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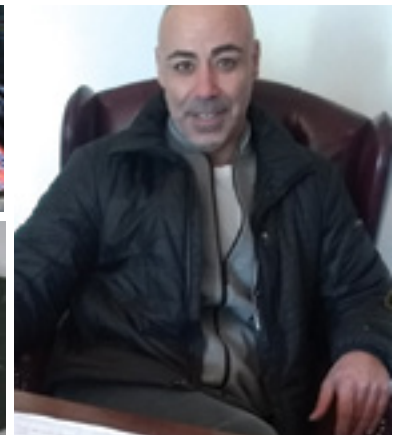
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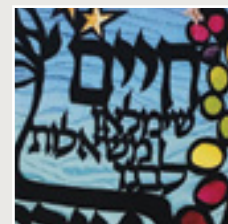
AUGUST 2019 | TAMMUZ- AV 5779



HUMANS OF JEWISH BUFFALO (3-19)



LOOK:
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JEFF CLARK
(27)



DON'T MISS:
TREE OF LIFE
TORAH MANTLE
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WELCOME MOLLY
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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

New this month to *The Jewish Journal* is *Humans of Jewish Buffalo*, our cover story and many of the features from page 4 through 19. Federation CEO Rob Goldberg explains the concept and why we are highlighting so many unique Buffalonians this month. You probably know some of them as friends, relatives, neighbors. They, and so many more like them, are the reason that Buffalo and Jewish Buffalo are changing, energizing, re-inventing our region.

I'm particularly drawn to the story about Deborah Sales Bokobza and Ula Wolfe found on pages 8 and 9. Deborah and Ula are granddaughters of Holocaust Survivors—a brother and sister who are long gone—but didn't tell their children or grandchildren of the other's existence. Both in their 60's, Deborah and Ula met each other this summer in Buffalo for the first time, and were able to tell this magical tale.

Also, I loved the stories of Hayden Fogle (page 17) and Marlowe Bloomberg (page 11), who are two Jewish Buffalonians under 20 and have found their passion, acted on it and are changing the world, one for Blues lovers and the other for sick children, every day in a big way.

So dig into this issue summer reading. You'll find stories about books, food, baseball and knishes. And you are bound to love the special humans making our Western New York better and better.

August 10 is Tisha B'Av, a traditional mourning day for Jews at which time we remember the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the Second Temple, massacres in medieval Jewish villages during the Crusades, as well as the Holocaust. In our own time, we are seeing brokenness and hate. One recent answer to the hate seen at the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting last fall in Pittsburgh is a Torah Mantle for one of the Torah scrolls in Pittsburgh. You can read about that mantle, which will be in Buffalo for Rosh Hashanah, on page 29.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

Wishing you a beautiful, bountiful summer filled with family, friends and fun.

On The Cover



Humans of Jewish Buffalo Clockwise: Sophia Veffler, Marlowe Bloomberg, Deborah Bokobza & Ula Wolfe, Mark Goldman (photo by kc kratt), Eyal Cohen, (top) Ann Marie Carosella & Jeff Lackner, (bottom) Tina Ball, Rocky Colavito & Mark Sommer, Hayden Fogle, Stephan Lewy (Photo by Mark Mulville/ The Buffalo News), Seth Greene & family, Deborah Goldman & Grant Golden, Lois & Zach Rosenbloom. Design: Kim Miers.

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BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

CEO/Executive Director.....**Rob Goldberg**
President.....**Leslie Shuman Kramer**
Editor, Public Relations Director.....**Ellen S. Goldstein**

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Publisher/Chief Revenue Officer.....**Barbara E. Macks**
bmacks@buffalospree.com
Creative Director.....**J.P. Thimot**
jpthimot@buffalospree.com
Vice President/Production.....**Jennifer Tudor**
jtudor@buffalospree.com
Lead Designer.....**Kimberly Miers**
kmiers@buffalospree.com
Senior Graphic Designers.....**Josh Flanigan, Andrea Rowley, Nicholas Vitello**
Traffic Coordinator.....**Adam Van Schoonhoven**
Sales Director.....**Cynthia Oppenheimer,**
coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com
Senior Account Executives.....**Louis J. Aguglia, Terri Downey, Keren Green, Mary Beth Holly, Robin Kurss, Robin Lenhard, Betty Tata, Lori Teibel**
Proofreaders.....**Sharon C. Levite, Amy Goldstein**

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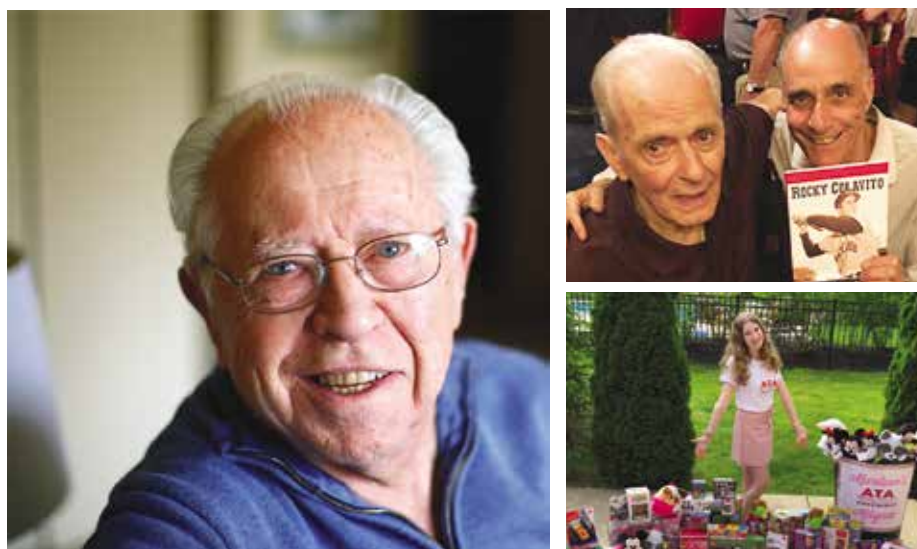
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Humans of Jewish Buffalo by Rob Goldberg

In 2010, photographer Brandon Stanton created the photoblog *Humans of New York (HONY)* containing portraits and interviews from the streets of New York City. Since then, HONY has over 17 million followers on Facebook and another 9 million on Instagram. Similar projects followed in Los Angeles and throughout the world. In 2012, an Israeli photographer started *Humans of Tel Aviv* with the tag line: "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities." All of these projects have one common element: they embrace diversity through photography and storytelling.

And that is the goal in part of our first edition of *Humans of Jewish Buffalo*. In the pages that follow, we share stories of Jewish Buffalonians from varying backgrounds to provide us with a taste of our community's diversity. From a 13 year old who brings her love of theatre to children being treated at Oishei Children's Hospital, an Israeli entrepreneur making his mark in Niagara Falls, a philanthropic couple calling out the need for criminal justice reform, to a young blues musician who connects his passion to growing up at Temple Beth Zion, we know that you will enjoy reading these stories about your unique neighbors.



Stephan Lewy (Photo by Mark Mulville/The Buffalo News), Mark Sommer, Marlowe Bloomberg

We are grateful to the many writers who contributed to *Humans of Jewish Buffalo* and we hope that this is just the beginning of an annual feature. If you are interested in writing a story of a unique member of Jewish Buffalo or have photographs that you would like to share, contact JJWNY Editor Ellen Goldstein at Ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org.

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Deborah Goldman and Grant Golden: Time is Now for Leadership in Criminal Justice Reform

By Mara Koven-Gelman

Deborah Goldman and Grant Golden are taking a bold leadership step. They recently have funded a criminal justice reform grant powered by the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).

The grant underlines the need for local criminal justice reform, by spotlighting the story of one victimized Buffalo resident. Valentino Dixon served 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Through the long process of exoneration, ending in the fall of 2018, art helped sustain his spirit, his drive to be heard, and ultimately freed from prison. JCRC is partnering with the Burchfield Penney Art Center to exhibit Valentino's work and testimony, with an opening Thursday October 10th. The Goldman/Golden gift will support creating the exhibit and Mr. Dixon's public lectures. The grant also provides transportation for students to hear Valentino's words of resilience.

They believe that there are overwhelming inequities in criminal justice. The data of systemic issues in the CR field is staggering:

- US has 4% of the world's population, but incarcerates roughly 25% of the world's prisoners.
- More than 60% of prisoners are people of color.
- 2.7 million children have a parent behind bars.
- 6.1 million Americans are barred from voting due to a felony record.

Having a felony record makes it very difficult, if not impossible to sign a lease on an apartment or fill out a job application.

Studies show that mass incarceration (the prison population exploded in the 1970's) contributes to poverty, income inequality, and family instability. Compounded with the erosion of the Voting Rights Act, police violence perpetuates structural inequality that harms communities of color. There is much work to be done, requiring the involvement of the community at large.

Among the JCRC key priorities are social justice (including criminal justice), combatting hate and anti-Semitism, and building bridges with communities and



Deborah Goldman and Grant Golden

“Such injustices hurt us all. We believe strongly that where we can help, we should.”

legislators. By means of education, we can ensure that the Jewish community can better advocate, and move all of Western New York in an improved direction.

Recently, Deborah and Grant spoke with Mara Koven-Gelman, director of JCRC to explain their inspiration and motivation:

MKG: Why do you both feel so strongly about criminal justice reform and building bridges with diverse communities? And why should the

our community who as individuals work to make Buffalo a better place. To us, building these bridges as a group is an opportunity to forge new relationships in both our local Jewish community and throughout Western New York.

MKG: What specifically excites you about affecting change in our community?

D & G: We feel fortunate to be able to direct philanthropy to positively impact local issues. Two of our chief priorities are the local Jewish community and addressing income inequality. In addressing criminal justice reform, we clearly take a step toward lessening income inequality. For us, it's always a joy to do the right thing, and being able to fund such a good project makes us very happy.

MKG: This is the first time Jewish community donors are funding this type of program. What is your message to members of the Buffalo Jewish Community concerned about social and civil justice issues?

D & G: Jewish tradition teaches us to pursue justice in all aspects of society. In Deuteronomy 16:20, the Torah commands us: “*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*” (“Justice, justice you shall pursue”). And yet today, as it has for time immemorial, our criminal justice system punishes unfairly. Issues of mass incarceration and racial disparities in enforcement and sentencing continue to stain us as a country. Almost invariably, arrests put people of limited means in a dire situation. They have trouble making bail and are preyed upon by unscrupulous bail bondmen; they can't get to work and risk losing their jobs. They run the serious risk of becoming homeless. The stability of their families is jeopardized. Such injustices hurt us all. We believe strongly that where we can help, we should.

Deborah Goldman is the current board chair of Planned Parenthood of Western and Central New York, member of the JCRC Executive Board and 2018 recipient of The Ann Holland Cohn Community Leadership Award. Deborah is a government and non-profit consultant/grant writer.

Dr. Grant Golden is a diagnostic radiologist and Congregation Beth Abraham Board Member. He runs the Old Chestnut Film Society, writes plays and songs for plays, and reviews theater for *Buffalo Rising*.

Mara Koven-Gelman is Director of the Buffalo JCRC.

Jewish community get involved?

D & G: Criminal justice reform is an issue that matters to local communities of color and to the Jewish Community Relations Committee. Differential treatment of people of color is a longstanding problem in our judicial system, and one that receives inadequate attention from those who don't have to deal with it. This is an opportunity for us as Jews to go to these communities, listen to them and join with them in advocating for something of real importance.

We all know and appreciate Jews in

Me and My Cousin Sholem

By Rob Goldberg

Ukrainian born Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich, better known by his pen name Sholem Aleichem, was a leading Yiddish author and playwright. The beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof* is based on his story “Tevye the Dairyman.”

I just learned that me and Sholem are kin, sort of. My kids bought me a DNA kit for Father’s Day and as instructed, I spit into a tube and mailed it to AncestryDNA. Five weeks later I got a text indicating that my results were ready to view. To no one’s surprise, I’m 100% European Jewish!

Which brings me to my connection with Sholem Aleichem. While I was waiting for my results, I began to build my family tree online. I learned that my great grandfather, Wolf Goldberg, was born in Belarus and my grandmother Sarah, who died before I was born and who my sister Susan is named after, was from Berdichev. An area about 75 miles southwest of Kiev in the Ukraine, Berdichev is in the same region as Sokolivka, where so many Jewish Buffalonians have their roots.

In Russian and Jewish literature, Berdichev epitomizes the typical Jewish town. It had dozens of synagogues and *Beit Midrashim* (Houses of Learning) and served as the model for the town depicted in the writings of my kin, Sholem. And, in early 1919, nearly 20 years after my grandmother was born, the Jews in Berdichev became victims of a pogrom perpetrated by the Ukrainian army.

So when I saw the Yiddish version of Sholem’s *Fiddler on the Roof* (*A Fidler Afh Dak*) this summer (first with my friend Leslie Kramer when we were in NYC for a Federation meeting, and a second time with my wife, Shira, last month), I was overcome with emotion. The new production is in stark contrast to the Broadway version from the 60’s and 70’s; while the music and characters are the same; the set is plain, the Yiddish raw, and the way the story is told is anything but kitschy like the original.

To American Jews, *Fiddler* is comfort food. Jackie Hoffman, the actress, singer and comedian, who plays Yente the Matchmaker in the new Yiddish production, said it beautifully: “I had an obligatory love for *Fiddler*. I thought it was always a little cornball. But it was like when black people saw Lt. Ohoura on *Star Trek*, they said, ‘Oh look, there’s a black person on the bridge of the Enterprise.’ For me, it was like: ‘Wow, there’s a Jewish musical!’”



Back in 1964 when Zero Mostel played Tevye, the investors and some in the media worried that the play might be considered “too Jewish” at the time to attract mainstream audiences. I spoke with Amherst born actress Cheryl Stern who appeared in the production starring Hershel Bernardi and she told me that Jerome Robbins, the show’s director, insisted that no Yiddish be used – including ad libs – all in their desire to make *Fiddler* universal.

In my quest to find my roots, I was transported to Anatevka as depicted in the new Yiddish adaptation. The language stripped away all the campiness of the original *Fiddler*; the story this time felt wrenching, tragic and personal. Tevye the Dairyman and his neighbors were members of my family.

There is a concept often connected to mass tragedy called “emotional proximity,” the way one feels connected to an experience. For instance, when the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue happened last October, we all felt connected emotionally. I was in Israel so that shooting was geographically distant, but it felt close because the victims were fellow Jews, because Pittsburgh could be Buffalo, because it took place at a synagogue. All these elements made the experience “emotionally proximate.”

That’s how I felt at Stage 42 twice this summer. Anatevka was somewhere close. Familiar. A place where my people suffered. The language of my grandmother lifted me back to my roots.

Me and Sholem. Tied at the hip through our DNA. I love that my “cousin” Sholem changed his name from Solomon Rabinovich to Sholem Aleichem, the Hebrew and Yiddish phrase that literally means “peace upon you.” After seeing *A Fidler Afh Dak* I feel even more connected to my ancestors from Berdichev, from the Kiev region of the Ukraine, where if I was walking in the village with my great grandparents, I’d so naturally say to Motyl the Tailor or Laizer Wolf the Butcher, or my grandmother’s friend Tzeitel, “Sholem Aleichem.”

Rob Goldberg is CEO/ Executive Director of the Buffalo Jewish Federation .



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Mark Goldman: One Man | Two Families

By Marti Gorman

Tillie Schwartz Goldman. Born in New York City in 1906, this fierce, feisty woman called Central Park her own, rode in a Willys Jeep from her home on Riverside Drive to her father's factory in the Garment District as a child, married Charlie Goldman at the Waldorf Astoria in 1925, and even became enmeshed in the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s.

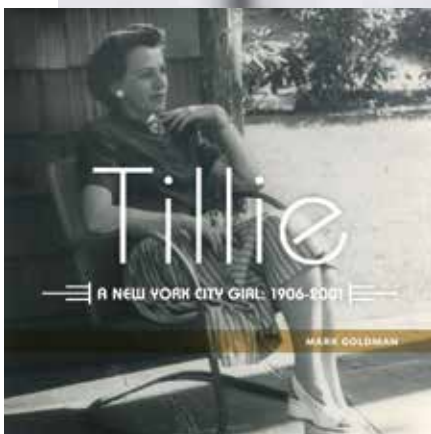
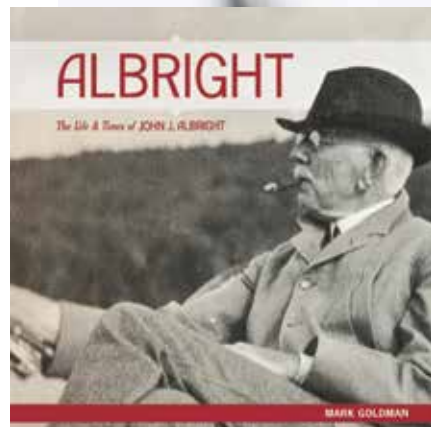
Tillie's son, award-winning author, restaurateur, and historian Mark Goldman, paints a vivid portrait of a colorful facet of the Jewish immigrant experience in New York City in the mid-1900s in *Tillie: A New York City Girl, 1906-2001*, released this past May, at the Jewish Community Center. He wrote this loving memoir in his mother's voice.

An insatiable curiosity is a trait found primarily in novelists and historians. Mark Goldman is a bit of both. Goldman stops people in the street to ask them questions, not as a game. Goldman actually listens to the answers and adds them to his enormous store of lore. He prowls bookstores, lingers in libraries, goes to galleries and museums, spends hours plowing through clues about other lives and other times. This is not work, however. It's his passion.

In fact, it was a random item that turned up in an unrelated trek through a unique file of folders rich with carefully labeled newspaper articles, photographs and artifacts lovingly labeled by hand and carefully filed under thousands of subjects found in the Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library that triggered Goldman's three-year quest to solve the John J. Albright mystery: an auction notice for the Albright Estate at 730 West Ferry Street, published in 1936.

John J. Albright—one of the wealthiest of Buffalo's powerful industrialists and notable philanthropist—was broke? That remarkable anomaly sent Goldman to three states in as many years, to the Harvard Library and a remote cabin in the Adirondacks, to Jekyll Island, Georgia, and to Scranton, Pennsylvania, to countless libraries and archives, and to the doors of nearly a dozen Albright descendants.

Although he discovered hundreds of photographs—some taken in Europe in the late 1800s by Albright's oldest son with one of the very first Kodak cameras—and lots of clues, he found just

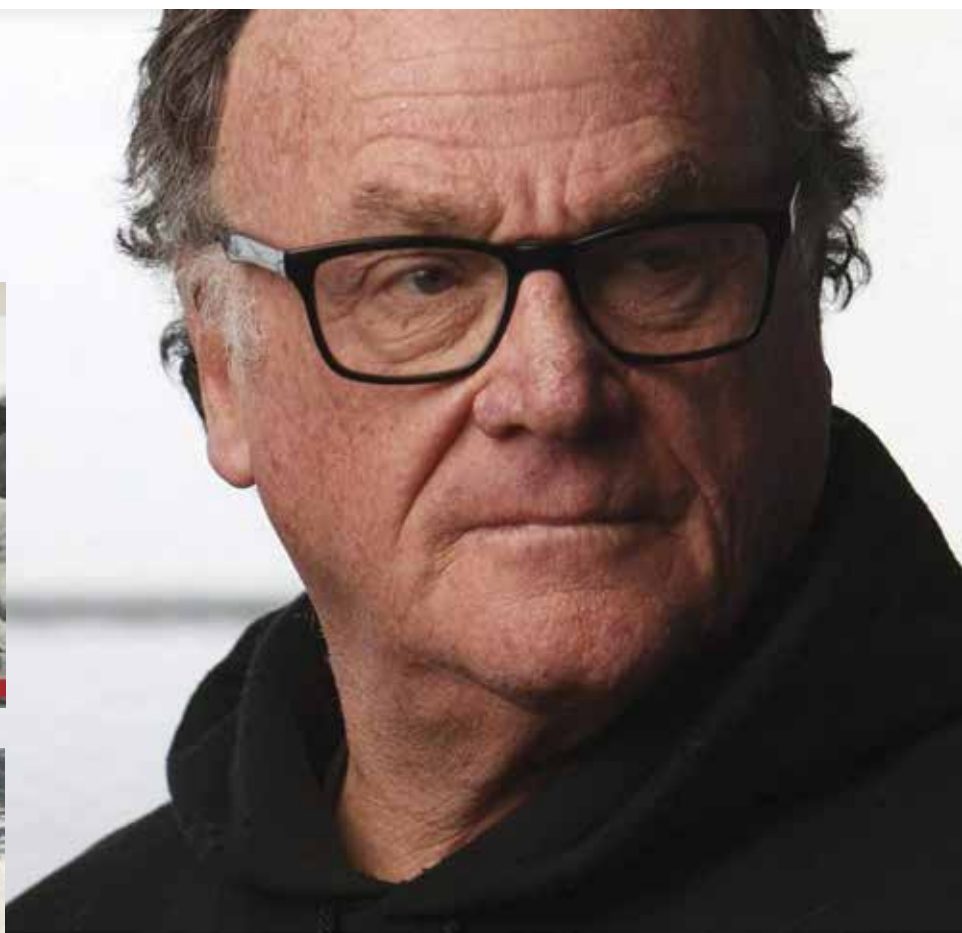


two instances of Albright's signature.

The man whose personal architect was the renowned E.B. Green and whose landscaping buddy was none other than Frederick Law Olmsted; the man who built the Albright Art Gallery and the Nichols School, who brought steel to Buffalo (yes, Bethlehem), underwrote the Pan-American Exposition, and harnessed power at Niagara Falls. This influential businessman had not left behind an entire library full of documents?

Goldman searched for more than three years and is satisfied that no Albright archive exists. He managed nonetheless to write a compelling biography of a man whose name is so well known in Buffalo and beyond, but about whom so little was known.

Albright is not merely the story of one elusive man during Buffalo's heyday. It is a striking snapshot of Buffalo itself



Left: 2 of Mark Goldman's books. Above: Mark Goldman (photo by kc kratt)

during those tumultuous and formative years. *Albright: The Life and Times of John J. Albright* was released during the very well-attended Albright Weekend in May 2017, and this exceptionally beautiful book just won a prestigious bronze IPPY Award (Independent Publisher Book Award) for best biography in May 2019.

It was in between these two events that Tillie's granddaughter, Lydia Goldman Langer, asked her father a simple yet compelling question. "You've just spent three years researching someone else's family, Dad. What about our family?"

"Hmmm," he thought. "You're right!" So Goldman then turned his historian's trained eye on his own family. He found a taped, oral history recorded by his mother in the 1970s and discovered his grandmother's rich collection of photographs. With this auspicious foundation, he researched New York City as his mother would have experienced it. As was the case with *Albright*, in *Tillie* Goldman paints a portrait, not just of his mother and his own family, but of a fascinating facet of a colorful era in a remarkable city.

Albright: The Life and Times of John

J. Albright and *Tillie: A New York City Girl, 1906-2001*, are both vividly told and lushly illustrated tales by one man about two families. Both books were published by Buffalo Heritage Press (BuffaloHeritage.com) and can be purchased wherever books are sold.

Hear the rest of the story at Mark Goldman's talk One Man | Two Families at Talking Leaves on Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00pm. There will be light refreshments, lots of historically-relevant laughs, a terrific Q&A, and plenty of books on hand to be signed. Free and open to the public.

Marti Gorman is co-founder of Buffalo Heritage Press, Western New York's premier publishing house and proud publisher of Mark Goldman and many other excellent authors.

Sophia Veffter: Making her Mark through Education



(L-R) Buffalo State College President Katherine Conway-Turner, Sophia Veffter, and Interim Provost James Mayrose

Buffalo State College and the State University of New York bestowed a SUNY honorary doctorate upon Sophia Veffter during the college's 2019 Commencement ceremonies in May. Ms. Veffter, a Buffalo State Class of 1971 graduate, Holocaust survivor and retired special education teacher, received a SUNY honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the afternoon baccalaureate ceremony.

Sophia Veffter was born in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1929. Her father was a stamp dealer, and the family lived in a middle-class neighborhood, where Veffter attended school with Anne Frank.

Sophia has dedicated herself to the mission of Buffalo State College, speaking each year at the Anne Frank Project's annual social justice festival and sharing her wisdom...

Life changed dramatically in 1938, when the *Kristallnacht* pogrom spurred a huge influx of German Jewish émigrés to the Netherlands and

other countries. Veffter's father wanted to move the family as far away from Europe as possible, but her mother was reluctant to leave. In late 1939, her father sold his business and bought passages to England. One week before they were to depart, her mother refused to go. Six months later, the Germans invaded the Netherlands.

The Nazis deported more than 100,000 Dutch Jews to concentration camps between 1942 and 1944. Veffter's family went into hiding and were forced to split up. Veffter left her parents, changing her identity, leaving school, and divesting herself of all personal possessions.

Near the end of the war, Veffter was arrested and transported to the notorious Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Nearly 50,000 people perished in the camp, including Anne Frank. The British liberated Bergen-Belsen in April 1945, and after several weeks of recuperation, Veffter was transported to a small city in Holland, where she stayed until she could be reunited with her parents in Amsterdam. She eventually returned to school, finishing a

five-year high school in only three years. She went to college in Amsterdam, married in Holland, and came to the United States in 1954.

Veffter became a special education teacher, receiving her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Buffalo and her master's degree in special education from Buffalo State College. She also raised three sons, all of whom are now successful attorneys.

Veffter began publicly sharing her story several years later. She has taught thousands of students and young adults the important lessons of the Holocaust and other mass atrocities. In January 2006, Veffter received the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Brotherhood Sisterhood Award for outstanding leadership in promoting goodwill and understanding in the community. That same year she was contacted by Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, who requested her assistance with his theater production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Since that time, Sophia has dedicated herself to the mission of Buffalo State College, speaking each year at the Anne Frank Project's annual social justice festival and sharing her wisdom with thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community members. She is especially committed to refugee and immigrant populations, who share her story.

Veffter serves as a founding board member of the Anne Frank Project. Last year, the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo created the annual Sophia Veffter Upstander Award. This summer, Buffalo State will unveil the Buffalo State College Social Justice Fellowship: Sophia's Legacy, a teacher-training initiative designed to ensure that Veffter's story will be shared throughout area schools for decades to come.

This story was written by the Buffalo State College PR Department and was previously on the College's website.

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Deborah Sales Bokobza & Ula Wolfe: Third-Generation-Holocaust-Survivors Discover they are Cousins

By Elizabeth Schram

On Monday, July 8, cousins, Deborah Bokobza from Buffalo and Ula Wolfe from Melbourne, Australia met in person for the very first time. Deborah never knew that her grandfather, Hersch Torahschreiber (later known as Herman Sales), had a sister. His sister's name was Matylida Torahschreiber Penner, who had a granddaughter, Ula Wolfe. In a "Descendants of Holocaust Survivors" Facebook group, Deborah came across a post from Danielle Hurst-Ehnisz, a non-Jewish genealogist living in Canada, who was offering her services for free. Deborah contacted her and Danielle was able to uncover photographs, documentation, information and names of relatives that Deborah had never known about. When Ula was contacted in Australia by Danielle to see if she wanted to speak to her relative, Deborah, in Buffalo, she couldn't believe it.



Matylida Penner

At this point in time, Ula was very connected to her mother's side of the family, but not her father's side since those closest to her had passed away. Ula never knew her grandmother, Matylida Sales Penner, because she was murdered in Auschwitz during the Holocaust. Ula was born in Poland in 1956 and moved to Australia in 1959 with her sister, parents, aunt and uncle. Ula recalled that, "No one really spoke about what happened though." Deborah's grandfather had survived the Holocaust and immigrated



Deborah and Ula at Ahavas Achim Cemetery

“So the family is continuing, and all of my children are named for somebody who was lost.”

to Buffalo in 1947 because he had two uncles here who were furriers. Herman lived in the same house as Deborah, who was born in Buffalo in 1952, until she was seventeen years old, so they were very close. Deborah reflected that, "Now, as an adult, as a grandmother of eight, I wish I would've asked questions, but who thinks of it when



Deborah Sales Bokobza's father, Joseph Sales, as a young boy in Poland before WWII (bottom left). Numerous other relatives of Deborah and Ula are shown in this photo and were murdered during the Holocaust.

you're a kid? You don't think to ask, 'Grandpa, did you have any other brothers or sisters? What happened to this one and what happened to that

one?' He never spoke about it and they never talked about World War II to us kids. When they had company, they spoke in Polish usually, but we didn't

understand, so I didn't know."

I asked Ula and Deborah what it was like for them to meet in person for the first time. Deborah responded, "I kind of see something in her that reminds me of family, like my father had blue eyes, my brother had blue eyes and I saw her blue eyes and [I thought] boom, this is my *mishpucha* here!" Deborah and Ula shared a powerful moment together when they visited the grave of Herman Sales in the Ahavas Achim Cemetery on Pine Ridge Road. Sales, Deborah's grandfather and Ula's great uncle, died in 1971 in Buffalo. While embracing each other, Deborah exclaimed, "Grandpa, what do you think about this?" Later, during their interview, Deborah pointed out, "Next year is 75 years from the end of the war and it's a long time passing. My grandfather was born in 1890 and your grandmother was born in that range—so we're talking about 120 years ago that these siblings were born and now we're here together—the grandchildren. Often, I think about what life would be like had our enemies not risen up against us, how those 6 million Jews would have had another 6 million children, and how all

of our family would have been together and close. My grandparents had a very poor simple life there [in Krakow] and they wouldn't believe the lives that their granddaughters have today, and that we have children and grandchildren. So the family is continuing, and all of my children are named for somebody who was lost. Everybody took a name from someone that was murdered in the Holocaust."

At the end of their interview, I asked what they thought their relationship would be like moving forward. Ula responded, "Absolutely, without any question, Deborah and I will stay in contact and I would hope that she and her husband will come stay with us in Australia. At this stage in life, family is just so important." Deborah added, "Amen. We would love to do that. Now that Ula was able to be in the cemetery with this side of the family, I can be in the cemetery in Australia with that side of the family. It's a wonderful thing."

Elizabeth Schram is Director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

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Eyal Cohen: Making Niagara Falls New

By Shai Lewis

In Niagara Falls, NY, a city battling an approximate 30% poverty rate with rising cost of rents, affordable housing has become the critical need for populations working to overcome the challenges of mental health, addiction, and homelessness.

Working with the local government and social services agencies addressing these challenges, 43-year old Eyal Cohen of AEC Development and ACF Construction is an Israeli immigrant from Pardes Hannah who has been in the United States since 2000. He has found a calling, and the opportunity to combine his business expertise and empathy into developing modern, clean, and vibrant living spaces for the city's most vulnerable residents. Despite having developed many properties in the Falls, Cohen is not a remote landlord. He lives in the same neighborhood as his residents, and makes his rounds every day to check on their progress and provide a helping hand wherever possible. Asking why Cohen has chosen this lifestyle, he responded, "my mother always worked with people with mental disabilities. I would volunteer to help her on weekends, and I loved it. Many of the people I work with also have some disabilities. Those are the most special of all."

Seeing the apartments and buildings that Cohen is providing, with granite counter kitchens or common spaces with antique furniture, and at rents affordable to individuals on public assistance, Cohen has grown beyond the term 'Social Entrepreneur'. "Why would I sell Coke if Coca-Cola sells Coke? It



Eyal Cohen

doesn't make sense. You need to be creative, be different."

Driving thousands of miles each year to source high-end materials at budget prices so his tenants can have a sense of pride in their homes, Cohen has found his differentiator. He has become an activist developer. In constant communication with the Niagara County Department of Social Services, and many

other community stakeholders, Cohen can clearly articulate the opportunity to beautify Niagara Falls, and help the city grow into the vibrant economy that Cohen believes it could be. "There is so much potential, but if you want to see change, you have to change. You can't wait for other people to change, you have to do it yourself." But housing the vulnerable is not enough. In

"There is so much potential, but if you want to see change, you have to change."

order to remain independent and in the community, the populations that Cohen is working with require services to address mental illness and other disabilities. With the future goal of combining the counseling or addiction supports his tenants need, his company is working to partner with social service agencies to help provide programs that also serve their missions and help people return to work. Cohen believes this is the central point of any recovery, "to bring some value not only to themselves, but also to their community." The value of community, Cohen says, he gets from his wife Osnat, who grew up in Kibbutz Sde Boker. Mrs. Cohen, along with their four boys, joined her husband eight months after he arrived in Niagara Falls. With her arrival, also came community. Passover 2018 was held at one of Cohen's recently renovated properties, and at their table sat the Cohen's friends, family, and employees, side by side with tenants. This, the future community that Niagara Falls could be, is what Eyal Cohen sees.

Shai Lewis is a business consultant living in Buffalo.

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Marlowe Bloomberg: Just a Spoonful of Sugar...

By Ellen Goldstein

Marlowe Bloomberg will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on October 19th at Congregation Shir Shalom. A rising 8th grader at Heim Middle School, Marlowe has been involved in theatre since she was 8, and has participated in lessons and various performances at the Academy of Theatre Arts (ATA). Her most recent role was “Jane” in *Mary Poppins Jr.*



Marlowe with all the toys she collected

Marlowe wanted to bring her love of theatre to children who are sick and in the hospital, and as a result her Mitzvah Project, called “Marlowe’s Mitzvah” was born. On June 27th, Marlowe, along with other members of the Academy Performance group—the auditioned group at ATA—brought their songs to Oishei Children’s Hospital. They performed scenes and dances from the shows they have done this year, and also presented new toys to the patients.

Marlowe was excited about this project because it is the first time a group of young people has performed at the new Children’s Hospital. “I wanted to incorporate my love of theatre into the act of kindness, so my family came up with the idea to bring theater to kids in Oishei Children’s Hospital, so we could put smiles on their faces,” Marlowe said. And though she turned 13 on July 7, her Bat Mitzvah portion is *Bereishit*, the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, which is about creating the world, which she is doing in a very musical manner.

If you ask Marlowe how she came to be singing *Mary Poppins* songs to sick children, she loves explaining the story. “When I was 8, I enjoyed singing, dancing and acting. I started with Academy of Theater Arts in Williamsville. It has been



Lauren and Marlowe at Oishei

around for a while, and I have been doing it for 5 years,” she said. “I enjoy it so much, and I really wanted to share it with the kids at the hospital.”

Marlowe’s parents, Rich and Lauren Bloomberg, are very supportive. “We are hoping to make this an annual event and call it ‘Marlowe’s Mitzvah,’” said Lauren Bloomberg. “It is important for her to do something that she actually, physically does—not just writing a check, but taking some kind of action, creating an activity.”

The genesis of this mitzvah project was a toy drive. Then Marlowe asked all kids at Theatre Arts—about 500

families—to donate toys to sick kids at the hospital. She put a bin at the school from May through June, and collected more than 150 toys, then brought them to the hospital and donated them to patients.

“Then we also put together a few songs, brought 40 middle schoolers grades 5-8 to the hospital on June 27 and they performed in the New Era Pavilion. We all had acted in *Mary Poppins*, so we sang songs from that,” she said. Staff, hospital visitors and a few patients came to hear the students sing.

“It made me feel really happy, because I knew I was bringing smiles and joy, and that was the goal of the whole project. I will talk about it in my Bat Mitzvah speech, and will also post it on the Congregation Shir Shalom Facebook Page,” she added.

Rich, Lauren, Marlowe and her brother, Reid, have been in Buffalo for 11 years. Lauren grew up in Toronto. She is a Jewish educator and has taught at various schools, including PALS-Kadimah. Rich hails from Montreal, and works as a general surgeon with Surgical Associates of WNY. Reid is a passionate hockey player and will enter 5th grade this fall. They love calling Buffalo home, and are happily settled in Williamsville.

Ellen Goldstein is editor of The Jewish Journal.



Members of the ATA Theatre group at Oishei Hospital (Marlowe is in white.)

Bringing Sydney to my Clarence farm

By Tina Ball

Challah is the path to world peace. How do I know this? Because I met Laya Slavin.

Our Big Kitchen (OBK) in Sydney, Australia is a remarkable place. Founded by Rabbi Doctor Dovid Slavin and his wife Laya, OBK is a community run, industrial kitchen where meals are prepared for distribution to needy people of every denomination all across Sydney. It is Kosher and Halal certified, a place for individuals, families, corporate and civic groups to come together and cook for a good cause. Last year OBK distributed over 80,000 meals to disadvantaged Australians.

It started with one family in need.

Concerned about the burden different families in their Yeshiva community had taken on providing meals for a gravely ill colleague, the Slavins borrowed a Kosher kitchen and pulled together a group of volunteers.

During these shop-ins, cook-ins and pack-ins they noticed the incredible electricity that grew among the volunteers. Without hesitation, the Slavins (my guess is that Laya Slavin rarely hesitates) created Our Big Kitchen, a beautiful, modern teaching and cooking facility in Bondi, a historically Jewish community just a flip-flop's throw from the fabulous and more famous Bondi Beach. The builders, excavators, painters, electricians, all donated their time and resources for the project, but these were not only Jewish workers. Members from the Greek and Italian communities jumped in as well. As Laya Slavin puts it, "It became everyone's project. *Hashem's* hand at OBK was evident from day one – He has held our hand all along the way."

In December, 2018 I volunteered at OBK as part of a family Bar Mitzvah celebration



Tina Ball

in Sydney. Three generations of family and extended family worked together for hours chopping, cooking and packaging for delivery according to the strict guidelines and instructions of OBK's master chef. But when Laya Slavin appeared and gathered us all together for the grand finale, the moment I had been waiting for, she made no reference to a recipe at all. Instead, we were each handed a little hill of prepared challah dough and asked a question: why do we braid challah?

Now if you Google this you will find all kinds of reasons, but the one Laya Slavin gave changed my life.

I had never thought about challah as an imperfect thing before. Quite the contrary. It seemed like something too hard to master. It was too complicated, too time-consuming. Although intriguing, baking challah seemed like something you learn, not something you do.

But as Laya began to demonstrate how to roll out our dough and separate it into braids, she also began to explain what she thinks about when she makes challah.

She explained that each strand represents a person to her, someone she had spent time with or thought about during that week. She explained that it is her tradition to



Challah bakers in Sydney with Laya

always give the first challah away. She explained not to expect two challahs to ever look exactly the same because no two of her weeks ever look exactly the same. As she moved through her flash demonstration of braiding techniques—too fast for any of us to really grasp—the freedom, connection and simple artistry that I witnessed far outweighed my utter confusion about the technique. Or the recipe.

When I returned to the States, I ordered *The Rising Life*, a slim book by Rochie Pinson that Laya recommended when I pumped her for her challah recipe - which I never got. Using Rochie Pinson as a guide, I began to obsessively experiment, creating my own challah recipes week after week and sharing them with my family back in Sydney via *WhatsApp*. My cousin (by marriage) Karen Stein caught the bug that day too. Now she makes gorgeous challahs, which have bonded us in a sort of competitive mutual awe and adoration ever since.

I recently moved back to Buffalo after living in New York City for 42 years. I built a career as a stage director, working almost exclusively with playwrights from around the world developing more than 100 new plays. I loved the job because of my deeply connected, generous community; the constant literary and intellectual challenges; and the utter lack of common place, quotidian limitations.

Making challah is exactly the opposite. It requires the same amount of my time every week. I know that on Thursday or Friday it will take me 40 minutes to prepare the dough. 3-4 hours of rising time. Another 40 minutes to braid and allow for a last rise, 25 minutes to bake. I've begun to experiment using fresh herbs from my garden - rosemary and chives. I've made parmesan challahs, round challahs, challah holes and challah rolls. And I always give the first one (or two) away, to Jews as well as non-Jews. I have introduced challah to people

who had never heard of it - that came as quite a shock to a New York Jew.

In my mind, and I guess in the world of "Gastrodiplomacy," challah is...Italy. Ubiquitous, as available at your local Deli counter as it is at your Bubbe's. Paul Rockower, a pioneer of Gastrodiplomacy, clearly knows the mantra that runs through every Jew's heart: "the easiest way to win hearts and minds is through the stomach." Our food is often the easiest part of ourselves to share.

Tikkun Olam, the foundation for all diplomacy, is one of my favorite Jewish concepts. That I alone have the power to repair a broken world is an almost overwhelming concept, particularly now, when the world seems so big, so complicated and so broken. With roughly 14 million Jews around the world, I'm fairly certain there are at least 13+ million challah recipes. And every one is, of course, the best. More than once in history, people have been in awe of the miracles a little bread can produce. Why not give it another try? After a lifetime of thinking challah baking was way out of my wheelhouse, I learned that the recipe for the perfect challah, the one I thought I couldn't master, the one Laya Slavin didn't want to share, is the one she didn't need to. The recipe for the perfect challah is its purpose.

Repairing the world. Thank you, Laya Slavin, for making Our Big Kitchen big enough for everyone, and for never giving me your recipe.

Tina Ball is a Buffalo native and now makes her home in Clarence on her family's former cattle farm. You can reach her at twason5th@gmail.com

Seth Greene: Natural Born Marketer

If you ask 42 year-old Buffalo native Seth Greene why he does what he does as CEO of Market Domination LLC, he lights up and says, "Because of the ripple effect. Our marketing grows our client's businesses so they can do what they do best. If the stress of generating new customers is removed, our clients can do a better job of serving their clients, customers, or patients. Heck, they are probably a better boss, spouse, and parent. We change one business, we change the world."

Sounds like a Jewish point of view. And the Williamsville East High School and Syracuse University grad, son of Al Greene and Janeen Morris, and life-long Congregation Shir Shalom (previously Temple Beth Am) member might just agree. He's an advocate of Tikkun Olam through better marketing.

Greene started Market Domination LLC back in 2007 due to his frustration with the marketing in the financial services industry.

"I began as a Series 7 licensed financial advisor. The first day after licensing and training, my branch manager gave me the phone book and told me to make 300 cold calls a day, interrupting strangers, asking for money. I figured there had to be a better way."

Greene found one. He's written seven books on the topic of direct response marketing, and his latest *Market Domination for Podcasting* is on the shelves of Barnes & Noble now. *Jewish Journal* readers can get a copy for free by calling his office at 888-899-9214 and mentioning this article.

He's also the co-host of the popular *SharkPrenuer* podcast (Rated #6 in the Top 10 podcasts to listen to in 2019) with Shark Tank's Kevin Harrington. Greene speaks almost every month about the topics of direct response marketing and social media.

One of his proudest accomplishments is being the only person in history who has been nominated three years in a row for the prestigious Marketer of the Year award from legendary marketer Dan Kennedy, the highest paid marketing consultant on the planet, a 13 time best-selling author, and the founder of *NO BS Inner Circle*, the largest marketing organization of its kind in the world. Thousands of members of his organization from around the world each year are eligible to compete for the



Seth, Max, Rebecca, Lillie and Ella Greene

"If your marketing looks like everyone else's, or it says the same thing that your competition does, how are you going to stand out?"

coveted and prestigious marketer of the year award, and though Greene did not win, he is proud of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 nominations.

What's the biggest marketing mistake he sees most business owners make trying to grow their business? "Being boring. If your marketing looks like everyone else's, or it says the same thing that your competition does, how are you going to stand out? How will you capture anyone's attention? If your marketing is boring, you will get boring results. You have to make your product or service sexy to your prospects. That's where we come in."

What types of clients does Market Domination LLC serve? Professional practices (financial advisors, accountants, lawyers, doctors, dentists), and retail companies looking to sell online direct to consumers.

In case you wondering, Greene still makes time to take care of his original financial services clients. Why keep that on his already overflowing plate? "They are like family. I will always make time for them no matter what."

How does he get so much done in a day? "My wife Rebecca is a stay-at-home mom to our three kids, Max, Ella, and Lillie. I don't know how she does it. Her energy and stamina inspire me every day. I couldn't run two businesses without her, and I'm just trying to keep up with all she does." You also might remember reading about his daughter, 5th Grade child actress Ella Rae Greene, in the February 2019 issue of the *Jewish Journal* who had just gotten her children's book published.

Check out www.MarketDominationLLC.com to learn more about Seth Greene and to join his marketing family.

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Drs. Ann Marie Carosella and Jeffrey Lackner: Leadership with love in Jewish Buffalo

By Rabbi Sara Rich

Our sages teach in *Pirkei Avot*, "It is not upon you to complete the task, nor are you free to desist from it." Drs. Ann Marie Carosella and Jeffrey Lackner are empathetic to the struggles that they see people grappling with, and have dedicated their professional lives and personal commitments to reducing suffering, increasing fairness, and promoting awareness of stories currently untold. Dr. Carosella, born in Buffalo and raised in Newfane, and Dr. Lackner, who hails from Denver, Colorado, met one another as psychology graduate students at The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. They bonded as study buddies, and their relationship blossomed. They married in 1990 and have two children, Rachel and Ben.

A Call for Justice and Education

In the last 25 years since returning to Buffalo, Dr. Carosella has continued her professional work preparing data from studies for scientific analysis, often for Dr. Lackner's lab. Her volunteer commitments are numerous, including a nine-year stint on the Amherst



School Board, her current role as a court appointed special advocate for children in foster care, and her six-year tenure on the board of the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), of which she is now the board President. Although

her interests are varied, they are tied together by a common thread - her deep belief in creating a just, educated society where each person has the opportunity to thrive. Regarding her time on the Amherst School Board, she emphasized that her service was not just to ensure the quality of Ben and Rachel's education. "After all," she remarked, "If my kids get a good education and others can't succeed because they didn't get a good education, then what good is that?" In a similar vein, as she speaks to foster parents and schools to provide data for a report to the court, she does so with the hope that in the end of this difficult process, the children will be given a chance to be successful. Dr. Carosella reflects, "It's not a zero sum game. If these kids in foster care are not taken care of, we all pay a price. We all need to work together to ensure that everyone does okay."

Dr. Carosella was initially recruited for the HRC board because of her connection to the school system that can be used to facilitate Holocaust education for teachers and students, which is one of the organization's major areas of focus. As President of the HRC, she hopes to work

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with the new Executive Director, Elizabeth Schram, and the other volunteer leaders to expand the footprint of the HRC in schools and in the community, and to keep telling the story of the Holocaust to preserve the memories of its victims and survivors, and remember the lessons that remain relevant today. Watching members of the HRC's Speaker's Bureau give their talks is always a moving experience for her that reminds her of the importance of this work. "These people are the strongest of the strong, and I think it's because they have this message to share," she reflects. "I am humbled by what I've seen. People who have gone through such adversity and continue to give - it's just astonishing to me."

Highlighting the Full Student Experience

Dr. Jeffrey M. Lackner combines his inquisitive mind and his concern for the well-being of others to serve as Chief of the Division of Behavioral Medicine within the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. The Division of Behavioral Medicine is one of a few of its kind in the country, and is pursuing cutting-edge work in behavioral, non-drug treatments for pain. They have three areas of focus: clinical treatment, research, and education. Dr. Lackner came to UB by way of Rutgers University, where he earned his PsyD in Clinical Psychology, and a Fellowship in Behavioral Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He employs a cognitive behavioral approach that offers sufferers of chronic pain new strategies for responding to their symptoms. When patients use these strategies, they manage their pain better and even improve their condition. His research continues to reveal new findings about the relationship between the mind and the body.

In addition to his academic leadership, Dr. Lackner serves as the President of the Hillel of Buffalo. Dr. Lackner is helping to lead an expansion of Hillel as an agency, which in the past two years has grown from one full time staff member to three, moved into a larger, centrally-located space on UB's North Campus, and is increasing the variety of programs and leadership opportunities that it offers in order to engage a greater cross-section of students at the University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College, and the other local campuses. In the future, he sees Hillel as serving a critical role in the growth of the local Jewish community, and hopes to extend and deepen the connections

between campus and the greater WNY region. As Dr. Lackner puts it, "Hillel energizes and enriches the Jewish milieu of the local community."

Another of Dr. Lackner's goals as President is to lead the board in sharing the stories of students who are impacted by Hillel to show that it is much more than a social organization, but rather is one that touches students in their academic, professional, and spiritual lives as well. For example, he was inspired by the students who went on Hillel's Alternative Spring Break service trip to Miami, admitting that as a college student he would never have given up a spring break vacation to volunteer for a week. The students on this trip were exposed to complex societal challenges and had the chance to meet people whose lives are very different from their own.

As an experienced grant writer from his research work, one way that Dr. Lackner contributes to Hillel is to help write grant applications that will allow Hillel to expand the menu of meaningful opportunities for students. He has also been a key partner in enhancing collaboration between Hillel of Buffalo and Hillel International through his participation at meetings with Hillel senior executives at its Schusterman International Center global headquarters in Washington, D.C. and general assembly in Denver.

Jewish Buffalo as Dinner Conversation

In their roles as President of two local Jewish agencies, Dr. Carosella and Dr. Lackner agree that their dinnertime conversation often focuses on the happenings of their organizations. They share traits of curiosity, practicality, and compassion that make them reliable sounding boards for one another. In addition to their involvement with HRC and Hillel, they are members of Congregation Shir Shalom, and they participated in last year's Buffalo Israel Experience.

Dr. Carosella and Dr. Lackner have both expressed how welcome they feel today in the Jewish community, and as leaders, they are committed to fostering a community that embraces all people, regardless of background or level of Jewish observance. Dr. Lackner comments, "We can transcend religious divisions to see how we can engage people and draw upon their identities and experiences."

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



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193688

Stephan Lewy: Erie County Senior Citizen of the Year

By Peter Simon

A Holocaust survivor who has shared his experiences with more than 1,000 local students since moving here just two years ago has been named Erie County's 2019 Senior of the Year.

Stephan Lewy, a 94-year-old native of Germany, escaped the Nazis and managed to come to the United States, where he served in an Army unit that liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp, identified and interrogated Nazi leaders and staked out enemy positions.

After moving to Clarence two years ago to be near his daughter, Ellen Dubie, Lewy made numerous visits to local classrooms on behalf of the Holocaust Resource Center.

His life story as a Holocaust survivor is nothing short of extraordinary," said Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz, who recently named Lewy the county's 2019 Senior of the Year. "Upon the conclusion of his Army service, Lewy was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and five stars for meritorious service," Poloncarz said. "I thank him for his service to our community."

Lewy—the subject of a book by author Lillian Belinfante Herzberg—has a simple but profound message for students: "The first thing is, you do not hate. Respect other people and their thoughts, and don't make any blind assumptions."

That general message leads to deeper discussions. "I can speak to kids and listen to kids," said Lewy, who retired 1991 as treasurer of a hotel chain. "And they can speak with me."

Lewy began his school visits in the Boston area, where he lived previously. Viewing the film *Schindler's List* in 1994 prompted that involvement.



Stephan Lewy. Photo by Mark Mulville/ The Buffalo News

Lewy's ability to bond with students is evident in the frequent notes they send him, said Dubie. Like his work in the military, Lewy makes his school presentations precise and on-point. "He had a mission," said Dubie, an administrator at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. "He had a job to do. He did it and didn't brag about it."

The upsurge of anti-Semitic acts here and in Europe makes it crucial that students continue to hear directly from survivors or—as they age out—from the children of Holocaust survivors, Lewy said.

"First, my generation is getting older, and there are fewer and fewer survivors to tell their stories," he said. "Secondly, our stories show what can happen when people fail to act."

Lewy tells students how he was beaten daily with belt buckles by classmates in Berlin because he was Jewish. After being sent to France in an effort to escape Nazi atrocities, Lewy did not see his parents for three years. But it was while helping liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp that he felt the full magnitude of Nazi cruelty.

"I saw mountains of human remains, living skeletons, walking or sitting in a daze, and children without parents, not knowing where to go and whom to trust," he has written. "This picture has followed me and will continue to follow me all my life."

Despite the raw hatred he experienced and witnessed, Lewy went on to become a public advocate of understanding and respect, a successful businessman and a great parent.

"He's my hero," said Ellen Dubie. "He's selfless and strong and a wonderful father."

Peter Simon is a retired Buffalo News reporter and was president of Temple Beth Am, the predecessor to Congregation Shir Shalom.



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Hayden Fogle: A young blues musician who lives his passion while giving back

By Jana Eisenberg

The unlikeliness of Hayden Fogle, a Jewish kid from Western New York, becoming an accomplished blues musician by the age of 12 is the stuff of head-scratching incredulity—his first appearance on a professional stage was at that tender age, at the UB Center for the Arts, when legendary blues artist Buddy Guy was clued in to the prodigy's presence and talent. Guy invited Fogle up on stage to sit in with him in front of a sold-out crowd.

Now 19, Fogle is writing his own music and has a growing list of guest spots with *bona fide* bluesmen (in addition to Guy, there's James Cotton, the Kinsey Report, Lee Ritenour). He also was the grand prize winner in the 2018 Lee Ritenour/Yamaha Music International Guitar Contest, going up against (and beating) entrants from 50 countries in the blues category.

Growing up as a member of Temple Beth Zion, Fogle recalled enjoying temple and Hebrew school, being part of the Jewish community and studying for his bar mitzvah. He was inspired by Cantor Penny Myers, "a great singer." Seeing a young Lucas Honig, now a member of the well-regarded Americana band PA Line, accompany Myers on guitar was part of the reason he began playing an instrument.

"Cantor Penny's services were a big part of the music thing for me," said Fogle. "And seeing Lucas up there with his 12-string guitar; he helped inspire me to play."

How did a boy who grew up in Orchard Park and calls Buffalo his hometown become so immersed in the blues? It began when his family moved to Mississippi for a few years for his dad's job; he was around 8. Hearing the area's indigenous music hit the right notes with him.

"I felt things very deeply as a kid—I didn't feel like I would ever fit in," he explained. "I connected differently than my peers—and this music is very deep, more deep than mainstream stuff."

When asked how someone so young can express the blues with such resonance, Fogle waxes both pragmatic and philosophical, echoing words of those who came before.



Hayden Fogle

more pain and joy, that gives me more soul and emotion to put into it."

He credits his early exposure and mentorship from seasoned musicians to show him the way. "By sharing the stage and having intimate conversations with Buddy [Guy], James [Cotton], members of the Kinsey Report, I got put in the right direction. They told me what it was like to be a black musician back in the day, how hard it was. I'm inspired by those torchbearers."

Speaking and successfully playing music with those elders also gave him the confidence to pursue his newfound passion. "Talking to these masters...it's like if you are a young cook, and you get to hang out with Julia Child for a few days," he offered. "Those experiences opened my eyes to what's out there, and what's possible. After I sat in with Buddy Guy, he said, 'This is the kind of kid I want to see carrying on the blues.' That was a moment that helped me figure out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and I sunk my teeth in."

In addition to winning the prestigious competition, Fogle recorded his first album, live at the Tralf Music Hall in Buffalo, which he plans to release by September of this year. Since graduating high school, he's traveled to and played in Switzerland, Japan and L.A.

This summer, he'll play at the Tremblant International Blues Festival, one of Canada's largest festivals, and also at the Borderland Festival here in

Western New York. One thing that Fogle looks forward to is the opportunity to meet and be on the same bill with more of his musical heroes—like Mavis Staples, who is one of Borderland's headliners.

He continues to value the Jewish traditions he learned, and makes a point of living some of their tenets.

"I remember participating in community outreach; things like food drives, donating to shelters, helping to build something. I saw when I was very young that Jewish people, especially in Western New York, where we have a small but strong community...work together. It's very positive, and I feel lucky to be a part of it," he said. "That made me realize one thing that was special and good about Judaism: *tzedakah*. Taking care of the sick, poor and homeless, giving back—doing 'mitzvahs' just for the good of it, that's a part of Judaism that's been really cool."

He also realized that the blues community has its own version of *tzedakah*, and it's one way he continues to live his Jewish ideals. "The blues resonates with everybody—it talks about suffering to overcome suffering. There are some problems we need to talk about to get over, so in the blues, we sing about it," he said, sounding wise, not beyond or for his years. Just wise.

The blues community is well known for its philanthropic work, and Fogle has been an enthusiastic participant. "Thinking about it, I've helped raise over \$1,000,000 through all the benefits and charity events I've played," he said. "As part of the Buffalo Blues LLC, we raised \$25,000 for homeless veterans, and I've played benefits for runaway children, disabled adults. We raised a lot for Kevin Guest House, for children with cancer and their families."

"Cantor Penny used music the way that I am kind of doing it," he said. "John Lennon, Bob Marley, 'We are the World,' that's what we're trying to do as musicians: spread love, peace, community...bring together people of all races and religions. In music, it doesn't matter who you are, what car you drive, or where you are from."

Jana Eisenberg is a frequent contributor to *The Jewish Journal* and other publication regionally and nationally.



(above) Hayden with Buddy Guy; (below) with James Cotton.

"I don't think of the blues as being 'in me' more than anyone else; the blues are ordinary," he said. "'The blues' can refer to any struggle. It's the tensions that we deal with, working through any suffering or pain. People think that you need to go through major loss and pain to play the blues, but it's inside all of us....at all ages. Even a baby crying for his binky has the blues. Albert King, one of my favorite musicians, says everyone's got the blues, it doesn't take a lifetime."

Fogle acknowledges that lived experience adds to his playing. "As I get older, my interpretations of music are getting more mature," he noted. "The blues is raw emotion, so as I experience

Lois and Zach Rosenblum: What's so "nu" about knishes?

By **Nicole Bard**
& **Logan Woodard**

In Buffalo food circles, knishes are news. So says Zach and Lois Rosenbloom, owners of The Bloom & Rose. At 12 Gates Brewery, we sat with Zach and Lois at a picnic table, sipping sours, cider and beer, and they told us their story about starting a knish business.

Zach, who hails from Toledo, Ohio, where his family goes back several generations and where his great-grandfather was a rabbi, moved to Western New York nearly 7 years ago with Lois, back to her hometown of Williamsville. The couple met at The Ohio State University.

Lois has a background in Economics and a Master's Degree in Business Management. She completed her degree in Tel Aviv through a program with New York University. Post-school, Lois found a job back home in Buffalo. Originally coming back to Buffalo for a job in real estate, Lois recently pivoted to the Tech and Data Science industry. In April, she completed a four-month course in New York City, receiving a degree in Data Science.

In Ohio, Zach had found work at a restaurant, where he made pizzas and shared with us that he thought, "This is actually kind of fun. Maybe I should look towards this route, but Lois had just found a job in Buffalo." By the time they did move to Buffalo, Zach was just scratching the surface of the culinary industry. He did say that their timing in moving to Buffalo could not have been better for him. "Food was starting to become really popular—different cuisines, special ingredients, excellent quality," he said.

Because Zach was not a trained chef, trying to find a place where he could learn was important. "You don't realize how capable you can be when you learn on your own—without culinary school and with a little bit of experience. Zach has been a chef at the Park Country Club for the past six years, thrilled to have begun his culinary experience under Chef James Roberts, with a humble start at the bottom of the



Food entrepreneurs Lois and Zach Rosenberg

"I was looking for something I could be fully passionate about, looking for ways to keep learning."

totem pole, moving all the way up to interim director, and is currently the sous-chef.

Asked if Zach is mostly self-taught, he replied that he learned by picking up skills from working under chefs, participating in stages—internships, and buying Culinary Institute of America textbooks and studying them. "I was looking for something I could be fully passionate about, looking for ways to keep learning," he said. Zach participated in different stages, or culinary internships, which can range from a single day class to three months or more.

Lois explained that there are stages that

run as long as six months— one in Spain where students can take Spanish classes every day. She said that stages have become a mini-industry in the culinary business.

Fast-forward to today, and Zach has found his place in the culinary industry. He, Lois and friends started a new venture together, and created The Bloom & Rose last year, serving up knishes and Jewish deli-inspired fare—vaguely traditional, weirdly delicious.

So why knishes? Lois and Zach each shared a little piece of knish history with us, painting a larger food picture. The knish was relatively cheap to produce. Typically

made from scraps from the Jewish deli, this pastry-like food was a cheap, high-energy food (dough and potato). From its humble origins in our progenitors' kitchens, it is now a staple of Jewish cuisine. The flavor brings a homey, nostalgic feeling to many who eat it.

Zach's goal was creating a Jewish deli, but that was not yet in the cards. So The Bloom & Rose team set up shop last year at the Williamsville Farmer's Market testing different knishes each week, like traditional potato, and spinach and feta. This year, The Bloom & Rose are selling knishes at the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmer's Market. You may question a knish for breakfast, but don't knock it 'til you try it—trust us.

We had the pleasure of working with The Bloom & Rose team to pilot a hands-on cooking demonstration for Nickel City Jews. The knish chefs—Zach, JB and Andy have a different title when hosting private events—The Bearded Bubbes. At this event, not only did they help teach the folks in attendance basic knife skills, they also put together a packet of recipes like potato latkes, beet-cured salmon, toum, pickled onions and *sufganiyot* so attendees could take them home and cook for family and friends.

Nickel City Jews look forward to continue working with Zach and Lois, The Bloom & Rose team and the Bearded Bubbes. We are so excited to see where The Bloom & Rose goes next!

Feeling hungry after reading this? You can sink your teeth into a knish or two throughout the summer at the Elmwood-Bidwell Market (under the red tent) Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; at Farmers and Artisans on Main Street in Snyder, or you can make a personal order by e-mail to info@thebloomandrose.com. The Bloom & Rose. Vaguely traditional, weirdly delicious!

Nicole Bard is Buffalo Jewish Federation's Director of Young Adult and Young Family Engagement. Logan Woodard is Coordinator of Jewish Student Life and Ezra Fellow at Hillel of Buffalo.

Mark Sommer: A Journalist's Quest to Capture a Cleveland Baseball Legend

By Ezra N. Rich

A familiar *Buffalo News* byline for the past 20 years, journalist Mark Sommer has covered many topics, from his current beat as an enterprise reporter highlighting development, preservation, the waterfront and culture to his earlier role as the paper's arts editor. Recently, Sommer published his first book, *Rocky Colavito: Cleveland's Iconic Slugger* and coordinated a memorable visit by the former Cleveland Indians baseball star to Cleveland.

For the Love of the Game

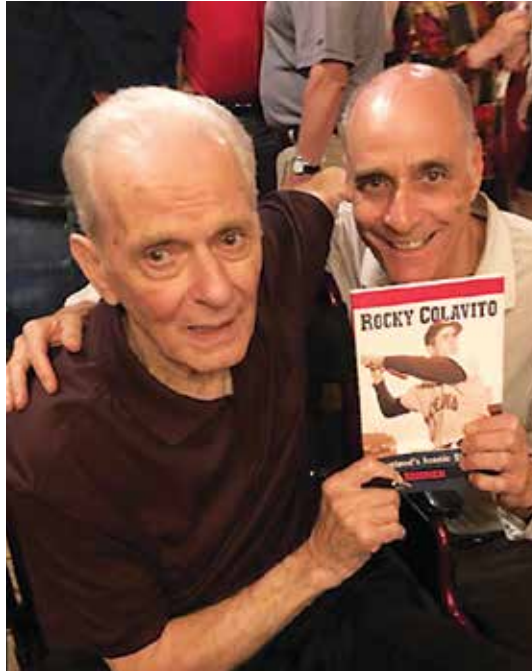
An avid baseball fan since his youth, Sommer doesn't have any direct ties to Cleveland.

"You don't have to be from that place to love a player or a team," reflected Sommer. The sentiment is reminiscent of the recent passing of Ezra "Pancho Billa" Castro, a Mexican American from Dallas, Texas, who became a Buffalo Bills superfan.

Sommer, who like Colavito was raised a Yankees fan, grew up in the Village of Ossining in Westchester County, N.Y., before his family moved to Southern California. As a kid, Sommer would listen to as many as four game broadcasts at a time and still enjoys rooting for underdogs.

Sommer recalls using some of his Bar Mitzvah money to buy *Don't Knock the Rock: The Rocky Colavito Story* by Gordon Cobbledick, which was published in 1966 to coincide with the slugger's return to the Indians. Reflecting on the book, Sommer was surprised to learn that no biography had been written in the ensuing five decades. "In January of 2017, I looked up Rocky and books written on him. How can there be none on someone so popular in Cleveland?" Sommer wondered. Seeking to fill the void, Sommer sought a publisher.

Once commissioned by McFarland & Company Inc., Sommer worked diligently on researching the subject. In addition to interviewing Colavito—who is now 85 and lives in Berks County, Pennsylvania—numerous times, he spoke with his former teammates and combed through archives of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and other since defunct newspapers, *The Sporting News* and *Sports Illustrated* as well as periodicals from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.



Rocky Colavito and Mark Sommer

Save the Date – Author/ Book Signing event at the JCC with Mark Sommer, Sunday, October 6 at 2pm.

For more information call Cultural Arts Director Katie Wzontek 204-2084.

A Source of Pride

Rocco Domenico "Rocky" Colavito, Jr. with his slugging power, handsome looks and dedication to signing young fan's autographs, became a star with the Cleveland Indians in the 1950s only to be shockingly traded away just prior to Opening Day 1960. "The day April 7th, 1960 is still raw for many Indians fans," reflects Sommer. "The trade led to 34 years of unremarkable play by the Indians, and they still haven't won a World Series since then," he adds.

According to Sommer, Colavito—a six-time All-Star—was a source of pride for the Italian community in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio mirroring what Joe DiMaggio meant to Italian Yankees fans. Many Jewish baseball fans can relate when reflecting on the Detroit Tigers' Hank Greenberg and the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers' Sandy Koufax in their eras.

Sommer grew up admiring the slugger, whose career took him from the Indians to the Detroit Tigers and Kansas City A's, a return to the Indians, and brief stints with the Chicago White Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers before retiring as a Yankee in 1968.

The Return of a Tribe Legend

Realizing that Cleveland would be hosting the 2019 Major League Baseball All-Star Game, Sommer

organized an epic homecoming for the former ballplayer on July 5th which attracted hundreds of fans to the KeyBank State Theater in Playhouse Square, one of the city's leading performance art centers.

The event featured Colavito and his former Indians teammates Vern Fuller, Sam McDowell and Luis Tiant as well as the club's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Bob DiBiasio. Reflecting on the success of the five-and-a-half-hour event, Cleveland.com's Marc Bona wrote, "Sommer could not have aligned a better bunch."

Writing for the Win

The book, which is available at www.rockycolavitobiography.com, features 50 photos, including notable ones from his younger years, as well as a thorough appendix with discussion of his appropriateness for enshrinement into the Hall of Fame. Colavito was inducted into the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame in 2006.

While Sommer is a versatile writer, working on a book compared to a piece for a paper or magazine was a changeup. "I had to figure out how to write a book, how long it would take and how many words it would be," notes Sommer.

The project marked the convergence of Sommer's love for baseball and his childhood admiration of Colavito. "I got to relive, explore and write about a passion of my youth. There was a story to be told, one I would enjoy, as well as commercial demand. It opened up some other worlds," reflects Sommer. For Sommer and Indians fans, it's been a home run.

Ezra N. Rich is marketing communications manager at Uniland Development Company. Both he and his wife, Hillel of Buffalo's Rabbi Sara Rich, were raised as fans of the New York Yankees.

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TBZ Night at the Bisons Game
6:05 Game time
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Topic: A time to speak and a time to be silent

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- 2» **Friday, August 2 is the Buffalo Brewfest to support Buffalo Hearing & Speech.** 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Buffalo Riverworks, 395 Ganson Street. All proceeds will benefit the programs and services of Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center. Craft beer lovers have the chance to enjoy more than 100 craft beers from local, regional, national and international breweries. Advance General Admission tickets are \$35 (\$45 day-of) and include admission to the event, 20 tasting coupons (each tasting is three ounces) and a souvenir Brewfest glass. Advance VIP tickets are \$75 (\$85 day-of) include admission to the event, 20 tasting coupons (each tasting is three ounces) a souvenir Brewfest glass, access to the VIP level, reserved seating, priority beer service, and Buffalo-themed food. Designated drivers are admitted free of charge with complimentary soft drinks and water available. Must be 21 or older to attend. All Brewfest proceeds benefit Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center. www.buffalobrewfest.org.
- 3» **Participate in the Kidney Walk & 5K to benefit the WNY Kidney Foundation on August 11.** 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wilkeson Pointe at Outer Harbor, 225 Fuhrmann Blvd. in Buffalo. This event includes a 5K beginning at 9:00 a.m. and a 1 mile walk beginning at 10:30 a.m. www.kfwny.org
- 4» **Experience the Elmwood Festival of the Arts August 24 & 25.** Shop, look at art, listen to music, dance, eat, have fun on Elmwood Avenue from Lafayette Ave. to West Ferry St. Stop by Cultural Row to visit your Federation friends. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days.
- 5» **Support Rick Recht in concert August 25.** 4:00 p.m. Camp Centerland amphitheater. Free Concert for PJ Library families and Friends. The fabulous Rick Recht is back in Buffalo with his "Free to be the Jews in me" concert for kids and their friends and parents. Don't miss this fun afternoon event. **Contact Mindy at 204-2241** for more information.

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Last month Linda Boxer, Rolene Pozarny, Rusty Zackheim, Linda Steinhorn, Sharon Kostiner, Robin Adel, Myra Werbow, and Cheryl Tobias correctly identified the wooden rafters of the new Temple Beth Tzedek building on North Forest Road.



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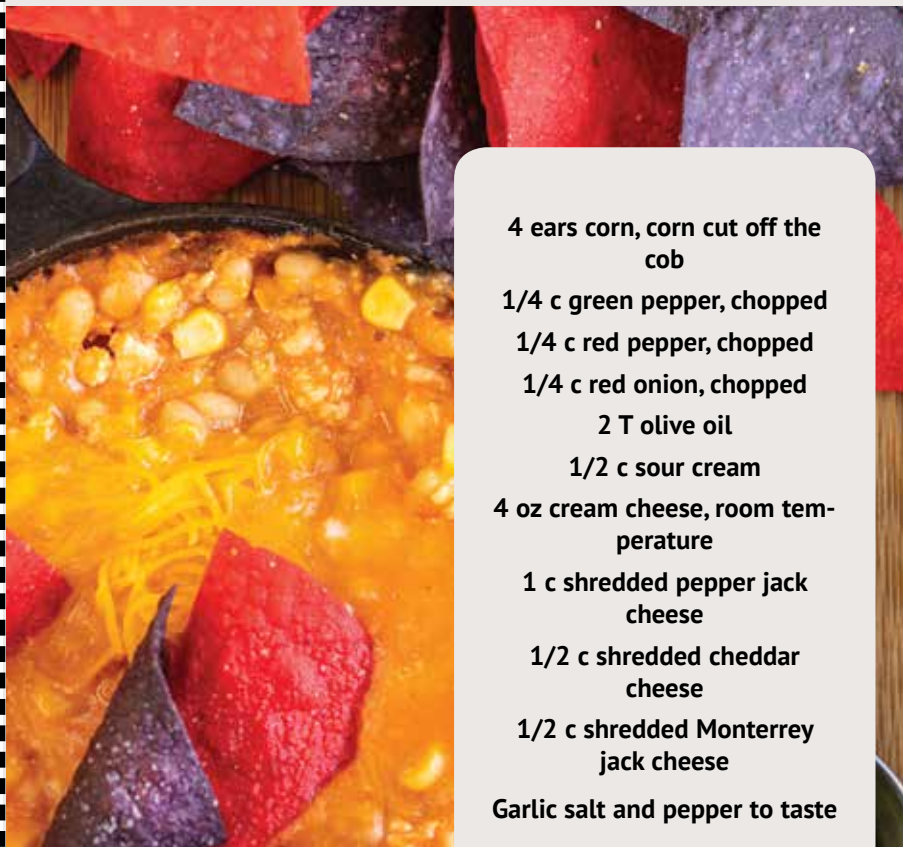
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A Corny Summer Treat

By Robin Kurss

With August comes an abundance of corn, a favorite and a most versatile veggie. If you're tired of just steaming it, here's a recipe that will take you right into Fall and football season too.

Hot Corn Dip



4 ears corn, corn cut off the cob
 1/4 c green pepper, chopped
 1/4 c red pepper, chopped
 1/4 c red onion, chopped
 2 T olive oil
 1/2 c sour cream
 4 oz cream cheese, room temperature
 1 c shredded pepper jack cheese
 1/2 c shredded cheddar cheese
 1/2 c shredded Monterrey jack cheese
 Garlic salt and pepper to taste

Saute peppers and onion in olive oil till soft, about 5 minutes. Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Pour into 8 inch casserole dish. Bake until golden and bubbly...about 30 minutes. Serve with crudites, chips or your favorite crackers.

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Buffalo Jewish Federation

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Getzville, NY 14068
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
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
716-688-1642
Rabbi Moshe Gurary
www.chabadbuffalo.com

Chai Early Childhood Center

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

Department of Jewish Thought

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

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

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

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

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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Getzville, NY 14068
716-204-0542
Judith Katzenelson Brownstein- President

Hillel of Buffalo

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Suite #101B
W. Amherst, NY 14228
716-616-0083
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Dr. Jeffrey Lackner - President
www.hillelofbuffalo.org

Holocaust Resource Center

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www.hrcbuffalo.org
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716-688-4033
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www.jewishdiscovery.org

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Renée Lehner - Administrator

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Marty Kerker - President
www.congregationbethabraham.net

Congregation Shir Shalom

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www.shirshalombuffalo.org

Congregation Havurah (Reform)

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

Kehillat Ohr Tzion

(Modern Orthodox)
879 Hopkins Rd
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Rabbi Ori Bergman
Jeff Schapiro - President
http://ohrtzion.org/kot

Knesset Center (Orthodox)

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Buffalo, NY 14214
716-832-5063
Rabbi Shmaryahu Charitonow
www.chabad.org

Saranac Synagogue (Orthodox)

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Vice President - Reuven Alt
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85 Saranac Avenue
Buffalo New York 14216
716-876-1284
www.SaranacSynagogue.org

Temple Beth Tzedek (Conservative)

1641 North Forest Road
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Rabbi Moshe Silberschein
Cantor Mark Spindler
Andy Gewurz - President
Kim Jones - Administrator
716-838-3232
www.btzbuffalo.org

Temple Beth Zion (Reform)

Sanctuary: 805 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
Religious School and Offices:
700 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, NY 14226
Rabbi Jonathan Freirich
Cantor Penny Myers
Jeff Clark - Executive Director
Julie Dressler Weinberg - President
716-836-6565
www.tbz.org

Temple Beth El (Reform)

720 Ashland Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
Rabbi Ellen Franke
Cantorial Soloist Barry Rose
William Bell - President
716-282-2717
www.niagarafallstemple.com

Temple Emanu-El (Reform)

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Batavia, NY 14020
585-343-7027
Stan Schumann - President

The Family Shul (Unaffiliated)

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

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August 9 at 6pm



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Noah Budin, Cleveland's popular Jewish songwriter and performer, returns to Congregation Shir Shalom joined by the Sing Shalom Pop-Up Singers.

Under the tent (weather permitting)

August 30 at 6pm



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Call the temple office to RSVP 633-8877.

Temple Beth Tzedek Appoints New Interim Rabbi

By Ezra Rich

Temple Beth Tzedek is pleased to announce the hiring of Rabbi Moshe M. Silberschein as interim rabbi for the coming year. Rabbi Silberschein was selected by TBT's rabbinic search committee, co-chaired by Lisa Wallenfels and Harvey Sanders, and subsequently accepted by the Board of Trustees and the approval of the congregation. He will be arriving in Buffalo in early August and is looking forward to meeting members of the congregation, Jewish Buffalo and the broader community.



"I'm really looking forward to joining the Beth Tzedek synagogue community as its interim rabbi starting in August," said Rabbi Silberschein. "It's exciting for me to preach and teach Torah in a new environment, meeting new faces, making new friends, and experiencing a new city among the 'Frozen Chosen' of Western New York," he adds.

Temple Beth Tzedek is excited for its new rabbinic leadership as well. "We look forward to welcoming and working with Rabbi Silberschein," said Temple Beth Tzedek President Andrew Gewurz. "Our committee reviewed many candidates and we're fortunate to be bringing Rabbi Silberschein to Buffalo," noted Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chair Lisa Wallenfels.

"Rabbi Silberschein's broad experience working with students and congregants of diverse backgrounds makes him a strong fit for our shul and our new sacred space," added Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chair Harvey Sanders.

A native of Detroit, Rabbi Moshe Silberschein made Aliyah to Israel in 1982 and has subsequently been a well-regarded teacher of undergraduate, graduate, rabbinic, cantorial and seminary students in Jerusalem for decades. The former dean of the Schechter Rabbinical School of the Masorti Movement in Israel, he is currently a faculty member at the Reform Movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Jerusalem campus and the Jerusalem University College on Mount Zion, a global academic consortium of Protestant Christian colleges and universities.

Rabbi Silberschein enjoys teaching people of many backgrounds, including Christian students seeking perspective on Judaism and Jewish life in Israel. He will be spending his current academic sabbatical leading Temple Beth Tzedek, an opportunity to engage with our community as we prepare for our first High Holy Days in our new North Forest Road location.

Beyond academia in Israel, Rabbi Silberschein has served in rabbinic roles with American congregations. During his last sabbatical, he was the interim rabbi at Congregation Agudath Achim of Savannah, Georgia. Previously, he held High Holiday roles with Beth David Synagogue of Greensboro and Beth Meyer Synagogue of Raleigh, North Carolina, respectively. Earlier in his rabbinate, he was rabbi of the Jewish community in Tokyo, Japan as well as rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rabbi Silberschein received his rabbinical ordination from The Jewish Theological Seminary and his B.A. in Linguistic and Hellenistic Studies from Columbia University in New York City. He is married to Susan, a nurse at Hadassah Hospital, and they have two adult sons, Aviad and Alon. He succeeds Rabbi Samuel Barth, who is the new interim rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.

Jeff Clark Named Executive Director at TBZ

Jeff Clark has been tapped to serve as the next Executive Director of Temple Beth Zion. Jeff is joining the TBZ staff after a wonderful career at RR Donnelley (RRD), where he managed a team of financial problem solvers. During his tenure with RRD, Jeff completed a number of courses in project management at Niagara University, and studied credit laws and processes through the Credit Research Foundation. Prior to RRD he earned a B.S. in Political Science at RIT, and is currently working towards an MBA from the University of Wyoming.

Aside from brief stints living in Boston and LA, Amherst/Williamsville has always been his home. Jeff, his wife Deborah and their son Ari live in Amherst. Jeff is eager to dedicate his efforts toward learning and expanding the means by which the Temple Beth Zion congregation achieves their core values and fulfills their role in *Tikkun Olam*.



Elul Study Series at Temple Beth Zion

During TBZ's Elul Study Series, the topic will focus on "G-d Wrestling" G-d in Judaism, G-d in Prayer and G-d in our Interfaith Community. The series will take place during 6 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue, on Fridays, September 6, 13 and 20. Go to www.tbz.org for details.



CHAUTAUQUA SHABBAT

August 9 at 6pm



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and Susan Schwartz will lead Shabbat services at the Chautauqua Institution.

For time and location, contact susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Thank you, CSS Braille Group



At June 28th's Erev Shabbat Service, Congregation Shir Shalom honored and thanked the Braille Group for their service to the visually impaired in our community and around the world. The group is led by Jill Pariso, third from the right.

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Zahava Fried Appointed PALS-Kadimah Director

Zahava Fried joined the TBZ family as the Director of the PALS-Kadimah preschool program July 1. She began her education at Yeshiva University, where she studied Judaic Studies, and also has a Bachelor's degree in Educational Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Studies from SUNY Empire State College. She and her family moved to Buffalo in 2016, where she accepted the position of Head Preschool teacher at Kadimah Academy. When PALS and Kadimah collaborated in 2017, Zahava assumed the role of Lead Teacher of the 3-year-olds and Judaic Studies Coordinator.

Zahava volunteers for the Buffalo Jewish Federation as Co-President for Nickel City Jews. Zahava is also a classically trained vocalist, violinist, and violist, and she uses her musical talents as a teaching tool in the PALS-Kadimah classroom to imbue the joy of music. She is also a Cantorial Intern through the Cantor's Assembly, and this September will be leading High Holiday



Services for UB's Hillel. Zahava and her husband, Yaakov, live in Amherst with their one-year-old daughter Lilah and their small zoo of pets.

If you are interested in learning more about the PALS-Kadimah Preschool Program, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to Zahava at PALS@tbz.org, org or 716-836-6565x139.

PALS-Kadimah Registration

**Broder Center for Jewish Education
700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst**

PALS-Kadimah is a warm, welcoming Jewish community pre-school with an enriched Judaic, Hebrew and values-based curriculum. Through creative play and experiential learning, our children thrive and discover the world around them.

A few spots are open. For more information and/or a tour, contact Zahava Fried: pals@tbz.org or (716) 836-6565, Ext. 139.

Bagel Brunch

**Sunday, August 25
10-11 a.m.**

**Bagel Jay's
100 Plaza Drive, Williamsville**



Come join friends at Bagel Jays and enjoy eating and socializing with your WNY Jewish community. This no-host brunch is organized by Jody Goldstein.

Questions? Email Jody at: jagoldstein827@gmail.com

Salaam Shalom

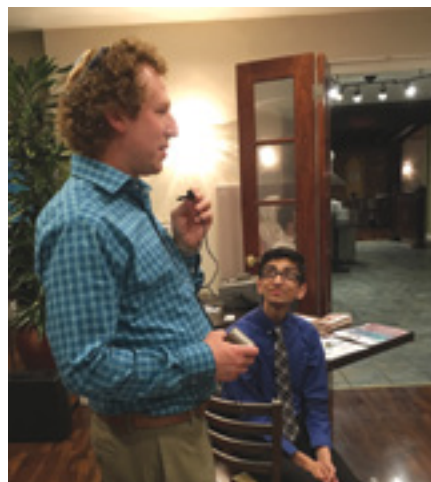
Salam Shalom Conversations between Muslims and Jews will take place Tuesday, August 6, 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. Salam Shalom Conversation is promoting dialogue for peace and balance between our faith communities.



Attendees at the Ramadan gathering.

Dr. Yonina Foster rejoined the Buffalo community in mid-2017 and offers creative services, has led or co-led religious services, song, and education since her return here. The program will include Torah references, Jewish ethics, and songs in a participatory program.

Conversations first began with Dr. Yonina Andrea Foster and Farina Mirza, and Faizon Haq, founder, of WNY Muslims, after Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein directed Foster to speak with Ms. Mirza. While Dr.



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein speaking

Foster's Muslim friends in Germantown, Maryland, helped begin her journey of understanding between the faiths, she was further spurred to action after the New Zealand massacre where Muslims at prayer were murdered.

**August 6, 2019
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Jewish Federation
Apartments
265 Essay Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221**

Light snacks
will be Kosher.

Contact: Dr. Yonina Foster
(301) 452-7847



Dr. Yonina Foster and Ms. Farina Mirza at the first Salaam Shalom gathering during Ramadan, held at Kabab and Curry Restaurant

Special Traveling Torah Mantle to visit Temple Beth Zion in September for Rosh Hashanah 5780



In memory of the innocent victims within the Tree of Life synagogue

Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, PA 10/27/18
Zichronam livrachah

A week after the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh last October, friends and colleagues of Rabbi/Hazzan Jeffery Myers, sole spiritual leader of Tree of Life Synagogue, gathered in solidarity to commission a special Torah mantle that will serve as a centerpiece and talking point to promote interfaith dialogue, chesed (kindness) and love.

This coming Rosh Hashanah at Temple Beth Zion, this special cover will adorn one of the seven Torah scrolls in the TBZ sanctuary and will be used as a teaching tool for our community leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Then it will be personally delivered back to Tree of Life synagogue by TBZ's Cantor Penny Myers (no relation to Rabbi Myers) so that it can be present during Tree of Life's Yom Kippur and yizkor services.

Following the High Holy Days, it will travel throughout the country, weaving dialogue and connections just as each loving thread was woven in this mantle.

Volunteer Opportunity

Temple Beth Zion coordinates volunteers to serve at Friends of Night People on the second Tuesday of each month. We won't need to cook the meal, only serve it.

Volunteers are needed from 4 to 7:15 PM. (Minimum age is 14 - minors must be accompanied by parents.)

Due to limited availability of parking, carpooling is necessary. **Call Leslie at 839-0079 or email Ann Marie at annmarie@tbz.org for more details and/or to put your name on the list of volunteers.** You can volunteer once or on multiple Tuesdays. We welcome new and returning volunteers.

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Dr. Molly Carr begins as new CEO of JFS

The Board of Directors of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County has appointed Dr. Molly Carr, Ph.D. as the agency's new President and CEO effective July 1. Dr. Carr has more than ten years of experience in the non-profit human services sector in the Greater Buffalo area including six years as Executive Director at Journey's End Refugee Services, a Buffalo-based resettlement agency, and she recently worked nationally and internationally for acclaimed refugee resettlement organizations.

Dr. Carr succeeds Marlene A. Schillinger, who retired after 25 years as President and CEO of Jewish Family Service. "Dr. Carr's experience, skills and commitment to community needs will be invaluable as JFS works with our partners in the Jewish community, local, New York State and federal governments, United Way of Buffalo & Erie County and other agencies to increase services to those in



need, especially the frail and elderly," said Blaine S. Schwartz, JFS Board Chairman.

JFS, established in 1862 as a human services agency, partners with individuals, couples and families of all beliefs and backgrounds to help them succeed in transition and overcome life's challenges through its mental wellness services, resettlement and other social service programs, and career services.

CSL in Israel



Buffalo Area campers from Camp Seneca Lake (CSL) on their way to Israel. These rising high school juniors spent the month of July in Israel on the Camp Seneca Lake program.

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50 UB students spend a inspirational Shabbat in Jerusalem this summer!

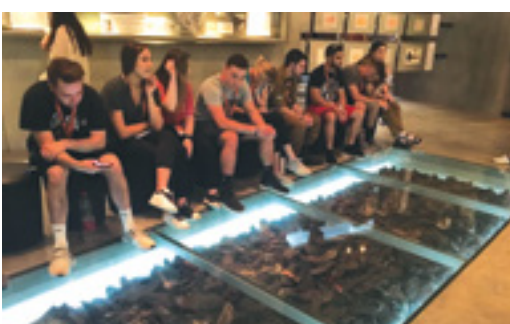
By Rabbi Moshe Gurary

More than 50 UB students traveled on Birthright Israel this summer through Chabad at UB, in partnership with Mayanot Israel. One of the highlights of their trip was an amazing Shabbat in Jerusalem, praying at the Kotel Friday night, and enjoying a Shabbat dinner in the Old City.

"This night blew all expectations I had about Shabbat," said Ava Gerstein, a sophomore at UB. "At the Wall, women of all ages were dancing and singing. I really enjoyed this because I felt Jewish pride and it was really fun. I touched the Wall for the first time that night, and it was very powerful. I felt my connection to God and that he was listening to my prayers. In addition, Shabbat dinner was an amazing experience. My group and I sung Israeli songs and danced together while waiting for dinner to be served. I would go back to the whole entire night in a heartbeat."

This trip will enable these students to return to UB in the fall fully energized and inspired to continue strengthening their Jewish identity *and their ties to Israel*.

Rabbi Moshe Gurary is director of Chabad at UB.



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Join Rabbi Greenberg for a lively and stimulating Torah discussion while enjoying a delicious lunch (no charge!) The discussions are based on the teachings of our sages in the Talmudic text of "Ethics of Our Fathers."

Wednesday, August 7 at 12:15 PM

At the JDC's NEW Learning Center
831 Maple Rd. #110 (rear building)

Topic of Discussion: If I Am Not for Myself Who Is for Me?

Wednesday, August 14 at 12:15 PM

At the JDC's NEW Learning Center
831 Maple Rd. #110 (rear building)

Topic of Discussion: A 3-Point Plan for Life

Wednesday, August 21 at 12:15 PM

At the JDC's NEW Learning Center
831 Maple Rd. #110 (rear building)

Topic of Discussion: Living with Clarity

Wednesday, August 28 at 12:15 PM

At the JDC's NEW Learning Center
831 Maple Rd. #110 (rear building)

Topic of Discussion: A Time to Speak and A Time to Be Silent

Active Shooter Training

Sunday, August 4
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre,
Jewish Community Center**

Open to the entire Jewish Community

Led by Captain James A. McNamara of the Amherst Police Department Detective Bureau, this program is for anyone who has concerns about safety and wants to become more informed about what to do in the event of an active shooter.

RSVP to
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or 204-2242

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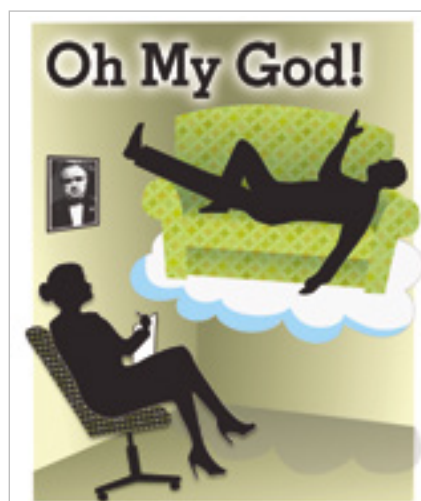
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The Jewish Repertory Theatre's Exciting 2019/20 Season

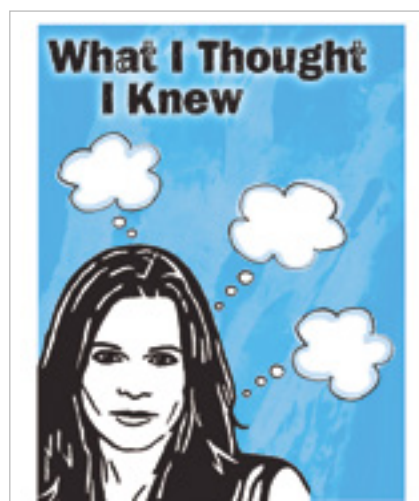
The Jewish Repertory Theatre has announced it's new season, which will take place beginning in October at the JCC's Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre. "We look forward to bringing audiences three remarkable plays that have never been produced in the Buffalo area," says Saul Elkin, JRT Founding Artistic 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?

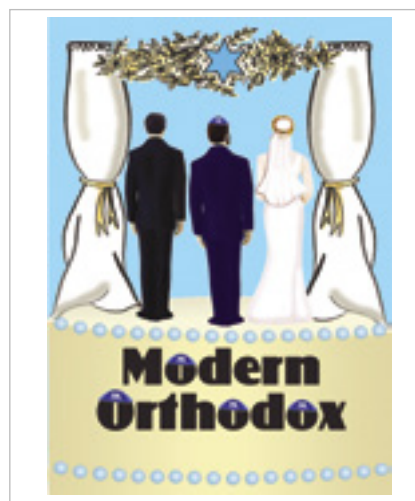
Directed by Saul Elkin. Starring Todd Benzin and Lisa Ludwig.



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



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.

FLY CHAI BALL DROP TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CENTERLAND

Date: August 16, 2019
(Weather may change date, if date changes all participants will be notified by email of new drop date)

Cost: \$18 per golf ball

Purchase locations: Online, Holland Family Building Front Desk, or Benderson Family Building Front Desk.

Camping advocates believe that summer camp is one of the most sacred experiences your child can have, because at camp, children experience free expression of who they are, and explore ways to develop and grow. As Camp Centerland grows, the aim is to enable more and more campers to attend, regardless of cost.

The 2nd annual Fly Chai Ball Drop is a fundraiser that looks to develop the camp property by adding more camp features and raise money for scholarship funds. In 2019, \$20,000 of camping scholarship was given out.

The golf ball drop will be on August 16, 2019. Mercy Flight service has volunteered to drop these 1,000 golf balls. The prize of \$1,800 will be awarded to the golf ball that lands in the hole. If more than one ball lands in the hole, the prize money will be split between all of the winners. If no ball lands in the hole, then the ball closes to the hole will win. If there is more than one ball at the same distance the prize money will be split between the winners.

2018 Fly Chai Golf Ball Drop will be supervised by a committee of Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo Staff and Volunteers. This group will not be permitted to purchase any golf balls for the event. Direct family members of this group are not permitted to purchase golf balls for this event. Lead judge for this event will be Michael Garcia; Camp Centerland Director. Two additional judges will be appointed by 8.10.2018. (JCC)

No more than 1,000 golf balls will be sold (odds will vary on the total number of ball that are sold) All golf ball sales are final. The last day of golf ball sales will be on 8.15.2019. Winners do not need to be present to win.

The scheduled date of 08.16.2019 will only be changed if the helicopter cannot fly due to weather or needs to respond to an emergency the day of the event. If the drop cannot/ does not happen on the scheduled date an alternative date after 08.16.2019 will be provided to all participants.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo. All productions take place in The Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building at 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY. For more information on JRT, productions, dates and tickets, visit www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com.

Tickets are available at 716-650-7626, through Showclix at 1-888-718-4253 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EST) or at either JCC reception desk.

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You could win \$1,800 on August 16th!
 \$18 per golf ball

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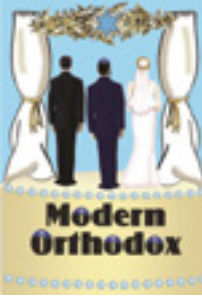
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Oh My God!



What I Thought I Knew



Modern Orthodox

Oct 24–Nov 17, 2019 Feb 6–Mar 1, 2020 April 23–May 17, 2020

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 Friday 5:30^{am} - 7:00^{pm}
 Sat 8:00^{am} - 6:00^{pm}



ADULT CLASSES

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning will be offering a variety of opportunities beginning in September 2019 to engage adults of all ages in meaningful and relevant Jewish learning experiences. There are classes and groups for those who are new to Judaism or exploring it for the first time, as well as for those who are looking for ways to connect with others in the Jewish community.

Learning together strengthens the community. By providing opportunities for adults to explore their sense of purpose and express that in meaningful ways, both the learner and the community benefit.

Hebrew and Intro to Judaism

12 week semesters – beginning September 11, 2019 and January 29, 2020

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
JCC Benderson Building

Intro to Judaism

Instructors: Board of Rabbis and Cantors

Fee: \$72

In collaboration with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors, this exceptional course is designed for:

- Couples considering intermarriage
- Individuals interested in conversion or learning more about Judaism
- Jews wishing to learn more about their religion and history

Hebrew Reading for Beginners and Intermediate

Instructor: Michal Lewis

Intermediate Hebrew: 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.

Fee: \$175/12 week semester

(plus one-time \$60 for account for on-line curriculum)

This course is for students who already know the Hebrew alphabet and can read several Hebrew words and phrases.

Alef-Bet: Beginning Hebrew:

7:45 – 9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$175/12 week semester

(books purchased separately)

This basic introductory Hebrew reading course is for beginners interested in learning the Hebrew alphabet, grammar and vocabulary.

Many of the groups and courses we offer incorporate Mussar practice and learning. Mussar is a Jewish path of contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years. Through Mussar, each individual works on their own personal self-directed curriculum in an effort to practice the way they want to be in the world. Mussar provides tools for living a more balanced, thoughtful life, while enriching personal relationships.

Middah of the Season

For anyone who has taken an introduction to Mussar course or participated in a Mussar group, locally or elsewhere. Each season, we will explore 2 – 3 middot, through text study, stories and experiences, as well as provide practices you can take home with you.

Sunday afternoons, 1 – 4:00 p.m.

(Register for all or individual sessions)

Fall – Sunday, September 15th

Winter – Sunday, January 19th

Spring – Sunday, March 29th

Summer – Sunday, June 14th



Mussar: A Jewish Toolbox for Life

is a Mussar cohort specifically designed for young professional adults. Seven sessions – Thursdays, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

JCEL office, 2nd floor JCC Benderson Building

October 24th

November 7th

November 21st

December 5th

December 19th

January 9th

January 23rd (closing session)

Living a Jewish Year

A year-long program, meeting monthly, that will guide participants through a substantive Jewish learning experience emphasizing how a celebration of Jewish time can help individuals integrate Judaism into the natural rhythms of their lives.

Two cohorts of Living a Jewish Year will be offered in 2019-2020, beginning October 6th:

Cohort 1: Designed for young families with children ages 3 - 7, this program will offer age appropriate activities for children, adults and the family unit.

Cohort 2: Designed for anyone who has participated in an Intro to Judaism course over the past 5 years, and is interested in deepening their Jewish learning and living experiences.

Mussar for Teens

Challenges and Choices: A Jewish Teen's Guide to a Balanced Life

Eight sessions – Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

JCC Benderson Building

October 23rd

October 30th

November 6th

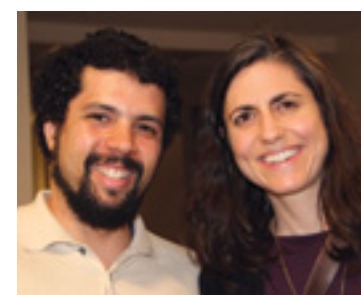
November 13th

November 20th

December 4th

December 11th

December 18th



Mussar for Moms

is a Mussar cohort specifically designed for working mothers of young children.

Seven sessions, Sundays, 7:30pm beginning in March 2020

Wise Aging

a program from the Institute of Jewish Spirituality, is a self-guided discussion group that focuses on using and celebrating our collected wisdom and experiences through a Jewish context. Wise Aging, Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit, a book authored by Rabbi Rachel Cowen, z"l and Dr. Linda Thal, offers nine chapters on wide ranging topics such as Exploring and Embracing Life Stories, Cultivating Nourishing Relationships, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, and Living with Loss.

We are in the process of forming a new Wise Aging group. Susan Schwartz will facilitate the first few sessions for the new group, and will later provide meeting guides and discussion questions.

Please contact Susan at susan@buffalojewishfederation.org for more information.

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Remembering Peggy Stone

Peggy Stone passed away in the late spring in Buffalo. This is the eulogy her grandson Timothy Higgins gave at her funeral at Temple Beth Zion.

Peggy Stone passed away suddenly on June 14. She was well into her 90's and had lived a full and amazing life of adventure and love for humanity. Her legacy is carried on by her loving husband, Dr. Herman Stone, of nearly 70 years, her six children, several grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and most of the Jewish community of Western New York.

Peggy was born and raised in Ohio. She met her husband, Herman, while attending university there and earned a degree in journalism. Married in their early twenties, the Stones eventually moved to Buffalo and had six children Elaine, Barbara, Pamela, Richard, Robert, and Sue. True to form, Peggy raised each of them to embrace their passions and talents. While these were her only six children, even friends of these children would come to call her "Mom" due to



Peggy Stone

her loving nature and welcoming home.

After the kids grew up and the family scattered across the northeast and midwest, Peggy still stayed active in the lives of not only her children but also her community. She continued her

work as a journalist and volunteered often at temples in order to aid the less fortunate. Whenever her grandchildren came to visit, they always found a warm embrace and a kind word waiting for them. Even though she wasn't always sure what the new generation was so excited or passionate about, she was always glad that whatever it was made them happy.

Peggy and Herman traveled the world and saw many of its most beautiful cities. Even with all of their experiences across the different continents, the two of them retired to Buffalo, NY. This city was their home and they had helped make it a home to countless people both by remaining active in their children's and grandchildren's lives and by staying active in the Jewish community with their practice of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world).

Throughout her life, Peggy was an active game-player and a good sport. She loved bridge, tennis, swimming, and almost anything else that could bring

people around a table or into a field in good company. This love for bringing people together is probably also the reason she insisted on hosting Pesach and Thanksgiving for the family every year and made sure that everyone went home full of brisket and good cheer with enough leftovers to last the week.

Peggy's life was long, active, and full of love. To fit the whole thing here or contain it only to the written word would be impossible. She spent her life helping everyone around her to become the best possible version of themselves, but also doing so much more. The memory and legacy of this remarkable woman should live on as a blessing in the hearts of everyone who knew her through not only our memories, but our actions going forward.

If you ever lose sight of who you are or of what to do next, just try to be the person that Peggy Stone knew you could be. May her memory be a blessing.

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.

TEMPLE BETH EL OF NF TO HONOR CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

A marker was recently placed on the grave of Civil War Soldier Daniel Cohn in the Old Temple Beth El Cemetery in Niagara Falls with the help of Town of Niagara Historian Peter Ames and Niagara Monument Works. The plot of land for the cemetery was purchased by members of the Jewish community of Niagara Falls in 1864, and Cohn's body was transported back to WNY for burial after his death in 1865 while on active duty. It is believed that Cohn's was the first interment at the cemetery.

Members of Temple Beth El, representatives of the community, members of his family, and veterans groups will join to honor Cohn in a short ceremony on Friday, August 9th at 1 p.m. The ceremony will include a color guard from Niagara Falls Air Base. The cemetery is adjacent to Oakwood Cemetery (763 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls) and can be reached through the main gate of Oakwood. Everyone is welcome to attend.



In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from June 18-July 23*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Russell Baker
Barbara Brenner
Richard J. Carrel
George Cohen
Robert Freedman
Joan Cohen Friedman
Evelyn Gerstman
Janet F. Gross
Lilian Palanker
Leah Schneider
Sam Zemsky

**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.*

JCC Book & Arts Fair: Sandra Block, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, Judge Ruchie Freier, Izzy Bleckman, Kathy Rogers



JFS Annual Meeting & Tribute to Marlene Schillinger



JCC Annual Meeting



Ride for Roswell & Pathways Park



Holocaust Resource Center Annual Meeting



Ed Asner at the JRT



Reflections of a trip to Israel, a year later

By Vilona Trachtenberg

It is almost the end of one particular Shabbos. In a remote area of Tzfat, Israel, a sound cave sits nestled. As one enters the cave, the darkness takes over the air immediately, and one has to enter the cave feeling the stones along the wall to find one's way, for what becomes a fifteen-minute adventure to the previously unknown destination, which will be found inside.

Inside the cave, there is a group of cheerful, spirited people jumping up and down, singing songs and releasing all of their emotions. The darkness in the cave, aside from a slit of light coming from the very top, prevents one from knowing who's in there. One just joins the singing and joy that is exuded all around. When the singing is finished, one starts to leave the cave and realizes that the journey out is much faster than the journey in, and only takes a few seconds to get out.

When that person leaves the cave, the setting is indescribably beautiful. A sunset fills the sky with pinks, oranges, and purples, perfectly blended, as if a paintbrush took to the sky with water colors. There is a fence right in front with people sitting and chatting, enjoying the last moments of Shabbos, and their silhouettes add to the perfection in the sky. This is how that one Shabbos ended.

I asked a Rebbetzin what all of that meant – why it was so hard to get into the cave and so easy to leave, and she explained that when certain paths of life are unknown, the journey may be difficult, but when there's light at the end of the tunnel, the journey becomes easier. And now it becomes evident to me that Tzfat is the city of Kabbalah.

This is just one of the amazing memories and moments I experienced on my trip to Israel a little over a year ago. Sometimes, we take trips and they inspire us for a few moments, a few weeks even, and then they leave our minds. A new set of challenges overtakes our lives and we forget what brought us the most joy. Not this time for me. These memories are ever-present and I wanted to reflect on the trip that will always stay in the forefront of my mind. Even a year later, the lessons from that trip are reflected in the way I make decisions and live daily life.

In December of 2017 I took a two-week trip to Israel through the Chabad organization. I had told Rabbi Moshe and Rebbetzin Rivka Gurary of Chabad Buffalo that I had been dreaming of going to Israel again and they pointed me in the direction



of this trip. It was a winter trip, and I realized I would be celebrating New Year's Eve with a group of strangers I would just be meeting, and I could not be more excited to travel and explore with a new group of people. That excitement was validated, and that trip was two of the best weeks of my life.

My group consisted of 13 participants, along with two organizers, and the Chabad *shluchim* (emissaries) from University of North Carolina and Duke University, along with their family. This group proved to be some of the greatest people I've met. There was so much *freilich* (happiness), self-discovery, and laughs the whole way through.

Our first Shabbos in Israel as a group was in the old city of Jerusalem which called for a walk to the Kotel (Western Wall). It wasn't just a walk to the Wall, as G-d had painted the skies for us, and we marveled as we took our journey to the holiest place in present-day Judaism. As we approached the Wall and said a few prayers and danced around in a circle chanting the lyrics to various Jewish songs with our fellow Jews from all over the world, we realized that was what life is about. Being Jewishly prideful and joyful, and having a sense of togetherness in everything we do.

We celebrated the start to 2018 in the best way possible, too. We traveled to Rosh HaNikra, a city right on the border where Israel and Syria meet the Mediterranean, and we rented bikes. As it was winter, the air was brisk at the time (for Israel, anyways), and the path we were riding on was winding. We rode those bikes with full force with the wind blowing in our faces and the sun shining, smelling the sea salt in the atmosphere.



We stopped to take photos at the beach, and then walked to the grottoes there. We watched another sunset near those caves. It was certainly one of those "I'm so happy to be alive" days.

One of the most touching moments of the trip was when we went to a hospital in Jerusalem to visit a civilian who was hurt because of an act of terrorism. He was badly injured and couldn't talk; he could barely move his head when my group was there. But, it was evident that he had a sense of approval and contentment when we started singing songs to him.

We then started singing the song "One Day" by Matisyahu, with the lyrics:

"All my life I've been waiting for
I've been praying for
For the people to say
That we don't want to fight no more
They'll be no more war
And our children will play"

It was in that moment that his wife took his kippah that was sitting on an end table and placed it gently on his head.

That powerful moment will stay with

me forever. It means that no matter what any Jew has gone through, no matter the circumstance, no matter the background, we are all one, we all get to participate, we all have our connection with G-d, we all have an important place in this world and an important message to carry out.

These are my fond, magical memories from over a year ago that are still as strong as ever, and these are only a few of them. There are so many other memories from Israel- the Homeland --that I haven't shared too much about, and am ecstatic to be reliving right now, filled with goosebumps as I look back on the photos and write about it now.

Israel is a majestic place, one that has so much to explore and fosters so many stories. The air is filled with spirituality and bliss. The whole time, one of the rabbis on the journey with us encouraged us to "listen to the music that your soul sings."

With that, during this special month of Israel's 71st birthday, I encourage you to have your own self-discovery in your Homeland. Travel to Israel. See what your ancestors fought so hard to protect. See what your ancestors died protecting. See where your ancestors fled to after the Holocaust. See where your biblical history lies. Travel to Israel. You won't just remember it for a few weeks and then forget it; you'll remember it the year after, and all the years to come. It'll be the best experience of your life.

Vilona Trachtenberg is a Master Data Coordinator at New Era Cap and received a 30 Under 30 Award in 2017

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EVERY SATURDAY

Giancarlo's is taking Saturday to the next level. Enjoy a brand new brunch menu featuring delicious specials and our top hits from the lunch menu.

Drink Specials

SUMMERTIME SPRITZES
ENDLESS MIMOSAS & ROSÉ
BRUNCH COCKTAILS

Brunch Specials

CRAB CAKE BENEDICT
SICILIAN FRENCH TOAST
STEAK AND EGG HASH
CARBONARA ARANCINI
PROSCIUTTO AND EGG PIZZA
ACAI BOWL
AVOCADO & SMOKED
SALMON TOAST
PASTRY BASKET
....AND MUCH MORE

Book Your Table

Visit us at GiancarlosSteakhouse.com
or call (716) 650-5566 for reservations.

All Saturday Brunch guests receive
20% OFF at Tony Walker & Co.

SATURDAYS FROM 11AM - 3PM

Giancarlo's
BULLDOG STEAKHOUSE & PIZZERIA

5110 Main St. Williamsville NY, 14221
@Giancarlos5110 | GiancarlosSteakhouse.com