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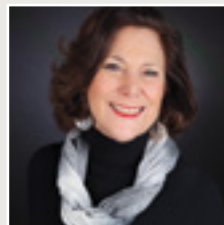
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NOVEMBER 2019 | HESHVAN - KISLEV 5780

## 18 Under 36



Jewish Buffalo's  
Emerging Leaders  
(6-7)



**DON'T MISS:**  
FEDERATION'S  
ANNUAL MEETING  
(4)



**LOOK:**  
DIXON & JCRC:  
(18)



**INSIDE:**  
HILLEL  
FELLOWS  
(37)

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**Pam Sherman**, is a nationally-syndicated columnist, actor, recovering lawyer and leadership consultant who was profiled in **People Magazine** about her career transition from attorney to actor. She recently returned to the stage in *Erma Bombeck At Wit's End* where it broke box office records at Geva Theatre Center and at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. She is a graduate of American University and the Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School of Yeshiva University. She is currently a Board member of Jewish Women International and was named a Woman to Watch by the organization in 2017. Pam also studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse and the British American Drama Academy at Oxford. Her nationally-syndicated column, *The Suburban Outlaw* can be read in Gannett publications, including on the USA Today Network. Her best-selling book, *The Suburban Outlaw: Tales from the EDGE* is sold on Amazon. She is a member of the bars of New York; Washington, D.C.; Actors' Equity and the Screen Actors Guild. She is an empty-nester living in Rochester, N.Y. with her husband Neal, dog Moe, while her grown children, Zach & Eliza, thankfully, live in their own nests.

[www.thepamsherman.com](http://www.thepamsherman.com)



# November 2019

## Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

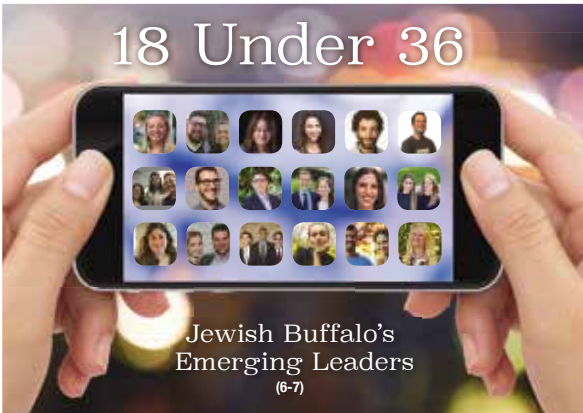
This month, we bring you a new and very exciting feature: 18 under 36, showcasing some of the talented emerging leaders who are energizing and enriching our community. We had a hard time limiting ourselves to just 18 of these extraordinary individuals, so we are actually featuring 26 on the cover and on pages 6-7. This group includes two married couples, two sets of siblings, Jewish professionals employed at several of our local agencies, entrepreneurs, students, teachers, media and social media hotshots, administrators, artists and a rabbi. It's a beautiful group of people and a thrilling way to begin 5780 in Jewish Buffalo.

This month, we also celebrate Thanksgiving in the US, and because I have been part of a group of interfaith couples studying the Jewish practice of Mussar this past year through Federation's Center for Jewish Education and Leadership (CJEL) I feel compelled to share some of the Mussar teaching at this time of year. The trait or *mid-dot* that comes to mind is Gratitude or *HaKarat Hatov* in Hebrew.

I am grateful for so many blessings in my life, and will begin with my professional life. I am so very grateful to be able to work at Buffalo's Jewish Federation, bringing the *Jewish Journal of WNY* to you each month. The professionals at Spree Publications—Barbara Macks, Sharon Levite, Cynthia Oppenheimer, Keren Green and especially artist Kim Miers—are a joy to work with. My colleagues at Buffalo Jewish Federation make me proud every single day of their work, and of our work together. CEO Rob Goldberg and President Leslie Shuman Kramer inspire us to keep striving to transform our Jewish community into the place we all want it to be. I am grateful to have been able to travel to Israel with 70 other souls from Jewish Buffalo last year, and continue our friendships into this year. I am grateful to have a beautiful life with my husband and partner, Mitch Flynn, and to share the love of our combined families and friends together. I am most grateful to you, Jewish Buffalo, for your support. Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

## On The Cover



Here are 18 Under 36 - 18 individuals and groups making Jewish Buffalo better. *From Left-Top Row:* Kilby Bronstein; Mike Steklof & Nicole Bard; Rachel DiDomizio; Elizabeth Schram; Tom Fuchs; Greg Cypin. *From Left-Middle Row:* Rabbi Sara Rich, Alexa Zappia & Logan Woodard; Dave Horesh; Jake Warner; Michael & Jill Komm; Julia Jornsey-Silverberg; Jordan Joseph-Fogel & Allison Joseph. *From Left-Bottom Row:* Naomi Wiseman; Zahava & Yaakov Fried; Aaron Rubin, Ari Goldberg & Michael Adler; Samantha Sugarman; Harry Zemsky & Kayla Zemsky; Shiri Kester.

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5	2020 Campaign: LOJ & Pomegranate Photos
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8	A New Era for Teens by Mike Steklof
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10-11	Campaign For Jewish Buffalo Kick-Off Event
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14	Mazel Tov Stuart Angert, Sandy Rifkin, Cantor Penny Myers!
15	Roswell Park Collaborates with Israeli Companies
16-17	A Special Visit to Poland by <i>Alan Sisselman</i>
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19	5 Things You Can Do to Repair the World in November Where in Jewish BFLO?
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# For the Love of Grandparents

I love this time of year. Even as summer fades away, fall brings with it crisp, cold nights, clear, blue-sky days, and the sweet promise of new beginnings. Kids go back to school, and in Buffalo where summer is somewhat of a vacation for us all, we adults refocus on our tasks at hand.

As I write this piece we are in the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: *Yomim Noraim*. These days are weighty with thoughts of both repentance and of new beginnings. If we're blessed we spend extra time with friends and family. Jim and I were blessed twice last month; once with a visit from all of our grown children (at the same time) and then with a series of festive meals that filled our home with dear friends and extended family.

Jim and I are empty nesters. We were ecstatic when all three of our kids were able to come home together for the full weekend leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Giddy in anticipation for the weekend, I planned a Shabbat dinner menu I knew they would like, and even received a special request for a cake they like (the day before they got home...luckily I had all the ingredients. Of course, I baked it—how could I not).

I had two goals for these holiday gatherings. First was to envelop myself in the love and warmth of our nuclear family. Second was to plant traditions in our family consciousness that will stick with our adult children. A Saturday night dinner with our extended family, and then the Erev Rosh Hashanah holiday meal, then services with their grandmother, aunts, uncles, great aunt and uncle and many cousins also played an important role in the experience. And, yes, even (and maybe, especially) the Friday night Shabbat dinner menu and the last-minute cake contributed to that. As parents, none of this is taken or given lightly.



Still, we know that as parents we can't do it all. There are many memories, traditions, and experiences that buoy all of our children's Jewish lives. Sometimes parents facilitate these moments but often they come from others—educators, family members, and especially grandparents. And it isn't all about the food (although my mother's brisket has a special place in her grandchildren's hearts).

In the case of my family, just a few examples of traditions and significant Jewish memories that buoyed my children include extended family Shabbat dinners, the hosts rotating among grandparents, aunt and uncle and our home; and Passover Seders, now hosted by Jim and me, but when our children were younger our parents hosted many Passover seders and traveling to either Florida or New York for Pesach was an important and exciting family ritual.

As the children get older, some traditions change. When they were very young we celebrated Chanukah with parties and gifts. As young adults living away, we often share moments on the phone, or via mail. Grandparents

continue to play a role and, like us parents, try to connect as the kids move, each in his or her own direction. In adapting to the grandchildren living all over the world, my mother has for several years sent a letter to each grandchild telling of our great heritage of the Maccabees and Chanukah, along with the gift of *gelt*. Her connection with each of my children is vital to who they are and how they relate to Judaism. And I am 100% sure that each of us has at least one or two memories we can attribute to our grandparents that help shape who we are.

In today's busy world where many homes have both parents working and young kids have schedules that seem impossible to juggle, obligations take up precious time each day, including school, sports, clubs, plays, and religious school or Jewish community events. Grandparents are stepping in, to both help with day-to-day family rearing and to help impart to their grandchildren the lessons of their own lives and Jewish heritage.

Until recently, the greater organized Jewish community knew that grandparents played an important role in bringing Judaism into the lives of their grandchildren, but there was no hard data about it from which to learn. But in 2017 the new Jewish Grandparents Network (JGN) was born, the first and only national organization empowering grandparents as they embrace both traditional and radically new roles in their families. In 2018, JGN conducted a landmark **National Study of Jewish Grandparents** designed to obtain projectable, quantitative data that will deepen our understanding of today's Jewish American grandparents and the vital connection between them and their grandchildren.

Over seven thousand grandparents throughout the United States

participated in the survey, including well over 100 Buffalonians. Now that the results are in, the JGN has chosen Buffalo as one of just a handful of communities in the United States to be the first to meet with and learn from David Raphael, co-founder and CEO of the JGN.

While David is in Buffalo in early November, we will have the opportunity to learn more about how grandparents transmit Jewish ideas, culture and memory to their grandchildren. And, together we will strategize about how to engage Jewish Buffalo's grandparents based on the data revealed in the **JGN National Study of Jewish Grandparents**.

What will the Buffalo Jewish Federation glean from the **JGN National Study of Jewish Grandparents**? We will be calling on a small group of grandparents to help answer this question and look forward to learning much from our discussions.

I can just hear many of our community's experienced grandparents wondering why we are meeting to find out information that may seem so obvious to them. Being an impactful, connecting grandparent may come naturally to many. But for us as a community eager to provide support and opportunity for generations of families to connect in meaningful, Jewish context, the information we get will no doubt allow us to provide even better and more opportunities to achieve that goal.

As of this writing we have not yet met, but families--and especially grandparents--stay tuned: we look forward to reporting in the future on what we've learned, and how we can further engage and learn from this important and increasingly influential cohort.

*Leslie Shuman Kramer is President of Buffalo Jewish Federation.*

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## Federation's 116th Annual Meeting to Celebrate Community Relations

**Lana Benatovich and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein  
to Receive Awards**



Building relationships with the larger community will be the theme of the 116th annual meeting of the Buffalo Jewish Federation on Wednesday, December 4. Chaired by Marjory Bryen and Deborah Goldman, the meeting will be held at Northland Workforce Training Center on Buffalo's East Side beginning at 6 pm for heavy hors d'oeuvres and optional tours. The meeting will also feature Buffalo native and activist Marnie (nee Lyons) Fienberg who will speak about her unique initiative "2 for Seder" which encouraged thousands of Jews across North America to invite individuals of other faiths to their Passover Seders last spring.

"We are excited to hear from Marnie who turned the pain of losing her Mother-in-Law in the Tree of Life massacre into such a positive movement to combat anti-Semitism. And not only will our meeting be held at such a unique and important venue but we'll have the opportunity to highlight the work of our Jewish Community Relations Council," said Federation President Leslie Kramer. "It's very important to us that all who participate understand the vital role of

Community Relations and how central it is to our vision of building a more robust, caring and connected 21st century Jewish Buffalo."

In addition to the business meeting and remarks from Ms. Fienberg, Federation will also confer the Judith & Daniel Kantor Professional Service Award to Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein from Congregation Shir Shalom, and the Ann Holland Cohn Community Leadership Award to Lana Benatovich, CEO of the National Federation for Just Communities Western New York, Inc.

The Kantor award honors a Jewish professional who exemplifies the passion and dedication that Danny and Judy Kantor brought to our community through their decades of work at Federation. The Holland Cohn award honors a member of our community who leads with courage and determination and who has made a significant impact both in Jewish Buffalo and in the greater Buffalo Community.

*For further information, please contact Mara Koven-Gelman at [mara@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mara@buffalojewishfederation.org).*

## "18 under 36"



# Lions of Judah/Pomegranate Event for 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

Members of Buffalo Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy came together to celebrate the New Year and enjoy the 2010 Lion of Judah/Pomegranate event in October at the home of Sandy Rifkin.

Buffalo native Darcy Hirsch, Director of Government Affairs for the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), was guest speaker. She was joined at the event by her parents Dr. Fred and Donna Hirsch and introduced by her friend and former neighbor Bonnie Clement. Women's Philanthropy Chair Joni Shatkin talked about her summer visit to meet Jews in Argentina and Uruguay, sharing all the joys and sadness of the JFNA Mission, letting each person there know how much we do for Jews all around the world.



A joyous campaign event was held in the home of Sandy Rifkin.

see on next page

# #1 Team



Mary Hutton, Bonnie Clement, Lisa Levin, Sheryl Martin, Beth Joseph

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# 18 Under 36

1


**JORDAN JOSEPH-FOGEL**

Associate Attorney,  
Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP

**ALLISON JOSEPH**

Vice President, Clover Group Inc.

Allison and Jordan are twins, and co-chairs of Roswell Park Cancer Institute's Future of Roswell Society. With Clover Group since 2014, Allison has handled numerous aspects of Clover Management's Operations and now oversees the expansion of Clover's portfolio and geographical footprint over the next 5 years.

Jordan is an Associate Attorney at Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP and focuses on residential and commercial real estate, including commercial leasing, sales and acquisitions, and real property title matters. She is inspired by stories about kindness and acts of heroism.

2


**JILL KOMM**

Director of Social Media &  
Communications, Buffalo Jewish Federation

**MICHAEL KOMM**

4th Generation, Leon Komm and Son  
Monument Company

Jill and Michael were both born and raised in Buffalo. Jill has spent her entire professional career working for Jewish Buffalo, first with the Bureau of Jewish Education, and now with Federation. Transitioning from architecture, Michael returned to Buffalo in 2011 to become part of the family business, the only Jewish monument company in Western New York. Their upbringing in Buffalo was both unique and impactful

3


**AARON RUBIN**

Associate Attorney, Kavinoky Cook LLP

Aaron focuses on business law, litigation, and real estate, volunteers on the JCC's Camp Centerland Advisory Committee, and enjoys running in his spare time.

**ARI M. GOLDBERG**

Associate Attorney, Woods Oviatt Gilman

A former intern at McGuire Development Co., and attorney with Colucci & Gallaher, Ari now practices business litigation and resides in Clarence with his wife and two daughters. In his free time, he enjoys playing with his children, reading, playing basketball and softball, and biking.

**MICHAEL ADLER**

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Michael returned home to Buffalo where he served as an Assistant District Attorney, then became an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He is now the Opioid Coordinator for the Western District of New York, where he focuses on prosecutions of suppliers and distributors who fuel the dangerous and pervasive opioid epidemic.

4


**ELIZABETH SCHRAM**

Director, Holocaust Resource Center

Elizabeth moved to Buffalo in the spring of 2019 to start her position at the HRC. She is inspired by educating youth and the larger community about the Holocaust in order to promote a more just and tolerant future.

5


**RACHEL DIDOMIZIO**

Asst. Director of Student Engagement  
for Community & Civic Engagement-UB

Rachel returned to Buffalo to work at UB organizing community engagement programs for college students. She also coordinates a monthly Tzedek Corps program for Congregation Shir Shalom where she focuses on providing hands-on opportunities for students to learn about real-life challenges in the Buffalo community and reflect on their role as members of the Jewish community to make our world a better place for all.

6


**HARRY ZEMSKY**

Restaurateur-Hydraulic Hearth, Swan  
Street Diner, Angelica Tea Room

Harry's Studio Art major in college led him into the restaurant world, and then he moved back to Buffalo and into his family's development of the Larkin District by opening a food truck, planning events such as Food Truck Tuesday, and eventually opening the Hydraulic Hearth Restaurant.

**KAYLA ZEMSKY**

Larkin Development Group

Kayla worked in Museum Development at The Jewish Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art, then returned to Buffalo in 2017 to join her family at Larkin Development Group while completing an MBA at Columbia Business School. Now she focuses on many areas, including new development.

7


**TOM FUCHS**

MD/Ph.D Candidate, Jacobs  
Multiple Sclerosis Treatment  
and Research Center & Buffalo  
Neuroimaging Analysis Center

Tom conducts neuropsychological and neuroimaging research about people with multiple sclerosis. He also co-directs a volunteer tutoring program for refugee populations at local elementary schools and plays viola in the Amherst Symphony Orchestra."

8


**RABBI SARA RICH**

Executive Director, Hillel of Buffalo

Rabbi Sara works with the staff, board, and student leaders of Hillel to create an innovative, supportive, and fulfilling experience for Jewish college students in WNY.

**LOGAN WOODARD**

Director of Engagement,  
Hillel of Buffalo

Logan is a UB graduate and is thrilled to continue his journey with Hillel of Buffalo as the Director of Engagement. He is committed to empowering students to create experiences and build communities that are meaningful to them.

**ALEXA ZAPPIA**

Innovation Specialist,  
Hillel of Buffalo

In addition to her work at Hillel, Alexa is the Founder and Director of the organization, **Rocks of Unity**, which uses dialogue and art to end hate while spreading kindness.



9


**DAVE HORESH**

**Partner, Block Club & Co-founder, Oxford Pennant**

Dave Horesh is a partner at Block Club, a branding and strategy agency, and is also the co-founder of Oxford Pennant, a Buffalo-based designer and manufacturer of pennants, flags and banners. He is inspired by authenticity and passionate about building Buffalo's creative class.

12


**JULIA JORNSAY-SILVERBERG**

**Social Media Director,  
Telesco Creative Group**

Julia Jornsay-Silverberg is a social media enthusiast and keynote speaker who motivates individuals and businesses to use social media to cut through the clutter. Julia has 10+ years of experience working in digital marketing, crafting content and delivering powerful presentations that leave people feeling excited and empowered.

15



**Buffalo Jewish Federation's Center  
for Jewish Engagement and Learning**

**MIKE STEKLOF**

**Director, Teen Engagement and Inclusion**

Mike has spent the past seven years empowering teens and deepening their connections to Judaism. He is energized by helping teens develop their own Jewish identities and creating space for all to be included in our Jewish community.

**NICOLE BARD**

**Director of Young Adult and Young Family  
Engagement**

Nicole is deeply committed to building meaningful relationships that pivot around Judaism with both young adults and families with young children. She is inspired every day by her family, as well as by Jewish traditions.

17


**NAOMI WISEMAN**

**7/8 Grade Social Studies  
teacher,  
Buffalo Public Schools #27  
Hillery Park Elementary**

Naomi feels she was truly meant to educate and work with students. She has enjoyed teaching in various sectors through the Jewish community as well as the Buffalo Public Schools, and more recently as an adjunct at UB's Dept. of Language and Learning.

10


**SHIRI KESTER**

**UB Graduate Student  
Youth Group Director,  
Congregation Shir Shalom**

Shiri Kester is a graduate student in English Education at UB, writes a travel blog and is a photographer. She volunteers with Miriam's Well, PJ Library and Nickel City Jews where she is the next President, and also serves on the Yad B'Yad committee. She has always been inspired by her grandparents' story of survival during the Holocaust and their lifelong dedication to the Jewish community.

13


**KILBY BRONSTEIN**

**Owner Half & Half Boutique  
Managing Partner in Brockport  
Land Associates**

Kilby Bronstein is co-owner of Half & Half Boutique and also Managing Partner of Brockport Land Associates, a division of Paradigm Development, LLC. She is proud to have repurposed two buildings in the Elmwood Village, and is passionate about the redevelopment and resurgence movement here in Buffalo.

16


**SAMANTHA SUGARMAN**

**Singer-Songwriter/Activities Coordinator  
at Weinberg Campus**

Samantha is a local singer-songwriter working towards her first EP release in the spring of 2020. Additionally, she is the new Director of Activities for independent/enriched living at Weinberg Campus Nursing Home and is the creator of the new benefit concert series called "716 Music Gives Back" - the first to support the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

18


**ZAHAVA FRIED**

**Director of the Play and Learn  
School at TBZ  
Cantorial Intern through the  
Cantor's Assembly**

Zahava is the new Director of the PALS School. Alongside childhood education, her other passion is singing and music, and she often utilizes her musical talent as a teaching tool in the classroom and to share her love and appreciation for Jewish and classical music.

11


**JAKE WARNER**

**Real Estate Agent, Gurney Becker & Bourne**

Jake obtained his real estate license shortly after graduating college in 2012, and since then, has seen the local real estate market flourish. He's enjoyed every minute of it, working all over, from the city of Buffalo to neighboring counties.

14


**GREG CYPIN**

**aka GREG ON THE RADIO  
Music Director/Afternoon Drive  
Host for Kiss 98.5**

Greg is a "sometimes entertaining radio DJ providing high quality mediocrity" on the airwaves of Kiss 98.5! He has worked in 4 states, 7 cities, and in every radio format you can probably think of. He calls himself "a California native who is now having a blast getting to do what I love to do in Western New York."

**YAAKOV FRIED**

**Medical Student at Jacobs  
School of Medicine at the  
University at Buffalo**

Yaakov is a currently a 4th year medical student at UB. and once he has completed medical school, he is hoping to pursue a career in ENT residency.



# A New Era for Teens in Jewish Buffalo

By Mike Steklof

After an exciting interview experience, I was thrilled to receive a call from Miriam Abramovich in June offering me the position of Director of Teen Engagement and Inclusion at the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL)! Based on the great national reputation of Miriam, Rob Goldberg, the CJEL, and its extraordinary volunteer leaders, I knew with almost no hesitation, that Buffalo was the place for me to further my career as a Jewish Professional. Ever since moving to Buffalo just shy of three months ago, I have not been disappointed.

Since arriving, I have spent most of my time getting to know the wonderful people who make up our community. Over many (many!) cups of tea and bowls of ice cream I have had the pleasure of getting to know some wonderful



people and their unique stories, seeing and facilitating connections with and between individuals and families, and collaboratively exploring potential visions for the future of the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI) and Inclusion here on Buffalo. Since August, I have also enjoyed spending time with campers and counselors at Camp Seneca Lake, attending TBAZY and Gilgool USY Events, visiting the Jewish Women's Group Home, and having deep conversations with my partners: volunteer leaders, synagogue youth



Jewish teens gathered at several events this summer initiated by CJEL.

advisors, clergy, and JCC professionals. This is the true focus of my work.

In the coming months, I will share more information about our work to create a vision for Inclusion efforts in Jewish Buffalo. However, this month, I would like to share some information about Teen Engagement. Specifically, some highlights from the first sessions of JTI's new Teen Leadership Fellowship and Mussar for Teens, both held in late October.

Older high school students participating in the Teen Leadership Fellowship learned about Smart Goals from Rocky, found out what lollipops and leadership have in common, decided which of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' 7 Principles of Leadership most resonate today, and participated in a text study around the last paragraph of *Birkat Hamazon* (Grace after Meals). In Mussar for Teens, our younger teen learners began exploring how we and others would describe ourselves as we worked on our "Soul Curriculum."

These programs are a reality because of the stewardship and vision of Hadar Borden, CJEL's Chair of Teen Engagement. Hadar was the architect of the new Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative, created as a result of learnings from last spring's Teen Engagement Workshops. In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of our Community) it is said, "Appoint for yourself a teacher, and acquire for yourself a friend." (1:6) Those of us who work closely with Hadar feel honored to count her as both a teacher and a friend.

In the coming months, you will see



more information about Teen Mussar and our Teen Leadership Fellowship. In addition, look for some one-time social programs for teens, which are being planned by some great groups of parents and teens themselves. In addition, we will be forming a Parent Task Force to help support the work of JTI.

This is just the beginning of the new era of teen programming in Jewish Buffalo. There is more yet to come. **So, if you enjoy ice cream, tea, or coffee and would love to get involved in planning a program or being a part of the parent taskforce, call/text me--Mike Steklof --at 585-200-2161, or email [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

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# Countdown to Moms' Trip to Israel

What's more exciting than a trip to Israel? Going on a trip to Israel with a group of moms who are passionate about learning, growing and building a connection to the Jewish community. This December, fourteen local moms are headed to Israel to do just that through a program called MOMENTUM. Each day in Israel will have a theme that connects to a different Jewish value. The themes are Learning & Growth–*Limud & Hitlamudut*, Courage–*Azut De'Kedusha*, Peace and Wholeness in the Home–*Shalom Bayit*, Faithfulness & Trust–*Emunah*, Generosity–*Chesed & Tzedakah*, Human Dignity–*Kevod Habriut*, Unity & Mutual Responsibility–*Achdut & Areyvut* and Gratitude–*Hakarat Hatov*. When they return home, they will meet monthly to continue learning together.

What's unique about this trip is that they will be joined by women from nine communities that are a part of the Partnership2gether (P2G) consortium in the Western Galilee. Moms from Israel, Indianapolis, Louisville, San Antonio, South Bend, Fort Worth, Northwest Indiana, Budapest and Buffalo will travel together for 10 days exploring all that Israel has to offer.

The experience begins with pre-trip visit to our Partnership2gether region in the Western Galilee. Together they will visit the Galilee Medical Center, Regba Elementary School, tour an urban Kibbutz in Akko, tour the caves in Rosh Hanikra and more. They will represent our communities and begin building their own connection to the land and the people there.



MOMENTUM is about building connections to Israel, the Jewish people and the community. Each of these women is taking part in this experience for her own personal reasons. For some it will be their first time going to Israel, while others went more than 20 years ago. For some it's about finding new relationships with people who have children the same age as theirs, and for others it's about reconnecting to Judaism and creating a

strong Jewish foundation in their home. For some it's about rekindling the flame within them, and for others it's about creating new opportunities to do more in their community. What is special about these women is that they are all equally excited to help each other make these connections, bond, learn and evolve together.

Many of the women in this program have already begun to take the leap and make changes in their lives and community. **Nancy Fernandez** was the Emcee at the Buffalo Jewish Federation Kick Off Event where the videos that **Brenda Feldstein** produced capturing the beauty of what's happening in Jewish Buffalo were shown. **Jennifer Dryja** is sending her son to the Park School through the Kadimah Scholars program after a conversation she had with fellow participant **Amy Pecora**. **Sharon Nisengard** participated in the Mussar for Moms program through the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, and **Laura Wexler** has become an active parent helping with Jewish teen programming. And this is only the beginning!



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# Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein Reflects on Pittsburgh

A little more than year ago, the worst single attack on a Jewish institution in America occurred less than four hours down the road in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the space a few minutes time, eleven brave souls were killed, six injured, just for attending services that Shabbat morning. In the space of a few minutes time, our world had changed.

There are many reasons to be disheartened, but many more to find *tikvah*, hope:

**I felt hope** in the sanctuary of Temple Beth Tzedek filled to capacity less than 48-hours after the attack with people throughout Western New York, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, of every stripe and denomination - over five hundred strong.

**I felt hope** in the countless phone calls, emails, letters, and flowers that flooded into our community from all over Western New York to support us.

**I felt hope** in the hard work of the Jewish community to implement new safety measures and significantly upgrade our security infrastructure, including appointing our new Communal Safety Director, Susan DeMari.

**I felt hope** in the newly formed Jewish Communal Relations Council (JCRC) led by Mara Koven Gelman that has worked hard to proactively strengthen relations between the Jewish community and our surrounding neighbors.

**I felt hope** in the dozens of members of the Jewish community who showed up the Heim Road Mosque after the shootings in New Zealand.

And, for me, most importantly, **I felt hope** in the reaction of our



After Pittsburgh,  
we know our world will  
never be the same. Still,  
there is beauty in our  
brokenness.

young people. Gathering in large groups to combat gun violence, address climate change, and generally strive to make this world better.

One of the most popular traditions at a Jewish wedding is the breaking of the glass. We do this for many reasons. Most famously to remind ourselves even in our happiest



occasions that we still live in the shadow of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Another Kabbalistic reading tells us that the broken glass is a reminder of the brokenness in the world and how it is the job of all of us to perform acts of Tikkun Olam, to repair the world.

Likewise, in Japanese culture there is the concept of *Kintsugi*, or golden joinery, where the cracks in a vessel are repainted with golden paint. Why? So that the brokenness is visible, part of the history of the object, not something

to disguise.

After Pittsburgh, we know our world will never be the same. Still, there is beauty in our brokenness. We owe it to the eleven brave souls who lost their lives on that fateful day to continue to strive to perform acts of *gemulut chasidim*, acts of loving kindness. In doing so, we not only honor their memories of those we lost, but make our world better in the process.

*Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein is rabbi at Congregation Shir Shalom.*

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## Stop the Bleed

This fall Drs. Iris Danziger and Phillip Glick initiated a "Stop the Bleed" emergency training as an extension of the preparedness training for the Jewish Community. These two physicians volunteered their time and effort to be trained and conduct the "Train the Trainer" program for physicians, nurses, EMTs and other experienced personnel to teach wound control. "Stop the Bleed" training was valuable to members of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh wounded in the October 27, 2018 shootings.



# Ruth Lansing Remembers Kristallnacht

In keeping with the 81st Anniversary of Kristallnacht—the Night of the Broken Glass—on November 9, *The Jewish Journal* is honored to share an interview done in late September with 100 year old Ruth



Lansing who was a translator during the Nuremberg Trials. The following link will take you to the interview conducted by Greg Peterson of the Robert Jackson Center in Jamestown:

<https://youtu.be/lp9ZigwaWXU>.

By way of contrast, here's the interview Peterson did with her in 2002: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6RtlltsB3k>

Mrs. Lansing wrote a story about Kristallnacht which appeared in the January 2019 issue of *The Jewish Journal*. You can see it at [www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org) and click on *The Jewish Journal* button on the home page.

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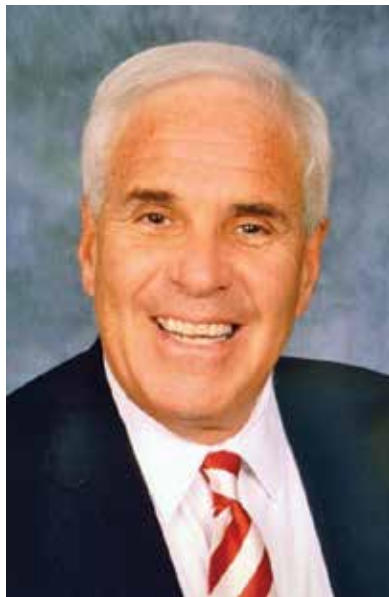
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# Mazal Tov to three community members!

## Stuart Angert Honored by Daemen College



**Daemen College honored Stuart Angert with its Community Excellence Award at the college's annual Scholarship Gala in September. The Community Excellence Award recognizes a community member who serves as an exemplary leader and who defines the spirit of Daemen.**

A life-long resident of Amherst, Angert is an alumnus of Nichols School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Colgate University and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

Angert serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations in the Western New York and Adirondack regions. He devotes a significant amount of his efforts as a member of the board of directors of Independent Health and as chair of the Independent Health Foundation.

"Stuart embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of the college and what it means to be a servant leader for our community," said Daemen President Gary Olson. "I cannot think of a more deserving person to receive this award."

## Cantor Myers inducted into Williamsville Central School District Wall of Honor

**Cantor Penny Sonnernreich Myers will be inducted into the Williamsville Central School District's "Williamsville Wall of Fame" Friday, November 8 at 8:00 a.m. at the Park Country Club, 4949 Sheridan Drive. The 1992 Williamsville North High School graduate is Cantor at Temple Beth Zion.**

Cantor Myers is part of Senior Clergy of the largest synagogue in Western New York, where she has been since 2006. She is a sought after lyric soprano, who has performed on stages and bimahs in Europe, Canada, USA and Israel. She was recently elected to serve on the Executive Council of the Cantors Assembly, the largest organization of professional *Hazzanim* (Cantors) and serves as a mentor to those who are seeking pulpits throughout the placement process.

Cantor Penny is known not only throughout the Jewish community in Buffalo but also the interfaith community here in WNY. As an avid fervent supporter and activist for equality (for women and for parity and



equality between Cantors and Rabbis) in progressive Judaism, Cantor Penny was at forefront of advocating a change from decades long tradition of the "Buffalo Board of Rabbis" to change to "Buffalo

Board of Rabbis and Cantors".

Cantor Penny sits on the boards of National Federation of Just Communities, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Womens Cantor Network, Cantors Assembly, Toronto Council of Cantors, Great Lakes Region of Cantors, Guild of Temple Musicians. She has most recently been selected by colleague Cantor Matthew Axelrod (New Jersey) to record several podcasts about the realities of life as clergy member. Cantors Axelrod and Myers have released 10 podcasts that are available on Spotify, Google entitled "Two Cantors Walk Into A Bar". It is a podcast that gives listeners an inside view of what life and sacred work is like for those who are called to serve G-d and their congregations. You can find it at [www.podbean.com](http://www.podbean.com).

**For tickets and information about the Wall of Fame breakfast, call the Amherst Chamber of Commerce at 632-6905.**

## Sandra B. Rifkin Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award from EPIC

**EPIC – Every Person Influences Children, a non-profit organization in Buffalo, will honor Sandra B. Rifkin with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the EPIC Heroes Gala Reception Thursday, November 7 at 6:00pm at the Atrium @ Rich's on Niagara Street.**

Sandra B. Rifkin dedicated her adult life as volunteer, president, and after retiring, board member and long-time advocate of EPIC, which helps families, schools and communities raise children to become responsible and successful adults. "Sandy was EPIC's foundation and soul. Her leadership and legacy of helping families and communities inspires what we do today," said Tara N. Burgess, Executive Director. "She has dedicated her entire life to EPIC's values and we are pleased to present her with the agencies first and only Lifetime Achievement Award." "I am grateful to be honored. EPIC's success in helping families and children is an achievement we all share," said Sandy.

While working together on the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, Sandy and EPIC Founder Bob Wilson quickly became friends and began work on what would become



an organization focused on preventing child abuse and offering resources, skills and confidence for all families. While Bob knocked on every door, building an impactful board and securing funds for the organization, Sandy built a strong team of volunteers and lead the team that created the curriculum, and developed EPIC's program funding. Sandy's hard work, dedication and ability made her

the best fit for EPIC's first President.

Family, friends and colleagues have said that when confronted with barriers Sandy would say, long before Nike, "Just Do It". From 1980, when EPIC was formed, Sandy grew EPIC from two volunteers sharing a single desk in space donated by the United Way to an organization serving more than a million children in 18 states and two countries when she retired in 1995.

Her vision of a world where every child has a strong start and promising future propelled the self-taught grant writer's success. From initial funding through the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, Sandy's passion inspired funding from individuals, corporations and the public sector for decades. Her energy and leadership built an award-winning premier parenting education program with a dedicated, talented staff that continues to meet the changing needs of families, schools and communities today.

**More information on the event is available at [www.epicforchildren.org](http://www.epicforchildren.org).**



# Roswell Park Collaborates with Israeli Companies

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has forged agreements with both Maccabi Healthcare Services in Tel Aviv, and the Tauber Bioinformatic Center at the University of Haifa with the intention to establish joint programs for discovery, development and clinical implementation of innovative anti-cancer drugs and cancer diagnostic methods. These projects were announced by Governor Cuomo this summer during a solidarity trip to Israel.

The collaboration with Maccabi Healthcare, one of the largest health maintenance organizations in the world, serving more than 2 million patients, will center around bringing emerging therapies in development at Roswell Park to patients at Maccabi through clinical research studies. Initial studies are expected to incorporate



RPCI CEO Dr. Candace Johnson (right) speaking at a conference at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem

immunotherapies, targeted therapies and treatment vaccines for diseases including leukemia and lung, ovarian and brain cancers as well as strategies for improving radiation therapy and addressing age-associated immunological disorders.

Roswell Park's work with the Tauber Center at Haifa University will expand an existing research relationship

between two centers that have been pioneers in the area of science focused on "intrinsic viruses" within human DNA. These efforts, which will also incorporate contributions from the University of Rochester, are aimed at developing next-generation diagnostic, prognostic and prevention tools through advanced bioinformatics.

"I'd like to thank Governor Cuomo for inviting Roswell Park to participate in trips like this. Each time we've walked away with relationships and partnerships patients across the world benefit from," said Roswell Park President and CEO Candace S. Johnson, PhD. "In Maccabi Healthcare and Haifa University's Tauber Center, we found teams that are just as passionate as we are about strategically applying our expertise and resources to make a difference for cancer patients and drive the science that will help us to not only control but prevent cancer."

"On our solidarity trip, we focused on key areas that present real opportunities for collaboration with Israeli companies because when Israeli startups choose New York, there is tremendous potential for growth for both economies," Cuomo said. The two groups are among 17 Israeli entities that will work with six state agencies and other partners to bolster innovation and economic ties between Israel and the U.S. in such areas as drones, transportation, energy, cybersecurity, financial technology and health care.

"New York State's leadership in breakthrough medical research is emblemized by Buffalo's Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, now in a new partnership with Israeli scientists that will take promising research to the next level and create new medicines to prolong and save lives," said Howard Zemskey, former Empire State Development President, who was also on the trip.

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# A Visit to Poland

By Alan Sisselman

This trip was going to be different. Yes, my wife, Roberta Levine, and I had been to Poland back in 1999. Specifically, we had visited Krakow while a family friend happened to be visiting there as well. She was a Holocaust survivor from Krakow and a widely recognized scholar on Copernicus, the legendary Polish astronomer. She eventually relocated to New York City with her late husband, also a survivor from Krakow, who later served as president of my family's synagogue. They returned to their hometown every year to insure that the Jewish cemetery was properly cared for. My wife and I visited Auschwitz/Birkenau and allowed the horrors of the place to sink into our thoughts. Twenty years later we were ready to return, but not to that place of lost hopes, where the Jew was the powerless victim. This time we wanted to see and learn for ourselves what took place in Warsaw, once the capital of Jewish Europe and the place where in the face of insurmountable odds, Jewish resistance to evil is forever memorialized.



Nozyk Synagogue in Warsaw

As a start, we visited the restored Nozyk synagogue in the heart of central Warsaw. It is a beautiful Old World synagogue with a centrally located bimah, hanging chandeliers, wooden pews, a large *aron chodesh* and a balcony that encircles the entire building. From the synagogue it was not too long a walk to the remaining section of the Jewish Ghetto's original wall. It is located between two tenement buildings in a working-class neighborhood, once predominantly Jewish. It is a stark reminder of the enormity of the entire wall and of the significant dimensions of the Jewish Ghetto itself. We later learned that the Ghetto, in fact, was still too small an area to adequately house the large population of Jews that was transported here from other parts of Poland.

The next stop on our journey was the Jewish Historical Institute. This is the repository of the Ringelblum Archive, a collection of documents from the Warsaw Ghetto. The archive was secretly collected and preserved by a group known as *Oyneg Shabbos* (Oneg Shabbat) that lived inside the Ghetto. This endeavor was led by Jewish historian Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum. The Institute houses detailed exhibits, film clips, photographs and documents detailing daily life in the Ghetto, including the infamous deportations from the Ghetto. Only a handful of *Oyneg Shabbos* members survived World War II but the lives of all the members are memorialized with individual biographies. The archive was buried in a cellar inside ten metal boxes and two metal milk cans. Unfortunately, when the archive was located in 1946

(the metal boxes) and 1950 (the milk cans), water damage had taken its toll on the documents. Painstaking work has been ongoing to restore the water damaged material using spectral analysis and other high-tech procedures. The dogged determination of the *Oyneg Shabbos* members to secretly document both the horrific conditions inside the Ghetto and the inhuman actions of their captors is truly heroic. It is a story that should be preserved and retold for generations to come.

We attended Shabbat services, evening and morning, at the Nozyk Synagogue. It was exhilarating to see so many people in attendance from all over the world. The majority were young Israelis who contributed immeasurably to the *ruach* that filled the sanctuary from the filled wooden pews below to the packed balcony above. Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, did a wonderful job motivating the congregation to sing with joyful emotion. This rabbi has devoted his life to rebuilding Jewish life in Poland and you could tell by the way he conducted the services. Services were followed by delicious meals both Friday night and Saturday.

A few days later we visited the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (the POLIN Museum) which opened in 2014. The building itself is an impressive, modern, multi-story, concrete/glass structure. There is very thorough security screening at the main entrance. The permanent exhibition includes seven galleries of multimedia



Top: Warsaw ghetto walls  
Bottom: POLIN museum





Roberta Levine & Alan Sisselman in Warsaw's Lazienki Park

exhibits documenting 1000 years of Jewish life in Poland. We purchased the audio guides which were invaluable in providing detailed information on over 60 different exhibit stations. Every aspect of Jewish life was covered from early Jewish traders through waves of mass migration, pogroms, Jewish business success, early labor movements, the flourishing of Jewish culture and the eventual destruction of that culture. The World War II gallery was riveting. It was obvious that the intention of this museum was to tell the complete story of the Jewish experience in Poland without glossing over any facts no matter the consequences. The Warsaw Ghetto portion of the museum was even more meaningful to us since we had already visited the Jewish Historical Institute. The multimedia display depicting the last hours of violent resistance by the remaining Warsaw Ghetto Jews was chilling. The heroism and Jewish pride displayed at this pivotal moment was beyond comprehension.

We spent about seven hours at the POLIN Museum and could have spent at least another few hours. After leaving the POLIN Museum, we walked several blocks to the *Umschlagplatz* memorial where the Jewish Ghetto population was loaded onto trucks destined for death camps. On the way, we passed numerous monuments dedicated to the Ghetto fighters and their leader, Mordechaj Anielewicz. The largest of these structures is the Ghetto Heroes Monument adjacent to the POLIN Museum.

This pretty much summarizes our Jewish trek through Warsaw, but we did find many other interesting places to visit within the city. For example, the Neon Museum, located in the

largely undamaged from World War II neighborhood of Praga, on the east bank of the Vistula River, is the home of numerous neon signs that lit up the City of Warsaw during the depressing years of Soviet domination. Of course, the Chopin Museum is devoted to the life of Poland's greatest composer. Other notable sites are Lazienka Park containing the neoclassical Palace on the Water, the Old Town and New Town (areas reconstructed to resemble old Warsaw), and the Palace of Culture, an architectural monstrosity in the heart of Warsaw which was "Stalin's gift to Warsaw."

Did we achieve our goal of learning what really happened in the Warsaw Ghetto? I would say yes, thanks mainly to the Jewish Historical Institute and the POLIN Museum. If you ever visit Warsaw, you must spend some time at these institutions of learning.

Alan Sisselman is a retired biologist who now plays clarinet in his klezmer band, **West of Odessa**. He and his wife, Roberta Levine (percussionist and tsimblist), are members of Temple Beth Tzedek.

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## EARLY VOTING is added to NOVEMBER 5 VOTING DAY

The NYS legislature passed, and Governor Cuomo, signed into law several new voting reforms earlier this year.

NYS has joined 39 states and the District of Columbia in early voting options.

### WHEN:

Nine Days of Early Voting include: **Saturday October 26- Sunday November 3**

**Weekdays 12 noon – 9:00 PM**

**Weekend 12 noon – 6:00 PM**

### WHERE TO VOTE:

Erie County will have 37 voting sites. They will most likely not be the site you previously used. During early voting, you can vote at any of the open sites. On voting day, Tuesday November 5th, you have to use your designated site.

<https://www.elections.erie.gov/erie-county-polling-sites/#Streets>

### WHO is on the Erie County Ballot in 2019:

<https://www.elections.erie.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Offices-To-Be-Elected-7-16-2019.xlsx>

Early voting tallying will take place at 8:00 PM November 5th and released to the public after voting polls have closed at 9:00pm.

## Valentino Dixon: *Drawing My Way to Freedom*



More than 80 people attended the opening of Valentino Dixon's drawing exhibit at the Burchfield Penney Art Center in October. Dixon is a Buffalo artist who was imprisoned for 27 years for a crime he did not commit. His message is one of resilience, gratitude and sentence reform. Buffalo Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) partnered with the Burchfield to amplify Valentino's story to increase education, awareness and action around criminal justice reform. As JCRC Co-chair Nina Lukin said in her opening remarks: "The Jewish community has a long, distinguished track record on fighting for racial equality and civil rights. The value comes from the Torah 'Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof. Justice, Justice you shall pursue.' Our criminal justice system with its problems of mass incarceration and racial disparities in enforcement and sentencing, punishes unjustly. We have to be involved."

Highlights of the event also included: WGRZ's anchor/reporter Claudine Ewing interviewing Mr. Dixon on stage with a powerful question and answer period and Chair of Erie County Legislature April Baskin issued a proclamation honoring Dixon for all his efforts to advocate for Sentencing Reform (decreasing mandatory minimum and releasing people who have aged in prison serving extremely long and unfair sentences.) The exhibit, was in part sponsored by Deborah Goldman and Grant Golden Philanthropic Fund and continues through Sunday March 29, 2020.



Special moments from the Valentino Dixon opening event co-sponsored by JCRC.

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

- 1» Help Temple Beth Zion and Congregation Shir Shalom give Thanksgiving meals to needy families. (Read the story on page 25). Drop off your food or financial donations at either congregation by November 21. **For more information, contact Chris Cohan from CSS at 430-6029 or Sharron Frommann from TBZ at 634-3495.**
- 2» 716 Music Gives Back with a Benefit for the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) Saturday, November 23 from 8:00-11:00 p.m. at Buffalo Distilling Co., 860 Seneca Street. **Tickets are available at the door (\$10) or on the HRC website (\$9) [www.hrcbuffalo.org/events](http://www.hrcbuffalo.org/events)**
- 3» The JCC's Food Drive to Benefit the Town Square Food Pantry located at Weinberg Campus is ongoing from November 1-30. The organizers are looking for donations of in-date, non-perishable canned and boxed goods. Bins are located at both JCC locations!
- 4» World's Largest Disco is Saturday night, November 30 at the Buffalo Convention Center! This popular event benefits Camp Good Days. **Tickets are \$77.50 each and may be purchased at [www.worldslargerstdisco.com](http://www.worldslargerstdisco.com).**
- 5» Show your gratitude for the Buffalo Jewish community by making your Campaign for Jewish Buffalo gift this month at [www.buffalojewishfederation.org](http://www.buffalojewishfederation.org) and click on "donate!"

## WHERE IN JBFLO?

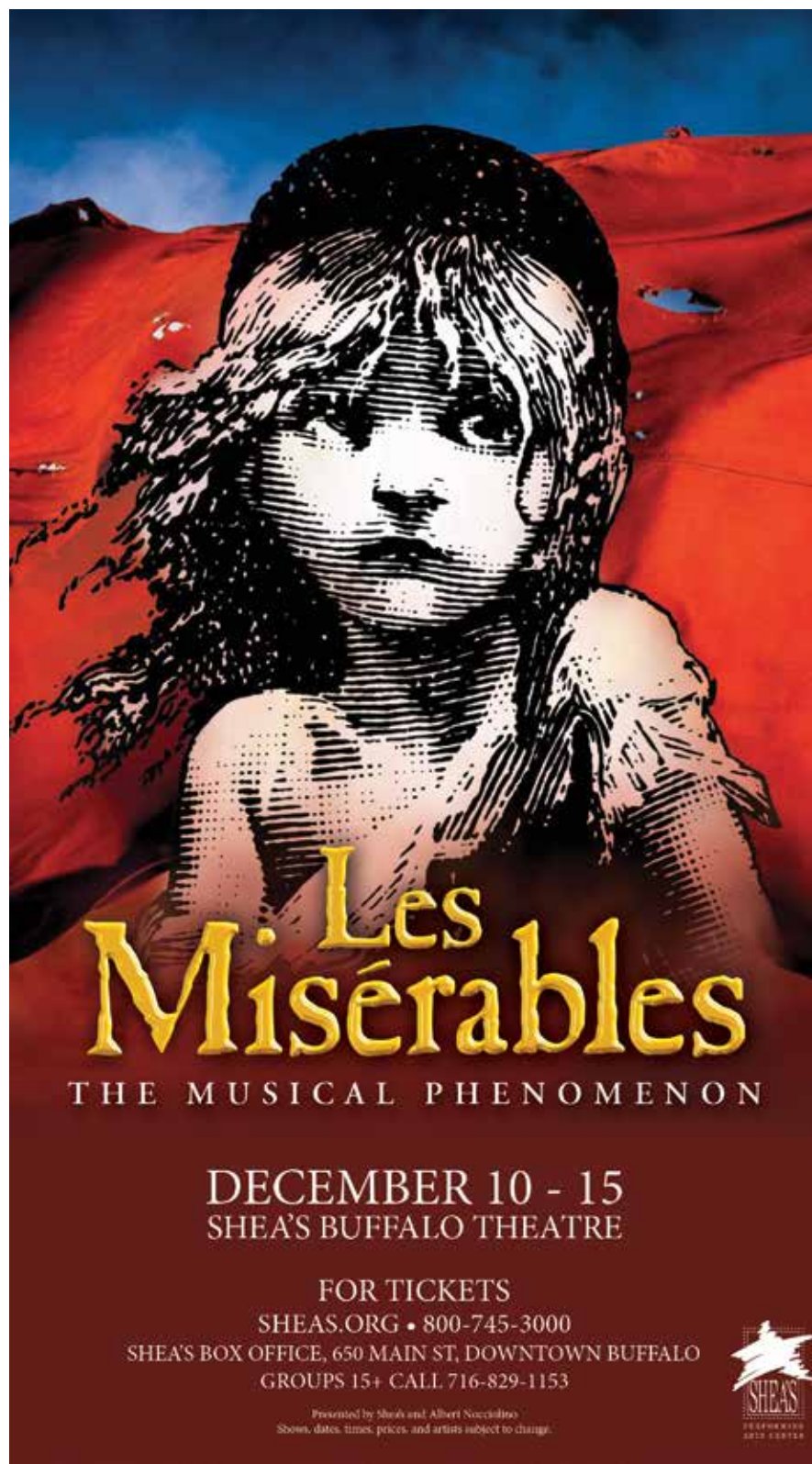


### Where is this found in WNY?

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

E-mail your answers to [ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org)

Last month Myra Werbow, Dr. Larry Boxer, Joe Zackheim, and Ina Sanders correctly identified the "LGBTQ Safe Zone" sign on the doorway of Temple Beth Tzedek.



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# Challah Stuffing

by Robin Kurss

Every Thanksgiving, my kids tell me that their favorite side dish is my challah stuffing....truth be told, it's mine too! I want to wish you all a lovely holiday and to thank you for reading this column every month. I'm truly honored and thankful for the opportunity to share some of my favorite family recipes with you.

## Challah Stuffing

1 loaf of challah

1 stick of margarine or 1/4 c olive oil

2 yellow onions, diced

2 c celery, diced

1/2 each, red and green pepper, diced

2 c mushrooms, sliced

3 c chicken soup

1/4 c sherry

1 1/2 tsp poultry seasoning

1 tsp each, garlic salt and pepper



Heat oven to 325. Cut challah into 1" cubes and spread on a greased cookie sheet. Bake about 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Heat oven to 350. Melt margarine or heat oil in sauté pan. Add veggies and cook until tender. Combine, challah, veggies, spices, sherry and soup in a large bowl, toss till thoroughly combined. Transfer to greased casserole dish (about 9 x 13 size) and bake for 45 minutes. Happy Thanksgiving from my home to yours!

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Director

## SYNAGOGUES

## ORGANIZATIONS

# Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

### Buffalo Jewish Federation

2640 North Forest Road  
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 Guray  
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

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

### Hadassah

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

### Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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

### Hillel of Buffalo

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

### Holocaust Resource Center

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

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

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

### Holland Family Building

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

### Jewish Community Relations Council

2640 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
www.buffalojewishfederation.org  
Mara Koven-Gelman - Director  
Nina Lukin, Dr. Ted Steinberg - Co-Chairs

### Jewish Discovery Center

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

### Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And Erie County

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

### Jewish Federation Apartments

275 Essjay Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-631-8471  
www.jewishfederationapartments.org  
Kathleen Haggerty - Property Manager  
Shawn Frier - President

### Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Inc.

2640 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
716-204-2246  
www.jfedbflo.com  
Deborah Pivarsi - Director  
Charlotte Gendler - President

### Kadimah

www.kadimah.org  
Renee Lehner - Administrator  
Hallie Keren - Board Chair

### Kosher Meals on Wheels

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www.koshermow.com  
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**Ohr Temimim School**

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www.buffalojewishfederation.org/inclusion  
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**Western New York Synagogues and Temples**

**Chabad House of Buffalo** (unaffiliated)

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

**Congregation Beth Abraham** (Conservative)

1073 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
Marty Kerker - President  
www.congregationbethabraham.net

**Congregation Shir Shalom**

(Reform/Reconstructionist)  
4660 Sheridan Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-633-8877  
Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein  
Cantor Arlene Frank  
Joanne Marquisee - Executive Director  
Bruce Corris - President  
www.shirshalombuffalo.org

**Congregation Havurah** (Reform)

6320 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221  
Bernard Schenkler, President  
Enid Edelman, Membership Chair  
716-689-8059  
www.congregationhavurah.org  
info@congregationhavurah.org

**Kehillat Ohr Tzion** (Modern Orthodox)

879 Hopkins Rd  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
Rabbi Ori Bergman  
Jeff Schapiro - President  
http://ohrtzion.org/kot

**Knesset Center** (Orthodox)

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

**Saranac Synagogue** (Orthodox)

President - Shmuel Rashkin  
Vice President - Reuven Alt  
Gabbai David Kunkel  
85 Saranac Avenue  
Buffalo New York 14216  
716-876-1284  
www.SaranacSynagogue.org

**Temple Beth Tzedek** (Conservative)

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www.niagarafallstemple.com

**Temple Emanu-El** (Reform)

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585-343-7027  
Stan Schumann - President

**The Family Shul** (Unaffiliated)

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Williamsville, NY 14221  
Rabbi Heschel Greenberg  
Rabbi Laizer Labkovski  
716-639-7600

**Young Israel of Greater Buffalo** (Orthodox)

105 Maple Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
Rabbi Eliezar Marcus  
Richard G. Berger- President  
716-634-0212  
www.yibuffalo.org

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Thank you!



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presents

## *A Hanukkah Concert*

Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 7:00pm



Join us for a very special Hanukkah Concert celebrating the release of Cantor Frank's new album, Hanukkah Nights.

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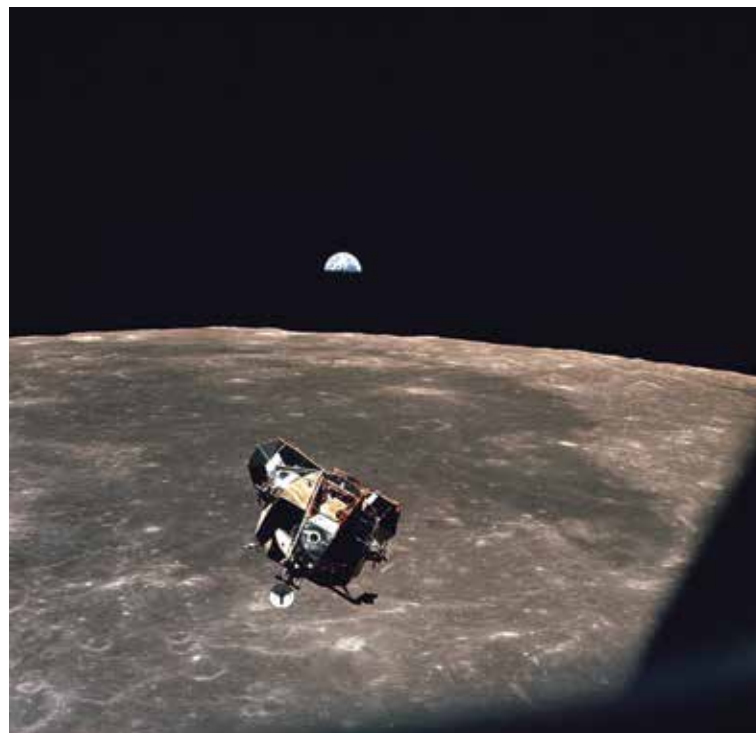
A festive Oneg will follow.

*The Hanukkah Concert and CD are under the creative direction of Cantor Arlene Frank.*

## SYNAGOGUES

# The Road to the Moon Went Through Western New York

Congregation Shir Shalom - November 24



This iconic photograph shows the Apollo 11 Lunar Module Eagle, some three hours after lifting off the surface of the Moon, about to dock with the Command Module Columbia to return Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins "safely to the earth." Did you know that virtually every phase of the mission to this point, from liftoff of the six million pound, 360 foot tall Saturn V from the Kennedy Space Center to the instant when Eagle firmly docked with Columbia, was made possible by contributions by men and women from Western New York?

Please join Congregation Shir Shalom Men's Group November 24 when Walter Gordon, chairman of the AIAA (American

Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) Niagara Frontier Section, discusses the contributions of Bell, Moog, Kodak, Carleton (now Cobham), and Calspan to the Apollo Program and how the road to the Moon truly went through Western New York.

Walter's talk will take place at the November meeting of the Congregation Shir Shalom Men's Group on Sunday morning, November 24th, at 9:15 a.m. All community members are welcome, both men and women. A bagel and lox breakfast will be served! **Please RSVP to [mensgroup@shirshalombuffalo.org](mailto:mensgroup@shirshalombuffalo.org) or by calling 536-5628.**

## Congregation Shir Shalom and North Presbyterian Church Announce PULPIT EXCHANGE

**Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein and Rev. Bill Hennessey are collaborating again on their annual Pulpit Exchange.**

On Friday, November 15th, Rev. Hennessey will visit Congregation Shir Shalom. The service will begin at 7:00 PM. On Sunday, November 17th, Rabbi Alex will visit North Presbyterian's service which will begin at 10:15 am.

Save the dates! All events are open to the community.

15 -  
16  
NOV

The Shabbat Project  
is connecting Jews all  
around the world again on  
15/16 November 2019.

Save the date

Contact: [erihergman@gmail.com](mailto:erihergman@gmail.com)



kehillat ohr tzion



## TBZ Religious School

Temple Beth Zion's religious school began the 2019-20 school year with *ruach!*



## Global Day of Jewish Learning

Sunday, November 17 @ TBZ

**TBZ brings Dr. Rachel Korazim  
Innovative and Inspiring Speaker and Teacher  
From Israel to Buffalo**

**9:15 – 11:00 a.m. at 700 Sweet Home Rd.**

Dr. Korazim joins the Religious School of Temple Beth Zion for learning with parents and Sixth and Seventh Graders. Her topic will be "Challenging Torah"  
Everyone in the community is invited!

**12:30-2:00 p.m. at 700 Sweet Home Rd.**

Dr. Korazim speaks about "Israel Diaspora Relations – Changing Narratives" – over lunch. Everyone in the Western New York community is welcome!

Lunch provided, please consider a \$10 donation per person.

**RSVP to Darcie, 716-836-6565, [darcie@tbz.org](mailto:darcie@tbz.org)**

## Hon. Jacqueline Berger speaks at Achim November 10

The featured speaker for the Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will be the Hon. Jacqueline G. Berger, Town Councilmember for the Town of Amherst at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 10 at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus. Ms. Berger, who is well known in the community, will be discussing the 2019 local election results. There will also be comments on national and state politics.

Achim is a monthly program for the benefit of the residents, and their guests, at the Weinberg Campus and is open to the public at no cost. **For further information, please contact Ken Graber at 681-9885.**

## Tot Shabbat at TBZ

**Friday, November 15, at 5:45 p.m.  
Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road**

Please join Temple Beth Zion for a child-friendly Tot Shabbat service, snack, crafts and story. Tot Shabbat is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other families with young children from around the community and make new friends! The entire community is welcome!

**Please call or email Zahava Fried for more information: (716)-836-6565 x139 or [pals@tbz.org](mailto:pals@tbz.org).**

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*Mr. Thomas is back at KOT after his enlightening performance two years ago. We've opened KOT up to the entire community for this very special performance. A favorite of David Blaine, Garrett has performed for many top celebrities and is renowned for his original effects & technical skills.*

*Beverages & light snacks will be served.*

Tickets must be purchased in advance through Eventbrite.  
[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) "KOT Night of Magic"

*Kehillat Ohr Tzion 879 Hopkins Rd., Williamsville*



## TBZ Sisterhood Walks to Fight Cancer



Walking in the Susan G. Komen event to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer awareness and a cure were (from left): Margy Zeckhauser, Sandy Wolchok, Marilyn Schillroth, Carole Weingarten, and Sarah Reiter. Back row: Bernhardt family: Samantha, Eric, Lillian, and Alicia. Missing from picture: Frans DeWaal who ran instead of walking.

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# KOLISHAH

An evening of Sisterhood & Song

**Cantors:**

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Barbara Ostfeld  
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Bonnie Zakarin

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*Sunday, November 24,*  
*10 - 11 a.m.*

**Bagel Jays, 100 Plaza Drive**  
(Hopkins and Klein)

*Join TBZ friends at Bagel Jays and enjoy eating and socializing with the WNY Jewish community. This no-host lunch is organized by Jody Goldstein.*

**Questions? Email Jody at:**  
**jagoldstein827@gmail.com**

### Sisterhood of TBZ to host Special Guest Speaker on Women's Reproductive Rights

**Sunday, November 3,  
at 9 a.m.  
Broder Center,  
700 Sweet Home Road**

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion is pleased to host guest speaker Liza Robbins Theuman. Ms. Theuman is a representative of the Women of Reform Judaism from Rochester, New York, and she will speak on Women's Reproductive Rights.

### Tailgate Shabbat at TBZ!

**Team Spirit Shabbat!**

**Join Temple Beth Zion  
for the SHABBAT ALIVE  
service at 7 p.m. on Friday,  
November 1, at 805  
Delaware Avenue.**

**Show your team pride and  
wear your favorite team shirt  
or jersey!**



## TBZ & Shir Shalom's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Congregation Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Zion, and North Presbyterian Church will be assembling Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families at North Presbyterian Church on North Forest Road in Amherst, on Saturday, November 23rd at 9:00 a.m., with distribution from North Presbyterian on Sunday, November 24th starting at 9:00 a.m. Other groups helping include many Scout troops and Williamsville East High School.

This is the 36th year of the project--20+ years for Congregation Shir Shalom and 15 years for TBZ's affiliation. Every year the project receives more requests for help from different agencies around the area, now serving 13 agencies and last year, donating 525 dinners. These baskets allow families to have dinner in their own homes and not have to go to a shelter. That works out to about 2100 people (counting a family as four individuals).

Without the generosity of both synagogue religious schools collecting food well as a monetary donation from the community, this project would not succeed. Each family receives a frozen turkey, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, stuffing mix, brownie mix as well as fresh potatoes and fresh bread. If you would like to send a card to be enclosed with the donation please do not use any identifying information.

A donation of \$40.00 would fund a meal for one family. Gift cards to Tops and/or Wegmans would also be appreciated. Please consider donating non-perishable foods, including stuffing mix, canned vegetables or fruit, cranberry sauce, raw potatoes, brownie mix, a frozen turkey, a boxed dinner of these items for a family of four, or a monetary donation. Wegmans and Tops heavily discount turkey prices in November, so please consider buying an extra one to donate, which will decrease the number of turkeys the group must buy at near full price.

This project typically costs approximately \$5,000 in food. A donation of even one food item makes a difference. All food will be delivered to agencies on Sunday morning, November 24th. Non-perishable foods can be dropped off at the Temples or North Presbyterian Church any time before November 23rd.

Everyone is welcome to help. It's a great Tikkun Olam activity for parents to do with their children. *If you need additional information, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Chris Cohan from Congregation Shir Shalom at [ccohan@buffalo.edu](mailto:ccohan@buffalo.edu) or 430-6029 or Sharron Frommann from TBZ at [mommafro457@gmail.com](mailto:mommafro457@gmail.com) or 634-3495.*

Kehillat Ohr Tzion welcomed many out of town visitors, students and young families to all their holiday services in September and October. KOT's policy is never to charge for attending services or for participating in any of their many learning opportunities. In addition to the regular services on Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Ori Bergman offered a shorter alternative service for adults who wanted a more individualized experience, where questions could be freely asked. Cantor Jeffrey Braverman, who has led High Holiday services for 36 years, once again inspired the congregation in the main sanctuary. There was also a well-attended children's program, where they learned about the holiday and where they especially liked learning about shofar blowing.



NCSY Participants

Rabbi Bergman and Cindi Mikulik have been planning for several months to restart a Buffalo chapter of NCSY. They have been coordinating their efforts with NCSY alums who attend UB and will be mentors to the Jr. and Senior NCSYers. The first program for the new energized chapter took place in Rabbi Ori and Nora Bergman's backyard with a barbecue on September 1. This successful launch was soon followed by an afternoon of apple picking. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the upcoming programs, which include a "Pizza and Parsha" gathering and a *chesed* program that will look at the needs of the community. The first *chesed* project will be collecting personal care items for immigrants. They will be coordinating their efforts with JFS on

## The KOT "Kehillah"



NCSY Summer Fun

this project. All the NCSYers will be encouraged to participate in regional programs. *For more information on the newly formed NCSY chapter, contact [cmikulik2011@gmail.com](mailto:cmikulik2011@gmail.com) or [oribergman@gmail.com](mailto:oribergman@gmail.com).*

The Social Action Committee delivered a trunkload of school supplies donated by KOT members to The Teacher's Desk at the beginning of the school year. Teacher's Desk donates thousands of dollars of school supplies to teachers for their classrooms in needy districts throughout Western New York. The donations from KOT were greatly appreciated by the Director of this non-profit organization. KOT is now collecting large plastic

bins to donate to Vive, a shelter for refugees, who do not have luggage and need these bins to store their few possessions. *For more information about the committee's work or to make a donation, email [phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com).*

The Fundraising Committee, headed by Beth Weiss, is planning **A Night of Magic** on November 23. A renowned magician will be performing in the KOT social hall, which will take on the atmosphere of a nightclub for the evening. *Refreshments will be served and the community is welcome to attend. For ticket information email [bmweiss516@gmail.com](mailto:bmweiss516@gmail.com).*



KEHILLAT OHR TZION & NCSY BUFFALO

# Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Program

- For girls who become bat mitzvah in 2019 or 2020
- Meaningful program for raising proud Jewish women
- 8 sessions long
- First session is Monday, Nov. 4th from 7-8:30 pm

TO RSVP: [NCSYBUFFALO613@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NCSYBUFFALO613@GMAIL.COM)








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CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2019



## November 3

### My Grown Up & Me

10:00 a.m.

JCC Holland Family Building  
indoor playground

Info? [Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org)

### 2019 International Feast: Jewish Foods from Around the World

5:30-9:00 p.m.

Park Country Club

\$38/person

Info? [Julia.Cohan@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Julia.Cohan@buffalojewishfederation.org) - 688-6890

### Kol Ishah – Women Cantors' Concert

7:00 p.m. TBZ- 805 Delaware Avenue  
FREE.

Info? 836-6565

## November 4

### Kristallnacht Commemoration Lecture

Survival during the Holocaust-

Dr. Herman Stone

6:00 p.m.

JCC Benderson Building - Seller Theatre  
FREE

## November 5

### Election Day in New York State

### Dept. of Jewish Thought lecture

7:00-9:00 p.m.

UB North Campus

Samuel Friedman Library - 708 Clemens Hall

## November 6

### Kristallnacht Commemoration Week

The Aftermath of Kristallnacht -

Dr. Noam Pines

6:00 p.m.

JCC Benderson Building - Seller Theatre  
FREE

### Jewish Grandparents Network Visit

Contact Rob Goldberg for more information

[rob@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:rob@buffalojewishfederation.org)

## November 7

### Mega Challah Bake

Jewish Discovery Centre

757 Hopkins Road

7:00 p.m.

\$18 pre-paid.

Go to [www.buffalochallahbake.com](http://www.buffalochallahbake.com)

## November 8

### PJ Library Tot Shabbat

5:45 p.m.

Congregation Beth Abraham

Info? [Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org)

## November 10

### Hebrew Benevolent Loan Assn.

### Annual Meeting

10:30 a.m. TBT 1641 North Forest Road

RSVP- 204-0542 or [info@wnyhbla.org](mailto:info@wnyhbla.org)

## November 12

### Blind Date with a Jewish Book

Dept. of Jewish Thought

7:00-9:00 p.m. UB North Campus

Samuel Friedman Library - 708 Clemens Hall

## November 17

### Institute for Jewish Studies Classes begin

10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

\$40 per class

831 Maple Road. Registration required

[www.jewishdiscovery.org](http://www.jewishdiscovery.org) or call 400-1550

## November 20

### Dept. of Jewish Thought Wolfson

### Book Discussion

"Nazism & the Jewish Other"

7:00-9:30 p.m. UB North Campus

107 Capen Hall

## November 23

### Benefit Concert for HRC

8:00-11:00 pm Buffalo Distilling Co.

\$9/10

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

## November 24

### Institute for Jewish Studies Classes

10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

\$40 per class

831 Maple Road. Registration required

[www.jewishdiscovery.org](http://www.jewishdiscovery.org) or call 400-1550

## November 28

Thanksgiving day celebrated  
in the United States

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# 716 Music Gives Back - A Benefit to Support the HRC

## NOVEMBER 23

716 Music Gives Back is a benefit concert to benefit the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo which brings people together in celebration of a shared humanity. The concert is organized by singer-songwriter Samantha Sugarman, in collaboration with Elizabeth Schram, Director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, Nicole Bard, Director of Nickel City Jews, and Jessica Traub, who is the granddaughter of two Holocaust Survivors.



Samantha Sugarman

"Buffalo is home to people of many countries, colors, beliefs and identities," said Ms. Sugarman. "Oppression continues to be a reality in our world, and this concert represents a collective effort to put a stop to it through music and unity, instead of further division. Our community is unique in that we gather together in the face of adversity. So we invite our community to come out to celebrate the lives and memories of those who lived, and remember those who died." The proceeds will be donated to strengthen the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and its mission to educate the Western New York community, on the ground, through classrooms and beyond.


Samantha is an advocate for the people of her community. Whether through developing and executing programming at Weinberg Campus for the elderly in Buffalo, or writing and performing her own songs throughout

the city, Samantha strives to promote unity and connectedness. Jessica, an engineer, teacher, and advocate for the values of loving-kindness, gratitude, and the importance of life, strongly believes in opening up conversations about the impact of oppression, and is excited to help achieve that mission through this concert. Samantha and Jessica, along with Nickel City Jews, strive to empower the Center's mission to teach the lessons of the Holocaust, remember the Survivors and victims, and to promote social justice, civic responsibility and human rights.


**The Benefit will take place on the evening of Saturday, November 23rd, at Buffalo Distilling Co. 860 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14210 from 8- 11:00 p.m. Samantha Sugarman will be performing with Frank Grizanti. Opening for them will be Whether the Weather. Tickets are \$9 presale and \$10 at the door. Go to [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).**

**In Commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo invites you to attend:**  
*Kristallnacht Commemoration Week*




**November 4 at 6pm**  
**Dr. Herman Stone**  
*Holocaust Survivor*



**November 6 at 6pm**  
**Dr. Noam Pines**  
*"The Aftermath of Kristallnacht"*



Both lectures are free of cost and open to the public  
Location: Maxine and Robert Seller Theater  
2640 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068

**David Blitzer Lecture Series**  
**NAZISM AND THE JEWISH OTHER**  
Heidegger's Philosophical Miscalculation  
**BY ELLIOT R. WOLFSON**


Elliot Wolfson, Professor and the Marsha & Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies at U.C. Santa Barbara, will present his most recent book. Professor Wolfson is a world renowned scholar specializing in areas of Jewish mysticism and philosophy; gender construction & the history of religion.

***The Duplicity of Philosophy's Shadow: Heidegger, Nazism, and the Jewish Other***

November 20, 2019 7:00 pm  
University at Buffalo,  
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# FJP ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP: AMAZING EXPERIENCE!

Sophie Fogel, 16, is a junior at Buffalo Seminary, and was the recipient of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies Israel Scholarship during the spring of 2018. She attends Temple Beth Tzedek, her mother is Rebecca Simons, and her father is Jonathan Fogel. She is in USY, goes to Camp Ramah New England in the summer and is on the Sem Lacrosse team.

Here is her description of the Israel experience.

"I spent the spring semester of my sophomore year (2018) in Jerusalem, as part of Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim (TRY). TRY is an international high school program that provides young people with an opportunity to live and study in Israel. I had been a camper at Ramah-Palmer for 9 summers, and heard about TRY from counselors and older campers. The program was extremely well-organized, allowing me to earn the high school credits I would need to



graduate on time. We traveled to different parts of Israel every week, experiencing many types of synagogues and learning about Jewish history and politics. We even had the chance to spend a week in Poland, visiting some of the most important sites from the Shoah. In Jerusalem, we lived in a campus like setting, about a 10-minute bus ride from the Kotel. One of the most interesting parts of TRY for me was learning directly from political speakers, including Israelis and Palestinians with a range of viewpoints. I continue to be very interested in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and make an effort to stay up to date. The funding that the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies Israel Scholarship Committee provides for these sorts of programs is invaluable and so important for our community. Not only was my semester in

Israel transformative, but I made lifelong friends as a bonus!"

Again this year, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies will make a limited amount of financial assistance available for high school and college age students to travel and study in Israel. Please feel free to refer any prospective applicants who you feel might qualify for assistance. They may contact Nancy O'Neill at the Foundation office at 204-1134 or they may email her at [nancy@jewishphilanthropies.org](mailto:nancy@jewishphilanthropies.org). The deadline for applications for upcoming summer programs is December 1, 2019.

Note that each applicant must arrange for an interview with a congregational rabbi or a professional staff person from a local Jewish agency. The purpose of these interviews is to give the applicant an opportunity to discuss the proposed trip with a knowledgeable professional. The applicant must also provide us with a brief letter of recommendation from the Rabbi or Jewish professional for the committee's review.

**For more information on the FJP Israel Scholarship, call the Foundation at 204-1133.**

**My Grown Up & Me Storytime**

**November 3rd**

**10AM-11AM**  
Holland JCC  
Indoor Playground

**PJ Library**

**Buffalo Women & Girls Unite**

**4th Annual MEGA CHALLAH bake**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019 • 7:00PM**  
**AT THE JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER**  
757 Hopkins Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221

Join Jewish women and girls ages 12 & up from Buffalo for an evening of Jewish pride, unity and inspiration

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--	--	--	---	---

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# JRT presents three staged readings

The Jewish Repertory Theater will present a staged reading series as part of its 2019/20 season. "Last season we presented two staged readings – THE LAST SEDER, by Jennifer Maisel and ARE YOU JEWISH? by Bruce J. Bloom, that were enormously successful," said Saul Elkin, founding Artistic Director of JRT. "This season we're excited to bring our communities three new productions that will continue to exhibit the directorial talents of actor Adam Yellen as well as showcase many gifted WNY actors who might not normally appear on our stage due to our smaller cast sizes."

The staged reading series will begin with Holiday Shorts by Atlanta playwright Hank Kimmel on Monday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jewish Repertory Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY (in the Jewish Community Center). This is a funny series of offbeat, comic 10-minute plays ranging from the saucy to the sanguine to the sentimental, all featuring themes



Hank Kimmel

of the holiday season.

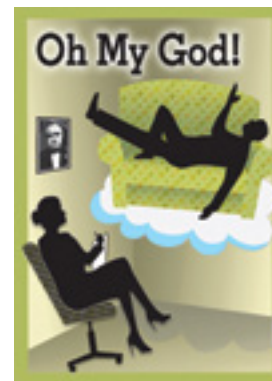
The next reading is GOD OF VENGEANCE, by Sholem Asch, translation by Los Angeles playwright Steve Fife on Monday, January 13, 7 p.m. at the Jewish Repertory Theatre and then Monday, January 20, 7 p.m. at The Kavinoky Theatre, 320 Porter Ave.

The final event is FINDING MR. RIGHTSTEIN, by Buffalo born writer Nancy Kelton, Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. at the JRT.

The JRT's productions of HOLIDAY SHORTS and GOD OF VENGEANCE will be free events, with donations encouraged to help support the theatre. FINDING MR. RIGHTSTEIN will be part of the JCC's Book & Arts Fair and will be a ticketed event (\$10/general, \$5/students). Reservations are recommended. To reserve your seats call 716-688-4114, ext. 335 or email jrt@jccbuffalo.org

*The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo. For more information on JRT productions, dates and subscriptions, visit [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com). Tickets are available at 716-650-7626, through Showclix at 1-888-718-4253 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EST) and at either JCC reception desks.*

## OH MY GOD! CONTINUES THROUGH NOV. 17



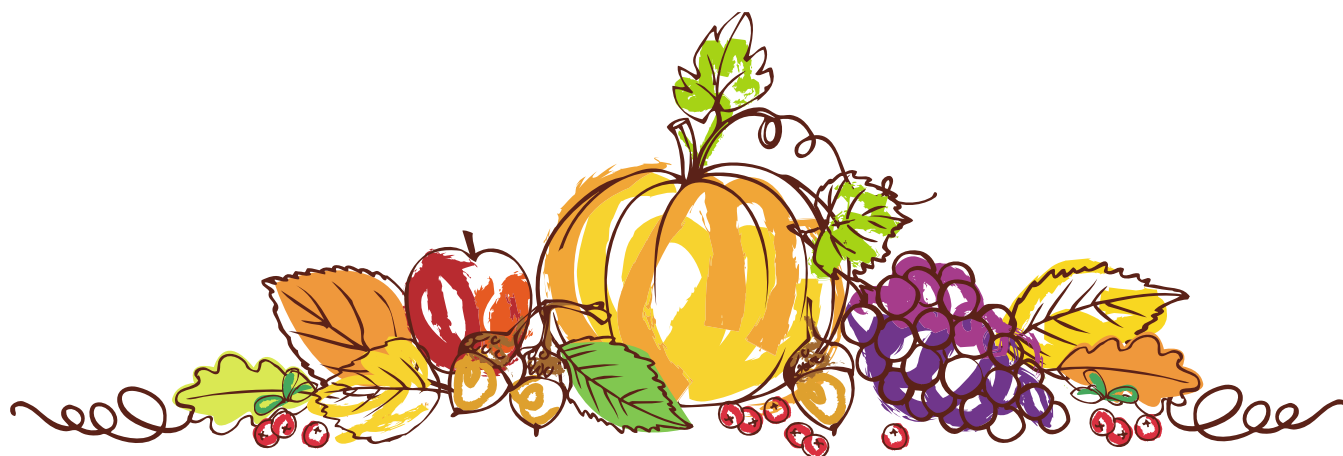
The JRT's production of Oh My God! Starring Todd Benzin, Max Goldhirsch and Lisa Ludwig and directed by Saul Elkin continues through Sunday, November 17 at the Jewish Repertory Theatre's home in the JCC.



Here is the story: 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?



For more information, visit [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com). Tickets are available at 716-650-7626, through Showclix at 1-888-718-4253 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EST) and at either JCC reception desks.



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## BUFFALO HADASSAH REACHES BEYOND BUFFALO

Buffalo Hadassah was recognized by Lynn Furness, Regional President, at the Regional Shabbaton in Cleveland as one of the most active Chapters in the region. Representing the Buffalo Chapter at the Shabbaton were Frima Ackerhalt, Susan Bergman, and Phyllis Steinberg. Over that weekend, the Buffalo representatives shared information about their successful programs and regular subgroup meetings, such as Book Club and "Pray Tell."

Hadassah has moved to a different office in the JCC. In the process of moving, many wonderful archival papers and pictures were uncovered, including a personal letter from Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadassah in 1912. Some of these important papers were given to National Hadassah and others to Dr. Chana Kotzin, Director of the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project. Many Hadassah members helped with the move to the new office which was coordinated by Frima Ackerhalt. The layout for the office was designed by Nancy Greenberg.

On November 19, there will be a demonstration by Vicki Schneider, stained glass artist, in her studio. Marlene Katzel will be hosting a Chanukah luncheon at her home on December 13, where the Katzel's huge collection of chanukiahs will be on display.

*Buffalo Hadassah has welcomed members from other cities into our local chapter. For membership information contact nangrnb@gmail.com*

You are Invited to the  
Dedication of the  
Levy and Daniel Families  
Art Gallery Dedication and  
Opening Reception  
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Exhibit

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JCC Holland Family Building  
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about the JCC

# Happening in November at the



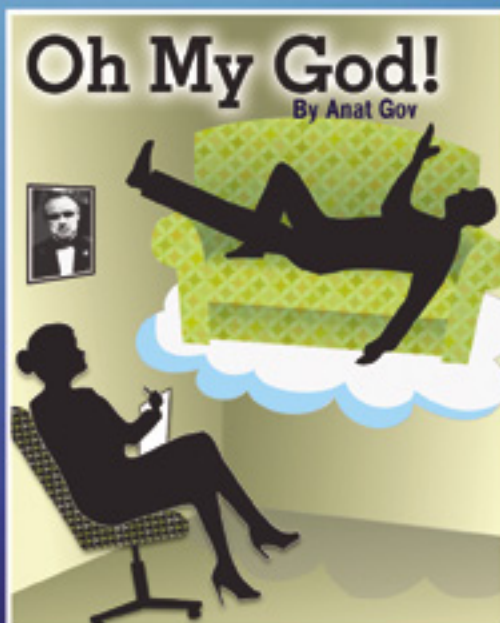
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Dedication of the  
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## JCC Hours

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



# Hillel Announces New Cohort of Jewish Learning Fellows

“What should you say to a bride on her wedding day? Do you always tell her she is beautiful, even if you don’t like her dress?” This is one of a series of questions that you can hear being debated among participants in Hillel’s Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF). This question is contemplated by the Sages in the Talmud, and appears in one of the weekly learning sessions that is a part of the JLF program. This particular session focuses on “Friendship, Honesty and Betrayal,” and students are challenged to think about how honesty factors into their friendships, and when it might be appropriate to tell a white lie in order to support a friend. Each week of the semester, students tackle a new “big question” through the lens of Jewish text, and in doing so learn how the wisdom of the Jewish tradition speaks to their lives as college students.



JLF is a 10-week experiential, conversational seminar for students looking to deepen their understanding of Judaism on their own terms. It was

created at the Bronfman Center Hillel at NYU, and developed by Hillel International’s Office of Innovation to be offered to students at over 80 local Hillels. The Fellows commit

to meeting weekly for the entire semester, and also participate in a class Shabbat experience and commencement ceremony. Rabbi Sara Rich will be facilitating the course this semester, with the help of a student intern, Justin Weiss.

Fall ’19 Fellows include: Eve Brunswick, New York, NY; Haylie Byers, Queens, NY; Nicole Cadiff, Westbury, NY; Batya Cherney, Rochester, NY; Rayna Cooke, Great Neck, NY; Liza Friedland, Great Neck, NY; Aliya Hyman, Riverdale, NY; Miriam Lipson, Queens, NY; Jordana Mazer, New City, NY; Hannah Nemerever, Carmel, NY; Joshua Neuman, Syracuse, NY; and Galia Wechsler, White Plains, NY.

The weekly commitment of the program and the depth of the conversations both contribute to creating a strong sense of community amongst the students. As the JLF intern, Justin has already noticed the connection between the fellows. He reflects, “It is powerful to see Jews from so many different backgrounds coming together in pursuit of a shared understanding of Jewish texts. The group is diverse, thoughtful, and they come willing to learn and share their experiences.”

**For more information about Hillel or the JLF program, please contact Rabbi Sara Rich – [rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org](mailto:rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org) or visit [www.jewishlearningfellowship.org](http://www.jewishlearningfellowship.org).**

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## Kristallnacht 1938

*By Dr. Gerhard Falk*

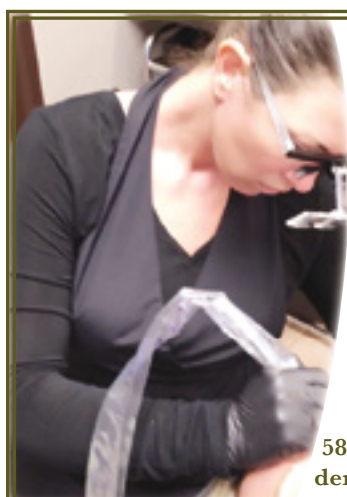
During the summer on Tish B'Av, we commemorated the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in the year 70. It seemed to me therefore that an event of equal significance occurred in Germany beginning with a speech by Hitler on October 26, 1938 as we commemorate Kristallnacht this month on November 9.

It was mandatory that all Germans had to listen on the radio to hear Hitler scream that there were 50,000 Eastern Jews living in Germany and that he had ordered the Gestapo (*Geheime Staats Polizei*) to arrest all Polish Jews and send them back to Poland. This order was carried out the next day and for a week thereafter, as the Jews were sent by cattle trains to the Polish border. The Poles refused to allow the Jews to enter Poland so that the Jewish families were left out in the open land without shelter in the November cold. Several children and old people had died on the trip and others became mortally ill lying in the open field without food or water.

These horrors were widely reported in all European newspapers. Herschel Grynszpan, a student at a Paris University received a letter from his sister about the deportation of their family. Grynszpan therefore bought a pistol and went to the German Embassy in Paris. There he met a uniformed man whom he mistook for the German ambassador. He shot and killed this minor official, Ernst von Rath on November 7.

The killing of von Rath was immediately followed by a radio broadcast from Propaganda Minister Goebbels screaming that the Jews had guns and were about to attack all "Aryans". And so on the night of November 9, Jewish homes were invaded by gangs of Nazis who shouted that they were looking for the guns in Jewish apartments and houses. The invaders searched the bedding and then proceeded to throw furniture through the windows into the street. They smashed pictures and dishes and ripped clothes apart and threw all kitchen utensils into the streets. Cold November air entered houses and apartments through the broken windows.

While these atrocities were in progress storm troopers entered all synagogues, poured gasoline all over



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Photo courtesy of US Memorial Holocaust Museum

the benches and set them afire. Huge flames shot through the windows and roofs of the synagogues. Flames burned the Great Synagogue of Hamburg which seated 1200 people. The roof collapsed with a vast noise. Finally 24 of the 26 synagogues in Hamburg were burned to the ground. Two remained because they were too close to apartment houses.

On the next day, the 10th of November, trucks full of Nazis drove through the streets and stopped at all Jewish owned stores and painted a "J" and a small Jewish star on the windows. They were followed by truckloads of Storm Troopers who smashed the windows of Jewish stores and looted their contents. They then entered the stores and beat the owners bloody. They tossed all contents into the streets, which became full of glass, broken wood and other smashed items. In the downtown Jewish owned department store, Nazi gangsters threw furniture and all other contents from second, third and higher story windows.

As a result, the streets became impassable and full of broken merchandise. The damage in all of Germany amounted to millions of German marks. Therefore the government announced that the Jews were responsible for the damage and that all Jewish bank accounts were confiscated to pay for the destruction the Jews had caused. That left the German Jews destitute.

In view of these horrors, thousands of German Jews applied for visas at the American Consulates. However President Franklin Roosevelt instructed Breckenridge Long, in charge of immigration at the State Department,

to allow only a fraction of Jews into the United States. As a result only 27,000 of 350,000 Jews remaining in Germany were ever admitted to the United States. The others died in the gas ovens after the Second World War began on September 1, 1939.

We Jews in Germany believed that nothing worse could happen to us. We were wrong. As soon as the War had started, German borders were closed and no one was allowed to leave in order to help with the German War effort, while Jews were consigned to slave labor and later gassed.

A few of us escaped just the same and came to the United States without money and without relatives and without an education because we were not allowed to go to school. Today historians call these events *Kristallnacht*, events we shall never forget.

*Dr. Gerhard Falk was a professor at State University College at Buffalo and retired in late 2016. He taught criminology, sociology of religion, juvenile delinquency, and the treatment of offenders. He is the author of 24 books and 42 journal articles. He has been awarded the New York State Research Foundation's Award for Scholarship; the Buffalo State College President's Award for Creativity; and The New York State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence.*

*Each issue often features a eulogy of a member of our own community who has recently died. Please contact Ellen Goldstein at [ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org) if you would like to share your words.*

## In memory of Dr. Harold Levy



The UB Department of Jewish Thought, sends condolences to the entire Levy family on the passing of Dr. Harold J. Levy, z"l. We are deeply indebted to Harold and Arlyne's philanthropic contributions in creating a named undergraduate scholarship and a lecture fund to support the mission of the Department of Jewish Thought. His legacy of supporting innovative interdisciplinary scholarship, with a special interest in crossing the boundaries between the humanities and the natural sciences, will surely have a lasting effect on the advancement of academic scholarship for both the Jewish tradition and humanity at large.



## In Remembrance

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



Mary Lou Davis  
Irving Gareleck  
Betty Klein  
Harold Levy MD  
Gordon Mittleman MD  
Elaine Nisberg  
Jack Saccomando  
Doris Sellers  
Susan Rivo Solender  
Evelyn Solomons  
Eric Scott Speier

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



# INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES - FALL 2019

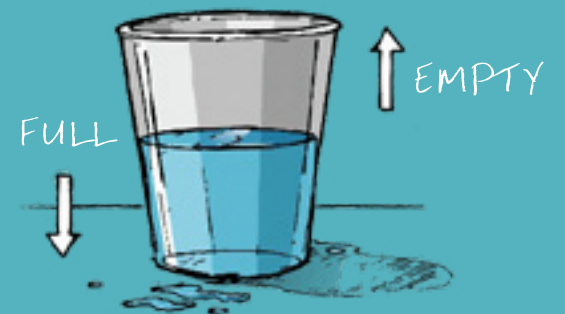
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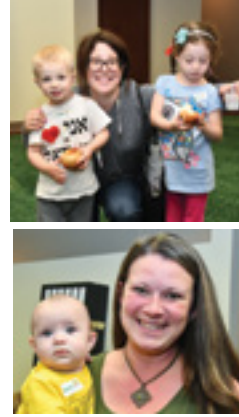
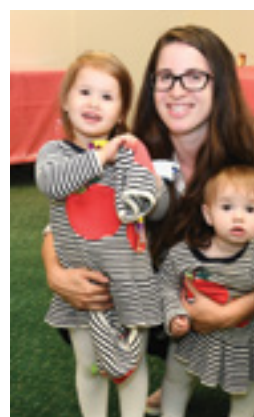
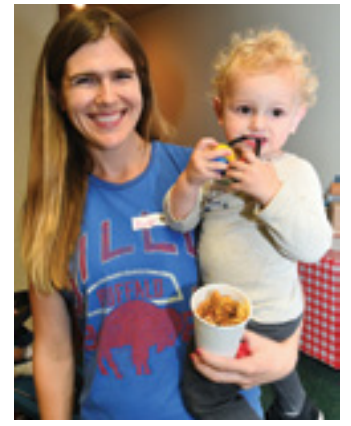
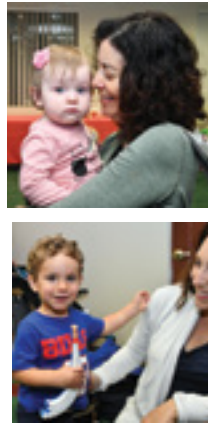
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# Music with Rivky for the High Holidays

A large group of moms and children enjoyed an incredible and fun-filled afternoon at Music with Rivky's Pre-Rosh Hashana music class! Many new families were welcomed to the class. The children blew their play shofars, did a cool "apple dipped in honey" dance, learned about the round challah filled with raisins and explored all the aspects of the holiday through music, props, instruments, movement and song! They loved Miss Rivky's homemade honey cupcakes with sprinkles (for a sweet New Year), as well as the yummy round challah rolls! The kids all went home smiling, ready for Rosh Hashana.



# NFJC Dash for Diversity: October 6





## Walk to End Alzheimer's: September 14



## Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies Annual Meeting: October 17

Photos by kc kratt





## Lion of Judah/ Pomegranate Event: October 11



## Dedication of CJEL Office: October 18





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## (NOT) THE LAST WORD

# The Israel Elections: A Ray of Hope?

By Harold Halpern

*Note: As we go to press, PM Netanyahu indicated he is unable to form a government, and Gantz will now make an attempt.*

Former Buffalonian Harold Halpern traveled to Israel with the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists recently for meetings with legal experts, judges, past and present government officials, and policy think tanks. Here is one of the stories he wrote for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*. It is reprinted here with permission.

The newly elected Knesset met in its first session on Sept. 3. On the face of it, no solution to the deadlock in forming a government was on the horizon. Neither the meetings, held before the opening of the Knesset, between Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, and Benny Gantz, leader of the Blue-White, nor the meeting of Netanyahu with Avigdor Liberman, leader of Yisrael Beiteinu, produced any results.

President Reuben Rivlin, as is the custom, opened the first session with presidential greetings. He pleaded with the parties to compromise and to form a broad national unity coalition.

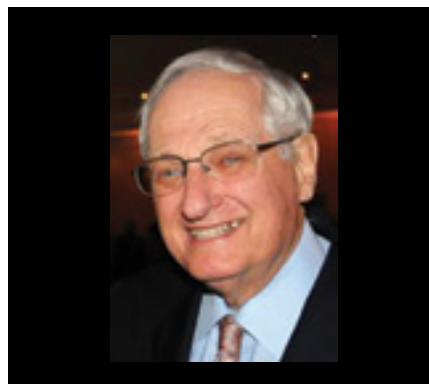
"This is a time of emergency for Israel security, Israel society and Israel democracy. Only a unity government would allow us to breathe a little bit and heal" our divisions, Rivlin said.

The ray of light is hard to see, but it is there. Public opinion wants a compromise and not an expensive third election, which will not likely produce any different result. The president is mediating among the parties and urging a give and take.

At the opening Knesset session, Netanyahu, Gantz and Liberman also pleaded for a unity government, albeit on their terms. With all parties agreeing to a unity government, negotiations — no matter how difficult — should ultimately succeed, either an all-party government or, as a fallback, a coalition of parties able to secure 61 or more votes.

Netanyahu's fundamental demands are that he start out as prime minister of a coalition of all parties for two years, after which he would be succeeded by Gantz for the remaining term.

Gantz's fundamental demands are that



Harold Halpern

he be PM of a coalition, but without Netanyahu while under indictment or threat of indictment.

Liberman's fundamental demands are that he will not sit with the religious parties in a unity government, and that religious control over marriage, public transportation on Shabbat and military exemption for Orthodox students up to age 35 should be ended.

If each party remains adamant on all their demands, they are snarled in a Gordian knot forcing a third election next year without an effective government functioning in the interim — a time of danger to security and society.

President Rivlin has proposed the outlines of an agreement in which each party gets some but not all their demands. He suggested a unity coalition in which Netanyahu would be PM for first two years but take a leave of absence if indicted, upon which occurrence Gantz would serve as PM. Further Rivlin proposed that Netanyahu and Gantz would equally divide the appointment of members of the ministry members. To encourage Liberman's participation in the government, he could be given a ministry position with an understanding that civil marriage will be approved, which is one of his key demands.

In this scenario, Netanyahu gets to be PM first, meeting his demand as well as securing government positions for his right coalition. He must take a leave of absence as PM if indicted — a big give — as he is not required under current law to give up his position of PM until a new government is selected.

Gantz gets to be PM after two years, or earlier if Netanyahu is indicted. He gives up to his promise not to serve with

Netanyahu as PM. He also gives up his desire for a more liberal government.

Liberman may get some relief from religious control over life of citizens if he is promised adoption of a civil marriage law, some additional public transportation on Shabbat and less likely a modification of exemption for Orthodox students until age 35. He also will probably receive a ministry cabinet position. He gives up his strong desire for a purely secular government.

If the parties agree to this give and take or something similar, there will be the broadest national unity government. If this is not agreed to, there are possibilities for a narrower coalition to avoid another election.

Likud and right coalition with B-W coalition without Yisrael Beiteinu has 69 votes. In this scenario, Netanyahu would be PM for the first two years or less if indicted and succeeded by Gantz for the remaining term.

Likud and a right coalition with Yisrael Beiteinu has 62 seats. Liberman would likely demand some benefit for his secular cause, an important portfolio and possibly rotation as PM if Netanyahu is indicted. While Liberman resists religious influence, he is compatible with right-wing positions on the West Bank.

A B-W coalition with Yisrael Beiteinu, plus 10 votes from the Israeli Arab coalition, has 62 votes. This is least likely as no party wishes to rely on Israeli Arab votes to secure the right to govern.

Negotiations will be painful and slow as each party will bargain without showing its hand too soon. There is time. Rivlin gave Netanyahu first crack at forming a government. He has 21 days. If Netanyahu is unable to reach an agreement, Rivlin can appoint Gantz or someone else to try, and he would have an additional 21 days. Agreements tend to be made just before time runs out.

The ray of light makes it more hopeful that a compromise agreement will be reached.

Retired Sarasota attorney Harold Halpern is a board member of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. He also writes for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*. His columns can be found at [www.aajlj.org](http://www.aajlj.org), and at [www.heraldtribune.com](http://www.heraldtribune.com).



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