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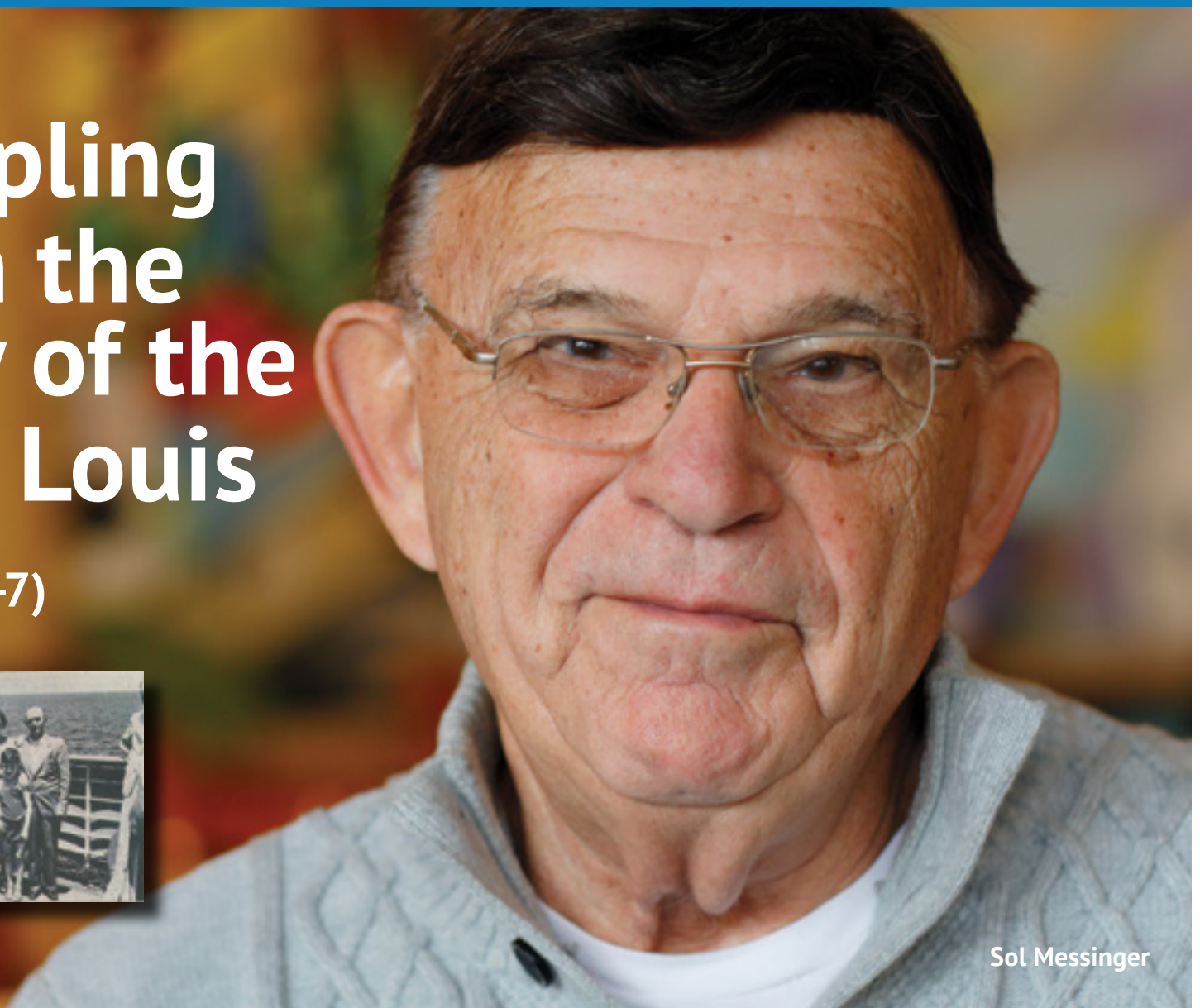
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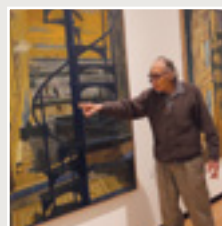
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Grappling with the Legacy of the SS St. Louis

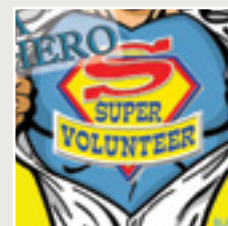
(6-7)



Sol Messinger



LOOK:
BREVERMAN SHOW
AT BURCHFIELD
PENNEY
(8)

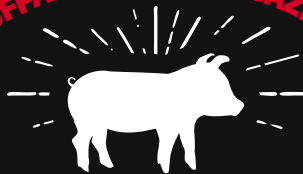


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January 2019

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Another new year begins, bringing echoes of past, familiar hatred. The wise face of Dr. Sol Messinger, one of the few surviving passengers of the 1939 ill-fated SS St. Louis voyage on which passengers were not allowed to land in North America, shines out from the cover of this month's *Jewish Journal*. Sol was in attendance this past November in Ottawa for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's apology to those St. Louis passenger turned away by Canada. You can read about Sol's reaction to the apology and also read Trudeau's speech on pages 6 and 7.

Our Buffalo community is still feeling the pain of the murders of 11 individuals on October 29 in Pittsburgh. Rev. William Hennessy, Pastor of North Presbyterian Church in Williamsville, and also a participant on the Geo-Political Trip to Israel in 2017, offers commentary that anti-Semitism in any form is not acceptable. Page 14 features a photo and commentary by Jay Mesnekoﬀ about his participation in many of the funerals of the victims. And journalist and Buffalo native Lisa Goldstein Steinfeld writes about her glorious trip to Israel that was broken by the murders in Pittsburgh where she now lives. Lisa is the daughter of Buffalonians Bruce and Betsy Goldstein and the daughter-in-law of Buffalonians Ed and Ellen Steinfeld. She is also my cousin and you will see by the photo on page 15 accompanying her story, which first appeared in *Hadassah Magazine* online, that I literally ran into her at the Kotel in Israel Erev Shabbat—October 28—when her trip to Israel and our Buffalo Israel Experience coincided.

But it is a new year, and we have to look optimistically to the future. We heartily welcome Leslie Shuman Kramer as the new president of Buffalo Jewish Federation. Leslie's energy, optimism and "can-do" attitude beautifully complement the strong foundation in community relations, among other things, established during the past two years by immediate past president Steven Weiss.

The friendships and partnerships being established through the re-invigorated Jewish Community Relations Committee, chaired by Nina Lukin and Dr. Ted Steinberg and staffed by Mara Koven-Gelman, are a welcome reality in our community as we meet anti-Semitism head on with discussion, friendship, education and mutual understanding and relationships. May

2019 brings greater opportunities for partnership and the strength to stand up to the evils we encounter. Happy New Year!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Dr. Sol Messinger, a Buffalo resident and one of the few remaining survivors of the SS St. Louis, spoke with the Jewish Journal about Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's apology to the passengers for Canada's turning them away in 1939. Photo for the *Jewish Journal* by kc kratt.

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Deborah Goldman Receives Cohn Impact Award

Last year, Federation created a new community leadership award to honor past Federation President Ann Holland Cohn (z"l), who led with courage and determination and made a significant impact in the greater Buffalo community. Ann also served as President of the Jewish Community Center and was an active leader in the American Red Cross and Buffalo Seminary. Last year's inaugural award honored Lawrence Levite (z"l).

This year's Ann Holland Cohn Community Impact Award was presented to Deborah A. Goldman. Like Ann, Deborah leads within the Jewish Community as well as in the greater Buffalo community, and always through a focused Jewish lens. A past chair of the Bureau of Jewish Education and member of Federation's Board, Deborah and her husband Grant have also made a significant impact at Temple Beth Zion, where they are long-time members. Together they chaired the Kol Nidre campaign – twice - and recently donated the resources to enable the Temple to buy modern High Holy Day prayer books in memory of Grant's parents. As Deborah shared, "TBZ is a warm, welcoming, and interesting place for our family. As I got more involved, I did more. If I come into a room and people aren't organized, well I'll organize them;



Sharon Levite and Deborah A. Goldman

I'm a planner."

In the greater Buffalo community, Deborah has been and continues to be busy planning and leading. She is the past president of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) and the past chair of Friends of Night People, an organization that helps the poor, homeless and destitute in Buffalo. She also volunteers at Children's Hospital with her dog Ginger, and is the current chair of Planned Parenthood. "I've always been a supporter of reproductive rights," she says. "I want to make sure women and men have the knowledge and access to health care to make the right decision for them."

Deborah is a volunteer who leads with vigor and vision, and a philanthropist who, together with Grant, gives in a deeply thoughtful way, focusing on how they can make an impact locally in arts and culture, literacy, reproductive rights and the Jewish community, and how they can help organizations to sustain their good work.

Leslie Kramer Elected New President of Federation



Leslie Shuman Kramer

The Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors unanimously voted to elect Leslie Shuman Kramer as President for 2019-2020 at the 115th Annual Meeting of the Federation held Thursday, November 29, 2018 at New Era Field. Shuman Kramer succeeds Steven J. Weiss after having served as a Vice President of Federation and Chair of the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Most recently, Shuman Kramer co-led the 2018 Buffalo Israel Experience with Weiss and Board of Governor member Sheri Rodman. She is also the recipient of Jewish Federation of North America's prestigious national Kipnis Wilson/Freedland Award, to be presented later this month at the Lion of Judah Conference in Florida. You can read Shuman Kramer's Annual Meeting remarks on page 4.

Also at the Annual Meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve as either new or returning Governors of the Federation Board: Steve Awner, Jeff Blum, Iris Danziger, Jake Katz, Marina Maulucci-Finkelstein, Harvey Sanders, Joni Shatkin, and Ken Shuman. Officers elected to serve include Blaine S. Schwartz and Marjorie Godin Bryen, Vice Presidents; Shelly Yellen-Treasurer, and Andrew J. Shaevel-Secretary.

Shmuel and Rochie Shanowitz Receive Kantor Professional Service Award

The Judith & Daniel Kantor Award was inaugurated last year as a way to honor a Jewish professional who has demonstrated a level of dedication and passion for his or her work much like Judy and Danny, who as a team left their mark throughout Western New York.

This year's Kantor Award was presented to Rabbi Shmuel and Rochie Shanowitz. Originally from Brooklyn, NY and Buenos Aires, Argentina respectively, the couple arrived in Buffalo in 1994 where the Rabbi took on the role of principal of the Jewish Heritage Day school, (now known as the Ohr Temimim school) and Rochie would teach and eventually run the school administration. Then, there were 12 students and today the school serves nearly 100!

The Shanowitz' take pride in that the school plays a leading role in Jewish education with many talented



Shmuel and Rochie Shanowitz

and accomplished alumnae. Their graduates go on to build Jewish families and homes, developing into pillars of the Jewish community. Several of the school graduates are now teaching at the school and serving on the school board.

In their personal lives, the Shanowitz' are most proud of their 7 children and 2 grandchildren. Rochie serves on the board at the Young Israel

of Greater Buffalo. She assists with the Women's Mivkah and organizes meals and support for couples who have become new parents.

During the Jewish holidays Rabbi Shanowitz and his children visit the elderly, bringing tradition and Jewish experience to those who are homebound, including several Holocaust Survivors. In addition to being a regular at Young Israel, during the years that the Jewish Federation Apartments held Shabbat and Jewish Holiday services, the Rabbi would walk over 3 miles to help ensure there was a Minyan for the elderly.

The Shanowitz' commitment in serving the Jewish youth in our city and the community at large continues today with the same enthusiasm and dedication as it was the day they began, over 25 years ago.

A Message from the New President: Leslie Shuman Kramer

The following remarks were presented by Leslie Shuman Kramer at the 115th Annual Meeting of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, November 29 at New Era Field.

The first thing I want to convey as I begin my tenure is that I welcome input from each of you and hope you know I am accessible to listen, to discuss, and to share in commitment to our future. I also invite you to participate. Our Buffalo Jewish Federation is a team of talented professionals and a large and growing cadre of diverse and passionate volunteers. It is an exciting time for Federation and an important organization to focus our passions. I know that our teamwork and collaboration is what will power our decisions as we navigate forward together.

I'd like to take just a moment to share a few reflections as I take the baton from Steven Weiss, immediate Past Federation President.

Our beloved Jewish Buffalo faces a number of challenges, but each challenge presents us with opportunities.

One such opportunity is for our leadership to work closely with the Board and professionals at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, exploring how together we strengthen a highly functional fundraising arm of the community in endowment development and annual fundraising. Primarily focusing on relationships, we need a broad and collaborative framework for both enabling donors to find the right fit for their philanthropy and an avenue to secure funding for agencies and programs vital for this generation.

We need to take a step back and consider how we raise money for our own annual Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, how we structure our fundraising and how we secure our services for future generations. This is an area that Steven Weiss and I, as past Campaign Chairs, have talked about a great deal. Seeking guidance from Jewish Federations of

I thank Steven for his commitment, leadership, friendship and guidance to the community, and also to me personally.



Leslie Shuman Kramer offers her President's Message at Federation's 2018 Annual Meeting

North America (JFNA), we aim to create a comprehensive plan that creates a 21st century methodology to engage current and future donors around the pressing needs of our community.

In light of the recent Pittsburgh synagogue attack, in concert with the JCC, Federation convened agency and synagogue leaders in November to meet

Jewish Engagement and Learning is in its early stages of growth, and we are excited to have begun plans for outside-the-box formats to incorporate engagement and learning opportunities for all ages. For example, the week before Thanksgiving, the Center facilitated 10 programs and 4 leadership meetings; engaging over 175 individuals in one week.

Buffalo Jewish Federation is a team of talented professionals and a large and growing cadre of diverse and passionate volunteers. It is an exciting time for Federation and an important organization to focus our passions.

with law enforcement and terrorist experts, both locally from NY State and from SCN, JFNA's Secured Community Networks, to begin a coordinated plan to ensure that this community and its members have effective security and emergency response plans in place. Pittsburgh was a wake-up call and presents us with an opportunity to create a better way to protect our community.

We also face major challenges AND opportunities with Jewish Education. Kadimah is at a crossroads and exploring options for their future while a Federation task force considers long term options for Community Jewish Day School education.

Simultaneously, our new Center for

Our beloved Jewish Buffalo faces a number of challenges, but each challenge presents us with opportunities.

I've been part of this transition for the past 3 years, as Campaign Chair, as a Team member planning the Buffalo Israel Experience, and as a board officer. It's empowering and effective, and we will continue to focus everything we do through this lens.

I would like to publically acknowledge and thank outgoing President Steven Weiss.

Steven has served as our president for the past two years, and has done so with all of his heart and soul. I've known Steven for a long time, I proudly call him my friend, and I know that when Steven puts his heart into something he is all in. And he is all in in this community. He has given us a gift through his thoughtful, intelligent, passionate leadership and, together with his wife Ellen, his magnanimous philanthropy, which touches each and every one of us in this community.

There is a quote from Ben Zoma in Ethics of the Fathers that describes Steven: "Who is wise? One who learns from every man... Who is strong? One who overpowers his inclinations... Who is rich? One who is satisfied with his lot... Who is honorable? One who honors his fellows."

I thank Steven for his commitment, leadership, friendship and guidance to the community, and also to me personally. I know I have Steven's big shoes to fill, and I know I will continue to call on him for advice as we move forward these next 2 years.

While in Israel this Fall, I received a small ceramic charm. On one side is a Jewish star and on the other side this is written: "You are part of the Story". That charm really spoke to me. For ours is a continuing story, thousands of years in the making. Naturally, it ebbs and flows, and each generation makes its mark, defining what it is to be Jewish and how to BE that Jewish community. Now is our time. And we are all, each of us, part of the story. Thank You!

115th Federation Annual Meeting at New Era Field



*Wishing everyone a
happy and healthy new year*



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Grappling with the Legacy of the

Retired Buffalo pathologist and Holocaust Survivor Dr. Sol Messinger and the 20 + other living survivors of the ill-fated SS St. Louis received an apology in November from the Government of Canada for refusing them entry into the country when their ship was denied a landing port in Cuba in 1939 while trying to escape from Nazi Germany. 79 years late, but a heartfelt apology, nonetheless.

Sol was an invited member of the audience, along with 4 other St. Louis survivors, at a session of the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons in Ottawa November 7 when the Canadian Prime Minister made an unprecedented formal apology for Canada's refusal to take in the refugees aboard the St. Louis in 1939.

"It was a beautiful speech," Dr. Messinger told the Jewish Journal. "The survivors were invited to Ottawa to hear it, and there were four others from New York," Dr. Messinger said. "We listened to governmental business first, then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arose, walked to the podium and made the speech. "For me, it was an extremely moving and emotional speech, so much so that at one point I started to cry. He (Trudeau) apologized that Canada kept the doors closed to the SS St. Louis passengers in 1939, which, unfortunately, the US did as well. It was a very positive experience for me and the other St. Louis survivors in attendance."

"The fact that PM Trudeau was willing to do that publically in Parliament really says something very good about Canada," Messinger added. "And then, after that, there was a reception which Trudeau attended, and I got a chance to speak to him. He is a real mensch."

Dr. Messinger said that the United States apologized once, though the Survivors had to push for it for 25 years, and when it came, was a very small meeting of the Survivors in Washington and was given by a low-level US State Dept. person. He said that that experience was certainly very different from what Trudeau did in Canada.

Sol Messinger was born Salo Messinger, the only child to Paula and Zolman "Sam" Messinger on June 16, 1932, in Berlin, Germany. Sol's parents were Polish immigrants who came to Berlin a few years before that because

of declining economic conditions and the severe anti-Semitism in Poland. Sol's father worked as a tailor. Sol recalled that when he was six years old, in 1938, he first became aware of the existence of anti-Semitism because of the dramatic changes in his family's life and surrounding community. On October 28 of that year, Sol's father, along with thousands of other Polish-born Jewish men, was arrested and deported to Poland. A week and a half later, during Kristallnacht, the synagogue that the Messinger family attended was burned down.

In 1939, while awaiting a



Sol and his parents aboard the SS St. Louis

visa to the United States, Sol's family obtained a visa to Cuba and departed Germany onboard the SS St. Louis. Sol's father's two sisters—Frieda Lieberman and Rose Meyer were already in Cuba. (Frieda Lieberman was the grandmother of Buffalo Jewish Community members Rhonda Cohen Wise and Larry Cohen.) Upon arrival in Havana, Sol's family and hundreds of other Jewish refugees were told that their visas had been invalidated by the Cuban government and that they would be sent back to Germany. Requests for entry into other countries including the US were made to no avail. On their return journey to Europe, finally two days before they were to land in Hamburg, the passengers were informed that Great Britain, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands had each agreed to allow a percentage of the refugees to enter their borders.

Sol and his parents were sent to Belgium in June 1939, where they settled in Brussels. When Germany invaded Belgium in May



Photo of Sol Messinger courtesy of *The Buffalo News*. Photo by Mark Mulville.

1940, they fled by train to France and took refuge in the Spanish-border town of Savignac, which later became part of the territory controlled by the Vichy government. In October 1940, Sol and his family were arrested by the French police and taken to Agde, an internment camp in southern France near Montpellier. With the assistance of an underground movement, Sol and his mother escaped on December 24, 1940, and returned to their village to await Sol's father, who escaped several days later. Sol's father became the village tailor and Sol attended school in a one-room schoolhouse.

Two years later, Sol's family obtained documents to immigrate to the United States and in Lisbon, Portugal boarded a ship—the Serpa Pinto—that arrived in New York in June 1942. "We arrived in New York on June 24, 1942, which I celebrate as my second birthday, the day on which I literally started my new life here in America. I had already had my 10th birthday during the two week voyage across the Atlantic," Messinger said. Shortly after, Sol

and his family moved to Buffalo, New York where his aunts had already taken up residence. In Buffalo, Sol finished his secondary education, attended the University of Buffalo, where he obtained his medical degree. Later, Sol served as a pathologist in the United States Army.

In 1989, Sol participated in the 50th reunion of the passengers onboard the St. Louis and later became involved in Holocaust education and the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo by speaking at schools and taking part in documentaries.

For Dr. Sol Messinger, The story of the SS St. Louis is historic, and it teaches a lesson for today, which is that if you are Jewish, you can never be certain that you are safe— but the world is now a very different place today than it was in 1939 because Israel exists. And we have to make sure Israel continues to exist, he said.

This story was put together by interviewing Dr. Messinger, and also includes biographical material taken from the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo's website www.hrcbuffalo.org, the ADL, the USC Shoah Foundation and Yad Vashem.

**Sol Messinger to be honored by
National Federation for Just Communities
on April 3. Call 853-9596 for info.**

SS St. Louis...79 years later

Canada's Formal Apology for Barring SS St. Louis in 1939

The following is a transcript of remarks made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the House of Commons on Nov. 7.

On May 15, 1939, more than 900 German Jews boarded an ocean liner known as the St. Louis. The passengers had been stripped of their possessions, chased out of their homes, forced out of their schools and banned from their professions by their own government. Their synagogues had been burnt. Their stores raided.

Their clothing scarred with yellow stars, they had been forced to add "Israel" or "Sarah" to the names they had known their whole lives. Women and men who had once contributed so much to their country had been labelled as aliens, traitors and enemies – and treated as such. Persecuted, robbed, jailed and killed because of who they were. Nazi Germany had denied them their citizenship and their fundamental rights. And yet, when the St. Louis set sail from Hamburg that fateful Monday, the more than 900 stateless passengers onboard considered themselves lucky.

Lucky because they each carried on board an entrance visa to Cuba, a rare chance to escape the tyranny of the Nazi regime under Adolf Hitler. But by the time the ship docked in Havana Harbour, things would take a turn for the worse. The Cuban government refused to recognize their entrance visas and only a few passengers were allowed to disembark. Even after men, women and children threatened mass suicide, entry was denied. And so continued their long and tragic quest for safety. They would request asylum from Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Panama. Each said no.

On June 2, the MS St. Louis was forced to leave Havana with no guarantee that they would be welcomed elsewhere. And after the Americans had denied their appeals, they sought refuge in Canada. But the Liberal government of Mackenzie King was unmoved by the plight of these refugees. Despite the desperate plea of the Canadian Jewish community, despite the repeated calls by the government's two Jewish caucus



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

members, despite the many letters from concerned Canadians of different faiths, the government chose to turn its back on these innocent victims of Hitler's regime. At the time, Canada was home to just 11-million people, of whom only 160,000 were Jews.

Not a single Jewish refugee was to set foot – let alone settle – on Canadian soil. The MS St. Louis and its passengers had no choice but to return to Europe, where the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and Holland agreed to take in the refugees. And then when the Nazis conquered Belgium, France and Holland, many of them would be murdered in the gruesome camps and gas chambers of the Third Reich.

The story of the St. Louis and its passengers is no isolated incident. The government of Canada was indifferent to the suffering of Jews long before the St. Louis ever set sail for Halifax, and sadly, long after it had returned to Europe. These refugees would have made this country stronger, and its people proud. But the government went to great lengths to ensure that their appeals went nowhere. That their cries for help were left unanswered, for Canada deemed them unworthy of a home, and undeserving of our help.

By 1938, the world was wrestling with a growing refugee crisis. When leaders of all nations convened in Evian to discuss the future of Jews in Europe, no country stepped forward

to drastically increase its quotas. Jews were viewed as a threat to be avoided, rather than the victims of a humanitarian crisis. When Canadian lawmakers returned from Evian, they used their power to further tighten rules around Jewish immigration, legitimizing the anti-Semitic sentiment taking hold at home and abroad.

Bitter resentment towards Jews was enshrined in our policies – the same policies immigration officials would later use to justify their callous response to the St. Louis and its passengers. Of all the allied countries, Canada would admit the fewest Jews between 1933 and 1945. Far fewer than the United Kingdom and significantly less per capita than the United States. And of those it let in, as many as 7,000 of them were labelled as prisoners of war and unjustly imprisoned alongside Nazis. As far as Jews were concerned, none was too many...

...And while decades have passed since we turned our backs on Jewish refugees, time has by no means absolved Canada of its guilt or lessened the weight of its shame. **Today, I rise in this House to issue a long overdue apology to the Jewish refugees Canada turned away. We apologize to the 907 German Jews aboard the MS. St. Louis, as well as their families. We also apologize to others who paid the price of our inaction, whom we doomed to the ultimate horror of the death camps.**

We used our laws to mask our anti-Semitism, our antipathy and our resentment. We are sorry for the callousness of Canada's response. And we are sorry for not apologizing sooner.

We apologize to the mothers and fathers whose children we did not save, to the daughters and sons whose parents we did not help; to the imprisoned Jewish refugees who were forced to relive their trauma next to their tormentors; to the scientists, artists, engineers, lawyers, businessmen, nurses, doctors, mathematicians, pharmacists, poets and students; to every Jew who sought safe haven in Canada, who stood in lines for hours and wrote countless letters.

We refused to help them when we could have. We contributed to sealing the cruel fates of far too many at places like Auschwitz, Treblinka and Belzec. We failed them. And for that, we are sorry. And finally, we apologize to the members of Canada's Jewish community whose voices were ignored, whose calls went unanswered. We were quick to forget the many ways in which they had helped build this country since its inception. Quick to forget that they were our friends and neighbours. That they had educated our youth, cared for our sick and clothed our

poor. Instead, we let anti-Semitism take hold in our communities and become our official policy. We did not hesitate to circumvent their participation, limit their opportunities and discredit their talent. They were meant to feel like strangers in their own homes, aliens in their own land.

We let anti-Semitism take hold in our communities and become our official policy.

We denied them the respect every Canadian, every human being – regardless of origin, regardless of faith – is owed by their government and their fellow citizens. When Canada turned its back on the Jews of Europe, we turned our backs on Jewish Canadians, as well. It was unacceptable then, and it is unacceptable now. Your country failed you, and for that, we are sorry...

...As we stand here today, we must commit ourselves not just to remember, but to act on this tragic history, so that our children and grandchildren flourish in a world in which they are never questioned or attacked because of their identity. Sadly, this is not yet that world. Too many people – of all faiths, from all countries – face persecution. Their lives are threatened simply because of how they pray, what they wear or the last name they bear. They are forced to flee their homes and embark upon perilous journeys in search of safety and a future. This is the world we all live in and this is therefore our collective responsibility.

It is my sincere hope that by issuing this long overdue apology, we can shine a light on this painful chapter of our history and ensure that its lessons are never forgotten. What we can hardly imagine, the passengers of the MS St. Louis, the victims of the Holocaust and their descendants will never forget. And while no words will ever erase their pain, it is our sincere hope that this apology will help them heal. That it will bring them some peace. That it will cement Canada's unwavering commitment to stand with the Jewish community here and around the world in the fight against anti-Semitism.

More than 70 years ago, Canada turned its back on you. But today, Canadians pledge, now and forever, never again.

The Contradictions of Being: Composite works by Harvey Breverman

Solo Show at Burchfield Penney Art Center through February 24

By The Staff of the Burchfield Penney Art Center

UB Professor Emeritus Harvey Breverman is an influential educator, internationally recognized master printer, and painter. The journey of this influential educator, internationally recognized master printer, and has coalesced into an unraveling series of episodes or sequence of meaningful units. This show, which is on display at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center at Buffalo State College, is Breverman's 90th solo exhibition, and consists of more than 50 paintings and drawings, many of which have never been shown publicly before in Western New York.

The Contradictions of Being: Composite Works by Harvey Breverman provides museum-goers with an investigation of alluring montage, uniting disparate elements in a composition. The exhibition will be on view through Sunday, February 24, 2019.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1934, Breverman went to Carnegie-Mellon University where he received his B.F.A. in 1956. From 1956 to 1958 he served with Army Special Services in Korea, and in 1960 earned an M.F.A. from the Ohio University. The following year he moved to Buffalo hired to teach drawing at the University at Buffalo, promoted to full professor in 1969 and in 1999 to distinguished professor of art by the State University of New York Board of Trustees. He led the UB printmaking department until his retirement in 2005.

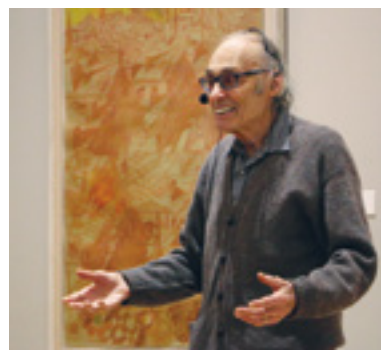
"The Discontinuous Sequence series, the focus of this exhibition created between 1970-1974, evolved in many ways as an immediate reaction to the Vietnam War political unrest on college campuses in the late 1960s and early 1970s," said Tullis Johnson, exhibition curator and manager of archives. "Around the same time, Breverman sat on the committee that approved the inclusion of the department of media studies, founded by Gerald O'Grady, as a part of the UB School of Arts & Letters in 1973. The late Tony Conrad, a faculty member in that program, introduced him to the writings of Soviet film directors Dziga Vertov and Sergei Eisenstein. Eisenstein's essay on the importance of montage, *A Dialectic Approach to Film Form*, was an important influence on work from this period."

Later works included in the exhibition employ the process of montage in other ways. His series *Terezin*, *Polyln* and *Fenster Medina* reflect on the Nazi occupation of Poland and Czechoslovakia during the



Second World War. Various objects and architectural fragments from German concentration camps and synagogues destroyed during the war are used to memorialize the stories of friends and family who were lost or narrowly escaped the terror of that conflict. Reactions to the upheavals of this period of history are less immediate. Given almost half a century to contemplate, these works reflect on the genocide of European Jews between 1941 and 1945, and its lasting impact on the world.

Breverman has been fascinated throughout his career by depictions of things that would not appear to go together in some connected way. "Repeated viewing and what can sustain me is intriguing," he said. "In *Discontinuous Sequence*", my ambition was to create riveting work that stops the viewer in his or her tracks, or in passing it, they decide to return to discover a revelation that one could have never anticipated the first time around. Each piece has



Clockwise from top: *Discontinuous Sequence Series, Triumph*, ca. 1971; Harvey Breverman speaking to an audience at Burchfield-Penney in one of the galleries about his paintings in this show; Breverman pointing to a specific element of a painting in this show.

multiple interpretations; it's not a one line, one-word event though the titles may be condensed or compressed. Imagine various units integrated with one another but separate at the same time."

"What seems to happen along the way generates alternative options...there are no consequences to worry about," he laughed. "The making of the picture reveals defining moments that carry me forward."

The works are far ranging reflecting his interest and abilities in reading, viewing, movies, living through World War II as a kid and politics. "The 72 x 60 representations are so big where when painting in my studio, I couldn't take in the full context all at once," he described. "I would step back and try to jump into that world in the painting, a world half depicted that finally gets resolved in its own way, then I exit eventually."

"What distinguishes this exhibition is the focus

on other brilliant works in his portfolio versus the figurative representations central to what he's so well known for," added Tullis Johnson. "The depictions reflect the things around us and the human spirit."

"I reinvent a set of human circumstances rather than depicting something accurately and making a nice picture, I don't make nice pictures," Breverman confided. "What I do is stimulate the mind and heart in the act of looking; a work will be appreciated on many levels. The depiction and complexity of the human circumstance is central to what I do."

About Harvey Breverman

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Breverman has exhibited in New York, Toronto, London, Amsterdam, Oslo, Paris, Bologna, Moscow, Basel, Barcelona, Kraków, Belgrade, Rome, Milan, Vienna, Honolulu, Tokyo, Caracas, and Rio de Janeiro. His works are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum, Whitney Museum, Jewish Museum and the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; British Museum, London; and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

He received grants and awards from the Tiffany Foundation in 1962, the Netherlands Government in 1965, the New York State Council on the Arts (CAPS) in 1972, the National Endowment for the Arts in 1974 and 1980, and the American Academy/National Institute of Arts and Letters, New York in 1980 and 1981.

Representing the U.S., he participated in International Print Biennales in England, Norway, Spain, Taiwan, China, Japan, Finland, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Egypt, Thailand, and Turkey. Breverman has taught and been a visiting artist at Ohio University, Illinois State, Michigan, Indiana University, Skidmore College, Maryland Institute, William and Mary, Oxford University's Ruskin School, England, the Pont Aven School of Art, France, and Jagiellonian University, Poland.

A member of the National Academy since 1993, he received the Ralph Fabri Prize in 1993; the Leo Meissner Prize in 1995; the 1st Benjamin Altman Figure Painting Prize in 1999 and the Adolph and Clara Obrig Prize in Painting in 2001. In 2003 he received the Distinguished Teaching of Art Award from the College Art Association. He is also a SUNY Distinguished Professor.

HIAS and Jewish Family Service Matter to Buffalo

*By Blaine S. Schwartz, Chairman of the Board of JFS
and Rabbi Alex Lazarus- Klein, Congregation Shir Shalom*

Hours before his attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, the attacker announced his intention on social media: “HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can’t sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I’m going in.”

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) has been a backbone of the Jewish community since 1881, resettling countless waves of Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from Russians fleeing Pogroms to Holocaust Survivors and now the current wave of wounded souls coming from war-torn parts of the world like Iraq, Syria and the Congo. Many of your ancestors were probably brought to this country by HIAS.

HIAS is also one of the least known organizations in the Jewish community. That can no longer be said. The organization is now not only on the tip of the tongue of all Americans, but is also in the crosshairs of far right extremist groups.

The Tree of Life attack put not only the Jewish community on guard, but HIAS as well. On the Monday following the attack, when local refugees came to Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County (JFS), they did so with trepidation. Armed guards patrolled the area to give them some comfort, but their peace of mind has been forever shattered.

HIAS itself is in jeopardy of losing its governmentally authorized status as a voluntary national agency approved to provide resettlement services. Recently, the Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) announced as part of its annual request for refugee resettlement proposals that in fiscal year FY19, it intends to eliminate one or more of the nine government authorized resettlement agencies. HIAS is the only Jewish agency authorized to resettle refugees in the United States.

This threat to decertify HIAS is part of an ongoing attack by the current administration to curtail refugees from entering the country.

We do not yet know when the decision will be announced. Should HIAS be cut from the resettlement programs, decades of expertise and huge amounts of resources will be lost. The Jewish



Blaine S. Schwartz

community has contributed millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to the resettlement of thoroughly vetted refugees (not to be confused with asylum seekers or undocumented individuals). Cutting the Jewish community out of refugee resettlement would have profound implications for our community and our country.

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo is pleased to be one of the local agencies affiliated with HIAS for the placement of refugees in welcoming communities such as Western New York. At our local branch of JFS, new arrivals are met at the airport, given food and lodging, as well as a wide variety of services including English as a Second Language, social services, and psychology. There are jobs waiting for them and they become productive members of society. This is a collaborative effort that extends well beyond the Jewish community. These heavily vetted refugees, who have abandoned everything in their home countries to seek a better life in the United States, are not given handouts. They reimburse the government for their airfare and initial living expenses and they come here looking for jobs.

In this tense political climate, we cannot allow the shooter in Pittsburgh and people like him to win the day. We hope Buffalonians will join together in combatting hate, and protecting organizations like HIAS that truly make America great.

This piece first appeared in the “Another Voice” column of the Buffalo News and is reprinted by permission of the authors.

Anti-Semitism Is Not Acceptable

By Rev. William Hennessy

On Sunday, October 28th, as I sat in Temple Beth Tzedek during a vigil service for hope and healing following the horrific massacre in Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27th, I was struck, as I have been at other times in similar contexts, that people like me are the greatest threat to Jews in our society. I’ve seen statistics that say anti-Semitic hate crimes have increased substantially in our country in the last year. Overwhelmingly the perpetrators of those crimes share my skin color (white) and identify with my faith (Christian).



I’ve been a Presbyterian pastor for nearly 30 years, and over those years I’ve come to believe that anti-Semitism is Christianity’s original sin. Even though our founder was a Jew and by all evidence a very devout Jew, whose recorded words never rejected his faith; and even though the earliest Christian writer, Paul, was also a Jew and never renounced his faith but understood Jesus as the pathway for Gentiles to be grafted into the Jewish family, still our faith is steeped in anti-Semitism.

How could this happen? For the first three centuries of the Common Era, Jews and Christians shared a common adversary in the Roman government. Both groups were viewed with suspicion; both at various times were expelled from Rome. Archeological evidence offers examples of Jews and Christians living peacefully together in villages throughout the Roman Empire. But in the 4th century, the Emperor Constantine established Christianity as the official religion and from that time on crimes against Jews by the Church began systematically through confiscation of property, ghettoizing, forced conversions, expulsions and pogroms.

Nothing in our scripture justifies or validates such actions, yet century upon century, through schisms and reformations, anti-Semitism persists. Is it the result of our literalizing the passion stories in our gospels? Is it a misapplication of Jewish scripture identifying Jesus with the Suffering Servant of Isaiah? Is it our inherent need to have an enemy to pit ourselves against, or just our lust for power? Whatever the cause, we must root out and eradicate anti-Semitism from our faith. It is a stain on Christianity.

Doing that means letting go of many cherished beliefs and practices. It means re-writing our hymns and revising our prayers. It means rejecting the view that the only valid path for knowing God is through Jesus Christ and all others are inferior. Above all it means renouncing the belief that Christianity is the fulfillment of, and thereby replacement for, Judaism. We must stop trying to “win the world for Christ,” and be about practicing the compassion we learn from Christ in the world alongside our sisters and brothers of other faith communities.

Rev. William Hennessy is pastor at North Presbyterian Church in Williamsville. He was a member of the 2017 Geo-Political Israel Tour along with some of his congregants from North Presbyterian Church, as well as individuals from Congregation Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Zion, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. This first appeared in The Buffalo News “My View” column and is reprinted with permission of the author.

Wanted: Volunteers for SUPER SUNDAY: January 27!



Be a Superhero and help out on Super Sunday.

Buffalo Jewish Federation will hold its 39th consecutive Super Sunday Phonathon for its Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Sunday, January 27th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center, 2640 North Forest Road. Super Sunday is the one day in which the Buffalo Jewish community comes together to raise much needed funds for our local agencies as well as people in Israel, and help to provide social services in 59 additional countries in the world.

Chairs Neil Block and Amelida Weinman invite community member to join in this year, together with other volunteers, to reach out to people in our local community to raise much needed dollars for the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Volunteers will be doing a *mitzvah* and perpetuating the spirit of *tzedakah*.

HERE's What's Happening That day—Even the smallest members of our community can do something super!

ADULTS: Two shifts for adult callers—9:15-11:30 am and noon to 2:00 pm

KIDDOS: Join us for a FREE fun program (starting at 10 am), featuring a PJ Library story time all about *tzedakah* (helping those in need), an art project and a hands-on *tzedakah* project.

TEENS: Teens 13 and older can volunteer as runners. (Don't be fooled by the name, you don't actually 'run'.) We need your help collecting call sheets from the adults, as well as delivering fun prizes. You won't break a sweat!

High School teens can volunteer to make "Thank You" calls (a great way to get community service hours).



Neil Block and Amelida Weinman want you to join them and other community volunteers this Super Sunday. For more information call Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at 716-204-2245 or Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org. To Volunteer contact Mary Jo Fragale at maryjo@buffalojewishfederation.org.

YES - Please sign me up to volunteer for Super Sunday, January 27.

Name (please print): _____ Phone: _____

I can work the following time shifts: 9:15 am - 11:30 am _____
12 noon - 2 pm _____

I prefer the following: Making phone calls: _____
Working in the office: _____
Anything you need: _____

Please send this form to:
Buffalo Jewish Federation
2640 North Forest Road,
Getzville, NY, 14068

or call:
Randi Morkisz at 204-2245
or Mary Jo Fragale at 204-2250
with your request.

A grateful
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**The 2019 Campaign
for Jewish Buffalo.**



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If you have any questions, call Assistant Executive
Director Randi Morkisz at 204-2245.

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Buffalo Lions of Judah...the Story Continues



This month we are excited to profile two women who make a Lion of Judah (LOJ) level gift (\$5,000+) annually to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, and who have found education—for themselves and others—to be central to their lives as Jewish women. Meet Judith Katzenelson Brownstein and Penny Shuman, both who are integral members of the Jewish Community, Buffalo Jewish Federation and many other organizations.



Judith Katzenelson Brownstein

Judy is a retired attorney and former director of the Social Security Administration hearing office. She is in her second year as president of the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Assn. (HBLA), and served as Temple Beth Tzedek Sisterhood president for 2 years. She was president of the Mount Holyoke College Club of Buffalo, and her Mount Holyoke Class (1971) President from the 25th to the 30th reunion. She also served on the board of the Erie County Bar Foundation, is a past president of Women Lawyers of WNY, and chaired the Committee for the Disabled for the Erie County Bar Assn. Judy served as president of the former Bureau of Jewish Education, on the Federation Board, and chaired Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy. She chaired the Federation's Community Relations Committee during which time she helped to start the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy program with Dr. Jane Fischman and Janet Desmon.

Judy also served as vice president of the former Temple Shaarey Zedek, as well as on the board of the current Temple Beth Tzedek(TBT) and serves on the new rabbinical search committee at TBT. She and her husband attorney Joel Brownstein have 2 sons together, and in total have 6 children and 7 grandchildren.

"It is funny how everything in

our community seems connected. I remember the day I became a Lion of Judah," Judy said. "I was in Israel in 1998 on a Federation Mission, which was winding down. Marilyn Shuman approached me and explained that the Buffalo Women's Philanthropy currently had 35 Lions of Judah. 'You would be 36,' Marilyn said. And while she didn't say it was *beschert* (meant to be), I felt it was and I happily became a Lion. Marilyn's daughter, Leslie Shuman Kramer succeeded me as Women's Philanthropy chair in 2009. I had the privilege of asking Leslie to accept the chair position, and then asked her to become a Lion," Judy mused, delighted at the Buffalo interconnections, which, she noted, were not lost on the three of them.

Judy explained why she wished to become a Lion of Judah. "I had always felt it was important to support the Jews around the world as well as in our local community. This feeling became much stronger when in 2006, I went on JFNA's Chairs & Directors Mission to Odessa, Ukraine and Israel. During that time, we visited two elderly sisters - 88 and 92 years old - in their home in Odessa. They lived in a tiny apartment many floors up, and had next to nothing. They depended on food packages and social services provided by our partner agency, the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). One was a lawyer like me, but their lives were so difficult, so impoverished. As we departed, they called out 'Don't forget us.' Judy replied: "I never will" ".

"We are so lucky that our parents, grandparents or great grandparents decided to come here to the United States. I truly understand that my family and I have had advantages that Jews from prior generations sacrificed to give us. We have achieved the American Dream with help from those who came before us. I feel responsible to pass along that opportunity by supporting Jews and others both here and abroad," she said. "Being a Lion is a significant commitment, not just a financial one to me."

Judy feels it is natural for her to give

to her community in her own name and with her own voice. "I believe that women bring a different perspective to issues like women and children's lives, hunger, and especially education. What is important also is the mentoring we women get and give to each other, knowing we are part of a larger, worldwide community; something greater than just ourselves."

"Involvement in the Jewish (and general) community is part of my identity. It always has been. That was my parents' doing," Judy explained. She is descended from rabbis on both sides of her family. "I remember my father saying 'If you are not proud and willing to stand up for Judaism, other people will not respect you or your religion.' My parents were very involved in their community. Both were among the founders of the Fleetwood Synagogue we belonged to in Mt. Vernon, New York. My mother was president of the Temple Sisterhood, and also involved with National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and Hadassah. During WWII, my father led Shabbat services for the military in Daytona Beach, when stationed there, and I still have the military-issue siddur he used. I think it is important to continue the family heritage. I'm proud of my family, both past and present. They are why I am a Lion."



Penny Kanel Shuman

Penny has been a Lion of Judah for many years. As a young girl growing up in North Buffalo, her family was not particularly religious or Zionist. "I never heard the word 'Israel' growing up. I was 9 during Israel's 1948 War of

Independence."

But somewhere along the way, she began to be interested in her own religion. "I was 22 when my father died, and I felt I had to do something to honor him, and decided that 'something' was to learn more about Judaism, and honor his memory in shul." Penny happened to go to Temple Emanuel on Colvin Avenue one Friday night. Someone asked her to stay for Kiddush, and there she met people she liked, was interested in learning more about Judaism, and started taking classes from Rabbi Isaac Klein. And it was then that she also started dating Charlie Shuman "Charlie's mother, Chaika Shuman, was a very charitable woman. I learned a great deal from her. She was involved in many mitzvahs," Penny said.

Penny married Charlie, and they had three sons- Kenneth, Robert and Danny - and now are blessed with eight grandchildren. By this time, Kadimah School was in existence, and some of their children attended the school.

Young adulthood marked the beginning of Penny's quest to learn more about Judaism. Lea Greenberg taught her how to read basic Hebrew and Ruth Merlin taught Penny and Charlie conversational Hebrew. "I learned how to live a Jewish life. Learning, education, prayer are my direct connections to God."

The Shuman family became part of many synagogues and shuls, and not just in Buffalo. "We got very involved with Chabad when they came to Buffalo when Rabbi Nosson Gurary was the rabbi. I loved the learning, and our kids became Bar Mitzvah there. We also belong to other synagogues. We attended Shabbat services at Jewish Federation Apartments (the Himmel Chapel) for about 20 years, where our son Dan Shuman served as the rabbi, and Charlie functioned like a cantor there, as well. Then we formed our own synagogue with a small Havurah-- Kehillat Shalom, and Dr. Mitch Parker led the group, which met at Temple Beth Zion's suburban building. We were there for 20 years, and the group did everything together. Being members of that Havurah enabled us to learn a great deal about Judaism together."

Penny has been involved in various aspects of the community for many years, from Interfaith programs at the JCC, to Chair of the Community Book Fair, Chair of the Kadimah Dinner, and serving on

the board of the Jewish Federation. She and Charlie have also been instrumental in building and supporting the Ohr Temimim School building, together with Arthur and Susan Gellman.

She also finished college after her marriage, was a teacher for several years, and then became a realtor. "I was a feminist. I felt I could afford to help support the community and I wanted to that." Among the family's beneficiaries in addition to the Federation are Kleinhans Music Hall, the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Israeli cancer research, Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, and the Jewish National Fund. "We also have a granddaughter with a Jewish genetic disease—familial dysautonomia," she added, "And we support research for that condition, as well as for diabetes and Crohn's Disease."

"I began to give at the Lion of Judah level as soon as I could afford to, because I feel that it is my responsibility. I believe that the community is very important, especially all the services we offer for those who can't afford to pay for them. Israel is also very important to us. Our first visit was in 1968, and

we were blown away. Charlie and I both have family in Israel," she said. "My grandmother was the eldest of 8 children and she came here to America, but the rest of the family stayed in Hungary, and their kids went to Israel. We stay in touch, now and whenever we go to Israel, we see family."

"I like to support my community and Israel. I am a proud Jew, and most of our charitable dollars go to Jewish education." Not surprising, for a woman who, over her lifetime, has become a very educated, spiritual Jewish woman. Penny's sons have been influenced by her charitable value of tzedakah. "We raised our kids showing them that we give charity, and why we do so. I am very proud of our kids and their families, because they all are very charitable and are good, strong community people."

Lawley is proud to be a long-standing supporter of the Jewish Community of Western New York



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Artists in Exile, Joseph Horowitz

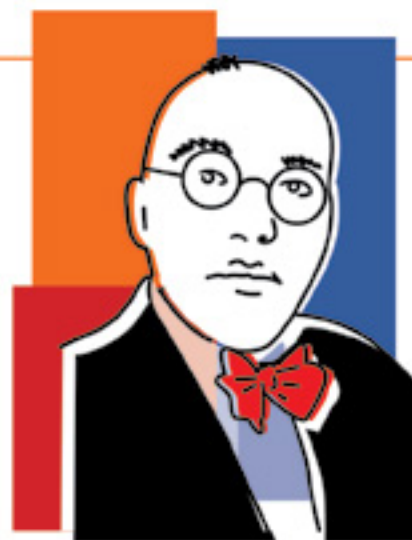


Guest speaker Joseph Horowitz explores patriotic musical responses to WWII -- specifically Pearl Harbor and FDR's declaration of war -- by two Jewish refugee composers: Kurt Weill and Arnold Schoenberg. The presentation-- with audio/video clips -- will be a study in contrasts: Weill became a super-patriot;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



know the score

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Thu Jan 17, 7pm

Kleinhans Music Hall

Kurt Weill On Broadway

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*.

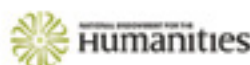
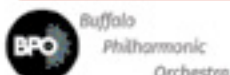
Tickets: \$49 reserved;
\$25 general admission; \$12 students

This performance is funded in part by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc., New York, NY

Lisa Vroman Adam Turner Hudson Shad



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



On Site at the Funerals of the Pittsburgh Synagogue Murder Victims

By Jay Mesnekoff

Before opening Mesnekoff Funeral Home fourteen years ago, I worked for almost a year at Ralph Schugar Funeral Home in Pittsburgh, PA., where Sharon Ryave Brody is currently the owner. When hearing about the shootings at The Tree of Life Congregation, I texted Sharon to make sure she was safe as she occasionally attends Shabbat services there. In the immediate days to follow, Sharon started making funeral arrangements for some of the 11 victims. Hundreds of people volunteered to help her, including local livery services, Jewish community members from many organizations, Jewish funeral directors from around the country, and law enforcement agencies. I was asked to help lead two of the four services she had on Wednesday October 31st for Joyce Fienberg from Beth Shalom Congregation and Irving Younger from Rodef Shalom. Two other funeral directors, Joyce Torchinsky from Torchinsky Funeral Home in Washington, DC and Michael Smith from Shalom Memorial Chapel in Cranston, RI, also came in to help lead services. The following is my column written for the recent newsletter of Kavod-The



Jay Mesnekoff assisting with the funeral of Irving Younger at Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh. Copyright ©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2018, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

National Independent Jewish Funeral Chapels.

"On Shabbat morning on October 27th, our *neshama* or soul was shaken to the core by the unprecedented events at the Tree of Life Congregation

in Pittsburgh, PA. I'm very proud of the members of Kavod who reached out to Sharon Ryave Brody and me offering their assistance at this very difficult time.

Now is the time for all of us to be vigilant and active in our respective Jewish communities. While I was in Pittsburgh helping Sharon out, one thing that touched me was seeing Rabbis including Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, Rabbi Chuck Diamond, Rabbi Shire from Montreal, the Chief Rabbi of France Moshe Sebbag, Orthodox Rabbi Yisroel Altein and other Reform and Conservative Rabbis all standing together as one, showing the unity of the Jewish people regardless of their religious affiliation.

It is my fervent prayer that we as Jewish Funeral Directors never have to go through this situation again.

Jay Mesnekoff is current president of Kavod, National Independent Jewish Funeral Chapels organization. He is owner of Mesnekoff Funeral Home in Amherst, NY.

Thank you Evie Weinstein

Evie Weinstein, former director of the Bureau of Jewish Education just completed her most recent job as Administrator of the new Center for Jewish Education & Learning, the agency which has come from the reorganization of the BJE and the Engagement Team of Jewish Federation. She worked tirelessly with Federation staff, former BJE staff and volunteer leaders of both organizations to create the new Center. Her work at the Center has recently come to a close and we wanted to share reflections about Evie's contributions. Center Director Miriam Abramovich said the following about Evie Weinstein at a recent Federation staff meeting.

Throughout our lives, we go through thousands of transitions. Sometimes these are small leaps from here to there, small moments of change that go by relatively unnoticed. Sometimes our transitions are actually journeys. Momentous rites of passage, long, challenging puzzles to solve, or a



Evie Weinstein

struggle that refuses to go unnoticed.

When we contemplate journeys taken in the Torah, we often think about *Mitzrayim* or Egypt, which means "the narrow place" in Hebrew. In the middle,

we have the *midbar*, the unknown empty space of wilderness, and at the end, we have *eretz zavat chalav u'd'vash*, — "Land that flows with milk and honey".

The transition from the Bureau of

Jewish Education to the new Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning has been a momentous journey, and Evie Weinstein's leadership refuses to go unnoticed. From *Mitzrayim*— the narrow place, to *midbar* — the wilderness, we would not have made it out of the narrow place without the leadership of Evie, keeping her eyes laser-focused on *eretz zavat chalav u'd'vash*.

Her professional leadership during this transition has been thoughtful and meticulous, wise and welcoming. She is a fierce champion of the Center's vision and is a powerhouse collaborator, rolling up her sleeves to work and help everywhere and everyone.

Some say that journeys never end, and maybe that's why in Judaism we celebrate the journey itself, because we never really arrive at the end. The journey itself is really the work of leadership and of life. Evie, thank you for being the model of how to celebrate and embrace the journey. Thank you for your friendship and your mentorship. Cheers to wherever the journey brings you next. Let us know if you ever reach the Land of Milk and Honey. Then we know you are officially retired!

Returning to Pittsburgh, From Israel

By Lisa A. Goldstein

Buffalo native Lisa Goldstein first wrote this story for Hadassah Magazine. It is reprinted with permission.

When I visited Israel for the first time two weeks ago, I tried to keep concerns about safety in the back of my mind as I traveled an unfamiliar country on a tour with other Jewish women. I need not have bothered, as I was worried about the wrong place.

Our trip was courtesy of the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP), and we were among 600 Jewish mothers from around the world that the organization brought to Israel in October. I traveled through Israel with a group of 250, among them 10 other women from Pittsburgh. On Shabbat, the fifth day of our trip, the 11 of us were in the Old City of Jerusalem while 11 of our neighbors were murdered in their synagogue.

It was nearly the end of Shabbat, and we had been having a meal in a room below the Old City with walls from Second Temple when news about a gunman at the Tree of Life synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh began to trickle in. The initial information was frustratingly spotty as the room had little cell reception and it took a little while before we pieced together the shocking events. After havdalah, I went to the Kotel with the rest of the women from Pittsburgh to pray for our city. It was only the next morning that I discovered that two of my husband's cousins—Cecil and David Rosenthal—were among the victims. In fact, many of us had ties to victims of the shooting, to Squirrel Hill, and the Tree of Life synagogue itself, and we felt the losses keenly. That we were in our homeland but not our hometown meant that our small group became the face of the tragedy for everyone in Israel.

Over the course of the rest of our trip, we received an overwhelming amount of support from JWRP as well as from Israelis who talked to us, mourned with us and consoled us. The Sunday night after the shooting, crowds came to a candlelit vigil on Ben Yehudah Street in response to the tragedy. One of our group leaders, who works for the Pittsburgh Jewish Federation, movingly addressed the crowd, and the 11 of us held up a Terrible Towel—the bright yellow rally towel associated with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Our final day included an unscheduled visit with Speaker of the Knesset Yuli Edelstein, who not only offered his



Leslie Shuman Kramer, author Lisa A. Goldstein and Ellen Goldstein at the Kotel Erev Shabbat – October 28, 2018

condolences, but also patiently listened to personal stories.

Prior to our trip to Israel, Federation offered to extend our trip by two days so we could visit Pittsburgh's sister city, Karmiel-Misgav in the Galilee in order to see some of the Federation-funded programs. Seven of us decided to take them up on their offer. In Karmiel-Misgav, we visited a farm helped by nonprofit HaShomer HaChadash, an organization that supports farmers and ranchers in the Galilee and Negev. The farmers had created a memorial orchard grove for the victims, a particularly touching gesture. We planted a tree in the grove for each of the shooting victims; wiping tears from his eyes, one of the farmers told us to come back to eat the fruit. We were also given certificates for each of the victims, to be framed and hung at the Pittsburgh Federation building.

Feeling the love of a people who regularly experience loss, fear and pain helped sustain us. Being in Israel made me feel connected to my Judaism; the shooting and Israeli's responses to it made me prouder to be a Jew.

Upon landing at the Pittsburgh airport, signs of changes in the city were obvious. A modified Steelers logo that included a yellow Jewish star and the words "Stronger Than Hate" was on information screens everywhere in the airport. One of the women in the group lives across the street from Tree of Life. When she came home, she described how disorienting it was to see news vehicles lining both sides of her street, with the block nearest to her closed off.

"The changed fall colors just seemed to add to the sense of unfamiliarity compared with how I'd left it," she recalls. "Cameras and news reporters seemed to be everywhere, along with many visitors. My neighborhood was on public display at a time when I was returning to the comfort and privacy of my home."

Just hours after I landed, I attended the final night of shiva for the Rosenthal brothers. Because of the crowds, it was held at a local synagogue. I brought with me flyers from the vigils I had attended, a Hebrew bible my group received from Edelstein while at the Knesset and rocks

from Karmiel-Misgav for family members to place on the brothers' graves. Cecil and David's father was touched and asked me to write Edelstein's name and date in the bible. The following night, I went to a Solidarity Shabbat at my synagogue, Temple Emanuel of South Hills. Over 350 people attended, including many non-Jews.

Lisa, a friend from the trip, was at the Friday night service as well. Within minutes, she was sobbing. "I realized that although I had cried in Israel when the tragedy happened, I had not shed tears in my own community," she wrote on her blog, Mama Shalom. "Being there in my own synagogue made the gravity of the fact that 11 people were murdered in a synagogue, a place that they should feel nothing but safe, connected to God, and connected to each other, all the more real."

The 11 of us will never know what it was like to be here on the day of the tragedy. Friends described the somber air all over the city with strangers hugging each other and sharing stories. A week after the tragedy, Squirrel Hill streets and restaurants were empty. The feeling of loss was palpable, and will remain so for some time.

But we do know what it's like to be part of a community. We feel Pittsburgh's love and support, strengthened by our experiences in Israel.

Lisa A. Goldstein, MJ, is a freelance journalist who lives in Pittsburgh, PA. She is the daughter of Buffalonians Bruce and Betsy Goldstein, is married to former Buffalonian Aaron Steinfeld, and is the daughter-in-law of Buffalonians Ed and Ellen Steinfeld. Buffalo Israel Experience travelers Leslie Shuman Kramer and Ellen Goldstein literally ran into her at the Kotel in Israel October 28—one day before the Pittsburgh murders—and took the accompanying photo.

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New Year's Resolutions

By Rabbi Sara Rich

How are your New Year's resolutions coming along? I don't mean your renewed commitment to the JCC gym or your attempt to eat less refined sugar, although those are good lifestyle choices. I mean the New Year's resolutions that you made during the Days of Awe, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The promises you made to yourself, to the people in your lives, and to God to act in righteous ways in the year to come. Perhaps you decided to be more attentive to your family, to be more philanthropic, to refrain from an immoral behavior, or to be more engaged in religious and spiritual life. Now, four months later, is the ideal time to remind ourselves of these resolutions, and to recommit if we have forgotten or have struggled to uphold them.

It happens that we observe another New Year at this time – Tu b'Shvat, the New Year of the trees, which is celebrated January 21. Originally, the purpose of this new year was to mark



Rabbi Sara Rich

the age of trees, as a reference point for biblical laws about when the fruit must be withheld from consumption as a tithe in the first three years, and when it is permitted to be consumed by the owner. Because it is too difficult to keep track of the anniversary of planting each individual tree, an annual anniversary

was decided upon that applies to all trees planted in that year.

If Rosh Hashanah is a new year that helps us turn inward to reflect upon our own attributes, then what can we gain from observing Tu b'Shvat? A teaching from the Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Taanit 5b-6a, offers one possible suggestion. In this story, Rav Nachman and Rabbi Yitzchak are together, and it is time for them to part ways. Before he goes, R. Nahman said to Rabbi Yitzchak, "Please, Rabbi, bless me." He replied: "Let me tell you a parable – To what may this be compared? To a man who was journeying in the desert; he was hungry, weary and thirsty and he lighted upon a tree the fruits of which were sweet, its shade pleasant, and a stream of water flowing beneath it; he ate of its fruits, drank of the water, and rested under its shade. When he was about to continue his journey, he said: 'Tree, O Tree, with what shall I bless you? Shall I say to you, 'May thy fruits be sweet'? They are sweet already; that your shade be pleasant? It is already pleasant; that a stream of water may flow beneath you? Look, a stream of water flows

already beneath you; therefore [I say], 'May it be God's will that all your shoots shall be just like you.' So it is with you. With what shall I bless you? If I bless you with Torah, you already have Torah; if I bless you with wealth, you already have wealth; if I bless you with children, you already have children. Rather, may it be God's will that your offspring shall be like you."

It is not enough for a tree to be verdant and bearing delicious fruit. Even the healthiest tree will not live forever. The tree is connected to the future sustainability of the other trees that are growing around it, and we hope that the entire orchard will be strong. The same is true for us. We should continue to work on our own health and behavior, but this is not enough. Our concern is also for the well-being of our families and of the community around us. Let our Tu b'Shvat resolution be to turn towards others, and to take an action that will make a difference in their lives and the future of our community.

Rabbi Sara Rich is Director of the Hillel of Buffalo.

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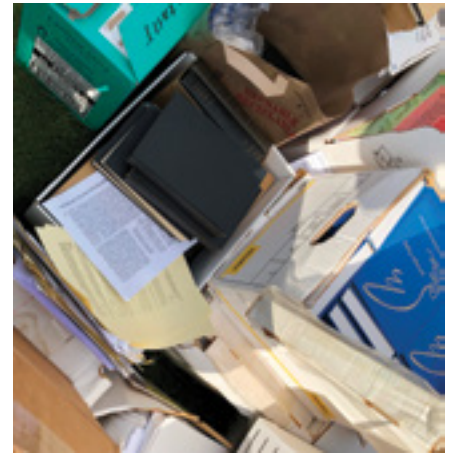
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Burying Holy Books in Buffalo

Thanks to Mitchell Steinhorn of Amherst Memorial Chapel and Elmlawn Cemetery for burying the contents of a *Genizah* on October 17 at Elmlawn Cemetery. *Genizah* means “reserved” or “hidden” in Hebrew and is traditionally a place where Jews store sacred documents when they fall out of use. This *Genizah* contained holy books, prayer books and other Jewish items collected over many years.

The Talmud (*Shabbat 115a*) stipulates that all sacred writings (*scrolls of Torah, Prophets and Writings*) should be preserved in a place where they cannot be destroyed. Though this idea was originally closely tied to a prohibition from ever erasing God’s name, Maimonides ruled that holy books, such as the Talmud and midrash, should be retired to the *genizah* as well, even though they do not contain God’s name. (*Mishneh Torah, Hilhot Yesodei HaTorah 6:8*)



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Comfort Food for January

By Robin Kurss

It's cold out and in January when I come home from work in the dark, I love to have a soup/stew ready to heat up for dinner. This is a delicious soup, hearty and healthy to start the new year on the right foot!

Tomato and Chickpea Soup

serves 4-6



- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 fennel bulb, sliced
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 carrots, peeled and cubed
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 c white wine
- 15 oz. can stewed tomatoes
- 5 c stock, chicken or veggie
- 2 1/2 c canned chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 2 Tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté veggies in oil until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in tomato paste and wine. Transfer to a pot with the stewed tomatoes, stock, garlic, thyme, parsley and seasonings. Simmer, covered for 1/2 hr.

Add chickpeas and simmer till heated through. Serve with crusty bread and a salad.

Dining Guide

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- 2» **Attend the NFJC's Community Leaders Award Luncheon Wednesday, January 16 at noon at the Buffalo Convention Center** and honor Community Leader and Erie County Health Commissioner Gale Burstein and Community Supporter Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton. **Call 853-9596 for information and tickets.**
- 3» **Haven't yet made a gift to the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Campaign for Jewish Buffalo for 2019? Super Sunday is January 27, and you can answer the call that day.** Or why not give today at www.buffalojewishfederation.org.
- 4» **The Campaign for Jewish Buffalo's Super Sunday program is Sunday, January 27 from 9 am to 2 pm at the JCC.** If you would like to volunteer for Super Sunday, **contact Mary Jo Fragale at the Jewish Federation: maryjo@buffalojewishfederation.org**
- 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. **Contact Amy Heumann at ALHWrldBk@gmail.com to donate or volunteer.**

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www.tbz.org

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Errol Sull to speak at TBZ Achim January 13

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion's January 2019 Achim program will feature Errol Craig Sull, a local author, educator and culinary expert. He is well known for his baking prowess and expertise, and will be discussing many important thoughts and experiences about baking. The program will take place January 13 at 10:00 am at the Weinberg Campus Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus

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.

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TBZ Sisterhood's Second Annual Demo & Dine Luncheon

Webster's Kitchen

110 Webster Street, North Tonawanda
Sunday, January 27, at 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a cooking demonstration presented by Chef Gabrielle Thomas followed by a three-course lunch.
Luncheon hosted by TBZ Sisterhood but is open to women and men.

First course - Soup

Creamy Squash Bisque

Second course - Entrée

Vegetable crepe and chicken crepe

Third course - Dessert

Chocolate Ganache Cake

Coffee, tea and water included.

(Wine or beer is available for an extra charge.)

Cost: \$35 per person inclusive.

Seating is limited. Reservations are due by January 11.

**Mail reservation with your check made out to TBZ Sisterhood to:
Sandra Wolchok, 6872 Forestview Drive, Lockport, NY 14094.
Questions? Call the Temple Beth Zion office at (716) 836-6565.**

Inside Jewish Buffalo's Newest Sacred Space

An inclusive building for a welcoming congregation

By Ezra N. Rich

On a sunny Sunday in November, members of Temple Beth Tzedek (TBT) made the three-mile walk with three Sifrei Torah (Torah scrolls) from their location on Getzville Road in Amherst to their new spiritual home on North Forest Road in Williamsville. Those steps, and subsequent dedication ceremony attended by over 300 people, were the culmination of seven years of TBT's Project Beit Tefilah, the initiative to bring the kehillah (congregation) to a new home for future growth.

The initiative actively involved congregants who dedicated their professional talents toward the project in partnership with the architect, construction firm, trades, and other vendors. "Our new sanctuary is such a great place for worship. There is both an intimacy and feeling of togetherness, but also a feeling of the presence of God because of the majesty of the space and the connection to nature," said Harvey P. Sanders, who, as chair of TBT's Project Beit Tefilah, spent countless hours translating the dream of a new sacred space for the congregation into reality.

Aspiring for Accessibility

One of the most notable elements of the new TBT is how the 10,000-square-foot space takes inclusion to a new level. It expands the synagogue's culture of inclusion from acts of kindness to a physical place of accessibility.

Fortunately for the Temple, one of its members is a leading expert on the topic. Prof. Edward Steinfeld, director of the University at Buffalo's Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access, brought his talents to the project. "Universal Design is a philosophy for making the environment more usable, healthier and friendlier for all people. Unlike our old building, the new building is filled with light, emphasizes human connections with the natural world, and interprets Jewish practices in a contemporary way," reflected Prof. Steinfeld. "We now have a home that is truly welcoming to all and I think it will be an inspiration for a continuing search for inclusive practices," he added.

Built on one level without any steps, the synagogue empowers those with accessibility issues to more seamlessly move around the building and participate in services. The amud (lectern) can be



lowered so that people in a wheelchair can have an aliyah at their eye level. There is no elevated bimah (stage), eliminating barriers for those with balance concerns from leading the congregation in services and sermons.

Kesher Inclusion

The Universal Design features are an extension of TBT's culture of inclusion. "Creating sacred space that is accessible for everyone allows us to build on and enhance our enduring commitment to a Jewish Buffalo that is fully inclusive for a vibrant and flourishing community. The building truly inspires TBT Kesher Inclusion's work," noted Janet Gunner, co-chair of the Kesher Inclusion Committee. In recent years, Kesher initiatives have included programs for the elderly at Weinberg Campus, those with special needs, as well as members of the community who have accessibility issues, among others.

Culminating a Dream of Generations

Project Beit Tefilah captured the passion of TBT's leadership and membership. A process that began with Rabbi Perry Netter prior to his aliyah (move) to Israel in 2017 was seen through by Rabbi Samuel Barth, Cantor Mark Spindler and President Andrew Gewurz. "The dedication of our new Shul is the culmination of a dream by many people, including myself," reflected Edward M. Case, TBT's Treasurer. "Once this project became a reality, there were many dedicated individuals working to make this happen. As fortune would have it, I decided to retire during the detailed

planning and budgeting for this sacred space. I realized that with my new-found time, I was able to become TBT's eyes and ears on this project, becoming my full time 'job' up until we dedicated our new space. This building now brings together all the predecessor congregations from the last 170+ years of Conservative Judaism in Buffalo under a new roof." As noted on a wall in the community court celebrating TBT's heritage, the congregation traces its lineage to Congregation Beth El, Buffalo's first synagogue, founded in 1847.

"It was an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of TBT, especially during such an exciting time when we were designing and constructing our new home. I was thrilled to be a part of the process," noted Immediate Past President Lisa Wallenfels, a member of one of the multi-generational families at TBT that make the shul a special place. "All of the predecessor congregations that came together to form Temple Beth Tzedek have a place to pray that is not 'yours' or 'mine,' but 'ours.' I am extremely grateful to Harvey Sanders and everyone else who worked so hard to make our dream become a reality," she said.

That perspective is shared by other long-time communal leaders with multiple generations of Jewish Buffalonians. "The fact that our community has a brand-new synagogue building is reflective of an upbeat in our spirit: while we all recognize that our demographics have changed over the years, it does not mean that we are closing up shop," remarked Charlotte Gendler, a veteran TBT member and leader in the broader community. "Much to the contrary, we are recognizing a moment in time when this size structure meets

our needs. Not only is it beautiful, but it is built on the premise that everyone has a place in it and can participate in the services without any barriers. That is pretty remarkable!"

There's No 'I' In Team

TBT member Steven M. Cohen, an attorney with the law firm Hogan Willig, supported TBT with the legal work involved in the sale of the Getzville Road campus to the Schreiber family of the Northtown Automotive Companies. The transaction included the generous hospitality by Northtown Automotive as TBT worshiped at Getzville Road during the construction on North Forest Road.

Professionals who were key to the project include Maurice N. Finegold, FAIA, of Feingold Alexander Architects and Gustavo Lima of Cannon Construction Services. The effort also heavily involved Director of Synagogue Administration Kimberly Jones and her office staff. As Mr. Feingold noted at the dedication, the wooden materials and square shape pay homage to the synagogue design style that was popular in Lithuania's pre-Holocaust Jewish community. The sole artwork in the sanctuary is 12 stained glass windows, representing the Tribes of Israel, which graced the synagogue's previous home on Getzville Road.

The new building houses a sanctuary with seating for 300, meeting and office spaces, a teen and youth lounge, a library, Judaica shop and a wall with memorial plaques encompassing the many synagogues and years of their late congregants. It is connected to the former B'nai Shalom sanctuary which is being adapted into a multipurpose room, as well as smaller space for prayer services.

A Place to Gather

TBT plans to continue its role as a gathering place for events in the broader community as well. "We were thrilled to welcome the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, the Jewish Community Center and the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association to our new home for meetings," added Mr. Sanders. "We look forward to welcoming the community and community organizations to avail themselves of our new home in the future. It is great to have our new, energy-efficient, accessible home located in the heart of the Jewish community."

Ezra N. Rich is chair of TBT's Communications Task Force. A highlight of his week is when his daughters Miriam and Sivan get excited for junior congregation on Shabbat morning.

WOMEN OF SHIR SHALOM ACCESSORY AUCTION!!!

Thursday, January 17 • 7:00pm

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January 24 and January 25

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**Contact Melissa Milch for details:
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716-836-6565 x139**

10th Anniversary of the crash of Flight 3407 Memorial Concert

Saturday, February 9, 7:00pm



Cantors and Rabbis from the area
along with musicians from the
community will be participating.

Open to the community.

**Congregation Shir Shalom
4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville
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Story Time with Rabbi Alex Friday, January 11 • 10:30am

Join Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom for Story Time at Barnes & Noble Booksellers on Niagara Falls Blvd on the Second Friday of Every Month.
Open to the community!

Sacred Scrolls at Shir Shalom

By Peter Simon

Quietly but proudly, Congregation Shir Shalom is contributing to international efforts to house, restore and honor Torah scrolls that were desecrated by the Nazis. A damaged scroll is displayed in a case at Shir Shalom to remind worshippers of the sacredness of the Torah and the resilience of the Jewish people, said Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein.

The original Torah case was unintentionally damaged. Shir Shalom replaced the case and had a scribe repair the Torah. In addition, the scroll was relocated near the sanctuary to enhance its spiritual impact.

Shir Shalom is one of many synagogues and Jewish institutions housing 1,564 Torah scrolls that were found warehoused in harmful conditions by the Nazis in what is now the Czech Republic. The Shir Shalom scroll was obtained perhaps 20 years ago by Temple Sinai, prior to its merger with Temple Beth Am, said Rabbi Lazarus-Klein.

Before killing Six Million Jews, the Nazis destroyed and damaged countless Torah scrolls. In Hamburg, for example, Jews were forced at gunpoint to rip up the scrolls and toss them in a fire. "The Nazis believed that if they desecrated what we hold most sacred,



they could destroy our soul," said Rabbi Mendy Gurkov, of a Chabad Jewish Center in Northern New Jersey. "But that didn't happen."

The Chabad Center was one of the Jewish communities included in a recent tour of a Torah scroll that was rescued from a burning synagogue in Germany by a 14-year-old boy on Kristallnacht. "That Torah," Rabbi Gurkov said, "captures the message of light, of hope and the promise of a brighter tomorrow."

Peter Simon is a past president of Temple Beth Am

TBT Getzville Rd. Farewell Lunch

Steve and Ellen Lipa organized a farewell luncheon at the Temple Beth Tzedek Getzville Road building Sunday, October 28. Since 1969, the building was the home for the combined congregations from Temple Emanuel and Temple Beth David Ner Israel, which eventually became Temple Shaary Zedek.

In 1982 the Lipa Family Auditorium social hall was built so that the congregants had a facility to hold all types of simchot. This created a new legacy where Temple Shaary Zedek on Getzville Road was the spiritual, educational and social home for many people who were able to say, "I grew up in this building." Temple Shaarey Tzedek later merged with Temple Beth EL, and then became Temple Beth Tzedek.

On the wall hung a 50 year timeline of the synagogue's history for congregants to complete. Steve opened the



three time capsules that had been buried many years ago. The first two were water-damaged, but the third contained documents and pictures that were well preserved.

Many congregants, including four or five past presidents, spoke about memories from the building. Janet Herman reminded everyone that, "What we are leaving behind is brick and mortar. The most important part of the synagogue is the people. And that's what we are taking with us."

KOT Creates New Kids' Program, Celebrates Hanukkah

Kehillat Ohr Tzion is excited about the new education program for the youngest members of the congregation. The Children's Program Committee, chaired by Marni Marciano, has created a Shabbat program once a month from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and a Sunday morning class from 10:00 am until noon for the children. Both sessions will be taught by teacher Tracy Weiss, who presented her creative ideas to the KOT Board at their last meeting. The first hands-on program took place December 2 when the children made menorahs in preparation for Hanukkah. There were holiday themed snacks and other appropriate activities for the age group in attendance. This program is open to children of all ages.

For more information email Tracy at kotkids18@gmail.com

KOT families celebrated Chanukah together on Sunday, December 9 with a festive dinner, songs and lighting of many menorahs. Our *kehillah* enjoys having dinners together and often alternates



Tracy Weiss

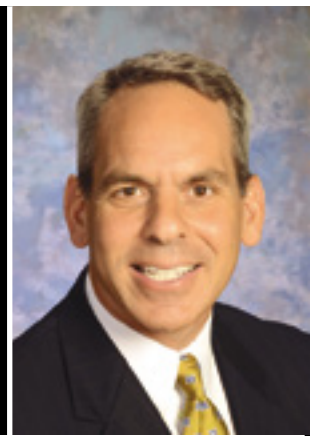
between adult-only dinners, like the November fundraiser, and family celebration dinners. KOT was delighted to host another delegation from Amiel Bakhila in December when Rabbi Reuven Spolter returned and this time was accompanied by artist David Friedman. Both of them were involved in meeting and interacting with many Jewish organizations in the two days that they spent in the area.

The Social Action Committee collected specific food items needed by Hearts for the Homeless in November and December and as soon as that project was over, they began collecting hats, gloves and scarves for the children of parents who go through Family Court. This is an annual project for KOT, coordinated with Judge Lisa Rodwin.

For more information about social action at KOT email phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com.

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REMEMBERING CANTOR SUSAN WEHLE ז"ל

By Peter Simon

The year 2007 was a nightmare for Helene Kershner and her family. Her husband Bruce died of cancer, and Helene had surgery for breast cancer. During those dark days, Susan Wehle, then the cantor at Temple Beth Am, visited often, organized a healing service at the family's home, helped navigate hospice care for Bruce, sang to the family as he approached death, and handled enough details to "let me be Bruce's wife rather than his caregiver," Helene said.

A "dark blank" is how she describes the months that followed. "What I do remember is Susan's regular presence in my life," Helene said. "She was a light in my darkness. Susan was a reminder that I could get past this time and not only survive, but thrive. I am forever grateful that she was there for me, and I will always miss her."

So do many others. Cantor Wehle was one of 50 people who died on Feb. 12, 2009 when Continental Flight 3407 crashed in Clarence. She was 55 years old. To mark



Cantor Susan Wehle

the tenth anniversary of the crash, Cantor Arlene Frank is organizing a celebration of Susan's life Feb. 9 at 7:00 pm at Congregation Shir Shalom. The program, designed to be uplifting, will revolve around the participation of local rabbis and cantors. It will also include a talk by an airline safety advocate, "beautiful music by renowned musicians" and poetry.

"There's a gaping hole, in a way, in the psyche of the community," Cantor Frank said. "There are people who are still grieving. This event seems like something the community needs." The evening will be a salute to compassion and excellence. "Susan was a glowing light in the Buffalo Jewish community," said Shir Shalom Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein. "She had done so much

for so many people. It was impossible to pick up the parts that were left undone with her death. There will never be another Susan Wehle."

Rob Goldberg stresses Susan's support when his mother, Judy Goldberg, was fighting lung cancer. Susan visited often, and sang to Judy when she was hours from death, said Rob, the Chief Executive Officer of the Buffalo Jewish Federation. "We'll never forget Susan's kindness, on that day and many days before," he said.

Susan's expertise and encouragement extended far from the issues of death and dying. Jay Mesnekoff played the guitar and trombone, but learned to sing only after Susan convinced him to take part in several choirs. He now sings solo in a popular band. "She pushed me and insisted I could do it," said Jay, a funeral home owner. "I'm forever thankful to her and constantly thinking of her when I get up to sing."

A similar effort had a different result when Cheryl Rudin discovered that even with Susan's help, she simply couldn't sing on key. It is partly out of respect for Susan, she said, that "I still sing with enthusiasm and sincerity while trying to ignore the looks on the faces of the people sitting near me."

Diane Robinson's mother-in-law — a non-practicing Methodist — was having a funeral service without a clergy person when Susan unexpectedly showed up to sing. The grieving family didn't even know how Susan became aware of the funeral, but was elated that she was present. Susan often experienced severe migraines and allergies, but managed to put aside any indication of pain or discomfort during services, said Julia Cohan, president of the Shir Shalom Sisterhood. "I was always blown away by how Susan totally transformed when she was on the Bimah," Julia said. "Her smile was from ear to ear. Her eyes were always looking directly at me. She always radiated spirituality in a way that invited us to join with her in our own spiritual journey. When we lost Susan, I lost my own spiritual guide."

Susan Wehle was the cantor at Temple Beth Am for more than six years, following nearly 10 years as cantorial soloist at Temple Sinai. The two synagogues have since merged and have become Congregation Shir Shalom.



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Info: Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

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7:00 pm Lecture at JCC/ Holland Building

Event is FREE but reservations required: 242-7824

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Questions? mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org

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January 22

Tu B'Shevat Seder

5:30 pm Temple Beth Zion 805 Delaware Avenue

Info: Call 836-6565

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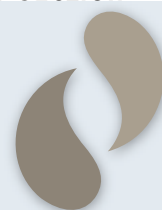
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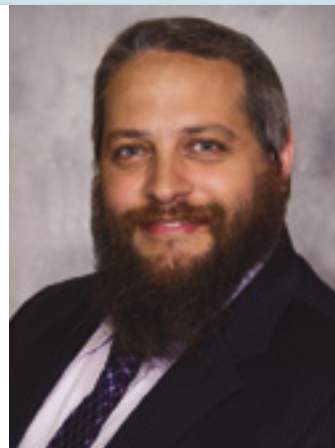
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Chanukah and Seasons Greetings! May this season bring warmth and togetherness. Here are 5 ways to stay safe:

- 5) Never put your hand in a snow blower, even if it's off.
- 4) Wear wrist guards when snow-boarding.
- 3) Be careful when walking outside.
- 2) Never cut towards your hand when opening presents or preparing food.
- 1) Call your mother (this is a Jewish publication after all).



Annette Pinder is President and Publisher of Buffalo Healthy Living Magazine (BHL), a benefit corporation, and the region's premiere free, full-color monthly magazine devoted to health, fitness, and nutrition for people of all ages. Over 175,000 people read BHL in print and online. BHL is also featured on two WNY radio programs providing health tips and interviews by area experts. Find BHL at all area Tops and Wegman's stores, and at hundreds more locations daily.



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David I. Kurss, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., N.C.M.P., is a nationally recognized, board certified OB/GYN and the founder of the Women's Wellness Center of WNY. He is a highly sought after National Speaker, a certified Menopause specialist, and has been recognized as one of America's Top Doctors for the last thirteen years. In addition to addressing general GYN issues and performing state-of-the-art, minimally invasive in-hospital surgery, Dr. Kurss introduced to WNY in-office procedures to resolve heavy menses and provide permanent contraception. Additional innovations include GYN genetic counseling and 25+ Gene Panel testing (including BRCA 1,2) to better confront the high risk of breast and ovarian cancer, especially in the Ashkenazi Jewish population. Please allow Dr. Kurss to assist you with any health concerns.



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Kadimah Alumna Profile: Tamara Kurek, Class of 2007

By Beth Steinberg

Many people wonder how well graduates of a Jewish Day School fare when they jump from a setting of small classes and close relationships with their teachers and peers to the much larger world of public high school, but those who know Kadimah know that our graduates transition into the mainstream beautifully. Tamara Kurek, a proud Kadimah graduate of the Class of 2007, is just one more of our fine success stories!

Tamara and her twin brother, Nicholas, began at Kadimah Academy in Kindergarten and stayed through 8th Grade, when they both graduated with honors. Looking back on her experience, Tamara remembers the people best. Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig made Mishnah exciting. She thanks Mrs. Lois Anneler for igniting her abiding love of reading novels. And Mrs. Anna Martinick? "She made rocks seem fun!" Tamara has nothing but fond memories of all her teachers and classmates, and she greatly enjoys reconnecting with friends from her years at Kadimah.

Tamara and Nick attended Williamsville North High School, and Tamara declares that she "never had any trouble with my transition... I felt very comfortable with my workload there, which included several AP (Advanced Placement) classes. I think the key is that Kadimah helped shape me into a confident, curious learner."

As for her Jewish identity, when



Tamara Kurek

Tamara went on a Birthright trip to Israel a few summers ago, she felt wonderfully rooted in the faith and culture of the Jewish people. She clearly credits much of that feeling to the knowledge base she acquired at Kadimah.

As an undergraduate at SUNY Geneseo, Tamara was recognized many times as an outstanding scholar and campus leader, and received several awards, including being named to the Dean's List and elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Today, Tamara and her brother Nick are BOTH in their fourth year of medical school

at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences here in Buffalo. She looks forward to applying for a residency position in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Kol Ha Kavod to you, Tamara, and to Nick! You both make us very proud.

Kadimah Academy continues to create confident, curious learners like Tamara and Nicolas. Our small, multi-age classes allow our teachers to focus on the individual needs and gifts of each student while creating a caring family of learners who excel in their knowledge and understanding of Hebrew language, love of Israel and its people, performing mitzvot, and shine in their secular learning as well. We challenge all our students to think independently and creatively, and to exemplify our values in their everyday actions.

In recent weeks, various groups of students have participated in several meaningful activities including, but not limited to visiting with and interviewing veterans, touring the Buffalo Museum of

Science, taking care of our school pets, traveling to PALS/Kadimah to teach our pre-school friends, baking pizza with a renowned Israeli chef, building chanukiyot using recycled materials, writing, rehearsing, and performing a play about Avram and Sarai.

In this, our 60th Anniversary year, Kadimah Academy continues to plant the seeds for tomorrow's engaged and active leaders, producing a stronger community and a better world around us. There is no other school in Western New York like Kadimah.

Beth Steinberg is a teacher at Kadimah Academy. Call 716-836-6903 to inquire about registration or to schedule a visit. Spots are still available for next year!

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UN HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

January 27, 2019 - 2:00 P.M.

Canisius College: Grupp Fireside Lounge
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College Campus at 81 Hughes Avenue

Author Sophie Knab offers a multi-media presentation on her book, *Wearing the Letter "P" - Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*, a thorough study of the challenges and horrors faced by Polish women, as young as 12 years old as forced laborers in WWII with personal testimonies, letters and documents of this overlooked topic of the horrors of war.

Free and Open to the Public
A Reception follows

Sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture and the History Department of Canisius College, the Polish Arts Club and the Polish Legacy Project.

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UB DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH THOUGHT—BLIND DATE WITH A JEWISH BOOK

By Cecile Minkoff

On a Monday night in early November, the Department of Jewish Thought at SUNY Buffalo hosted an intimate group of undergraduate and graduate students, members of the community, and faculty to present its first iteration of “Blind Date With a Jewish Book.” This program was conceived as a series of presentations by department-affiliated faculty on a “Jewish” book that is unknown or unfamiliar to the wider public. It is called a blind date because neither the presenter nor the book chosen for discussion is announced in advance - you are asked to come with a mind open to the possibility that you might add another title to your list of “books to read.” November’s selection was *Life & Fate* by Vassily Grossman and was presented by Dr. Richard Cohen.

Vassily Grossman was born in 1905 into an emancipated Jewish family. He initially studied chemical engineering before turning to writing in the 1930s. At the outbreak of WWII, he became a war correspondent. As such, he covered the battles of Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, and Berlin. His eyewitness accounts of the liberation of Treblinka were among the earliest reporting of what later became known as the Holocaust. As a young man, he enthusiastically supported the hopes of the Russian Revolution. He managed to hold on to his delusions even though he criticized collectivization and the man-made famine in the Ukraine in the early 1930s. His disillusionment came after WWII with Stalin’s openly anti-Semitic campaign and the suppression of The



Black Book, a project of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee to document the Holocaust, in which Grossman actively participated.

Grossman completed *Life & Fate* in 1959. As was done at that time in Soviet Russia, he submitted it to the censors. The book was considered so dangerous that the KGB raided his apartment and confiscated all copies of the manuscript, even going so far as to remove the ribbon from his typewriter. A copy of the manuscript in the hands of friends was smuggled out of Russia, and the book was published in Switzerland only in 1980. Vassily Grossman died in 1964. His book wasn’t published in Russia until 1989.

Richard Cohen opened his remarks with the adage, “when a book is good, it’s not long

enough; when it is bad, it’s too long.” For Cohen, *Life & Fate* is clearly not long enough. For as everyone knows who has ever been sucked in by a novel, great literature is transcendent: it breaks boundaries and expands horizons. The reader is taken outside of himself and experiences other consciences, other worlds. “If you want to know what it is like to live in a totalitarian state,” said Cohen, “then read this book.”

Grossman’s book is a panoramic epic that follows five story lines and multiple characters, through which the reader is taken across the breadth of Russia from the Siberian gulags to the battle of Stalingrad, and beyond the western border, as first the Germans advanced into Russia, and again as Russia pushed back and advanced into Germany, eventually discovering the horror of the Nazi concentration camps. Grossman, who has been compared to Tolstoy, takes multiple points of view, alternating between the very personal, individual experience and the loftier perspective of the historian or philosopher. But this is not simply a story of war. It is a repudiation of the charade of the Stalinist regime pursuing policies of political terror, while masquerading as the embodiment of

Revolutionary idealism and Marxist orthodoxy.

So what, you might ask, is specifically Jewish about this book. Cohen brought to light two major themes of the book. One is the abiding evil of anti-Semitism, how it manifests, who is attracted to it, and the way anti-Semites manage to believe that the Jews are all powerful (e.g. Protocols of the Elders of Zion), and yet so powerless that they can be attacked without fear. The second is the stark contrast that it draws between soulless ideology and individual acts of kindness.

Besides speaking about the book itself, Richard Cohen candidly shared his personal experience of grappling with it. Although it came to him highly recommended by his teacher, Emmanuel Levinas, Cohen picked it up multiple times only to set it aside until about six years ago. Since then, he’s read it more than once, and the copy he brought with him was heavily bookmarked. Cohen was delightfully open about how entranced he was with the way the book challenged some of his preconceived notions about Soviet Russia, as well as with the unfolding story.

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion touching on anti-Semitism, totalitarianism, Soviet history, and the importance of great literature. Please join us in the spring for our second in the series of Blind Date with a Jewish Book, on March 5.

Cecile Minkoff is the librarian of The Samuel J. Friedman Memorial Library at UB’s Department of Jewish Thought.



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HILLEL SEEKS COMMUNITY MENTORS

By Rabbi Sara Rich

No matter what stage we are at in our careers, we can all remember how difficult it was to get that first internship or job in our field. Although today's job market is strong, college students are still under enormous pressure to have relevant experiences on their resumes to position themselves as competitive candidates.

The Buffalo Jewish community through Hillel of Buffalo has an opportunity to support these students by serving as mentors and connectors. By having coffee with a student who is interested in pursuing a career in your field, by helping them to network, giving them an internship opportunity, or allowing them to shadow you for a day, you help them work towards their goals, and you show them that the Buffalo Jewish community cares.

You might benefit from the exchange as well. Perhaps a student that you mentor or help to connect to a job will stay in Buffalo after graduation and remain a part of the Jewish community. Maybe they will work with you and give you the comfort of knowing that your business or practice is in capable hands. There are thousands of talented students right in our community, and we can all benefit from building our relationships with one another.

If you would like to become involved in this initiative, contact Logan Woodard, logan@hillelofbuffalo.org. You can choose if you would like to be available to a student once or on an ongoing basis. Students interested in this mentoring program will be matched with professionals working in that field. Please also consider sending Logan local employment opportunities that are appropriate for current students, graduating seniors and graduate students. Thank you for giving back to our students in this meaningful way.

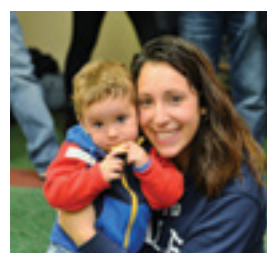
Rabbi Sara Rich leads Hillel of Buffalo. Read her New Year's Resolutions on page 16.

Hanukkah with JDC and Miss Rivky

The Jewish Discovery Center hosted a large group of mothers and children in Rivky Greenberg's Pre-Hanukkah music class. Miss Rivky welcomed many new families to this class.

The children sang about the dreidel while shaking their dreidel shakers, jumped together into a jumbo Magic Dreidel, hopped with the giant inflatable dreidel, learned about the Hanukkah miracle and sang several Menorah counting songs, did a fun Maccabee March and learned a cool "Twinkle Twinkle Hanukkah Lights song". They loved all the snacks and especially the yummy homemade Hanukkah Doughnuts they got to taste, as well as the chocolate gelt they received for doing a fabulous job!

For more information on upcoming classes or to join the mailing list, please log on to www.musicwithrivky.com or contact Rivky at info@musicwithrivky.com or (716) 906-8890.



Local Holocaust Study to be Presented

February 10
JCC Benderson Building

Nurit Fischer-Shemer, a graduate student at the UB School of Social Work, will present the results from her study about the inter-generational long-term effects of the Holocaust on the children of Survivors.

As partial work to complete her PhD in Social Welfare, Nurit interviewed children of Holocaust Survivors in the WNY area during the last three years. The data collected expanded the knowledge about the experiences of growing up with a Survivor parent or parents, and to better understand the implications of the loss and grief sentiments combined with the adaptation and resilience of the offspring.

The results of the study will be presented in a community talk at the JCC Benderson building February 10th



Nurit Fischer Shemer

at 2:00pm in the Lippman Lounge. RSVP to the Holocaust Resource Center at 716-634-9535. This presentation is open to the public

ARTISTS IN EXILE- LECTURE BY JOSEPH HOROWITZ

Wednesday, January 16
JCC Holland Family Building

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 716-242-7824.

GET READY TO PARTY MAY 19 WITH THE JCC!



The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo will be celebrating its 70th anniversary, Sunday, May 19, 2019. We plan to fill the newly renovated Holland Family Building on historic Delaware Avenue with music, entertainment, dancing, art, food, drinks, basket raffle and most importantly - YOU! Join our team of party planners and help us celebrate in style! Meet new people, get creative, and help us throw the best 70th anniversary party ever.

Seeking creative, enthusiastic volunteers for the following committees:

- Decor
- Food & Beverages
- Entertainment
- Basket Raffle
- Yearbook

Please join our team of mirth makers! For more information, contact Jordana Halpern, JCC Director of Development, at jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org.

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HBLA ANNOUNCES ITS 120TH YEAR CAMPAIGN

At the November 18th Annual Meeting of the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association (HBLA), Barbara Sitrin proudly announced the launch of the **120th Year Campaign**. 120 years ago, in November 1898, the Certificate of Incorporation to form the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association, “the purpose for which. . . is to obtain money by gift, bequest and by payment of dues of members for the purpose of loaning the same to persons without profit to the association,” was officially signed and in December of that year, it was recorded with the Erie County Clerk. The HBLA Board of Directors will celebrate reaching this milestone by renewing our commitment and rededicating ourselves to our original purpose, the granting of interest-free loans to our fellow Jews in need of temporary financial assistance.

Mrs. Sitrin, who co-chairs the HBLA Development Committee with Barbara Wolf-Reichert, announced the Campaign as both a celebration and a vehicle for continuing to insure that HBLA remains on firm financial footing as it serves the Western New York Jewish community for many more years in the future. She explained the significance of the number 120 in Jewish tradition as “The Torah tells us that Moses was 120 years old when he died and his life was deemed perfect and complete. So when we say ‘to 120,’ we are wishing our friends and loved ones a full life, one well-lived and complete.” She continued that, “unlike Moses or man, HBLA’s life and work is not complete. Far from it. While we have a glorious past to celebrate, we face a future we hope to brighten and enhance.”

The goal of the **HBLA 120th Year Campaign** is to further engage supporters, members, and donors in the continuation of our important work with increased funding to expand and strengthen our lending capacity. In the D’var Torah given at the Annual Meeting, Rabbi Ori Bergman recognized that HBLA is one of the few organizations whose sole mission it is to fulfill a *mitzvah*, a good deed, as prescribed in the Torah. He spoke of Maimonides’ eight levels of charity, the highest of which is to assist others to be self-sufficient by the granting of loans. This is what HBLA refers to as providing a “hand-up, not a hand-out.”

Please visit the website, www.wnyhbla.org to join in continuing to enrich the lives of WNY neighbors.



JEWISH REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS *TALLEY'S FOLLY* BY LANFORD WILSON, FEB. 7 – MARCH 3, 2019

Talley's Folly opens in a 1944 deserted Victorian boathouse on the Talley place in Lebanon, Missouri, where Matt Friedman, an accountant from St. Louis, has arrived to plead his love to Sally Talley, the susceptible but uncertain daughter of the family. Bookish, erudite, totally honest, and delightfully funny, Matt refuses to accept Sally's rebuffs and her fears that her family would never approve of their marriage. Charming and indomitable, he gradually overcomes her defenses, telling his innermost secrets to his loved one and, in return, learning hers as well. Gradually it is clear that they are two kindred spirits who have truly found each other—two "lame ducks" who, in their union, will find a wholeness rare in human relationships.

JRT's production of *Talley's Folly*, winner of the 1980 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics' Circle Award best play of the season, will be directed by Steve Vaughan and stars Chris J. Handley as Matt Friedman and Anne Roaldi Boucher as Sally Talley.

Brian Cavanagh is Lighting Designer, David Dwyer is Set Designer, Tom Makar is Sound Designer, Kari Drozd is Costume Designer, Christina Serio is Stage Manager, Mike Benoit, ASM and Property Manager, Kathryn Grace Sands and Emily Glick are House Managers and Linda Hanes is Box Office Manager.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre (JRT) of WNY is getting ready to present the award-winning *Talley's Folly*, by Lanford Wilson, February 7-March 3, 2019. To promote this 1980 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics' Circle Award winning production, JRT is planning a unique basket raffle

fundraiser, with gifts that are related to boats and water.

Prizes will be posted on the JRT website at jewishrepertorytheatre.com and Facebook page starting January 7. Tickets will be drawn for baskets every Monday, starting January 14 and winners will be announced every week until *Talley's Folly* closes March 3.

How can you win? Every JRT subscriber will be automatically entered in the raffle and can purchase additional tickets to increase their chances of winning. Two-play subscriptions are still available



and all new subscribers will receive a raffle ticket as well. In addition, the raffle is open to everyone, with

tickets available at both JCC buildings and on the JRT website. At only \$1/1, \$5/6, and \$10/14, you can improve your odds easily!

All tickets will be entered into one large pot, so players can win multiple prizes. Join the fun and win wonderful prizes, including restaurant gift certificates, boat rides, entertainment and more, while supporting your local Jewish Repertory Theatre.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is located at the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY. For more information on JRT productions, dates and tickets, visit www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com. Tickets are available at 716-650-7626, through Showclix at 1-888-718-4253 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EST) or at either JCC reception desk.

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Remembering Bobby Minkoff

A Eulogy delivered by Cecile Minkoff - June 19, 2018

I am grateful to be cradled by all of your presences. Of all the people in this room, except for maybe Rabbi Ori Bergman, I feel like the baby, because I came so lately into Bobby's life. But of course, he was my husband, so I have license to speak.

Bobby taught me to always begin a public address with a story, so I am going to relate an old story that he often told. There was once a rich merchant who had 4 wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to delicacies. He took great care of her and gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the 3rd wife very much. He was proud of her and always wanted to show her off to his friends. However, the merchant was always in great fear that she might run away with another man. His 2nd wife he loved as well. She was a very considerate person, always patient and in fact, she was his confidante. Whenever the merchant faced some problems, he always turned to his 2nd wife and she would always help him out and tide him over difficult times.

Now, the merchant's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and made great contributions to the maintenance of his wealth and business as well as taking care of his household. Nevertheless, he did not care for her much, and although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her.

One day, the merchant fell ill. Before long, he knew that he would soon die. He thought of his luxurious life and he said to himself, "Now I have 4 wives with me. But when I die, I shall be alone." Thus, he asked his 4th wife, "I loved you most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered you with great care. Now that I am dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" she said, and the 4th wife walked away without another word.

The merchant then asked his 3rd wife, "I have loved you so much for all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!" replied the 3rd wife. "Life is so good here! I'm going to remarry when you die!" He then asked his 2nd wife, "I always turned to you for help and you have always helped me out. Now I need your help again. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you this time," replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only accompany you as far as your grave." The merchant was

overcome with desolation and fear. Then a voice called out: "I will live with you. I will follow you no matter where you go. "The merchant looked up and there was his first wife. She was so skinny, as if she suffered from malnutrition. Greatly grieved, the merchant said, "I should have taken much better care of you while I could have!"

In fact, we all have 4 wives in our lives. The 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish on it to make it look good, it will never live with us when we die. Our 3rd wife? Our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, they all go to others. The 2nd wife represents our family and friends. No matter how closely they are to us when we are alive, the furthest they can come with us is up to the grave. The 1st wife is in fact our soul, often neglected in our pursuit of material wealth and sensual pleasure. She is actually the only thing that follows us wherever we go. Perhaps it's a good idea to cultivate and strengthen her now, rather than to wait until we are on our death-bed to lament.

I tell this story because Bobby nurtured his soul all of his life, and by nurturing his own he was able to nurture others'. Bobby talked with God at least once a day, often twice, morning and evening. The twilight zone that encompassed our house when he became ill became even darker on the day when he could no longer wrap his own tefillin.

Bobby gardened, which he called his partnership with God. He would prepare the earth, and plant the seeds, and water and weed. And lo! God made himself manifest in the miracle of growth: the seedling, the flower, the ripening fruit. Bobby loved fishing, and he loved the Yankees, he loved to sail, he loved his children, and he loved me, "bigger than the whole world," he used to say to us.

In spite of his reputation as a hippie, a guy who left a tenure track position at Syracuse University to go live on communes, a political activist who demonstrated for social justice and against war, someone who pushed boundaries and tested norms, he was as regular and as solid as they come. He was always on time, he always showed up, he was always there for his children, for me, and for countless others. He never failed in this.

He cultivated many friends and he kept them close, from his childhood in the



Bronx, from his college days at U.B., his graduate school days at the University of Texas-Austin, from the commune, and in Buffalo. My email list for sending updates as his condition worsened over the past few months grew to 80 people and I had to rely on word of mouth because I couldn't keep up. That he maintained all of these strong and loving bonds over so many, many years speaks to the spark, nay the flame of his *neshama*. He loved people, and people loved him back.

In *Pirkei Avot* the question is posed: *Eze hu ashir? Ha-Same'ach be chelko*. Who is wealthy? The one who is satisfied with his portion. Bobby was a man who was "*same'ach be-helko*," who always felt he that had enough, and always shared what he had with others. He was always writing checks to charities and to organizations for social justice, Jewish, non-Jewish, local, national, and overseas. When we passed beggars

in the street, he would unflinching give them some cash. "That could have been me," he would say.

I never knew Bobby to be afraid. He grabbed life with both fists and lived to the hilt.

Bobby died on Rosh Chodesh Tammuz. How fitting that forever on his *yahrzeit* we will sing Hallel. If we would honor his memory, then we must sing and dance our hearts out and stretch out our hands with an open heart to all of our brothers and sisters without prejudice.

Bobby's soul is free now, from the body that betrayed him, and he is on his way to Gan Eden, dancing his flying tallis dance. *T'hei nishmato tserurah be-tsrar ha-chayyim*. May his soul be bound up in the bonds of life.

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.

In Remembrance

The following people in our community passed away during the period from November 15, 2018- December 11, 2018.* May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



Robert "R.J." Collins
Dr. Marvin Pleskow
Deena Risman
Henry Stone
Wendy Weisberg
Amy Zeckhauser

**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.*

A Very Buffalo Hanukkah

These are photos of just some of the Buffalo synagogues and agencies who celebrated Hanukkah together in 2018. They include Hanukkah Magic at Temple Beth Zion, Hanukkah at Home Depot by JDHS, and Ohr Temimim Boys Division, The Grinch at Congregation Shir Shalom, Chabad lighting the menorah at Canalside and Ohr Temimim at Jewish Federation Apartments, Kadimah School, Kehillat Ohr Tzion, and Hadassah.



Jewish Buffalo does the Turkey Trot: 11/22/18



ב"ה

HOW ONE JEW STOOD UP TO THE
SOVIETS AND THE KGB

AGAINST ALL ODDS

THE HEROIC STORY OF FAITH, COURAGE AND SURVIVAL
WITH YOSEF MENDELEVICH

...At age twenty-two, Yosef Mendelevich participated in an attempt to hijack a plane to the West, an act designed to raise awareness about the desperate plight of Soviet Jews. He was arrested before the plane ever left the ground and served twelve years in the Soviet gulag. This is the story of one man's resistance against tyranny, and his daily struggle to retain his Jewishness and his humanity in a system built to extinguish both...

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Kristallnacht

By Ruth Lansing

November 9th & 10th, 1938 - 80 years ago - just 4 days before my 20th birthday -the destruction of synagogues, Jewish homes and businesses in Germany came to be known as Kristallnacht - the “Night of Broken Glass.” Before I tell you about my personal experience of Kristallnacht, I would like to tell you about the events that led up to it.

There were a great many Polish Jews living in Germany in 1938. According to my recollection neither they, nor their children- who had been born in Germany, were allowed to become German citizens. They were simply considered to be of Polish nationality or stateless. However, one night, without warning, all the Polish Jews were rounded up and shipped to Poland. When they arrived at the border, they were denied entrance into Poland. There they were in November - cold and hungry, without food or shelter - in no man's land. Somehow, one of the women got a letter out to her brother who was studying in Paris, telling him of their plight. When he read the letter, he went berserk, got a gun and went to the German embassy with the intention of killing the Consul. Instead, the first man he met was an attaché, whom he shot at pointblank range. When the man died two days later, Hitler finally had the excuse he had been waiting for: to launch a campaign of terror against the Jews.

At the time, I was staying with a family in Düsseldorf, Germany - an hour away from my parents. The first indication of the impending horror was a howling mob which gathered in front of the house where I was staying. This was followed by the sound of breaking glass and the sickening crash of a door being kicked in. Four or five men stomped into



Photo by Diane Lansing

the room. They were not wearing Nazi uniforms. Most likely they had been ordered to leave their uniforms at home so as to look like “ordinary citizens” venting their “just wrath” against the Jews for the crime in Paris. They proceeded to throw everything they could lay their hands on out the windows - furniture, crystal,

china, silver, clothes, even a piano. Everything was hurled through the shattered windows, very much to the approval of the cheering mob in the street below.

No sooner had they left, when two armed storm troopers appeared and arrested my host. The way they barked orders, they seemed like a two-man firing squad! I held my breath. I thought they were going to execute him right then and there! Instead, he was dragged off to a concentration camp along with 30,000 other Jewish men and teenage boys that day, including, my sister's husband and his brother.

I don't know what possessed me, but I went down into the street to see if anything could be salvaged, only to be driven back by the jeering mob, screaming obscenities at me. I remember a young girl threw a scarf at me and suggested I hang myself with it.

Strangely enough, I saw

no looting. After all, these were “well-disciplined” Germans, obeying orders. Either that, or, by the time these things reached the street from the second floor from which they had been hurled, there was nothing left worth picking up. I found out later that they were not so reluctant about looting Jewish-owned stores, which was much more lucrative. The newspaper reported that these “good Germans” were collecting items to donate to the poor. Yeah, right! Then, adding insult to injury, the Jews were forced to pay for all the broken glass and damage done during those two nights of terror.

My only thought now was to get home to my parents who lived an hour away. I grabbed my passport and stuffed it inside my bra in case my purse was searched; I didn't know what they would do if they found out I was Jewish! I thought we would have to flee the country immediately, in my panic having completely forgotten that there was no place to flee to. Virtually all countries had closed their borders to the Jews by then. In 1938-1939, the U.S. German/Austrian and Czech quotas were completely filled. Having a sponsor was no good until your quota number came up. Mine took ten years to come up, even though I applied for my quota number just two weeks after my sister did, and she came to the U.S. ten years before I did!

On my way to the railroad station I saw flames, and realized that the beautiful old synagogue had been set on fire. In the distance, I heard the jeering and laughter of the crowd as they found ever new victims. Very much to my relief, I found my parents unharmed and nothing had been disturbed. Perhaps this was because not long before, we had been forced out of the large house my grandfather had built in 1870. We had then moved into a tiny apartment in a neighboring city where we were not known. However, our Jewish landlord's apartment had been ransacked, and his valuable paintings slashed to ribbons.

After having lived through unspeakable horrors and degradations, most of the Jewish men who had been rounded up during Kristallnacht were eventually released from the

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concentration camps - except for those whose ashes were sent to their families. My sister and her husband were fortunate to leave for the U.S. shortly thereafter. His brother tried to flee to Switzerland where he had family, and was never heard from again. A few months later, I was fortunate to escape to England, where I survived as a maid and later as a waitress. For my parents, it was too late. They were trapped in Germany, and perished in Auschwitz, as did my oldest sister. She had foreseen the impending horror and had fled to Holland shortly after Hitler came to power in 1933, where she thought she would be safe. And she was - until the Nazis overran Holland.

In accordance with the U.S. quota system established in 1924, the U.S. admitted 27,370 refugees from Germany in 1939. That number was reduced by 93% to just 1,966 in 1942. Just think how many Jews could have been saved if it had not been for the closed borders.

For those of us who thought that we could wait out the Hitler era, Kristallnacht was a wake-up call. It warned those who could, to get out of Germany. Unfortunately for most, it was too late. None of us could have foreseen the Final Solution.

Epilogue:

After the war ended, while waiting for my U.S. quota number to come up, I returned to Germany for 3 years. I was attached to the U.S. Army as an Allied Civilian Employee, working first in censorship and later as a translator at the Nuremberg trials. In the fall of 1948, my U.S. quota number finally came up and I left Germany for good for the United States, where I have lived for the past 70 years. Having been born just two days after the Armistice was signed ending World War I, I turned 100 years old on November 13, grateful to have lived this long to tell this tale. May nothing like this ever happen again!

100 year-old Ruth Lansing lives in Williamsville and is a devoted member of Congregation Shir Shalom. An edited version of this story was published in The Buffalo News "My View" column. It is reprinted with the permission of the author.



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