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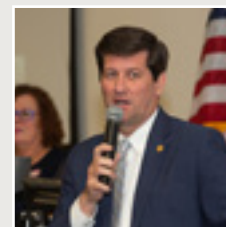
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JULY 2019 | SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5779



DON'T MISS:
LETTERS FROM
CAMP
(4)



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WHAT'S NEXT
(16-17)



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(35)

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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Summer is here in Buffalo and it's time for some fun! There are loads of things to do in the 716 this month, and I am excited to share just a few of them with you. First (especially for me!), there are garden walks tours and special events galore all over Western New York this month. Page 11 details just some of the flower walks and tours in Buffalo, Kenmore, Tonawanda, Amherst, Williamsville. There are Open Gardens all month long as well as Buffalo Garden Walk July 27th and 28, and our garden will be one of the many open for visitors.

There are also art shows with works by members of our community. Cathy Shuman Miller (page 9) has a show at the Buffalo Club, Kathy Rogers (page 32) has a show at the JCC Holland Building and Jody Biehl's work is part of a show at Argus Gallery on Niagara Street in Buffalo (page 39).

Jewish summer camp is one of the most special parts of summer for hundreds of kids from Jewish Buffalo, and a few of them share their joy of local camps with us on pages 4-5, as does TBZ's Rabbi Jonathan Freirich in his story about spending special time at the URI's Camp George in Ontario.

And finally, summer is a great time to schmooze. You can read a delightful story about a group of schmoozers, aka "The Granola Group" and their 17th anniversary (pages 14-15). And you can see how schmoozing, aka having real conversations about difficult topics like hate, race and intolerance by members of our JCRC, is transforming relationships among diverse groups in Buffalo (pages 16-17).

Grab summer fun while you can. I'm going to take some time to smell the roses.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Some summer delights in Buffalo(clockwise): Ilja and Pam Weinreib in their beautiful garden, My Grown Up & Me at Elmwood Bidwell Market, water fun, Chani Labkovski and some of her children at Camp Gan Israel, Some Camp Centerland campers last year, biking in Buffalo. Design: Kim Miers. All photos: Ellen Goldstein except Canalside photo by Milena Ramirez / Shutterstock.com

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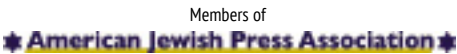
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What my Grandparents, Adult Learners and *A Fidler Afen Dakh* Have in Common

By Leslie Shuman Kramer

I was recently looking through boxes of old family photos and books and among the memorabilia I found a narrow leather bound workbook containing notes and exercises in English and Yiddish. It didn't take long to realize that it was my grandmother's (who we called *Baba*, pronounced "*Bubba*"), and that it was used in preparation for her U.S. citizenship exam. Her neat handwriting listed information about both local and Federal government, and there were numerous markings in red pencil including A, A+, etc, indicating my *Baba's* progress.

My grandparents fled "the old country" narrowly escaping deadly persecution, and followed a relative from their *shtetl* to Buffalo. Their story became my story—my ancestral history, and while they always seemed Old World to me, they embraced their new American citizenship, proudly encouraging their children to be an "American". I remember stories of how my grandfather urged his Ukrainian-born daughter, my aunt, to wear lipstick so that she would fit in. Despite working hard to prosper here they held on tightly to their Judaism and connected deeply with the community, even though so many others like them did not. It was important to many immigrants not to bring attention to their Old World ways, and to fit in to their new American homeland.

When the original *Fiddler on the Roof* hit Broadway in 1964 the script had ZERO words in it in Yiddish. Intentionally. At the time, investors in the musical wanted to make the story universal, not solely a Jewish story, so the writers removed all Yiddish to neutralize its Jewish identity. What resulted was a fantastic show, the longest running on Broadway during its 10 years, but a funny, campier version of Sholom Aleichem's *Tevye the Dairyman* on which the show was based.

Then, last week I saw the off-Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. More accurately, I saw *A Fidler Afen Dakh*, because the entire production was in Yiddish (with English and Russian Supertitles). The language that I associate with Old World, past generations and a forgotten way of life, came alive on the stage and transformed the familiar, often kitschy play to a heart-wrenching, honest portrayal of conflict, changing times and long held traditions. The audience feels Tevye's agony as he is faced with painful choices and difficult situations. David Gordon writes in *TheatreMania* about Steven Skybell's portrayal of Tevye: "Frightened of



Leslie Shuman Kramer

change and what it means for him, his family, and his beliefs, this Tevye must gather all the courage he has and bravely dive into a world where the rewards and consequences are altogether unknown. In doing so, Skybell unlocks the human being inside a character that in the past has been played as a comedic blowhard."

I cried during the opening number, "Tradition", and then again frequently during the rest of the performance because it all was suddenly so familiar; I saw my grandparents and their lives on that stage. Rather than feeling Old World, the Yiddish actually eliminated the campiness and kitch, and suddenly I felt transported to the *shtetl* of my family, not in a "once upon a time" way, but in an accessible, current, relevant and authentic way.

But it wasn't just my impression of *Fiddler* that had changed. Upon reflection, I realized that during those three hours I heard more continuous Yiddish conversation than any other time in my life. The language itself that had become the punch line in comedians' routines, the foreign words I'd overheard in tiny spurts when my parents didn't want us to understand,

sounded grown up, alive and powerful. That humor may have worked to soften the immigrant generations' pain, but now, a few generations later, the Yiddish of *Fiddler*-spoken in full conversations, about adult themes and an authentic story- had the opposite effect on me from what the original writers surely feared. Yiddish became the vehicle by which the audience-not just Jews - were able to experience an authentic history, not a caricature of one.

Back in Buffalo, the same week as my *Fiddler* experience I attended the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL)'s Evening of Celebration, where the new Center celebrated its partnership with the former Bureau of Jewish Education and highlighted those who participated in the many classes or experiences offered this year, along with

college through a Jewish lens.

But what was particularly unexpected was the experience shared by Ed, who attended the "Intro to Judaism" course with his husband. Ed, who grew up in Arcade, NY, was drawn to Judaism over the course of his life despite not actually meeting a Jew until he was a young adult. In his remarks, he thanked the CJEL, his teachers, his classmates, and all who had anything to do with making the class a possibility. The most powerful moment was when he passionately thanked all of us "for existing" as a people. But more than that, he emphasized that, because we have continued to exist as a people from, presumably, Abraham, he had the opportunity to join our community now. His sentiment was both powerful and profound. After studying other religions, Judaism made sense to him, he told me after the program. He relishes that we embrace and encourage discussion and disagreement over our practices and beliefs, and he marveled at the opportunity to question and debate with a rabbi, exclaiming "Who gets to do that?!"

I know that like them, my Jewish journey and all of our Jewish journeys can evolve.

their teachers. The program included brief speeches from four participants, and their reflections were inspiring and moving. One spoke of her gratitude for being able to participate in a Mussar for Moms class, where she pondered and explored *middot*, subjects concerning moral conduct, instruction and discipline, while forging bonds with her peers and making lasting relationships. Another spoke of her gratitude and excitement for the Wise Aging group of which she was a part, grappling with issues they face as they enter a new, older stage of life. And yet another spoke of her positive experience at Hebrew High, where she learned and met with her peers, developing relationships with Weinberg Campus residents, learning about Jewish filmmakers, directors and comic book writers, and preparing for

I've been thinking a lot about my ancestors and their experiences, what this production of *Fiddler* brings to the conversation, and about what Ed and the others spoke about at the CJEL Celebration. Their authenticity, together with the stories of others I meet and learn about in this community, have inspired me to challenge my own assumptions and my self-imposed boundaries. I know that like them, my Jewish journey and all of our Jewish journeys can evolve. Above all I am proud that we as the Buffalo Jewish Community offer opportunity for so much growth. Who knows? Maybe the next program to be offered at the CJEL will be Basic Yiddish. And I just might sign up.

Leslie Shuman Kramer is president of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

Letters from Camp

Jewish summer camp is underway for dozens of Western New York families, and the *Jewish Journal* peeked in on some of the letters sent home from Camp Ramah in Ontario, Camp Seneca Lake near Rochester, Camp Gan Israel in Williamsville and Camp Centerland in Getzville.

Camp Seneca Lake: Abby Block

18 year old Abby Block just graduated from Williamsville East High School, and is a counselor this summer. She is the daughter of Stacey and Neil Block and granddaughter of Marilyn and Barry Singer. She will attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.



Dear Mom and Dad,

July 1

Hi! Being at camp as a counselor after having been a camper for 7 years has been a very exciting experience so far since I now see what goes on behind the scenes of a typical camp day. Yesterday was the first day of the session, so it was filled with lots of fun activities for the campers. When all the campers got off the bus, we greeted them with big signs and creative outfits, and we directed them towards their counselors and their fellow bunk-mates. After everyone arrived, we played some games and then had our first yummy lunch of the summer... chicken nuggets! I then showed my campers, which are the youngest girls bunk in the whole camp, where they would be living and helped them unpack before we headed out again.

In the afternoon, they had a swim test, lice check (AKA head massage), learned about waterfront rules, and a few other important first day tasks. Everyone got a snack and headed back to the cabin where my co-counselors and I helped them unpack fully. Since where my co-counselors are new, this took a long time, but pretty much all my campers are settled in. Dinner was served and we did a fun evening program afterwards with the rest of camp. My favorite part of the day was what followed... opening ceremonies! All the counselors got back into their creative outfits and performed skits in front of the whole camp (the Onondaga counselors, which is my village, dressed up as sharks and sang a cute shark song, which made all the kids laugh). The day ended with an enormous bonfire! We sang some songs and then went to sleep.

It's now the second day, and I'm writing this early in the morning before the campers get up. It looks like the schedule today consists of athletics, arts & crafts, and the pool! I'm very excited to be able to take my campers around to all these fun activities because I know I loved doing them when I was a camper myself. I have to go now because we have to wake up the girls in a minute, but I will write again soon and tell you more about all the exciting things I'm doing. I love you!

Love, Abby

Camp Ramah: Michael Sanders

Michael Sanders is in Alonim (which is the oldest age group at Camp Ramah in Canada). He is 16 years old, a rising junior at Williamsville North High School, and also United Synagogue Youth's Israeli Affairs Vice President for the Tzafon Region (Northeast Region, which covers all of Upstate New York State as far as Poughkeepsie, as well as Pittsfield MA and Rutland VT). Michael is a graduate of Kadimah Academy and attends Hebrew High. He is the son of Harvey & Helaine Sanders and brother to Benjamin.



So I made it on Killarney!!! I'm so excited, and I really had the best Yom sport this year. We won the marathon and it felt amazing being a big part of it. Yeah, I wanna have a picnic together with the Abloves for visitor's day. That's like it, Looking forward to V-Day.

LUV U, Michael

P.S. Mitch says "Hi" to you both. And tell Aunt Ro, Melanie and Uncle Yancy that I miss them.

Camp Gan Israel: Yisrolik and Itty Labkovski

Yisrolik and Itty Labkovski are two of Rabbi Laizer and Chani Labkovski's 12 children. Yisrolik is 5 years old, Itty is 8 years old and they will both be attending Ohr Temimim School in the fall. Yisrolik will enter Kindergarten and Itty will be a 2nd grader.



Camp Centerland: Sofia Reisman

Sofia Reisman, 11, will be a 7th grader at Park School in the fall. She is the daughter of David Reisman and Betsy Abramson, granddaughter of Mort and Natalie (Poppy and Tasha), and Dr. Robert Reisman (z"l) and Rena Reisman (z"l).



Dear Poppy and Tasha,

It feels so great to be back at Camp Centerland with my friends. Today so far we had swimming, ropes and sports. We played field hockey in sports and I scored four goals!!

In ropes, we ziplined and climbed high ropes, and I got to go first! I was nervous about going on the climbing net, but I did it anyways.

Mrs. Noelle helped me with ground school before. In swimming, we did a relay race and my team won! I was so happy!

Well, I gotta get going so I can do hamotzie for Shabbat, and have lunch with some friends.

I love you.
Sofia

Dear Tatty and Mammy,

Camp Gan Izzzy is so much fun, we learned today about Ahavat Yisroel, loving every Jew.

We had an amazing trip to Fantasy Island, and we all had a great time.

Tomorrow we are having twin day.

We love camp Gan Izzzy.

Love, Yisrolik and Itty



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Buffalo Lions of Judah... the Story Continues

Peggy Kahn Sullivan

By Jill Komm

Optimism and energy were the perfect combination to inspire Peggy Kahn Sullivan to make a difference in Western New York. She's also Buffalo's newest Lion of Judah.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Peggy attended Sweet Home High School. She graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BA in Marketing and Communications and then received an Executive MBA from the University at Buffalo. Her early career began at Benderson Development, where she was the Executive Director of their in-house advertising agency. Peggy has fond memories from those days where she was able to travel all over the country. She resigned to take care of her mother, Suzanne Kahn z"l, who unfortunately passed away at an early age from cancer. Peggy took that opportunity to start a new career in Customer Experience and worked for a number of different companies, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Materion, and United Healthcare. She also has been a member of the board of Jewish Family Service and volunteered for the Red Cross.

As her father, Ted Kahn z"l grew older, Peggy decided to put work and volunteering on hold so she could spend more quality time with her dad. Ted was born in Germany and because his father served in the German army, he was able to leave the country when the war broke out. His family left with only the clothes on their backs. Ted later became a successful business man and put his fortune to good use by giving back to the community. He was recently honored posthumously at Temple Beth Zion's Legacy Shabbat for his extraordinary generosity. Peggy credits her yearning for charitable giving to Ted's incredible example as a righteous human.

After Ted passed away in 2018, Peggy's revitalized optimism to live every day to the fullest led her to create her own organization, SheKahn Inc., doing business as SheCAN! Peggy saw a need in the Western New York community for a better support system for women. SheCAN! is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the personal and



Peggy Kahn Sullivan

professional development of women looking to become the best version of themselves. The organization focuses on providing tools and networking support via monthly events, individual and group coaching, mentor

programs, and personal & wellness support services. In February of this year, Peggy held a grand opening and membership drive, and now boasts 170 members. Monthly events average 70 attendees and are continuing to grow. "It's been a privilege meeting so many amazing women with such incredible stories," she said.

Peggy currently sits on the Jewish Community Center's board of directors and is leading the task force on customer experience. She believes in practicing what you preach and attends Buffalo Power Yoga every day. The New York State Women, Inc., Buffalo Niagara Chapter also awarded Peggy the March 2019 Women in Leadership award for her success in the business and charitable arenas, as well as her ability to help inspire others to follow in her path.

Becoming a Lion of Judah was an easy decision for Peggy after speaking with JCC Past President, Gretchen Gross. "I felt a huge commitment to give back to our community and have

enjoyed reconnecting with my Jewish roots," she said. Peggy feels our greatest need is supporting the elderly, as well as our younger generation. Her leadership in SheCAN! provides an opportunity to mentor younger Jewish women so they can, "carry on our legacy."

Peggy credits her supportive husband, Tom Sullivan, for helping her through all the trials and tribulations of starting a new organization. Brandon Fink, Peggy's son, who works in the financial field in Boston, often chats with his mom about business. It's a full circle experience for Peggy, who never forgets the wise words of her dad, "A day without learning something is a lost opportunity."

Peggy truly feels that "every day is a gift and you get to choose your attitude." Perhaps she has found the secret recipe to happiness: a positive attitude, healthy living, good energy, and a long history of tzedakah. Thank you, Peggy, for setting a wonderful example to our future generations. For more information on SheCAN! visit www.shecanbuffalo.com.

Jill Komm is Social Media & Communications Director of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

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This Summer at the Chautauqua Institution- June 22-August 25

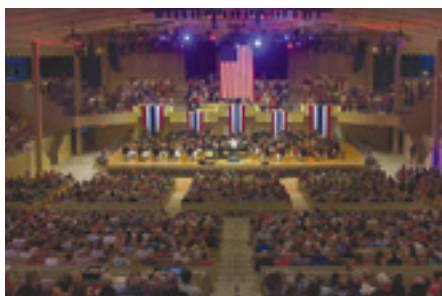
The Chautauqua Institution on the shore of Lake Chautauqua in New York's Southern Tier has long been a draw for Western New Yorkers. Founded in 1874 by Methodists as a "getaway for those wanting to immerse themselves in Americana," it is a summer retreat for individuals of all religions and many cultures that provides stimulating lectures, concerts, opera, theatre, art and art classes, and an intellectual summer community. It offers a nine-week season from late June through late August with a different theme each week. Many Buffalonians spend summers or parts of the summer at the Institute. And many individuals head down the NYS Thruway near the Pennsylvania border for the day to hear lectures, see a performance or listen to a concert.

Buffalonian and summer Chautauquan Dr. Leonard Katz is a proud Chautauqua supporter. "Chautauqua Institution now has a thriving and very active Jewish Community," he said. "There are three institutions on the grounds, each of

which offer active Jewish programming: The Everett Jewish Life Center which functions a bit like the JCC; The Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua which is a Reform Congregation; and Chabad of Chautauqua, for the Orthodox community," he explained.

"Truly remarkable this year," Katz continued, "and a first for Chautauqua, the Chaplain of the first week instead of being a minister will be a rabbi. Rabbi Sharon Brous of Los Angeles is the Chaplain of Week 1, Sunday June 23 -Friday June 28. There is real excitement about this historic change for Chautauqua," he added.

There are Shabbat services both



evening and morning. The Hebrew Congregation offers a one hour Kabbalat Shabbat evening service from Fridays from 5:00-6:00PM and a morning service at 9:30-11:30 in Hurlbut Church. Chabad has morning minyans and Shabbat services. There are speakers and discussion groups galore at the Everett Center, Chabad, the Hebrew Congregation as well as the Institution.

Here are some details on the 3 Jewish institutions:

The Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua

Larry Cohen and Gloria Gould

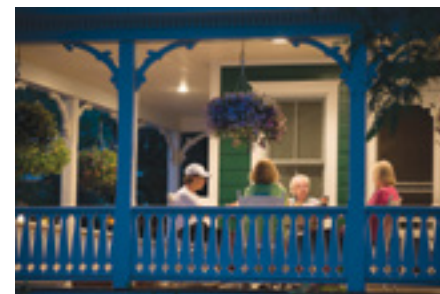
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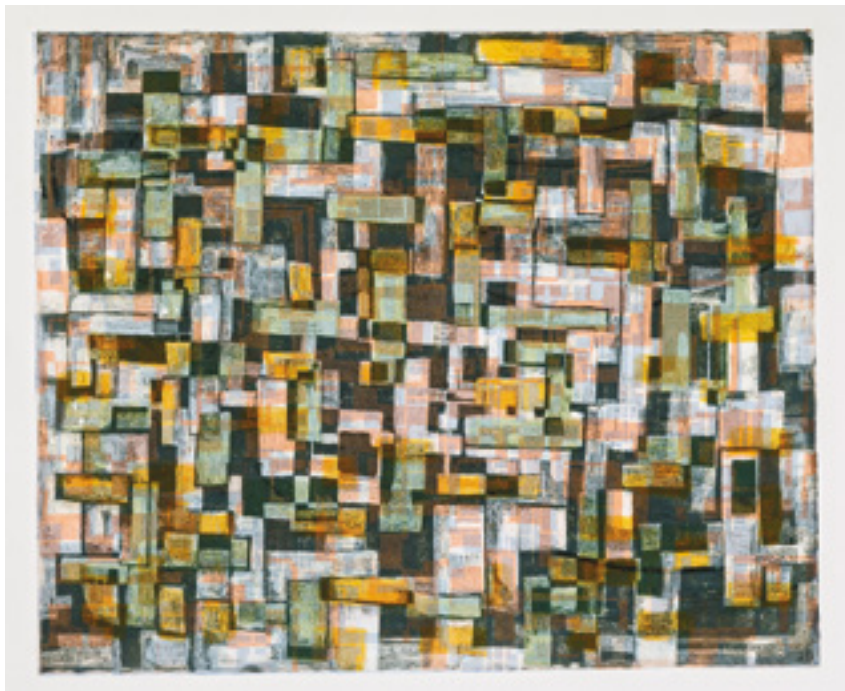
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Cathy Miller Show at Buffalo Club



A show of etching mono prints by Buffalo-based artist Cathy Shuman Miller will be on display through the summer in the Rockwell Room of The Buffalo Club on Delaware Avenue. While the club is open to members and their guests only, if you are interested in viewing this show, contact Arts Committee member Linda Pollack at 864-4037.

The BPO is on the road with FREE neighborhood concerts!

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Jewish Camp, the Wilderness, and Transformation

by Rabbi Jonathan Freirich

Self-reliance – one of the best takeaways of any sleepaway camp experience can be the powerful lesson that a young person can do for themselves. It is a palpable shift, and a week away from home can be enough time to see a change. A kid can go through the real transformation from asking parents to get them a glass of water to silently getting up and doing it on their own.

Celebration of the Jewish people and fellow Jews can be found at Jewish sleepaway camps throughout North America. A week away in the company of Jewish campers and counselors, with Jewish themes and regular blessings and singing made fun by peer-leadership, may be the most powerful Jewish experience outside of a trip to Israel.

I did not grow up a Jewish camp enthusiast. I never really liked sleepaway camp and never experienced these transformations for myself as a Jewish tween or teen. My Jewish enthusiasm began in youth group and was cultivated in Hillel on campus.

Still, I am a zealous convert to the cause of Jewish camping.

The impact of a good Jewish summer camp experience is evident in our son and in the other young people here in Western New York, and in all the other places I've served. This impact is truly remarkable.

We can explore the power of the Jewish camping experience through both Torah and contemporary thinking



Rabbi Freirich and his son Jude at Camp George

and scholarship.

All summer we read through the *Book of Numbers* in the Torah and clearly see that coming together in their multiple “camps” in the wilderness forged communal ties for our ancestors. When the Israelites began their journey through the Wilderness of Sinai, they were feuding individuals and tribes. While never overcoming all of these divisions, by the time they entered the Land of Israel thirty-eight years later, the Israelites could be called “a nation.” Their travels brought them together. Their external adversaries and internal adversities helped create bonds between those families that turned them into tribes, and the tribes into a confederation that took possession of a new land.

What the Torah described in our past, we also understand from psychological and social insights today.

Taking people out of our element and onto a journey creates community. We know this from the power of the Israel trip. This wisdom guided the creation of Birthright Israel and informed all of us as trip leaders to work at crafting “bus communities.” The more successful the community bonds fashioned on a ten-day trip to Israel, the more likely those young people would continue to stick to each other, and so continue to explore and develop their own unique and compelling Jewish identities.

A good Jewish camp experience – and Western

New Yorkers attend camps affiliated with all movements and JCCs – serves the same transformational function as a good Israel trip.

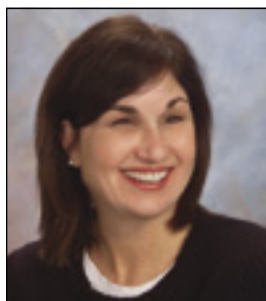
This summer will be my third one serving a short time as faculty at URJ Camp George in Canada. It is a spectacular location run by down-to-earth *hamishe* people with a real sense of *Yiddishkeit* and welcome and warmth. Our son Jude loves it there and can't wait to return every summer. He is like hundreds of Western New York Jewish young people who thrive in our local community and feel passionately connected to a Jewish camp family spread throughout our region and the world.

Join me this summer in helping our community support Jewish camping experiences. We work through the generosity of so many people to make this experience, admittedly an expensive one, available to everyone. There are camperships available to all Jewish camps. The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, our local synagogues and Buffalo Jewish Federation work to make camp possible for all.

Whether through camp or travel, through a family or communal gathering, or just a day enjoying the summer with good companions, we can all sense the power of an experience that takes us outside the everyday with people who may yet be our closest friends.

I hope that all of us can find some of that ancient and modern wisdom of transformation this summer, no matter where we roam.

Jonathan Freirich is rabbi at Temple Beth Zion.



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Buffalo Blooms in July!

The Buffalo Niagara region has become a premier garden destination--improving neighborhoods, increasing home values, making an economic impact, making our region more beautiful – and sharing it all with the world with events like **Garden Walk Buffalo** - America's largest garden tour. Most of the Garden Walks, tours and events are taking place in July. Some of our community members participate in some of the walks and tours. As of the print date for the *Jewish Journal*, none of the maps were available, but you can find some of them in July at local greenhouses like **Lockwood's in Hamburg**, **Weber's in West Seneca on Clinton Road**, **Badding's on Transit Road in Williamsville** or online at gardensbuffaloniagara.com. Contact Ellen Goldstein at ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org with questions. Here are some of the events:

Open Gardens Thursdays and Fridays in July (except Thursday, July 4): July 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26. You can purchase a book detailing all the open gardens in Erie and Niagara counties at local garden nurseries above.

Town of Amherst Garden Walk
July 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Snyder CleveHill Garden View
July 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Buzz Around Hamburg July 13 & 14

Samuel P. Capen Walk July 13

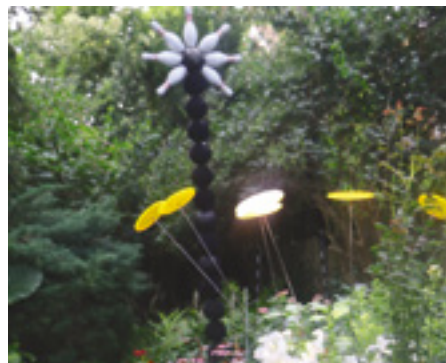
Ken-Ton Garden Tour July 19-21

Village of Williamsville Garden Walk July 20

Garden Walk Buffalo July 27 & 28

Northwest Buffalo Garden Tour
August 2 & 3

Most garden events take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. but check the Buffalo Niagara Gardens website (gardensbuffaloniagara.com) before you go, find a map, or find where to purchase one. It's been a glorious year for flower gardens. Enjoy the walks.



The Flynnstein's garden is open July 27-28 for Buffalo Garden Walk.



Rabbi Adam Scheldt, shown in his garden, will be on the Ken-Ton Garden Tour July 19-21



The Weinreib's pool and part of their garden



Ilja and Pam Weinreib in their garden. They will be open for Amherst Garden Walk July 6 and Snyder- CleveHill Garden View July 7.

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Community Relations Making An Impact

The JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) has intensified its efforts to build a more civil and caring society. Below are descriptions of two recent programs. Read more about another program on pages 16-17. For more information, contact Mara Koven-Gelman at mara@buffalojewishfederation.org.

JCRC Meeting with Legislators: One of Buffalo JCRC priorities is building relationships with all levels of government. Buffalo JCRC organized a visit to City Council Members Rasheed Wyatt (University District) and Joel Feroletto (Delaware) to discuss security, combatting hate, and creating opportunities for citizens of all backgrounds to interact with each other. Seen here are Deborah Goldman (JCRC Executive Committee), Larry Rubin (JFS), Mara Koven-Gelman (JCRC Director), and Council Members Rasheed Wyatt.



Building Cultural Awareness: Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council participated in a "Building Cultural Awareness" workshop facilitated by National Federation for Just Communities of WNY (NFJC). Because cultural awareness is one of the essential tools of community relations, JCRC learned about rights and responsibilities of open and respectful dialogue, identifying stereotypes, sources and impact towards different groups. Thank you to Lana Benatovich, Tamara Alsace and Marc Rummenie for facilitating. More than 30 people attended.

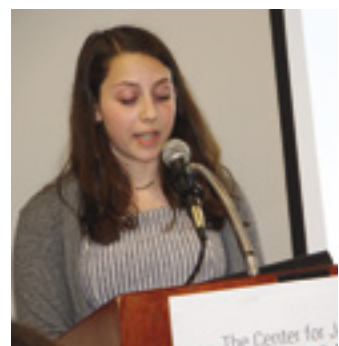


Celebrating Learners

On June 6, the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) hosted its first Celebration of Learning. At this festive dessert gathering, all those who participated in a learning experience with the CJEL during this year were honored and celebrated, including students and teachers from Hebrew High, Mussar (the many cohorts), Hebrew, Intro to Judaism, and Wise Aging!



As part of the celebration, several students shared their personal learning stories, including-Hebrew High graduating Senior, Abby Block; Mussar for Moms participant Sharon Nisengard, Intro to Judaism and Hebrew student Edward Lopez-Wolfe, and Wise Aging participant and Hebrew student, Karen Wiseman.



Community Kudos to 4 Extraordinary Women!

The *Jewish Journal* is delighted to offer these women a hearty “Mazel Tov” and share their stories with you.



Shelley Drake

Shelley Drake was honored by Road Less Traveled Productions with a musical about her life. *Buffalo Stories 2019: The Life of Shelley Drake* was a theatrical production presented in June by Buffalo's Road Less Traveled Productions to honor Shelley, Senior Vice President and Western New York Regional President for M&T Bank and President of the M&T Charitable Foundation.

Buffalo Stories offers a glimpse into the lives of Buffalo's most intriguing personalities while toasting Buffalo's vibrant community and supporting Road Less Traveled Productions. The event celebrates the life of a local Buffalo icon by presenting a one-night only musical written about the guest of honor's life. Shelley's life was the fourth in the series of these RLTP productions, following Thurman Thomas, Russell Salvatore and Mayor Tony Masiello!

A native of Buffalo and graduate of Buffalo Seminary, Ms. Drake has been with M&T Bank for 48 years. In her role as Senior Vice-President & Regional President of M&T, she directly manages middle market banking in M&T's Western New York region, which includes 77 offices and a leading market share across the eight New York State counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming. The M & T Charitable Foundation is a bank-wide venture and in 2018, made grants totaling \$29.4 million in the many communities where the bank has offices. She is one of the most experienced commercial bankers at M&T Bank.



Ilene Fleischmann

UB Law School Vice Dean Ilene Fleischmann received the 2019 UB Law School's Award in June for Outstanding Service to the University and the Community by a Non-Alumnus/a. Ilene is Vice Dean for alumni affairs at the School of Law and executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association. Hired as the Law Alumni Association's first executive director in 1985, she has served under four UB presidents, eight law school deans, and 33 alumni association presidents, following a career in journalism. She was a founder of many of the school's signature publications and special events and helps more than 11,500 alumni connect with each other and their alma mater.

Ilene came to UB Law after a career in journalism, both nationally and locally. And that background has shown itself in the quality of the law school's publications, which were almost non-existent before she hired on in 1985. She started UB Law Forum and grew it into the lively, award-winning, full-color magazine it is today. She worked her Rolodex to get media coverage for the school. She started a faculty scholarship brochure to increase the faculty's visibility; created viewbooks to attract great students; and brought the Law School into the Internet age with UB's first website, an online newsletter and now online marketing of the school. Perhaps just as important, Ilene has engineered a dramatic expansion of the Law School alumni outreach, so that now their alumni engagement is the highest on the UB campus.



Maryann Freedman

Maryann Saccomando Freedman recently received the Hon. John T. Curtin Profiles in Courage Award by the Bar Association of Erie County, which was created to recognize a distinguished practitioner who exemplifies the same moral courage and sense of justice that Judge Curtin brought to the bench every day. Maryann Freedman is a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1959. Her legal career has embraced both the public and private sector. As an Assistant New York State Attorney-General, she represented the state in its many manifestations and successfully prosecuted the “voter registration by mail” case in the New York State Court of Appeals. Before returning to private

practice, Ms. Freedman served ten years as a Matrimonial Referee in the State Supreme Court, and was Confidential Law Clerk to NYS Supreme Court Judge William J. Ostrowski (1977-1990). She is currently “of counsel” with the law firm of Cohen and Lombardo.

Ms. Freedman has the distinction of having been the first woman president of both the Erie County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association as well as the New York Bar Foundation. She sits in the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association and was a delegate to the American Bar Association. Among the many honors and awards she has received include the New York State Bar Association's prestigious Ruth G. Schapiro Award, Erie County Bar Association “Lawyer of the Year,” the Westchester Legal Services Award, the Women Lawyers' “Career Achievement Award.” The University of Buffalo and the University's Law School have each honored her as a “Distinguished Alumna.” The New York State Bar Foundation named a Circle of Giving after Ms. Freedman in 2006 and in January, 2009 she received the Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award. In October 2013 the Women Lawyers of Western New York bestowed upon Ms. Freedman the honor of naming her Woman Lawyer of the Century.



Amy J. Goldstein

Amy J. Goldstein, Assistant District Attorney (ADA) and Chief of the Grand Jury Bureau was honored by the Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation at its annual dinner in May. A graduate of UB Law School, Smith College and Buffalo Seminary, Amy has been a member of the Erie County District Attorney's office for 33

years. During that time, Amy has been an assistant in Buffalo City Court, Grand Jury, Special Victims and Felony Trial bureaus. Since 1990, she has been a part of the DA's upper management team. From 2000 to 2008, she was the Chief of the Justice Court bureau, and since 2008, has been Chief of the Grand Jury bureau. She has been called “the backbone of the indictment process and an invaluable resource to her colleagues” and singlehandedly coordinates the work of the Grand Jury process. She coordinates the DA's office summer intern program and is on the faculty of the Erie County Law Enforcement Academy.

She also had the sole responsibility for handling hearings associated with pleas of “not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect,” and traveled the state to handle proceedings associated with civil confinements. She is currently the longest-serving female ADA in the office.

Granola Group Celebrates 17th Anniversary

By Rick Kollins

While social media is depersonalizing face-to-face contact everywhere, a group of Buffalo seniors has defied this phenomenon by building an authentic social network that just keeps growing. When the “Granola Group” celebrated its 17th anniversary in May at Spot Coffee on Elmwood Avenue, more than 60 people attended.



Members of The Granola Group meeting this spring at Spot Coffee on Elmwood Avenue.

According to Dick Gordon, one of the founders and unofficial ‘President’ of the group, the weekly meetings actually started as a response to John Gray’s 1992 book *Men Are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, which described the sociological differences between the genders.

“The book claimed that women were having stronger and more meaningful relationships than men, and a few of us found that unacceptable,” Gordon said. “So we set out to prove that men could also have fruitful and rewarding relationships.”

“In the beginning, we were just a few Jewish men meeting casually every Tuesday morning to *schmooze* and share stories and news of the day. After the first year, women started to join us and now there are as many women as men, both Jewish and non-Jewish.” The group ranges in age from the 60s through the 80s, with at least one current member in his 90s.

Gordon calculated the group has met 834 times since May 6, 2002, and only missed one week when Yom Kippur fell on a Tuesday. “We originally referred to ourselves as the ‘Ultacocks’ (Ultimate



Several members of the group are musicians

Old Guys, a play on the old Yiddish term), then ‘Romeos’ (Retired Old Men Eating Out), and ‘Rowmeos’ (Retired Old Women and Men Eating Out),” Gordon related. “More recently, we discovered that the staff at Spot were calling us the ‘Granola Group’ in reference to our ages and food choices, so we gladly accepted that title.”

There are several other recollections about the various group names. Liz Zausmer, the first woman to come on board in 2003, remembers simply going to “Group”, while Marty Anisman claims the original moniker could well have been “Grumpy Old Men” after the 1993 movie starring Jack Lemmon and Walter

Matthau. “That name didn’t stick because ‘grumpy’ and ‘Jewish’ are obviously redundant,” Anisman quipped.

Ginger Maiman, recognized as one of the key ‘recruiters’ of new members, indicated there was talk in the early days of establishing a separate women’s group, but that idea was quickly squelched. “I wasn’t sure that the women’s voices would be heard, but that certainly has not been a problem,” she confessed.

David Bunis refers to one of the most regular discussions as ‘organ recitals’, in which individuals share their aches and pains. “This is always welcomed since sharing notes and remedies is very helpful as we age,” Bunis said. It should be noted that

the group includes a number of retired physicians and health care providers.

There is no agenda for the weekly meetings or any membership dues or requirements, although certain traditions have developed over the years, including individuals picking up the food tab in recognition of a special event, such as a birthday, anniversary, birth of a grandchild or retirement.



A few group members

“In the early days, it wasn’t so bad treating a dozen or so people when it was your turn to pay,” said Susan Lichtblau. “Regardless, it’s a true gift to be able to do this for your friends, whatever the number.”

The group has also on occasion organized special events and field trips. “We have sponsored lectures on various topics of interest to seniors, such as estate planning, healthy living and lifestyle options,” said Gordon. “On a bus tour of city landmarks a few years ago, we actually got up close and personal to an explosion and fire near Riverworks.”

At the 17th anniversary gala, several members gave testimony to their experiences in the group and how the meetings have affected their lives.

Howard Wilinsky said that although he first started attending just to fill some time after he retired, he quickly discovered there was a lot of added value to his participation. “These are very diverse and accomplished people, who are well read on the news and a variety of subjects, so they have a lot to offer in terms of expanding our horizons,” he said.

As well as facilitating new friendships, the Tuesday get-togethers often rekindle relationships that may have become distant over the years. “I am originally from Rochester, so it was great to reconnect with Sue Nusbaum, who attended Eastman School of Music with me and whose husband Sandy was best man at my wedding,” Wilinsky added. “I also met up again with Stuart Lerman, who was a close friend when we went to summer camp as kids.”

Ilene Alt found an available apartment on Delaware Avenue following a recommendation from Barry Muscat. Interestingly, that apartment served as the venue for the only meeting not held at Spot because the coffee shop was closed for Christmas in 2007.

Lito Gutierrez, originally from Argentina, described how welcoming and supportive long-time members are to newcomers, and how quickly trust develops as participants “allow themselves to be vulnerable and open up to each other.” Kitty Goldman called the experience a “fabulous model for community building.”

A tearful Gordon conceded the continuing success of the Granola Group has been one of the most satisfying accomplishments of his life, and he looked forward to helping create and nourish many more meaningful relationships in the years ahead – certainly a long way from ‘Grumpy Old Men.’

Rick Kollins, a member of the Granola Group, is a retired educator and journalist from Toronto who has lived in Buffalo since 2009.

Kid-designed and Kid-led: PJ Our Way pilots new program in Buffalo

By Nicole Bard

“Jewish Foods from Around the World” is the very first kid-designed and led program through PJ Our Way (PJOW) in Buffalo! Jack Lukin Johnson was chosen as one of 10 kids to be a part of the “PJ Our Way National Leadership Team” Pilot program. Throughout this program, 10 tweens from all over the United States participated in planning meetings (via Zoom Video Conference,) exploring different ideas, and discussing how to plan them. The National Leadership Team was created to parallel the work of the National Leadership Team, which has created content for the PJOW website, focusing on reading, writing review and creating videos.

Jack was challenged to build a program that was relevant to him and his peers. At our first meeting, Jack knew he wanted to design the event around food. So, he reached out to his friends and asked them what they were interested in: sports, giving back to their community and food were the answers, and he knew he was on the right track. Together, our local group did some research about different Jewish foods, and even reached out to



Jack Lukin Johnson and some PJ Our Way friends

local chef Zach Rosenbloom, of The Bloom and Rose, who gave us recipe ideas. Jack mapped out what the evening would look like, including introductions, cooking, and Shabbat dinner together – and then we were set for the program!

As the event began, Jack explained to his friends why he was hosting this evening and dove into a little explanation

on the National Leadership Team. The night then festered into messy tables and aprons, many giggles, full bellies and lots of fun!

After the event, we found out this was the first PJOW home-hosted Shabbat! The staff at PJOW Headquarters have been working to create viable models for the PJ Our Way Families around the country, and were thrilled that Jack broke the mold. So – where do we go from here? More home-hosted Shabbat dinners, more kid-designed events and working in partnership with more of our awesome leaders in Buffalo – the PJ Our Way kids! Thank you, Jack, for paving the way for the rest of our PJ Our Way friends in Buffalo and around the country!



Cookin' up some PJ Our Way fun!

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WHAT'S NEXT: A Powerful Community Conversation

By Mara Koven-Gelman

“What’s Next? A community conversation about rise of hate, racism and intolerance” was held Tuesday June 4th at the Educational Opportunity Center in downtown Buffalo. More than 100 people attended the second in a series of honest dialogues about the rise of hate.

Panelists included Hon. April N.M. Baskin (Erie County Legislature), Pastor Mark Blue (Buffalo NAACP), Rabbi Jonathan Freirich (Temple Beth Zion), Dr. Nasir Khan (Network of Religious Communities and Ahmadiyya Buffalo), Richard Lipsitz (WNY Area Labor Federation), and was moderated by Erie County Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin. County Executive Mark Poloncarz also presented a proclamation about the importance of “Standing Up to Hate.”

The “What’s Next?” objective invited the panelists to share thoughts on how their communities are addressing the documented rise of hate over the past two years. Judge Rodwin began the event by sharing a strong vision. “*What’s Next* is a call each of us can answer. We each can take a personal pledge to stand up to hate, racism and intolerance. If we stand up and just one incident of bigotry is prevented, one person hesitates before using hateful or racist language, one system’s inherent racism is reduced, if only slightly, then we are on our way to healing.”

Rabbi Freirich, an organizer and panelist, said that society has beaten back nature so much that we are now afraid of the wilderness. And yet, we have become the wilderness, afraid even of our neighbors. “We are in trouble if we don’t change the fabric of our relationships. He said we must confront our fears, walk across Main Street, go to new places we have not explored before, and enter a house of worship we have never been before. Because in between us is the holiest place, the place of coming together.”

Pastor Blue reminded the audience “we all have the same basic needs and have to learn to live together in equality. We don’t have fair representation on boards – and that has to change.” He encouraged the group to take action. “The only reason to look down at someone is because you are helping someone up. You can eliminate inequity



“Racism is learned behavior – we have to unlearn it!”

– Pastor Mark Blue, panelist



by helping someone.”

Dr. Nasir Khan, a panelist and President of Ahmadiyya Buffalo and The Network of Religious Communities, drew inspiration from the motto of his community “Love for all, hatred for none,” coined by Mirza Nasir Ahmad, the third head (Khalifa) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. “In reaching out to people who are seemingly closed off or of a different mindset, we have a saying in our language which translates to ‘every locked door has a key; it’s just a matter of finding the key.’ We all need to continue reaching out to people who are different from you on the surface

because on the inside we are all the same,” he added.

Richard Lipsitz, President of the WNY Area Labor Federation reminded the audience that bigotry and racism has been plaguing the world since the beginning of time, so why care now? “This divides us in our struggle for equality and social justice, especially in the working-class movement. We can’t have division; it keeps us from getting the best possible wages and benefits. “The best method to combat racism and bigotry is to organize the struggle against it.”

Erie County Legislature Chair April N.M. Baskin encouraged legislators to listen to people and give them voice. She represents District 2 of Erie County, which is diverse; while there is wealth, there is also extreme poverty, many immigrants and refugees. The effect of poverty contributes to crime and systemic barriers. She agreed with other panelists that racism comes from a place of fear. “There are policies in effect that don’t work. Legislators have to admit that some policies are not working. We have to put aside our pride and change them, to provide true access to opportunity.”

Program organizers asked the public how they personally can make a difference. The event ended with

Focuses on Rising Tide of Hate



Most of these photos were taken by Yves-Richard Blanc of Blanc Photographie. You can reach him at blancphotographie@gmail.com

participants signing a pledge to stand up to all forms of hate, bigotry and bullying. Two students commented on their take-aways from the event. 12-year old Sam Lukin Johnson and 14-year old Hannah Gabelnick pledged to “take the time to ask and learn why someone is hateful or discriminatory before disagreeing outright or trying to change their mind, and seek out people ‘in the middle’ that may be able to translate communications/feelings rather than get frustrated and walk away.”

JCRC Co-chair Nina Lukin said, “The kids (above paragraph) definitely got it! I joined them and pledged I would do

the same, and I asked them to find one person a week to convey this strategy and spread civility, curiosity, and their own community relations.”

Lily Verbeck, a recent graduate of Syracuse University, added: “The program emphasized how just one person can make a difference by standing up to hate, and it left me feeling optimistic about how I can help contribute to making the world a nicer and more inclusive place. At the same time, this program helped me realize

that a lot of oppression and fear stems systematically from laws, policies, and people in charge. Systematic racism is a lot more difficult to change, but it just goes to show the importance of exercising your right to vote. That’s why I was thrilled to see voter registration occurring at the event.”

Event Sponsors include: Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Family Service, NAACP Buffalo, National Federation of for Just Communities of

WNY, Temple Beth Zion, and the WNY Area Labor Federation.

Note: The first program in this series “Intolerance & Hate: Current Trends and Their Roots” was held October 18, 2018.

Mara Koven-Gelman is JCRC Director for the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

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

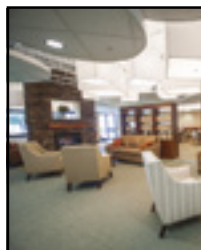
Wishing Mazel Tov to Marci Melzer Wilf for making her Bat Mitzvah. If you'd like to recognize someone with special Mazel Tov wishes or memorial announcements in the *Jewish Journal*, contact Cindy Oppenheimer at 308-4843 (coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com) or Keren Green at 972-2220 (kgreen@jewishjournalwny.com).



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July 2

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10:00 a.m.
Temple Beth Zion
805 Delaware Ave

July 4

America's Birthday Celebrated
Most offices closed

JCC celebrates 4Th of July
Open 12 noon until after fireworks
Call 688-4033 for information

July 7

Simply Tsfat in Concert
5:00 p.m.
Jewish Discovery Center
757 Hopkins Rd.
Call 639-7600 for info

July 12

PJ Library Tot Shabbat
5:45 p.m.
Camp Centerland
Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

July 13

TBZ Engagement Shabbat Lunch
12:30 p.m.
Bagel Jay's/ Delaware Ave. Plaza
Questions? Jagoldstein827@gmail.com

July 14

My Grown Up & Me
10:00 a.m.
Elmwood/Bidwell Farmer's Market
Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

July 16- 19

**Partnership Together visitors
from Budapest in Buffalo**

July 16

Haven House Benefit Luncheon
TBZ Sisterhood
12:00 noon
700 Sweet Home Road
Info or reservations 836-6565

July 21-23

Cleveland Rocks Judaism
Cong. Shir Shalom Bus Trip
Info: 633-8877

July 23

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ
Congregation Shir Shalom
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or sold out
\$11.00
Call Shir Shalom 633-8877

July 27

Walk Off Hunger Food Bank Benefit
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Island Park, Williamsville

July 28

Art Empowerment Workshop & Picnic
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Temple Beth Zion
700 Sweet Home Road
Info? Matt@themattschwartz.net

Bennett High School Class of 1964

Members of Bennett High School class of 1964 are **planning their 55th class reunion**. Many of our classmates have moved away and have not been reached via email. The event begins with a Meet and Greet at the Parkside Meadow (across from the Zoo) on August 16.

Please see the website, www.bennett64reunion.com, for more details. If you are a member, please join the group, and feel free to share this.

Lindy Says:

*Do you need time off to care for a sick or injured loved one?
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5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in July to Repair the World

1» Celebrate the 4th of July @ the JCC. The JCC 4th of July Pool Party starts at 12 noon and goes until fireworks are over. Enjoy a DJ and music, pool games, tie-dye, bounce house and surprises. Open to Full JCC members and families. **688-4033**.

2» Taste of Buffalo- July 13 & 14 is a weekend-festival filled with great food and entertainment in the heart of Downtown Buffalo along Delaware Avenue by City Hall and heading North past Chippewa Street to Johnson Park. It begins at 11 a.m. daily and there is no admission charge. Food is priced from \$1- \$5. Select charities and non-profit groups also partner with the Taste to staff ticket and beverage booths with volunteers in return for a small stipend. Up to five high school seniors residing in one of the eight counties in WNY, who intend to pursue a major in a culinary arts or hospitality curriculum, each receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Taste each year

3» Buffalo Garden Walk & Events. Buffalo Garden Walk celebrates its 25th anniversary July 27 & 28. This is a free, self-guided event. You can find maps online or pick one up after July 1 at your favorite local greenhouse or plant nursery. There are also many more garden tours and walks in July in Western New York (see page 11). **Go to www.gardensbuffaloniagara.com for the most complete information.**

4» Walk Off Hunger. July 27. 10 am- 2:00 pm. Island Park, Williamsville. Don't miss the 12th Annual Walk Off Hunger on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at Island Park in Williamsville! Presented by Life Storage, this family-friendly event will feature a 2-mile walk followed by a festival full of children's activities, food and drink, music and entertainment, raffles and more! Registration is \$25 per adult; children ages 15 and younger are free to attend. All proceeds will benefit FeedMore WNY as it fights hunger in our community. **Register or donate to a team today at www.foodbankwny.org/walkoffhunger.**

5» Ronald McDonald House 5K Race July 31, 6:30 p.m. is a certified and sanctioned 5K race through beautiful Buffalo neighborhood street. It raises money for the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo, which is a home-away-from-home for families of sick children hospitalized in Buffalo. \$30-\$35 entry fee. The event is followed by a picnic dinner and party. **Call 883-1177 or go to www.rmhcwny.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 the JCC's Buffalo Kosher Gourmet at the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café.**

E-mail your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org

Last month David Bunis, Richard Greenberg, Howard Lewkowitz, Fran Paskowitz, Judy Siehnal, Linda Steinhorn and Karen Wiseman correctly identified the 10 Commandments on the wall at Congregation Beth Abraham over the Ark



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Summer Fruit Soup

By Robin Kurss

This cold fruit soup is absolutely gorgeous to look at, easy to make (and make ahead of your meal) and delicious for a summer lunch or lovely dessert. Serves 6. Happy July!

Summer Fruit Soup



½ c blackberry or raspberry
liqueur

½ c white wine

¼ c pomegranate juice

2 Tbsp. raspberry preserves

2 Tbsp. orange zest

½ lb. red or purple plums,
halved, pitted and cut into 6
pieces

½ lb. cherries, pitted

½ lb. seedless red or black
grapes

½ lb. strawberries, greens
removed and cut in 4

6 oz. blueberries

1 c sour cream or Greek
yogurt

3 Tbsp. fresh mint, chopped

2 Tbsp. sugar

In medium saucepan, combine wine, liqueur, pomegranate juice, preserves and zest. Bring to a boil.

Add plums and cherries, simmer for a minute. Using a slotted spoon, remove fruit to a bowl. Add grapes to saucepan and simmer for 1 minute, transfer grapes to bowl. Add strawberries and blueberries to pan and simmer for 2 minutes. Transfer all plus mint to bowl and chill for 2 hours at least.

In small bowl, whisk sour cream or yogurt with sugar.

Spoon soup into a shallow bowl and serve with a dollop of sour cream or yogurt. Garnish with a mint leaf if you like.

Dining Guide



BUFFALO SPREE ISSUE RELEASE Party



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- CASH BAR

Community Beer Works

July 24, 2019 5:30-7:30 p.m.

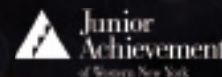
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Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

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2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-204-2241
www.buffalojewishfederation.org
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director
Leslie Shuman Kramer - President

Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

49 Barberry Lane
Williamsville, NY 14221
TEL: 716-634-3990
Rabbi Eliezer Marcus- Regional Director
Michael Paskowitz - President
www.bvkkosher.comvaad
buffalo@yahoo.com, bvkkosher@gmail.com

Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
www.buffalojewishfederation.org
Miriam Abramovich - Director of Engagement
Ellen Weiss - President

Chabad House of Buffalo

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

Chai Early Childhood Center

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

Department of Jewish Thought

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

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-204-1133
www.jewishphilanthropies.org
Irv Levy - COO
Lynn Catalano - Director of Development
Don Kohnstamm - President

Hadassah

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

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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

Hillel of Buffalo

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

Holocaust Resource Center

336 Harris Hill Road, Suite 302
Williamsville, NY 14221
TEL: 716-634-9535
www.hrcbuffalo.org
Ann Marie Carosella - President
Elizabeth Schram - Director

Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

Benderson Family Building
2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-688-4033
Richard Zakalik - Executive Director
Alon Kupferman - President

Holland Family Building

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

Jewish Discovery Center

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

Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And Erie County

70 Barker Street
Buffalo, NY 14209
TEL 716-883-1914
www.jfsbuffalo.org
Molly Short Carr - CEO
Blaine Schwartz - Chair

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www.jewishfederationapartments.org
Kathleen Haggerty - Property Manager
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2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-204-2246
www.jfedbflo.com
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Kadimah

www.kadimah.org
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Congregation Beth Abraham (Conservative)

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www.congregationbethabraham.net

Congregation Shir Shalom

(Reform/ Reconstructionist)
4660 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
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Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein
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www.shirshalombuffalo.org

Congregation Havurah (Reform)

6320 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221
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TEL 716-689-8059
www.congregationhavurah.org
info@congregationhavurah.org

Kehillat Ohr Tzion

(Modern Orthodox)
879 Hopkins Rd
Williamsville, NY 14221
Rabbi Ori Bergman
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http://ohrtzion.org/kot

Knesset Center (Orthodox)

500 Starin Avenue
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Saranac Synagogue (Orthodox)

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85 Saranac Avenue
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TEL 716 876 1284
www.SaranacSynagogue.org

Temple Beth Tzedek (Conservative)

1641 North Forest Road
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TBZ Learning

Talmud Talk

Wednesdays, July 17, August 14
Noon – 1:00 p.m.
 Sheridan Family Restaurant,
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All our Judaism, especially Reform Judaism, starts in the Talmud. Everyone welcome – we are all beginners in the ocean of Jewish learning. Materials provided. No host lunch.

I and Thou and Lunch

Fridays, July 26, August 23
Noon – 1:00 PM
 Temple Beth Zion, 805
 Delaware Ave., in the library

The fundamentals of relational Judaism start with the thinking of Martin Buber in his beautiful *I and Thou*. Learn this profound text in conversation – no preparation required. Lunch and drinks provided. *Please RSVP to rabbifreirich@tbz.org*



Torah Study

Saturday mornings
9:15 – 10:15 AM
 Temple Beth Zion, 805
 Delaware Ave.

TBZ's clergy delve into the week's reading from Torah, the Five Books of Moses. Learned and open-ended, join this group and discuss how our ancient texts still bring meaning to our Twenty-First Century lives. Coffee and cookies provided.

E-mail Rabbi Jonathan if you'd like to be included in a weekly e-mail about Jewish Learning. rabbifreirich@tbz.org

Festival of Psalms With Stephen Price

Tuesday, July 2, 2019 10 - 11 AM

805 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
Free and open to the public

The American Guild of Organists are coming to Buffalo for their 2019 Northeast Region Convention, and Temple Beth Zion has been selected for one of the event locations during the week-long convention. The 48 rank, 4,000 pipe organ in Temple Beth Zion's sanctuary will come alive under the artistic execution of organist Stephen Price.



Engagement Breakfast with TBZ



Stephen C. Price graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance, where he studied with Stephen Roberts. Following his undergraduate career, Price received a Fulbright Grant to study in France, where he studied organ music at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Toulouse with Michel Bouvard and Jan Willem Jansen, and received the Diplôme d'Études Musicales, in addition to Le Prix François Vidal from the city of Toulouse, with mention "Très Bien" from the jury. While studying in France, Stephen performed recitals at numerous venues including the Basilica of Saint-Sernin in Toulouse and the American Church in Paris.

Price graduated with a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in 2012. The following fall, Price competed in the Franz Schmidt 4th International Organ Competition in Kitzbühl, Austria, and was awarded the Robert Fuchs Prize. He also received a monetary award and was featured in the final prize winners concert

in Hopfgarten, Austria. In the fall of 2013, Price competed in the City of Biarritz 14th International Organ Competition in France, sponsored by the André Marchal Organ Academy. Price was one of three competitors who advanced to the final round of the competition, and was the only representative from the United States. In October of 2014, he competed in the Canadian International Organ Competition where he earned a place as a semi-finalist.

Most recently, Price was awarded a member of the Inaugural Class of 2015, 20 under 30 winners by the *Diapason Magazine*, recognizing young professionals who have contributed to the fields of Organ and Sacred music. Price is currently finishing research on the topic, "An Organist's Guide to Musicality: Shapes in Perpetual Motion and Lyrical Styles," in fulfillment of the Doctor of Music degree at Indiana University in the studio of Janette Fishell.

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.

TBZ Shabbat Lunch

Saturday, July 13, 12:30 PM

Bagel Jay's, 100 Plaza Drive, Williamsville

Come join your friends after Saturday morning Shabbat services at Bagel Jay's on Delaware Avenue (Marshall's Plaza). Enjoy time eating and socializing with your WNY Jewish community. This no-host lunch is organized by Jody Goldstein. **Questions? Email Jody at: jagoldstein827@gmail.com**

40th Annual Merrill Molien Haven House Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, July 16, 12 Noon

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Join the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood for a delicious lunch, interesting speaker and basket auction. All proceeds to benefit an educational scholarship for victims of domestic violence at Haven House.

Want to help us help Haven House? Here's how:

*** Join us and bring friends.**

*** Bring an item or items from the Haven House Wish List.**

Even if you are unable to attend the luncheon, donations for Haven House are welcome. Please bring items to the Broder Center prior to July 16.

Wish List Items

Checks made out to Haven House, gift cards, wash cloths, new pillows, Vaseline, underwear for young boys, African American hair products (brands like Cantu, Shea Moisture, Luster's Pink), and strollers (new or gently used).

Seating is limited and by advance-purchase reservation only. Reservations accepted until July 9 or when sold out. If you are interested in attending, call the Temple Beth Zion Office at (716) 836-6565 for reservation information.

Ruach Buffalo (Spirit of Buffalo)



A New Jewish community choir is forming, led by Cantor Penny Myers of Temple Beth Zion

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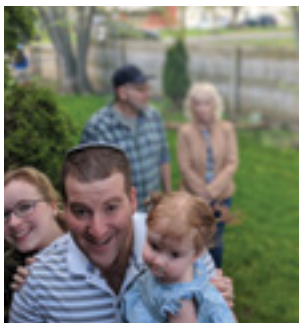
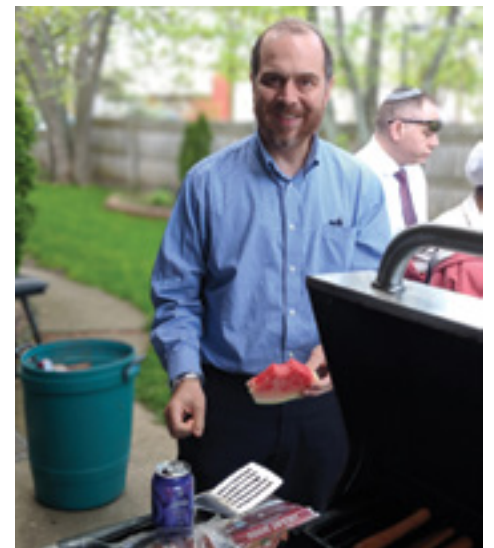
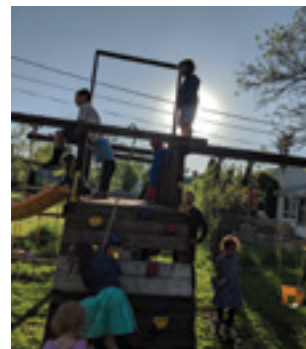
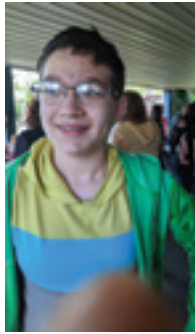
All musical abilities welcome!

COME JOIN US SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22

Stay "tuned" in the JJWNY August edition for details

Community Lag B'Omer BBQ

Kehillat Ohr Tzion and its rabbi, Ori Bergman, hosted a festive community BBQ to celebrate Lag B'Omer in May. Despite intermittent rain, more than 100 individuals from across Jewish Buffalo and special Israeli guests from the Amiel BaKehila program, enjoyed the celebration.



New Beth Tzedek Building Honored by *Business First*



Gustavo Lima (Cannon Architects), Ed Case (TBT), Harvey Sanders (TBT), Aaron Salva (Cannon Architects) and Tony Hsiao (Finegold Alexander Architects).

Temple Beth Tzedek was awarded a prestigious **2019 Buffalo Business First Brick by Brick award** for its Expansion project. The annual awards recognize accomplishments in the real estate, construction and development industry for building projects completed during the prior eighteen months. A panel of judges selected three finalists in each category from among the many applications. The winners were announced at a ceremony on June 11th. Temple Beth Tzedek was selected over ACV Auctions Phase I and Synergy IT Solutions, which were the other two finalists. The 10,000 square foot expansion of the existing building on North Forest Road that had housed the former Congregation B'nai Shalom, added an awe-inspiring new sanctuary with a 25 foot glass wall, as well as a community court (including library, display cases), offices, conference room, youth/teen lounge and restrooms, more than doubling the space available. The congregation moved from its former location to the new space during November 2018.



Ted Steinberg, Nina Lukin Honored for JCRC Roles

JCRC Co-Chairs Dr. Ted Steinberg and Nina Lukin were honored at the Network of Religious Communities' Annual Appreciation Dinner held in June. They were nominated for the award by the JCRC for their excellence in volunteer work. Here are their nominations:

Dr. Theodore Steinberg

Ted is a co-chair of the newly established Jewish Community Relations Council of Buffalo Jewish Federation. A retired English professor, Ted and his wife Phyllis moved from Fredonia, New York to Buffalo and have been very active in the Jewish community. Ted is a dedicated advocate and leader in building bridges with people of other faiths and cultures. Ted teaches Yiddish literature, the Bible as literature and other subjects at the JCC and Canisius College. He and Phyllis have three children and six grandchildren.

Nina Lukin

Nina is a co-chair of the new Jewish Community Relations Council of and a Jewish Federation board member. She is a strong and compassionate leader especially in times of crisis, leading the Jewish communal response to promote solidarity and healing after the terrorist attacks in the New Zealand mosques and the Pittsburgh synagogue. Nina is dedicated



to creating solid friendships with people from all backgrounds. She recognizes that difficult topics are often the ones that matter the most and that working on inter-faith/ cultural coalition building and civil rights requires recognizing implicit biases, listening, and getting outside our echo chambers. Nina is a Director of Strategic Planning and Assessment. She and her partner, Elliot, have five children.

Summertime at Congregation Shir Shalom

July Services & Programs

Erev Shabbat Service Highlights

Services begin at 6pm starting July 5th

- July 5th: First Outdoor Service
- July 12th: Hawaiian Shirt Shabbat featuring Tizmeret Ensemble & Kickoff Summer BBQ
- July 19th: Bibliodrama by Biblioté Café, "The Gopherwood Tale" directed by Arnie Alt
- July 26th: Guest speaker, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, discussing her new book, "The Catbird, The Ballad of Barbi Prim"

Summer Events

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ:

July 23rd

Dinners cost \$11.00 and include 1/2 chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and roll. Served from 4-7pm or until sold out.

Cleveland Rocks Judaism Bus Trip

July 21st & July 22nd

Explore Jewish Culture and History in Cleveland. Stay at the Embassy Suites and enjoy happy hour, breakfast, 2 lunches and dinner. Cost is \$195 per person based on double occupancy.

12th Annual Walk off Hunger

Saturday, July 27th: Join Co-host CSS as a participant and/or donor for the two mile walk beginning at Island Park in the Village of Williamsville. Register at www.foodbankwny.org/walkoffhunger. Music, food and activities take place between 10am and 2pm.

HAWAIIAN SHIRT SHABBAT

Friday, July 12th

6:00pm Erev Shabbat Service with Tizmeret Ensemble

7:00pm Kick Off Summer BBQ and Tropical Drinks

Island music

RSVP for the BBQ to the Temple Office at 716.633.8877 by July 10th

see you there-Aloha!



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Oct. 24 - Nov. 17, 2019



What I Thought I Knew
By Alice Eve Cohen
Feb. 6 - March 1, 2020



Modern Orthodox
By Daniel Goldfarb
April 23 - May 17, 2020



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Dr. Noam Pines Launches New Book

By Cecile Minkoff

On an evening during the winter, Assistant Professor Dr. Noam Pines of UB's Department of Jewish Thought spoke about his recently published book, *The Infrahuman : animality in modern Jewish literature* (SUNY Press 2018).

The *Infrahuman* explores an aspect in major works of Jewish literature, starting in the early 19th century and continuing through the mid-20th century, in which Jewish writers, in German, Hebrew, and Yiddish, used figures of animals in pejorative portrayals of Jews and Jewish identity. These images often trigger feelings of uneasiness because they look like common anti-Semitic stereotypes, and they have often been explained as symptoms of Jewish self-hatred. Pines rejects this idea.

Pines traces the origin of casting Jews as dogs to early Christianity. Because Pauline Christianity emphasizes faith over acts, and the spirit over the flesh, whereas Jews hold to a body of law that emphasizes acts over faith, Jews were denigrated as mired in physicality, unable to reach the heights of faith and spirituality demanded by Christian theology. He quotes verses from the Christian Bible which implicitly lump Jews and dogs into the same category, and describes how these verses served as the basis of exegesis that gave lasting credence to the notion of Jews as sub-human. He states that, "In the Christian worldview, Jews were thus seen as closer to animals than to humans because they lacked the spirituality and reason shared by all Christians." And although Jews were perceived as inferior, they were simultaneously perceived as threatening. The Jew as Christ killer and the blood libel are only two of the more obvious examples.

Pines then argues that this theological understanding of animality, which was ineligible for Christian morality, rationality, and redemption, became secularized by Cartesian philosophy, which posited humanity as distinct and superior to the rest of the animal world. According to Descartes, humanity vs. animality was an either/or proposition. During the same period, according to Pines, Hobbes's observations implied a more fluid boundary between the two. Hobbes observed that citizens who live under the protection of a state enjoy the benefits of peace, order, and security,



Dr. Noam Pines

whereas men outside of this construct live in a "state of nature." Hobbes famously described this as "*homo homini lupus*," or, "man is wolf to man." Pines explains:

"For Hobbes, the natural condition of *homo homini lupus* that exists between commonwealths is also the hypothetical ground from which one begins to theorize the establishment of the Social Contract, the civil state in which people treat each other with "justice and charity." This condition of citizenship is contrasted with the lawless struggle for survival implied by life in a "state of nature." To live in a "state of nature" means to be bound by no Social Contract, to belong in no civic order, and to possess no legal rights. In this state no sovereign power guarantees human life and property, and therefore humans have recourse only to their own faculties of self-preservation. Consequently, in a state of nature, humans are reduced to the condition of beasts, a condition characterized by the single-minded and shameless pursuit of gratification of the most basic biological needs ... the difference between the human and animal [is not described] in biological or ontological terms, but rather in terms of an inclusion in, or an exclusion from, a condition of citizenship ... [T]he prerogative of humans over animals consists in the fact that humans are able to enjoy the privileges of peace, justice, and charity by virtue of membership in a commonwealth. Beasts and savages, by contrast, are consigned to a life of

peacelessness, implying that anyone can harm or kill them with impunity."

Central to Pines's argument is the notion that the boundary between 'state of nature' and 'social contract' is not fixed, but is, rather, a continuum, thereby allowing the existence of transitional figures such as a wolf-man (werewolf), "a hybrid that occupies an indeterminate position between human and animal as well as between law and nature." Domesticated animals also fall on this continuum, operating just outside the boundary of the human sphere. The animal figures used to depict Jews in the literature that Pines explores are domestic: primarily dogs, and in one instance, a nag- (a horse). Nevertheless it must be emphasized, that even though domesticated, they can also pose a threat, by carrying disease, or becoming hostile, or by halting work.

As the emancipation dawned in the late 18th century, Jews were offered legal rights, but the price for inclusion meant checking one's Judaism at the door, so to speak. Prior to the modern period, the marginalization of the Jews meant physical uncertainty, of life, liberty, and property. After emancipation, the uncertainty remained, and took on a dual cast: in order to enjoy his new legal rights, the Jew could deny his Jewishness altogether, or he could choose to practice in private only, leading to a split

existence, in which he is always crossing the threshold of the private and public spheres. Even those who renounced Judaism completely held a taint of their earlier identity. And so, the only certainty for the Jew was uncertainty.

Small wonder, then, that the authors under study in this book chose to negotiate the plight of the Jew by using animal imagery in order to depict a character operating always at the fuzzy margins of society, always negotiating and renegotiating his position: sometimes in, sometimes out, sometimes tame, sometimes wild and scary. This theme of the *infrahuman* was picked up by Heine and carried throughout the 19th century and into the 20th by the authors covered in this book. According to Pines, "[b]y employing this trope, Jewish writers exposed historical progress as a series of catastrophes predicated on the abuse of sovereign power; Jews themselves were depicted as alienated and materialistic, or as degraded. But the *infrahuman* was also the site in which Jewish identity—and ultimately, humanity itself—came to be reconfigured and reimaged in a wholly modern context.

In the introduction to his book, Pines explains his general theory by analyzing the animal imagery pertaining to Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. Subsequent chapters cover Heinrich Heine, S.Y. Abramovitsh (known more popularly as Mendele Mokher Sforim), H.N. Bialik, U.Z. Greenberg, Franz Kafka, S.Y. Agnon, and Paul Celan.

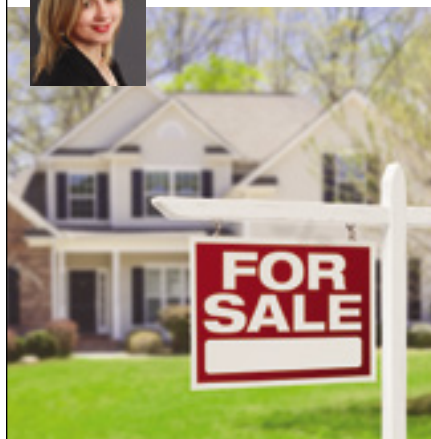
The book talk was attended by a mixed group of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and members of the community. The Department of Jewish Thought holds talks by its faculty several times a year.

Cecile Minkoff is the Samuel Friedman Librarian at the UB Dept. of Jewish Thought.

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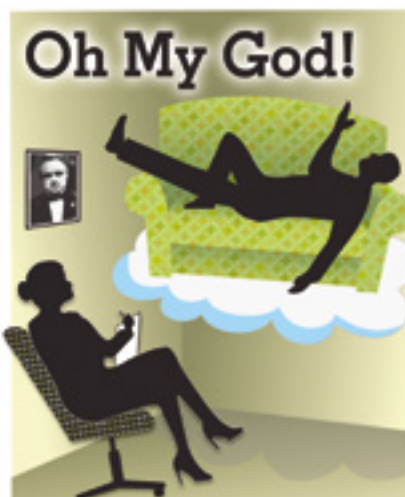
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AGENCIES

The Jewish Repertory Theatre announces it's 2019/20 Season

The Jewish Repertory Theatre has announced its new season, which will take place beginning in October at the JCC's Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre. "We look forward to bringing audiences three remarkable plays that have never been produced in the Buffalo area," says Saul Elkin, JRT Founding Artistic Director. "Our season includes OH MY GOD! by Israeli playwright Anat Gov, WHAT I THOUGHT I KNEW, by Alice Eve Cohen and MODERN ORTHODOX by Daniel Goldfarb.



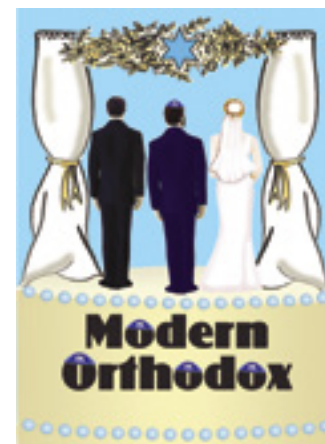
OH MY GOD! by Anat Gov

October 24 – November 17, 2019

God walks into a therapists' office.....

When a conflicted and depressed God seeks out an earthly therapist to aid him with his wrenching doubts, it is not always clear who is providing therapy to whom. Ella, a single mother living with her autistic son, is a therapist with issues of her own, but has only one session to convince God not to give up on his creation. How do you help a "being" with no parents to blame?

Directed by Saul Elkin. Starring Todd Benzin and Lisa Ludwig.



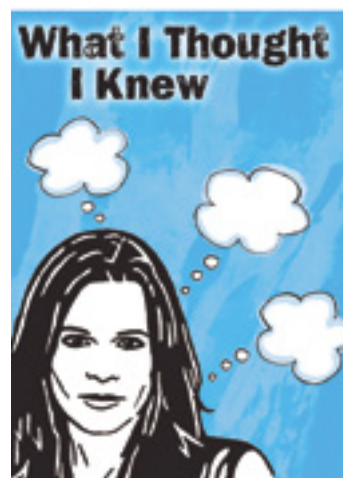
MODERN ORTHODOX,
by Daniel Goldfarb

April 23 – May 17, 2020

When Ben, an Upper West Side financial consultant, meets Hershel, an Orthodox jewel merchant, to buy an engagement ring, their differing views of their shared religion at first divides them. Three months later, with respective love interests and love stories on paths they could not have predicted, Ben and Hershel meet again as changed men, no longer divided by their faith. They have learned something from each other, and each couple is ready as Jews dealing with modern life, to embark on new marriages.

Directed by Steve Vaughan. Starring Kristin Bentley, Arin Lee Dandes, Nick Stevens and Adam Yellen.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo.

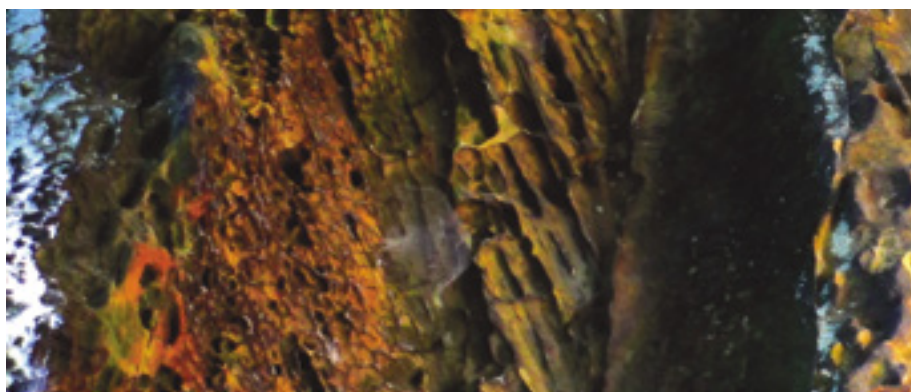


WHAT I THOUGHT I KNEW,
by Alice Eve Cohen

February 6 – March 1, 2020

Alice, an infertile Jewish woman in her forties, discovers a hard lump in her abdomen. After months of visiting expensive specialists, all of whom have different medical theories, a CT scan finally reveals that she is pregnant. Based upon true events and the book hailed by Oprah as "darkly hilarious...an unexpected bundle of joy," this heartfelt journey through a high-risk pregnancy and the American healthcare system is told with the intimacy of a diary and the suspense of a thriller. In this one woman performance full of hope and renewal, Josie DiVincenzo will play nearly forty different characters.

Directed by Saul Elkin. Starring Josie DiVincenzo



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July/August 2019

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HOWARD REIN IS JCC KUSHNER AWARD WINNER

Howard A. Rein, CPA, CFE, a senior partner at Freed Maxick CPAs, PC and President of Freed Maxick ABL Services, LLC, has been named this year's recipient of the Jewish Community Center's Ralph Kushner Volunteer Service Award. The award, established in 1998 and named after the late Ralph Kushner, a longtime community volunteer coordinator, is given annually to a community member who demonstrates exemplary volunteer community leadership.

"Howie Rein has been a guiding force for the JCC through both good and difficult financial periods," said Richard Zakalik, JCC Executive Director. "His acute business insight, practical approach to industry-wide challenges and personal generosity has enabled the JCC to prosper and withstand economic threats while benefitting from identified opportunities. He and his wife Marge have enabled the building of a 250 seat amphitheater at the JCC's Camp Centerland on the Irving M.



Howard A. Rein

Shuman Campgrounds, which will be used for programs almost year round. If Howie were able to be cloned we would gladly invest in the process!"

Mr. Rein's career with Freed Maxick CPAs spans 37 years. His role as president includes the development of lender relationships, technical service delivery,

review and supervision of staff, and compliance with lender requirements. He regularly assists clients in obtaining bank financing, mergers and acquisitions, budgeting, and bankruptcy. Additionally, he has assisted the Commercial Finance Industry for more than 25 years in the delivery of ABL field examinations in which the firm has performed in excess of 20,000 exams. Professional affiliations include: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, National Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Commercial Finance Association Education Foundation Board of Directors, and several community not-for-profit organizations.

"The entire JCC Community is grateful to Howie for his generosity and leadership," said Zakalik. "We were happy to have the opportunity to thank him and presented this important award at our annual meeting in June, as we reflected on a year of accomplishments and shared plans for upcoming growth and development of services and programs that meet our vision of "Building Community and Enriching Lives."

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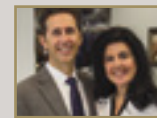
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Kadimah's 2019 Graduates

Meet Kadimah Academy's graduates from the Class of 2019, Sophia Lazarenko, Benjamin Shulkin and Shaina Potash.



SOPHIA LAZARENKO

My name is Sophia Lazarenko. I am 14 years old and I have been in Kadimah Academy for four years. Kadimah taught me how to be more kind and social with others. This school has shaped me to become the woman I am today. I learned many life skills in Kadimah, and I am so grateful for the kind, warm, welcoming atmosphere every day I have come to school. If it wasn't for this school, I wouldn't have ever met my friends who supported me through the years. I will miss Kadimah, but I am looking forward to moving on to Park High School.

BENJAMIN W. SHULKIN

My name is Benjamin W. Shulkin. For the past year and a half, I have been going to Kadimah Academy and will be in the last graduating class in this era of the school. Before coming to Buffalo New York, I have lived in three other states: Texas, Washington, and Tennessee. I have been homeschooled since grade 1, so as such, attending Kadimah has allowed me the opportunity to experience my first day of school. It has been an amazing experience and when I become rich I WILL REOPEN IT! After graduating from Kadimah, I will be moving back to Texas where most of my extended family resides, and I am planning to be homeschooled until college. My main goal before I get to college is to grow my Etsy business and YouTube channel.

SHAINA POTASH

Hi, my name is Shaina Potash. I am in 8th grade and I'm having so much fun here. I have three little brothers and seven awesome cats, plus a super happy dog. I enjoy crocheting and I love to bake with my friends. At Kadimah I am a co-president of the student council. During my free time at Kadimah, I love to help pet club with Timmy and Chester, our school guinea pigs. My favorite thing at Kadimah is how close everyone is with each other. At Kadimah, everyone here is your family.

Starting in September, Kadimah will now shift its Hebrew and Judaic Studies classes and academic program to The Park School of Buffalo, where they will become part of Park's curriculum, with support from both Kadimah and The Buffalo Jewish Federation. Kadimah will not run a separate school, but will continue to operate as an independent nonprofit educational organization, raising money to support academic scholarships and student instruction for the program at Park while promoting and recruiting new students, maintaining relationships with the broader Jewish community, and deepening ties with the school's alumni.

Jewish Genealogy

Save the Date: 28 July-2 August 2019, Cleveland, Ohio

The 39th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Visit the US Midwest! Our annual international Conference will be taking place in Cleveland, Ohio, centrally located near a large portion of the Jewish population in the United States. Also the home to the world renowned Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the location of our Sunday night reception. An exciting time to visit Cleveland and explore other nearby sites and visit family.

Explore the locations, search local archives, greet old friends, make new ones, and take your family search to the next level, with:

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Department of Jewish Thought Graduation and Awards Celebration

By Dr. Alex Green

UB's Department of Jewish Thought was delighted to host its 2019 graduation and awards celebration for its graduating students and award winners this spring. The event took place April 30 in the Samuel J. Friedman Library in UB's Clemens Hall.

The evening was dedicated to honoring one of our major supporters, Gretchen Gross and the late Gordon Gross. The vision of an internationally recognized Department of Jewish Thought at UB devoted to the academic study of the Jewish tradition would not have come to fruition without their dedication and support. We were extremely gratified that so many members of the Gross family were in attendance.

Along with presenting a special diploma to three of our graduating students and two of our award winners, we gave students the chance to speak. Sofia Paulino, who received a BA in Nursing with a Minor in Jewish Studies and is the 2018 winner of the Irving M. and Marilyn C. Shuman Scholarship, described how she felt cared for by her teachers at UB. "Whenever I went in to see any of the professors, they always began with 'How are you? How has your day been?' And you don't see that a lot." She emphasized that "whatever you believe in, you are welcome in this department." Louis J. Eisenhauer, who graduated with a BA in Jewish Studies, reminisced about all the positive experiences he has had, stating that "I love this place. I am sad not to be coming back for classes."

We also were fortunate to have an alumnus, Logan Woodard ('17) give the keynote address. He is currently the Coordinator of Jewish Student Life and Ezra Fellow at the University at Buffalo Hillel. Reflecting on his college journey, he spoke about the difficulty of predicting one's future and the constant surprises in life. He shared a lesson



Faculty from UB's Department of Jewish Thought honoring the memory of the late Gordon Gross with Gretchen Gross, Debra Gross Weiner and Sandra and Wayne Wolchok

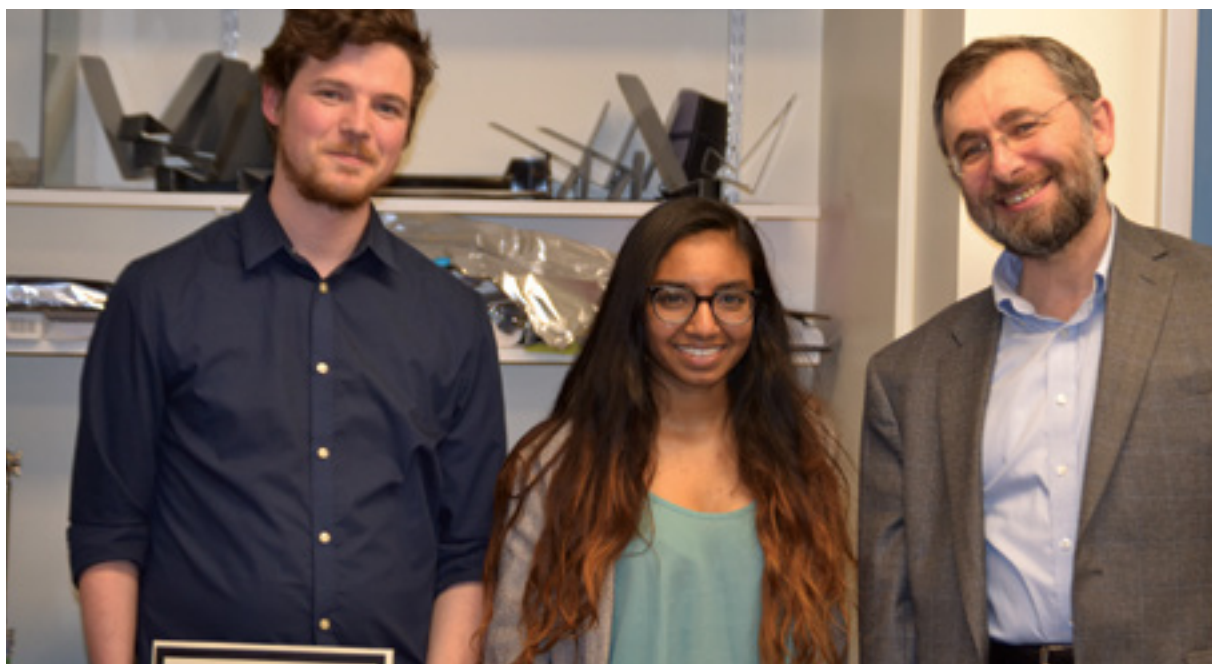
he learned from studying *Mussar*—the importance of stepping outside one's comfort zone and embracing change, to run towards success even among life's constant ups and downs.

We also welcomed two of our newest students working on Jewish Studies minors, Fahema Ferdous and Peretz Shuman. Fahema is working on a research project with Prof Dolgopolski on conformity and social media. Peretz spoke about the importance of striving to improve the world, especially after participating in UB Hillel's Alternative Spring Break volunteering in Miami.

We were so thankful to have so many members of the community join us to both honor Gordon Gross's memory and to help celebrate the achievements of our



Department Alum Logan Woodard ('17), Gretchen Gross, and Dr. Alex Green



Professor Sergey Dolgopolski with Josh Dawson, winner of the Ruth and Isadore Bob Fellowship, and new Jewish Studies minor, Fahema Ferdous.



Dr. Alex Green with recent Jewish Studies BA graduate, Louis J. Eisenhauer

students. We hope that all our guests will keep in touch and know that they are always invited to come to lectures, audit classes and be part of the ongoing life of the department. For those who missed the event, a video of the event is available on our website <http://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/jewish-thought.html>.

Dr. Alex Green is Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Jewish Thought, SUNY-University at Buffalo.

HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER OF BUFFALO'S ARTS & WRITING AWARD CEREMONY

By Kelsey Reed

On Thursday, May 30, the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo held its Arts and Writing Contest Award Ceremony. This year's theme was: **Upstanders: Past and Future**. Students chose between three prompts to inform their work: **Were you ever a Bystander when you could have made a difference? What do you know about people who were Upstanders during the Holocaust? Do you know others who were Upstanders in the face of injustices throughout history?**

This contest has inspired students not only to understand what being an Upstander means, but to be able to identify who an Upstander is and reflect on how they have or have not been Upstanders themselves. This year's contest has shown students that Upstanders are not known for their thoughts but are known for their actions.

In total, 82 students submitted art and writing entries from schools in Chautauqua County, Erie County and Niagara County. Out of the 82 submissions, judges selected 25 winners and a Best of Show in Art and in Writing. This year's Best of Show in Art was Shannon McKee (12th Grade) from Chautauqua Central School and the Best of Show in Writing was Ava Shiff (8th Grade) from Casey Middle School. In addition, a special recognition award was given to Robert Freeland, one of the founders of the Arts and Writing Contest.



Arts & Writing Award Ceremony



Best in Show for Art & Writing Winners



One of the show entries

HRC HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Holocaust Resource Center held its annual meeting in June.



Outgoing President Rachel Kranitz McPhee, Director Elizabeth Schram, Incoming President Ann Marie Carosella



Treasurer Jeff Blum goes over the financial report



Williamsville East H.S. teacher Tim Redmond accepts the Toby Tickin Back Education Award from HRC Board member Dr. Larry Jones

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BUFFALO HADASSAH HAPPENINGS

In May, Hadassah held two very special programs. First, Lauren Rybicki spoke at the Pray Tell gathering about her family roots in the tight knit community of Calcutta, India where her father was born. She talked about some of the customs practiced by Mizrahi Jews (Middle Eastern) that differ from those of Ashkenazi (European) Jews and brought some 'helayk' (charoset) for everyone to taste. All the current members of Pray Tell have Ashkenazi roots, but since the group wanted to learn more about Jewish customs and foods from other parts of the world,



Dr. Janne Siren speaks to Hadassah women



Phyllis Steinberg speaks at the event

they have been reading about Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews and have invited different speakers to their meetings. Rabbi Ori Bergman of Kehillat Ohr Tzion also spoke a few months ago about some of the traditions he learned from his mother who was born in Iraq and was a Mizrahi Jew.

The May 16 luncheon was Buffalo Hadassah's annual fundraiser and appealed to a huge cross-section of Hadassah's members. Held in the banquet room at Sean Patrick's Restaurant (at which and Kosher accommodations were made), guest speakers were Dr. Janne Siren, Director of the Albright Knox Art Gallery and Jillian Jones, Director of Advancement at the Gallery.



Showing the plan for the Albright Knox Art Gallery renovations

Dr. Siren spoke about the museum's extensive art collection and also about his experiences as an art historian in his native Finland, at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and now in Buffalo. Ms. Jones showed pictures and explained in detail about the upcoming expansion of the museum.

An overnight trip to the Safe Haven Museum and Education Center in Oswego, New York is planned for August 5, the 75th anniversary of the day 1000 Jewish Holocaust survivors arrived at the refugee shelter following World War II.

For more information about this event or any other Hadassah programs contact mseller@buffalo.edu or amrose@roadrunner.com

FINDING REFUGE IN BUFFALO



Finding Refuge in Buffalo, a photo/essay collection celebrating Buffalo's immigrant and refugee community, runs through July 20 at Argus Gallery, 1896 Niagara Street. "Refuge" is a collaboration between WNED/WBFO, University at Buffalo's Director of Journalism Jody K. Biehl, and internationally recognized photographer Brendan Bannon.



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Remembering Shep Goldberg

Dr. Shepard Goldberg passed away April 24. His four sons were among those to eulogize him. This is his oldest son, David's eulogy at the funeral.

My name is David, and I am Shep's oldest son. My father would be extremely humbled to see this many people honoring him. It is a tribute to my father and his life. And I would be remiss, if I did not give a sincere shout out to Dr. David Dougherty, the oncologist who treated my father's cancers with the respect and dignity he earned. He treated my father as a colleague, and a friend.

First off, let's get one thing out of the way. For anybody in this room that has ever attended a meeting, or a class that was run by my father, you know just how impressed he would be right now that we actually started this service on time! So, how do you sum up a life of 90 years, dedicated to service to the community and service to others in a 4 minute eulogy? Simply...you don't!

To most of you here, here lies Dr. Shep Goldberg, the well-known psychologist. To me, he was just "Dad". Since you all know the "Doctor", please indulge me a little and let me tell you about Shep, the Dad.

Seriously, one of the most impatient guys ever! Wait for a table in a restaurant, mumbling that there was an empty table in the corner, pointing it out to the hostess. Then, counting the seconds until a server got to our table.

One of the faster drivers you could meet, because he was always in a hurry! At age 87, Dad drove to Pittsburgh to visit my brother. At the last minute, he called me and wondered if my son, Joshua, wanted to go along. Joshua quickly said yes, and then volunteered to drive, because it would be faster. I told him that was not so. After a 3-hour drive back to Buffalo in a snow storm, my son was in an utter state of fear, needed 30 minutes to calm down, and wondered how someone that old could drive that fast in the snow! And we used to joke that the man's feet never hit the ground when he walked.

Shep was not the most mechanically inclined person either, although he did actually own tools, and he really tried. He changed bike tires. He could hang a basketball rim. He also could change bike tires, and he could also hang a basketball rim. Did I mention he could change bike tires? Once, he asked me to meet a plumber at the house for a leaky faucet. When I checked in on the guy, he looked at me and asked "did your Dad try to fix



Lee Goldberg, Eric Goldberg, Shep Goldberg, David Goldberg, Larry Goldberg

this?" When I said yes, he just shook his head, laughed, and said he really liked my Dad, but he should stick with being a shrink.

Dad also had some strange ways of messing with you. Picture four boys, sitting around the dinner table, all trying to tell what they did in school. So dad, of course, came up with a very organized little system, where we went around the table, and each one of us could tell about our days. And we would sometimes then ask Dad to tell about his day. So, there we are, waiting to hear about Dad's day, and he looked me in the eye, and said that he saw, in his office, one of my classmates today.

What?! So, the next inevitable question was, who? But of course, he could not tell. So there I am, the next day, sitting in class, spending the day scanning the room to see if I could find the classmate that was dragged in to meet with my Dad.

But most importantly, my dad let his children grow as individuals, make our mistakes, and learn the tough lessons. He was there when we needed him, but he gave us the room to grow. Although sometimes, after some of my more grievous screw-ups, I would pray for a beating, instead of the "learning experience" lecture that was imminent.

Over the years, I began to realize the impact my father had on other people's lives, and the immense respect he earned throughout his career. Whenever I am in a situation where I need to add credibility, I just say that I am Shep's son. Of course, that is usually followed by "are you one of the twins!?" But, his reputation preceded him.

With all the success, and all the accolades, and years of dedication, my dad was always humble. He never liked the spotlight. And when he moved and I asked him what I was doing with all these plaques that he had been presented over

the years, he chuckled and mumbled something about much better use of resources. A number of years ago, my father received a tremendous honor from CATS, a community agency he was dedicated to, called "The Shepard Goldberg Children's Champion award." As the room gave him a standing ovation, he looked at me helplessly with tears in his eyes, wondering what to do. I mouthed to him to smile, wave, and sit down. He did. End of ovation.....relief to Dad.

90 years old! A good 90. A vibrant and contributing 90. We celebrated his birthday last month, and he was never so joyous. We kept it low key because of his cancer treatments. But at 90, he was still helping teach a class at UB Medical School, serving on an advisory board, and just being Shep, providing advice and counseling people. It was his calling. I just learned that people close to him called them "Shepisms." Very appropriate. And as the only one of his sons to live here in Buffalo, I am now left with an extraordinarily large void in my life, as I could drive 7 minutes from my house to be with him.

As I yield to my brothers, let me say that my father was one of the most honorable, dignified, caring human beings ever! A GOOD DUDE ! My father passed away with the same dignity he lived his life, surrounded by family. He will be missed. He will always be loved. And I will always, proudly be...Shep's son.

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

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from May 21 – June 17. * May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Dr. Paul N. Burstein

Virginia S. Gross

Marvin Jainchill

Sanford Kadish

Jacqueline Marcus

Elayna Ratchford-Buyers

Edith Ross

Margaret "Peggy" Stone

Leonard A. Weiss



**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.*

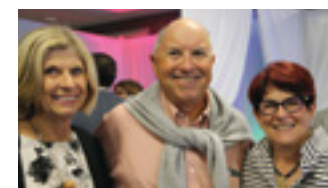
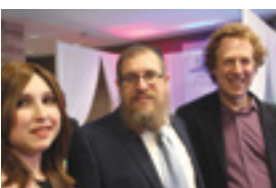


Residents of the Jewish Federation Apartments received “Citizens Preparedness Corps”

A man in a military uniform is standing and presenting to a group of people seated in a room. A large screen in the background displays a presentation titled "2014 State of the State". The audience includes several individuals, some of whom are in wheelchairs. The room has wood-paneled walls and a large window.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Buffalo Jewish Service Corps, contact Steven Schwartz at stevens@localnet.com.

JCC's 70th Anniversary May 19: Holland Building



Kadimah's 60th Celebration June 3: Acqua Restaurant



(NOT) THE LAST WORD

Are YOU an Owner Yet?

By Jill Komm

On a cold winter day in February 2018, I came across a post in the Nextdoor App advertising The Village Co-op Market of Williamsville. Shocked that I hadn't heard of the new market yet, I researched and learned that a small group of people had come together to create a big idea.

A food co-op is a collectively-owned grocery store that focuses on healthy food choices from local sources. While anyone can shop at a co-op, member-owners receive special discounted prices, have the ability to vote for the organization's leaders, board members and initiatives, and have the potential to receive a patronage refund in proportion to purchased amount when there is a profit.

Additionally, joining a food co-op



Ethan + Sarah Komm with "Are YOU an Owner Yet?" lawn sign in front of house



Jill Komm + family visiting co-op tent at Farmer's market Summer 2018

supports family farms, nutrition education, regional artisan foods, environmental stewardship, organic farming, fair trade and sustainable agriculture. Many Buffalonians are familiar with the Lexington and East Aurora Co-ops, which have both built incredible community initiatives around town. However, nothing exists of this

nature northeast of the City.

It is going to take 3-5 years to have a physical location up and running for the Village Co-op Market of Williamsville, which hopes to reside somewhere along Main Street. To make that happen, they need to sign up about 1500 member-owners in order to open the doors. To become a member-owner, it requires a one-time, lifetime investment of \$150 per household. I hemmed and hawed for about a week and decided to send in a check. I figured that \$150 was a small price to pay to give people a chance to fulfill their dream. So on February 27, 2018, I officially became member-owner 65.

People often ask the following questions when they hear about the new co-op:

If I join do I have to work there?

No Way!! The co-op will hire and pay employees. You just get to enjoy your shopping experience!

Do I have to live in the Village of Williamsville to join?

Definitely NOT! You must be 18 years old and live in the state of New York. It's as simple as that!

I now volunteer by managing the website. It has been a fun and rewarding experience to watch this small group with a big idea grow closer to a reality. You'll find a Village Co-op Market of Williamsville tent at the Williamsville Farmer's Market where member-owners and board members will be there to answer questions and help you sign up! **Of course, you can always visit www.villagecoopmarket.com for more information or to sign up online.** With 341 member-owners as of June 14, 2019, the co-op is moving in the right direction. If you're hemming and hawing over joining too, don't hesitate to be in touch! I'm excited to have another healthy food option for my family. If this excites you too, maybe you'll be member-owner 342!

Jill Komm is Social Media & Communications Director for the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

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A photograph showing a group of people sitting around a table in a dining room. Large windows in the background offer a view of a large, modern house and a pond with a fountain.

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