

Mr. Horowitz will be in Buffalo working with the BPO and UB as the creator of the year-long "Kurt Weill Festival" (bpo.org). Horowitz is an author, concert producer, and teacher. He is one of the most prominent and widely published writers on topics in American music.

Event is free but reservations required. Call (716) 242 7824



Born in Germany in 1900, Kurt Weill became one of the century's most important composers.

He fled Nazi Germany and immigrated to America; he scrupulously studied the American popular song and created a genre all its own, eventually becoming famous on Broadway and writing one of the 20th century's most popular songs, "Mack The Knife."

UB Events

Feb 9 - May 12

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECALL:
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UB ANDERSON GALLERY FREE

Mar 8 Symposium

HUMANITIES TO THE RESCUE
An Evening with Molly Crabapple
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Mar 28, 7:30pm

Baird Recital Hall

Degenerate Music:
Weill, Eisler and Schoenberg

Tickets: \$17-\$22; seniors/students \$12-\$17

Apr 8 One-Day Symposium

SOUNDS: AVANT GARDE, MODERNISM AND FASCISM
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Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, featured speaker
UB HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

May 2, 3 & 4, 7:30pm | May 4 & 5, 2pm

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December 2018

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

You can probably tell, just by looking at the cover, that this issue is about our community experience in Israel this fall. This, the 70th issue of the Jewish Journal of WNY (we began publishing the paper in March 2013), shares some of the adventure, excitement and joyful moments in the first part of the paper that was gleaned by Buffalo's Jewish Community travelers to Israel to celebrate the nation's 70th birthday.

Our initial goal was for 70 Buffalonians to experience Israel during this 70th year. But nearly 80 individuals came together to visit Israel for 10 days in late October- early November for what might be described by many as a trip of a lifetime. We visited so many places—from the top of the country—Rosh Hanikra on the Lebanon border to the Dead Sea; to the holiest place for Jews—the Kotel in Jerusalem and the holiest place for Christians—the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; to the Gaza border and the city of Sderot, and some of us even journeyed to the bottom of the country—Eilat and then on to Petra, Jordan.

For many, it was their first time in Israel. For all, it was a pilgrimage, an excursion; a tourist visit and an insider's glimpse of the nation so many of us are connected to through our heart and kishkes (our guts!). And today as I write this, bombs from Gaza are again falling on Sderot and other cities, reminding me that I just sat under a tree a mile from Gaza, near the army outposts, the air alive with tension just because we were right on the border.

And if the reality that Jews the world over live with every day was not made supremely clear in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Zefat, Haifa or Akko, during our visit in Jerusalem, we learned that 11 Jews were murdered in their synagogue in Pittsburgh. Spontaneous vigils took place in Israel, one right outside of our hotel which many of us embraced and joined.

Please allow me to offer many thanks to our trip chairs Steven Weiss, Leslie Kramer and Sheri Rodman, and to my amazing colleagues that put the whole outstanding trip together—Miriam Abramovich, Nicole Bard, Rob Goldberg and Randi Morkisz. It was for me, traveling to Israel for the first time with my husband, Mitch, indeed a trip of our lifetimes.

Steven Weiss, also our Federation President for the past two years, has written a farewell essay you can find on page 52. Please read it and take his message to heart.

This Hanukkah, the lights on my menorah will shine in my kitchen and as well as in my heart. I am so grateful to be a part of this Buffalo Jewish Community and to have the opportunity to participate in creating the world anew every day. Warm wishes for a happy Hanukkah season.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Members of the Buffalo Israel Experience (BIE) gathered together October 25 at the Haas Promenade for a Shehechianu ceremony as they prepared to enter Jerusalem. Not pictured: Rabbi Jonathan Freirich, James Kramer, Sheri Rodman, Nicole Bard (behind the camera), Ellen Goldstein (behind the camera). Photo credit: Group photo by Nicole Bard, background photo by Alan Gellin, and photos combined in Photoshop by Alan Gellin.

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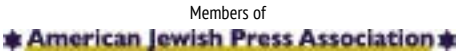
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Miracles There and Here

By Rob Goldberg,
CEO/Executive Director- Buffalo Jewish Federation

The popular Hanukkah custom of playing dreidel provides a twist to the meaning of the Hebrew letters inscribed on the top's four faces. The four letters we are most familiar with are *nun, gimel, hei, and shin*, an acronym for the phrase *Nes Gadol Haya Shem* - "A great miracle happened there."

"There" refers to the land of Israel, where the miracle of the oil occurred when the Second Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated. But what about dreidels in Israel – are the letters the same? Three of them are the same, but the final letter is different. Rather than a *shin* there is a *Pei*, creating an acronym for the phrase *Nes Gadol Haya Po* - A great miracle happened here.

Buffalo Israel Experience.

The first is Federation's outgoing Board President, Steven Weiss, my cherished volunteer partner for the past two years. Steven exemplifies the best of Jewish leadership, leading with humility and sensitivity to others. In Judaism, we believe that G-d creates each of us with a purpose, to fulfill a unique role in the world. In that spirit, it seemed



Leslie Kramer

Miracles abound both there and here, and I want to take a moment and thank two of our local miracle-makers, leaders who had the vision and the determination to create an opportunity for nearly 80 Jewish Buffalonians to experience Israel in late October on the

that Steven was always destined to lead Federation, an organization that means so much to him and his family.

There is a beautiful Hasidic story about Reb Zusha of Anipoli that underscores the importance of being true to ones-self. Reb Zusha was on his



Steve Weiss

deathbed, surrounded by his disciples. He was crying and no one could comfort him. One student asked "Rebbe, why do you cry? You were almost as wise as Moses and as kind as Abraham." Reb Zusha answered, "When I pass from this world and appear before the Heavenly Tribunal, they won't ask me, 'Zusha, why weren't you as wise as Moses or as kind as Abraham,' rather, they will ask me, 'Zusha, why weren't you Zusha?' Why didn't I fulfill my potential, why didn't I follow the path that could have been mine? That is why I am crying."

During Steven's presidency, he never was satisfied with the *status quo* nor did he aspire to be the leader that others wanted of him. He was always his authentic self – focused on doing what he believed was best for Jewish Buffalo, understanding that this holy work of leading was never about him, but dependent on him being his best self.

We are grateful to Steven for leading with resolve; for leading with passion,

and for leading with clarity of purpose.

Leslie Kramer, another of our miracle-makers, will assume Federation's presidency in January. Steven and Leslie are connected through their passion for Jewish living, commitment to making Jewish Buffalo a more engaged and caring community, and through their shared love of Israel. Leslie's connection to Israel is in her DNA, following the lead of her mother Marilyn and father, Irving, of blessed memory. Leslie's role in the recent Buffalo Israel experience was extraordinary, working hand-in-glove with our trip provider, Makor, our Buffalo team led by Miriam Abramovich, and countless others.

We will be honoring Steven and welcoming Leslie at our 115th annual meeting on Thursday, November 29th at 7 pm at the Side Line Club of New Era Field. Note that for those who need a ride to the event, you can email juberbuffalo@gmail.com and we'll arrange a lift.

In Hebrew we call the dreidel *sevivon* which simply means a thing that turns. Itamar Ben Yehuda is often credited as the creator of the word. In his memoir, Ben Yehuda wrote that when he was five, which would have been 1887, he handed his mother a top and said: "Look, I found a *sevivon* for Hanukkah." To which his proud mother replied: "How lovely is the word you created."

To our creators, our miracle-makers, and our leaders – we hope that the lights of the Hanukkah are a beacon for justice and goodness during this season, and that together we turn like the *sevivon*, creating energy to do this holy work together; to ensure that our community is stronger, safer, and a light among all nations.

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Best wishes for a

Joyous Festival of Hanukkah

From the Board of Governors and the Staff of the Buffalo Jewish Federation

Vigil in Memory of those Jews Killed in Pittsburgh: 10/28/18

An interfaith community vigil was held October 28 at Temple Beth Tzedek to honor and remember the 11 Jews who were murdered the previous day during Shabbat morning services at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh. Organized by the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council, chaired by Nina Lukin and Ted Steinberg, individuals from many different faiths, groups and organizations gathered and spoke against the hate that drove this terrible act, vowing to continue to work together to make Buffalo a community where everyone can live together in harmony.



Let There Be Light: 11/03/18

In memory of the 11 Jews murdered in Pittsburgh, Jewish Family Service and the Holocaust Resource Center organized a Havdalah service on November 3 featuring Holocaust Survivor Sophia Veffter. The event was held at The Tabernacle at Sweetness 7 Café on Lafayette and Grant Streets in the city.



Building Relations: The New Jewish Community Relations Council

By Theodore Steinberg, Co-Chair



One of the newest entities in Buffalo's Jewish world is the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), whose goal is to sustain a more civil and caring community in Western New York and around the world. To that end, the JCRC is working to build relationships with other faith, ethnic, and cultural communities, to be visible and vocal in the greater Buffalo community, to be actively involved in key issues impacting the Jewish community, and to educate and advocate on such issues, in accord with core Jewish values. The JCRC is part of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

Among the most important of those Jewish values is a focus on social justice, which was the topic under discussion at a meeting held on October 16 at the JCC Benderson Building. The meeting, which was led by JCRC co-chairs Nina Lukin and myself and staffed by Director Mara Koven-Gelman, was attended by representatives from fifteen synagogue and community organizations. These representatives described their organizations' activities in the area of social justice affecting those both within and outside of the Jewish community. While these presentations lasted only about an hour, they demonstrated a wide range of activities that benefit a



**BUFFALO JEWISH
COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

large number of our more vulnerable citizens, including immigrants, the homeless, the elderly, and many others.

Further discussion involved such issues as cooperation among the various organizations and coordination of activities, filling in gaps in coverage, and taking other steps to make Jewish Buffalo as well as the whole Buffalo community into a more caring and vibrant place to live.

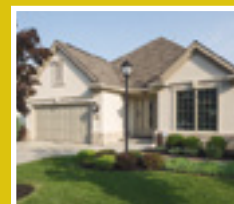
While the Buffalo Jewish community has always worked for social justice, the JCRC hopes to make our collective efforts even more efficient and more visible.



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Tree of Life shooting is a wake-up call

Remnants of anti-Semitism in America need to be addressed

By Max Kalnitz

I've seen it scrawled across UB's bathroom stalls: "F---k the Jews."

I've heard it casually spoken in campus hallways as I walk to class: "Come on bro, don't Jew me."

I saw it in my neighborhood last year when an Orchard Park woman found swastikas spray-painted on her van.

Now I see it on a national level, a massacre of 11 people—with six others wounded—at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh by a deluded gunman who said he wanted "all Jews to die."

Anti-Semitism is—unfortunately—thriving in the United States, Europe and South America. It happens at rallies and marches, in the form of chants, hate crimes and graffiti.

When I was younger, I believed anti-Semitism died with Hitler and the Nazis. I always knew Neo-Nazis and white supremacists lurked in the dark margins of society, but I had always considered them insignificant, a subclass of disgruntled extremists and unhappy people on the fringe.

No longer.

Now I know they are among us, even here on campus.

That scares me.

And now, those small, off-hand comments or stupid bathroom scrawls no longer seem innocuous or the work of marginal, angry outcasts.

In my lifetime, Jews have lived comfortable lives in the U.S. I never considered that hate crime could pertain to me, an assimilated, not-terribly-religious Jew. It was part of the lives of half-forgotten ancestors I learned about in Hebrew School or from literature and history books. I believed anti-Semitism in Europe was a part of an ugly Germany that once was, not the booming center of the united Europe that currently is.

And yet.

Over the last few years, anti-Semitism has flared and, stunningly, bigots have started once again flaunting their hate openly, somehow certain they will be welcomed rather than shunned.

Last year in Charlottesville, Va., several hundred white supremacists carrying torches chanted, "Jews will not replace



us." Marchers openly held banners emblazoned with swastikas and shouted slogans like "blood and soil," a phrase drawn from Nazi ideology. I've read about the 1978 Neo-Nazi planned march in Skokie, Ill.—it eventually happened in Chicago. But this was the first time I'd seen anti-Semitism playing out on live TV in a mass form.

Also, in 1978, huge swathes of the

population, including journalists and politicians, expressed outrage and questioned the legality of the march. The decision eventually went to the Supreme Court. The point is, civility and politics of inclusion were a given in a way I don't feel they are today.

Sure, there were protests in Charlottesville. But after the rally—in which 32-year-old Heather Heyer died and 19 others were injured—President Donald Trump did not give a speech decrying bigotry and insisting on civil discourse.

Instead, he defended those who gathered to protest the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue and said "I think there is blame on both sides." He said he'd condemned Neo-Nazis in the past, but argued that not every protestor was a white supremacist or Neo-Nazi.

He didn't explicitly address the anti-Semitic remarks. He tried to justify what happened.

I was stunned.

I also felt for my people and strangely, I felt a part of my people in a way I hadn't before.

So What Do We Tell Our Children?

By Dr. Amy Beth Taublieb

With the recent increase in hate motivated crimes (especially the heinous shooting in Pittsburgh), I have been virtually bombarded with phone calls and questions asking how these events can be explained to our children. As parents, grandparents, teachers and relatives, we all know how extremely difficult it can be to discuss sensitive topics with our children when we ourselves as adults do not know many of the answers. As such, I respectfully propose the following guidelines to help us help those we love through these incredibly emotionally trying times.

Talk to the children at their level. You, probably better than anyone else, are aware of what your children are able to comprehend. Thus, when you discuss these sensitive issues with them, ensure they understand what you are saying. It is always a good idea to ask them to repeat back to you what you said in their own words to test that they accurately heard what you were saying.



Dr. Amy Beth Taublieb

Answer their questions and only their questions. In an attempt to be helpful, we often talk too much! This is especially true when we are anxious or otherwise unsure how to respond. It is important when we are speaking to our children about sensitive issues that we listen closely to the questions posed to us, and, answer only those

questions. This way, we can more closely ensure that we are providing our children the information they can indeed handle, and, that for which they are actually asking. Excess information blurs the view and is more apt to lead to (potentially harmful) misinterpretation.

Emphasize that what occurred is a very infrequently occurring event. Although we are hearing more and more about hate induced violence, it is important to emphasize to our children that such events are not common occurrences. Whereas we (unfortunately) cannot promise them that this will never happen in their environment, we can certainly reassure them that the likelihood is quite slim. At times, it is also useful to discuss the safety measures which are being put in place as a result of the previous events.

Do not be reluctant to share your own anxieties and fears. As a role model for our young people, we want to normalize their feelings of anxiety and fear. One of the best ways to do that is to openly share that we are experiencing similar emotions. Our goal

is not to teach our children not to be afraid, but, rather to acknowledge feelings experienced and deal with them adaptively.

Finally, never say anything to your children that you will at some point in time, have to "unsay." Worded another way, do not lie or otherwise stretch the truth in an attempt to be reassuring. While that may serve as a temporary emotional band aid, it is likely that the time will come when you will need to somehow withdraw or change some of the information you provided. The damage that will do to the trust between you and your child is in no way worth the brief period of temporary reassurance.

Dr. Amy Beth Taublieb is a Licensed Psychologist and is the author of two books on childhood and adolescence.

For more information on Dr. Taublieb, refer to her website www.dramybeth.com, or, give her a call at her office (716-834-1505).

I was indignant and angry.

I was and still am shocked that Jews, who are among the most assimilated minorities in the world, are still the targets of these malicious acts, particularly in the U.S. But statistics show that anti-Semitism has been quietly increasing.

Last year, the Anti-Defamation League reported a 57 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. in 2017 compared to 2016. There was a 94 percent increase in incidents in K-12 schools and an 89 percent increase on college campuses from 2016.

This is appalling.

Anti-Semitism showing its face in Buffalo is evidence of these statistics, and that's not OK.

Growing up, I always thought that Buffalo was a relatively accepting place. There's a large community of Jews and a myriad of other ethnicities and religions represented across the city. Buffalo is supposed to be the city of good neighbors, and hate isn't welcome here.

Some Democrats and members of the Jewish community argue that President Trump's harsh rhetoric and embrace of far-right advocates like Breitbart executive chairman Steve Bannon and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke has egged these groups on and empowered them to become more vocal and demonstrative.

But others will argue that Trump's close friendship with Israel and his daughter Ivanka's conversion to Judaism protects him from charges of anti-Semitism.

I don't know the answer.

I do know that what happened Saturday evidenced the sort of hatred and as a Jew, even though I've been distanced from my religion, I feel guilty that I'm not more involved with my faith and incidents like this remind me of the struggles my people have endured for centuries.

Before I came to college, I was indifferent toward my Jewish identity. I hadn't really done anything regarding Judaism since my Bar Mitzvah eight years ago. If someone made a Jew joke, I'd laugh it off and just pretend it didn't happen instead of defending my religion.

But over the years I've realized that if I don't stand up in those instances, these negative stereotypes and hatred toward Jews will always continue. Through Jewish speakers and events I've attended at Hillel, I've come to terms with my Jewish identity and have learned to not be such a stranger toward my Jewishness.

These horrible acts have moved something deep inside me and caused me to feel more connected to my people, to my past and to humanity in a way I've never

felt before.

Monday I did something I probably wouldn't have done before this tragedy happened. Hillel held a vigil for the Tree of Life victims, and even though I had no connection to any of them, I went and mourned.

I recited texts from the Torah and sang in Hebrew for the first time since my Bar Mitzvah. When everyone started singing the Tree of Life prayer, I was mad at myself that I had forgotten it and that I let myself forget the Hebrew prayers I spent so much of my young life memorizing.

This has been a wake-up call for me. I used to tell myself "there's no way I'm making my kids go to Hebrew school or go to Temple," but now I'm thinking otherwise. It's more important than ever to embrace my Jewish religion and heritage and pass these teachings on to the next generation.

I'm not going to stand in the background and watch these hateful acts happen anymore. If someone says something hateful, I'll speak up. When Hillel hosts Friday night or holiday services, I think I'll actually go.

I feel uneasy that I've been neglecting my Jewishness for so long. Eleven innocent Jews died Saturday. I feel it's my duty to speak up against anti-Semitism and hatred toward Jews to make sure tragedies like this never happen again.

Max Kalnitz is the senior news editor at UB's The Spectrum newspaper and can be reached at max.kalnitz@ubspectrum.com or @Max_Kalnitz. This piece is reprinted by permission of the author.

**In Memory of Those
Murdered October 27 at Tree
of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh.**



**May their memories
forever be a blessing.**

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Rose Mallinger
Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz
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David Rosenthal
Bernice Simon
Sylvan Simon
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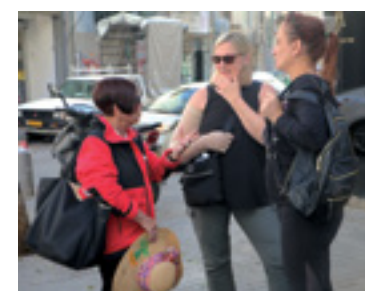
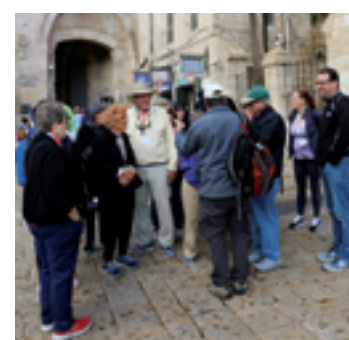
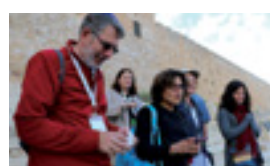
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BUFFALO ISRAEL EXPERIENCE 2018

After nearly two years of planning, the members of the Buffalo Israel Experience (BIE) arrived in Israel on a glorious October morning. Nearly 80 individuals journeyed from the Lebanese border in the north to the Dead Sea in the south, and nearly everywhere in between, soaking up experiences, creating relationships, learning about Israel and themselves. What follows are some of the photos and reminiscences by a few of the travelers. You will also be able to read about time spent with our Partnership2Gether community in the Western Galilee during the journey on page 13.



Sheldon SOMAN

As I write this, my wife, Deb and I have returned from our Buffalo Israel Experience tour. Our story, however begins in 1990. At this time, we were booked on another tour. Just before that trip, Iraq invaded Kuwait, leading to Desert Storm. Almost every tour to Israel was cancelled. Despite this setback, we booked our own flights and made our way. Our version of the tour consisted of several Egged day trips to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Masada. We left Israel feeling happy but not quite satisfied that we had truly experienced the country or its people.

Fast forward to 2018. Our children had graduated college and were on their own. The Jewish Federation announced its Buffalo Israel Experience. We decided it was time to try again to experience the country. We were one of the first people to apply for a spot on the tour. Thankfully, this time, nothing interrupted



our plans, and on October 24th, we departed from Toronto to Ben Gurion airport. Despite over 12 hours of travel, we hit the ground running the second we claimed our bags. Following a Shehechianu ceremony when we entered Jerusalem, we toured the Old City. What followed was a wonderful 8 days of visits to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Lebanon Border, Akko, Zefat, the Western Galilee and Sderot. Along the way we made friends with our wonderful tour guides Shira, Yosef and Ezra. Combined, they helped us to really experience the country with its many accomplishments

and challenges. Travelling with fellow Buffalonians had an added benefit. People we knew, and those we just met became more than just friends. We became a family visiting Israel together. Along the way, we met Israelis who gave us a unique view of the country. These included Danny Terza, the designer of the security fence as well as others who were dedicated to bringing a peaceful solution to Israel's coexistence with the Palestinians.

During our visit to Akko, we were hosted at a dinner by a Druze family who made us feel at home.

If I had one part that comes to mind, it was our time spent in Jerusalem. The city had changed much since our last visit. There were tunnels surrounding the old city which helped traffic move more smoothly. There was a new light rail system which covered much of the city. I was amazed at the vibrance of the city both during the day and

well into the night. The busy Machane Yehudah market during the hours leading up to Shabbat was an exciting experience. At night, the city took on a life of its own. We saw hundreds of people watching street performers, drinking coffee and enjoying the city.

During the trip, we received the sad news of the shootings at the Pittsburgh Synagogue. I felt a warm connection with Israelis as I experienced a candle-light vigil held in honor of the victims, complete with a large American flag.

Our trip to Israel had another purpose. Last December, our daughter, Naomi made Aliyah and was living in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Nachlaot. Although she was happy living in Israel and video chatted with us weekly, we still missed her. During the trip, we managed to spend time with her on Shabbat and afterwards. As we left Israel this time, we truly felt as if we had experienced the country and its people. I left feeling that I wanted to return. Hopefully it won't be 20 years until we come back.



Al GELLIN

Traveling with a group of people is an experience like no other. There is a unique bonding that takes place between members of the group as a result of a shared sense of adventure. My wife, Robin, and I have traveled extensively as part of group tours, all of which we've enjoyed, but being a member of the Buffalo Israel Experience this past season was truly remarkable.

For me, first and foremost, I enjoyed this trip because it gave me an opportunity to bond with others in our Buffalo Jewish community. I met so many wonderful people, which created new friendships, and

further bonded with those I already knew (perhaps half of my fellow travelers). This trip was a perfect springboard for strengthening our Jewish community.

An exciting aspect of this trip was the diversity of activities. Robin and I were part of a smaller Buffalo community group tour three years ago, so we were attracted to this trip by the opportunity to have different experiences from our last visit. The Buffalo Israel Experience did not disappoint, providing options for "first timers" and prior visitors.

Among the activities we enjoyed were dinner in a family home in our Partnership 2Gether community of Akko in the Western Galilee to learn about the day-to-day life in Israel; a day-long hike along a section of the Israel National Trail; learning about Israel's complicated political climate, including a visit to an area near the Gaza Strip border and the Iron Dome defense system; meeting the founder of one of Israel's top hi-tech companies; and finally for some of us, a tour of the ancient ruins of Petra in Jordan.

This is just a sample of amazing experiences we had, providing memories that will last a lifetime. We're grateful to the Buffalo Jewish Federation for sponsoring this trip and look forward to future experiences that will help build and strengthen our Buffalo Jewish community.

Joanne MARQUISEE

I have always wanted to visit Israel. It was the first item on my bucket list. When the opportunity to travel with Buffalo Jewish Federation to Israel along with many friends and colleagues presented itself, it seemed like the perfect trip. My boyfriend, Robert Altman, and I discussed it and decided we wanted to go.



From the beginning, the team at Federation was thoughtful, organized and excited. It continued from Buffalo to Israel! And our travel guides were amazing, kind and knowledgeable. We

saw breathtaking sights, had absolutely delicious Israeli food, especially the hotel breakfasts which were a feast, learned a lot and strengthened new and old friendships. It was fabulous! I am very grateful to have traveled to Israel and back safely.

There were so many highlights; it is difficult to pick a favorite. But, I would have to say having an Erev Shabbat Service on the steps at the Western Wall led by Cantor Frank, Michael Frank and Susan Schwartz is at the top of my list. The view was amazing. The connection to observing Shabbat in our Holy Land will forever be in my mind on future Shabbats. The musical spirit connected us to this very special place.

It was so interesting seeing so many places that I had heard about for years. The Dead Sea, Masada, Yad Vashem, Western Galilee, Mahane Yehuda Market, Western Wall and so much more. Thought provoking history took place there. And we were there!!!

I definitely missed my children. It is very far away from home, but so worth the journey. It is a magical place which I hope to visit again someday. But for now, I am thankful to be able to check it off my bucket list and continue to look at the pictures I took and remember how very special our Buffalo Israel Experience 2018 truly was.

BUFFALO ISRAEL EXPERIENCE 2018

Steve MOSCOV

My wife Betsy and I had the good fortune to participate in the recent Buffalo Jewish Federation's trip to Israel. Having never been before, I was not certain what exact expectations to have after speaking with many others, including family members. I did know and realize that the desire to make the trip was very strong.

The usual sites were on our agenda. I'll leave it to others to describe those places. However, I would like to relate one incident that absolutely rocked me to the core and literally left me overwhelmed with emotion.

While at Masada, which I have affectionately labeled the Macchu Picchu of Israel, walking through the ruins of the ancient fortress with spectacular views of the valley and Dead Sea below, we came upon a very small room with space enough for only three people to observe



a rabbi/scribe writing a Torah, letter by letter. He was behind a bullet-proof glass wall with a small slit running from floor to ceiling. While observing this master concentrating on his year-long task, he suddenly stopped, put down his quill, looked up at me and asked where I was from. After responding, he then asked me for my name and my wife's name. (Evidently, he had noticed my wedding band.) He then, picked up a small blank card, wrote my name and my wife's name in Hebrew and added two small hearts.

He handed me the card through the slit and wished me a wonderful visit. I was paralyzed with awe, inspiration, connectedness and bewilderment.

What did this small act of kindness mean? What were the implications? Why me out of hundreds of other visitors each day? What should I do? How was I to respond or act? Seldom in my life have I been rendered speechless! On exiting the site, my wife asked if I was all right to which I responded, "I don't know!" I was left with a sense of connectedness to my heritage, especially to my maternal grandfather whom I never knew as he passed away before I was born. He was a mohel and a Talmudic scholar who had emigrated from Poland to the United States in the late 1800's.

It is now almost one week since our return and I still have no answers. Perhaps that simple gesture remained for me to live the rest of my life in wonderment, a motivating and touching act of genuine humanity for which I shall be eternally grateful. A nod to the Federation for offering me an extraordinary opportunity!

Hineni.

Evie WEINSTEIN

It was really difficult to hear that 18 of us had to leave our group of 77 early at the closing dinner of our amazing tour of Israel. But we knew we were on our way to another adventure while the rest of our group headed back to the United States that evening. We were on our way to Eilat at the very bottom of Israel and then to Petra, Jordan.

We started this voyage at a small regional airport in Tel Aviv which was a stark contrast to the modern Ben Gurion Airport we landed in just 8 days ago. Before we knew it, we had landed in the beautiful, balmy seaside port of Eilat on the Red Sea. Filled with people strolling the promenade by the ocean, we knew this was another piece of Israel unlike anything else we had seen thus far.



The next morning with a new tour guide, we crossed the border into Jordan and met our Jordanian guide, Hussain for a two-hour bus ride to Petra, Jordan. As much as research can allow us to be prepared, none of us really could imagine the beauty of this ancient ruin. Narrow passageways, cliffs, and rugged terrain were only the beginning. Some of us walked, others were transported in chariots pulled by horses. We were met by Bedouins selling trinkets, offered camel and mule rides, to make the long hike more interesting and exciting. But most of all, we were entranced by this archeological marvel which is considered one of the 8 wonders of the world. We crossed back to Israel that evening after we joined together in the bus to chant prayers and songs to greet Shabbat.

The next day, we chose our activities. Some went to an underwater observatory, others hiked and others spent the day on the Red Sea. That night we started our long trip back to Buffalo with memories and friendships that will never be forgotten.

Gerry LEDERMAN

Visiting Israel was a dream that my husband, Al, and I planned many times, but his health never cooperated. When I learned about the Federation trip, I signed up immediately. With the blessings of my children and family, I made the trip, which was a bittersweet experience. And while there,



celebrated my 87th birthday floating in the Dead Sea!

The more I learned and understood about my Jewish heritage, the more it reinforced my Jewish identity. To be in a country surrounded by daily turmoil, I was amazed to feel safe. Upon our arrival in Jerusalem, we held a Shehechianu ceremony, which brought tears to my eyes while overlooking the panoramic view of Jerusalem. At this point, I knew I made the correct decision to experience my first time in Israel. The Shabbat service at The Wall was fabulous. Cantor Arlene Frank and her husband, Michael, and Susan Schwartz led a heartwarming service, filling me with both sadness and happiness. Watching the sunset and the change in the colors of the surrounding white Jerusalem stone was just beautiful. I have never before been in a place that completely closes on the Sabbath, and was fortunate to be a part of the group that went to the Old City and Christian Quarter on Saturday morning. On the way, it was a quiet walk where we witnessed ultra-Orthodox Jews walking to their

shuls dressed in their Shabbat attire. I never realized how many different types of ultra-Orthodox sects there were until seeing them in Israel. It was a very interesting learning experience for me. Our days started early, and we witnessed the city and the country wake up to begin their daily tasks of traveling by train, car, bus and walking, which was typical of any city in the US. As we continued on our planned days, it was comforting to see the security around us.

The entire trip amazed me. Israel is a country with very limited natural resources surrounded with daily stress that didn't stop. But I was awed by its citizens, their determination, ingenuity and support to develop a small Jewish country into a beautiful, resourceful, strong nation. To see how the Israelis turn sand, sun, heat, and mountains into a strong respectable nation was amazing! The trip was a work and a walk of love, and I must admit I needed a few days to recharge my battery, to share my experience with family and friends. I also want to thank everyone for lending a hand throughout the journey.

Mitch FLYNN

“Walls” were a theme that comes to mind when I think about our trip to Israel: walls for prayer, walls for protection, and walls for self-expression. Let me explain.



The Western Wall first. We visited it twice, on our first night in the country, and again on the Sabbath, the following day. I wasn't really prepared for the first time. Of course, I had seen pictures of it, heard about it from family and friends, and knew we would visit it, but all the same, simply walking into the plaza leading up to it and suddenly seeing it took me aback. The sheer size of it, the notes crammed into the joints between limestone blocks, the shtraimels and davening – for me, raised Catholic, it was a visit not only to a foreign country but also to another world.

Returning on the Sabbath, I benefitted from Steve Weiss' knowledge of the space and of the customs of the Orthodox. He pointed out the subtleties of style that differentiate various sects – headwear, hairstyle, and fabric. He also led several of us into an interior space off to the side from the Wall that was electric with worship – many Torahs, many groups. Afterwards, several of us stood on chairs to peer over the barrier that separated the men's and women's sections of the wall. Shades of high school in a sacred space.

And then, of course, there were the walls surrounding the Old City in Jerusalem. Besides being functional – slowing down the approximately 40 armies that conquered the city in the course of 3,000 years – a who's-who of invaders ranging from Babylonians to Romans to Crusaders to Turks – they're also beautiful, with a certain poetry to the names of their eight gates: Damascus; Dung; Eastern (aka Golden or Gate of Mercy); Herod's; Jaffa; Lion's; New; and Zion. We entered and exited through several of them on our various walking tours of the city.

The security wall was a presence at various times during our trip. On our next-to-last day, a group of us bussed south to the area bordering Gaza. From beneath the shade of an olive tree, our guides noted the various barriers separating Gaza from Israel: listening towers, blimps, and an Iron Dome deployment – figurative walls in addition to the literal security wall. Evidence of breaches was all around: scorched fields from incendiary balloons and kites and bomb shelters for protection from the Qassam rockets that had been launched into Sderot just the week before our visit.

Finally, the spray-painted walls of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were the featured players in a pair of graffiti tours led by our charismatic Makor guide, Shira, herself a graffiti artist. The takeaway? Creative expression and political commentary are alive and well – and hiding in plain sight – in the State of Israel.



Ann Marie CAROSELLA

With *Fodor's Essential Guide* to Israel in my backpack and my husband Jeff Lackner by my side, I joined the Buffalo Israel Experience tour for my first trip to Israel. Now that I have returned, people continually ask me to describe the best part of the trip. This question always leaves me tongue-tied because, truly, I can't identify one singularly favorite experience among the many we enjoyed. If pressed to describe Israel in one word, however, I might use the word “layered.” Archeological efforts show us evidence of the literal layering. Exploring the excavations in the tunnels under the thoroughfares of 2018 to walk on streets more than 2000 years old are concrete ways to understand the connection between ancient times and the present.

Even without the need for a shovel or a dig, a quick tour of a Kibbutz shows evidence of an overlay of modern thought and design on the foundation of these much less ancient institutions. More playful layering of the old and the new are seen on the colorful, creative, and often political graffiti that appear on the traditional market stall doors when rolled down after the day's commerce has ceased. Each of these examples are recognitions of connection and continuity between an ancient land, the young 70 year old country of the present, and a people propelling itself into the future. As individuals, we often either reject our past or get stuck in outdated thoughts or actions that make it difficult for us to “change with the times” or to plan for the future. I truly was humbled to observe how well Israel can simultaneously honor its history while using this history as strong bedrock upon which to continually grow and change.

Ron SADLER

Our trip to Israel was filled with new and educational experiences. If I had to choose one highlight of our trip, I would choose the geopolitical tour of Jerusalem. Led by our amazing tour guide Ezra Korman, we learned about the Jerusalem borders before and after the Six-Day War. Colonel Danny Terza, the architect of the security fence along the West Bank, boarded the bus and spent the morning with us. He explained some of the complexities involved in planning this barrier. I was surprised to learn the painstaking effort and details that went into building the fence so as not to displace even a single resident. I was also surprised to learn that only 5% of the divider is actually a concrete wall, with the rest of the barrier being a wire fence that detects nearby movement. We had the opportunity to stand by the concrete



portion of the wall as well as see the nearby checkpoint.

Later the same day we entered the West Bank and went to a Jewish Settlement south of Jerusalem, called Gush Etzion. There we met with a 27-year-old Palestinian man and a Jewish settler. Each man shared his personal story. It was interesting to hear the perspective of a Palestinian man who lived through the construction of the security fence and how this changed his daily life. Despite their differing perspectives, both men share an interest in working together to try to achieve peace and are involved in a grass roots movement called Roots-Judour-Shorashim. I gained an increased appreciation as to the complexities of the region, and a greater appreciation of the beauty of Israel. It was very special to share this trip with our Buffalo community.

Cantor Arlene FRANK

Beautiful breezes, blue skies, views of Jerusalem and prayers of the heart highlighted our Friday evening worship at the ancient ruins of The Western Wall of Jerusalem, the holiest site in the world for all Jews. Outside, sitting right amidst the ancient ruins, our Buffalo community worshipped together and sang the melodies of the Shabbat evening service with a rigor and connectedness that surprised us all. A fellow Buffalo Israel Experience participant remarked, “I felt a connection



to my ancestors – they were there with me at that magical service!” Another exclaimed, “I was surprised at how emotional I became; being right there at

The Wall in Jerusalem for Shabbat! I didn't think that I would be so affected!” Many felt that our service there was unforgettable; a highlight in a lifetime of spiritual possibilities.

Towards the end of the service, when we normally rise, bow at the knee and then at the waist for the prayer called the *Aleinu*, here in Buffalo or anywhere else in the world for that matter, one would normally face towards the East, towards Jerusalem. Suddenly we realized that we were here...in Jerusalem! We no longer needed to face East, we now needed to face The Wall! Our community together then pivoted around to face the corner of The Wall that was then right behind us. As we bowed and chanted, many were moved to soft tears at the awesomeness of the moment.

A visit to the Western Galilee

By Susan Goldberg Schwartz

After 4 days in Jerusalem, the BIE (Buffalo Israel Experience) participants made their way to the city of Akko and the Western Galilee, our Partnership2Gether region. The Jewish Agency's Partnership2gether Peoplehood Platform (previously known as Partnership 2000) has become the paradigm for successfully partnering global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities.

20 BIE participants, many proudly wearing Ride for Roswell shirts, bicycled their way from Rosh Hanikra to Nahariya, as the sun set over the Mediterranean, joining the rest of the group in Akko's Center for Art and Technology (ACAT). We were warmly welcomed by Andrea Arbel, Director of the JAFI (Jewish Agency for Israel) Partnership2Gether Department, Western Galilee Partnership co-chair Efrat Srebro and the wonderful Partnership staff. We sang and danced with Yisrael Dayan, enjoyed delicious dinners through home hospitality and the next morning had very impactful visits at the Ghetto Fighters House. We then had opportunities to become familiar with a number of different programs focused on multi-cultural dialogues in the region and experience the beauty and history of Rosh Hanikra.

The highlight of the visit for everyone was the chance to experience home hospitality. Jody Goldstein said it best. "For two hours we were transformed into being a part of their families....



sharing food (oh so much delicious food!) as we talked and laughed and learned that, although we live on opposite sides of the world, we are so very similar." You can read her story on the next page. Through these intimate dinners, we created genuine friendships, creating a living bridge between the Western Galilee and Western New York.



We all felt our time in the Western Galilee was much too short and look forward to a time when we can return. Until that time, we will continue to deepen the relationships with our Israeli friends.



COOLanu (all of us)– a new take on School Twinning!

The Buffalo Jewish community has been chosen to partner in a School Twinning program with the *G'vanim* school, a community elementary school for 6 *kibbutzim* in the *Matte Asher* region, including *Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz*, where Director of Adult Engagement Susan Schwartz lived for 8 years. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of hundreds of educators, Global School Twinning has evolved as one of Partnership2Gether's flagship programs.

Twinning programs promote the sense of Jewish Peoplehood and shared responsibility – for students in schools around the world and Israel schools

alike. Students have the chance to meet each other for dynamic conversations around issues such as Jewish Identity and Social Responsibility focusing on Jewish values, Jewish identity, culture and heritage. Twinning programs, likewise, link educators for professional and personal enrichment.

During the Partnership Summit in the Western Galilee this past June, Susan met with the head of the *G'vanim* school, Iris Atlit, along with Carmit Gilad, Education Coordinator for Partnership2Gether. Together they discussed the beginning of a new twinning program which would bring 5th & 6th graders from Israel and Buffalo together using today's

technology, with a focus on music, visual arts, sports and literature. Instead of the typical school twinning model, where one class from each community is paired together, the Buffalo program will use an engagement model, where students from throughout our Jewish community are invited to participate. Rob Taylor and Naomi Wiseman, both middle school teachers in the City of Buffalo, will plan and facilitate the monthly gatherings in Buffalo. In addition, Naomi will be traveling to Israel this December as part of a Teacher Delegation, where she will meet with other teachers in the Western Galilee.

Teachers from Israel and Buffalo will

work together to build and develop their curriculum. The students will communicate via email, written mail, a shared social media platform (to be determined), video conferencing and joint projects.

Rob and Naomi met with potential 5th & 6th grade participants at a COOLanu Open House in November. The group will continue to meet monthly through June 2019, for both social and learning activities, as well as participate in mitzvah opportunities throughout the year. **For more information, please contact Susan Schwartz, susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

Home Hospitality in Akko

By Jody Goldstein

Traveling is wonderful.... exploring new destinations..... seeing new sites..... eating new foods.... and (occasionally) meeting new people. But, for the most part, traveling means being a tourist. The traveler is an outsider looking in. Last night, however, our travels took on a completely different dimension. Last night we broke into small groups and enjoyed dinner in the homes of residents in our partnership region of the Western Galilee. For two hours we were transformed into being a part of their families.... sharing food (oh so



Dinner in Akko at the home of Toni Ziv

much delicious food!) as we talked and laughed and learned that, although we live on opposite sides of the world, we are so very similar. The home I visited was owned by Toni and her husband. She works for the Israeli Department of Education providing teacher training. Their son, a soldier in the Israeli Army joined us, as well as the principal of a school serving students in grades 1-6 living on a Kibbutz, and a young woman from California who joined the Israeli Army, made Aliyah, and now works in a preschool. The six in our Buffalo group were mostly educators, so we had much to talk about.... starting with educational policy, and then covering human rights, gun control, and politics. The time flew by, and when it was time to leave our hearts were as full as our bellies. It was such a wonderful experience, being at home while traveling in another country.



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Israel – it's all about the people

by Rabbi Jonathan Freirich

October in Israel with nearly 80 of our closest friends from Western New York – what an amazing adventure!

With more than 40 first-time travelers to Israel on our trip the participants in the Buffalo Israel Experience were enthusiastic and excited, nearly tireless and always thrilled. Most of all this group created a sense of family and connection – among each other and with the fantastic Israelis we met.

Here are some of the shining moments that wove us together with each other and Israelis.

Rachel Korazim introduced us to the evolving Israeli understanding of the Holocaust before we began our exploration of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Jerusalem. Rachel's intriguing and dynamic interactive presentation brought all of us into the multi-generational conversation about responsibility and blame, victimhood and triumph, that underscores the Israeli



Meeting with leaders of the Urban Kibbutz

communal remembering of the Holocaust. Her wise insights and sharp wit deepened our journey through one of the most meaningful and difficult encounters in Israel.

Colonel (Reserves) Grisha Yakubovich drew us into the labyrinthine complexity of Israeli-Gazan-West Bank-Egyptian relationships and quickly illustrated why securing peace among all of these parties constitutes a challenge that makes the Gordian knot look like a toddler's game. Grisha, which is what he told us to call him, oversaw all the Israeli government's activities in the territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for years, and before that had direct oversight of operations in the Gaza Strip. His connections with Palestinians on the ground in Gaza earned him their respect – a Palestinian family even named one of their sons after him! Grisha managed to squeeze so much data and historical notes about the last 15 years of the Israeli-Palestinian situation that many of us were taking photos of his projected

screens so that we could remember it all later on. His presentation helped prepare us for a morning when we got to visit an historic hill top on the border of Gaza and see the security situation with our own eyes.

Later on the same day we visited Yad Vashem, a few of us got to learn about the Urban Kibbutz in Akko, which is a network of apartments shared by a group of women who are linked by their early experiences in one of the Israeli Youth Movements. Seeing a need for urban investment in this small and diverse city north of Haifa these women in their 20's and 30's chose to devote their energy to a communal home in a place that few of them knew well, and all of them knew needed help. They run a non-profit music club that started with a few people hanging out and jamming together as a way of fostering a music and arts culture in a town that didn't have one beforehand. A small group of us shared dinner with a number of these new "kibbutzniks" who seek to use the ideas of communal life as a catalyst to transform Israeli society that, like ours, now leaves the majority of the country's population out of the runaway economic success that makes headlines.

In all of these encounters, and many more, the Buffalo Israel Experience reminded us that the most important encounter in Israel is with the people of Israel, our people. Exploring how we cope with our past at Yad Vashem, grappling with the daily issues on the border with Gaza, imagining a more equitable future by updating the kibbutz ideals that helped the first generations of Israelis rebuild our homeland – these endeavors and many more helped us all better get to know our family in Israel and how they come together to guarantee a meaningful and diverse Jewish homeland for us today, and for the generations that will follow us tomorrow.

HAPPY HANUKKAH



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Rabbi Freirich looking into Gaza

Kabbalah Artist Highlights New Amiel BaKehila Visit

What Makes Hebrew a Holy Language at TBZ's Broder Building
Tuesday, December 11 at 7 pm

Amiel BaKehila, an exciting initiative under the auspices of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, returns to Buffalo December 11-13 featuring David Friedman, Artist and Jewish Spiritualist from Zefat in the Galilee.



A planning team led by Barb Chazen and Lori Morrison, has organized a variety of opportunities for Jewish Buffalonians to meet and engage with David. A community-wide event will be held Tuesday evening, December 11 beginning at 7 pm at Temple Beth Zion's Broder Building. David will present a talk entitled, "What Makes Hebrew a Holy Language," followed by an interactive workshop where participants will be able to create their own works of art. Space is limited. Cost is \$10 per person for supplies. **To reserve your spot, RSVP to Becky at 836-6565 or becky@tbz.org.**

Born in Denver, Colorado and raised in a Modern Orthodox family, David Friedman developed a talent for art at an early age. As a teenager he was inspired by the artwork of album covers of the 60's and the early 70's music, and by the mystical art of Eastern mandalas. David attended the Rhode Island School of Design for one year and then left to study Torah and Jewish mysticism, with the late Rabbi B. C. S. Twerski.

David immigrated to Israel in 1977 at the age of 20, and spent two years studying Torah in Jerusalem, where he met his wife, Miriam and after they

married, moved to Zefat. In Zefat, David immersed himself in the study of the Talmud and other classic texts of Judaism, including Kabbalah, and continued his art at night. In the 1980's, he began to produce artwork that was based on Torah concepts in an attempt to integrate Torah and art. The first piece produced (The Orchard of the Torah) is based on the design of a Tibetan mandala, and continues to be a top-selling print.

After a bout with cancer in 1987 David started practicing meditation, and discovered that there was such a thing as Jewish Meditation.

David developed his own original system of translating kabbalistic concepts into graphic shapes and colors based mostly on Sefer Yetzirah (The Book of Creation), but also inspired from other texts. He has exhibited his work in North America and Israel, and his artworks can be found in many homes and art collections around the world.

We look forward to welcoming David, along with Amiel BaKehila coordinator, Rabbi Reuvan Spolter to Buffalo this month.



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Buffalo Lions of Judah... the Story Continues



We are once again excited to profile Buffalo women who make a Lion of Judah (LOJ) level gift (\$5,000) annually to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Since the spring, we have featured 21 Lions of Judah, sharing their passions and energy in making our community a warm, engaging and welcoming home for so many. This month, meet Lana Benatovich and Gretchen Gross who are both—in their own way—amazing, spirited, accomplished and always looking to take on the next project. One characteristic that unites Gretchen and Lana is their enormous energy and enthusiasm for every project they undertake, no matter where or what it is. These two exceptional women have given so much to make our Buffalo Community—not just the Jewish community—a place where neighbors can learn to get along with each other, respect differences, and create cohesive communities.



Gretchen Gross

As Maria Scrivani wrote about Gretchen for the *Jewish Journal* this past July, “the retired founder of a well-regarded early childhood program and volunteer extraordinaire remembers wanting to ‘save the world’—a vow taken when she was five years old. I clearly remember having that thought,” says the Buffalo native, who parlayed good fortune and industriousness into a series of global adventures in her 20s that led to a successful business career back in her hometown.” Gretchen was owner and president of Audubon at College Park, a pre-school and camp program from 1974-2012. At the same time, she was very involved with United Way’s early childhood project “Success by Six.”

Gretchen served as President of the JCC for 3 years through 2016, co-chaired the recent Federation’s Education Task Force with Leslie Kramer, and chaired the Early Childhood at JCC for many years in 1990s. She served on the Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy Campaign Cabinet as a LOJ co-chair, chaired Super Sunday and the Campaign Kick-Off Dinner along with her husband, Gordon. She was also honored by Federation as a Nathan

Benderson Community Leadership award winner in 2016. Currently, she is vice president of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and sits on its executive director search committee. Gretchen and her husband, Gordon, received the NFJC Community Leader award, established a chair at the Dept. of Jewish Thought at UB, and donated a new building for arts and crafts at the new Camp Centerland campus on the JCC site, a gift from Gordy in honor of her 70th birthday.

“I give to Federation because it’s awesome and community minded. It’s important to sponsor Jewish programs, because there are so few of us. Also, the community has been really good to us and it is important to give back.”

Gretchen grew up at a time when Jews were not treated well. When she married Gordon, she began to get involved in the Jewish community—particularly the Jewish Center. “For the first time in my life, I felt comfortable being a Jew. I was born in 1945, and my parents were not engaged in the Jewish community. I went to Sunday school and dancing school (she is a 5th generation Temple Beth Zion member) but I wasn’t really comfortable in my own skin. With all the anti-Semitism going on then, I didn’t want people to know I was Jewish. Then when I met Gordy,” she explained, “his family was really Jewishly involved. I started volunteering for Super Sunday in 1980s and it was really fun. I quickly got involved with the JCC and Federation, and have not stopped volunteering in the community since then.”

Gretchen’s philosophy on giving to the Jewish community is simple: “It is really important that while we give to the general community, we support the Jewish community as well. If not, who will? So while Gordy and I have made

many philanthropic gifts, the Jewish community comes first, because even though we support many things, we have to focus on Jewish community planning for the future,” she said.

Gretchen is extremely proud to give her LOJ gift in her own name. “It feels good to give charitably, and I am so glad I can do it. It also gives me my own voice, makes a statement that women’s voices are very important, and is a way to encourage others to give,” she said. “But the most important thing for me is that our charitable donations set an example for our grandchildren, and enables us to share our philosophy on life. And I love to think about my own role models—primarily Ruth Kahn Stovroff—who invited me into her home and talked about what mattered to her, and Ann Holland Cohn’s selfless giving to the Jewish community Center, among other places.”

Gretchen commented that being a Lion of Judah is like belonging to a large sisterhood. “It doesn’t matter where you are in the world, if you spot another Lion anywhere, there is a connection. I try to wear my pin to all Jewish events, but I like to wear it to community events, too, and have people ask me about it. Bottom line though, is that we give here because it is our community. This is where we earned our livings and where we want to give back! And that is why Gordy and I have established endowments in the Buffalo Jewish community to continue our legacy when we are no longer here,” she added.

Ultimately, Gretchen Gross looks to the future with optimism. “I hope that our community continues to grow stronger, and we can help by setting an example for future leaders philanthropically. After being involved for so many years, it’s encouraging to see so many emerging leaders and to see the community is going to be left in good hands. I’m a very hands-on person. And I’m betting that generosity is contagious!”



Lana Benatovich

Lana Benatovich is a doer! And as she might say about others, she not only “talks the talk, she walks the walk.” She believes deep down in her heart that people of different backgrounds, religions, nationalities, and races should be able to get along with each other for the common good. So she makes it happen in her role as president of the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY (NFJC-formerly National Conference of Christians and Jews-NCCJ) and has been doing that for the past 26 years.

Before, she went to NFJC, she worked for the Federation as Community Relations Council director for 8 years, and prior to that in Buffalo City Hall as an administrator for Division for Youth.

A graduate of Tufts University and Columbia University’s Teachers College, Lana taught school for 5 years in New York, then moved to Buffalo from Manhattan following the graduation of her husband, former Federation president Howard Benatovich, from post-graduate dental school at Columbia University. Lana and Howard went on Leadership Mission to Israel with the Buffalo Jewish Federation in 1980. On another Israel Mission, Lana was captivated: “There we, we saw the Ethiopians Jews get off the plane and kiss the ground and watch them begin their lives in the land of love and opportunity. I came back from Israel realizing that professionally and personally, I wanted to work within and for the Jewish Community. I went to Morris Rombro – the executive director at the time – and said I want to be a community relations leader.”

“It was at Federation in the 1980s that Harold Axelrod—a retired principal—became my chair and we began our amazing work together, creating a strong Community Relations Council (CRC). Because I had the opportunity to work within WNY – and the city particularly – I already had connections, and we were able to develop a Polish-Jewish dialogue, a Black-Jewish dialogue and a Palestinian-Jewish dialogue, as well as lead an interfaith mission to Israel in late 1980s.”

“Howard and I had the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union in 1987. This came about through the CRC’s work as Soviet Jewry advocates. We worked very closely with Jack Kemp and his wife, Joanne. He was our Congressman at the time and they chaired a committee on Soviet Jewry advocacy. They helped to lead the local group to Washington DC for the National March for Soviet Jewry that year. We had more than 100 Buffalonians at the March.”

“During the Soviet Jewry movement, we took a mission to the Soviet Union. This was an extremely important and life changing experience for us. We went with a few other people, including Jeff and Shelly Hirshberg, Carol Schwartz and Joel Lippman, to Moscow and Leningrad to visit Soviet Jews who were not able to leave the USSR because they were Jewish. We brought them clothing, prayer books, mezuzahs and other religious items. We had tea and cookies in their homes. The most meaningful and emotional visit was to Irina Bronstein, who was our daughter Marnie’s Soviet Jewish “twin” for her bat mitzvah. We went to Irina’s apartment where she was living with her mother. While we were there, she went to her bedroom and brought out the letters she received from Marnie. I believe today she is around 46 and lives now in Israel.”

“During that trip, Howard and I also visited Natan Sharansky, who was a very well-known *refusnik*, waiting to leave the Soviet Union, and who recently just retired as head of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The other very big thing was Abe Bayer of NJCRAC (the forerunner to the present Jewish Council for Public Affairs, of which Buffalo is a member) came to Buffalo to prepare us for the trip to the Soviet Union, which was a difficult journey, because we were meeting with Jews in secret.”

All of these stories of the NFJC and CRC are a prelude to the fact that Lana Benatovich does what she does because she is a proud Jew. “My Jewish heritage and identity are primary to me. I grew up in Queens going to services in an Orthodox synagogue, and because girls were not able to become bat mitzvah there, I never continued my formal education. The irony is that I go to synagogue more now through my work for the community.”

“All four of my grandparents were born in Russia. I grew up without knowing my paternal grandparents, and in particular, connected to the stories about the life of my paternal grandmother who lived in Woodbury, NJ. During the first part of the 20th century, she would have a diverse group of people over, and sit at her round table and discuss issues. I felt a strong

attachment to that her, though I never knew her.”

“My father Bernard Dubin, born in 1907 came to Brooklyn with his aunt and uncle. Most of our relatives lived in Brooklyn and my sister, Marilyn, my parents and I would celebrate traditions—Shabbat and Jewish holidays—along with cousins. My maternal grandparents Morris and Fanny Moskoff lived in Brooklyn as well. Morris had a candy store and a movie theater. Fanny worked alongside him there, and my mother Bess grew up there with her brother, Sol. And though we lived in Queens, every Sunday we would go to Brooklyn where we were together as family.”

“Because of my heritage, my experiences within and on behalf of the Jewish community, and particularly trying to be a role model for my daughters and grandchildren, I contribute in as many ways as I can to our Jewish Community. All these reasons are why I am a Lion of Judah.” She explained that she loves wearing her LOJ pin out in the general community, and explaining to people who inquire about what the Lion symbolizes. “I explain that it is with pride and fulfillment that I put my Lion pin on for the world to see.”

Moving to Buffalo and being part of the Benatovich family is another reason for Lana’s community devotion. Howard’s parents Minnie and Sam Benatovich were so committed to their Jewish heritage and their synagogue—Ahavas Achim (the former B’nai Shalom) in Buffalo. Sam was president of Ahavas Achim for 25 years, and Lana wanted to be part of that Buffalo Jewish community. “I am also very proud that my husband became president of the Federation from 2003-2004, and now our daughter Marnie Cerrato, who is in Buffalo, is on the board of Holocaust Resource Center, and our daughter Amy Janay has been active in her temple in New Jersey”

She also has a strong family attachment to Israel. Several of Lana’s nieces and nephews live in Israel today. Two of her sister Marilyn Kaplan’s three children married Israelis and made *aliyah*. Lana and Howard travel to Israel for *simchas*, and her grandniece and nephew are currently soldiers in the IDF—the Israel Defense Forces.

“It is so important for people from our diverse WNY community to know that as Jews we care very much about our Jewish community, and also about the interfaith community in relation to the Jewish community. That’s why, at my age. I’m still working. When it comes time to retire, I know that my commitment to my community through my Federation gift as a Lion remains a priority.”

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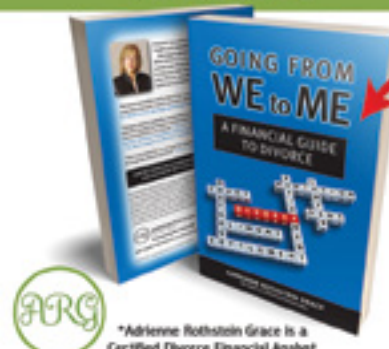


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UB School of Management Honors Two Jewish Buffalonians

The University at Buffalo School of Management recognized several alumni business leaders for their impact on the community, the school and their industry at an awards reception on Oct. 17. Among them were Jonathan A. Dandes and Julia Jornsay-Silverberg.

Dandes received the Community Service Achievement Award for his exceptional level of service and commitment to the Western New York Community. "After more than three decades of civic involvement across Western New York, it's hard to overstate



Jonathan Dandes addresses the crowd



Julia Jornsay-Silverberg accepts her award

the impact Jonathan Dandes has had on our community. Right now, he holds leadership roles in more than 10 organizations—and that's just the tip of the iceberg." Since 2001, he has served as president of Rich Baseball Operations, which includes the Buffalo Bisons, the Northwest Arkansas Naturals, the West Virginia Black Bears, and Palm Beach National Golf and Country Club.

Dandes also serves as president of Be Our Guest Ltd. and the Canalside and Outer Harbor management groups, and

chairs Erie County Medical Center, Corp., The Buffalo Zoological Society and the Buffalo Bisons Charitable Fund, and is the immediate chair of Visit Buffalo Niagara. He is also vice chair of Upstate New York Transplant Services and a board member for the 100 Club Buffalo. He is also the longest serving member of the University at Buffalo Council, appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1994.

Julia Jornsay-Silverberg, BS/MBA '12, is the social media director at Telesco Creative Group and founder of Bravery Beats. She was honored as a graduate of the Business School in the last decade who has achieved substantial professional growth, early career achievement and exemplified leadership in the workplace. She started her career in digital marketing at The Buffalo News before moving to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

As founder of Bravery Beats, she coaches entrepreneurs on how to grow their audience and build brand awareness. And many times during the week, you can see her live on Facebook, Periscope and other channels, teaching fans and friends across the globe the importance of being authentic on social media.

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Dec. 9th, 2018

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October 7th
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November 11th
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BPO/UB plans 2018-19 Kurt Weill Festival

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences' Collaboratory are presenting the Kurt Weill Festival, a major creative partnership and one of the firsts of its kind between the two institutions through May 2019.

Kurt Weill was one of the most influential composers of the last century. Born a Jew in Germany in 1900, he rose to prominence as a composer of opera. Nazi Germany turned Weill into a refugee and then an immigrant. Before his immigration to America, he focused largely on art song and German classical traditions; once in America, he scrupulously studied the American popular song, and used his classical training to create a genre all its own, eventually becoming a famous Broadway composer and writing one of the 20th century's most popular songs, "Mack The Knife." Many of the themes of Weill's work continue to resonate today: the immigrant experience, interracial conflict, greed, corruption, and exploitation of the poor.

Through cabaret performances, art exhibits, talks, humanities symposia,



masterclasses, and chamber and orchestral concerts, Weill's musical legacy will come alive in an accessible and exciting way.

Events will be held at Kleinhans Music Hall, and on the UB campus and have been created with assistance from the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music.

For the BPO, the program is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities through a grant for the Music Unwound orchestral consortium created by the Joseph Horowitz Foundation. The goal of Music Unwound is to find new audiences for classical music through exploration of its broader context.

For tickets to events, visit bpo.org or ubcfa.org, or call (716) 885-5000 or (716) 645-2787. Updated information will be available at bpo.org/weill

Kurt Weill Festival

Thu Jan 17, 7:30 pm, Kleinhans Music Hall

Kurt Weill On Broadway

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

This multi-media program explores Weill's dramatic saga of immigration – from Hitler's Germany to Broadway. *Tickets: \$49 reserved; \$25 general admission; \$10 students*

Thu Mar 28, 7:30 pm, Baird Recital Hall

Degenerate Music: Weill, Eisler and Schoenberg

Weill, Cello Sonata and Seven Pieces from The Threepenny Opera (arr. Frankel); Eisler, Duo Op. 7 and 14 Ways of Describing Rain, Op.70; and Cabaret songs of Weill and Schoenberg.

Ticket cost: \$17-\$22; seniors/students: \$12-\$17

Thu May 2, through, Sun May 5, Drama Theatre, UB Center for the Arts

THE THREEPENNY OPERA

Book and Lyrics by Bertolt Brecht, Music by Kurt Weill,

Adaptation by Simon Stephens

Produced by the UB Department of Theatre and Dance

TICKETS: \$20 General Public \$10 Student/Senior Admission

Other Weill Festival Events

Wed Jan 16, 7 pm

Artists in Exile-Lecture

by Joseph Horowitz

JCC Holland Family Building

787 Delaware Ave.

Guest speaker Joseph Horowitz explores patriotic musical responses to WWII—specifically Pearl Harbor and FDR's declaration of war—by two Jewish refugee composers: Kurt Weill and Arnold Schoenberg. The presentation—with audio/video clips—will be a study in contrasts: Weill became a super-patriot; Schoenberg became ambivalent about America.

Mr. Horowitz will be in Buffalo working with the BPO and UB as the creator of the year-long "Kurt Weill Festival." (bpo.org.) Horowitz is an author, concert producer and teacher. He is one of the most prominent and widely published writers on topics in American music.

THIS EVENT IS FREE, BUT RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Call 716-2422-7824.



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5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in December to Repair the World

- 1» **The annual Maria Love Charity Ball is December 7th** at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. This event, whose proceeds help women and children and families in WNY, offers a Middle School dance as well as a High School Dance. **Email mlcharityball@gmail.com for information.**
- 2» **12 Bars of Charity—a new event in Buffalo**—is a friendly competition among 12 Buffalo-area bars to raise funds for 8 local charities, including The Alzheimers' Assn., Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Make-A-Wish Foundation and 5 others. It takes place December 15 downtown. **Go to Eventbrite.com for more information and to purchase tickets.**
- 3» **Give a year-end gift to the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Campaign for Jewish Buffalo**, and get a 2018 tax deduction, and the feeling of being a mensch and making your Jewish community a better place. **Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org, or call 716-204-2245 before the end of December.**
- 4» **Celebrate Hanukkah in Buffalo this year.** Check out page 29 of this issue of the *Jewish Journal* to see all the Hanukkah events around town.
- 5» **Kids need Books! That's what our Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy (BJCL) volunteers say!** And you can give gift cards, books or a cash donation to the group so that children at Buffalo Public School #80 - Highgate Heights can continue to become more literate, and have books of their own. **Read about it on page 40, then contact Amy Heumann at ALHWldBk@gmail.com to donate or volunteer.**

WHERE IN JBFLO ?



Where is this found and what is its significance to WNY?

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

E-mail your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org

In November, Judd Sunshine, Laurie Werbow Botwin, Alan Brucks, Eva Blum, and Jeffrey Stromberg correctly identified the the gate of the Libowitz Cemetery on Pine Ridge Road.



December 2018

December 2-10

Hanukkah is celebrated.

Begin by lighting one candle,
then add one more each night

Go to page 29 for a separate Hanukkah Events listing

December 2

My Grown Up and Me!

Storytime begins at 10 am

Whole Foods, Amherst

To register email Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

December 3-10

Latke Fest at JCC Benderson Family Building

Monday-Friday 8:30 am- 4 pm. Buy, eat, enjoy latkes all week.

December 8

Nickel City Jews Winter Event

Buffalo Distillery Co. in Larkin Square 8:30 pm

Info: Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

December 9

PJ Library/ PJ Our Way Party

Hybrid Ninja Academy – 2500 Commerce Pkwy, Lancaster

12:30- 2:30 pm for PJ Our Way

3-5 pm for PJ Library

TBZ Achim Hanukkah Party

10:00 am Weinberg Campus, Meadows Lounge - 2nd floor

Info: Ken Graber at 681-9885 for info

December 11-13

Amiel BaKehila visit to Buffalo

Info: Rob Goldberg - rob@buffalojewishfederation.org

December 11

Amiel BaKehila Program with Kabbalah Artist

7:00 pm TBZ's Broder Building

\$10 for art supplies

RSVP to Becky at 836-6565 or becky@tbz.org

December 14

TBZ Kulanu Shabbat Service for LGBTQ Community

7:00 pm TBZ, 805 Delaware Avenue

836-6565 for information

December 24

TBZ Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble

9 am to 6 pm Niagara Falls Blvd. store



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QUESTIONS: Nicole Bard, nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

An Israeli Hanukkah Treat!

By Robin Kurss

Ellen Goldstein asked that this month's recipe be something Israeli (in honor of Federation's latest mission) and perhaps for Hanukkah as well. While researching Israeli food, I came across the fact that "one of the eight foods you must eat while in Israel is Meatballs with Sweet Potatoes," who knew? If you fry them, instead of bake them, you've also done your duty to fry something yummy to eat at Hanukkah time.

Turkey and Sweet Potato Meatballs

serves 6



1 lb. ground turkey
2 c mashed sweet potato
1 onion, minced fine
3 cloves garlic, minced fine
½ c parsley, chopped
½ c Panko breadcrumbs
2 Tbsp. maple syrup
1 Tbsp. hot sauce
Salt and pepper to taste
Oil if frying

In large bowl, mix all ingredients together

Shape into 1-2" balls

Heat oil in sauté pan and fry until golden brown on all sides 7-10 minutes.

Alternately, you can bake on a greased sheet pan at 350 till done...about 20 minutes.

Dining Guide



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Pre Chanukah



Mini Chefs Cooking Club is an exciting club for children ages 3-12.

Mini Chefs join together to cook, bake, create fun foods, while learning about Jewish themes!

November 25th
4:00 - 5:00pm

\$10 for class

Jewish Discovery Center - 757 Hopkins Rd. in Williamsville
For more Info. www.JewishBuffalo.com or 639-7600

Dining Guide



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Attention Snowbirds!

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

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

TBZ Sisterhood Participated in Breast Cancer Walk



The Beth Zion Sisterhood team of walkers raised over \$1,000 for breast cancer research when they participated in the annual "Making Strides for Breast Cancer" walk at Canalside on October 13.

Celebrate Hanukkah at TBZ

Friday, December 7

5:45 pm Tot Shabbat

6 pm Potluck Dinner

7 pm Shabbat Alive Service

805 Delaware Avenue

Come to TBZ for a lively evening of Hanukkah celebrations. For families with younger children, start the evening with Tot Shabbat at 5:45 pm, followed by a community dairy potluck dinner at 6:00 pm. Shabbat Alive begins at 7:00 pm and the TBZ band and choir will participate in the service. Please bring your menorah for a group lighting of the candles.

Come for all or part of the evening. If you plan to come for dinner, please bring a salad or dairy dish to share with approximately 10-15 people. RSVP for dinner by contacting Kara at kara@tbz.org or (716) 836-6565.



Friends of Night People

Volunteers for Friends of Night People are needed for the second Tuesday of the month from 4 to 7:15 pm. In addition, this month Temple Beth Zion volunteers plan to serve dinner on December 25, so volunteers who celebrate Christmas can be with their families. You are invited to join TBZ volunteers serve a warm meal to those who would otherwise go hungry. **Please contact Ann Marie Randall, (716)836-6565, Ext. 111, or Annmarie@tbz.org, to put your name on the list of volunteers December 11 or December 25.**

Come once or more often. Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated.

TBZ Gift Wrapping 'Party'



Plan to do your last minute shopping and have your gifts wrapped by members of the TBZ Sisterhood at Barnes & Noble. Come Monday, December 24 to the Barnes & Noble on Niagara Falls Boulevard anytime between 9 am and 6 pm. You can check off those final holiday items and have them wrapped while doing a mitzvah!

Achim Celebrates Hanukkah December 9

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will hold its December Achim program **Sunday, December 9 at 10:00 am at the Weinberg Campus's Meadows Lounge**, located on the second floor at 2650 North Forest Road.

The program will feature the annual Hanukkah program with the Temple Beth Zion Junior Choir, under the direction of Cantor Penny Myers. The choir appears annually and sings many of the traditional and well-known Hanukkah melodies.

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.

Sunday TOTS!

Temple Beth Zion offers a Pre-Kindergarten class for 3 & 4 year olds with their parents or other adults once per month on Sundays from 9-11:30 am at the Broder Center. Class dates are: December 2, January 27, March 3 and 24, April 7 and May 5.

Through art projects, music, storytelling and food, the program will explore Jewish symbols, customs and holidays with a different theme each month.

This is a wonderful way for families to meet other families! For more details, contact Kara Kane at (716)836-6565. Temple membership is not required for participation in this class.

TBZ Bereavement Support Group

The Temple Beth Zion Bereavement Support Group is lay-led by members of the group in an informal and warm setting. The group offers companionship and understanding from others who have experienced a similar loss and are experiencing the similar challenges of living with grief. Meetings usually take place at the Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst.

If you have questions or would like to get information on the meeting dates and locations, contact Carol at (716)873-2836. All members of the community are welcome.

TBZ Kulanu Service 12/14

Temple Beth Zion's annual Kulanu winter service will be held on **Friday, December 14, at 7 pm at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo.** All members of the community are invited to join this circle of light and warmth, and to take that light and warmth back into the winter night with them. Kulanu is a collective of individuals dedicated to making the Buffalo community a just, safe, welcoming and inviting place for Jewish members of the LGBTQ community.

BaKehila at KOT

by Phyllis Steinberg

Buffalo is very fortunate to be among the communities to have received a grant from Amiel BaKehila, a unique program that sends educational and cultural delegations from Israel to small and mid-sized Jewish communities. KOT has taken the lead for the first two Amiel BaKehila visits. The second delegation arrived at KOT on October 18 and met with various Jewish organizations in Buffalo until October 21, when they left and headed for Ottawa.

KOT's first program with the delegates was on Friday night when Rabbi Reuven Spolter, Director of the Program, led davening and after a community Shabbat dinner talked about the realities faced by Israel in trying to reach some of the idealistic goals expected of the country. A very honest and open discussion followed his presentation.



focused her talk on the Bnei Menashe in India. There was so much interest in finding out more about such communities that during Se'uda Shlishi Ms. Ben-David spoke about China's Kaifeng community and their struggles to learn and reconnect with their Jewish heritage.

After Havdalah, several KOT families gathered at the home of Shoshana and Richard Laub for a delightful evening of making pizza and salad under the guidance of the third delegate of the Amiel group, Chef Yahav Kriti who involved many attendees in the food preparations, including KOT President Jeffrey Schapiro.

In addition to all the events at KOT, the delegation also met with other Jewish groups in the area including Kadimah, Young Professionals, Discovery Center, and Shir Shalom. Many people were involved in making the weekend so successful. These include Barbara Chazen, Jeff and Mireille Schapiro, Rob Goldberg, Marian and Harvey Arbesman, Shoshana and Richard Laub and Ted and Phyllis Steinberg.

KOT is looking forward to the arrival of the next Amiel BaKehila delegation in December. For more information contact Oribergman@gmail.com.



On Shabbat, KOT members and friends sat down to a kiddush luncheon and learned about lost and hidden Jews around the world when Laura Ben-David gave a fascinating talk about these groups and her work with Shavei Israel. She

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**Sunday, December 2nd
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for more information.**

Hanukkah at Shir Shalom!!!

Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah Come Light The Menorah With Us!

Friday, December 7, 2018
 6:00 pm • Complimentary Latke Bar
 7:00 pm • Erev Shabbat Family Service
 8:00 pm • Festive Oneg Shabbat

Open to the community!
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Give back to our community by supporting "The Fifth Night of Hanukkah" Program.
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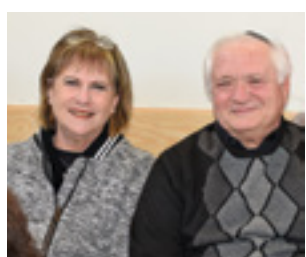
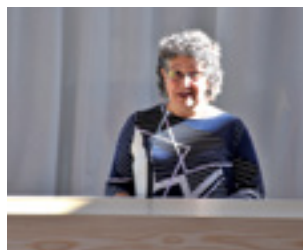
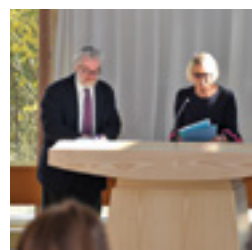
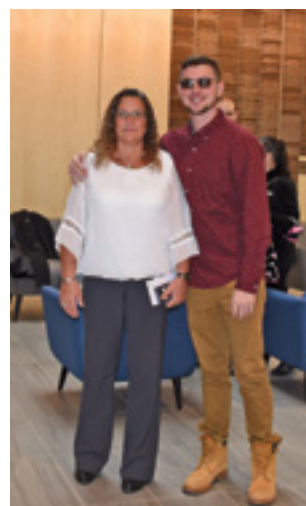
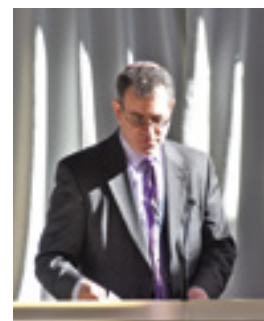
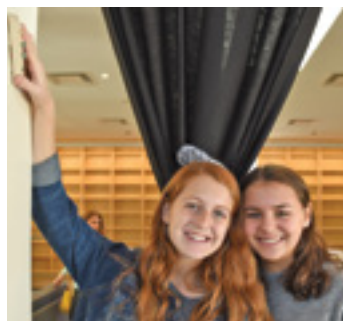
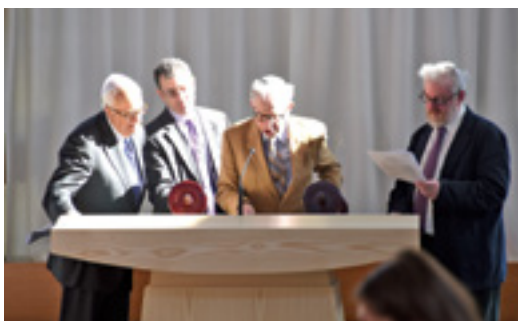
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Interfaith Holiday Programs

Congregation Shir Shalom and North Presbyterian Church are joining together to host two programs about the upcoming December holidays called "Shedding Light on Hanukkah and Christmas: a Historical Perspective of the Two Holidays." Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, will host the program on December 6th at 7:00 pm examining Hanukkah. North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Road will host the second program on December 13th at 7:00 pm covering Christmas. All are welcome to attend. Call 633-8877 for reservations or more information about the programs.

Ribbon Cutting at new Beth Tzedek: 11/4/18

Photos courtesy of Norman Weiss



2018 Hanukkah Parties In Buffalove!

December 2

Barnes & Noble Bookfair and Hanukkah Story Time with Congregation Shir Shalom and PJ Library is Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00 pm.

1565 Niagara Falls Boulevard.

Hanukkah stories! Hanukkah songs! Do your holiday shopping!

Complimentary gift wrapping from 2:00-6:00 pm.

Call the Temple Office at 633-8877 for more information.

Disneyland Hanukkah with Jewish Discovery Center.

4-6 pm Family Hanukkah party. 57 Hopkins Road. Dinner with latkes, music and dancing. \$36/family. \$13/adult. \$6/child. **Call 639-7600.**

December 3

The Rogue Cellar at the JCC's Myers Family Tel Aviv Café will be selling latkes during Hanukkah. Annie Krause will be offering different varieties of latkes during the week and she will be sharing her recipes with members and guests! Please join us for a latke fest beginning December 3rd. The café is open from 8:30 am – 4 pm Monday - Friday.

December 6

Temple Beth El's- Niagara Falls – Hanukkah Party will be a luncheon Thursday, December 6th @ 1 pm at the Temple (720 Ashland Avenue, Niagara Falls). **For more information or to reserve a seat, call Darlene @ 297-2574 or Ellen @ 260-1836.** There's no set charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Kadimah Academy Community Hanukkah Dinner and Celebration at 6 pm, following an Open House for prospective kindergarteners at 5:30 pm. Display of chanukiyot created by each class at Kadimah Academy from recycled materials. Student performance, Hanukkah songs and dances, Art project stations, and Basket Raffle! The cost for the dinner is \$18 per adult, \$5 per child.

December 7

Hanukkah at Shir Shalom! 6:00 pm – Complimentary Latke Bar. 7:00 pm – Erev Shabbat Family Service. 8:00 pm – Festive Oneg Shabbat. Open to the community! **RSVP to the Temple Office at 633-8877.** Give back to our community by supporting “The Fifth Night of Hanukkah” Program. Please bring in winter items or gift cards to be donated to Jewish Family Service.

Hanukkah at Temple Beth Zion. 5:45 pm Tot Shabbat. 6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner. 7:00 pm Shabbat Alive Service. RSVP to Kara at 836-6565 if you plan to stay for dinner. Also, plan to bring a salad or dairy dish to share.

December 8

Nickel City Jews Hanukkah Party. Buffalo Distilling Company in Larkin Square. 8:30 pm. There is a cost. **Contact Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

December 9

TBZ Achim Celebrates Hanukkah at Weinberg Campus. 10:00 am. Meadows Lounge, 2nd floor at 2650 North Forest Road. Open to the community & free of charge. **Contact Ken Graber at 681-9885 for information.**

PJ Library/ PJ Our Way

Hybrid Ninja Academy – 2500 Commerce Pkwy, Lancaster
12:30- 2:30 pm for PJ Our Way
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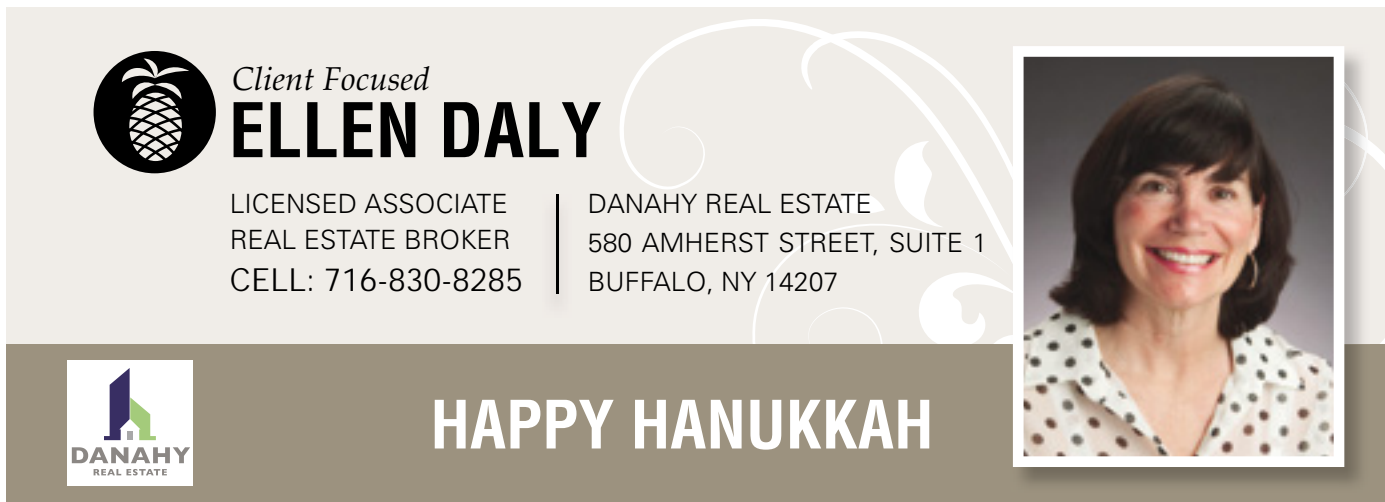


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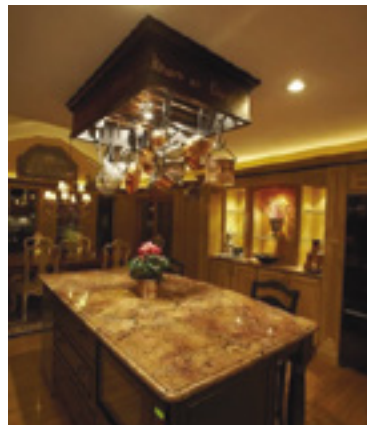
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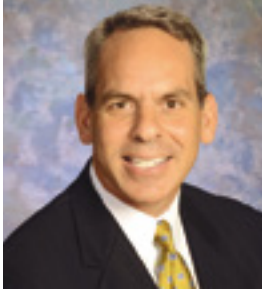
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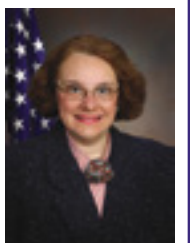
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Kadimah Alumnus Profile: DANIEL TOBIAS, CLASS OF 2006

By Beth Steinberg

Believing that a good education is essential to success in life is a core value of many Jewish parents. Daniel Tobias' parents were no exception. They also believed that a good education required Jewish learning to develop a strong spiritual identity which would complement a growing mind. For them, enrolling Daniel at Kadimah was an investment in him and his future.

Daniel fondly recalls the "safe, nurturing, and fostering environment" at Kadimah that enabled him to grow from early childhood towards young adulthood. Small class sizes provided him with focused attention from teachers to help enhance his critical skills in language, mathematics, and analytic thought. He cherishes his memories of snacking on challah on Friday afternoons, and of making the menorah which is still proudly displayed in his parents' home. Learning the Hebrew language gave him "access to the precious words of our heritage," and enabled him to read the Four Questions in Hebrew at Seder and then read Torah at his Bar Mitzvah.

After graduating with academic honors from Kadimah, Daniel continued to carry his passion for learning and excellence in the Jewish world. He attended Hebrew High, made lifelong friends through NCSY youth group, and in 2008 participated in a Jerusalem Journey trip to Israel. While an undergraduate at SUNY at Buffalo, he appreciated that Hillel, JSU, and Chabad allowed him to maintain his Jewish roots while pursuing his educational and professional goals.

In 2016, Daniel received his Doctorate of Physical Therapy, also from UB, along with a clinical achievement award, and has been employed by the McGuire Group Health Care Facility for over two years. He is fulfilled by his work "helping the elderly of our community recover from illness and quite literally get back on their feet to enjoy their lives."

Daniel is now engaged to be married to Sarah Sonenberg, a woman who shares his appreciation for Jewish life and values. She grew up in Albany,



Daniel Tobias

NY, the daughter of parents who also valued the significance of a Jewish day school education. She is now finishing her third year of medical school at UB.

In Daniel's own words, "the appreciation for Jewish life that Kadimah taught me has led me to seek out a 'woman of valor,' as it says in Ashes Chayil. My early beginning and childhood growth at Kadimah is what led me to a successful career and the beginning foundation of a Jewish home."

We wish Daniel and Sarah, his bride-to-be, a hearty Mazel Tov and L'Chaim! How wonderful it would be to welcome their children into a future class at Kadimah!

Beth Steinberg is a teacher at Kadimah Academy.

THANKFUL FOR PALS-KADIMAH

By Sophia Balderman and Laurent Haccoun

With Thanksgiving just behind us and Chanukah approaching, we have been contemplating the blessings in our lives. One that really stands out is the Play and Learn School – Kadimah program (PALS-Kadimah), housed within the Temple Beth Zion building on Sweet Home Road. This pre-school is truly a treasure within the Buffalo Jewish Community and we are incredibly grateful to have become part of the PALS-Kadimah family. We first learned about PALS-Kadimah because our wonderful niece, who started there at age three, has consistently been happy and flourishing since being enrolled. Our young daughter, Claire, is currently in the Shefanim (2-year old class) and we are thrilled with how she has been thriving there.

The teachers at PALS-Kadimah are masterful educators as well as extremely nurturing. They put in a special effort to treat each child as an individual. The students look forward to going to school because their teachers make every day so much fun for them. One very special time is the weekly "Shabbat Magic" program at PALS-Kadimah, where the children learn how to light candles, and to make the blessings on the challah and the wine. They look forward to hearing a story about Shabbat and singing songs and snacking on challah (with cream cheese).

PALS-Kadimah also hosts a monthly Friday evening TOT-Shabbat, open to all members of the community, in which parents and grandparents and other family members are encouraged to come with their young children to make crafts, sing songs, hear a story, and do the blessings on the candles, wine and challah, as well as to share some delicious food.

The students learn about the Jewish Holidays through interactive songs, stories, games and crafts.

We are proud to see the path Claire is on when she comes home saying "Shalom" and when she happily answers "Amen" to a prayer at Synagogue. This experience sets the stage for



a great Judaic Studies program when she starts Kindergarten at Kadimah Academy.

One wonderful aspect of PALS-Kadimah that is perhaps the most important, is the emphasis on derech-eretz (loving kindness). The children are encouraged to treat each other and their teachers with love, understanding and respect. On any given day, you can see the children hugging each other and sharing with each other. The environment at PALS-Kadimah is one that fosters the growth of children into little mensches and really, what more can a parent ask for?

So, this Thanksgiving, we want to take a moment to publicly thank PALS-Kadimah for enhancing our lives by starting our daughter on what we hope will be a lifelong road of meaningful and robust Jewish learning and for beautifully and lovingly encouraging her growth and development, guided by Jewish values. We really could not ask for a better, more enriching pre-school experience!

Sophia Balderman and Laurent Haccoun are the parents of PALS-Kadimah student Claire.

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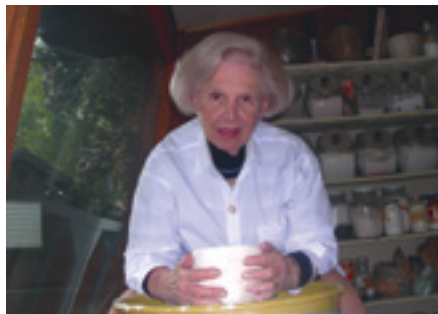
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Happy Birthday Sylvia Rosen!

By Jordana Halpern

Jewish Buffalo's most celebrated ceramic artist, educator and philanthropist, Sylvia L. Rosen turns 99 on December 19, 2018.



Mrs. Rosen, a daughter and granddaughter of artists, graduated with a BS in education from Ohio State University in 1941, and shortly after married Nathan Rosen, a lawyer. The young couple moved to Cleveland the same year, where she studied at the Esther & John Sills Ceramic Studio. In 1943 they moved to Buffalo, NY.

Rosen's early attempts to bring attention to the significance of crafts to fine art institutions often proved daunting but that didn't deter her efforts. In 1961 she received a Certificate of Merit for her work in New York Crafts from the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute in Utica, N.Y. From 1963 - 1967 Rosen taught at the Creative Craft Center at the University at Buffalo, an organization she helped establish. In 1987, the Rosens founded the Sylvia Rosen Endowment for Fine Arts in the Craft Media which continues to this day as a celebration of the region's multimedia craft artists.

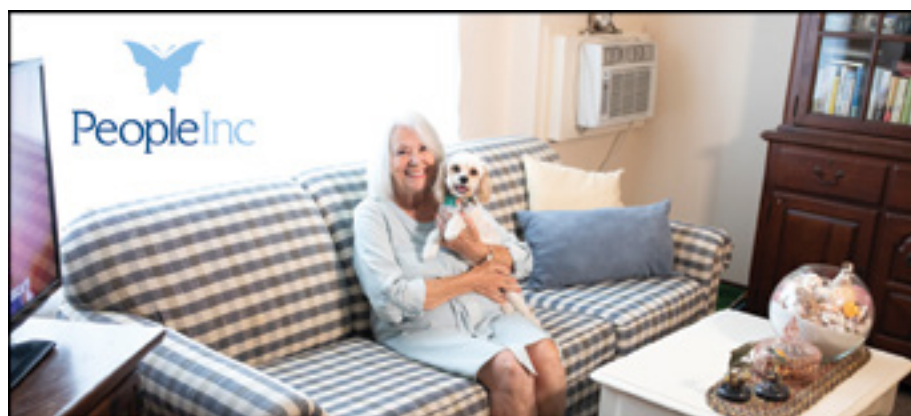
Rosen's work has been exhibited at the Cleveland Museum of Art (1943); the Buffalo Craftsmen Exhibition (1957-70); the Albright-Knox Members Gallery (1962); Art Today 1967, New York State Council on the Arts, New York State Fair; the Buffalo State College 125th Anniversary Exhibition (1996); the Contemporary New York State Crafts Exhibition (1997); the Ohio State Alumni Reunion Exhibition (1999); New York Collects Buffalo State, Burchfield-Penney Art Center (2004); and Daemen College (2005). She is in the collections of the Arthur E. Baggs Museum at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; and the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University, Alfred, New York.

Rosen's many awards include the Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award in 1991 and the Individual Philanthropic Leadership Award in 2000, both from the Buffalo State College Foundation. She has also received the Endowment

Development Award from the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and the National Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

In 2012, Rosen was designated one of the Burchfield Penney's first "Living Legacy" artists. In 2013, she received the Nathan Benderson Community Service Award from the Buffalo Jewish Federation. Her ongoing passion for arts education includes generous contributions to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo cultural arts endowment fund, as well as two kilns, eight pottery wheels and related supplies that are used at the JCC's Camp Centerland by more than 500 campers annually.

We in the Buffalo arts community are extremely grateful to Sylvia Rosen for changing the landscape of Fine Arts in the Craft Media in Western New York. Happy birthday to a remarkable woman! We look forward to celebrating 100 years with you!



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This program conceived and created by JCC member, local photographer, and musician Marty Kerker, includes a slide presentation, complete with musical renditions by a live band, featuring Buffalo Music Hall of Fame inductee Joe Rozler and Jamie Sunshine.

Did you know that Arlo Guthrie's Bar Mitzvah teacher was the infamous Jewish Defense League Rabbi, Meir Kahane? Or that all the members of West Coast-psychedelic band Country Joe and the Fish were Jewish, including Country Joe, himself? During the event questions like these will be answered, and the inclusion of live music will help to engage the audience further. "People should be familiar with just about all of the songs and everyone will be encouraged to sing along -- maybe even do a little dancing once we break into some good old fashioned rock and roll. I think the vibe in the room will be amazing and people will go home feeling very energized and happy, says Kerker."

The event is in conjunction with "The Amazing Legacy of Jewish Singers, Songwriters & Musicians... 50 Original Album Covers" gallery exhibit that will

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at www.jccbuffalo.org.

be on display in the Bunis Family Art Gallery, Benderson Family Building from January 4 – February 26, 2019. The Exhibit will display 50 original vinyl album covers highlighting such Jewish musical luminaries as George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Leonard Bernstein, Burt Bacharach, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, and numerous others.

Immediately following the event on Sunday, January 6 there will be a reception in the Lippman Lounge, 2nd Floor of the JCC Benderson Family Building and attendees will have the opportunity to tour the exhibit that inspired the event. Be sure not to miss this fun-filled walk down memory lane!



For more information please visit www.jccbuffalo.org or contact Katie Wzontek, Cultural Arts Director at Kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.

LITERACY COALITION

CONTINUES TO SAVE THE WORLD, ONE BOOK AT A TIME

*By Amy Heumann,
Book Distribution Chair*

In mid-October, Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy held the last of three fall book giveaways at Highgate Heights School # 80. During the three afternoons of giveaways, every student in Pre-K through 4th grade had the opportunity to choose three books to take home and keep.



The following people generously gave their time, talents, and enthusiasm to make these book distributions run smoothly:

Larry Aronoff
Dawn Halverson
Andy Levine
Bonnie Levine
Eileen Markzon
Ellen Palmer
Anna Steinberg
Barbara Weitzner-Lin
Sharon Winer
Sharon Zysman

The other volunteers and I were delighted to welcome Rob Goldberg, CEO/ Executive Director of the Buffalo Jewish Federation to the 1st and 2nd grade book giveaway. Rob's interest in our program means a great deal, not to mention that he excels at putting stickers in books and engaging in thoughtful dialogue with the children!



Book giveaways will also take place during the winter and spring. Volunteering at book distributions is easy and fun and a wonderful way to make an important contribution to literacy. Thank you to the people who volunteered in October.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and/ or donating books, contact Amy Heumann at ALHWrldBk@gmail.com or Ellen Goldstein at ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Hadassah Happenings

By Phyllis Steinberg

This year Buffalo Hadassah had some very special guest speakers at their annual Installation Luncheon. Enid Edelman and Evette Slaughter, talented local artists, displayed some of their art and talked about the creative process of painting. The members in attendance thoroughly enjoyed their presentations.



Nancy Greenberg, another talented local artist, arranged for the speakers and installed the new officers. For the last several years, Hadassah has operated with a team of leaders who share leadership responsibility and take turns planning and running board meetings. The leaders for 2019 will be Elaine Kellick, Annette Magid, and Rhonda Wise. In addition Jan Presser was installed as secretary and Sue Bergman as treasurer.



Buffalo Hadassah, in collaboration with several other Jewish organizations, held a panel discussion on November 18 in the Lippman Lounge at the JCC on the very important and challenging topic of the relationship between Israel and American Jews. The discussion was moderated by Rob Goldberg, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo. The panelists were Rabbi Sara Rich-Executive Director of Hillel at UB; Rabbi Jonathan Freirich-Temple Beth Zion; and Leslie Kramer-Community Leader. The event was co-sponsored by the Federation, the JCC, Kehillat Ohr Tzion and Temple Beth Zion.

Buffalo Hadassah members will be celebrating Chanukah together at Judi Stern's home on December 7. Lunch will be served and each attendee is being asked to bring a menorah to the event.

Hadassah has planned many exciting programs for the coming year. For member information contact nangrnb@gmail.com

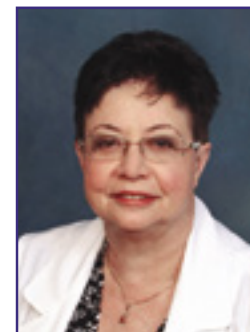


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Latke Fest December 3-10

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Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 25

Fitness Open 8:00^{am} - 3:00^{pm} Aquatics until 2:30^{pm}
Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed

Tuesday, January 1

Fitness Open 8:00^{am} - 3:00^{pm} Aquatics until 2:30^{pm}
Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed

Hillel Tourism?!

By Rabbi Sara Rich

We all know that Buffalo is a fun place for tourism, but did you know that it is on the must-visit list for our Hillel partners?



In mid-October, Hillel of Buffalo hosted a site visit from Charlie Buckholtz, the Director of the Organizational Design Lab (ODL). ODL is a partnership between Tulane Hillel and Hillel International, and provides innovation training and consultation to a select group of eight campus Hillels. Hillel of Buffalo joined this cohort to gain support for its efforts to grow the organization to better serve the students on the campuses in Western New York.

During his visit, Charlie spent two days with the staff getting to know more about campus life and the challenges and opportunities for the Hillel of Buffalo. He led the staff through an exercise of articulating our Hillel's values, which in turn informs the mindset with which we approach our work. Some key areas of this mindset are: being inclusive, welcoming, encouraging of discovery, and open to new ideas. Charlie also led the staff through a branding exercise, to help us articulate what sets Hillel apart as a campus organization and how we can express to students the impact that involvement with Hillel can have on their college experience.

The ODL program is two years long, and involves a process of learning

about the students, and intentionally reaching out to students who have not been represented in our community. The information that we discover from speaking with them will help inform our strategy and programmatic offerings moving forward. Charlie will return each semester for the duration of the program, and we look forward to continuing to show him lots of Buffalove.

Our fun with visitors continued the following week as we welcomed two more Hillel staff to Buffalo. Hillel International has an executive training program called Accelerate, which provides current Hillel professionals who aspire to become Executive Directors with leadership coaching and training in the skills that are not normally part of their portfolio, such as fundraising and board governance.

Part of the program involves a site visit to shadow a Hillel Director, and we were honored to be chosen as a Hillel to visit. Carly Froomkin-Burak, the Assistant Director of Hillel at University of Illinois and Deb Fendrich, Assistant Director of Hillel of Milwaukee, spent two days in Buffalo learning about the role of the Director at this Hillel, and meeting with key lay leadership and

staff who could answer their questions and share feedback about best practices in working with the Hillel Director.

Although the visit was designed to be as informative as possible for Carly and Deb, Hillel of Buffalo benefitted from hearing about the best practices on their campuses and learning about new ways to approach our work. The visit was yet another reminder of how fortunate we feel to be part of this strong network of colleagues, around the world, who share the goal of enriching the lives of Jewish students.

Later in the semester, we look forward

to welcoming Michal Dicker, an Israel Education Director at Hillel International who is helping us to formulate a campus Israel engagement strategy, as well as Adam Pollack, the Director of Hillel Grants, and Aviva Snyder, our Hillel International Campus Support Director. These visits are significant because they represent the high level of interest from Hillel International in the work taking place here in Buffalo, and it shows their investment in our growth and success. If you would like to meet any of our guests during their time in Buffalo, please let me know: rabbisara@hillelsofbuffalo.org.

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EVA BLUM - JFS Holocaust Survivors Support

Eva Blum, formally Eva Wallenfels, has a lightning quick wit and eyes that twinkle mischievously. Born March 1937 in Budapest, Hungary, she was seven and living with her mother, brother and grandmother in a building with 20 apartments when the Nazis came.

“Only Jewish families lived there. When the Nazis came they ordered everyone to gather in the center courtyard area. We were divided into two groups,” she remembers. “My brother was in the group with my mom. Me and grandma were in the other group. My brother’s group was told to go get some warmer clothing before being taken away. As he went with my mother to our apartment, she told him to get me and take us to the attic and do not come down until the group left. He listened to her instruction and this is the reason my brother and I survived.”

When it was safe, someone took both Eva and her brother into a protected home. “My aunt lived there and was taking care of many



Eva Blum

children who were able to get there. My mother was taken away to the concentration camp in Ravensbrück, Germany,” she says.

In April 1945, Eva’s mother was freed by the American army. But she came back to Budapest sick, and died of sepsis within the year. During the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Eva escaped alone to Germany. Her brother and his girlfriend escaped to the U.S., but later arranged for her to come to America too. “My brother

lived in Buffalo. He was working at DuPont,” Eva recalls. Her brother was able to get a stipend from Jewish Family Service to help his sister resettle. Jewish Family Service also helped Eva to find work.

Eva Blum earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University at Buffalo and worked at Roswell Park until 1982. She then worked with her husband, Julius Blum, in their family business until his death. Their custom home building business still operates today under their sons David and Jeffrey. Eva also has a daughter who lives in Portland, Oregon.

When asked if JFS Holocaust Survivors support has been helpful to her, Eva’s eyes twinkle almost audibly. “Absolutely!” she says. Then, aside, with winking mischief: “I was tempted to say everything the opposite, but then I said ‘people don’t have a sense of humor so I better be telling the truth...’”



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PROFESSOR TAMAR RUDAVSKY - ON TIME & CREATION @ UB

On October 11th, the UB Department of Jewish Thought enjoyed a stimulating lecture from visiting professor Dr. Tamar Rudavsky on the nature of time as argued by al-Ghazzali (11th century-Muslim), Maimonides (12th century-Jewish), and Edmund Husserl (20th century-German Jewish). Principally, she was intrigued by a resemblance between al-Ghazzali and Husserl.

Dr. Rudavsky began with a review of Maimonides' understanding of time and the passage of time, which is based firmly on Aristotelian principles of things in motion creating time, that things or events happen sequentially in time, and of the existence of a past, a present, and a future. Thus, according to Maimonides, G-d alone is eternal and thus does not live in time; the Torah He created through speech, and man is endowed with free will, which can only unfold through time.

She then proceeded to present al-Ghazzali's rejection of this understanding in favor of an atomistic

conception of time. Al-Ghazzali was active at the end of a long period during which Greek philosophy had had a tremendous influence on medieval Muslim and Jewish thinkers. As a result, there was a furious and ongoing debate between parties adhering to Aristotelian notions of motion and time and causality, and those in reaction, determined to safeguard the doctrine of divine omnipotence, pre-determination, and the eternity of G-d and the Qur'an. So, according to al-Ghazzali, unity of things in time does not exist; the world has no coherence without the ongoing intervention of G-d.

The world is only coherent because G-d in His mercy recreates a seemingly orderly world at every single moment anew. By observing this seeming order, we humans develop mental habits which help us to understand our environment. But we should know that at any moment G-d can create what we would call a miracle (or a catastrophe), i.e. a deviation, in what we would assume to be the 'natural order.' According to al-Ghazzali, this is no miracle; rather, it is G-d controlling events. Any objective notion of time for al-Ghazzali muddies G-d's role.

Enter Husserl. Is it strange to find commonalities between the ideas of a 20th century German-Jewish philosopher and those of a medieval Muslim thinker? Husserl focuses his attention on the individual, and the individual's perceptions of the world in the present,

i.e. now. In order to describe how a person can retain a sustained sense of self in time, despite the fact that time is just a series of "nows" (analogous to al-Ghazzali's infinitesimal time-units), Husserl looks at the functions of memory and anticipation to explain how an individual's memory of the past (al-Ghazzali's mental habits) helps to anticipate future events, thereby bridging the two so that they seem continuous. Thus, analogous conceptions of time may be used to explain two radically different world-views: one insisting on the centrality of G-d and the other of the individual.

The lecture was attended by some forty undergraduate and graduate students as well as community members, and it sparked a lively Q&A and discussion.

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Stuart Scheff is a Lawley partner and manager of the Amherst branch. His responsibilities include management of staff, sales team and operations. He has over 30 years within the insurance industry. Prior to merging with Lawley, Stuart was the 3rd generation to operate Scheff Insurance, his family's insurance agency. Stuart is a Board Member of Leadership Buffalo, graduate of University at Buffalo's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and finance committee member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo.

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Steven Sanders, CPA is a small accounting firm, specializing in the tax and accounting needs of small businesses. His services include, individual and business tax return preparation, business consultations, payroll preparation, book-keeping, financial and estate planning, IRS audit support and financial statement preparation. Steven is a member of the NYS Society of Certified Public Accountants, The American Institute for Certified Public Accountants, Amherst South Rotary and Past President of Buffalo Va'ad HaKashruth.

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Roger Schapiro, has been part of the local Buffalo insurance industry for over 25 years. His focus is on personal insurance products, tailoring custom policies for each client. He makes it a priority to be available to answer questions and to help when the unexpected happens. Roger lives in East Amherst with his wife and three children. He volunteers with Kosher Meals on Wheels and is proud to be a part of this organization.

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Gary May joined Lawley in January 2009 and has over 40 years of experience in the insurance industry. He enjoys working with area businesses and individuals in reviewing their insurance needs. Gary is dedicated to providing his clients with comprehensive coverages and superior service. Gary graduated from Kenmore West High School in 1967 and SUNY at Fredonia in 1971 with a BA degree in economics.

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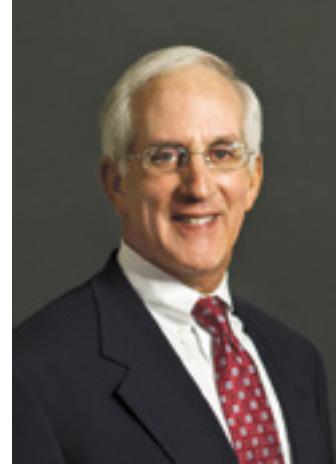


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Vincent Smith, is a Buffalo area native and a graduate of Williamsville East High School and St. Bonaventure University. Vincent joined L&M in 1999 and after completing his graduate studies in Finance and Accounting, he became a licensed advisor in 2002. Vincent focuses on long term client relationships and the construction of comprehensive financial plans based on his clients long term financial goals and objectives. Vincent lives locally with his wife Colleen, and three children, Benjamin, Amelia and Liam.

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Fred Holender is responsible for all administrative and compliance functions at Lawley. He has expertise in insurance coverage, primarily for companies that provide products and services to their customers. His career began in 1974 and merged with Lawley in 1996. Fred is active in insurance-related legislation. He is Immediate Past President of the Professional Insurance Agents Association of NY, a trade association representing independent insurance agents and brokers in NYS. Fred is President of the Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Association.



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Brian J. Jensen CFP® has had the pleasure of advising businesses and individuals since 1980. He provides a full range of services including investment management, insurance, retirement and estate planning. Brian has instructed Continuing Professional Education for the Internal Revenue Service and the NYS Insurance Department. A past president of Buffalo's Society of Financial Service Professionals, Brian is a Chartered Life Underwriter, a Chartered Financial Consultant, and an Accredited Investment Fiduciary®.



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Steven D. Goodwin founded the Goodwin Insurance Agency in 1987, which is now celebrating its 32nd Anniversary. Goodwin Insurance provides a full menu of Individual and Group Insurance Products. The firm focuses on the design of Executive Life, Disability Income and Long-Term Care insurance plans with an emphasis on the areas of Business Succession and Estate Planning. The Goodwin Agency serves the needs of a diverse and growing roster of individual and corporate clients.



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Steve Jacobs joined Lawley in January 1996. Previously, he was the Vice President of Freedman-Harris Agency from January 1984 to December 1995. Prior to that, Steve was the Vice President of the Michael M. Harris Agency Inc. from November 1971 to December 1983. Steve works with Buffalo based manufacturers and wholesalers on understanding their needs and recommending custom insurance solutions for each client. Steve has been a licensed Property Casualty Broker and Life, Accident & Health Broker since November 1971.



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Matthew Burwick, was born and raised in WNY. After graduating with a BS from SUNY Buffalo and earning his MBA from Canisius College, he began his career at HSBC before moving to L&M Financial to partner with his father-in-law. Matthew spends his days helping his clients, residing nationwide, achieve their financial goals. He also works out of offices in Binghamton and Rochester, NY. Matthew lives in East Amherst with his wife, two children, and dog, Moose.

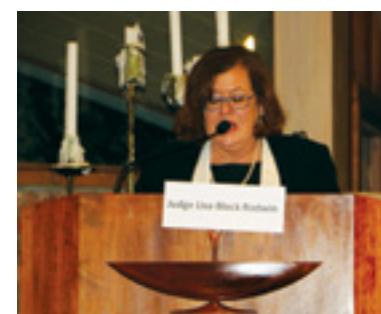
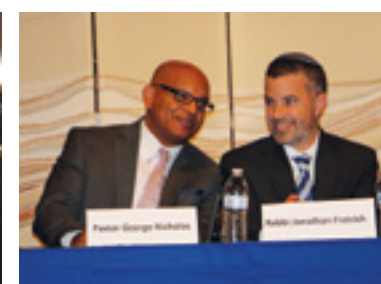
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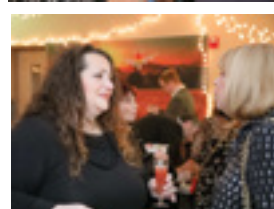
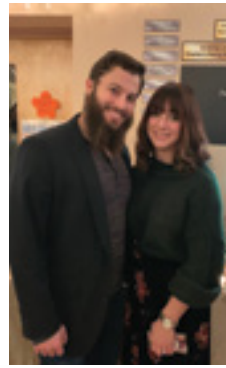


JCRC's Intolerance & Hate: Current Threats and Their Roots: 10/18/18



Comedy, Cocktails & Canapés for Ohr Temimim: 11/4/18

Photos by Sonia Gellman and Alex Kleyman



Remembering Michael Babat: Living Life to its fullest

A Eulogy delivered by Kim Babat - July 5, 2018

My father was born on January 18, 1940. In Judaism the number 18 coincides with the word Chai, meaning life...and boy did my father live it. We often joked that being a Babat was more than a noun... it was a verb. In fact, it is often the only plausible excuse for certain behavior. Well, my father was as Babat as they come.

Loud and boastful: If you don't know it by now, all of your children, sons and daughters-in-law and grandchildren are not the greatest in the world...his are. For every story you told about your family, my father had twenty to tell you. Crazy was the person who opened that Pandora's box. You better not have anywhere to be for awhile because he would hold you captive. Whenever Stephen and I or one of our kids had an accomplishment, I would hesitate to tell him because I knew "there would be no living with my father."

One of his favorite stories was the summer I studied for the Bar Exam. Almost every night, I would make my way over to my parents' house for dinner. We would eat and then Mom would do the dishes while

Dad and I would sit on the patio and he would quiz me on my notes. I was taking the NY and Massachusetts Bar Exams and because they were being administered three days in a row, back to back, I was afraid to fly to Boston for fear that my flight would be delayed or cancelled. My father picked me up at 5:00pm after the NYS Bar exam and he drove me all the way to Boston. Arriving at 2:00am, he stayed up the remainder of the night to make sure I wouldn't be late. Months later, the day before the results were being released, I remember getting a call from him. "No need to lose sleep tonight over the results, counselor." "What are you talking about?" I asked. Apparently, he had the chutzpah to call up a friend of his who was an Appellate Court Judge and ask him to check "the list" which he knew was sitting in the Appellate Division. My dad wanted to be the one to tell me I passed.

For almost sixteen years I worked side by side with my father and wonderful building mates, colleagues and friends. We had lunch together almost daily. Crossword puzzles and sudoku filled the spaces between our joking and conversation. We would ask each other legal advice and share war stories of our days. He loved to tell people that he worked for 25 years as a lawyer and it only took me being in his office for 15 minutes before I told him all the things he had been doing wrong all those years.

Generous: I remember when I first started practicing, he burst into my office one day and told me to stop what I was doing...that I needed to go draft a will. It was then that I learned that my father was a pro bono volunteer Hospice lawyer. He had gotten a call that there was a patient in immediate need of a will. With days left to live, the patient was worried that they had not left their affairs in order. He said "this is what we do. This is what makes our profession noble." He told me that we are blessed with skills and abilities to help other people and this is when we rise.

Competitive: If you weren't already aware, competitiveness is a core Babat trait. Anything and everything can be made into a competition. As kids, the Babat girls



played softball. I became a pitcher. My father pitched in a pretty competitive lawyer league. He and I would go outside and he would teach me how to throw knuckle balls, curve balls, risers, change-ups and sinkers. He also was the assistant coach for our team. I remember one particular game, we were playing the Yankees. My father always hated the Yankees, professional or otherwise. Nevertheless, our team was up by about 12 runs and I was on fire. A good friend of mine, who was not much of an athlete and hadn't gotten on base all night, was up to bat for the Yankees. I had already thrown two strikes and no balls. In this situation, any good pitcher knows to throw the hardest, fastest pitch you

got. My father called time out and walked out to the mound. "Walk her," he said. I just looked at him. "walk her," he said. So I did. Our team won the game. On the way home, I was irritated and asked him why he didn't let me strike her out. He said that being a gracious winner can sometimes be harder than losing. That being a good sport means knowing when to throw the heat and knowing when not to. We don't have to beat someone else down to build ourselves up. And, Babats don't gloat...or not too often.

The last trait I want to mention of a Babat is knowing how to make a grand entrance. If you know any of us, you know that we have a way of letting you know when we've arrived. Big mouths, loud talk, funny jokes...very Babat-like. My father was the master. In fact, I was reminded this week how he used to like to arrive late to synagogue with the family on Holy Days. He would walk behind my mother and us kids and march us straight up the aisle to the front row. He took great pleasure in watching people watch his family walk in. But my father also knew how to make an exit. Never loud, or drawn out...he was a master in the art of sneaking out..."make it quick," he would say. So too was the way he left us. Quickly, quietly, and peacefully...leaving nothing needing to be said. Well done, Dad. Well done.

Each month we will feature a eulogy of a member of our own community who has recently died. Please contact Ellen Goldstein at ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org if you would like to share your words.



Mrs. Donna Pearl (Sohinki) Newman, born on January 26, 1944 in Buffalo, New York, to the late Rose Sohinki and the late Louis Sohinki, passed away at age 74 on October 25, 2018 in Chandler, Arizona. Donna was the loving wife of Joel Newman. She was preceded in death by her brother, Gerald Sohinki. Donna is survived by her sons, Marc Newman and Neil Newman; daughter, Julie (Newman) Galvan; brother, Arnie Sohinki (Jo Dickson Sohinki); and grandchildren, Derrick Newman, Patrick Newman, Mya Galvan, and Katelyn Galvan. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate in Donna's name to the Rose and Louis Sohinki Staff Training Fund at the JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852 or to the American Heart Association & American Stroke Association's Tribute Program. Friends and family paid their respects at the graveside service that was held on Thursday, November 1 in Chandler, Arizona.

In Remembrance

The following people in our community passed away during the period from October 15, 2018- November 14, 2018.* May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



Shirley Bloom

Gerald Chait

Elliot Goldman

Jerome Goldstein

Judith Goldstein

Donna Sohinki Newman

Sylvia Strauss

**If we inadvertently missed printing the listing of your loved one, please write to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org and we will include the name next month.*

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(NOT) THE LAST WORD

Getting in order to Give

By Steven J. Weiss

I consider myself so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the Jewish community as the president of our Buffalo Jewish Federation. Now that I am closing in on the end of my term, I have taken the time to reflect on what has been two extraordinary years of my life. The nearly endless number of meetings, phone calls and emails have yielded a lengthy list of accomplishments, but these aren't my accomplishments; they're our accomplishments and have resulted from the collective dedication and commitment of the incredible people - staff, professionals, volunteers and donors - with whom I have had the honor to serve.

The greatest accomplishment though, is more like the realization of a dream come true, the culmination of which was represented by nearly 80 of us traveling together to Israel. Early on in my term, Federation CEO Rob Goldberg had the idea of a huge trip to Israel. Not a fundraising mission, he said, but in the vernacular of our engagement conference, "an experience" and that's precisely what we had together—an amazing community experience.

My intention in this last article of my term is to share with you one reflection from our trip that crystalizes a concept that has profoundly inspired me and my family, and I hope that it may inspire you too.

One of the tracks available on the trip was a visit to the mystical city of Tzfat (aka Safed). I hadn't been to Tzfat in several years so I was really looking forward to going back. Tzfat is the highest city in the upper Galilee of Israel, not far from our partnership region. It is considered one of Judaism's four holy cities, along with Jerusalem, Hebron and Tiberius and has remained as the center of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism. We weren't there for 10 minutes when our guide Yossef Idan presented us with a lesson on "giving and getting" that blew me away as much or more than the first time I heard it nearly 5 years earlier in the very spot where we were standing. We learned of the four levels of human behavior - from the lowest form (getting in order to get) whereby we earn a living with the sole intention of satisfying our own needs and desires, to the highest form of human behavior (getting in order to give) whereby



At the end of the Buffalo Israel Experience, outgoing Federation President Steve Weiss with BIE guides Yosef Idan, Shira Boso and Ezra Korman, and incoming Federation President Leslie Shuman Kramer

we earn a living for the purpose of and with the intention of being able to give. When thinking about these two extremes, intuitively, it would be easy to conclude which one God would view as favorable and which one He would reward.

The Bible confirms God's willingness to reward the idea of operating with the intention of "getting in order to give" as reflected in the commentary for the second aliyah in Parshat Toldot (Genesis 26:12) which reads "when they then calculated the yield for purposes of

taking tithes, they found that it had miraculously increased 100 fold in the merit of Isaac's intention to tithe it. Isaac's true goal in sowing grain was to be afforded the opportunity to give charity to the poor. Isaac wished to fulfill the commandment of tithing, which the Torah stipulates can only be performed with one's own produce."

To further illustrate his point, Yossef proceeded to pull out his mini white

board and draw pictures of a pipe and a cup, which he said reflected these two extremes of human behavior. The pipe representing the flow of energy in from the top and out from the bottom, which is "getting in order to give," the highest form of behavior. The cup represents a person who keeps what they have to and for themselves, or "getting in order to get."

You needn't look any further than the map of Israel to see this in real life. Toward the top right edge of the Israel border near the Golan Heights is the Kinneret—aka Sea of Galilee. Further south along the same line is the Dead Sea. Both bodies are fed by the Jordan River, except that the Sea of Galilee is the pipe- water runs in from the top and out from the bottom. The Sea of Galilee is alive and represents life. The Dead Sea is the cup. It only receives and has no exit. It doesn't share anything and is of course - dead. Yossef challenged us to think about what kind of person we want to be.

In closing, I'll share a quote someone gave me that represents these giving concepts with perfect clarity. "When you exist in the great state of gratitude, you become a person who only wants to give. You become so grateful that it takes over your life, and you can't find enough opportunities in a day to give. You give joy, you give love, you give money, you give appreciation, you give compliments, and you give kindness. You give the best of yourself in your job, in your relationships, and to strangers. You will know when you have really found true gratitude, because you will become a giver. One who is truly grateful cannot be anything else."

In many ways, our trip to Israel - our collective experience, is the perfect close to my term as president. While I am leaving this role, I am feeling renewed and reinvigorated and more devoted than ever to "getting in order to give" to this community that I care so deeply about. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the community, and I thank you for allowing me to be a "pipe" which has given me the means and the desire to give more. L'Shalom.

Steven J. Weiss is president of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

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