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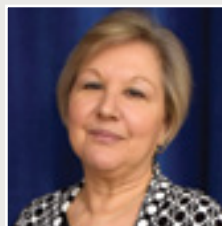
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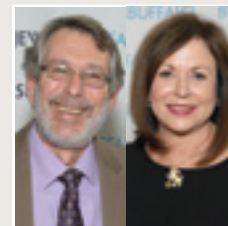
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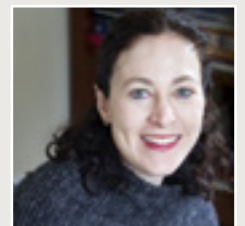
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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

It's finally spring in Buffalo, and what a glorious spring it is in the 716! Have you noticed the number of trees in exquisite bloom this past month? It's hard to miss the floriferous displays anywhere—downtown, Williamsville, Amherst, on the Thruway and the 33. And just as active as Mother Nature is Jewish Buffalo. Lots going on here!

The beautiful cover photo of Mussar for Moms by Miriam Abramovich highlights the growth in activity and interest at the new Center of Jewish Learning & Engagement (see pages 4-5). Leslie Shuman Kramer's powerful president's message (see page 3) talks about the new realities of being Jewish in 21st century America; specifically, the realities of security and safety. Some of the answers to issues raised by Leslie can be found on pages 6 & 7 in the stories about funds received from New York State for our Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund and the hiring of Susan DeMari as Jewish Buffalo's Security Coordinator.

Finally, hello and welcome to Howard Rosenhoch and Joni Shatkin, who will be leading the 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, officially kicking off September 25. You can read and learn more about them on page 8. If you have worked with either Howard, Joni or both of them, you know they are bringing considerable skill and a passion for excellence to their new positions, and that's good news for all of us!

And goodbye to Jewish Family Services Executive Director Marlene Schillinger who looks back on her 25 years at JFS (page 44) as she prepares to leave to the agency at the end of June. I have had the pleasure of working with Marlene, traveling with her to Israel, and watching her transform an agency that resettled Russian Jews during the 20th century to an agency that helps to resettle New Americans from all over the globe in the 21st century, and settle them in Buffalo with help, hope and a path for a good new life. I hope you join me in offering Marlene thanks for a job well done, and wishing her happiness and success in the next stage of life!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

See you in shul or at Sinai this Shavuot? Enjoy this month in our own beautiful Eden here in Jewish Buffalo!

On The Cover



This month, members of the **Mussar for Moms** come together in solidarity to show off the meaningful *Middot* bracelets they made as part of their Mussar program. Read more about them on page 4.

Photo by Miriam Abramovich.

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Post Poway: A Call for Action

Last month, my husband Jim and I were in Pittsburgh to celebrate and attend our son Joey's college graduation. On Saturday morning, we took a walk through the beautiful Shadyside and Squirrel Hill neighborhoods. We wanted to enjoy the spring day but also to visit the Tree of Life Synagogue, perhaps to join the worshipers in Shabbat and Pesach worship. We wanted to somehow connect with this community—to share our solidarity and to experience their strength in the wake of the heartbreak and tragedy of October.

We were disappointed but not surprised to see, when we arrived at the synagogue, that it is still closed and fenced off. But we were heartened to see the art displayed on the lawn, wooden stars decorated by children from other communities, expressing words of comfort and support. We noted many homes displaying "Hate Has No Home Here" lawn signs. Some of the signs were in several languages, including English, Spanish and Arabic. There were people out walking and jogging. Life was carrying on. These were some of the indications that the community is moving forward, doing something positive in the wake of horror.

It is our nature as Jews to move forward. We don't, like some cultures, encourage the harboring of grudges and feuds from generation to generation. We support each other, and through our actions we advance rather than get stuck.

Later that afternoon as we prepared to attend the graduation ceremony, we learned of the shooting at the Chabad synagogue in Poway, CA. We were devastated. I was notified of the swift action being taken in our community to ensure the safety of our synagogues and agencies. Our newly hired Community Security Coordinator, Susan Case DeMari, was already communicating and coordinating with our local law enforcement agencies to protect our most vulnerable institutions: our synagogues on Pesach/Shabbat. (See page 5 for more on our Community Security Coordinator).

In the midst of this second, horrific assault

daily lives, to bring light, knowledge, and understanding to both our Jewish and the greater, non Jewish communities?

Following the Tree of Life shooting, just like communities across the country, we in Buffalo took action. Among other things, we participated in 2forSeder, an initiative started by Marnie Fienberg, daughter-in-law of Joyce Fienberg, one of the 11 murdered at the Tree of Life in October. This new initiative encourages Jews to host guests of other faiths at our Seders, in order to build bridges among us. So, the week prior to Joey's graduation we hosted a Sikh family at our Seder. It was fun and interesting, and it felt great to share our home, customs and beliefs with them. A total of 74 guests participated in Buffalo's first year of 2forSeder. Here's the website which will give you more details: <https://2forseder.org/>

And now Poway. Many of us know by now who Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein is - the leader of the Poway Chabad Synagogue. We have seen the YouTube videos and we have read his incredibly strong and moving opinion piece which was published in *The New York Times* two days after the shooting. We are comforted and inspired by this man who loves his Judaism and who reacted to the horrible shooting, in which he was badly injured, with a deeper commitment to his Judaism and the Jewish people.

Rabbi Goldstein's message wasn't about revenge or even about security. Nor was it about fear. He spoke out against the shooter (who he referred to appropriately as a teenager), but most importantly and impactful for me, he called for action and spoke of being a proud Jew. He implored the greater Jewish community to participate in a

Shabbat of Light and Kindness, to go to synagogue and find strength and comfort there with each other, but more importantly, to make a statement that says: We are Jewish, we are proud, and we will be even stronger now. Hundreds in our community did just that.

But for those who would rather not go to synagogue, we need you too. Our people are synagogue goers, but we are also those who do not go to synagogue. Each member of our community is an ambassador of good will, and we need you. In Jewish Buffalo, our JCRC took the Rabbi's lead and created a tool-kit dedicated to create a "Shabbat of Kindness," both in a synagogue but also in one's home. Our goal was to enable any individual in the community to access resources to acknowledge the shooting, honor those who were injured and died, and to perform acts of kindness as the best way to fight hate.

I invite each of us to "Do Jewish" the way YOU want to. Be a proud Jew. Connect with others, do deeds of kindness. In Hebrew kindness is *chesed*, and we are commanded to do acts of *chesed*. Perhaps you'll find a new connection joining in one or more of the vast community programming listed on page 28, and also listed in Federation's new weekly email "My Jewish Buffalo". Perhaps you will invite a neighbor for Shabbat dinner or a Sunday BBQ. It all matters.

Law enforcement and security measures will protect the physical signs of our Jewish community. Each of us must share in protecting its spirit.

What will you do?

Leslie Shuman Kramer is president of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.



in six months, we took immediate action. We did not sit by wringing our hands or wondering what we could do.

The Jewish community will protect itself. Our synagogues and agencies will take the necessary measures to create secure institutions, and now with our Community Security Coordinator in place, we will have an organized method to communicate with Law Enforcement and for them to communicate with us, ensuring the most efficient and effective action.

But what must we do as individuals? What active measures must we take to move forward in our

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VISION

All Jews, their friends and partners of other faiths, and those exploring Judaism, have access to Jewish living and learning experiences that help them thrive.

MISSION

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning:

1. Engages and nurtures relationships with and among families and individuals at all stages of life;
2. Creates opportunities for meaningful and relevant Jewish exploration and learning; and
3. Supports and amplifies the work of synagogues and partner organizations.

CORE VALUES

Several core Jewish values underpin our mission and are central to activating our vision:



HAZON - VISION & INNOVATION

We are forward thinking and believe that Jewish living and learning can happen both inside of and outside of institutions. We facilitate new kinds of Jewish experiences; our work is iterative and continually improving.



ANAVAH - HUMILITY

We focus on building relationships and creating shared Jewish experiences that build and deepen connections.



SAKRANUT - CURIOSITY

We encourage anyone to ask questions, explore, and seek depth and meaning in their Jewishness.



BTZELEM ELOKIM - CREATED WITH THE SPARK OF THE DIVINE

We believe that everyone has something of value to contribute and everyone has a right to belong. We are inclusive of those raised inside Jewish community, those raised completely without Jewish community, individuals who are Jew-adjacent, and inclusive of all abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations.

MUSSAR FOR COUPLES

By Susan Schwartz

Have you heard friends or others in Jewish Buffalo talking about Mussar? Mussar is a Jewish spiritual tradition that offers tools for living a more balanced, meaningful and ethical life. Mussar practice involves studying Jewish texts, meeting with a small group of peers, and engaging in personal contemplative practices and exercises.

Mussar for Couples was developed as a year-long program which used Mussar to guide couples of multiple faiths through a Jewish learning experience, emphasizing how a celebration of Jewish time could help them integrate Judaism into the natural rhythms of their lives. The program (funded through a grant from the National Center to Encourage Judaism, and the contributions of several other passionate donors) offered tools for living a more balanced, meaningful and ethical life. Seven couples participated in this first cohort, representing all ages and stages of life.

In the context of this program, Mussar *Middot*/character traits were paired with a Jewish holiday, i.e. Shabbat with *Kedushah*/Holiness and Passover with *Tzedek*/Justice. The program began with the trait of *Kavod*/Honor, recognizing that even with differences in religious upbringings, we could respect those differences and find shared values. In December, the group's focus shifted to Hanukkah and *Hakarat Hatov*/Gratitude, we talked about what it means to bring light to others



during times of darkness and to remember to count our own blessings and express our gratitude. We celebrated Purim with *Zerizut*/Enthusiasm, fulfilling two of four major Purim observances by sending edible treats to our friends through Purim baskets (*shlach manot*) and feasting with some beer and spirit tastings!

At each gathering, participants were given simple practices to work on at home. These practices were designed to help couples integrate the new *middah* into their lives, and offer creative ideas to enrich their Jewish holiday experiences. Through group text study and discussions, guided meditations and holiday celebrations, the participating couples told their stories and family traditions, while creating a community of friendship and shared experiences.

Does this sound like something you want to be part of? The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning will be offering 5 new Mussar experiences in the upcoming academic year, including two opportunities to participate in a year-long experience like Mussar for Couples called "Living a Jewish Year." More information about our 2019/2020 Mussar cohorts will become available over the summer. However, please reach out if you would like to learn more. Susan Schwartz, Director of Adult Engagement can be reached at susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

MUSSAR FOR MOMS

By Miriam Abramovich

The Mussar for Moms cohort pictured to the right was designed for women who work, parent, lead and create. Participants studied seven *middot* (character traits) together over the course of 6 months. In early May the group had their final celebratory gathering and each participant had the opportunity to make a "My Intent" bracelet which was inscribed with the one *middah* (trait) that they wanted to carry forward after the experience. Special thanks to Laurie Greenspan who helped us create our bracelets.



CULTURAL SHIFTS: RETHINKING TEEN ENGAGEMENT

By Miriam Abramovich

In my Jewish Buffalo wanderings this past year, I have had the privilege of meeting many extraordinary teenagers and their equally amazing parents. As I chat with adults about their teens, one common theme rings true: the world today looks so different compared to when these parents of teens were the same age. Think about how teens communicate (*textspeak*, *Snapchat*, *Instagram*); their ability to instantly access to all kinds of information; changing social norms around fashion; fluidity of gender/religious/cultural identity; and, our collective jam-packed overflowing calendars. Daily life has changed dramatically in the last 30 years.

These cultural shifts in everyday life have understandably let to dramatic changes for Jewish organizational life as well. And this is not just a Buffalo challenge: communities small and large across North America have observed a large decrease in the number of children and teens who participate in traditional Jewish experiences such as religious school, day school, youth group, and Hebrew High School – all hallmarks of the traditional Jewish educational landscape that were a part of our lives for decades.

So, engaging teens in Jewish living and learning experiences today requires us to develop and implement new strategies and systems, designed not to mitigate the cultural realities

of 2020 but rather to embrace them.

Our recognition that Jewish teens in Buffalo need different kinds of Jewish experiences has been the focus of much time and attention over the last few months. Ellen Weiss, Chair of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) and CJEL



Teen Engagement Chair, Hadar Borden have gathered teens, parents, and community partners for a series of Teen Engagement Workshops. The goal of these workshops was to be in conversation with teens and their families about what Buffalo's Jewish teen engagement and teen leadership efforts could look like in the coming years.

Using feedback from the Teen Engagement Workshops, data from surveys of Buffalo teens and parents done in 2015 and 2018, and research done by national Jewish organizations, we are beginning to craft a new series of Jewish living and learning

opportunities to offer Buffalo's teens. **The new teen experiences, which will begin to roll out in the fall of 2019** will aim to help teens authentically encounter Judaism – Jewish wisdom, text, time, relationships, and memory – in the context of their complex daily lives. Experiences will be designed to be accessible; to fit into the natural flow of a teen's and their family's life so that teens can build their knowledge, self-esteem, leadership and life skills, and shape their identity. More information about Teen offerings through the CJEL will be available in the late summer.

The voices of parents and teens are an essential part of this ongoing design process. So, if you were not able to attend a Teen Engagement Workshop or if your teen has never participated in a Jewish learning experience or you just want to know more or have ideas to share, please be in touch. For more information, contact Miriam Abramovich, Director of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.

NICKEL CITY JEWS: REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP

By Zahava Fried

Growing up, I remember my dad always saying to me, "If you want something done right, do it yourself," and that is the very quote that popped into my head in early March when I realized that Passover was right around the corner.

Passover has always been my favorite Jewish holiday. I love the Seders, the traditions, the songs, (most of them) the food and time spent with loved ones. So, imagine the challenge I was faced with when my husband and I moved to Buffalo over three years ago and were not able to find a Seder that fit all of our needs. A Seder that was modern, yet traditional. Solemn at times, but also uplifting. In short- a perfect Seder! I got to wondering, does such a Seder actually exist? Then, the words of my father came to me, "Do it yourself." But how?

This is where Nickel City Jews (NCJ) came to my rescue. During



my time on the NCJ leadership team as both a member of the Executive Committee and now as Co-President, I have found that NCJ exists for me and for every young adult (professional or student) looking to find their niche in Jewish Buffalo. Nickel City Jews provided the infrastructure,



the support, and the gentle nudge I needed to design my own Seder experience, the perfect one I had been searching for.

After many coffee dates, hours of organizing, a lot of cooking – including exploding an egg in the microwave – creating a custom Hagaddah to blend the old with the new, Instagram promoting, and too many last-minute Wegmans runs, the Nickel City Seder was born. For me, the Seder was, well,

perfect. Through a Passover miracle, we managed to fit ten people (six of whom I had never met previously) into my tiny apartment; we sang songs, ate a tremendous amount of food, laughed, told stories, and most importantly, we made new friends.

When I realized that I needed a customized Seder, I turned to the best resource I had- Nickel City Jews- and created something memorable, personally relevant, and impactful. NCJ is a flexible platform, and our leadership team is so willing to do the work necessary to organize events to help all of Buffalo's Jewish young adults feel at home in our community or create a community of their own. Looking at our calendar, I see so many unique events planned that we have never done before, like a Maccabi games that will be held in July, and a Dungeons and Dragons campaign starting in June.

If you have an idea for a mini-event, want to host a Jewish gathering that is your version of "perfect", or just want to make some new friends, reach out to NCJ by contacting Nicole Bard, Director of Young Adult and Young Family Engagement nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Federation Receives \$100,000 Security Grant

The *Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund* was created by the Buffalo Jewish Federation in the wake of the massacre at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue. Its purpose was singular: to better protect and prepare local religious institutions.

Following this tragic event, The Buffalo Jewish community worked in partnership with New York State Senator Tim Kennedy (D-Buffalo) to secure a \$100,000 grant in the New York State budget for the Federation's *Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund*. The fund, which has already raised over \$120,000, is focused on security upgrades and training for the local synagogues and other Jewish institutions in Jewish Buffalo.



Federation President Leslie Shuman Kramer and NYS Senator Tim Kennedy (D-Buffalo) at Congregation Beth Abraham when Senator Kennedy announced a \$100,000 Security Grant from New York State available to the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

"Western New York is built on diversity, and we embrace citizens of all faiths, races, and beliefs," said Senator Kennedy during a press conference announcing the gift this spring "In the past year, we have seen heinous hate crimes committed against members of the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, the Muslim community in New Zealand, and all across our country. We wholly reject this ideology of hatred, and today we are demonstrating our commitment to protecting the right of all New Yorkers to peacefully express their religious beliefs. I applaud the Buffalo Jewish Federation for proactively working to secure the local Jewish community and for their eagerness to include Western New York's Muslim community in their efforts."

Joining the Senator for the conference were Leslie Shuman Kramer, President of Federation and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich, President of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors. "Following the recent attack in Pittsburgh, and the rise of anti-Semitism both inside and outside of this country,

our Jewish community has prioritized increasing security to ensure the safety of our institutions and anybody who visits them," said Kramer. "We are grateful to Senator Kennedy for his unwavering support both for our community and this endeavor, and together with over a hundred thousand dollars raised within our community since December, this grant will allow us to get the professional guidance and security systems we deem are necessary."

"We so appreciate living in our region of good neighbors," said Rabbi Freirich. "Our elected officials, especially Senator Kennedy, remind us every day of the value of a caring community. We cannot offer enough thanks for the advocacy that leads us all to be more secure in our places of gathering."

RIGHT: (From Left) Federation CEO Rob Goldberg, Cantor Irwin Gelman at the podium, Senator Tim Kennedy, Federation President Leslie Shuman Kramer, and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich stand together outside Congregation Beth Abraham on Elmwood Avenue for Senator Kennedy's Security Grant announcement



and Hires Coordinator

The Passover attack at the Chabad in Poway, California was another reminder of the growing danger of anti-Semitism in our country and why Federation created the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund last December.

In addition to raising nearly \$120,000 for the Fund, Federation received a grant from the State of New York that was secured through the efforts of Senator Tim Kennedy (D- Buffalo). (Read about the new grant on page 6.)

“Investing in facility security improvements and training, and coordinating with all levels of law enforcement to enhance the safety and well-being of Jewish Buffalo is among our highest priorities,” said Rob Goldberg, Federation’s CEO. “That’s why shortly after establishing the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund, Federation assembled a task force to determine the best course of action to make our community more secure. After speaking with leadership of the Secure Community Network (SCN) of the Jewish Federation and a host of other experts, the task force recommended hiring Susan DeMari as our first Security Coordinator.”



Susan DeMari

community and facilities out of an abundance of caution.

In early May, DeMari met with leadership from 14 synagogues/agencies to better understand their needs and concerns and addressed the Federation Board of Governors at their May meeting. “After meeting everyone, I am optimistic that together, we can lessen the threat and have better protection by being prepared,” said DeMari. “I am committed to assuring the successful implementation of a protocol for communication in security-related matters, which law enforcement agrees is critical to the success and overall effectiveness of safety for the Buffalo Jewish community. Helping to develop and prepare for the potential threat of harm, in partnership with law enforcement, requires a collective responsibility of cooperation to pursue enhanced security measures.”

For more information on how you can support the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund or help in our security efforts, please contact Rob Goldberg rob@buffalojewishfederation.org



DeMari, a native Buffalonian, holds a similar position for the Syracuse Jewish Community. She began her efforts in mid-April assisting Jewish Buffalo in proactively addressing this most serious challenge for the community as a whole and focus on observed deficiencies in community security. After the shooting at the Chabad, Susan immediately engaged with municipal law enforcement agencies to address the reality of a potential increased threat to the Jewish community. In response, law enforcement committed resources to include increased patrols and a presence in and around our Jewish

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Rosenhoch, Shatkin to Lead the 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

Leslie Kramer, Buffalo Jewish Federation President, has announced the appointment of Howard Rosenhoch as General Campaign Chair and Joni Shatkin as Women's Philanthropy Chair for the 2020 and 2021 Campaigns for Jewish Buffalo, which officially begins Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at the 2020 Kick-Off Event featuring Alan Zweibel.

Rosenhoch, a native of New York City, came to Buffalo as a University at Buffalo undergraduate in 1967. Howard was Federation President from 2014-16, but his involvement with Federation goes back to his time as Hillel's President in the mid 1990's, when he served on Federation's Board of Governors first as agency head and since then as at-large member. Howard has been a long-time member of Federation's Campaign Cabinet, co-chairing a number of Cabinet divisions, including Attorneys, Major Gifts and others. He has served on Federation's Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, Executive Committee and Strategic Planning Cabinet and has twice



Howard Rosenhoch

chaired Federation's Annual Meeting. Howard has been active in Israel Advocacy, working on a number of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) Celebrations, and has attended numerous American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conferences in Washington, D.C. Howard and his family have been frequent



Joni Shatkin

visitors to Israel, most recently in 2012 with his late wife, Valerie, and sons, Alan and David, on the TBZ family mission led by Rabbi Gary Pokras; then several years later, when Howard and Valerie participated in a Jewish Federations of North America Campaigner's Mission, and shortly after Valerie's passing in 2018 on Federation's Buffalo Israel Experience with nearly 80 individuals from Buffalo, which Howard says was truly restorative.

Howard Rosenhoch is a member of Temple Beth Zion, where he served on the Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2014. He served on TBZ's Youth Vision Task Force and Youth and Education Committee, on two Rabbi search committees, one as co-chair, and chaired the Financial Planning Committee when he was Treasurer from 2008 to 2010. Howard was President of TBZ from 2010 to 2012, and continues to sit on TBZ's Financial Planning and Governance Committees.

Howard is a graduate of UB (BA 1971; School of Law 1976) and Hunter College of the City University of New York (MA Urban Affairs 1973). In 2016, Howard retired after practicing law for 36 years with the Buffalo firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP, where he served the firm and its clients as Partner and General Counsel. Howard is on the board and treasurer of the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project promoting attorney involvement in providing *pro bono* legal services, and is active on the Family Committee of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY, advocating for the rights of those with developmental disabilities. Howard lives in the Central Park neighborhood of Buffalo. His son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Alan, Gabby and Emilia live in Kenmore and his son, David, lives

in Eggertsville.

"When, during my Federation presidency, we brought Rob Goldberg on as our CEO in 2015, Rob challenged us to turn Federation's focus on its head and see Engagement as the foundation of Resource Development, not the other way around, as had been the case for many generations. Well, I've drunk the Kool Aid! Now, as Joni and I accept the honor and challenge of chairing our Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, I will seek every opportunity I can to engage with as many of you in Jewish Buffalo as possible, to find out what excites your passion about Jewish Buffalo, and how we can make Jewish Buffalo the most vibrant, caring, engaged and, yes, financially sustainable community possible. And as I talk to you about your passions, I'll continue to follow my own, which is strengthening Jewish Buffalo's engagement with Israel and world Jewry by promoting our Partnership, along with 14 other like sized Jewish communities in our Central Area Consortium, with the Western Galilee and Budapest, Hungary."

Joni Shatkin is a Buffalo native and proprietor of the Tres Auae' Day Spa located at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Main Street in Williamsville. She has an extensive background in marketing, public relations and business, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Business from SUNY Buffalo. In addition, she has served as Marketing & PR Director for Aesthetic Associates Centre for many years. She was previously District Sales Manager for Orowheat/Entenmann's Bakery, and a pharmaceutical representative for Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a national pharmaceutical company.

Joni served on the board of the former Bureau of Jewish Education for many years and was a member of its Nominating Committee. She and her family are tireless volunteers for Juvenile Diabetes Research (JDR). Mrs. Shatkin served on the WNY board for 12 years, and has chaired the group's annual auction for several years. She and her husband support the JDRF Annual Research briefing in Buffalo, and often host a gift-gathering party for the local chapter's annual Gala. She started a support group for families of diabetic children (PODS) and ran it for 15 years.

Joni and her husband co-chaired the Federation's Kick-Off Dinner twice. She has been an active Lion of Judah, attending national conferences, and was part of the Young Leadership Group in the 1990s. She is a Life Member of Hadassah, a member of Temple Beth Zion, and is married to

SAVE THE DATE

2020 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH BUFFALO KICK OFF EVENT
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Dr. Sam Shatkin, Jr., a plastic surgeon and owner of Aesthetic Associates in Amherst, New York. They are the parents of Michael, Danielle and Rachel. "My favorite trip to Israel was in 2013 when I went to the Maccabi Games to watch my son, Michael, play on the USA Soccer Team, where he won a Silver medal for the USA, and was named MVP of all the soccer players at the event!"

"I am so excited to chair Woman's Philanthropy this year, and I am also looking forward to working with Howard. He brings so much to the Jewish Community table," she said. "Jewish Federation is my "home" in the Jewish Community,

because it is through Federation that the whole community comes together." Joni continued. "I look forward as we continue to bring our community together in fun and exciting ways with our fabulous Federation leadership. People have been giving me wonderful ideas to include ALL women in our programs, so that we can become a stronger sisterhood together. This summer I plan to travel to Argentina with Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) to see a more global view of where Judaism has come from and where it is going in the future. Hopefully, I will be bringing back new ideas for Buffalo's future events," she explained.

Logan Woodard Promoted at Hillel of Buffalo to Advance Student Engagement

Starting this summer, Logan Woodard will take on the new role of Hillel of Buffalo's Director of Engagement. Logan has served Hillel as Coordinator of Jewish Student Life, and for the past two years as the Jewish Education Specialist through Hillel International's Ezra and Springboard Fellowships.

In this new role, Woodard will be in charge of creating and implementing Hillel's student engagement strategy and for measuring its success. Currently, this strategy focuses on breadth and depth; breadth is the number of students that Hillel encounters at least one time, through its programming and outreach efforts. Whereas, depth is the number of students that participate in six or more activities throughout the year or who participate in a high-impact experience, such as a Hillel leadership position or trip. In the year to come, the strategy will also focus on engaging a representative cross-section of the student population, to ensure that students with a variety of academic and personal interests are included.

Woodard currently interacts with over 200 students a year. He has staffed multiple Birthright trips to Israel and mentors students who want to create their own initiatives and currently include Jewish cuisine events and a basketball tournament. Hillel Executive Director, Rabbi Sara Rich, comments, "Logan has a gift for connecting with students and making them feel comfortable at Hillel. He helps them discover their own passions



Logan Woodard

and how they can bring their authentic selves to the Jewish community. His new role reflects his achievements in the area of student engagement and his capacity to help bring Hillel to the next level."

Hillel of Buffalo received an Amplifier Grant from Hillel International to help create this new role. Amplifier Grants provide funds to elevate compensation levels for top Hillel campus professionals in order to retain top Hillel professionals. Hillel is proud of Logan's accomplishment and hope you will join in wishing Logan a Mazel Tov on this professional achievement.

To contact Logan, email logan@hillelofbuffalo.org.

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Buffalo Open Seder Engages Partners From Other Faiths

By Mara Koven-Gelman

The Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council introduced the first-ever Buffalo Open Seder. Over 74 people of other faiths, cultures and ethnicities participated in Jewish community Seders across Buffalo. Guests included African-American, American Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Muslim, Presbyterian and Sikh community members.

Buffalo Open Seder conducted a post-survey that indicated goals of fostering meaningful relationships with people from other communities were achieved. In essence, sharing a Seder with the themes of freedom, resilience and generational storytelling is key to building friendships.

Some Results: 86% of hosts agreed or strongly agreed it was important to invite people of other communities to a Passover Seder.

71% of hosts agreed or strongly agreed that guests of other backgrounds now have a better understanding of the Jewish people or Judaism.

99% of hosts agreed or strongly agreed that other Jewish guests at their Passover Seder felt comfortable with people from other communities.



100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed (80%) there should be a Buffalo Open Seder in 2020.

Some comments: A Christian guest shared at the end of the Seder saying, "Learning about Passover feels like returning home and knowing there's still more to learn



about friends who we have been far from." One host said, "The highlight was having our guests recite the Four Questions in their native tongue."

A second host noted, "Our guests were honored to be included and brought special gifts. They were as touched to be invited as we were to host them."

Buffalo was also part of "2forSeder" an initiative to combat anti-Semitism started by Marnie Fienberg, daughter-in-law of a Tree of Life shooting victim. The "2forSeder" goal of hosting 1000 people of other backgrounds at Seders in the US and Canada was achieved. Buffalo Open Seder participants were included in that figure.

Mara Koven-Gelman is Director of the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council.



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Shabbat of Kindness

May 3-4, 2019

In solidarity with our Jewish community family in Poway, California, the Buffalo Jewish Community held a Shabbat of Kindness May 3-4, 2019. Many local clergy and community members provided resources to create a Shabbat of Kindness Resource kit to support a meaningful Shabbat experience.

Rabbi Moshe Gurary of the Chabad House initially helped inspire the event by invoking the message by Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein of the Chabad of Poway: "that in the face of this darkness we must work together to bring positivity into the world." Buffalo honored the words of Rabbi Goldstein, who called on all Jewish people to attend synagogue as a symbol of solidarity. "We need to show them that terrorism and evil will never prevail," he said. "Let's fill up the synagogue; let's stand tall; let's dance together."

JCRC created a Shabbat of Kindness



Resource Kit containing information on attending Shabbat Services, a dinner, special prayers, counting the Omer apps, songs, articles of resilience and memory. Also included were ideas for acts of kindness, conversation starters to make new friends, social activism, and tips for speaking to children about incidents of hate. *It can be found at the Buffalo Jewish Federation/JCRC website. For more information contact marab@buffalojewishfederation.org*

Help save lives through the Red Cross SOUND THE ALARM Campaign

The American Red Cross offers FREE smoke alarms to any household regardless of age or income. The Western New York Chapter is currently looking for volunteers from its partner, the Buffalo Jewish Service Corps, to install these alarms this Spring and early Summer at the Buffalo Jewish Federation Apartments and other sites and to speak briefly to residents about basic emergency preparedness. **Training and equipment are provided to volunteers.**

With an experienced Red Cross volunteer, the three-person teams will check smoke alarms in apartments (and replace them, if necessary), educate families about apartment fire safety, build evacuation plans with them, and document our services.

To make sure that you're prepared to make our communities

BUFFALO JEWISH
Service Corps

safer – and that you have a great volunteer experience, the Red Cross has developed short, streamlined training videos which focus on the following topics:

- Overview of our Home Fire Campaign and Sound the Alarm events
- How to conduct an in-home visit with safety, quality and effectiveness
- Role-specific guides for the:
 - Smoke Alarm Installer
 - Educator
 - Documenter

To volunteer or learn more, please contact Cliff Mahler on behalf of the Buffalo Jewish Service Corps at cliffordmahler@gmail.com or call 837-8793.

We are all responsible one for each other. "Kol Yisrael Aravim Zeh b'Zeh"

A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON THE RISE OF HATE, RACISM AND INTOLERANCE

WHAT'S NEXT?

with Hon. April N.M. Baskin, Majority Leader, Erie County Legislature • Richard Lipsitz President, Western New York Area Labor Federation • Rabbi Jonathan Freirich Temple Beth Zion • Pastor Mark Blue President, Buffalo NAACP & Second Baptist Church • Dr. Nasir Khan Professor, Jacobs Medical School, Ahmadiyya Buffalo Chapter President, & Network of Religious Communities • **Moderator:** Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Buffalo Family Court

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Rabbi Adam Scheldt

I've lived on three continents, and traveled through dozens of countries, and I have to admit that one of my very favorite places on Earth is just a short flight away—The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Visitors' eyes fall upon the exquisiteness of the human endeavor—time and time and time again—as they meander the Met's halls and galleries, immersed in thousands of years of human expression. And for all its rotating collections and changing exhibits, there is a constant, timeless quality to it. It's vast, and cavernous.

Several years ago, a contemporary photography exhibit surveyed a number of Middle Eastern portraits and urban landscapes. There were a couple pieces that really drew me in. But, one in particular gripped me and would not let me go.

It was a photo of a young girl, pushing a rusty shopping cart partially filled with what appeared to be garbage. Upon further inspection, however, the garbage was fairly mundane household "stuff"—things made of plastic, some broken. There were some tin cans (presumably still full). Some wiring and cardboard seemed to top off her cargo. She was amongst rubble in an abandoned square. Doors were shut, windows shuttered, buildings made of typical Israeli stone and concrete, and the square was located just south of Jerusalem in Beit Lechem (Bethlehem as it's better known in the US). The girl appeared to be Arab, and the photo was titled "Ruth Gleaned the Fields."

On Shavuot, as we celebrate God's gift of the Torah, we read the *Book of Ruth*. As I read *Ruth*, however, my mind sees this photograph at the Met. It presented such a stinging contrast. On one hand the title conjures up the Biblical loving-kindness and ultimate inclusivity shown to an outsider (Ruth). And on the other hand, the visual composition of the photo forces us to examine the pains of division and struggle in modern-day Israel. Two powerful topics, both of which evoke powerful opinions and emotions. And that was the photographer's goal. This photograph was not trying to make a political statement. Rather, the photographer used the stark juxtaposition of time and story to invite us into a much deeper conversation of how humanity plays out and why.

Biblical scholars like Dr. Adele Berlin (Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland) suggest that the *Book of Ruth* is a lesson on welcoming outsiders. The text makes us question who we are and who we are not—examining where we draw the line between "us" and "them," and why? Ruth was a "them" and then became a part of "us." The photo at the Met, however, gave no conclusions. It leaves us wondering what became of the girl. With only the photo as guidance, whether she was welcomed into safety or completely shut out is left up to our imaginations. Given



Rabbi Adam Scheldt

all this, in this season of Shavuot I cannot help but look to the US southern border.

I once overheard two Jewish men having a conversation on a park bench in sight of Liberty Island in New York City. One said to the other, "It's good to sit here and see her [the Statue of

Liberty] on Shavuot." *Ruth* begins with hardship and migration and results in King David. *The Book of Ruth* is actually a story of our people in America. Not so very long ago, we endured hardship and came here as Lady Liberty's poor huddled masses. And we rose to the heights of success and leadership. It is shameful that those presently in power and the many that put them there are forcing Liberty to turn a cold shoulder and look the other way. Our biblical forebears welcomed the stranger with lovingkindness and were greatly rewarded. It's time for us to do the same. What lies before us is the gift of opportunity to bring in the stranger as our own, to spread and to cultivate through lovingkindness, the exquisiteness of the human endeavor. What better way could there possibly be to celebrate God's gift of Torah.

Rabbi Adam Scheldt is Director of Spiritual Care at Hospice Buffalo.

KADIMAH ACADEMY: Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future

Buffalo's community Jewish day school will hold its Annual Dinner on Monday, June 3, at Acqua Restaurant on the Niagara River. This year's event will look back at 60 years of history in Western New York, as the school community celebrates this milestone anniversary while preparing for a major transition for the future. The goal for the evening is to take a nostalgic stroll through the history, as alumni and teachers - past and present - share their memories.

Former Head of School, Einav Symons will be recognized, as will the current Board of Trustees president, Jonathan D. Epstein, who has come to the end of his term; and a beloved teacher, Naomi Cowen, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after more than 30 years. In addition, current principal Fran Paskowitz will also be recognized. She stepped up to the plate so willingly this year by volunteering her time and expertise when the school needed it.

After reflecting on the school's rich history, the program will look to Kadimah's future, as the school community embarks on a new partnership with The Park School of Buffalo. The school's leaders have stepped outside the box to find solutions to problems that many private, not-for-profit schools are experiencing, both locally and nationally. Already, this innovative relationship is gaining attention from Jewish communities and other day schools around the country, as Kadimah and Park move forward, together, as pioneers.

Kadimah is especially grateful this year to real estate developer Douglas Jemal, who has not only been generous for the last

three years, but has partially underwritten the dinner this year, enabling it to be an extra special event.

So come and celebrate Kadimah's 60 years of dedicated service to the Jewish Community of Buffalo. Join with the Kadimah Academy community and all of Jewish Buffalo at the school's largest single fundraiser of the year, which will continue as a tradition in the future to support the partnership with Park. Tickets are \$125 per person, and tables of eight can be purchased for \$1,000. Or join Kadimah's larger philanthropic efforts as a leading supporter of Jewish education with a direct gift toward scholarship assistance at Park that will help ensure our vibrancy for future generations.

To purchase tickets for this year's Dinner, to make other donations, or for more information, please contact Kadimah Academy at 716-836-6903, or visit www.kadimah.org. To contribute by phone, please contact Rachel Anderson, Dinner Committee Chair/Engagement and Relations at 716-836-6903 or Rachand74@outlook.com.

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SEEKING A DONOR MATCH

Hello. My name is Jordan Crowley. I don't know exactly how to do this, so I'll just tell you my story. I was born three months prematurely with a large tumor on my lower spine. I also had cysts on



my kidneys-and only one of them was functioning. My prognosis was grim, but I was strong-and able to overcome all of the obstacles and survive. Throughout the years, I continued to face and overcome numerous other health impairments to survive. I am now facing yet another major obstacle.

The kidney function in my good kidney has deteriorated greatly. Soon I will be at the point where my treatment options will be limited to dialysis or a kidney transplant!

Dialysis would help my kidney do it's job, but it is very time consuming and would limit my activities. A transplant would be the best option-but the wait for a kidney from a deceased donor is over 5 years, and there are over 100,000 people on that waiting list! The other option is finding a living donor- someone who is willing to give me one of their kidneys. Since most people can live long, healthy lives with one kidney, this option would be best for me.

Kidneys from living donors work faster once transplanted; Kidneys from living donors usually last longer than kidneys from deceased donors; And the wait time is shorter. The surgery can be scheduled once a matching donor is found.

I am hoping to find someone that would consider giving me a kidney. This person would have to be a healthy adult who is up to date on medical testing. My transplant team will check everything to ensure that you are able to donate.

If you would like more information, or are interested in being checked, please contact my transplant team at (585) 275-7753. You will need my name: Jordan Crowley, and Date of birth: 12/29/1998.

Thank you for reading my letter. Feel free to pass it on to others.

Early Childhood Director Opening

Temple Beth Zion is seeking a new Director for the PALS-Kadimah Early Childhood Education Program. The individual must be willing to support the Temple Beth Zion mission and core values, especially focused on the early education opportunities to enhancing member and community engagement for your youngest members.

This is a full-time position with defined hours during the school year and flexible hours during summer and vacation periods.

The applicant must have an Associate, Bachelors Degree or NYS Children's Program Administrator Credential and corresponding experience in teaching in an early childhood facility and supervising staff in a child care program or a related field of work. Must meet OCFS regulations for Director of Small Early Childhood Education Program as per regulation 418-1, section 13, item F.

Applicants are invited to send a cover letter and resume to Amy Schaefer, Temple Administrator, by June 5, 2019 at amyschaefer@tbz.org.



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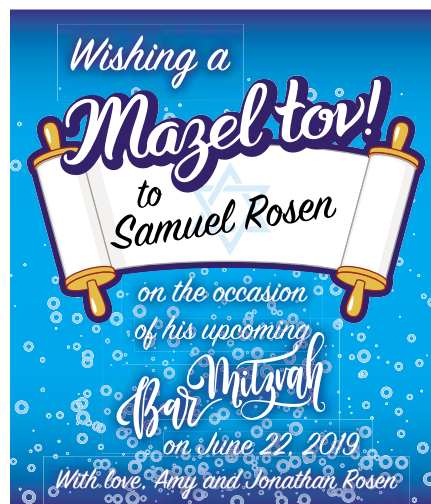
MAZEL TOV

This month's SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to these Members of our Community!

Wishing Mazel Tov to those making their Bar Mitzvah this month, and a warm congratulations to Rabbi Sara and Ezra Rich on the birth of their child. If you'd like to recognize someone with special Mazel Tov wishes or memorial announcements in the *Jewish Journal*, contact Cindy Oppenheimer at 308-4843 (coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com) or Keren Green at 972-2220 (kgreen@jewishjournalwny.com).



Mazel tov!
to **AARON HERMAN**
who is honoring his bar
mitzvah on June 29th.
Love, Mom and Dad



Wishing a
Mazel tov!
to **Samuel Rosen**
on the occasion
of his upcoming
Bar Mitzvah
on June 22, 2019
With love, Amy and Jonathan Rosen



**Rabbi Sara
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Ezra Rich**
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birth of
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5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in June to Repair the World

- 1» **Pride Parade Sunday, June 2.** Join your friends at the 2019 Pride March and celebrate Jewish Pride! The Pride Parade steps off from Elmwood and Forest Aves at 12 noon. Meet your Jewish friends to march at the Buffalo State Parking lot and Rockwell Road beginning at 10:00 a.m. **For more information, go to www.jewishpridewny.org.**
- 2» **Help beat breast cancer at the Komen WNY More than Pink Walk** Saturday, June 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon. It takes place at Buffalo Riverworks, 359 Ganson St. Join passionate supporters and survivors who are not content to simply say they support the breast cancer cause, or wear a pink ribbon. They turn their support into action. They recognize the need to raise funds for the fight against breast cancer, and they get to work. **Call 342-2292. Admission starts at \$15. www.info-komen.org**
- 3» **JDRF Western New York Chapter will be hosting the Buffalo JDRF One Walk Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 a.m.** at Delaware Park & the Buffalo Zoo where the goal is to raise \$760,000 for type 1 diabetes research. Participants walk Delaware Park and celebrate their fundraising success towards a cure for diabetes. **Go to www.walkjdrf.org/buffalo to register for the Walk and for more detailed information.** Check in at 9:00 a.m. Starts at 11:00 a.m.
- 4» **Make a gift to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation** in honor of your father or grandfather, or any other important man in your life Father's Day June 19. The Cemetery Corporation maintains and repairs several Buffalo Jewish cemeteries and your help is greatly needed. **Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org and click on "Federation Cemetery Corporation" or call 716-204-2246.**
- 5» **Ride for Roswell- June 22 & 23.** Get your helmets on, pull your friends together and Ride for Roswell. The 24th annual, very popular bike ride to raise money to fight cancer takes place the last weekend in June. Headquartered at UB, the Ride has participants riding all over WNY to raise funds. **Go to www.rideforroswell.org.**

WHERE IN JBFLO ?



Where is this found in WNY?

The first 5 people to correctly identify the location will win \$10 gift certificate to theJCC's Buffalo Kosher Gourmet at the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café

E-mail your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org

Last month Laurie Botwin, Linda Boxer, Pam Buyer, Jan Presser, Ellen Lipka, Matthew Dubin, Linda Steinhorn, Ann Earne, and Fran Paskowitz correctly identified the yahrtzeit plaques that line the wall of the beautiful new Temple Beth Tzedek building on North Forest Road.

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Frozen Berry Dessert for Shavuot

By Robin Kurss

Here's a great Milchik recipe for Shavuot...it's easy, delicious and a nice summertime treat!

Frozen Berry Dessert for Shavuot

serves 8

8 oz cream cheese

1 c sour cream

1.3 c sugar

Grated rind of 1 lemon and
1 lime

5 c mixed berries...

I use raspberries, blackberries,
blueberries and strawberries

Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and rind in large bowl until smooth. Very gently fold in fruit till combined.

Spread in 9 x13 dish or decorative bowl and freeze for at least 8 hours. Let sit at room temperature for a few minutes before serving. Chag Sameach!



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Attention Snowbirds!

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

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

Thank you!

Worship With Pride at TBZ

Friday, May 31, 7 p.m.
805 Delaware

All members of the community are invited to kick off Pride Weekend in downtown Buffalo with a celebration of our diversity and joy.

Plan to attend this wonderful welcoming and innovative service and share in the celebration of diversity. Guest speaker Rabbi Mike Moskowitz is a deeply traditional and radically progressive advocate for trans rights and a vocal ally for LGBT inclusivity. His identity ("assigned secular, then identified as ultra-orthodox for twenty years, and now embraces a religiously non-conforming identity") and his Jewish expertise as an ultra-Orthodox and academic scholar of profound depth and breadth, all lead Rabbi Moskowitz to be one of the most fascinating people to listen to and learn with.

As Scholar-in-Residence for Trans and Queer Jewish Studies at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in New York City, Rabbi Moskowitz studies, writes, and teaches on trans issues and Jewish sources, creating a body of work used the world over.



Rabbi Mike Moskowitz

Jewish Community LGBTQ Inclusion Committee and Upcoming Events

By Janet Gunner

Representatives from Jewish Pride of WNY, Temple Beth Tzedek and Temple Beth Zion, gathered for an uplifting meeting at Temple Beth Zion in early April to build upon the work that has been underway in individual organizations and the Jewish Community LGBTQ Inclusion Committee, now in its second year.

The Committee's evolving goals and approach are to include all individuals and organizations in the Jewish community to collaboratively identify, develop and implement meaningful and effective programs and approaches for LGBTQ inclusion and well-being on an enduring basis. Committee goals under development include: LGBTQ advocacy training sessions focusing on youth, adults and organizations; a safe space with professional support for Jewish youth discovering themselves in the LGBTQ community; and a Community Pride Friday Evening Shabbat Service (2020-21).

Please join the community at upcoming events: **TBZ's Pride Shabbat, Friday, May 31, 6 p.m.** (805 Delaware Avenue) with Rabbi Mike



Moskowitz (Congregation Beit Simchat Torah) as a guest speaker; **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus** ("Singing With Pride"), **Saturday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.**, TBZ (805 Delaware); **Pride Shabbat** at TBT, **Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.** (1641 North Forest Road). Please be part of a strong Jewish presence marching in the **Buffalo Pride Parade, Sunday, June 2**. Assemble with the Jewish community at Buffalo State College at 10 a.m. and at the Jewish community table at Canalside directly following the parade (see <http://www.jewishpridewny.org>).

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

March With Pride

The annual Buffalo Pride Parade will be held Sunday, June 2, stepping off from the corner of Elmwood and Forest avenues at noon. If you want to march in the parade, along with other representatives of the Jewish community of Western New York, plan to assemble at Buffalo State College at 10 a.m. Otherwise, you can watch the parade from anywhere along Elmwood Avenue between Forest Avenue and North Street. **For more information about the parade "like" Jewish Pride of WNY on Facebook, or go to <http://www.jewishpridewny.org/>.**

TBZ's 40th Annual Merrill Molien

Haven House Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, July 16, Noon
Broder Center,
700 Sweet Home Road

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

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Singing with Pride

June 1, 7:30 p.m.
805 Delaware



Temple Beth Zion and the BGMC have enjoyed a special relationship for many years. The beautiful music they provide in the welcoming and special setting of the Temple Beth Zion sanctuary makes for a harmonious partnership.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing, seeking through song, not only to entertain, but to enlighten and create harmony as they celebrate pride in the community and in themselves.

Tickets are \$20 per person and are available at the door or presale at www.buffalogaymenschorus.com.

Temple Beth Tzedek to Host Study Session on Shavuot

Saturday, June 8 at 9:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Tzedek will once again host the Annual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (overnight study session for Shavuot), and this year will be starting the evening with Ma'ariv services in the beautiful new sanctuary at 1641 North Forest Road in Williamsville.

The committee, chaired by Bernie Weinstein and Rachel Anderson, is putting together an enlightening night of study with Buffalo's finest rabbis and cantors. The evening will commence with Ma'ariv at 9:30 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by the keynote speaker, followed by delicious cheesecake and other delectable noshes to sustain attendees throughout the night.

There is an open-door policy. Come when you want and leave when you want.

TBT Rabbi Isaac Klein

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend With Rabbi Jeffrey Summit

Temple Beth Tzedek will be sponsoring their scholar-in-residence program in memory of Rabbi Isaac Klein from May 30-June 2. This year's scholar is ethnomusicologist Rabbi Jeffrey Summit, recently retired Executive Director of Tufts Hillel, and Research Professor in Music and Judaic Studies at Tufts University. His research focuses on music and identity, spiritual experience, advocacy and the impact of technology on the transmission of tradition. Rabbi Summit will be in Buffalo to give four talks:

Thursday 5/30: 7:30 p.m.

"Cabaret at the Edge of the World: Performing in the Shadow of the Holocaust". This is a multi-media presentation on the cabaret performances in the ghettos and concentration camps.

Dessert Reception- reservations required

Friday 5/31: 6:00 p.m.:

Kabbalat Shabbat: "The Meaning of our Melodies: Music and Identity in Contemporary Jewish Worship". Why do Jews have such strong feelings about the music we use in prayer?

Dinner Following - reservations required

Saturday 6/1: 9:00 a.m.:

"Singing God's Words: Religious Experience, Chant & Sacred Text"

How and why a growing number of American Jews see the public chanting of Biblical texts as one of the most authentic expressions of their religious identity

Kiddush following services open to the community.

6/1: 8:15 p.m.:

Minhah services and Se'udah Shlisheet

Everyone is welcome. Rabbi Summit will not lead a specific discussion.

Sunday 6/2: 9:30 am: (following morning minyan):

"Coffee, Music, and Inter-religious Harmony in Eastern Uganda." The Abaydaya (Jewish People) of Uganda set out to build productive, respectful relationships with Muslim and Christian neighbors. In Namonyoni sub-county, 586 Muslim, Jewish and Christian farmers joined together to form the Peace Kawomera (Delicious Peace) Fair Trade Coffee Cooperative. This brunch is co-sponsored by Buffalo Jewish Federation.

Continental Breakfast open to the community- reservations required

For reservations, call the TBT Office at 838-3232.

Community Shavuot Morning/Yizkor Service @ TBZ

Sunday, June 9 / 10:30 a.m.

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

A light lunch will follow the service.



Rabbi Jeffrey A. Summit, Ph.D. is a Research Professor in the Department of Music and Judaic Studies at Tufts University, and is currently a Senior Consultant for Hillel International.

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Anne Bernstein Memorial Shabbat Speaker Series

"Suburban and City Jews: Creativity and Place Making in Greater Buffalo"

presented by Chana Kotzin PhD



Saturday, June 1, 2019

12:00pm Luncheon

1:00pm Presentation



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Chana Kotzin was born and raised in Great Britain. Since 2007 she has been the director, archivist and historian for the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project.

The program is complimentary but reservations are required by May 28th. Please call the Temple Office to RSVP at 633-8877.

This Annual Cultural Speaker Series is presented in memory of Anne Bernstein by Ellen and Alan Bernstein and is sponsored by the Anne Bernstein Memorial Education Fund



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Annual Summer Celebration August 5



Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom and Buffalo Jewish Federation will again partner for the Annual Summer Celebration at Transit Valley Country Club on Monday, August 5. The event includes the Twenty-first Annual Golf Tournament, the only Golf Tournament in WNY that supports the Jewish Community.

For those who are not interested in golfing, we invite you join host Kenneth Rogers on a luxury air-conditioned coach for tastings at wineries and perhaps a distillery. For both the wine tour and golf tournament, the day begins with a fabulous lunch on the outdoor patio. At noon, those on the Wine Tour board the luxury coach to tour wineries in Niagara County. Seating is limited, so don't delay in reserving your spot.

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

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres follow the Wine Tour and Golf Tournament. The event is capped off with a delicious dinner and rousing auctions in the country club dining room, led by the always entertaining, Rob Lederman. Join the wine adventure (space is limited), on the golf course, or just come for cocktails and dinner.

If you are interested in participating, donating auction items and/or being a sponsor for this event, please contact Julie Feldman at (716) 836-6565, Ext. 134 or Joanne Marquisee at 716.633.8877.



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Cost is \$30 for Temple members, \$35 for non-members.

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 Deadline to register is June 20th

TBZ Shabbat Dinner Club

Friday, June 7,
8:30 - 10 p.m.

Pano's,
1081 Elmwood Avenue,
Buffalo

The Temple Beth Zion Engagement Committee has planned an informal get-together. Join other members of the community for a relaxed meal and time to schmooze. No host meal.

If you have questions, contact Jody Goldstein @ jagoldstein827@gmail.com.

Going to the Allentown Art Festival?

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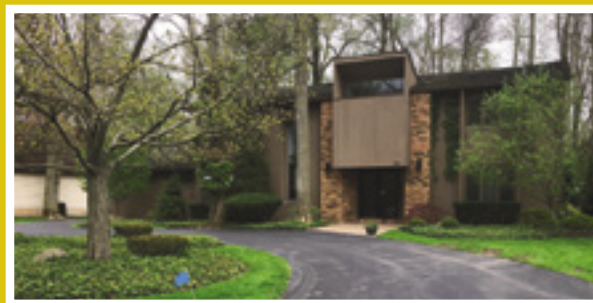
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CALENDAR

JUNE 2019

May 31-June 2

Rabbi Klein Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
with Rabbi Jeffrey Summit.
For more information, contact 716-838-3232.

June 2

My Grown Up & Me
10:00 a.m.

Whole Foods, 3139 Sheridan Drive
Contact Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Institute for Jewish Studies Courses A & B at
the Jewish Discovery Center
10 a.m. to 12 noon.
831 Maple Road, #110
Call 400-1550 or email info@jewishdiscovery.org

June 3

Kadimah 60th Dinner
5:30- 9:00 p.m.

Acqua Restaurant
www.kadimah.org or call 716-836-6903 for info
or tickets

June 4

Let's Do Kosher Lunch
11:00-- 12:30 p.m.

Jewish Discovery Center, 757 Hopkins Road
Contact laizerl@gmail.com

JCC Book & Arts Fair: Sandra Block
What Happened That Night 7-9:00 p.m.
JCC Holland Family Building
\$10 general/\$5 student
www.jccbuffalo.org

What's Next: Real Talk and Action for Justice
2019

7:00-8:30 p.m. JCRC event.
555 Ellicott Street

Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org

June 5

JDC Lunch & Learn
12:15-1:00 p.m.; 831 Maple Rd.
yehoshuagreenberg@gmail.com

June 7

PJ Library Tot Shabbat
5:45 p.m.; Temple Beth Tzedek
Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

TBZ Engagement Shabbat Dinner Club
Meet at Pano's on Elmwood following services
Jagoldstein827@gmail.com

June 8

Shavuot begins at sundown

Community Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
Temple Beth Tzedek
Begins at 8:15 p.m.

June 9

Community Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
Temple Beth Tzedek
Ends at 7:00 a.m.

Shavuot Pizza, Ice Cream & Cheese Cake Party
5:00 p.m. Jewish Discovery Center
757 Hopkins Road
Contact laizerl@gmail.com

June 10

Shavuot ends at sundown

June 12

JDC Lunch & Learn
12:15-1:00 p.m.
831 Maple Rd.
yehoshuagreenberg@gmail.com

JCC Book & Art Fair- "Bashert"- a film showing
7:00-9:00 p.m.
JCC Seller Theatre/Benderson Family Building
\$10 general/\$5 student

June 13

JCC Book & Art Fair
Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Congregation Shir Shalom
\$10 general/\$5 student

June 15

Pride Shabbat @ TBT
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Call 716-838-3232

June 16

Institute for Jewish Studies Courses A & B at
the Jewish Discovery Center
10 a.m. to 12 noon. 831 Maple Road, # 110
Call 400.1550 or email info@jewishdiscovery.org

JCC Book & Art Fair: Judge Ruchie Freier
2:30- 4:00 p.m.
JCC Benderson Family Building
\$10 general/\$5 student

June 17

JCC Book & Art Fair
Are You Jewish?
5 One-Act Plays about Jewish Identity
7:00-9:00 p.m. JCC Seller Theatre/Benderson
Family Building
\$10 general/\$5 student

June 18

JFS Annual Meeting honoring
Marlene Schillinger
5:30- 8:00 p.m. Temple Beth Tzedek
1641 North Forest Road
\$54/dinner. Contact bmagney@jfsbuffalo.org

June 19

JDC Lunch & Learn
12:15-1:00 p.m.
831 Maple Rd.
yehoshuagreenberg@gmail.com

JCC Book & Art Fair
Of Mad Dogs, Shepherds and Sheep
7:00-9:00 p.m. JCC Seller Theatre/ Benderson
Family Building
\$10 general/\$5 student

June 20

JCC Annual Meeting
7:00 p.m. Holland Family Building
787 Delaware Avenue

June 23

Institute for Jewish Studies Courses A & B at
the Jewish Discovery Center
10 a.m. to 12 noon. 831 Maple Road, # 110
Call 400.1550 or
E-mail: info@jewishdiscovery.org

JCC Book & Art Fair: Izzy Bleckman: On the
Road behind the Lens
2:00-4:00 p.m. JCC Seller Theatre/ Benderson
Family Building
\$10 general/ \$5 student

June 24

JCC Book & Art Fair
Unreasonable Doubts: Reyna Gentin
7:00-9:00 p.m. JCC Seller Theatre/ Benderson
Family Building
\$10 general/\$5 student

June 26

JDC Lunch & Learn 12:15-1:00 p.m.
831 Maple Rd.
yehoshuagreenberg@gmail.com

June 30

Institute for Jewish Studies Courses A & B at
the Jewish Discovery Center
10 a.m. to 12 noon. 831 Maple Road, # 110
Call 400.1550 or
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Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra 2018/19

Sat Jun 1, 8pm | Sun Jun 2, 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor | Tamara Gura, mezzo-soprano
Kyle van Schoonhoven, tenor | Valerian Raminiski, bass
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

CARMEN In Concert

A semi-staged presentation of the comique-opera and its famous "Toreador's Song" and "Habañera" arias. Bizet was praised for breaking new ground with his themes of love, lust, and loss.

Hanson String Theory
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Fri Jun 7, 8pm
Todd Craven, conductor

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The Music of
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The Strictly Hip
Sat Jun 8, 8pm

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B"H

Two New Books from Rabbi Heschel Greenberg



The Jewish Discovery Center announces the publication of Rabbi Heschel Greenberg's two latest books, in honor of the marriage of his granddaughter, Ita (daughter of Rabbi Yehoshua and Bracha Leah Greenberg), to Rabbi Motti Reitzes. The first book, a scholarly work, titled *Ma'aseh Yisroel-Volume Five*, is a collection of Talmudic discourses on dozens of diverse topics of Jewish law.

The second book, *Light From the Future – Essays on the Haggadah*, is a collection of over 40 essays on the Passover Haggadah. This volume also includes a second edition of three other books: *The Kabbalah of the Seder*; *Ten Plague Therapy*; and *Chad Gadya*.



The publication of these works brings the total of Rabbi Greenberg's books to 97. 55 books are a collection of over 1200 essays on the weekly Torah portion

and Jewish Holidays. Another 17 are scholarly works in Hebrew on the Talmud, Maimonides and the Shulchan Aruch. The remaining works are translations of Chassidic classics, commentary on the Psalms, Aphorisms, Kabbalah, Relationships, Moshiach and collected essays. Most of these books are available for free online at www.Jewishdiscovery.org. For more information call 632-0467 or 400-1550.

ב"ה



Shavuot

Pizza, Ice Cream & Cheese cake Party

**Sunday, June 9, 2019
at 5:00pm**

Celebrate the Holiday of Shavuot
Commemorating the giving of the
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Reading of the
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Scrumptious Dairy Dinner
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AGENCIES

CHEESECAKE AND THE HBLA: WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

Dairy desserts and Buffalo's Jewish Free Loan Society share a connection to Shavuot-- the holiday Jews around the world are celebrating this month. Although one of the three Pilgrimage Holidays prescribed in the Torah, Shavuot is possibly the least celebrated holiday of the Jewish year. Perhaps this is because it is not designated as "High" like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; nor does it occur on the Western calendar in close proximity to a major non-Jewish holiday as do Chanukah and Passover. Instead it seems to just be out there all by itself at the beginning of the summer.

However, without Shavuot, we would not be celebrating the other holidays, for it is on Shavuot that we commemorate the revelation of the Torah to Moses



and the Jewish People. On Passover we escaped the bondage of Egypt and on Shavuot we received the blueprint by which we were to become the Jewish Nation.

In addition to completing the counting of the Omer and all-night study sessions,

the celebration of Shavuot has come to be associated with the consumption of all sorts of dairy foods. Why is this? A very good question! Throughout the ages, there have been a variety of explanations; but it could just be that once in a while we prefer blintzes to brisket!

So that explains the cheesecake, but what does Shavuot have to do with the HBLA? This question is definitely easier to answer. The mission of the HBLA, to assist Jews in need of temporary financial assistance, comes directly from the Torah that was revealed on Shavuot. In *Parsha Mishpatim* we are commanded to never charge interest on loans made to our fellow Jews, and for 120 years, the HBLA has faithfully fulfilled this mandate.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been given as loans to the Jewish residents of Western New York and this has been done without ever charging any interest. In order to continue this important work, the HBLA has embarked on a **120 Campaign** to raise funds that will increase the loan capacity and make even more dollars available to meet a wide variety of needs in our community. From home and car repairs to adoption, camp, and educational expenses, the reasons for loans are as varied as the people who benefit from them.

As you enjoy your cheesecake on Shavuot, remember that there are those among us whose lives have been made so much sweeter thanks to help from the HBLA. Please consider helping us to continue this vital work by becoming an annual or life member or making a donation to the **120 Campaign**.

To learn more about the HBLA, become a member, or make a donation, please visit our website: wnyhbla.org. Onward to our next 120 years!

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ED ASNER IS COMING TO BUFFALO JUNE 27!

Ed Asner Stars in:
**A MAN AND HIS
PROSTATE**

Thursday, June 27
7:30 p.m.

Maxine and Robert Seller
Theatre at the JCC

2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY



Legendary actor and 8-time Emmy Award-Winner ED ASNER (Mary Tyler Moore Show, Lou Grant, Elf, Up!, etc.) comes to the JCC in the Comedy/Drama A MAN AND HIS PROSTATE. Based on a true-life experience when a man faces unexpected surgery while vacationing in Italy, this near tragedy is masterfully transformed into a one-man comedy, perfectly portrayed by Ed Asner. Written and produced by Ed Weinberger. This event is a fundraiser for the Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York. Only a limited number of tickets left!



TICKETS: \$100/person
PATRON SEATING: \$150/person
(1st and 2nd row)

All tickets include a meet & greet dessert reception with Ed Asner!

Many thanks to our Presenting Sponsor:



Tickets may be purchased at the JCC or www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com

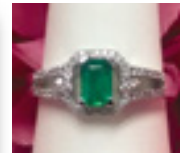
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about the JCC

Happening now at the JCC



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10 weeks June 24-August 30
children grades K-10

Camp Open House: Sunday, June 16
11:00am-3:00pm



To learn more, call Director Michael Garcia: 204-2078.

campcenterland.org

Summer Fun at the J



Grossman Family Outdoor Pool Complex Opens June 15!

Sun-Sat 9:00am-8:00pm

We offer a beautiful, heated, five-lane L-shaped 25 yard swimming pool from June 15 to September 8, making us the last Outdoor Pool open in town. Our facility also includes a shallow water wading pool, sand box, beach volleyball court, locker room facilities and picnic shelters!

Parties Parties at the Grossman Family Outdoor Pool Complex have the best DJ in town, pool games, tie dye, bounce house and surprises!

Sunday, June 16
3:00pm (After Camp Open House)

Tuesday, July 4
12:00pm- Post UB Fireworks

Monday, September 2
11:00am-5:00pm

You are invited to join us for our

Annual Meeting

June 20, 2019 7:00pm



Be the first to learn about exciting, new developments at your JCC. Featuring Ralph Kushner Volunteer Award, special appearances by JCC Members, Ice Cream Sundae Reception and more!

Nominees for 2019-2020:

1 Year Term

Michael Berger
Douglas St. Cyr

3 Year Term

Andrew Deyell
Peggy Kahn
Sullivan
Rabbi Sara Rich
Richard Steinberg

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Alon Kupferman, President
Ronald Benderson, Vice President
Irwin Gelman, Vice President
Jordan Balsom, Treasurer
Christina Akers-Dicenzo, Secretary

Ralph Kushner Volunteer Award Recipient
Howard Rein

Holland Family Building 787 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209



Book & Arts Fair

June 2 - June 24, 2019

The JCC Book & Arts Fair is celebrating 53 years. We are once again proud to showcase authors and presenters from Western New York and beyond, with a line-up that offers something for everyone.

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

Bring your friends to our

Free Guest Week June 23 - 29

2 guests per household per day. Additional guests must pay a daily guest pass rate of \$10.00 for persons 14+ and \$5.00 for children 13 and under. Guests must show photo ID.



Benderson Family Building



Amherst
2640 North Forest Road
adjacent to UB North
688-4033

Holland Family Building



Buffalo
787 Delaware Avenue
at Summer Street
886-3145

JCC Hours

Sun 8:00am - 6:00pm
Mon-Thurs 5:30am - 9:30pm
Friday 5:30am - 7:00pm
Sat 8:00am - 6:00pm
Closed Sunday, June 9 for Shavuot

60 Years of Kadimah!

by Beth Steinberg

As has already been publicized on these pages and in the wider Buffalo news media, Kadimah Academy, as we have known it for the past sixty years, will be closing its doors at the end of this school year. The new partnership that has been developed with The Park School of Buffalo is exciting and groundbreaking, and those who dedicated themselves to finding a new model to deliver on our mission of educating Jewish youth in Buffalo and Western NY deserve great commendation for their vision, creativity, and commitment. Several of our current students are currently preparing to begin their next school year as “Kadimah Scholars at Park School,” as are others not previously affiliated with us.

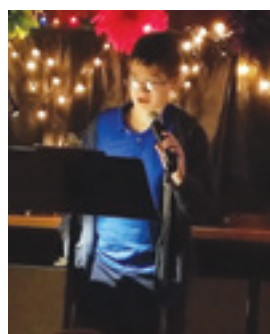
While we celebrate the beginning of this partnership, we must also acknowledge that many of our emotions are bittersweet. Our history of sixty years of commitment to an independent brick-and-mortar non-denominational all-day Jewish Day School deserves homage. The word “Kadimah” means “forward” in Modern Hebrew. It was chosen in recognition of the growing popularity of the language in the newly-created Israeli state, and it accurately represented the spirit of the founders’ hopes for the school: Forward-looking, forward-thinking, and dynamic. We have never wavered from that purpose.

We continue to honor our founders, the



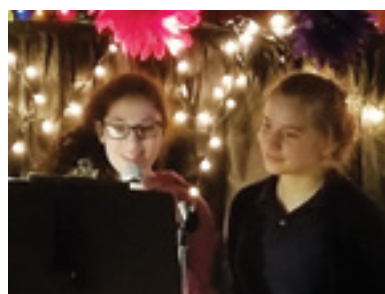
level of knowledge our kids displayed. They performed the Seder again at school for their parents, as did our Kindergarten students. It was delightful to see our older students singing along with our youngest ones as they recalled their own Model Seders.

Our 5th-8th Grade students created a Poetry Café and read their works to the rest of the school. They also presented an extremely moving ceremony on Yom HaShoah to honor the memory of the Six Million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. That same day, Kadimah students stood with NYS Senator



decades’ worth of Board members, Principals and Heads of School, Office and Maintenance Staff, and the hundreds of faculty members over the years who imparted wisdom in Torah, Hebrew, Israel, and secular studies to the thousands of students who have attended Kadimah. Our alumni took their love and knowledge of all things Jewish and their solid academic training and have made remarkable, honorable, and successful lives and careers all over the United States and the world. May the “Kadimah Scholars at Park” continue in their footsteps!

In the meantime, studies and activities galore continue in our building. Our Purim Celebrations spanned an entire week of fun, food, games, and costumes. At the invitation of the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Diversity Council, students from Grades 1-4 conducted a Model Seder at Roswell in early April for members of their staff. Jews and non-Jews in the audience were all significantly impressed by the



Chris Jacobs, as he announced new legislation he is sponsoring to strengthen Holocaust education in schools across the state.

Some of our Middle School students continued to fulfill their Better Together mission by visiting seniors at Jewish Federation Housing and playing Wii Bowling with them. Recent Kadimah alumni sang at the community Yom HaShoah observance. We stood and listened to the siren on Yom HaZikaron, and celebrated the 71st Birthday of Israel on Yom Ha’Atzmaut with more singing, dancing, and birthday cake.

At the time of this writing, plans are in the works for another joyous Lag B’Omer Bowling Adventure, and for our Siddur Presentation, Graduation, end-of-year projects and exams, and for our final days in the building we have called home for the past 14 years. Bittersweet.

Beth Steinberg is a teacher at Kadimah Academy.

UB STUDENTS OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE A LIFE



By Rabbi Sara Rich

“Do you want to save a life?” This is the question Allana Rosenberg, Nathaniel Davenport, and Michael Dubin pose to students passing through the lobby of the UB Commons on their way to class. These three students are GIFT OF LIFE CAMPUS AMBASSADORS, and are offering students the opportunity to sign up for the stem cell and bone marrow donation registry, and potentially the opportunity to one day save the life of a person in need.

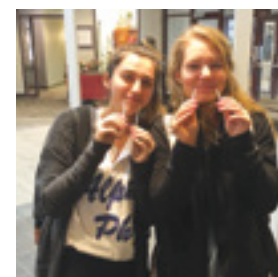
Allana, Nathaniel and Michael applied directly to the Gift of Life Campus Ambassador program, and then chose to partner with Hillel of Buffalo in order to have a larger platform on campus for reaching students. They have collaborated with Hillel for two registry drives so far this semester, and have successfully added 85 students to the registry. The procedure is quick and simple – students fill out a quick questionnaire online and swab the inside of their cheek, and the ambassadors mail the samples to Gift of Life, who add them to the registry.

Nathaniel finds it incredibly gratifying that students are willing to step out of their routine for a few minutes to register. “I acknowledge that it’s weird to be asked ‘Do you want to save a life?’ in the middle of the day, and it takes a special person to immediately say yes.” Allana adds, “It’s really heartwarming to see that students at UB are so ready to help contribute to this amazing cause! Regardless if cancer has touched your life or not, there are people out there every day suffering from these painful illnesses whose lives could be changed with a five minute registration process and a simple cheek swab. It’s truly amazing work.”

Hillel looks forward to continuing to partner with the Gift of Life Campus Ambassadors by providing opportunities for them to reach out to students by the Hillel Center or during Hillel programming.

To learn more about Gift of Life and the Campus Ambassador Program, please visit <http://giftoflife.org>.

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



53rd JCC Book & Arts Fair

May-June 2019

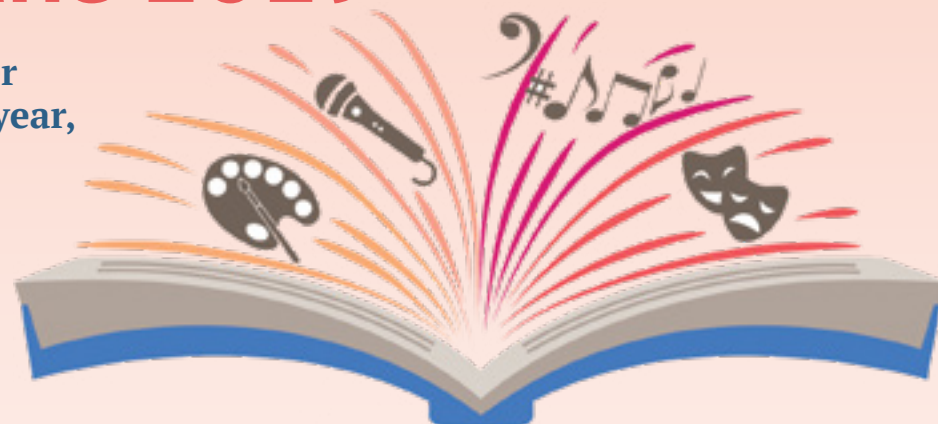
The Annual Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo Book and Arts Fair, celebrating its 53rd year, will showcase acclaimed authors, playwrights, artists, musicians and more through June 28.

The JCC Holland Family Building will host Buffalo author Sandra Block and her newest novel, *What Happened That Night*, presented with Crisis Services. Included in the line-up is guest speaker Judge Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, dubbed by *The New York Times* as the 'Chassidic Superwoman'. Featured on Megyn Kelley and the documentary *93 Queen*, Judge Rachel Freier is the first Chassidic woman elected to public office and later to become a judge. The JCC is proud to feature another female powerhouse, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, the first ordained woman cantor in Jewish history, who has made a lasting impact on the Cantorate and Western New York community.

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

The following events will be included during this year's Book and Arts Fair:

Also check out pages 36 & 37 for in-depth stories on Cantor Barbara Ostfeld and Judge Ruchie Freier.



Photography Exhibit

Ghosts: French Holocaust Children by Robert Hirsch

Through June 28

Bunis Family Art Gallery, JCC Benderson Family Building

Free and open to the Public

The exhibit, *Ghosts: French Holocaust Children*, by artist, curator, educator and historian Robert Hirsch, tells how during World War II, more than 11,000 Jewish children were deported from France to Auschwitz and other Nazis death camps in convoys that continued until Paris was liberated. The exhibit is a three-dimensional photo-based installation that documents these childrens' abbreviated lives, and addresses societal conditions that lead to anti-Semitism and racism. Details at: www.LightResearch.net

Concert with Musicians:

Chris Vasquez, Moshe Shulman and Ivan Docenko

Sunday, June 2, 7:00-9:30pm

Lobby, JCC Holland Family Building

Tickets: \$12.00/general \$5.00/student

Enjoy a wonderful night of music as Chris Vasquez, winner of last year's Buffalo Philharmonic's "Buffalo Sings" competition, Moshe Shulman (violin) and Ivan Docenko (piano) present you with tangos, boleros, American and Yiddish songs. An evening filled with love, good memories and beautiful music! Reception to follow.



Author and Book Event

What Happened That Night

Author: Sandra Block

Tuesday, June 4, 7:00-9:00pm

Lower Level Conference Room, JCC Holland Family Building

Tickets: \$10.00/general \$5.00/student

Sandra Block graduated from Harvard, then returned to her native land of Buffalo for medical training as a practicing neurologist and never left. Sandra will speak on her newest novel *What Happened That Night*, a prescient story of sexual abuse in an elite institution - an issue brought to the forefront in recent Supreme Court appointments that divided the country not only across political lines, but gender lines as well. Presented with Crisis Services. Book sale/signing and reception to follow. *Sponsored by Hodgson Russ LLP.*

Film Screening

Bashert

Wednesday, June 12, 7:00-9:00pm

Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building

Tickets: \$10.00/general \$5.00/student

Rick Kollins, a retired educator and journalist from Toronto, presents this 25-minute documentary on the startling discovery of his family roots during a visit to the shtetl of his paternal ancestors in the Ukraine. The film will be followed by a discussion about genealogical research and online resources for tracing ancestry and building family trees. Reception to follow. *Sponsored by Congregation Havurah.*



JCC Book and Arts Fair Tickets

Tickets may be purchased at the door based on availability or in advance at either JCC member services desk or at www.jccbuffalo.org.

For information about schedules, or donation opportunities for the JCC Book and Arts Fair and People of the Book Endowment Fund, please visit www.jccbuffalo.org or contact Katie Wzontek, Cultural Arts Director at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.

Donate Book for Kids!

During the month of June, books will be collected for preschool – grade 4 students attending Highgate Heights Elementary School in Buffalo, in collaboration with Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy, a program of Buffalo Jewish Federation. For the past 15 years, Buffalo Jewish Coalition volunteers have been bringing donated books to students, as well as reading to and tutoring children. Collection boxes will be at or near membership services desks at both JCC buildings.

Author and Book Event

Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim

Author: Cantor Barbara Ostfeld

Thursday, June 13, 7:00-9:00pm

Congregation Shir Shalom

Tickets: \$10.00/general

\$5.00/student

More information on page 36.



Speaker

Judge Rachel Freier

Sunday, June 16,

2:30-4:00pm

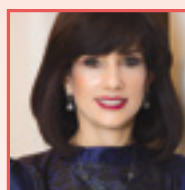
Maxine and Robert

Seller Theatre, JCC

Benderson Family Building

Tickets: \$18.00

More information on page 37.



Staged Reading

Are You Jewish? Five One-Act Comedy Plays about Jewish Identity

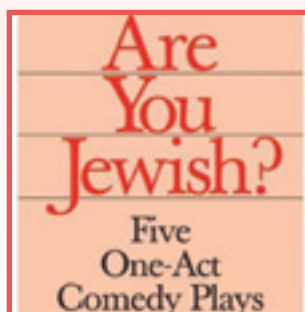
By Bruce J. Bloom

Monday, June 17, 7:00-9:00pm

Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building

Tickets: \$10.00/general \$5.00/student

The Jewish Repertory Theatre presents a staged reading of Are You Jewish? FIVE SHORT PLAYS THAT MAKE AUDIENCES LAUGH AND BELIEVE. Directed by Adam Yellen. Visit www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com for details. Reception to follow.



Multi Media Event

Izzy Bleckman: On The Road, Behind the Lens

Sunday, June 23, 2:00-4:00pm

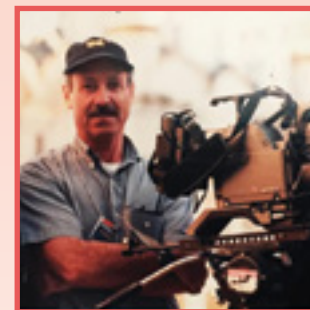
Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building

Tickets: \$10.00/

general \$5.00/student

Film screening *Risking Everything: Stories of Niagara's Freedom Seekers and the Making of a Monument*

Written and Produced by Mary Roseberry and Izzy Bleckman



Making it's theatrical debut screening, is the film *Risking Everything: Stories of Niagara's Freedom Seekers and the Making of a Monument*, a compelling documentary on Niagara's "Freedom Seekers" by the award-winning CBS ("On the Road") cameraman, Isadore "Izzy" Bleckman and his wife, Mary G. Roseberry, who will be part of a multi-media event. The film also documents every stage of the creation of Lewiston's evocative "Freedom Crossing" monument by renowned bronze sculptor Susan Geissler of Youngstown, NY, and focuses on some individuals who settled along the Canadian shore after they found freedom, as remembered by their descendants.. Moderator: Rich Kellman. Reception to follow. *Sponsored by Congregation Havurah.*

Author and Book Event

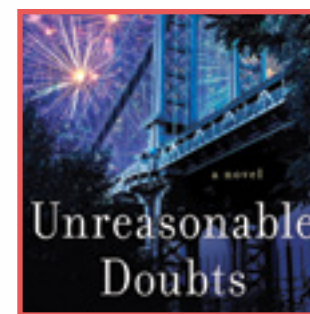
Unreasonable Doubts

Author: Reyna Gentin

Monday, June 24, 7:00-9:00pm

Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building

Tickets: \$10.00/general \$5.00/student



After graduating from Yale College and Yale Law School, Reyna Gentin practiced as a juvenile rights attorney with the Legal Aid Society, and then as a criminal appellate attorney with a nonprofit

public defender's office for nearly 18 years. That job, and a number of the clients she represented, inspired Unreasonable Doubts. More than a legal thriller, it's the story of Liana Cohen, a young woman who grapples with her idealism in an often harsh world, and learns how to find friendship, faith, and love. Book sale/ signing and reception to follow. *Sponsored by Samuel and Sophie Weinstein Book Fair Endowment Fund at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.*



Book Event

Of Mad Dogs, Shepherds and Sheep

Author: Mordecai Hauer

Edited by: David Hauer MD

Wednesday, June 19, 7:00-9:00pm

Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building

Tickets: \$10.00/general \$5.00/student

It was March 19, 1944 and Miklos was in Budapest studying for university entrance exams when the Nazis invaded. The son of a well-to-do Jewish merchant, he was caught up in events that challenged his faith in man and God, and shattered his world. Originally written as a promise to a fellow prisoner, Miklos' manuscript was never published during his lifetime. It became his eldest son's mission, David Hauer MD, the presenter at this event, to share this remarkable story of self-discovery. Book sale/signing and reception to follow. *Sponsored by Concierge Dental.*

53rd JCC Book & Arts Fair May-June 2019

Pioneering in Ballads

By Sharon F. Cramer, Ph.D., SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Emerita

When lived, life takes paths that are highly influenced by the present. Many gravitational forces propel us down paths. Often these life routes, when viewed in retrospect, are differently highlighted. Lights powered by insights can reveal patterns and footprints invisible in the harsh noon of mid-career.

In writing *Catbird, The Ballad of Barbi Prim* (www.catbirdbook.com), Cantor Barbara Ostfeld enables us to join her as she shines a bright light on her life. In so doing, she reveals experiences and self-perceptions which many would have been chagrined to expose. Framing her reflections as a ballad, with stanzas used to separate the portions of her life, she welcomes us to join her as she wends her way through to an understanding of her experiences.

Few writers face their personal landscapes with the honesty Ostfeld does. Like a song sung full out, she brings us along as she hears herself develop her own, new voice. This program is sponsored by Temple Beth Zion and Congregation Shir Shalom.



JCC Author
and Book Event:
*Catbird: The Ballad
of Barbi Prim*

By Cantor
Barbara Ostfeld

Thursday, June 13
7:00- 9:00 p.m.

Congregation Shir
Shalom

Tickets:
\$10 adults
\$5 students with ID

two questions: First, “Is there a specifically Jewish message in *Catbird*?”

CBO: Honestly, “Jewish message” can be read as “ethical message” for everyone. When I was a child, I found happiness and truth in Temple, in Shabbat services, in religious school and in junior choir! I heard about Civil Rights, about the prophets and about behaving in a way that was godly. I LOVED the language, the fancy English and the mysterious Hebrew. I LOVED the cantor’s voice and the screech of the shofar! (Truth be told, I also liked the ice cream kids got at the end of services!)

SC: And second, “Has *Catbird* influenced your Jewish identity?”

CBO: I hope everyone will find this book speaking directly to them. I hope that Jewish readers think, “YES! Like Barbi Prim, I also love hearing someone chant from the Torah or get goosebumps during a sermon.” All the prayers we recite and all the melodies we sing become part of us. It’s good to think about the Jewish things in our lives and about where they live inside us.

SC: Topics related to family members are woven throughout your book. Help us understand how readers who have difficult family members could be assisted by the complex reflections you share.

CBO: It’s really good when family members sit across from each other and talk about whatever they’re thinking. When I was a forty-something mother, I side-stepped that kind of talking. I was too involved in soldiering through my days. My children suffered because I was a difficult family member. In some ways, this book is an apology to my kids. I realize I can’t rewind the tape of their adolescence. BUT I have ongoing chances to be a better mom. These days, I am a rock-star grandmother: just ask my grandkids!

was actually typing them out. I realized graphic parts of *Catbird* would be hard for readers, too. I wrestled with myself, and with my imagined readers. Should I publish these private details? I decided that if an episode in my story (however challenging it was to write or read) might resonate with people or keep readers company, I would share it.

I’ve already heard from many readers who feel validated by certain themes. Bullying, body image, infertility. These are real parts of our lives. Many women are like me, going through life as though it were one endless audition for approval. The hardest themes that I address in *Catbird* are things like eating disorders, cutting and sexual trauma. I discovered in the writing, and from readers who had similar experiences, that the “reveal” is an essential first step. My main message is that life can get better! You don’t have to remain stuck in the scary parts! There’s music, nature, books! There’s your synagogue or community!

But, making the transition from stuck, scared and silent to BETTER takes more than beauty and belonging. For me, it took the work of therapy. I’m proud to say I still go to therapy! Therapy has helped me free myself from a lot of anxiety. It’s my ongoing route to finding confidence and even joy.

SC: You prepared multiple “Reader’s Guides” to help start conversations about your book. Thank you! Help us to understand your hopes for people as they answer these

Interview of Cantor Ostfeld by Sharon Cramer

SC: Describe some of the prime motivators that led you to write your memoir.

CBO: Friends laughed when I shared colorful stories about being a cantor or about synagogue life. I began scribbling vignettes and transcribing old journal entries. The most meaningful scribbles were the ones that made it into *Catbird*.

SC: What pushed you from scribbling to publishing?

CBO: I’ve known for a long time that your secrets can eat you alive. Mine were consuming me, one bite at a time. I decided to use the book to tell the kinds of secrets that many women feel compelled to keep. I hope my book frees others to let their secrets out, and avoid the scary side-effects of harboring them.

SC: Help readers to understand how you overcame hesitations to share your complete story so candidly.

CBO: It hurt to remember distressing events, but even more painful

Pre Shavuot
Sunday, June 2nd
4:00pm - 5:00pm

Mini Chefs Cooking Club is an exciting club for children ages 3-12. Mini Chefs join together to cook, bake, create fun foods, while learning about Jewish themes!

For kids 3 - 12
\$10 for the class

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



Dedicated to the memory of Samuel Shatkin, DDS, MD & Joan Ellis Shatkin, a"h



“If You Can’t Join ‘Em, Beat ‘Em” Move Over Wonder Woman – The Real One is Coming to Buffalo!

By Rus Devorah (Darcy) Wallen and Cynthia Oppenheimer

Buffalo's Jewish Film Festival this past March featured some truly amazing films. On March 25th and 28th, The TELL Fund, in memory of Dr. Samuel Shatkin and Joan Ellis Shatkin, ob"m, sponsored 93 Queen. This 2018, award-winning documentary, was produced by Paula Eiselt and Heidi Reinberg, and features the women of Ezras Nashim, the first ever women's-only Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) corps, spearheaded by Judge Rachel “Ruchie” Freier, the well-known, Chassidic women's activist. The producer, Ms. Eiselt (who herself is an observant Jew) has “insider access” that would normally not be available in this closely knit, insular community. With unprecedented entrée, 93 Queen offers up the unique portrayal of a group of empowered women who are taking matters into their own hands changing their community from within.

The film and Mrs. Freier's team's efforts touch personal heartstrings and internal, visceral cords of the TELL Fund. The TELL Fund is proud to be one of the sponsors of The Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival and the JCC Book & Arts Fair this year, and promotes Torah-true educational and cultural events in Western New York. As many of you know, our parents were great in their respective community roles. Our father, Dr. Samuel Shatkin, was a prominent plastic surgeon, taking care of emergency, trauma victims, as well as others in pain and need. Our mother, Joan Ellis Shatkin, was a prominent Jewish community leader, activist, philanthropist, communicator, social genius, and civil servant eternal. The uncanny themes of this film parallel the mission of The TELL Fund in memory of our illustrious parents - caring for people, physically, medically, and in all ways standing up and standing strong to lead the way and improve what is put before us, however challenging the obstacle may be to surmount.

In an interview, Judge Freier said that her mother told her she could succeed in anything in life as long as it is not illegal, immoral, or against the Torah. Similar to the words of the Rebbe Maharash, Rabbi Shmuel the 5th Lubavitcher Rebbe: “The whole world says if you can't get around it, go over it. I say, in the first place, go over it.” The women of *Ezras Nashim* (women



Speaker Judge Rachel (Ruchie) Freier
Sunday, June 16th, 2:30- 4:00 p.m.
JCC Benderson Family Building
Tickets: \$18

helping women) in the **93 Queen** documentary and Judge Freier's community accomplishments are monumental, expending incredible fortitude, patience, diligence, and good ol' Jewish chutzpah! Determined, the Judge was able to go against all odds. As she says, “If you can't join ‘em, beat ‘em!”

On Father's Day, Sunday June 16th, The TELL Fund is bringing Judge Freier to Buffalo to inspire our community with her amazing accomplishments as the iconoclastic Chassidic women's advocate, ac-

tivist, lawyer, and civil court judge! Rachel Freier is a proud, devoted mother and grandmother of a Chassidic family. She is dedicated to her local Borough Park community specifically, and reaches out to the general Jewish community at-large. Rachel Freier, known as “Ruchie” by her friends and family, was elected as Civil Court Judge in November 2016 and is currently assigned to Kings County Criminal Court. Prior to becoming a judge, she maintained law offices in Borough Park and Monroe, N. Y. Licensed to practice law in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC, she was recently honored as one of Brooklyn Law School's ‘Trailblazers’ for being the first Chassidic woman to be elected to public office. After graduating law school, Rachel founded **Chas-dei Devorah, Inc.**, a nonprofit charity in memory of her friend who passed away at a young age. Thereafter, she formed **B'Derech**, a grassroots non-profit organization advocating for education and opportunity for adolescents in the Chassidic community.

When a group of Chassidic female EMTs in Borough Park asked Rachel to assist them in their desire to serve other women during emergencies, her offer to help them mushroomed into directing a global, grassroots all-women's volunteer agency known as *Ezras Nashim*. In order to be a more effective leader, she became an EMT. Thereafter she attended The Center for Learning & Innovation at North Shore Long Island Health/Northwell Health for her paramedic training.

We hope the Buffalo Jewish community is excited as we are that the Honorable Judge Rachel Freier will be joining us at the JCC Book & Arts Fair on Father's Day, Sunday June 16th at 2:30pm at the JCC Benderson Family Building. To become a co-sponsor, please contact the JCC Cultural Arts Department. Rachel Freier's story will fascinate everyone who joins us, but for sure, law firms, lawyers, judges, and other legal organizations should be particularly interested and are welcome and encouraged to participate in bringing the judge here by donating to the JCC's Cultural Arts program. To date, our co-sponsors for the Book & Arts Fair are Cheryl Stein Law Office, PLLC; Law Office of Lindy Korn, PLLC.; She CAN!; Women's Network-Sisterhood of Temple Beth Tzedek, as well as Kehillat Ohr Tzion.

For more information please contact Katie Wzontek, Director of Cultural Arts at 716.204.2084, or kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.

Shavuot

The giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai was a far reaching spiritual event - one that has shaped the destiny of the Jewish people for over 3300 years. When you leave a Jewish legacy, you can reach far into the future to perpetuate our precious heritage and the values that have sustained us for generations. Your legacy can be focused on the causes and organizations that are most important to you and your family.

To learn more and arrange a personal and confidential consultation, contact Lynn Catalano, Co-Director and Director of Development, at 716-204-1133 or Lynn@jewishphilanthropies.org.



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FOR JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES

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MEGA SHABBAT BRINGS TOGETHER OVER 360 UB STUDENTS FOR THE LARGEST SHABBAT DINNER IN THE HISTORY OF UB

This spring, more than 360 UB students joined together for a Shabbat of unity and pride at the UB Center for the Arts. The Shabbat dinner was a collaborative event of all the Jewish Organizations on campus and was co-sponsored by Chabad, Hillel, JSU, Aish and AePi. This successful event was made possible through a generous grant from Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. Also in attendance were UB Administration officials, UB Provost Charles Zukoski and his wife Barbara, and UB's Dean of the Law School Aviva Abramovsky.



GAN ISRAEL Day Camp Summer 2019

July 8 - July 26 Boys Ages 3-8
July 29 - August 16 Girls Ages 3-12
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



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 JUNE 24 - AUG. 2
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JFS to Honor Marlene Schillinger at June 18 Annual Meeting

Please join **Jewish Family Service** as it honors

Marlene Schillinger

On her retirement after 25 years of Service as Executive Director



Tuesday, June 18 6:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Tzedek

1640 North Forest Road in Williamsville

Annual Meeting is for all JFS members from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

6-8:00 p.m.: Tribute dinner to Marlene Schillinger for \$54

Dinner RSVPs to Juliana Teibel 716.534.0262

Or jteibel@jfsbuffalo.org

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TRAVEL WITH THE JCC FOR A CELEBRATION OF COMEDY

The Adult department of the JCC is sponsoring a trip to the National Comedy Center in Jamestown, New York on Wednesday, July 10. There are still seats left on the air-conditioned coach bus. The trip will leave the JCC Benderson Family Building at 9:00 a.m. and upon arrival in Jamestown, travelers may visit the Lucy-Desi Museum or have a guided tour of the Robert Jackson Center.

At 12:00 p.m., a catered lunch in the Tropicana Room will be available, and then go to the National Comedy Center for the afternoon. The bus will return to the JCC approximately 6:00 PM.

For information or any questions, please call Karla Wiseman at 204-2257 or email at kwiseman@jccbuffalo.org.

Remembering Arthur (Archie) Glick (z"l)

Arthur (Archie) Glick passed away in late March, and his funeral was held in the Temple Beth Zion sanctuary April 3. Many friends spoke lovingly of Archie and his generosity and kindness, including his daughters Emily and Allie. Emily is 24 years old, and graduated from Penn State University. Allie is 23 and graduated from Canisius College. The following are their tributes to their beloved father.

Emily Glick

My dad was completely in his element at the office; and it makes perfect sense. He found a job that allowed him the time and resources to talk to his friends on the phone all day. Every day. The morning after his diagnosis, I was keeping him company in his hospital room when he asked if I wanted to work with him. This MUST have been why he had me watching *Trading Places* LONG before I should have been watching *Trading Places*.

There was nothing more important to him than taking care of the many people that trusted and depended on him. He always had a plan and he was STRATEGIC. Work had it all. For example: he made his clients his friends, called mutual fund wholesalers to reward him with golf balls, sent those golf balls to his clients and used his work flexibility to go spend time with those friends and inevitably ended up golfing. It was perfect.

From a young age I talked to my dad about everything. If I knew a secret; he also knew the secret; and I can't recall a major decision I made without his advice (if I took it or not was another story.) Over the past year and half, I have trailed my dad from office chair, to living room chair, to dining room chair, back to living room chair, as he taught me not only the busi-



ness, but HIS business. HIS accomplishments. HIS strategies and honest passion for helping people. I asked question after question and always knew that in him, I had an unstoppable force in my corner rooting for me.

Going forward I will have to seek answers in his friends:

- I will turn to Albus Dumbledore to be reminded "Happiness can be found in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."
- I will turn to Don Corleone for help with family relations...maybe
- I will turn to Glinda and Dorothy when I need to be reminded there's no place like home.
- And I will turn to you. Everyone here who loved my dad so much. I look forward to being your friend.

Allie Glick

You were absolutely the world's greatest dad. Anyone would have been lucky to have you as a father, but I was blessed to be your child. I remember that every night you used to come into my room, and you'd give me a kiss goodnight and say, "your daddy loves you, a lot," and lucky for me, I have a recording of you saying it so I can listen to it every night and know you are

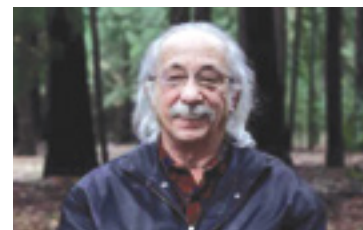
still here with me.

You have the most wonderful friends in the world, each of them here today to honor you. I've never met another human who had so many friends in his corner. People tell you as you grow older that you lose friends...but I gotta say that rarely happened to you, Dad. You were the most loveable husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. How can I describe how awesome my Dad was? How can I describe my Dad in so few words?

- He was my first love
- He was my first hero
- And forever, the world's greatest father.

You fought 'til the very end a fight that no one should have to fight. You took your last breath with me lying in bed with you, your head on my chest, and Mom and Emily by your side holding your hand, and, go figure, Harry Potter playing in the background. You are finally at peace. The battle is over. I love you forever and always.

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



Dr. Harvey Bigelsen died on March 6th, surrounded by his wife Judy (Pleskin), originally from Buffalo, New York, and their children Adam Bigelsen, Joshua Bigelsen and Lila Bigelsen. His children remain committed to carrying on their father's life work. After graduating from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine, he was a commanding officer and trauma surgeon during the Vietnam War. After his return from the war, he practiced as an ophthalmologist in Princeton, New Jersey. When he moved to Arizona, where he co-authored the Arizona Medical Practice Act, he was appointed by the Arizona governor to establish a medical board and set the standards for holistic medicine. In the 1980s he received the Hans Nieper Foundations Person-of-the-Year award recognizing his work as being influential for the advancement of natural medicine in the United States. His most recent work was operating the Biological Health Institute in Nevada City, California.

In Remembrance

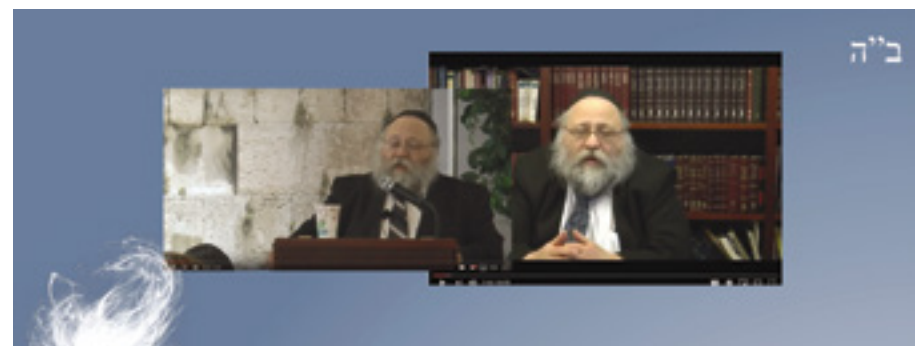
The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from April 16 – May 20. * May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



Louise Boyar
Wendy Dimet
Sylvia Dimet
Gary Gafter
Dr. Shepard Goldberg
Edward Heller
Walter Jagoda
Albert Kershanbaum
Dr. Leo Manning

Elaine Olin
Edith Ross
Helene Seeberg
Seena Singer
Dr. Robert Spiegler
Philip Strauss
Henry F. Ullman
Charlotte Wolpin

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



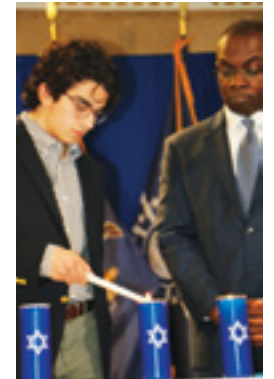
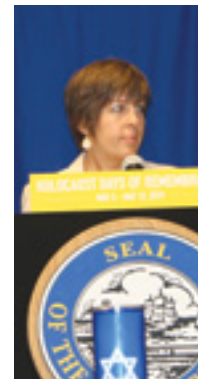
DAILY SOUL BYTE
by Rabbi Heschel Greenberg

Daily WhatsApp  Broadcast

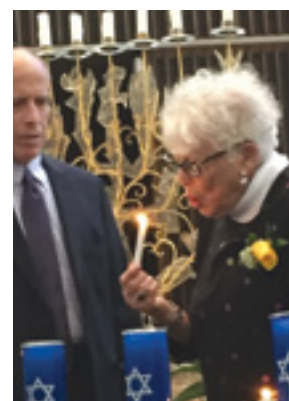
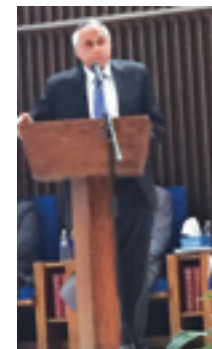
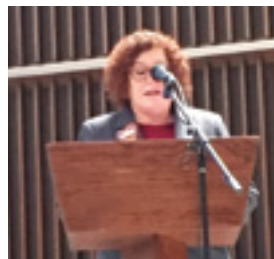
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Yom Hashoah City/ County Proclamation: May 2- City Hall



Community Yom Hashoah: May 5- Temple Beth Zion



Yom Ha'atzmaut Family Style: May 5 Amherst Youth & Rec Center



Yom Ha'atzmaut Truman Library Exhibit & Lecture: May 14- Temple Beth Tzedek



TBZ Halpern Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: May 19- Temple Beth Zion Broder Center



Marlene Schillinger “Rebooting” After 25 Years

By Jessica Thorpe

After 25 years, Marlene A. Schillinger is leaving the helm of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County. “I’m rebooting,” she says with a wry smile, adding that she has been a bit uncomfortable with the attention she is receiving since announcing her retirement.

Inarguably, the recognition is well deserved. Rooted tenaciously in the tenets of her Jewish faith and cultural traditions of her community, Schillinger has dedicated both personal life and professional career to unmitigated advocacy for social justice.

“Our background in Judaism influences where we are today,” she says of growing up in Bayside, Queens, NY with her family -- the oldest and only girl, with three brothers who are now medical and healthcare practitioners. “I was happy when I got the job at Jewish Family Service because it melded together the things that were important to me, which were practicing our traditions and values and putting them into action for social change.”

She left Bayside to pursue a bachelor’s degree in English and theater at the University at Buffalo (UB), where she also earned her teaching certificate. After teaching briefly in the Buffalo public school system and deciding “it really didn’t fit my personality or style of working with people,” she took a job teaching high school equivalency preparation at the now-defunct Clarkson Center, formally Allentown Youth Services. “I still run into old clients from time to time,” she says. “We’re like family, and there’s no better feeling.”

Schillinger spent 18 years at Clarkson Center, earning her master’s degree in education from UB along the way. When she left she was assistant director, but admits she faced a steep learning curve when she became JFS executive director in 1994.

“You don’t always know what you don’t know,” she says, smiling wryly again. “But I had a lot of support, in terms of relationships and reinforcements. And I was really fortunate because I inherited a strong agency.”

She is leaving Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County an even stronger agency. Named president and CEO by the JFS board in 1999 under her leadership, the 155-year-old not for profit has successfully traversed the myriad changes and



Marlene A. Schillinger, who has been the face of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County since 1994, will be awarded June 18 with JFS’s prestigious Ruth and Abram Pugash Award at the JFS Annual Meeting.

challenges defining best practice in 21st century mental health care and social service delivery.

Her strategic vision has focused on the importance of family, however defined, extended and embraced. Administratively, she has cultivated partnerships, optimized management and integrated services to ensure every JFS client is treated as a whole person. “There are a lot of things that go into making you well, physically, spiritually and emotionally,” she explains. “You can’t separate the head from the body and heart. It’s all connected and the environment you live in plays an important role.”

Addressing such social determinants of health—which include access to adequate housing, employment, health care, food resources, transportation and social supports—is why care management is now fully fused into the JFS scope of services.

“There’s more recognition now of how these things play into people’s health and well-being. Care management helps people navigate the various systems they come in contact with,” says Schillinger, adding that upgrading the JFS career services component has also been a viable response to this change.

While comprehensive outpatient mental health diagnosis, treatment and counseling have been core JFS services since the 1950s, in 1996 Schillinger added a specific component for children and adolescents. “We always helped kids with issues like acting out in school. But we also wanted to move toward a preventative model that tried to make changes that would help the whole family,” she says.

As a co-founder of the Erie County Anti-



Stigma Coalition, key facilitator of its “Join the Conversation” anti-stigma campaign, and certified Mental Health First Aid trainer, Schillinger has helped establish the agency as a regional “difference maker” in diminishing barriers that prevent people from accessing care that can improve their quality of life.

In partnership with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), JFS has always resettled Jews from Russia and Europe to the United States. Under Schillinger’s leadership, the agency now resettles refugees from all over the world to Western New York, and is championed as a frontline advocate for the persecuted and unprotected.

Compelled by a Florida colleague’s example and Schillinger’s personal Elie Wiesel mantra (“All are entitled to live with dignity and respect. / All are entitled to live without fear or pain.”), Jewish Family Service opened the Western New York Center for Survivors of Torture (WNYCST) in 2014. The collaborative initiative

provides forensic evaluation through the UB School of Medicine, legal support through Journey’s End and care coordination through Jewish Family Service to address a critical gap in necessary care for refugees, asylum-seekers and Holocaust Survivors

In 2016, WNYCST earned recognition from the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture, which has 160 member agencies in over 70 countries. The virtual center has been on hiatus for the past six months, but will receive new, increased funding from the New York State Office of Refugee Resettlement at the end of September “It’s a credit to our board and staff that we’ve been able to keep the center operational during this time for people who have been severely impacted by trauma,” says Schillinger.

At the heart of her administrative savvy is an innate ability to bring people together—locally, regionally, nationally and internationally—to meet institutional and individual challenge and change. The partnerships that work, she advises, are those based on mutual trust and the best interest of clients.

“We have strong community ties in the Jewish community and broader Buffalo and Western New York community because the entities we partner with have similar visions and missions,” she says. “It’s a different environment than 25 years ago, and it’s our responsibility to adapt. So that’s what we’ve done.”

She credits staff, administration, board members and her religious community, every step of the 25-year way, for enabling her to position JFS to respond effectively and efficiently to changes in the field: “I have never been isolated. I’ve always had support, on different levels from different groups of people, to help me move through my own challenges and changes,” she says. “When you feel supported you are able to give support.”

When asked what she wants people to remember most about her time at the helm of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County, Schillinger muses. “I’ve been a strong advocate for people who need and want assistance, for helping people reach their personal goals,” she says quietly. “I’m a strong advocate who has fought the good fight, and will continue to always do so. It has been an honor.”

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