

The Award Winning

BE HAPPY! IT'S ADAR!

# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

BUFFALO, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | WWW.BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG

MARCH 2019 | ADAR I - ADAR II 5779



**BE HAPPY!**  
It's Purim Everywhere!  
(10-11)



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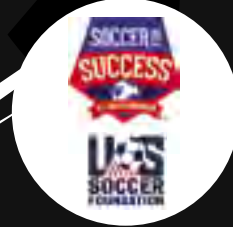


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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

**Be happy. It's Adar!** What does that mean? For one thing, our tradition tells us that when the Hebrew month of Adar comes, joy is increased. Adar, the current month in the Hebrew calendar signals the end of winter in Israel And this year, because there is a leap year in the Jewish calendar, we have two Adars. Extra happiness? We certainly can aim for that. And how can you not be happy looking at the adorable faces of the JCC preschoolers gracing the cover of this month's *Jewish Journal*? They are so joyous!

These beautiful children are on the cover of the paper for two reasons. First, dressed in costumes, they are reminding us that Purim is coming this month, a time for rejoicing, for eating and dancing, reading the Megillah, and drinking until we can't tell the difference between the good Mordechai and the evil Haman. Second, these kids are letting us know that the 70th anniversary of the Jewish Community Center will soon be here. Slated for May 19, the celebration will honor the past while acclaiming the future of the JCC, as well as highlighting the beautifully refurbished Holland Family Building on Delaware Avenue. Learn more about it on page 33, and in the next two issues of the *Jewish Journal*.

Finally, as we celebrate Purim this year and spin our *groggers* at the mention of the word "Haman," it is important to remember that are still modern-day Hamans in the world who would do us harm. We don't have to look further than Pittsburgh to remember this. That is why you still have an opportunity to make a generous gift to the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund (see page 3) and help all of Jewish Buffalo be a safe place for everyone. If you have already made a gift, thank you. If you

have not, please make one today—for yourself, for your children, for all of us. *Hag Sameach!*

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



In anticipation of the JCC's 70th anniversary May 19, Early Childhood program participants in the Benderson JCC and Holland JCC Building are jumping with excitement, and also looking forward to Purim this month, too. Photos by kc kratt.

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# Buffalo MOMentum: Women's Trip to Israel Next December

We've had an overwhelming response to the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) MOMentum opportunity. Yet, there is still time to apply to join other women from Buffalo on a year-long journey that includes 8 days in Israel December 10-17, 2019. Apply today at [www.jwrp.org](http://www.jwrp.org). Note that space is limited and some restrictions apply. Also, acceptance into the program is granted based on criteria determined by the JWRP.



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**EXPLORE**  
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**DISCOVER**  
how to connect deeper with yourself, your family, and your community.

\*MOMentum Trips are for the participants excluding airfare. Additional costs for participants include \$1500 trip fee, a \$990 per person fee, and room and board. This trip is designed for women with children under the age of 18. The MOMentum fee using current rates is \$1500 per person. For more information, please contact: Stacy Block | 716-294-2250 | [stacy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:stacy@buffalojewishfederation.org)

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The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) was established in 2008 by eight Jewish women who came from all walks of life. Together, they started a global movement designed to empower women through Jewish values. Since that time more than 10,000 individuals from 26 different countries have experienced this life-changing journey, returning home with a connection to Jewish values, ties to Israel and the tools to take action in their own homes and communities.

## BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Last month, the cover of the *Jewish Journal* highlighted efforts to raise funds to ensure a safer and more secure Jewish Buffalo. As of February 19th, we've raised nearly \$95,000 from 245 individuals or groups for the new Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund. We are particularly grateful to the Joseph Family and the families of Dr. Samuel and Joni Shatkin and Dr. Todd and Leslie Shatkin who provided matching funds to incentivize dozens of donors to contribute.

In addition, President of Federation, Leslie Shuman Kramer, initiated a new task force to lead the effort for how best to invest these resources, including grant-making to local synagogues and agencies, and the potential hire of a security expert to serve as a point of contact for law enforcement. At the first meeting last month, the task force heard from Pat Daly, Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer of Secure Community Network (SCN), who reviewed information on facility security, community-law enforcement engagement and provided a threat overview.

Next month, the task force will be meeting with Susan Case DeMari, the Security Liaison for the Jewish Federation of Central NY. A graduate of Brockport State and Syracuse University College of Law, Susan has provided trainings and seminars to strengthen the security infrastructure for the Syracuse Jewish Community.



**Please consider a gift to support the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund. Below is information on three easy ways to contribute.**

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# Buffalo Lions of Judah...the Story Continues

## The Power of Tradition: Susan Kaplan Gellman and Sonia Gellman Young



The *Jewish Journal of WNY* continues to profile Buffalo women who make an annual Lion of Judah (LOJ) level gift (\$5,000) to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. This month, meet mother and daughter Susan Gellman and Sonia Gellman Young, two more Jewish women who exemplify the qualities of “Women of Valor” in our midst. Family, community, Jewish living are the reasons they became and proudly remain Lions of Judah. Their stories also illustrate the idea that when they are young, children learn from their parents how to act and what values to acquire. *L’dor v’dor* – instilling character and passing down values and tradition from one generation to the next.



### Susan Kaplan Gellman

Susan Kaplan Gellman believes wholeheartedly that the purpose of *tzedakah* is to repair the world, and our purpose is to make sure it happens. She illustrated the point with a story from *The Jewish Press* of New York. “The famous philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore was asked by the Queen of England how much money he possesses. Sir Moses told the queen ‘I possess 3 million pounds.’ The queen was surprised, and asked ‘are you sure that is all the money you have?’ Sir Moses answered ‘Yes I am sure, because the only money that really belongs to me is what I gave away to *tzedakah*.’”

Susan feels that being a Lion of Judah is a good vehicle for her personal *tzedakah*. “I have been a Lion of Judah for many years. I strongly believe it is important to contribute to the community in which you live, and to support all the agencies so they can function well, and the schools can prosper.”

David and Beatrice Kaplan, Susan’s parents, were from Long Island. Their life’s work was building and supporting a synagogue in their area. “My parents were my inspiration to give to Federation in New York,” she said. “They made an example for me to follow. They founded the Fresh Meadows Jewish Center in Queens, a Conservative synagogue. And my in-laws, Jack and Elizabeth Gellman of Niagara Falls, were also generous to the Federation and to their synagogue,

Temple Beth Israel.”

Arthur Gellman and Susan Kaplan met when they were both patients at the infirmary while students at UB in 1968. They both then left Buffalo—Arthur off to Europe, Susan to New York City where she became a high school English teacher. In 1972 they started writing letters back and forth and ultimately reconnected and married in 1975, in Florida, so Susan’s 94 year-old grandfather could attend. Today they have four married children: In addition to Sonia, one son Jonathan lives in Buffalo and works in real estate. He is also president of the Ohr Temimim School. Their other daughter, Chana Gellman Burston, lives in Orange County, New York and runs a large Chabad. Their second son, Daniel (Tzvi) Gellman, lives in Pomona, New York. Susan and Arthur also have 18 grandchildren (ka”h).

Susan and Arthur have taken an active role in

**“I love the outcome of what has happened because of my becoming religious.”**

Buffalo’s Jewish Community. Notably, together with the Shuman Family, the Gellmans were founders of the Jewish Heritage School (now Ohr Temimim School). “We founded it about twenty years ago so our kids would have an observant Jewish school to go to,” she said. Also, along with the Dautch Family, they contributed to the Weinberg Campus, creating the Gellman – Dautch Gymnasium.

“When I was raising my children, I also belonged to National Council of Jewish Women. There is no longer a chapter in Buffalo, but I enjoyed that very much,” Susan said. “Today I belong to Hadassah, and I also volunteer at Ohr Temimim, tutoring reading to first graders. The children are so cute and sweet, and they are eager to learn,” she said. The Gellmans are members of Young Israel and the Jewish Discovery Center, and attend shul in both places when they are in Buffalo.

Susan, honored by the Jewish Federation as a Woman of Distinction in 2017, explained that Judaism became much more central to her life around 1989 or 1990 when she embarked on a spiritual journey and became “*frum*” (Jewishly religious/observant), which caused me to bring up *frum* children.” Today, her four children are living *frum* Jewish lives with their beautiful families in strong Jewish communities. “I love the outcome of what has happened because of my becoming religious,” she said.



### Sonia Gellman Young

Sonia Gellman Young radiates passion, compassion and vitality. An accomplished artist, passionate donor and devoted community leader, as noted above, she grew up in Williamsville as one of four children of Arthur and Susan Gellman. Sonia relates so much of her commitment to her parents and also to her mother’s parents- David & Beatrice Kaplan, and her father’s parents, Jack & Elizabeth Gellman. Jack was very involved in Jewish life in Niagara Falls and at Niagara University. Later on, they also contributed to Jewish life in Miami. Her parents and grandparents passed on a legacy of giving, and getting involved both locally and in supporting the State of Israel. Her uncle and aunt, George and Bodil Gellman, also carry on this family tradition of Jewish philanthropy. So being a part of the Buffalo Jewish community is a natural family legacy, as well as a perfect fit for her.

Sonia’s husband, Pinny, is from London, England, and grew up playing soccer as a secular Jew, though he attended an elite Jewish boarding school. He was inspired after high school to become a rabbi and decided to attend yeshiva in New York and New Jersey. The couple first met in Morristown, later married, then moved to Buffalo, where Pinny attended University at Buffalo School of Medicine. Rabbi Dr. Young is now a practicing Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist and a surgeon in Amherst.

The Youngs have seven children: 21-year old Leah, an artist in her own right who lives in New York City, attends the New York School of Interior Design, and runs Chabad teen and youth programs nationally; 18-year old Yaakov—a student in yeshiva in New Haven; Michel, 15 years old, who studies in a yeshiva in Toronto; 12-year old Dov Ber who attends Ohr Temimim school and is studying for his bar mitzvah; 7-year old Avremmy who also attends Ohr Temimim, as does his 5-year old brother, Mendel, and 3-year old Rosie, who attends Jewish Discovery Center’s pre-school.

Sonia says that growing up, she was always hearing about her family’s involvement in Jewish Federation. “Whether the topic was my father speaking to a large forum in Israel on a Federation mission in the 1980s or about his board meetings, or my grandmother Elizabeth Gellman sporting a sparkling Lion of Judah pin years ago, Federation was part of the Gellman communal vocabulary.”

“I also learned from my parents and grandparents not only about supporting organizations, but also about helping individuals in their personal and business lives, providing private loans to students and individuals. My parents’ personal and organizational lives are steeped in *tzedakah*,” Sonia explained. “They will constantly sacrifice their lifestyle choices to help



others. I don't know many people who would do that. People know they can turn to our family for help, and many have," she said. "This is a legacy that has been imprinted on me and my siblings since we were babies that we were going to carry on this tradition of *tzedakah* and the value of helping, strengthening the community."

In discussing how happy she is with her choice to become a Lion of Judah, Sonia commented on the generosity of other Lions she has met. "I have noticed this quality—a generation to generation sense of *tzedakah* - in many of the Lions I know. They have this notion bred into them that giving isn't an option. I really think many of us believe this and act on it," she said. "One of the benefits I have seen from becoming a Lion of Judah is the friendships and local connections I have made with these women."

**"One of the benefits I have seen from becoming a Lion of Judah is the friendships..."**

"Several years ago, Pinny was asked to lead the Mission to the Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) General Assembly (GA) in Washington, D.C. Nearly 30 individuals attended, many I had not previously known. Between those GA attendees, my relationships on the Federation board and through different committees including Jewish Women's Connection with Ellen Weiss, I have made good friends and community friends and relationships with people I would not have crossed paths with otherwise."

Sonia's first personal encounter with Federation as an adult came through Kim Yonaty, who was a Kick-Off Dinner table captain at the time, and she invited the Youngs to attend the event and sit at her table. Sonia found that Campaign event so impressive and powerful, joining with 500 other community members who were there because they wanted to support the infrastructure of the Jewish community. It was then that she and Pinny decided to become involved in the Federation.

"That night led my husband and me on a new trajectory to begin thinking about what it meant to be involved with Federation. What would be our financial commitment? Could we help implement new ideas and promote change in our community going forward? What did it

mean to be an observant Jew involved with the Federation in Buffalo?"

Sonia was the energy behind the creation of the Jewish Women's Connection (JWC) at Federation, assisted by other community members. The goal of the JWC was to unify Jewish women across all walks of the community—whether a person was unaffiliated or considered herself Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, or Chassidic. The foundation of the programming was Jewish, inspirational, and educational topics which would appeal to everyone attending in a non-judgmental, non-threatening way. Programming included cooking classes, challah baking classes, art related classes, general Jewish learning, lectures with outside speakers, and the crescendo event was "Spa for the Soul," which was a day of Jewish learning immersion and inspiration which included Jewish meditation, lectures, yoga, Israeli dance, and was sponsored by the Benderson and Gellman families.

Sonia's community resume is impressive. She is a Ruth & Milton Kahn Young Leadership award winner, was honored by the Federation in 2012 as a Woman of Distinction, participated in the 2015 Federation's executive director search committee, attended two General Assemblies, became involved with Nickel City Jews and hosted several Lag b'Omer parties and Purim Megillah readings for the group, as well as Shabbat dinners for young professionals. She also serves on the board Ohr Temimim School, attends Young Israel, Kehillat Ohr Tzion, and the Jewish Discovery Center, is a JFS board member, and a past Federation board member, where she chaired the Kosher Task Force. She also teaches art classes for adults at the JCC, is an art teacher for Ohr Temimim and teaches private students in her art studio.

An accomplished and talented artist herself, Sonia attended Pratt Institute and graduated from UB with a Fine Arts degree. She donates her artworks to multiple Jewish organizations for charity purposes, and has exhibited in solo and group shows in the United States and Israel. Her works are in the permanent collections of Hadassah and Sha'arai Tzedek Hospitals in Jerusalem. She is also the marketing and PR Director for Paul Young, MD and helped to build the practice from the beginning.

You can see from this story that with Susan Gellman and Sonia Gellman Young, the apple (kugel) doesn't fall far from the tree. A blessing for us in Jewish Buffalo!



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# “A Day without a Smile is a Waste of a Day”

By Naomi Wiseman

Written on the wall of the Regba School in Nahariyah, Israel, this title quote sums up a five-day trip of our Jewish Educators Delegation in Israel's Western Galilee Region. And we shared those smiles we saw on the faces of the children not only at the Regba School but also at the six other Israeli schools the delegation team visited on this special trip.

Sponsored and so beautifully organized by The Jewish Agency and its Partnership2Gether platform in conjunction with the Jewish Federations of North America, the group was made up of eleven educators, ranging from Budapest, Hungary, Omaha, Nebraska, Toledo, Ohio and Buffalo, New York. We spent five days visiting a variety of schools, meeting with teachers and students and touring the region.

The Partnership's mission is to promote mutually beneficial endeavors between the people of the Central Area Consortium (which includes Buffalo and 14 other communities) and the Western Galilee. Forging relationships through programs that build Jewish identity and strengthen ties and connections among and between our communities was the theme of this trip. Each participant has been matched with a “twinning school” in this Northwest region of Israel, with which we will communicate and build relationships to bring back to our American students. We toured these schools in person, and met with the children and teachers with whom we will be corresponding in the future.

When I arrived at G'vanim School, I was immediately greeted by the 5th and 6th grade English teacher and the principal of the school. We discussed a variety of ways we can connect Israeli students to Buffalo students who currently meet two Sundays every month called COOLanu, and including recording and sending a video of a holiday celebration in our homes, sharing a favorite American song for our Israeli counterparts to learn and vice versa, sending books and art projects across continents, and Skype conferencing so the students will actually have a chance to meet “face to face.”

After our initial welcome, I had the pleasure of meeting the ten Israeli students who we will be twinning



with our Buffalo Jewish youth. They were anticipating my arrival, hardly able to sit still, and of course jumped at the first opportunity to take a coveted “selfie” with me! (See above.) They were proud to show off their English skills, having prepared speeches about a recent project, guiding me on a tour of their beautiful campus and sending me back to Buffalo with handwritten letters introducing themselves to our Buffalo students. This was the first step in creating lifelong friendships and connections between Buffalonians and Israelis.

Although I could have spent the full five days with my new Israeli friends, the Partnership offered us many other fascinating experiences and programs throughout the region and we had the opportunity to observe and learn from local staff members,

volunteers and fellow educators. Among the schools we toured was *K'tzinei Yam*, a Naval high school that prepares cadets for the Israeli Navy, in addition to sponsoring a startup technology program that actually “twins” with a Jewish school in Budapest through video conferencing. Another was the Meitar School, a regional school that caters to the needs of 48 students suffering from severe mental and emotional disorders, offering instruction centered on helping students discover, see and believe in their own abilities and skills.

As a young, fairly new educator discovering educational possibilities first-hand in a country I hold so near and dear to my heart, this trip was inspiring and re-energizing. While there, I clearly felt my ties to Israel grow stronger.



(Left top) Naomi with students in Israel  
(Above) Buffalo's COOLanu students  
(Left) Naomi taking a selfie in Israel

On the last day of the trip, I was asked if I would be interviewed for an upcoming promotional video for the Partnership. One of the questions asked was, “Why do you think strengthening connections between Jews around the world is important?” I think that it is the Partnership's goal, as it should be for any Jew, to foster a feeling of belonging to the Jewish people and the Jewish homeland. Everyone, especially young students, can continue to build these ties in order to create a bridge between American Jewry and Israeli Jewry which not only strengthens one's Jewish identity, but also forges a strong connection and commitment to Israel, Judaism and education.

I feel my Jewish identity was indeed strengthened by this opportunity offered through the Buffalo Jewish Federation. I shared this Israeli adventure with ten other American Jewish educators who, based on our non-stop **WhatsApp** conversations, will be in my life for some time. We have all committed to making it our mission to bring this feeling of connection and identity to America's Jewish youth and for me—Buffalo's Jewish youth.

**Naomi Wiseman is a COOLanu teacher with the Center for Jewish Experience & Learning.**



# Jewish Buffalo Invests in Israel's Western Galilee

## *Strengthening Ties to Buffalo's Partnership Region*

Embracing the opportunity presented at last fall's 2019 Buffalo Jewish Federation Campaign Kick-Off, hundreds of community members contributed nearly \$55,000 toward a fund to invest in NGOs (Israeli non-profits) in the Western Galilee, our community's partnership region in Israel.

Based on the criteria established by Federation's Overseas Allocation Task Force, a group chaired by Stephen L. Yonaty and comprising members of Federation's board and others committed to supporting Israel, a grant application was opened to eligible organizations in the Western Galilee for funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to either expand existing programs or enable innovative new programs to be launched. Thanks to the strong efforts of local Federation's Director of Community Planning Mandy Weiss, Director of Adult Education Susan Goldberg Schwartz, and their regional Jewish Agency colleague Bracha Zuriel, 15 grant requests were received. After considerable deliberation, the Task Force awarded funding for five of these requests.

These monetary allocations are furthering Buffalo's connection with the region, one that recently included home hospitality to all 77 participants on the Buffalo Israel Experience last October.

Based on the Task Force's selections, the following five organizations will be advancing programs that impact positive change across the major categories of Youth-at-Risk, Peace Building, and Social Justice.

**Unistream** will receive \$14,800 to fund its "Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Today 2.0" program, which will allow the organization to reach an additional 500 people in 2019. The organization's mission is to equip underprivileged Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze, Bedouin, Ultra-Orthodox, immigrant, at-risk youth and young adults with practical entrepreneurial, business, leadership, and technical skills to ensure their success as thriving and active citizens who become leaders in the workforce and society, and initiate significant social change by reinvesting



(Top) Jewish & Druze women in an Israeli Druze village  
(Middle) The shore at the Akko Naval Academy with a view of the old city of Akko  
(Bottom) Israeli and American Women in a dialogue program in Israel

in their home communities. The program builds upon Unistream's flagship program, Tomorrow's Leaders, where underprivileged Israeli teens found and run startup companies, lead meaningful social ventures, and give back to their communities. The funds from the Federation will support the expansion of Unistream's Akko Entrepreneurship Center from a youth center into community innovation center to provide more programming to the entire community. The program will also utilize funds from USAID and corporate contributions.

**La'Ofek** will receive \$13,600 to fund its "Riding Far Leadership Course", which will allow the organization to expand their flagship "Riding Far" program, a therapeutic cycling initiative for at-risk

youth from all sectors of Israeli society. The Federation grant will enable La'Ofek to begin a Leadership Course for its graduates. The objectives of the "Riding Far" Leadership Course will be to empower youth with the potential to be leaders among their fellow cyclists while teaching the skills needed for self-actualization in their private lives as well as teaching virtues and values, such as responsibility, leadership, patriotism, and tolerance.

**Nitzan** will receive \$7,000 to expand its remedial treatment services for learning disabled students. Nitzan's mission is to provide special services for learning-disabled children in order to enable their integration into mainstream education and help them become contributing members of society. The organization evaluates and identifies thousands of children and adults with learning disabilities throughout Israel, operating in 34 branches supporting learning-disabled children and their families, regardless of race, religion or economic status. This grant will help Nitzan support second graders with learning disabilities from both a Jewish and an Arab school. At this critical year, the remedial programs will help assess students' potential via ongoing treatment help to further their educational development. The program will also be funded by the education departments of local municipalities.

**The Israel Nautical College in Akko** will receive \$6,700 to expand its "Technological Entrepreneurship" program which aims to promote and support technological, innovative, and enterprising behavior among high school students in Akko in conjunction with similar groups of Jewish youth in the Diaspora, including the U.S. The Israel Nautical College is an innovative institution

preparing students for excellence and leadership in naval and social endeavors. The school provides a high-quality education through maritime awareness, enabling students to realize their potential, maximize their skills, engage in self-discovery and have the motivation and capacity to contribute to Israeli society and the Navy. The program offers participating students an outlet for their creativity, a controlled, monitored and guided arena for them to explore innovative ideas, develop them by discussing and pitching them before volunteer engineers from Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., a supplier of Iron Dome technology, to help them nurture their entrepreneurial potential as well as interact with Jewish peers in the Partnership Consortium. Steps are also being taken to forge ties between the Israel Nautical College and the Western New York Maritime Charter School in Buffalo.

**House of Wheels** will receive \$5,000 to expand its weekend groups. House of Wheels' vision is of a society of full social inclusion of all people with physical disabilities in all areas of life, from education to employment, recreation and beyond. The organization engages people with physical disabilities and provides them opportunities for personal development and growth toward creating and living in an all-inclusive society. House of Wheels operates in all sectors of Israeli society, serving Jews, Arabs, Bedouins, Christians, Muslims and Druze. Federation's funding will enable House of Wheels to offer opportunities for people with physical disabilities to enjoy monthly weekend groups, where they enjoy an inclusive Shabbat experience away from home, helping them to realize greater independence and transition from adolescence into adulthood.

It was a rewarding experience to explore a range of grant opportunities. "We started with an idea and collectively developed into a process which culminated in our local community providing assistance to others many thousands of miles away," said Yonaty. "Our task force was cohesive, civil and creative. I appreciate their individual and collective involvement and extend special thanks to Mandy, Susan and all of the staff members who did a lot of the leg work," he added.

**Progress on the programs will be highlighted in a future issue of The Jewish Journal.**



# Super Sunday Success - Thank You!

## *Thank you, #SuperSundaySuperHeroes!*

The Buffalo Jewish Federation's Super Sunday raised over \$50,000 on January 27, because of the hard work of the many individuals listed below. The funds will help Jews and agencies in Western New York, in Israel and around the world. Mazel Tov and thank you to all our volunteers.

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

**Neil Block**  
**Amelida Ortiz Weinmann**  
*Super Sunday Co-Chairs*

**Stephen L. Yonaty**  
**M. Kim Yonaty**  
*Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Co-Chairs*

**Leslie Shuman Kramer**  
*Buffalo Jewish Federation President*

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**Amelida Weinmann**  
**Ben Weinmann**  
**Madi Weinmann**  
**Peter Weinmann**  
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**Mark Yablin**  
**Ariella Yonaty**  
**Kim B. Yonaty**  
**Stephen L. Yonaty**  
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**Colette Zappia**

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Amherst Town Board  
**Kevin O'Connell**  
Catholic Health  
**Don Postles**  
WIVB-TV  
**Hon. Ed Rath III**  
Erie County Legislator  
**Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin**  
Erie County Family Court Judge  
**Hon. Jeff Zeplovitz**  
Amherst Town Board





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Giancarlo's Sicilian Steakhouse & Pizzeria	Santora's Pizza Pub & Grill
Jack Astor's Bar & Grill	Tops Markets





## Purim Celebrations

### Sunday, March 10

TBT WOMEN'S NETWORK  
**10:00 am Vashti's Banquet Brunch**  
 1641 North Forest Road  
 \$20- members/ \$25 non-members  
 RSVP by March 4 to  
[www.btzbuffalo.org](http://www.btzbuffalo.org) or 838-3232

### Wednesday, March 20

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM  
 4660 Sheridan Drive  
**6:00 pm Free pizza dinner**  
**7:00 pm The Great Shushan Man**  
 The Purim Story retold with the  
 music from the hit Hollywood Movie,  
 "The Greatest Showman."  
 Coming for dinner?  
 RSVP by March 15- 633-8877  
 or [www.shirshalombuffalo.org](http://www.shirshalombuffalo.org)

### KEHILLAT OHR TZION

**8:00 pm Megillah Reading**  
 879 Hopkins Road

### Wednesday, March 20

TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK  
**Macaroni & Megillah**  
 1641 North Forest Road  
**5:30 pm Purim Pasta Bar**  
**6:00 pm Mincha Service**  
**6:45 pm Ma'ariv & Megillah reading**  
**plus Mishloach Manot Basket fundraiser**  
 RSVP [www.btzbuffalo.org](http://www.btzbuffalo.org) or 838-3232

### Thursday, March 21

CHABAD OF BUFFALO  
 & KNESSET CENTER  
**Purim in Persia**  
 500 Starin Avenue  
**5:30 pm Megillah Reading**  
**6:00 pm Dinner.**  
 (There is a charge for dinner)  
 RSVP at [www.chabadofbuffalo.com](http://www.chabadofbuffalo.com)  
 or call 688-1642

JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER  
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**To Register:**  
 Email Nicole: [nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org)

**FREE!**





### Thursday, March 21

KEHILLAT OHR TZION  
879 Hopkins Road

7:30 am Megillah Reading

4:30 pm Children's program &  
costume contest, arts and crafts,  
and more.

Questions? KOTkids18@gmail.com

### Friday, March 22

TEMPLE BETH ZION &  
CONGREGATION BETH ABRAHAM  
805 Delaware Avenue

Shabbat Service & Purim Spiel

7:00 pm Shabbat Service

7:30 pm Purim Spiel

A co-production of Temple Beth Zion  
and Congregation Beth Abraham.  
A reception follows in the Rabbi Fink  
Auditorium.

### Sunday, March 24

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
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## NFJC to Honor Sol Messinger April 3



**Dr. Sol Messinger** will be honored by the National Federation for Just Communities Wednesday, April 3 at the 66th Annual Citation Banquet held in the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Others honored that evening include Bassam M. Deeb, Pamela Jacobs Vogt and Gary P. Hall. The Reception and silent auction begins at 6 pm and the dinner is at 7 pm. To make a reservation or become a patron, contact Lana Benatovich at 853-9596 before March 13.

# March Madness: Running Around Keeps Benjy Bluman Going

*By Peter Simon*

Benjy Bluman has left his mark all over the sports scene of Western New York. He was an All-High player in both basketball and baseball at Riverside High School, and co-captain of the first Buffalo State College basketball team to earn a spot in a national tournament. An outstanding shortstop, Bluman was twice named local player of the year in slow pitch softball. He is also a long-time officer of a national Association of Basketball Officials and an inductee of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

Now 73, and in his 44th year as a basketball referee, Bluman faces a challenge that gets more formidable—and remarkable—every year. Because he currently officiates at high school games, the players he keeps up with are teenagers, most of them at least 55 years younger than Bluman.

“The kids we officiate for are always the same age,” he said. “The rest of us keep getting older.” Bluman keeps up with those demands by staying remarkably fit. Non-game days are not a chance to rest, but to run a mile on a track and work out on a stationary bike. “It’s pretty amazing to see him still refereeing,” said Kory Bluman, Benji’s son, who is also a basketball referee



Kory and Benjy Bluman at a local high school basketball game.

and occasionally works games with his father. “It keeps him really fit and it keeps him out doing things.”

Benjy Bluman said scrutiny and criticism from parents, coaches and players has increased over the years, mirroring general trends in society and making the job even more demanding. “You’re under the microscope all the time,” he said. “You have to realize right off the bat that you’re going to be criticized for doing your job, which is a hard thing.”

Even so, Bluman takes pride in the skills he has acquired over the years, his even-handedness and his ability to keep emotional situations in check. He has ejected coaches less than five times in 44 years, and, when circumstances allow, takes a moment to explain a call to a coach. “If it remains a civilized conversation, that’s fine,” he said. Bluman also offers positive reinforcement to players angered by a call. “The decision was made,

and it’s not going to change,” is what he might say. “You’re a good player. Don’t let it ruin your game. There are still 22 minutes left to play.”

Bluman is deeply appreciative of his 2016 selection to the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall Of Fame, which also includes Bob Lanier, Gilbert Perreault, Warren Spahn, Jack Kemp, Calvin Murphy, Marv Levy, Christian Laettner and many other well-known players and coaches. “I was totally surprised by the whole thing,” Bluman said. “It was all based on stuff I just enjoy doing.”

Bluman retired last summer from his day job after 50 years in the banking business, but has no plans to put aside his basketball whistle. “Refereeing keeps him out doing things in retirement, and keeps him out of the house,” said Kory. “I think Mom (Benji’s wife Laurie) appreciates that more than anyone!”

*Peter Simon is a former reporter for The Buffalo News and a past president of Congregation Shir Shalom.*

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February was Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM), which unites Jewish communities worldwide to raise awareness and champion the rights of all Jews to be included, to belong



and to participate meaningfully in Jewish life. Lisa Friedman, Jewish Educator and Disability Inclusion specialist shares that there is much important work to do beyond the month of February: "Inclusion is a mindset. It is a philosophy that

embraces the idea that everyone has something of value to contribute and that everyone has a right to belong. When we commit ourselves to making our programs accessible – not just in the physical sense, but by ensuring that each person's participation is truly meaningful – then we can call ourselves inclusive."

Right here in Buffalo, JDAIM was marked by sharing a message of *B'tzelem Elohim*, that all humans are created in the image of the divine. Yad B'Yad volunteer leaders Robin Raphael, Sue Goldberg and Laurie Criden designed and facilitated inclusion-themed story times for Kindergarten and 1st Graders at Temple Beth Zion, Kadimah Academy, and Congregation Shir Shalom/Gesher.

Sharla Bleichfeld, Rabbi Sami Barth, Marty Kerker, Bernie Weinstein and Temple Beth Tzedek Keshet Inclusion volunteers shared a vibrant and inclusive musical Havdallah hosted by the women of the Women's Jewish Group Home, as they do every month."

Janet Gunner and the Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force continue working on the first Men's Jewish Group Home to open in our community in early 2020, and they are looking for additional housemates.

There are many other ongoing inclusion efforts in our community. Temple Beth Tzedek's

Outstretched Arm program, in its twentieth year, chaired by Sharla Bleichfeld, will hold its annual Purim celebration for Jews with special needs and the Jewish community at TBT on Sunday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. Ongoing events include the JCC Au-Some Swim program, Rabbi Greenberg's Friday Torah class at Weinberg, Congregation Shir Shalom's Torah study at Weinberg with Rabbi Alex, Temple Beth Zion's Achim program and Canterbury program, TBT's Lifelong Learning program for Jewish adults with special needs,

and PJ Library's inclusion of individuals with special needs based on their intellectual level rather than chronological age.

Our striving for inclusion as a mindset occurs not only during JDAIM, but as Jewish Buffalo's enduring goal. For more information on Yad B'Yad, contact miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.

For more information on Temple Beth Tzedek Keshet Inclusion and the Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force, contact janetgunner@gmail.com.

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# Quando El Rey Nimrod

By Cantor Penny Myers

There are many things that are sacred to me: my family, Torah, my Birnbaum *siddur* and the song “*Quando El Rey Nimrod*.” For the past ten years, this piece of Ladino music has been one of the most sacred, preserved memories I have that is completely crystallized into my memory. This was the last piece of music I ever heard Cantor Susan Wehle z”l sing live in a joint concert we did with a small quartet from the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra two months before she joined *Hashem’s* heavenly choir.

In fact, my obsession with that preservation of her memory turned into acts of bizarre behavior. I would deliberately skip through that piece of music on my Ipod, Jewish radio and I even walked out of a workshop taught by one of the greatest *hazzonim* of our time, Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi from Chicago, because I didn’t want anyone to colour that memory for me and paint it with a different voice.

I knew Susan since I was in high school, as I would accompany my parents during Shabbat services at the former Temple Sinai. I remember how poised she was and how I could feel her *neshamah* (soul) through her song. It was magically palpable.

Back then I didn’t have the luxury of knowing intimately what our liturgy says, but I didn’t need to. Susan’s delivery spoke volumes of our faith, traditions, and G-d in ways that transcended liturgical Hebrew- it was profoundly eye opening. Later as I was an undergraduate student studying voice here in Buffalo, Susan would often call upon me to sing in community concerts and it always was a spirited event.

Fast forward to 2002 and Bennett’s and my personal “exodus” back to Buffalo (yes we actually CHOSE to move back to Buffalo), I now had the opportunity to be her colleague. As Susan assumed her position at Temple Beth Am, I took my place that was formerly hers, on the *bimah* at Temple Sinai. Temple Sinai and Temple Beth Am always were always deeply connected so it was natural for Susan and me to connect as well.

Susan and I worked very closely together planning joint services, programming, and concerts. She knew volumes about spirituality as well as about contemporary music of the Jewish Renewal Movement. If there ever was a piece of music I needed, she would say “I don’t have the music, I’ll call you and



Cantor Susan Wehle z”l singing with Cantor Penny Myers

leave it on your answering machine,” and she would immediately call and, truth be told, I used to giggle at the idea of singing into a machine. But when she sang it, even for rehearsal, you could still feel her *neshamah*; it was like magic.

I realize now, upon remembering those times, that her personal attention to take the time to actually sing into your machine instead of locating the music was an intimate, beautiful touch- her own personal signature. It was simply an act of *hiddur mitzvah*- beautifying a mitzvah.

“You could always count on her for her warm smile, her spirituality, the unrushed way about her, and oh! her blue eyes-were they not like anything you’ve seen before?”

You could always count on her for her warm smile, her spirituality, the unrushed way about her, and oh! her blue eyes-were they not like anything you’ve seen before? She was the spiritual center of her *kehillah*, if not Buffalo. I always admired how she could wear her spirituality on her sleeve all the time, and while that characteristic cannot be taught, I like to think that

some of that comfort of her gentleness and spirituality rubbed off a little on me as well.

After giving birth to Corrinne, I ran into her at Wegmans and she embraced me, kissed me and held me as she said “that’s so wonderful” that I had a girl after having two boys, as she had. Generous of spirit was how she was- plain and simple. As I am writing this, so many more memories are flooding into my mind and I find it painful to even recall those precious memories. I think to myself: My G-d, how has it been ten years? My G-d, how and why did this happen? My G-d, let us marvel at how our community came together in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy!

On Saturday February 9th at Congregation Shir Shalom, Jewish Buffalo gathered together as community in song, to remember all of those souls lost on that tragic day in 2009. As painful as it was, and while we cannot begin to understand the ways of *Hashem*, Susan’s individual spirit touched us all in meaningful ways and that even the tragedy of her death cannot sever those ties.

Susan’s last words to me on Wednesday evening in the parking lot before she left for her vacation to Costa Rica were “when I get back, we will have lunch and finally map out a plan to start the Jewish Community adult choir.” We never did have that lunch, but I believe she’d be happy knowing that there is an adult choir that has since formed. The *aleinu* prayer teaches us to hallow creation and we must do so, to live as we have, and to live as Susan would have wanted us to- surrendering our hearts and souls to G-d.

**Cantor Penny Myers is cantor at Temple Beth Zion.**

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## 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in March to Repair the World

- 1» **Enjoy a benefit for Phoenix Rising Rescue Horses** Sunday, March 3 from 11 am to 2:00 pm at the 10th Annual "Soup's On" Fundraiser at Spruce Meadow Farm and Winter Horse Show 10333 Keller Road in Clarence. Come Eat, Enjoy the Winter Horse Show & Save Horses! Donate \$7 and you get All-You-Can-Eat Soup & Goulash including a drink and dessert. Proceeds will be used for feeding and medical care of the rescue horses. **For more information, call 741-2346 or visit [SpruceMeadowFarm.com](http://SpruceMeadowFarm.com) and [HelpSaveHorses.org](http://HelpSaveHorses.org).**
- 2» **When All Hell Breaks Loose: Mass Shootings & The Aftermath is a seminar like no other.** Join Forseti Protection Group and keynote speaker Tia Christansen, survivor of the Las Vegas shootings, on March 6th from 8:30 am-4:00 pm at the Westin Buffalo, 250 Delaware Avenue. Cost is \$35 and includes breakfast, lunch & valet parking. **For more information contact 855-FORSETI or [www.forsetiprotection.com](http://www.forsetiprotection.com)**
- 3» **Benefit the Aquarium of Niagara** Thursday, March 31 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Savor Del Mar- Aliens of the Sea at the Aquarium of Niagara, 701 Whirlpool Drive in Niagara Falls, NY. The event, open to adults over 21 years of age, costs \$55 per person or \$100 per couple and supports the Aquarium's animal collection and conservation efforts. **To attend this premiere fundraising event, call 285-3575 x 201.**
- 4» **Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival** takes place March 22-28 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, and you won't want to miss the offerings this year. **Check out the schedule at [www.bjiff.com](http://www.bjiff.com) and get info or prices, or email Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org), or call 688-4033.**
- 5» **It's Shabbat 300! Attend an elegant Shabbat banquet** Friday, March 29, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the UB Center for the Arts, co-sponsored by Chabad, Jewish Student Union (JSU), AePi, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and Buffalo Jewish Federation. This is a FREE event, and formal attire is requested, but RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! **Call 688-1642 or go to [www.chabadofbuffalo.org](http://www.chabadofbuffalo.org).**

## WHERE IN JBFLO ?



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# Challah for Purim

By Robin Kurss

When I was out of town a few years ago, I happened upon a kosher bakery that had Purim challahs for sale. I'd never thought about decorating a challah in this festive way, but I found that it is as delicious as it is beautiful. The kids especially loved it. Happy Purim!

## Purim Challah



### Challah

½ c lukewarm water  
6 Tbsp. oil  
¼ c honey  
2 eggs  
4 c flour  
1 ½ tsp salt  
1 Tbsp. instant yeast

Combine all ingredients in a mixer or bread machine and mix until dough is smooth and soft.

Place dough in a greased bowl, cover loosely and let rise in a warm place for 2 hours.

Deflate the dough gently and divide into 3 pieces. Roll each piece into a rope about 20" long and braid.

Place loaf on a greased or parchment lined baking sheet. Cover with greased plastic wrap and rise another 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 375. Brush loaf gently with egg wash (1 beaten egg + 1 Tbsp. water).

Sprinkle with Sprinkle Crumble (*recipe above*).

Bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden brown.

### Sprinkle Crumble

7 Tbsp. butter or margarine  
1 c flour  
1 c sugar  
½ tsp salt  
4 Tbsp. rainbow sprinkles

*Combine all but sprinkles in a bowl until crumbly. Add sprinkles.*

# Dining Guide

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**Cindy Oppenheimer**  
at 716-308-4843

coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com

**Keren Green**

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**THE JEWISH JOURNAL**  
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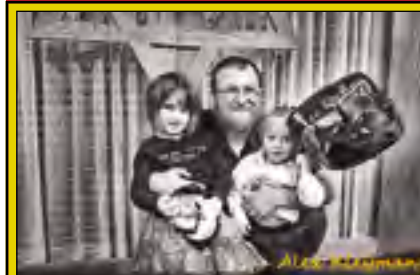
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*Mazel Tov!*



*Mazel Tov*

*to our dear Yeshaya Moshe Schwed on the occasion of his upshernish. We love you!*

*-Nanny, Poppy, Mom and Abba*



With great joy and gratitude to the Almighty we announce the **engagement** of our daughter

**Ita Greenberg**  
 (granddaughter of Rabbi Heschel and Lea Greenberg)

to **Motty Reizes**  
 from Brooklyn.

The wedding is on **Sunday, April 7, 2019**  
 in Brooklyn NY.

**Rabbi Yehoshua & Brocha Leah Greenberg**

*Mazel tov!*

Mazel tov to Mushka Shanowitz and Zalmen Schtroks from Morristown, NJ, who are engaged to be married on April 11th in Brooklyn New York.

The Buffalo community is welcome to join the Chosson and Kallah for a 'Meet and Greet' on Monday, April 15, 8 p.m. at the Ohr Temimim School building. Desserts will be served.

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## SYNAGOGUES

## ORGANIZATIONS

# Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

### Buffalo Jewish Federation

2640 North Forest Road  
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TEL 716-204-2241  
[www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org)  
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director  
Leslie Shuman Kramer - President

### Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

49 Barberry Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
TEL: 716-634-3990  
Rabbi Eliezer Marcus- Regional Director  
Dr. Michael Chaskes- President  
[www.bvkkosher.comvaad](http://www.bvkkosher.comvaad)  
[buffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:buffalo@yahoo.com), [bvkkosher@gmail.com](mailto:bvkkosher@gmail.com)

### Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning

2640 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
[www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org)  
Ellen Weiss - President  
Miriam Abramovich - Director of Engagement

### Chabad House of Buffalo

2450 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
TEL 716-688-1642  
[www.chabadbuffalo.com](http://www.chabadbuffalo.com)  
Rabbi Moshe Gurary - Director

### Chai Early Childhood Center

757 Hopkins Road  
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Chani Labkovski - Director

### Department of Jewish Thought

712 Clemens Hall - University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY 14260  
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[www.jewishstudies.buffalo.edu](http://www.jewishstudies.buffalo.edu)  
Dr. Sergey Dolgopolski, Chair

### Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

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Getzville, NY 14068  
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[www.jewishphilanthropies.org](http://www.jewishphilanthropies.org)  
Irv Levy - COO  
Lynn Catalano - Director of Development  
Don Kohnstamm - President

### Hadassah

2640 North Forest Road  
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TEL 716-688-5260  
[buffalohadassah@gmail.com](mailto:buffalohadassah@gmail.com)  
Elaine Kellick, Annette Magid,  
and Rhonda Wise- Co-Presidents

### Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

2640 North Forest Road in FJP offices  
Getzville, NY 14068  
TEL 716-204-0542  
Judith Katzenelson Brownstein - President

### Hillel of Buffalo

Campus Center of Jewish Life  
520 Lee Entrance/UB Commons  
Suite #101B  
W. Amherst, NY 14228  
TEL 716-616-0083  
Rabbi Sara Rich - Director  
Dr. Jeffrey Lackner - President  
[www.hillelofbuffalo.org](http://www.hillelofbuffalo.org)

### Holocaust Resource Center

336 Harris Hill Road, Suite 302  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
TEL: 716-634-9535  
[www.hrcbuffalo.org](http://www.hrcbuffalo.org)  
Rachel Kranitz McPhee - President  
Mandy Weiss - Acting Director

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

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

### Holland Family Building

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### Jewish Discovery Center

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831 Maple Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221 (office)  
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TEL: 716-632-0467  
Rabbi Heschel Greenberg  
Rabbi Laizer Labkovski  
[www.jewishdiscovery.org](http://www.jewishdiscovery.org)

### Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And Erie County

70 Barker Street  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
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[www.jfsbuffalo.org](http://www.jfsbuffalo.org)  
Marlene Schillinger - Executive Director  
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### Jewish Federation Apartments

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### Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Inc.

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### One Stop Jewish Buffalo

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www.yadbyad.org  
Robin Raphael - Chair

### Western New York Synagogues and Temples

#### Chabad House of Buffalo

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

#### Congregation Beth Abraham (Conservative)

1073 Elmwood Avenue  
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www.congregationbethabraham.net

#### Congregation Shir Shalom

(Reform/ Reconstructionist)  
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www.shirshalombuffalo.org

#### Congregation Havurah (Reform)

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TEL 716-689-8059  
www.congregationhavurah.org  
info@congregationhavurah.org

#### Kehillat Ohr Tzion

(Modern Orthodox)  
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http://ohrtzion.org/kot

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Amherst, NY 14226  
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TEL 716-836-6565  
www.tbz.org

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### Young Israel of Greater Buffalo (Orthodox)

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

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

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# Shabbat Across America

Friday, March 1, 2019  
6:00pm Shabbat Dinner  
7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service  
Oneg Shabbat following Services

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

Dinner Fees:  
\$15 per adult  
\$10 per child (12 and under)  
Kosher chicken and/or meal is available for an additional fee.

RSVP by February 22nd

---

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

Please complete and mail form with your payment by February 22nd to:  
Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

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

# of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$15 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$10 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total = \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Come and celebrate Shabbat together!**

SHIR SHALOM 4660 Sheridan Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 716.836.6565 www.shirshalom.org

# ROB'S COMEDY PLAYHOUSE

A Joint Fundraiser of Congregation Shir Shalom & Temple Beth Zion



**Sunday, March 3, 2019**  
**7:00pm**

- Tickets are \$25 each and include 2 drink tickets.
- Comedy performed by Rob Lederman and Ian Sirota who is the opening act for Seinfeld! (Content may be adult in nature).
- Basket Raffle and 50/50 Raffle.
- Food available for purchase.

Enjoy an evening of entertainment and friendship.

Contact the Temple Offices for tickets.

Tickets are available on both Temple websites:  
[www.shirshalom.org/comedy.html](http://www.shirshalom.org/comedy.html) [www.tbz.org/comedy.html](http://www.tbz.org/comedy.html)

SHIR SHALOM 716.836.6565 TBZ: 836.6565 Temple Beth Zion

## SYNAGOGUES

# “Rocking March” with Rak Shalom



**Rak Shalom – the outstanding A Capella group from University of Maryland is in Buffalo this month!**

**Friday, March 15 - 5:30 pm.** - Kehillat Ohr Tzion  
Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:50 pm *Zemirot* (songs) after a congregational dinner.

**Saturday, March 16 - 9:00 am** - Temple Beth Tzedek  
Morning services at 9:00 am and *zemirot* at the Kiddush luncheon following services.

**Saturday, March 16 - 7:30 pm** - Temple Beth Zion  
The group will be featured as part of the *Stained Glass Cultural Arts Series* at Temple Beth Zion at 7:30 pm, 805 Delaware Avenue. Tickets are \$10 for adults, FREE for students. **For more information about TBZ Stained Glass, call 716.836.6565**

**Sunday, March 17 - 9:00 am- 9:30 am** - Congregation Shir Shalom  
A performance for all Sunday School students

All programs are open to the public.

# Congregation Beth Abraham to Hold Sephardic Style (“Sephard-ish”) Musical Service

The Buffalo Jewish community is invited to take part in a special musical Kabbalat Shabbat service at Congregation Beth Abraham (CBA), Friday March 29, at 6:30 pm. The synagogue will be introducing several new melodies, most of which are Sephardic in nature, all of which will inspire you to sing, clap and sway along. The service will be led by Cantor Irwin Gelman and Aaron Pieri, with musical accompaniment by Roberta Levine and Marty Kerker.

Since many of the new melodies may be unfamiliar, CBA is offering opportunities for people to get up to speed in advance of the service. First there will be an open rehearsal in mid-March where people can listen, learn and sing along. Pizza, salad and drinks will be provided (giving new

meaning to the term, “rehearsal dinner”). Details are posted on the CBA website [www.congregationbethabraham.net](http://www.congregationbethabraham.net). Please let the synagogue know if you are planning on coming to the rehearsal to ensure there will be enough food for everyone.

Additionally, you will be able to listen to the new songs on CBA's YouTube channel so that when you come to services on March 29th, you can hit the ground running. Going forward, the plan is to continue with the “Sephard-ish” service monthly in addition to CBA's regular Kabbalat Shabbat service.

**For more information on all CBA programming and for the link to the YouTube channel, please visit online at [www.congregationbethabraham.net](http://www.congregationbethabraham.net).**



## MAKE Warm Friends with TBZ

Winter can be difficult for many Western New Yorkers. Can you imagine how much harder it would be without a hot meal? Temple Beth Zion invites you to warm your heart by serving meals to clients at Friends of Night People.

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, March 12. If you are not available in March but are interested in helping in the future, please let TBZ staff know.

**For details or to sign up, contact Ann Marie at Temple Beth Zion (716) 836-6565, Ext. 111 or [annmarie@tbz.org](mailto:annmarie@tbz.org).**

## Dr. Davidson @TBZ Achim March 10

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will host the next Achim Program Sunday, March 10, at 10:00 am at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068. Dr. David Davidson, a renowned local Podiatrist and educator, will present a program on the health of the feet and legs and will be particularly discussing the problem of diabetes in regard to foot health. 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.**

## TBZ Presents Buffalo Jazz Collective March 9

**Come to Temple Beth Zion at 805 Delaware on Saturday, March 9, for the next concert in the Jazz Series.** A 7 pm reception will be followed by the concert at 7:30 pm. The Buffalo Jazz Collective Sextet (BJC) includes some of the finest musicians from Western New York and beyond. Featured musician James Burton is a NYC-based trombonist and has been a member of Juilliard's jazz faculty since 2011. For this concert, Burton will join the BJC Sextet for an exciting evening of world-class jazz.

Cost is \$15 per person at the door. ALSO, mark your calendar and plan to be at the final event in this season's TBZ jazz series on Saturday, May 4. The Bobby Militello Quartet will close out the series with a wonderful program at 805 Delaware.

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# Purim at Temple Beth Tzedek

By Ezra Rich

Temple Beth Tzedek's Gilgool chapter of United Synagogue Youth brings its *ruach* (energy) to the *amud* (lectern) on Purim. From selling food-based *groggers* (noise makers) for charity to participating in chanting the Megillah and embracing fun costumes, the kids of Temple Beth Tzedek take center stage.

## Tzafon USY Pride

The high level of youth participation builds on Cantor Mark Spindler's personal connection to the Temple's b'nai mitzvah students as they become young adults. "It's so meaningful to me to be a part of the Megillah reading on Purim, and Cantor Spindler helps me to feel prepared," reflects Tzafon USY Regional Social Action/Tikkun Olam Vice President Hannah Wallenfels, a junior at Williamsville East High School. "Being involved brings me closer to the Buffalo Jewish community, particularly at our shul, and I'm so grateful to be able to participate," she adds.

"Reading Megillat Esther just adds an extra layer to my spirituality and my connection to



the community," says Gilgool USY Chapter President Michael Sanders, a sophomore at Williamsville North High School and a Kadimah Academy alumnus. "The ability to read from the Megillah allows me to tell the story of our people and participate in a wider ring of Jewish ritual and tradition outside of davening (prayer) and Torah reading," he adds.

Their participation means a lot to Cantor Spindler, who has been a cornerstone of the congregation for over 30 years. "It's wonderful that they are getting involved, contributing to our synagogue and perpetuating our heritage," says the Cantor.

## The Gift of Community

Purim is a wonderful holiday and its mitzvah of giving *Mishloach Manot* (food gifts) is a synagogue affair. Chaired by Marcia Goldstein and Edward Case with multiple partners, TBT *Mishloach Manot* project touches the synagogue's 500 families.

"The *Mishloach Manot* basket fundraiser at Temple Beth Tzedek follows a long tradition that was brought from Temple Beth El when the synagogues merged," says Co-chair Marcia Goldstein. "This project delivers *Mishloach Manot* personally to every congregant family. We have many elderly members who are so thrilled when we deliver to them, and some of us spend some time talking with them when we distribute them. It is a wonderful way to wish everyone *Chag Sameach* (a joyous holiday) and let each congregant know how much they mean to our extended family," she adds.

## The Whole Spiel

Kick off the Purim revelry season with the Temple Beth Tzedek Women's Network on Sunday, March 10th at 10:00 am for a delicious "Vashti's Banquet" brunch and Purim spiel. The event is \$20 for members and \$23 for non-members. Reservations are due March 4.

## Shout Out Haman March 20

Temple Beth Tzedek's Purim celebration starts at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20th. Reservations are requested. **Please visit [www.btzbuffalo.org](http://www.btzbuffalo.org) or contact the Temple office at 838-3232 to celebrate Purim with us!**

# Kids at Kehillat Ohr Tzion

Kehillat Ohr Tzion's newly launched KOTkids program has begun! Families with young children have not only enjoyed the creative activities but have also enjoyed meeting other parents and children, including some families from the Southtowns.



A Shabbat morning program for kids took place on February 9 which included a story about the Torah portion and fun Shabbat games and activities. Tracy Weiss, KOTkids' teacher, and Marni Marciano, Chair of Kids Programs, as well as other committee members, are excited about the upcoming Family Purim Event scheduled for 4:30 pm on March 21. The event will include reading the Megillah, games, arts and crafts activities and a carnival themed Purim dinner. Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume. Reservations can be made at [KOTkids18@gmail.com](mailto:KOTkids18@gmail.com).

In addition to all the regularly scheduled services and classes during the month of March, there will be two special events. On March 15, Rak Shalom, an a capella group from the University of Maryland will lead the congregation for Kabbalat Shabbat services. Then on March 23, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin will be delivering the sermon during Shabbat services.

Mazel tov to Jacob Schapiro, who celebrated his bar mitzvah February 2 with his relatives, friends and KOT family in attendance. Family members traveled from Israel, Canada and all across the US to be part of this joyous occasion. A Shabbat dinner, Kiddush luncheon and a Skyzone event for his friends Saturday evening were all part of the festive weekend.

**For more information about services or any programs at KOT contact [oribergman@gmail.com](mailto:oribergman@gmail.com).**

**Purim**

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019**

**11:00AM-1:30PM**

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## Through March 3

### Talley's Folly

Jewish Repertory Theatre Seller Theatre  
JCC- 2640 North Forest Road  
Call 688-4033 for ticket info and times

## March 5

### Blind Date with a Jewish Book

7 pm-8:30 pm  
712 Clemens Hall- UB North Campus  
FREE Parking.  
RSVP to [jewishthought@buffalo.edu](mailto:jewishthought@buffalo.edu)

## March 9

### A Conversation with Linda Reisman- Benefit for Jewish I Film Fest

7:30 pm  
JCC Benderson/ Seller Theatre. \$36.  
[www.bjiff.com](http://www.bjiff.com) or call Katie Wzontek - 204-2084

## March 15-18

### Community Confirmation Class trip to Washington DC

10th graders in the community are invited to travel to Washington, DC for the 10th Grade Confirmation Trip at the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Jonathan Freirich at [rabbjfreirich@tbz.org](mailto:rabbjfreirich@tbz.org)

## March 16

### A special Screening of Academy Award-winning film "Joe's Violin" and lecture

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
JCC/ 2640 North Forest Road  
Tickets: \$10 – \$18  
A program of the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival  
Tickets are \$18/general & \$10/student.  
Please visit [www.bjiff.com](http://www.bjiff.com) or call Katie Wzontek at 204-2084 for tickets.

### Nickel City Purim Party

9:00 pm- 11:00 pm  
Contact Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org for info

## March 17

### My Grown Up & Me

10:00 am  
JCC/ Benderson Building  
Contact Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org for info

## March 18

### JRT Staged Reading of "The Last Seder."

7:00 pm- 9:00 pm  
JRT- Seller Theatre- JCC  
2640 North Forest Road  
Free event, with donations encouraged to help support the theatre.  
Reservations recommended.  
Call 716-688-4114, ext. 335 or email [jrt@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:jrt@jccbuffalo.org)

## March 19

### HRC Teacher's Conference

8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus  
355 Harlem Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
Contact Kelsey Reed- 634-9535

## March 20-March 21

### Purim is celebrated.

See pages 10 & 11 for detailed information on local events

## March 22

### PJ Library

TBZ 5:45 pm 805 Delaware Ave  
Contact Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org for info

## March 22-March 28

### 34th Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

Amherst Dipson Theater, 3500 Main Street  
[www.bjiff.com](http://www.bjiff.com) or call Katie Wzontek at 204-2084 for tickets.

## March 31

### TBZ at the Buffalo Zoo

1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
Buffalo Zoo, 300 Parkside Avenue  
Come to a guided tour of the Buffalo Zoo, linking Tikkun Olam and Animal Conservation efforts together.  
For more information, contact Matt: [matt@themattschwartz.net](mailto:matt@themattschwartz.net)

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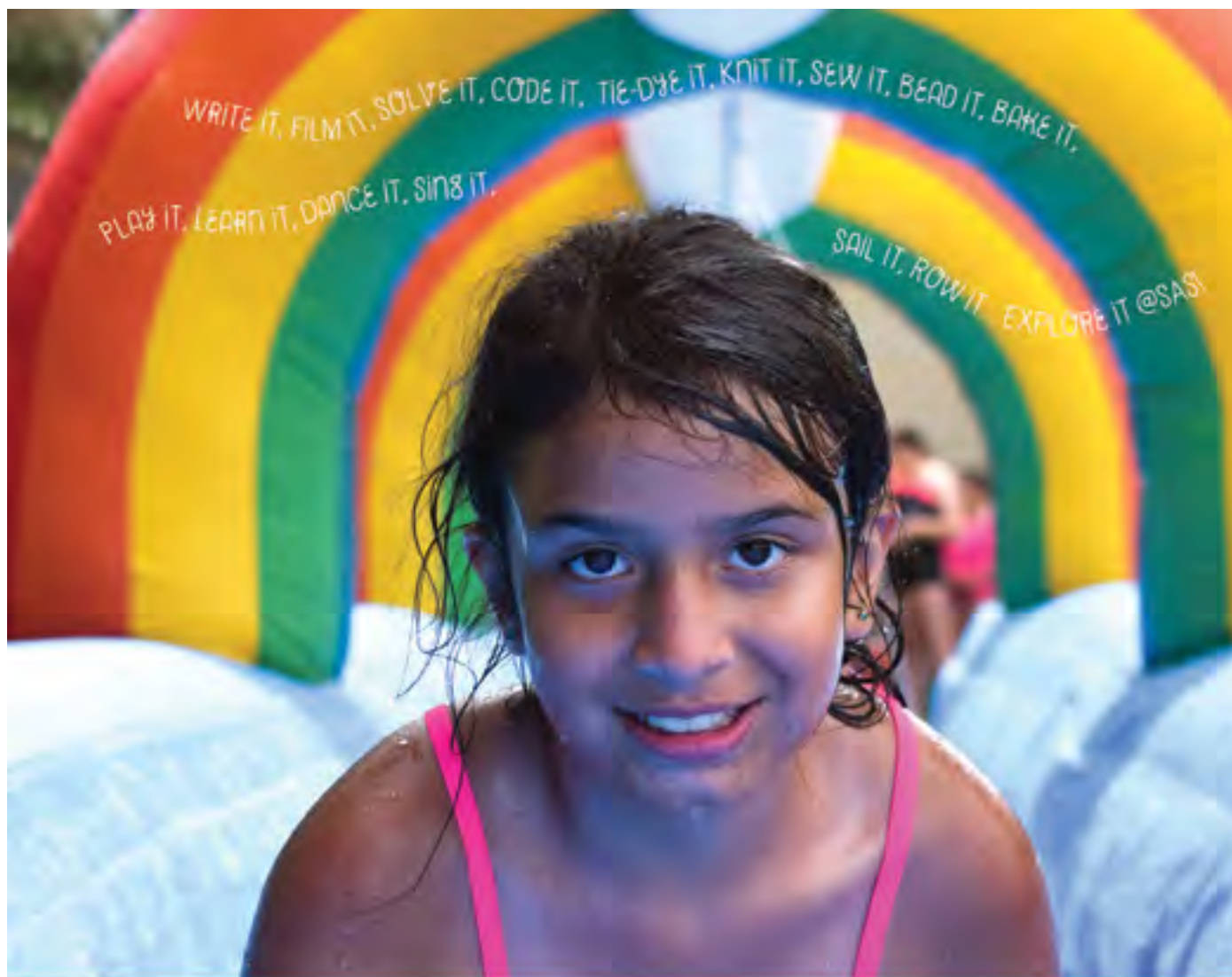


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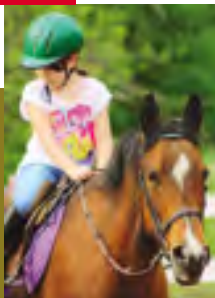
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**Around the World with the BPO**  
Sun Apr 7, 2:30pm  
Todd Craven, conductor  
Travel the world in this one-hour exciting program that combines music and cultures from America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Come early for fun pre-concert activities at 1:30pm.

**May the Fourth Be With You: The Music of Star Wars**  
Sat May 4, 8pm | Sun May 5, 2:30pm  
Stuart Chafetz, conductor  
John Williams' Academy Award-winning scores from the Star Wars franchise, including *Return of the Jedi*, *The Force Awakens*, and *Rogue One*. Come early for photo ops and out-of-this-world activities!

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# Kadimah Academy: A School that Acts Like a Family

by Beth Steinberg

When asked to describe Kadimah, more than one student and parent has said, "It's a school that acts like a family."

At Kadimah Academy, students know and love their classmates like they were cousins (and in some cases, they are). They enthusiastically wish each other "boker tov" (good morning) and "yom huledet sameach" (happy birthday) at our daily morning gathering, and welcome one another back to school after absences. The younger students clearly admire the older students, and the older ones play with and support the younger ones. When our youngest students are first learning to ride the school bus, their friends in older grades help them negotiate the process, and are even happy to walk groups of younger ones back to their classrooms after lunch. At every whole-school event, our older students are there to model, set an example, and assist the younger students with whatever task is at hand.

In our current structure, with small multi-age classes, teachers frequently have the same students in their classes over a period of several years. These characteristics foster deep and caring relationships between teachers and their students and families. We are able to see our students grow and develop, not just from September to June, but from year to year. We get to know their families and we are often invited to participate in their *simchas* and special events. It is a truly unique, beautiful, and very rewarding aspect of our school.

Let me share with you a recent example of how Kadimah has been not



## only a school, but a family:

A few weeks ago, a member of our community passed away. As the grandmother of one of our alumni and two of our current students, and as the mother-in-law of one of our teachers, she was well-known to many of us, and her family is very close to our hearts. Her funeral was scheduled for a Tuesday morning — the

same morning on which a wonderful Tu B'Shevat program involving the whole school was to take place. But so many of our faculty wanted to honor her memory and be present to comfort her family, there were hardly any teachers left in the building. A special "Thank You" to all the teacher's aides and volunteers who put in an extra few hours so those of us who wanted to could attend the funeral service. Performing the mitzvah of *Nichum Aveilim*, comforting the mourner, was our highest priority. The celebration could wait, and it did.

A week later, the Tu B'Shevat program was rescheduled, and was creative, informative, and lots of fun! In keeping with our year-long theme of protecting the environment, the students decorated reused containers for planting celery and parsley seeds, which hopefully will be ready by Pesach. 6th-8th Graders helped the younger ones with planting, and then presented information about each one of the 7 Species: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. After each presentation, the students recited the proper blessing and tasted all the food from their Tu B'Shevat seder plate. To reduce waste, reused containers were used as serving dishes instead of styrofoam plates.

The 5th Grade students shared what they had learned about date and carob trees, a common and dominant part of the Israeli landscape, and the program concluded with songs and dances presented by Kindergarten and 1st Grade students. *Tov M'od* to Mrs. Michal Shmuel-Lewis, Mrs. Osnat Cohen, and Rabbi Ori Bergman for their work planning and carrying out this lovely and meaningful program.

## NEW JCC ADULT CLASSES AT JCC/HOLLAND

Sign up for these new adult classes offered at the JCC/Holland Building.

### MEDICAL ETHICS AND END OF LIFE ISSUES

We will discuss a variety of contemporary medical ethics issues. Case-based discussions will explore new methods of reproduction, new knowledge of genetics, physician aid in dying and euthanasia, and contemporary problems raised by medical experiments on humans

#### TUESDAYS

Facilitator: Jim Moran

April 2- 30

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Pre-registration required

Full/Social Member \$22; Gym/  
Community participant \$30

### AMERICAN SITUATION COMEDY, JACK BENNY TO LARRY DAVID

We will look at four major TV sitcoms, each one with a show business setting: The Jack Benny Show, Carl Reiner's The Dick Van Dyke Show, Seinfeld, and Curb Your Enthusiasm. What is the shtick? That is our question. We'll enjoy and discuss relevant episodes.

#### WEDNESDAYS

Facilitator: Neil Schmitz

April 3 - April 24

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Pre-registration required

Full/Social Member \$22; Gym/  
Community participant \$30

### THE NEW JIM CROW

The New Jim Crow addresses mass incarceration in the U.S. We'll have readings from Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, Jesmyn Ward's *Sing Unburied Sing*, and Shane Bauer's *American Prison*. Combining such texts should give us new insights into this issue.

#### MONDAYS

Facilitator: Barbara Heifferon

April 1 - May13

1:00 pm- 2:30 pm

Pre-registration required

Full/Social Member \$22; Gym/  
Community participant \$30

To register contact the JCC at 886-3145 or go online to [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org).

## BLIND DATE WITH A JEWISH BOOK, 2ND IN A SERIES

7 PM Tuesday March 5th

The SUNY Department of Jewish Thought invites students and community members to participate in the second "BLIND DATE WITH A JEWISH BOOK" program. One of our professors will host a "meeting" between our guests and an as-yet unannounced Jewish book, in an ongoing series celebrating the age-old love affair between Jews and books. Our first blind date, held in November, was an engaging presentation by Dr. Richard Cohen discussing *Life and Fate* by Vassily Grossman. Come join us on Tuesday March 5th at 7:00 PM in the department library, 712 Clemens Hall at UB's North Campus. Take a chance! Parking is free. Refreshments will be served.

Please R.S.V.P. to [jewishthought@buffalo.edu](mailto:jewishthought@buffalo.edu).



# Albright Knox's Janne Siren to speak to Hadassah May 16

The Buffalo chapter of Hadassah has prided itself in being able to bring important civic leaders from the Buffalo community to speak at its annual fundraiser luncheons. This year, Janne Siren, Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, will be the guest speaker at this annual luncheon Thursday, May 16 at the Sean Patrick Restaurant. Mr. Siren is a Finnish art historian who served as Director of the Helsinki Art Museum before coming to Buffalo. For more information about this event or to make a reservation email [mseller@buffalo.edu](mailto:mseller@buffalo.edu) or [mkatzel@me.com](mailto:mkatzel@me.com).

Throughout the year two Hadassah groups meet monthly "Pray Tell" meets on the second Monday of the month and is currently exploring Jewish communities around the world. In March, Lauren Rybicki, whose father is from Calcutta, India will be the guest speaker. For more information contact Carol Joseph at [pipersowner@yahoo.com](mailto:pipersowner@yahoo.com).

Book Club meets on the third Monday of the month. Reading selections include



a wide variety of genres within the scope of Jewish literature. February's book choice was *The Dawning of the Day* by Israeli author Haim Sabato and March's book choice will be *When we Danced on Water* by

Evan Fallenberg. **For more information email [phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com)**

The April 17 program, which takes place at 1:30 at 3333 Lake Shore Rd. in Buffalo, features Vicki Schneider and Expressive Glass, and will demonstrate how to work with glass in a different way. Vicki will conduct a workshop for Hadassah, introducing participants in the ancient tradition of flameworking. We will watch her create one-of-a kind decorative and wearable art such as glass chain necklaces and free-standing sculptures in the Venetian style. **RSVP [mkatzel@me.com](mailto:mkatzel@me.com) 884-6258 or [mseller@Buffalo.edu](mailto:mseller@Buffalo.edu) 831-8000 by April 10.**

**Make a gift to secure Jewish Buffalo today.**

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

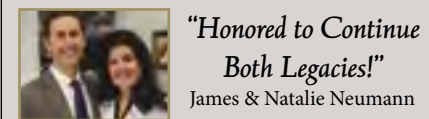
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*Of Chassidim*



**Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 PM**  
**at JDC's Learning Center - 831 Maple Rd. (rear building)**

*If you play a musical instrument, bring it along.*



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## AGENCIES



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## THE LAST SEDER

### MONDAY, MARCH 18

The Jewish Repertory Theater will present a reading of Jennifer Maisel's *The Last Seder*, Monday, March 18, from 7-9 pm at the Maxine and Robert Seller Theater, located inside the Jewish Community Center. *The Last Seder*, which premiered off-Broadway in 2013, is the first of a two-part reading series directed by Adam Yellen, actor and member of the JRT's advisory committee.

"We've been exploring plays that would normally not be produced by the JRT because of cast size or other limitations," says Yellen, a SUNY New Paltz theater graduate who has become a permanent feature on Buffalo's stages, most recently in *Three Musketeers* at 710 Main and *Golden Boy* at the Irish Classical Theatre Company. *The Last Seder* will feature an impressive mix of actors, many of whom have never appeared on the JRT stage."

The award winning *The Last Seder* tells the story of a Jewish family returning home one



last time to celebrate Passover before the house is sold and the family patriarch is moved to a facility because he is struggling with Alzheimer's disease. This heartbreaking, yet wildly funny play, a timely exploration of love, loss, and the struggles of modern Jewish families, will be presented a few weeks before Passover which

takes place April 19-27. A discussion of the play and its themes will follow the reading.

A graduate of Cornell University, Maisel received her MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is a member of Playwrights Union, Playwrights Ink, The Dog Ear Playwrights Collective ([www.dogear.org](http://www.dogear.org)), and Circle Rising; the latter was formed out of Paula Vogel's "boot-camp" at ASK Theatre Projects in Los Angeles.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre's production of *The Last Seder* will be a free event, with donations encouraged to help support the theatre. Reservations are recommended. **To reserve your seats call 716-688-4114, ext. 335 or email [jrt@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:jrt@jccbuffalo.org)**

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo. All productions take place in The Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building at 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY.

**For more information on JRT, productions, dates and tickets, visit [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://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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At the  
**Jewish Discovery Center**  
757 Hopkins Rd  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Wednesday, March 13th  
Mindful Stretching  
Instructor: Beverly Fuchs

Wednesday, March 20th  
Prepare for Purim  
Bake Your Own Homontashen

Wednesday, March 27th  
Introduction to Estates and Elder Law  
Instructor: Steve Silverstein

Wednesday, April 3rd  
Open Forum: Current Events  
Moderator: Jonathan Epstein (Buffalo News)

Wednesday, April 10th  
Live Music: Jewish Favorites & Classic Rock  
Guitarist: Aaron Schapiro

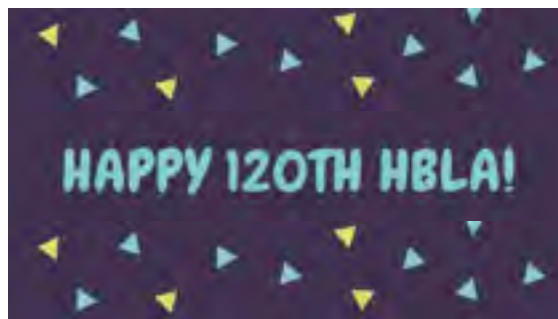
Wednesday, April 17th  
Prepare for Passover  
Matzah Baking and more



# HAPPY PURIM FROM THE HBLA!

This month Jews around the world will celebrate the joyous holiday of Purim by fulfilling four *mitzvot*: listening to every word of the Megillah, eating a festive meal, sharing gifts of food, and giving *tzedakah* to those in need. All of these *mitzvot* speak to the unity of the Jewish community, the importance of being together and sharing what we have with others.

For 120 years the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association (HBLA), Buffalo's Free Loan Society, has been sharing what we have by providing interest-free loans to members of the Western New York Jewish community. Whether for home or car repairs, medical



expenses, or to support those affected by the recent government shutdown, personal loans of up to \$5,000 are available to eligible borrowers, always at zero interest. The loan process is facilitated as easily and quickly as possible while maintaining the dignity and confidentiality of the borrower.

When giving *tzedakah* in celebration of Purim, please consider a gift to the HBLA to help continue this life-enhancing work in our community for another 120 years.

**For more information, apply for a loan, or make a donation, please contact our website at [www.wnyhbla.org](http://www.wnyhbla.org) or call 716.204.0542. Happy Purim!**


The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo invites you to a special exhibition

# TO BE A WOMAN IN THE HOLOCAUST

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**OPENING RECEPTION: MARCH 3, 2:00 PM**

Come and learn about nine aspects of the Jewish woman's daily life during the Holocaust: Love, Motherhood, Caring for Others, Womanhood, Resistance and Rescue, Friendship, Faith, Food and the Arts.



A Special Lecture by  
**DR. KAROLINA KRASUSKA**  
MARCH 21, 6:00 PM



## Celebrate 70 years with the JCC!

**Sunday, May 19, 6-9 pm**  
JCC Holland Family Building  
787 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

Food/beverage stations, music, dancing, entertainment, art gallery, magic, basket raffle and more!

**Tickets: \$70/person. Buy them at [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org) or call the JCC Members Services Desk at 688-4033. Contact Jordana Halpern at 716-204-2255, [jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org) for info and sponsorship opportunities.**





SAVE THE DATE

## Celebrate 70 years with the JCC!



**70** CELEBRATING SEVENTY YEARS  
JCC BUFFALO  
*Renaissance & Ruach*

**Sunday, May 19, 2019, 6:00-9:00pm**  
Jewish Community Center, Holland Family Building  
787 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY

"With the recent \$4 million renovation on historic Delaware Avenue, the JCC is a strong presence in Buffalo's current renaissance," says event chairs Michael and Joanne Berger. "Ruach, a Hebrew word that means spirit, breath/wind and purpose, is so defining of what the JCC represents for our many communities - a Center that supports people of all ages and cultures and brings many members of our communities together."



**Food/beverage stations, music, dancing, entertainment, art gallery, magic, basket raffle and more!**

Featuring exclusive art gallery exhibit by Israeli artist Smadar Livne.



Contact Jordana Halpern at 716-204-2255, [jhalpern@jccbuffalo](mailto:jhalpern@jccbuffalo) for information and sponsorship opportunities.




## Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

JCC of Greater Buffalo

**March 22-28, 2019**  
Amherst Dipson Theatre  
3500 Main Street, Buffalo  
[www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com)



**March 22-28, 2019**  
Amherst Dipson Theatre  
3500 Main Street, Buffalo  
[www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com)

### Featured Films

**93Queen**  
**The Accountant Of Auschwitz**  
**Bye Bye Germany**  
**The Cakemaker**  
**Guela (Redemption)**  
**Joe's Violin**

**Outback Rabbis**  
**Past Life**  
**The Waldheim Waltz**  
**Who Will Write Our History**  
**Working Woman**

### TWO SPECIAL EVENTS!

***Festival Fundraiser: A Conversation with Linda Reisman***  
Saturday, March 9, 7:30pm  
Producer Linda Reisman, of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, raised in Buffalo, talks about "The Role of the Producer."

***Transformative Generosity: How Donated Instruments and Music Change Lives***  
Saturday, March 16, 7:00pm  
Music by students of Buffalo String Works, followed by Academy Award Winning documentary *Joe's Violin*, and a panel discussion.

**Events at JCC Benderson Family Building. Wine and dessert receptions.**  
**Details and ticket info at [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com).**



A program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo



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**Looking Through Glass**  
A modern adaptation of "The Dybbuk."  
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## Happy Purim


March 21, 2019

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**Buffalo**  
787 Delaware Avenue  
at Summer Street  
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## JCC Hours

Sun	8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Mon-Thurs	5:30 am - 9:30 pm
Friday	5:30 am - 7:00 pm
Sat	8:00 am - 6:00 pm



# Removing Vision and Hearing Barriers for an Inclusive Jewish Buffalo:

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM JEWISH COMMUNITY MINI-SERIES

*By Janet Gunner*

In an exciting partnership for a fully inclusive vibrant Jewish Buffalo - Yad B'Yad, Temple Beth Tzedek Keshet Inclusion and the Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force held a mini-series on removing vision and hearing barriers this past October.

The program had three goals. First, we wanted to learn about vision and hearing medical conditions and community resources from experts, inspired by words of Torah from area rabbis. We are grateful for the outstanding panelists.

The vision panel featured three people. Dr. Philip Niles, an ophthalmologist and vitreo-retinal specialist discussed age-related macular degeneration. Dr. James Simmons, low vision optometrist with the Olmsted Center for Sight, shared resources and approaches to enhance vision. Rabbi Samuel Barth noted that Torah teaches us human beings are finite while God is infinite. "We all have limitations in abilities, but 'diffabilities' can be lessened by creating ever more accessible environments. If there are no steps – then ability to negotiate steps becomes irrelevant. There are many more ways that we can be together as a people" Rabbi Barth advised. He reminded us that "although religious organizations are technically exempt, we should never do less than what is required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Ideally, we should do more."

The hearing panel featured Dr. Joel Bernstein, an ENT and otolaryngologist, who discussed six primary causes of hearing loss. Andrea Russell, a care coordinator for Deaf Access Services, accompanied by sign language interpreter Joan Blum, emphasized the beauty of American Sign Language and the close-knit deaf community, but also the isolation that's endured. Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein cited Leviticus 19:14: "You shall not insult the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind." Although it is stated only once in the Torah, Rabbi Lazarus-Klein viewed it as one of the most important Torah verses as it warns not to cause hurt or embarrassment. He emphasized that "we not only need to avoid hurt and embarrassment, we need to take the extra step to ensure that communities are accessible to all."



Photo of the vision panel: L-R, Dr. James Simmons, Dr. Philip Niles, Rabbi Samuel Barth.

Second, we wanted the program itself to facilitate inclusion and to get us thinking about how to achieve inclusion goals for all community program planning. We selected the Weinberg Campus as the program location to include persons with frailty and disability who would have difficulty travelling. We therefore encouraged the community to join those who are not able to travel. We offered transportation and ASL interpreter services as needed. We streamed the series for greater access. Importantly the program budget planned for these inclusion costs. The costs were ultimately covered by sponsorships which we believe were inspired by the priority given to inclusion.

Finally, we set out to learn from the panelists and the audience the steps that Jewish community organizations should take to remove vision and hearing barriers to inclusion. Access for individuals who are blind or have diminished vision can be enhanced by offering transportation, vision technology, projection onto large



Photo of the hearing panel: L-R, Andrea Russell, Dr. Joel Bernstein, Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein.

screens, and communications, materials, publications and books in large print and braille. Access for individuals who are deaf or have diminished hearing can be enhanced by using visual aids, assistive listening devices, closed captioning and sign language interpreters. Reserving seats for those who would benefit and choose to sit close to the speaker, screen or white board is a good option to offer. And it is important for organizations regularly to publicize all accessibility resources and to ask to be updated of individual special needs.

We plan in the months ahead to provide a comprehensive list of recommendations. We will be encouraging organizations to conduct an inclusion assessment and to know their membership so that accessibility needs are anticipated and addressed proactively. We will also be exploring community-wide transportation options.

**For more information on our inclusion work please contact Robin Raphael, chair, Yad B'Yad Committee (robinmr1996@gmail.com) or Janet Gunner, co-chair, TBT Keshet Inclusion; coordinator, Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force, (janetgunner@gmail.com).**

## MICHAEL GARCIA APPOINTED CO-CHAIR OF AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo announced that Michael Garcia, Camp Director at the JCC's Camp Centerland on the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds, has been appointed Upstate New York Standards Co-Chair of the American Camp Association (ACA). The American Camp Association is a community of camp professionals whom, for more than a century, have joined together to share knowledge and experience and to ensure the quality of camp programs.



Garcia, a volunteer with ACA for more than a decade, has visited and worked with staff at more than 20 camps around the country. "I'm honored to have been asked to contribute a leadership role with ACA," says Garcia. "There is no better experience than summer camp for children to learn about themselves and others, develop social skills, life skills, unplug from technology, promote independence, and so much more," says Garcia.

Serving families in Amherst, Buffalo, and surrounding areas, Camp Centerland is the JCC's premiere summer day camp for children entering Kindergarten through grade 10. Located in Getzville, NY, the campgrounds cover 19 acres of athletic fields, wooded nature trails, adventure challenge courses, activity shelters, and more. The summer of 2019 marks a new level of quality for Camp Centerland as it enrolls in the ACA national accreditation process, reviewing more than 260 standards to ensure program quality, health, and safety for all campers and staff. Camp leadership has been reviewing policies and procedures to enhance the camp moving forward.

**For more information about Camp Centerland or to enroll your child as a camper for the 2019 season, contact Michael at MGarcia@jccbuffalo.org or 716-204-2078.**



# 34th Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival (BJIFF) March 22-28

AMHERST DIPSON THEATRE, 3500 MAIN STREET, BUFFALO, NY

The 34th annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival – the third longest running festival of its kind in North America – will present 11 award-winning and critically acclaimed films from around the world including Australia, Israel, Germany, Poland, Austria, Canada and the United States. “The Festival has striven to obtain the very best new independent international films which should not only amuse and enthrall the viewer, but should also invite contemplation on societal issues of ethics and justice,” says festival chair Michael Silverman.

Included in the Festival line-up, the film *Working Woman*, whose protagonist must support her family, while fending off unwanted advances from her boss, bringing into consideration the #MeToo movement. In the film *The Waldheim Waltz*, we witness a case study of how a lying, deceitful power-monger rises to the Presidency of his country by concealing his motives and past actions.

Last year Mark Sommer from *The Buffalo News* wrote, “The Jewish Film Festival offers poignant, powerful movies with compelling stories from around the world that have a universal appeal. There is something for everyone with your pick of documentaries, dramas, and comedies”.

Films will be shown March 22-28 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street. For information about schedules, film trailers or donation opportunities for the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, please visit [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com) or contact Katie Wzontek at [KWzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:KWzontek@jccbuffalo.org)



## 2019 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Special Events at JCC Benderson Building, 2640 North Forest Rd

- Saturday, March 9** 7:30 pm ..... **Fundraiser event with producer Linda Reisman:  
A Conversation with Linda Reisman**
- Saturday, March 16** 7:00 pm ..... **Special Event: Transformative Generosity:  
How donated instruments and music change lives**

The following films will be included during the Festival, March 22-March 28, Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street, Buffalo, NY (716) 834-7655.

- Friday, March 22** 3:30 pm ..... **JOE'S VIOLIN/OUTBACK RABBIS**
- Saturday, March 23** 7:00 pm ..... **Opening Night: THE CAKEMAKER**
- Sunday, March 24** 1:00 pm ..... **WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY**  
3:30 pm ..... **THE ACCOUNTANT OF AUSCHWITZ**  
Speaker: Matthew Shoychet, Director  
6:00 pm ..... **PAST LIFE**  
8:00 pm ..... **WORKING WOMAN**
- Monday, March 25** 1:00 pm ..... **THE WALDHEIM WALTZ**  
3:30 pm ..... **GEULA (REDEMPTION)**  
6:00 pm ..... **93QUEEN**  
8:00 pm ..... **BYE BYE GERMANY**
- Tuesday, March 26** 1:00 pm ..... **JOE'S VIOLIN/OUTBACK RABBIS**  
3:30 pm ..... **WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY**  
6:00 pm ..... **PAST LIFE**  
8:00 pm ..... **WORKING WOMAN**
- Wednesday, March 27** 3:30 pm ..... **THE WALDHEIM WALTZ**  
6:00 pm ..... **BYE BYE GERMANY**  
8:00 pm ..... **THE CAKEMAKER**
- Thursday, March 28** 3:30 pm ..... **THE ACCOUNTANT OF AUSCHWITZ**  
6:00 pm ..... **93QUEEN**  
8:00 pm ..... **GEULA (REDEMPTION)**

## TICKETS & PASSES

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

**General Single Film Tickets \$10**

**Flex Pass \$50** – Six tickets for the price of 5!  
Pass may be shared, but cannot be used for special events.

**Children 18 & under FREE** with parent to all films except (March 9 and 16 special events)

**Fundraising event, A Conversation with Linda Reisman**, Saturday, March 9, 7:30-10 pm at the Jewish Community Center, Benderson Family Building. Event includes presentation by producer Linda Reisman, followed by a wine and dessert reception, and one free ticket to any of the films presented during the film festival, March 22 - 28. Tickets are \$36.

**Transformative Generosity: How Donated Instruments and Music Change Lives**, Saturday, March 16, 7:00-9 pm at the Jewish Community Center, Benderson Family Building. Music by students of Buffalo String Works, followed by Academy Award Winning documentary *Joe's Violin*, Panel discussion and dessert reception. Tickets are \$18/general, \$10/student.

Films will be shown March 22-28 at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street. Trailers, schedules and ticket purchasing at [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com).

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



## The BIJFF kicks-off with A Conversation with Linda Reisman

Saturday, March 9,  
7:30-10 pm  
Jewish Community Center,  
Benderson Family Building.



The event will feature producer Linda Reisman, who was raised in Buffalo. Ms. Reisman has worked with a range of writers, directors and actors and her most recent film, *Leave No Trace*, was released to great critical acclaim last summer and is now an Oscar contender. Following the event there will be a wine and dessert reception and guests who attend will receive a free ticket to any of the regular film screenings presented during the film festival, March 22 – 28 (some restrictions apply). Tickets are \$36.



A special screening of the Academy Award winning film *Joe's Violin*, will take place on Saturday, March 16, 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center, Benderson Family Building, 2640 North Forest Road in Amherst, NY. See story on page 39. Tickets are \$18/general, \$10/students.

*The Accountant of Auschwitz*, making its US premier at the festival, will also offer a Q&A with Director Matthew Shoychet following the Sunday, March 24 screening at the Amherst Dipson Theatre.

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# Taste it.

Certain Jewish foods have magical powers. For some, it's a piece of egg challah. For others, some flaky rugelach, sweet hamantaschen, or a savory brisket. Magical foods might taste good, but they get their power from the memories they bring us — memories of home, community, heritage, and love. When you leave a Jewish legacy, you're setting a table for the future, ensuring that what you cherish about Jewish life continues to sustain, nurture, and delight the generations to come. To learn more about leaving a legacy and to arrange a personal and confidential consultation, contact Lynn W. Catalano, Co-Director and Director of Development at (716) 204-1133 or email [lynn@jewishphilanthropies.org](mailto:lynn@jewishphilanthropies.org)



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# BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

## The Transformative Generosity of Joe's Violin

By Sharon F. Cramer, Ph.D.

*Joe's Violin*, a film being shown this month at the Buffalo Jewish International Film Festival, offers viewers a simple story line – a man donates a violin, a teenager receives it. But, as a stone thrown into a still pond begins ripples which continue, and ultimately change the pond, Joe's donation ripples backward and forward, within his life and the lives of others. This evening will offer a chance to be part of a film that will ripple across you, hear passionate student musicians perform, and listen to musicians discuss how music, and many forms of generosity of others, has transported and transformed them.



### SHARING

A special feature of the evening will be music performed by Buffalo Stringworks. This organization opened its doors to refugee students in September 2014. Beginning with donated instruments, a staff of 7 offered violin lessons to 17 students. In 4 short years, Buffalo Stringworks

has grown significantly, now offering lessons in all four string instruments violin, viola, cello, and double bass to more than four times the original number, with a dedicated staff of 20. Before and after the formal parts of the evening, they will provide music.

It is our hope that the evening will be uplifting, giving audience members opportunities to reflect on the stories their own instruments could tell, and absorb the power of music.

*Sharon Kramer is SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Emerita and a member of the Buffalo International Film Festival Committee*

You are invited to a special evening featuring and exploring the film

## Joe's Violin

2016 Academy Award Nominee for Best Short (documentary)

A bonus event for the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

Sponsored by  
Wrona's Violin Shop, Lewiston, NY

**Saturday, March 16**  
**7:00-9:00 pm**

**Jewish Community Center**  
**2640 N. Forest Road**  
**Amherst, NY 14068**

**\$18/\$10 for students**  
**admission includes:**

- music by **Buffalo Stringworks**  
[buffalostringworks.org](http://buffalostringworks.org)
- panel discussion of the film, and a dessert reception
- Book sale of relevant books for children and adults during the reception provided by **Talking Leaves...Books**



### TRANSPORTING

It is rare that 30 minutes can awaken us, transport us through time and space, but *Joe's Violin* does just that. The creators brilliantly interweave stories of 1923 (Poland), 1939 (Siberia), postwar detention camps, and 2015 New York City, giving us a glimpse of the complex context of Joe's decision to donate his violin. Kahane Cooperman directed and produced a gem. Its many layers take us out of ourselves, and into the experiences that made Joseph Feingold into the man we meet, at age 83. Viewers who have considered giving up something precious will appreciate the important transition Joe's decision affords him. He knows that the moment is right to respond to a call from the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, to pass along his violin.

What he can't know is the extraordinary opportunity he is offering to the violin's recipient. As the film follows the lives of the giver and the receiver of the violin, we, too, are taken on a journey that opens us up to feelings, memories, wishes and tears. There is no easy way to let go of a beloved object: Joe takes us with him, as he affirms the ultimate rightness of his decision

### TRANSFORMING

The evening is planned as a shared consideration of the power of music and generosity, enabling audience members to look differently at every musical instrument. As the film proves, "Every instrument has a story." In a fast-paced 30 minute presentation, the five panel members (who among them have been academics, music teachers, student musicians, conductors) will discuss how instruments have their own histories, voices, and pull. Audience members can reflect on their own experiences of being transformed by (listening or creating) music. Panelists will also share how generosity – giving/receiving an instrument, teaching a student musician how to excel, receiving guidance from another musician, making financial donations – has changed them.

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# Remembering Amy Zeckhauser 1920-2018

A Eulogy delivered by Linda Gellman -12/11/18

Each of us here today has been touched by an amazing woman. Three had the privilege of calling her Mom; Margy, Jimmy and Judy, and one special grandchild, Danny. Amy was also very fortunate to have a wonderful daughter-in-law Becky and son-in-law Frans. I was fortunate enough to call her friend. It is very difficult to talk of Amy in a past tense, for she was a woman so full of life!

I first became acquainted with Amy through the Jewish Federation. Her Jewish life was woven deeply into her soul. No matter what, she honored the Jewish holidays and invited friends without a place to go to join her family to break the Yom Kippur fast and Passover Seders. -She lit the candles on Shabbat, blessing her children every Friday night. These traditions kept stability in her life, and she planned with joy and a smile on her face.

It brought Amy such pleasure to nourish those she loved and cared for with Jewish traditions and food. Even if it was just to make a cup of coffee and serve you a sweet treat, Amy wanted to be the "hostess with the mostest."

Her personal stories accented by her smile and bright blue eyes, spoke volumes of a life well lived.

Amy was fortunate — and maybe a bit stubborn enough—to live her entire life in the home where she raised her family. Visiting Amy in her Lafayette Avenue home, you got the sense of what a full life she had through the trinkets that fill the walls, shelves and book cases with memories of world travel with the love



Amy Zeckhauser. Photo by Judy Zeckhauser.

of her life—her husband Milton—better known as Zeke. Her eyes sparkled with loving memories whenever she spoke of him.

Together, their community efforts touched all walks of life in Buffalo through many different venues, but the most outstanding of the last few decades was Grassroots Garden WNY founded in 1995 by Zeke, and reading to inner-city elementary school students at Public School #32 through Buffalo Jewish Federation's Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy. At her 90th birthday party, she received a hand-made card from the many students whose lives she touched by sharing the love of reading. They just adored her and she them.

Amy earned a degree in art history at the University of Pennsylvania. She enjoyed painting and sculpting. When she was in her 80's, Amy went to Long Boat Key, Florida to an artist's studio and created an unusual alabaster sculpture called Mashed Potatoes.

She picked up most of her artistry from

the Jewish Community Center where she and friends took lessons together. It was all about community, friendship, camaraderie and continual learning. She showed her husband the beauty of art and he shared with her the art of football! She was a huge Buffalo Bills fan.

Amy also loved her typewriter. She had a way with words, both prose and poetry. Many of her writings were published. It was a common practice for Amy to send birthday cards with a poem inside. She was thrifty when it came time to purchasing those cards. Her store of choice was the Dollar Store, commonly referred to as the Junk and Crap store. Amy had quite the sense of humor! On special occasions,

she would write a poem for her friends and family celebrating major life events. Her son Jimmy, who is a writer and poet, was often called upon for his editing skills.

Last August, Amy broke her hip. She went through hip replacement surgery, mind you at 98, got herself through rehab and realized a friend was turning 100 and she could NOT go to the party in NEW YORK CITY!!! In classic Amy-style, she needed to write a poem. Her daughter Judy brought her pen and paper, and the poem for her friend ensued. Daughter Margy and son-in-law Frans would bring in real Dutch coffee to keep her energized. NO Tim Hortons for her! The poem got written, was sent to her long-time friend, Bud Blank, and read at the party!

On a closing note, I must say, nothing aggravated Amy more than the fact that she was no longer allowed to drive and she was attached to her oxygen life line. Not that any of this stopped her from going to Florida this past April with her daughters and Frans in tow. Amy Zeckhauser had no intention of leaving this planet until she made every recipe in her pantry. We do not know if she completed that goal but we do know, without a doubt, that she thoroughly nourished our hearts and souls with her wisdom and love. May her memory be a blessing to us all.

*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](mailto: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 January 25 - February 18.\* May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.




Tibor Baranski  
Donald W. Katz  
Ida Katz  
Dr. Louis B. Kramer  
Mildred Kramer  
Shirley Lichtman


Dr. Eugene Mindell  
Gilda Raiken  
Arkadiy Roginsky  
Arthur Rumizen  
Fred Silver


*\*If we inadvertently missed printing the listing of your loved one, please write to [ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org) and we will include the name next month.*

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## Remembering Cantor Susan Wehle z”l

A 10th anniversary memorial concert in memory of Cantor Susan Wehle and the other victims of Flight 3407 was held at Congregation Shir Shalom with the participation of many cantors, clergy, and community members.



## JCC Kicks off 70th Celebration!

The 70th Anniversary of the JCC—dubbed “Renaissance & Ruach” and slated for May 19—kicked off with an elegant dinner & basket raffle collection at the home of chairs Michael & Joanne Berger in January.



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**Vincent van Gogh** (Dutch, 1853–1890). *Portrait of Postman Roulin*, 1888. Oil on canvas, 25 1/4 x 19 1/4 inches (65 x 50.5 cm). Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buhl Ford II, 1996.25. Image courtesy of the Detroit Institute of Arts. | This exhibition was co-organized by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Detroit Institute of Arts in honor of the hundredth anniversary of Mr. Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s birth. The exhibition and catalogue have been generously underwritten by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

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## Highlights on the Horizon 2018|19



### Copland Clarinet Concerto

Fri Mar 8, 10:30am | Sat Mar 9, 8pm **Leon Botstein**, conductor

New York Philharmonic Principal Clarinet **Anthony McGill** lends his virtuosity to Aaron Copland's uniquely American Clarinet Concerto, commissioned by the great "King of Swing," Benny Goodman.



Fri Mar 15, 10:30am | Sat Mar 16, 8pm  
**Todd Craven**, conductor

A musical journey down the yellow brick road with three sensational vocalists performing selections from *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wiz*, *Wicked*, and more.



### Bidini & Brahms

Sat Mar 23, 8pm | Sun Mar 24, 2:30pm **JoAnn Falletta**, conductor

Pianist **Fabio Bidini** is a Buffalo favorite; this time he tackles another of Brahms' masterpieces, the immense and dynamic 2nd Piano Concerto, anchoring a program that includes two treasured jewels of Russian repertoire; Borodin's Overture to *Prince Igor*, and *Romeo and Juliet* by Prokofiev.



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## Diversity is the Rule at Hadassah Hospital

By David Schiller

As we read the daily newspaper and listen and watch the news, we are often overwhelmed by traumatic events, sad events, events making us angry, and events that divide us, resulting in big doses of pessimism in our lives. Bad news grabs headlines, while the day-to-day, step-by-step progress in the world seemingly takes a back seat.

I write this article while sitting in a hospital room in Hadassah Hospital, located in Jerusalem, Israel. We read about violence in the Middle East. The screaming headlines can be scary. Can't everyone in the Middle East just get along? In many places there is cooperation. Hadassah Hospital is one of those places.

Palestinian patients. Muslim Arab Israeli patients. Christian Arab Israeli patients. Druze Israeli patients. Bedouin Israeli patients. All colors and shapes of human beings are treated here. Also, there are patients coming from outside of Israel for the advanced medical care at Hadassah. And, oh yes, there are

also Jewish Israeli patients—secular, traditional, and Orthodox. The political views of this rainbow of humanity span the spectrum: right wing, left wing, and centrist. The socioeconomics include wealthy people, people of modest means, and poor people. The workforce at the hospital mirrors the same demographics. Muslim surgeons and nurses. Christian surgeons and nurses. Jewish surgeons and nurses. Frankly, why categorize? It is impossible to walk the corridors and label all the people walking by, and that is the point.

Western New York's own Gregg Easterbrook is an optimist. His book *It's Better Than it Looks: Reasons for*



all kinds has virtually vanished from the earth. Famine is rare, although malnutrition remains a challenge.

The point of these references is that there is good news coming out of Israel. Hadassah has been good news about Jerusalem for many years. It is good news about progress among people living in Israel. After this article appeared in *The Buffalo News*, I sent it to the surgeon at Hadassah. He responded, "The article is correct and describes Hadassah exactly." This surgeon is justifiably proud of what, where, and why he is at Hadassah.

There are also many people in our Buffalo-area community striving together to conquer poverty, disease, disabilities and poor education. People Inc., Literacy Volunteers, UNYTS, Eight Days of Hope and Belmont Housing Resources are among scores of organizations working day by day to help all people.

The visit at Hadassah in Israel was an inspiration to me, reminding me of the goals and ideals that truly matter, and giving me pause to think about what good things we are doing here in Buffalo. Hadassah should be a model to copy for all people everywhere, particularly as it fulfills its mission in a region often torn by conflict.

**David L. Schiller, SIOR is a commercial real estate broker at Cushman & Wakefield Pyramid Brokerage in Buffalo.**

**The story first appeared in the "My View" section of The Buffalo News. It is reprinted with permission of the author.**

*Optimism in an Age of Fear* was referenced in *The Buffalo News* last August. Steven Pinker's book, *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress* was also recently reviewed in *The Buffalo News*. Pinker argues that the loud bad news is out of proportion to the good news and the progress humanity has made, and continues to make. Yuval Noah Harari's book titled *Homo Deus* also puts bad news and overall progress into perspective. We hear or read news about a disease killing several people somewhere in the world. Thus, we fear travel, wear masks, and become worried. The facts demonstrate that plague of



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