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THE JEWISH JOURNAL

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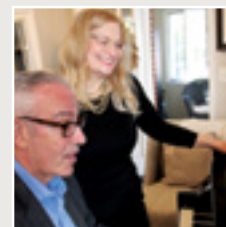
HANUKKAH



IS HERE!



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December 2019

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

The spirit of Hanukkah is here! During December, we see the days grow shorter and value the illumination that Hanukkah and the hope it represents shines on all of us. "Hanukkah" means dedication, and this month we are happy to share so many examples of dedication in our community, beginning with the December 4th Federation Annual Meeting and Celebration highlighted on pages 4 and 5, and its speaker and honorees. First, Buffalo native Marnie Lyons Fienberg, daughter-in-law of the late Joyce Fienberg who was murdered in the Pittsburgh Tree of Life attack, will speak to us at that event about finding hope, and pulling light out of darkness with her "2 For Seder" project.

Lana Benatovich and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, the evening's honorees, truly exemplify dedication. Lana, through her early work at Federation and now through the NFJC, has dedicated herself to not only finding the best in people but creating opportunities to build and sustain a better world and a better Buffalo. Rabbi Alex has not only led his congregation with passion and dedication, but has also thrown himself into interfaith work, helping to lead interfaith trips to Israel and addressing social justice right here in Buffalo.

Dedication is illuminated in the work of the Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning, its participants and professionals (see pages 6 & 7) by their search to forge more meaningful Jewish learning such as Mussar and Wise Aging for Buffalonians.

Federation President Leslie Shuman Kramer's dedication to Israel crystalizes in her appointment as new co-chair of our Partnership2Gether program in the Western Galilee on page 10, and Congregation Shir Shalom's Cantor Arlene Frank had succeeded in creating a brand new Hanukkah album with songs in four languages on page 14. Finally Rabbi Moshe Gurary explains the importance of the Hanukkah lights in our lives on page 16.

There are many Hanukkah parties, candle lightings and events to attend together this month, and I hope to share my good wishes for a light-filled holiday season this month when I see you at some of them. *Happy Hanukkah!*

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

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Women who are part of the MOMENTUM trip to Israel this month together with family members light the Hanukkah menorah. Look for a story on their journey in 2020!

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Consider: Yes...and

Maya Rudolph, the clever and versatile actress and comedienne of *Saturday Night Live* fame, gave the commencement address at my son Josh's graduation from Tulane University in 2015. Typical for such an occasion, words of wisdom were passed on to these emerging young adults as they entered "the real world." Her lesson rings in my ears over and over.

Rudolph talked about the concept in Improv called "yes...and," where one person starts a story or skit and the next person has to add to it, starting with the words "yes....and," the skit continuing in that vein. Rudolph advised using this skill in real life. For instance, she explained that many people say she looks just like Oprah Winfrey (which, arguably, she does not, other than the color of her skin) to which she might reply "yes... and ... isn't it funny because we are so different from one another." She teaches that "yes...and" opens doors where "no (you're wrong)...but" closes them.

I've been thinking about how "yes...and" opens doors and creates opportunities to build community throughout Jewish Buffalo.

In late October I attended a U.S. Naturalization Ceremony in Buffalo. A delightful and energetic Iraqi immigrant, Nadeen, who participates in a women's multi-ethnic discussion group organized by our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) became a U.S. citizen along with 50 others from 26 different



countries. (See photo on page 15.) I had originally met Nadeen at the West Side Bazaar where she has a booth selling macramé and handiwork. I bought a decorative plaque handmade by her that reads (in red Sharpie handwriting): "If you can't find a way...make one!"

That "yes...and" approach is the essence of Nadeen. She emigrated to this country by making her way through so many challenges. In addition to her booth at the Bazaar, she now has a full time job at Wegmans, and her son just graduated from UB. Nadeen says "yes.... and" and has opened up so many doors to create her own future.

At the ceremony the presiding judge warmly congratulated the new citizens, welcoming them to our country and letting them know that we need them

to help all of us (current citizens) determine what kind of country we want the United States to be. Quoting former presidents he told them that this country is a place where we all can be part of something bigger than ourselves. He encouraged each of them to engage in their communities and speak up for what they believe in – very much a "yes...and" approach.

We Jews know this story well. Our parents, grandparents and great grandparents came to this country at some point either for better opportunities or to join family, but almost all of our immigrant ancestors came because they were fleeing persecution of one form or another. Faced with oppression, poverty, discrimination and wars, they made difficult decisions to make new lives and they moved forward, creating the very community we gratefully live in today.

For over three thousand years we, as a people, have been saying yes...and." In this country, we have risen to the highest positions in all aspects of society making the world a better place. We lead, we create, we motivate, we teach. In order to grow we know that we MUST make the choice of "yes ...and" because the alternative leaves us without hope, without solutions, without growth.

And now, just as we remind the new citizens that they have a duty to help shape this nation, so do we have a duty to help shape our Jewish community. Rather than say "we can't" ("no....but"), we say "yes, we can" ("yes...and").

On December 4, I hope that you

will join me for our Annual Meeting and Celebration where you will hear more about this past year. We will be highlighting our Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Federation's dynamic, 3 year-old rejuvenated program that seeks to build bridges and relationships between the Jewish community and other faith-based and ethnic WNY communities. Through our JCRC we have renewed and forged new relationships, forming bonds that connect us and create relationships and foster camaraderie. We stand up for each other. Each of us, the Jewish and the other faith-based communities are saying: we each want to right any bigotry, prejudice and challenges in society. So we say "yes...and" how can we meet our challenges together?

We applaud the ground-breaking work of our JCRC. We applaud that through the JCRC we are addressing difficult questions, weighing and examining our priorities. And, we believe that attitude and approach should and does permeate all that the Buffalo Jewish Federation pursues.

In this vein, I thank this community for supporting our work. Through you as individuals, families, partner agencies and groups, your actions, your time, your talent and yes, together with your financial support, this community is bounding forth, saying "yes...and" let's build this community together.

Leslie Shuman Kramer is President of Buffalo Jewish Federation,

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Best wishes for a

Joyous Hanukkah Festival

From the Board of Governors and the Staff of the Buffalo Jewish Federation

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COMMUNITY

Federation's 116th & Celebration

Focus on Community Relations

The Buffalo Jewish Federation's 116th Annual Meeting and Celebration will be held this month on Wednesday, December 4th. The event will focus on the impact and growth of Community Relations through the revitalized Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). The meeting location – Northland Workforce Training Center – awardees Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and Lana Benatovich – and guest speaker Marnie Fienberg – all spotlight our efforts to strengthen relationships outside of the Jewish community. (See next page.)

Chaired by Marjorie Godin Bryen and Deborah Goldman, the celebration kicks off at 6 pm with heavy hors d'oeuvres and optional guided tours followed by the business meeting and award ceremony. "We are thrilled to be hosting our meeting at one of the most unique spaces in all of Western New York," commented Marjorie Bryen, who sits on Northland's Board of Directors. "This repurposed space seeks to advance the economic well-being of our region, and in particular the East Side, by providing opportunities to job seekers as well as pathways to gainful employment and manufacturing career advancement."

"We are also delighted to be honoring two extraordinary leaders in our community who have been on the forefront of community relations," noted Deborah Goldman, who is an active member of the JCRC Executive Board. "Lana Benatovich will be the third recipient of the Ann Holland Cohn Community Leadership Award. Lana cut her teeth in this field when she led JCRC at Federation over two decades ago and since has been a voice for change and bridge-building through her role leading the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY (NFJC)."

The same can be said for Rabbi



Alex Lazarus-Klein, spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Shalom for nearly 10 years, who will be receiving this year's Judith and Daniel Kantor Professional Service Award. "Rabbi Alex has built bridges with other faith communities, took a leadership role in leading two extraordinary Interfaith Missions to Israel in January 2017 and December 2017, and uses the power of his pulpit to speak out against injustice," commented Mara Koven-Gelman, Director of the JCRC.

Finally, during the business portion of the meeting, the newest members of Federation's Board of Directors will be formally elected. They include: Deborah Goldman, Brenda Feldstein, Ken Friedman, Ellen Niles, and Ezra Rich. In addition, Leslie Shuman Kramer will be presented for a second term of office. Joining her on the slate for officers includes Blaine Schwartz and Shelly Yellen-Vice Presidents, Marjorie Bryen-Treasurer and Andrew Shaevel-Secretary.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Joan Kwiatkowski at 716-204-2242.

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Annual Meeting is December 4

Marnie Fienberg to Keynote

Marnie Lyons Fienberg will speak at Buffalo Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting Wednesday December 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Northland Workforce Training Center. She has been on a long journey from victim to activist. Since her mother-in-law, Joyce Fienberg, was murdered at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, she has switched careers from business consulting for the Federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security for 15 years, to focus on social action – fighting hate and anti-Semitism at the grass-roots level. Her expertise includes strategic communications and planning.



Marnie Fienberg and Mara Koven-Gelman

Marnie's family has deep roots in Buffalo, with her great grandfather coming to Buffalo in the early 1900s. She was born and raised in Williamsville where her family were members of Temple Beth Zion for more than 30 years, and is a daughter of Harold and Diane Lyons and sister of Stacey Lyons-Berk. Her first job was at the Buffalo JCC in Amherst as a lifeguard, a skill she learned attending Camp Lakeland.

As an activist, Marnie is seeking out ways for individuals to take direct action against hate/anti-Semitism and build bridges across faiths and diverse backgrounds. Her first project with partner Lauren Kline is "2forSeder," which encourages Jews across the United States and Canada to actively invite at least two people of other faiths to their first Seder, and fights hate through first-hand experiences about Judaism. "2forSeder" is held in memory of Joyce Fienberg's generosity towards all people in every aspect of her life.

Buffalo JCRC director Mara Koven-Gelman first met Marnie while planning Buffalo's first Open Seder, similar to "2forSeder," where Jewish community members opened their Seders to people from other faiths, ethnicities and cultures in the hope of building relationships. "It was a natural to partner with "2forSeder"

and we added 84 people from Buffalo to "2forSeder's" near 1000 participants," said Mara.

Last summer, Mara travelled to Toronto to meet Marnie in person. Marnie was a panelist for a discussion entitled, "Antisemitism and Islamophobia – Moving from Hate to Hope" at Temple Holy Blossom. The Temple also planted a tree in memory of her mother-in-law, Joyce, who was born in Toronto and also a member there. "I was amazed to see such an outpouring of love and compassion for Mrs. Fienberg. Decades after Joyce moved away from this community, they were acting out the definition of *"Kol Yisrael – aravind zev la zev"* – all Jews are responsible for one another."

Marnie recently wrote a piece about moving beyond the first year after the shooting at Tree of Life synagogue. Her family was invited back to the first Tree of Life Bar Mitzvah after the incident. She wrote eloquently about the young Bar Mitzvah who was very well aware of the horror that occurred just 6 months previously and yet focused on the future of the Jewish community.

Marnie, writes, "the Jewish people have survived all sorts of tragedies because life, Jewish life, has a rhythm to it, a joy that focuses on celebrating life. What an amazing gift my young friend gave us all at the Tree of Life. This was the moment that we could start to create a foundation where we could rebuild our lives around this loss – together."

Buffalo is fortunate to welcome such an incredible leader. Marnie has taken pain and anguish and turned it into a mitzvah - to build lasting relationships and diminish hate. Community members will have the opportunity to sign up to be a host or a guest (from another faith, ethnicity or background) for "Buffalo2forSeder 2020."

For more information contact mara@buffalojewishfederation.org.



Bonnie Clement



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How Does Judaism



Carrie Milch

The rabbi at the synagogue in Milwaukee in which I grew up defined Judaism as “a way of life.” I am filled with gratitude for the strong values and support of our faith. It has illuminated my path of this journey into aging.



Greg Cypin

Judaism is such a part of my identity. I actually didn’t truly embrace it until I was an adult, and so regret all of the missed time. The sense of community and purpose I get is incredible. Plus, the people I’ve met and the experiences I’ve had make me so proud that this is a part of me.



Jody Goldstein

Judaism illuminates my life most when I am able to connect, study, and volunteer with others. By serving on the Temple Beth Zion board (focusing on Engagement), studying Mussar and Hebrew, and volunteering locally with Jewish and secular projects and globally with Partnership2Gether, I am able to grow as a Jew and fulfill the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam.



Benjamin Császár

Judaism has given me a plethora of chances to learn about myself, meet some of my best friends, and become a leader of my community. I think that’s how Judaism has illuminated my life and that’s how it should illuminate everyone’s life.

Reflections on the theme of Dedication

Miriam Abramovich

Director of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning

Have you ever been asked by a colleague or a friend: What fuels you? This question was posed at a gathering I attended a few weeks ago. I listened as individuals around the room shared replies, like “I live on caffeine, Starbucks, spinning, and, ice cream.”

What would the responses have been if we were asked a slightly different version of the same question: What fuels your soul? Would the answers sound more like “I live for my children, my creative pursuits, my friends, my faith?”

This time of year, we retell the story of Judah Maccabee and his followers. Brave and dedicated warriors, the Maccabees revolted against their oppressors, the Syrian Greeks. After years of hard-fought battles, they reclaimed the holy Temple in Jerusalem in 164 Before the Common Era (BCE). At long last, back inside that precious space, Judah and his team discovered that their temple had been destroyed and defiled. Right away, they set to work cleaning and restoring their holy space and quickly discovered that there was just a scant amount of oil remaining, not enough to keep the Temple’s eternal flame ablaze for more than a day or so. It would take eight days to find olives and create new oil. The miracle of the holiday is that the small bit of fuel, expected to last a few hours, lasted a full eight days.

What fueled Judah Maccabee and his followers? After so many defeats, so much struggle, so much hardship, where did they find the energy to dedicate themselves to the pursuit of justice, to see that each task (both the large and the mundane, like procuring and processing oil) were attended to? Their fuel was not coffee or sugar, but a dedication to something more sacred; their fuel was a dedication to justice, to legacy, to family, and to their faith.

When the days are shortest and the sky is darkest, and we search for fuel to carry us through the long winter months, I hold the Maccabee warriors in my thoughts and reflect on the idea that they were fueled by something much greater than themselves (and coffee!). And, I rededicate myself to fueling my soul and my work through my relationships, my creative pursuits, and my personal Judaism.

Nicole Bard

Director of Young Adult and Young Family Engagement

How did we, as a Jewish people, get to where we are today? Dedication. As a professional with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL), this theme shines through for me into each element of our work: our planning processes, meeting wonderful and interesting individuals and families, in our partnerships with agencies and synagogues, and beyond. The CJEL is dedicated to creating an array of meaningful Jewish living and learning experiences for individuals in different stages of life.

Dedication to Judaism was instilled in me by my family throughout my childhood. But, it was a teacher, Cary Falber, (z”l), who made the most significant impact on my dedication to Jewish life today. Through the years I knew Cary, it was clear that Judaism was his passion. He expressed his Judaism through his dedication to Jewish education, nurturing students, and truly valuing the individuality in every person, helping each one find the elements of Judaism that spoke to him or them.

Being a part of the CJEL team, I am able to share my dedication to finding and building a meaningful Jewish life with colleagues, volunteers, and friends. I owe immense gratitude to Cary for being an inspiring teacher and mentor, dedicated to passing on the traditions of our People.

WISHING YOU A

Illuminate Our Lives?



Miriam Rich
I love the Jewish songs that we sing. My favorites are "Oseh Shalom," "Ein Keloheinu," "Aleinu," and "Adon Olam". When I sing these songs, I feel awesome, happy, super-good, and I just love it.



Kirstie Henry
Judaism is like a soft light that invites me to emerge from the relentless hustle of daily life, carrying me to a place of freedom and absolute peace, where my soul can express itself before I step back into the hustle once again.



Bucky Abramovsky
Judaism illuminates my life by showing my part in a millennia-long continuity of faith, understanding, and pride. That relationship with my fellows, our ancestral home in Israel, and our relationship with the divine will always be my guiding light.



El Bernatovicz
Judaism has answers to the difficult questions, and bringing Jewish philosophy and teaching to my life has enriched the relationships with my closest friends and family.

Hanukkah means "dedication." Read on to learn how our Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning Professionals view the holiday and the concept of "dedication."

Mike Steklof

Director of Teen Engagement and Inclusion

In the Talmud (the collection of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend), there is a debate. Can one take a Hanukkah candle and light another? Usually we use the Shamesh (the helper candle) to light the candles of the Hanukkiah (menorah used on Hanukkah) but what if we don't have a Shamesh? Can we use the first candle on the Hanukkiah to light the others?

Two of the great Talmudic sages, Rav and Shmuel disagree. Rav says you can't and Shmuel says you can. Rav teaches that you shouldn't do anything that will diminish the light of the first candle. In using the first candle to light the other candles, you may spill some wax and that will diminish the light of the first candle. Shmuel says when you use the first candle to light the other candle you are only bringing more light into your home and into your life. Usually, when Rav and Shmuel disagree, we do what Rav says. However, in this case, we actually do what Shmuel says, we focus on bringing more light into the darkness.

In this season of dedication, it is my hope that I can follow Shmuel's teaching and help bring more light into other's lives by amplifying the work of my amazing volunteer partners, fellow professionals, and teens and families in our community. I also challenge each of you to dedicate yourself to find ways to use your light to increase the light in others' lives. *Hanukkah Sameach!!*

Susan Schwartz

Director of Adult Engagement

In my work, I think often about the idea of dedication. At the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, we dedicate ourselves to:

- bringing Torah to adult learners of all ages and stages;
- creating accessible, challenging, meaningful and relevant learning opportunities;
- integrating Jewish values into everyday living;
- building community and deepening relationships while strengthening individuals' sense of self; and
- providing the light to guide learners on a personal Jewish spiritual journey.

"A little bit of light dispels a lot of darkness." — Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi

JOYOUS HANUKKAH!

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- 3 Contact Randi Morkisz at 716.204.2245
randi@buffalojewishfederation.org

COMMUNITY

Federation Making Jewish Camp A Reality

The Buffalo Jewish Federation is committed to supporting Jewish camp experiences and is now making both Jewish day and overnight camp a reality for more children. This fall, Federation launched two new incentive grant programs to encourage Jewish families to choose from a variety of Jewish summer camp options for their children beginning next summer.

The Taste of Centerland program will provide incentive grants (not based on financial need) of \$250 to Jewish families with children attending Camp Centerland for the first time for a minimum of 2 weeks. Taste of Centerland is made possible through the generous support of The Weisman Family.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo has been operating WNY's premiere Jewish summer day camp since 1955. The camp has grown and developed dramatically in the years since it started on a 78-acre tract of land in rural Elma, NY. In 2013, Camp Centerland moved to its new facility in Getzville, adjacent to the JCC Benderson Family Building as the JCC wanted to redefine JCC camping for the 21st century.

The JCC's Camp Centerland provides a stimulating and nurturing environment based on Jewish values in a Jewish setting for children entering kindergarten through 9th grade. Camp Centerland's philosophy is rooted in the belief that teaching and demonstrating the Jewish values of *chesed* (kindness), *kehillah* (community) and *Tikkun Olam* (healing the world) is as important as splashing in the swimming pool, enjoying a popsicle, or singing favorite camp songs. "Limud" is the Hebrew word for learning, which is at the heart of everything Centerland does. Limud is the foundation of this diverse camp community, and enables everyone to gain a deeper sense of identity and belonging.

Families can find more information about Camp Centerland at www.campcenterland.org. With questions about Taste of Centerland incentive grants, contact Mandy Weiss at mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org.

The One Happy Camper program is in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) and made possible through the generous support of The David Feuerstein Family Foundation. One Happy Camper will provide incentive grants (not based on financial need) to Jewish families with children attending nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time. The available grants are \$700 (for campers enrolled in a session of 12-18 consecutive days) and \$1,000 (for campers enrolled in a session of 19 or more consecutive days).

One Happy Camper was conceived over a decade ago with the singular mission of increasing the number of children benefiting from the transformative experience of Jewish summer camp. Aimed at attracting new campers who do not have daily, immersive exposure to Judaism, the program provides these financial incentives to families of first-time campers to encourage and motivate parents to choose Jewish summer camp over other summer options. One Happy Camper grant recipients - just like all Jewish campers - will experience a memorable summer infused with Jewish education, awareness, and identity.

Families with children attending one of over 150 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps including JCC Camp Seneca Lake, URJ Camp George, Camp Ramah (Canada), and Camp Havaya for their first summer, may be eligible for a grant regardless of need.

Families can find camps and apply for grants by visiting OneHappyCamper.org. With any questions, contact Mandy Weiss at mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Save the Date

Come learn about both Jewish day and overnight camp options at the upcoming Jewish Camp Fair on Sunday, January 26th, 2020 from 2-5 pm at the Superhero Training Academy (Williamsville)! More information will be available soon.

Irv Levy appointed as FJP Interim Executive Director

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies has appointed Irving Levy as interim Executive Director. In addition to managing day to day operating activities for the 108 year-old community foundation, which holds more than \$200 million in assets, Levy will be responsible for compliance, marketing and community development.

“Irv’s private sector experience will be instrumental in moving our organization



forward in a way that will enhance our mission in serving the community,” said Donald M. Kohnstamm, Foundation Board Chair. “We will be extremely well served by Irv and our executive team as we embark on new initiatives, especially as it pertains to our legacy donors.”

Levy is a graduate of Canisius College, served as a Partner at Freed Maxick, CPAs and later became a founding member of The Exigence Group.

Sukkot with Miriam’s Well



Yad B’Yad hosted the annual Sukkah Party at the Jewish Women’s Group Home. The community is grateful to Dan Kester, Logan Woodard, and Hillel Students for building the sukkah, Yonina Foster for leading a great program, the residents of the home for opening their home, and all those who participated and brought food for this Miriam’s Well program.

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Leslie Kramer Named Incoming Co-Chair for Central Area Consortium – Western Galilee

Current Federation President Leslie Kramer will succeed Michelle Korin of Indianapolis as the next US Chair of the Partnership2Gether Central Area Consortium. The US Chair, together with the Israel Chair, leads the thriving Partnership between Buffalo (and the 15 other American communities), Budapest and the Western Galilee region of Israel. Leslie will assume her responsibilities of leading this exciting endeavor in January 2021.

The Partnership, a project of the Jewish Agency for Israel, is a platform of connections, projects and programs that link together people, institutions and organizations from all sides to strengthen Jewish identity and build community. There are 46 Partnerships throughout Israel and Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Buffalo belongs to the Partnership of the Central Area Consortium, Budapest and the Western Galilee.

The Central Area Consortium – Buffalo, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown, OH; Ft Wayne, Indianapolis, NW Indiana



Leslie Kramer joins current Israel Co-Chair Efrat Srebo at a Druze village in the region.

and South Bend, IN; Louisville, KY; Peoria and Springfield, IL; Des Moines, IA; Omaha, NE and Austin, Ft Worth and San Antonio, TX partner with Budapest, Hungary and Israel's Western Galilee (the City of Akko and 32 kibbutzim, moshavim and Arab villages.)

The Partnership organization meets in-person twice a year, alternating between a stateside community and the Western Galilee. The upcoming Summit of the Partnership will be June 21-25, 2020 in Budapest. The following meeting will be hosted by Buffalo in the fall of 2020.

The Partnership manages programs in the areas of formal and informal education, community engagement, arts, medical, young adults and academic connections. Each program connects people whether virtually or in-person to create relationships and increase motivation of the participants to be active in their respective communities.

This Partnership is the first of the 46 programs to have built a permanent home in Israel for the staff activities. The Partnership Center, a beautiful structure was just completed and is located on the Mediterranean coast in Israel, just north of Nahariya.

Jewish CAMP Fair

Sunday, January 26, 2020
3-5 PM

Superhero Training Academy
1590 Hopkins Rd, Suite 100
Williamsville, NY 14221

Join us to learn more about Jewish Day & Overnight Camps as well as the One Happy Camper and Taste of Centerland Camper Incentive Grants.

Parents will be able to learn more about camp while kids can participate in the fun!

- Free and open to families with children interested in summer camp (younger kids welcome too!)
- Superhero Training Academy activities
- PJ Library story time and activities during the event
- Camp snacks

Participating camps include: Camp Centerland • Camp Seneca Lake • Camp George Camp Wise • Camp Shalom • Machane Lev • Camp Havaya • Camp Stone and more!

onehappy camper | taste of centerland | The Center for Jewish ENGAGEMENT & LEARNING

RSVP to Mindy Panivos at mindy@buffalojewishfederation.org
716.204.3380 by January 22.

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3 Grants Awarded for Mussar and Community Relations with Teens

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) have secured a series of grants and awards to support innovative work with adults and teens.

CJEL has been awarded a second round of funding from the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and The National Center to Encourage Judaism (NCEJ) which supports programs that welcome people to Judaism, and will fund efforts that help individuals and multi-faith families learn about Jewish beliefs, traditions, and values. The grant award will support the initiative, "Living a Jewish Year."

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning is offering two cohorts of "Living a Jewish Year" in 2019-2020, a year-long program that guides individuals and families of multiple faiths through a substantive Jewish learning experience emphasizing how a celebration of Jewish time can help couples integrate Judaism into the natural rhythms of their lives.

The second grant was donated by one of Buffalo's great philanthropists, who made a significant gift to support The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning in increasing its Mussar course offerings. The Hebrew term "Mussar" is found in the Book of Proverbs and means moral conduct, instruction or discipline. Mussar is a Jewish path of textual study, contemplative practices, and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years. Through Mussar each person is working on his or her own personal self-directed spiritual curriculum cultivating personal traits (Middot in Hebrew) such as patience, enthusiasm, humility, trust, gratitude and order.

Thanks to this gift, the CJEL will be able to offer a third cohort of Mussar for

Young Adults, a new cohort of Season of Mussar, second cohort of Mussar for Moms, and three new cohorts of Mussar for Teens. This significant gift will also support the CJEL in training Mussar facilitators, writing new curriculum and continuing to ensure that the majority of our Mussar offering remain free of charge.

If you are interested in learning more or finding a Mussar cohort that is right for you, contact Susan Goldberg Schwartz at susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

The third grant, which is for JCRC in partnership with CJEL and the Holocaust Resource Center, has been awarded from the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis to bring its signature program "Student to Student" to Buffalo. This will enable our community to join several other Jewish communities, including St. Louis, MO, Washington DC, Indianapolis, IN, Milwaukee, WI, Seattle, WA and Des Moines IA, in bringing tolerance and understanding into local high schools.

"Student to Student" trains Jewish teens to make presentations about Judaism to their peers in schools that lack a Jewish presence. The Jewish teen presenters represent different branches of Judaism, and different approaches to Jewish practice. Presenters cover a range of topics including the Jewish calendar, Shabbat, Jewish dietary practices, Hebrew, the Holocaust and Israel. The teens put a "human face" to Judaism – the best antidote to bigotry and intolerance.

As this is a pilot year for "Student to Student" in Buffalo, we are in the process of recruiting a small number of teen presenters and a small number of schools that lack a Jewish presence.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Mara Koven-Gelman at marag@buffalojewishfederation.org.

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Thank you for your generous support to the 2019 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

We will publish the Honor Roll thanking all donors to the 2019 Campaign again this year in our February 2020 issue of the *Jewish Journal of WNY*. Your name will appear exactly as it did last year unless otherwise requested. ***Should you wish to make any changes, please contact our Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org or 716-204-2245.*** Your gift helps so many here in Buffalo, in Israel and throughout the world! Thank you!

Park School & Kadimah Scholars: Celebrating an Innovative Partnership

As we move through December, we're approaching the half-way point of our unique and innovative partnership with Kadimah Scholars and the Buffalo Jewish Federation. We have welcomed a significant number of families from the former Kadimah Academy to The Park School community. This has been a collaborative, innovative partnership, and truly representative of our shared values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness.

Happily, our work together is going even more smoothly than we anticipated, and we're starting to gain positive attention for our efforts on the national level from organizations like Prizmah and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). We are encouraged that we are doing good things when others around the country reach out to emulate our successful collaboration.

The Kadimah Scholars program at The Park School is supported through collaborative fundraising efforts that involve all three organizations. Park and the Federation work together to ensure funding for the salaries of the teachers responsible for Hebrew and Judaic Studies instruction, while Kadimah and Park work together in support of the Kadimah Scholars scholarship program. These scholarships require that Kadimah Scholars pursue coursework in Hebrew and Judaic studies - these programs are open to any Park student who wishes to broaden their knowledge of the world around us - in exchange for financial support in offsetting tuition costs. Through this program, Kadimah students have access to a complete Park School education and full membership in the Park Pioneer community. The resulting growth and shared cultural experiences within the Park community have been truly wonderful.

None of this would be possible, however, without a true, collaborative spirit across all three partners. Bringing two diverse communities together is no small feat, and a number of people deserve significant thanks for their incredible efforts in this regard. Park is particularly indebted to Jonathan Epstein and Hallie Keren--Kadimah's former and current Board Chairs, to Rob Goldberg--CEO & Executive Director of the BJF, and to Michal Shmuel-Lewis and




Board President David Brock and Head of School Jeremy Beach

Nirit Weiner-- the masterful teachers we are now so proud to call members of Park's faculty. This team has worked tirelessly and through deep logistical challenges to ensure that the Kadimah Scholars program is vibrant, of high quality, and genuinely, richly tied to The Park School and our community.

The Park School has a long tradition of being a diverse school that celebrates the cultures and beliefs of a great multitude of different people from all over Western New York, including a long-standing relationship with the Jewish community. This new partnership matches our historical mission, and has infused that relationship with new energy and enthusiasm. Our shared hope is that this unique partnership can be a model for building similar collaborations with other WNY cultural groups, as well as for other schools around the country. This will allow all of us collectively to be leaders in unifying our communities in celebration of the many wonderful differences that make Buffalo and our region such a great place. We are incredibly proud to partner with Kadimah and the Federation in this important work.

Thank you to everyone in Buffalo's Jewish Community who has played a role in bringing this program to life and in supporting its growth and future success! At this festive time of year when we celebrate joy and diversity, all of us at Park wish you a happy Hanukkah and holiday season.

With warm regards,


Jeremy Beach,
Head of School


David Brock
President,
Board of Trustees

Hanukkah

December 8

TBZ Achim Hanukkah Party at Weinberg Campus
10:00 a.m. Meadows Lounge, 2nd floor at 2650 North Forest. Open to the community & free of charge. **Contact Ken Graber at 681-9885 for information.**

Barnes & Noble Bookfair and Hanukkah Story Time with Congregation Shir Shalom
at 1:00 p.m. 1565 Niagara Falls Boulevard Hanukkah stories! Hanukkah songs! -Do your holiday shopping! Complimentary gift wrapping from 1:00-5:00 p.m. **Call the Temple Office at 633-8877 for more information.**

December 14

Nickel City Jews Celebration
7:00 p.m. Artisan Kitchen & Bath. 200 Amherst Street. \$18. tinyurl.com/ncjhanukkah2019

Hanukkah Concert & Album Release
7:30 p.m. Congregation Shir Shalom. Cantor Arlene Frank and guest musicians featuring songs from the brand new **Hanukkah Nights** album released that evening.

December 15

Kosher Mini-Chefs for Hanukkah
1:00-2:00 p.m. Jewish Discovery Center. 757 Hopkins Rd. **Call 639-7600.**

Light Your Way to Hanukkah with PJ Library and PJ Our Way (PJOW)
2:00-3:00 p.m. PJOW only. 3:00-5:00 p.m. Family program for everyone. The Park School/ Clement Gym. **Contact Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

December 20

Pre-Hanukkah Renewal event with Yonina Foster
5:30 p.m. Bring Shabbat dessert to share. **Contact buffalogalagain@gmail.com for location.**



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Events in 716

December 21

Prepare for Hanukkah like a Maccabee Warrior

6:00-7:30 p.m. Free family event at JCC-Benderson Bldg. Snacks, games fun. **RSVP to Katie Wzontek - 204-2084.**

Teen Hanukkah Party @ JDC

9:00 p.m. 757 Hopkins Rd.
Call 639-7600.

December 22

Chabad Menorah Lighting at Tops

International Plaza, Maple Road.
5:00 p.m. The giant community Menorah will be lit at Tops International plaza, to begin the holiday of Chanukah. The lighting will be accompanied with song and dance, delicious Chanukah Donuts, Hot Latkes & Kids prizes!

Jewish Discovery Center

Hanukkah Party

5:00 p.m. 7578 Hopkins Road. **639-7600.**

December 27

Hanukkah at Shir Shalom

6:00 p.m. – Complimentary Latke Bar
7:00 p.m. – Erev Shabbat Family Service. 8:00pm – *Frozen 2* Theme with Festive Oneg Shabbat. Open to the community! **RSVP to the Temple Office at 633-8877.**

Hanukkah at Temple Beth Zion.

700 Sweet Home Rd.
6:00 p.m. Happy Hour with mini latkes & jelly donuts.
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service.

RSVP to Becky at 836-6565 if you plan to come for Happy Hour.

December 28

Hanukkah Rosh Chodesh Renewal event with Yonina Foster

10:00 a.m. Bring light dairy food to share after services.

Contact buffalotalagain@gmail.com for location.

Congregation Beth Abraham

Hanukkah Party

5:30 p.m. Latkes, apple sauce and Rock & Roll! Please bring latkes or another dish.

Visit congregationbethabraham.net to RSVP.

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Singing New Hanukkah Songs: Cantor Arlene Frank

By Ellen Goldstein

Cantor Arlene Frank of Congregation Shir Shalom in Williamsville is so excited to launch a brand new album of Hanukkah songs created in partnership with Buffalo jingle genius Ken Kaufman. It features eight tracks of new takes on traditional songs, and also highlights local Buffalo community musicians and voices.

Cantor Frank has been in Buffalo at Shir Shalom since July 2016, and during that time she had an occasion to work on a Yom Hashoah project with Kaufman. “I was taken aback by his feeling for his music. I was very impressed with him, and he said that we should do some kind of project together. I suggested a Hanukkah album,” she said. They agreed that the basic idea was to make good quality Hanukkah music that reflected Liberal Judaism.

Buffalo connections

The project was 100% Made in Western New York and has songs in four languages—English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino.

It was all recorded, mixed and mastered here in Buffalo. Recording Engineer

was Ken Kaufman, legendary owner of AdSongs, and Buffalo’s most prolific jingle writer. “Without him, this would not have happened,” Cantor Frank said. “He was producer, arranger, recording engineer and pianist for the project. I was thrilled that Ken would be working with me on this, because I had been searching for many years for someone that I felt so musically connected to in this way. He got behind the project 100%,” she added. They are both very pleased with the result—eight beautiful songs, one for each night of Hanukkah. Every song has a twist; each one is different from the next.

Ken really enjoyed the entire process. “Collaborating with Arlene was lots of fun,” he said. “Arlene was always open to



all types of ideas. It’s an atypical project and offers many surprises. Arlene’s voice was always spot on and we involved some of Buffalo’s greatest musicians. I hope people listen to it and enjoy it. The album teaches us more about tradition and helps us keep the tradition alive! We hope that the music becomes part of the fabric of people’s Hanukkah celebrations,” he said.

All musicians on the album are from Buffalo, and there are sly references to Buffalo slipped into some of the lyrics, such as Paula’s Donuts, Bison Brand Dairy, Sheridan Drive. Also, the cover features the Buffalo skyline. Buffalo Philharmonic Principal Cellist Roman Mekinulov is featured in six of the songs. The bass player—Jerry Livingston, who appears on two gold albums, plays acoustic bass and electric bass. The percussionist is Preston Brown, known as a fabulous drummer.

Too many songs. Too little time.

Cantor Frank started doing background work, searching for her favorite Hanukkah songs, and found way too many. It would take a while to narrow the selection down. She and Kaufman started regular meetings in May, recording the songs in June, and continuing throughout the summer. They finally created eight tracks for the album. “We would meet weekly, and once we got the basic tracks down, we started adding in musicians,” she said.

About the Songs

One song is called “Make Your Latkes from Scratch,” a fun Blues song written by a fellow East Brunswick High School, NJ alum (like Arlene) who she had kept in contact with via Facebook.

Then there are classic songs like “Oh Chanukah, oh Chanukah” and “Mi Y’imaleil/ Who Can Retell?,” recorded as duet with Cantor Irwin Gelman.

They also recorded the classic song “Sevivon” (The Little Top) in Hebrew and then added English lyrics by nonagenarian poet and Shir Shalom member Gloria Tetewsky.

“8 days of Chanukah” is a Chanukah song that is based on a very famous Russian folk tune. After recording it with all the musicians, Cantor Frank decided I had to add an accordion to the piece, so she invited Michael (Misha) Weinstein to add a Russian instrument called a *bayan*, which you play by pressing buttons instead of piano-style keys like an accordion.

The Ladino song is called “Ocho Kandelikas” or “8 Candles,” and features Cantor Frank’s husband, musician Michael Frank, on bongos.

“Soufganiot” about Israeli Hanukkah fried donuts is by Rabbi Joe Black, and features Cantor Frank’s cousin, David Lacks, on harmonica.

When it came time to record the Hanukkah blessings, Cantor Frank waited until the end, because she didn’t want to record them a traditional way. Close to the end of the project, she sat down with Kaufman at the piano, and together they started experimenting with riffs, and came up with a jazzy, Latin-infused rendition of it that truly says “Celebrate Hanukkah!”

Hanukkah Nights is now available as a CD and for download on digital platforms. The CD release party/Hanukkah concert is December 14 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Shir Shalom. This concert is free. Complimentary CDs will be available—one per family—until supplies last, through a generous donation from Edward and Debra Fine. They are also for sale. You can purchase them on **CD Baby**, and at the Shir Shalom gift shop, and through Spotify, Amazon, and other digital formats.

Additional thanks from Cantor Frank for making the project possible go to Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, Congregation Shir Shalom/ Buffalo, Buffalo Jewish Federation, The Kester Family Foundation, and all the generous people who contributed to the making of this project through crowd-sourcing platforms.

Ellen Goldstein is editor of *The Jewish Journal of WNY*

A poster for a Hanukkah celebration. At the top, it says "DEC 14 2019 | 7:00PM" vertically. Below that is a photo of a table with various Hanukkah foods like latkes, sufganiot, and vegetables. To the left of the photo is a blue vertical bar. Below the photo, it says "nickel city jews" in a circular logo. Underneath that, in large bold letters, is "Hanukkah Celebration". Below that, it says "ENJOY A FESTIVE MEAL WITH FRIENDS AT ARTISAN KITCHENS & BATH." and "COST: \$18/PERSON". At the bottom, it gives the URL "HTTP://TINYURL.COM/NCJHANUKKAH2019".

JCRC joins Buffalo & Erie County Complete Census 2020 Count Committee

By Mara Koven-Gelman

Federation's JCRC is partnering with the Buffalo & Erie County Census Committee to ensure all communities, especially those that are underrepresented, will be included in the April 1, 2020 household count. The U.S. Constitution mandates that all people be counted every 10 years. Everyone should respond to the census regardless of your immigration status, housing insecurity, age, race, or ability.



To help our larger community prepare, JCRC recently convened a U.S. Census training meeting where 20 people from 10 community and faith organizations attended. U.S. Census Bureau specialist Amy Brombos delivered an informative presentation on how groups can encourage a complete count. She shared a poignant story, emphasizing that every community needs to be counted. "In the 2010 Census, Orchard Park was undercounted in the cohort of children age 5 and under. When writing a grant for universal pre-k, the Census data showed very few in that cohort. Of course, there are young children in Orchard Park," she said, "but if you don't fill out the Census, you will miss out on important programs."

I was recently interviewed as part of a panel on the Partnership for Public Good's Radio Show to showcase about how community organizations are preparing for next year's Census, which you will find here: <https://ppgbuffalo.org/who-we-are/public-good-video-radio/>

The decennial (10 year) Census is one of the nation's most important programs. Over \$675 billion of federal funds will be allocated based on the 2020 Census. Programs affected include:

- Healthcare (Medicare/Medicaid)
- Education (Head Start, school lunches, elementary/secondary schools, Pell Grants for college, special ed)
- Housing (Sect 8 rental housing assistance)
- Local government (representation)
- Manufacturing small business and neighborhood block grants
- Transportation (Highway planning and construction)
- Financial support (assistance checks/childcare, SNAP)

Local legislators have determined each "un-counted" person results in a loss of approximately \$2000 to Erie County's infrastructure, health and social services.

The Census also impacts congressional representation. New York State has historically been undercounted, including the following populations:

Young children, those living in poverty, immigrants, those in dense urban settings and very rural locations, and people of color.

Important Info for you to know:

New this year, is the ability to respond to the Census online.

One can also respond by phone or mail.

Census takers visit households that haven't responded after April 1, 2020.

The Census responses are safe and secure – the U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information and keep it strictly confidential.

By law, Census responses cannot be used against individuals by any government agency.

Time line: Jan 2020 postcards mailed with Census online web address.

Results are released to the U.S. President by December 31, 2020.

Know someone who needs a part-time job? U.S. Census is hiring – minimum wage is \$18/hr. Contact: 2020census.gov/jobs. Census income does not affect Federal benefits.

If you want to get learn more or get involved: www.census.gov or contact mara@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Mara Koven-Gelman is Buffalo Jewish Federation's JCRC director.

Mazel Tov, Nadeen!



Nadeen (with flowers) is seen here with: Leslie Shuman Kramer, President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation; Lila Roll, International Institute; Nina Lukin, JCRC co-chair; Denise Phillips Beehag, International Institute; Mustafa and Masarra (two of Nadeen's children) and Mara Koven-Gelman, JCRC director.

Friends and family of new U.S. Citizen Nadeen Yousef celebrate after a recent naturalization ceremony at the Robert H. Jackson U.S. Court House. Nadeen, born in Iraq, is an active member of the Jewish Community Relations Council's Multicultural Womens Group and owner of 'Macramé by Nadeen' at Buffalo's West Side Bazaar. She and her family came to Buffalo in 2014 as refugees, having first moved to Syria and then Turkey to escape the horrors of war and persecution.

In that short time, she has built two successful businesses, and works full-time at Wegmans while raising a family. Nadeen also was awarded the National Federation of Just Communities "Community Leader Business Award" this year. Nadeen is great support to other newcomers while they build a life in Buffalo. One of JCRC's priorities is to build relationships with new friends from other cultures and backgrounds as a way to increase tolerance and understanding. The Multicultural Women's Group meets every six months to share each other's cultures and traditions while embracing life and values in the U.S.

MENORAH LIGHTING

at
Tops International Plaza

Sunday, December 22
5:00 p.m.

The huge community Menorah will be lit at Tops International plaza, 3980 Maple Rd. Amherst NY, to begin the holiday of Chanukah. It is one of the tallest menorahs in the country and is sponsored by Chabad House of Buffalo.

The lighting will be accompanied with song and dance, delicious Chanukah Donuts, Hot Latkes & Kids prizes!

Fun for the entire family!

Rabbi Moshe Gurary: Let Chanukah Illumine Your Life

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the victory—more than 2100 years ago—of a militarily weak but spiritually strong Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness.

The miraculous victory—culminating with the rededication of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and the rekindling of the Menorah which had been desecrated and extinguished by the enemy—has been celebrated annually ever since during these eight days of Chanukah, especially by lighting the Chanukah Menorah, also as a symbol and message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness.

It is a timely and reassuring message, for the forces of darkness are ever present. Moreover, the danger does not come exclusively from outside; it often lurks close to home, in the form of insidious erosion of time-honored values and principles that are at the foundation of any decent human society. Needless to say, darkness is not chased away by brooms and sticks, but by illumination. Our Sages said, “A little light expels a lot



Rabbi Moshe Gurary

of darkness.”

The Chanukah Lights remind us in a most obvious way that illumination begins at home, within oneself and one's family, by increasing and intensifying the light of the Torah and Mitzvos in the everyday experience, even as the Chanukah Lights are kindled in growing numbers from day

to day. But though it begins at home, it does not stop there. Such is the nature of light that when one kindles a light for one's own benefit, it benefits also all who are in the vicinity. Indeed, the Chanukah Lights are expressly meant to illuminate the “outside,” symbolically alluding to the duty to bring light also to those who, for one reason or another, still walk in darkness.

What is true of the individual is true of a nation, especially this great United States, united under Gd, and generously blessed by Gd with material as well as spiritual riches. It is surely the duty and privilege of this nation to promote all the forces of light both at home and abroad, and in a steadily growing measure.

Let us pray that the message of the Chanukah Lights will illuminate the everyday life of everyone personally, and of the society at large, for a brighter life in every respect, both materially and spiritually. (This was adapted from a message of the Lubavitcher Rebbe)

Rabbi Moshe Gurary is Director of Chabad of Buffalo.

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- 1» **Give a year-end gift to the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Campaign for Jewish Buffalo**, and get a 2019 tax deduction, and the feeling of being a mensch and making your Jewish community a better place. Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org, or call 716-204-2245 before the end of December.
- 2» **Celebrate Hanukkah in Buffalo this year.** Check out pages 12-13 of this issue of the Jewish Journal to see all the Hanukkah events around town.
- 3» **Kids need Books!** That's what our Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy (BJCL) volunteers say! And you can give gift cards, books or a cash donation to the group so that children at Buffalo Public School #80 – Highgate Heights can continue to become more literate, and have books of their own. Contact Amy Heumann at ALHWrdBk@gmail.com to donate or volunteer or Ellen Goldstein at ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org.
- 4» **The Town Square Food Pantry** located at Weinberg Campus needs donations of food. The organizers are looking for donations of in-date, non-perishable canned and boxed goods. You can find bins at the JCC buildings or take them directly to Town Square on Tuesday or Friday mornings.
- 5» **Donate Gift Cards to Jewish Family Services** for needy families and individuals this holiday season. Gift cards from Tops, Wegmans, Walmart, Price Right and Walgreens preferred. Mail or drop off at JFS, 70 Barker Street, Buffalo NY 14209—ATTN: Juliana Teibel

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Last month Rella Corris and Elaine Kellick correctly identified the Torah saved from the Holocaust that is on display in the lobby of Congregation Shir Shalom.



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COMMUNITY

FOOD

Hanukkah Brisket

by Robin Kurss

We always have brisket and latkes for Hanukkah, so I'm always on the prowl for a new brisket recipe. This one is a riff on *The Silver Palate Cookbook's* Chicken Marbella and the brilliant idea of our own Keren Green at Spree Publications.



Manischewitz Brisket

- 1 6-8 lb. brisket
- Salt and pepper
- 2 red onions, chopped
- 5 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped
- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 6ths
- 1 cup pitted prunes or 1 cup dried apricots
- 1 cup figs
- 2 heads of garlic, cut in ½
- 1 bunch thyme
- 2 c Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine
- 10 c beef broth

Season both sides of the brisket liberally with salt and pepper and brown both sides in a skillet with a little oil. Place half of the veggies, fruit, garlic and thyme on the bottom of a large roasting pan. Place brisket on top and cover with the other half of these ingredients and the wine and broth. Cover and bake in a 350 oven for 4-5 hours or until fork tender. Place in refrigerator once cooled and next day, slice, reheat and enjoy.

In Every Issue...

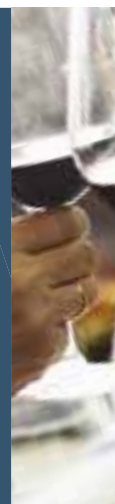
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Jewish Renewal Events in Williamsville

Friday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.

Join Yonina Foster, Ph.D., in a Jewish Renewal Friday night Shabbat pre-Hanukkah program and service. Gather together for music, song, prayer, meditation. How do we find the light within and dwell in our darkness? Can we discover the blessings these perspectives provide? Lighting our lights within as we prepare for Hanukkah during the darkest time of the year. Your stories and sharing will enrich the experience as we learn from one another.

Contact: bflogalagain@gmail.com or (301) 452-7847 for location.

Please bring Shabbat dessert to share.

Saturday, December 28, 10 a.m.

Yonina will also offer a Shabbat morning service and program in the Jewish Renewal tradition for those who wish to experience a meditative, song-filled, service of prayer and music. Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah. Creative Torah service offering incorporated with sharing and discussion. Torah sharing encouraged and welcomed. Weather permitting, walk in nature to follow.

Contact: bflogalagain@gmail.com or (301) 452-7847 for location.

Please bring light dairy foods to share after service.

Hanukkah Program at TBZ Achim December 8

Temple Beth Zion's Achim will offer its Annual Hanukkah program Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, and will feature the Temple Beth Zion Junior Choir, under the direction of Cantor Penny Myers. The choir appears annually and sings many of the traditional Hanukkah melodies. Ruach Buffalo, a new community choir, will also be featured.

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.

Jewish Adults with Special Needs Lead Havdalah Service at TBT

For the third consecutive year, Temple Beth Tzedek's Kesher Inclusion Lifelong Learning Program for Jewish adults with special needs has completed its four-month session, culminating with a Havdalah service led by our students on Saturday, October 26. Since its inception in 2017, this program has grown from three students and three teachers to thirteen students taught by eight teachers. The program was conceived and implemented by Marian Lustig with strong community support from Temple Beth Tzedek congregants, the Kesher Inclusion committee members, the staff of several group homes, the families of students and of course, the students. The interest and the commitment of these students were most impressive. Kesher Inclusion activities at Temple Beth Tzedek are intended to ensure that Jewish people of all abilities can continue to participate and find meaning in our beloved Jewish traditions.

All students have been working diligently on individualized lessons. Many focused their time and energy with their teachers on mastering the Havdalah Service and examining the related customs. Alternatively, some students chose to discuss Torah, to work on learning to read Hebrew, to prepare for an *Aliyah* by reviewing the blessings, or to learn to chant the *Misheberach* prayer.

The evening celebration started with the Mincha Service led by Cantor Mark Spindler and Rabbi Moshe Silberschein. During *Mincha*, the students were called to the *Bimah* in three groups and honored with *Aliyot*. Because the new Temple Beth Tzedek sanctuary is accessible, those individuals using wheelchairs could more easily approach the Torah for their *Aliyah*. Following *Mincha*, there was a festive *Seudah Shalishit* in the auditorium. The necessary accommodations were made for individuals who have special dietary requirements. Following Grace after Meals, everyone returned to the Sanctuary for the *Maariv* service beautifully led by Lifelong Learning teacher, Laurence Boxer. Students then came to the *Bimah* with their teachers to lead the congregation in a very moving *Havdalah* service, using the Debbie Friedman melodies. There were approximately 70 people in attendance, including students, teachers, Temple congregants, families and friends. The sanctuary was filled with warmth and excitement.

A booklet was distributed to all in attendance that evening. The booklet included tributes by the teachers, discussing the lessons with their students. Here are excerpts from each of the teachers' tributes:

Laurence Boxer writes about Nancy Ackerman, regarding the Torah lessons they've had: "Early on, Nancy asked about the song, *Am Yisrael Chai*. I mentioned that it has a root in the Torah when Joseph revealed himself to his brother.....We decided to go back to the start of the Torah and work our way forward. Thus, Nancy is doing what we are all supposed



to do but many don't – she is studying Torah"

Jay Mesnekoﬀ writes about Drew Boehnlein: "As we went through each individual blessing, his concentration was magnificent and he always gave his all."

Beverly Schiller writes about Debbie Horowitz: "She is always ready and waiting when I visit and never complains about the number of times we review the blessings!"

Eileen Markzon writes about Jen Innerfield: "When asked, Jen will tell you that she feels 'good' when she comes to Temple and she loves being with others... Jen knows that she is Jewish and that being a Jew is part of her identity"

Amy Kottler Lipkind and Beverly Schiller write about Taylor McLanahan: "We continue to delight in her enthusiasm, spirit and singing, and hope she will continue to join us in the future."

Rachel Anderson writes about Shai Notarius: "She is such a pleasure to teach and she lifts my spirits every time we meet. So far this year, Shai has learned the *Mishaberach* prayer and part of the *Birkat Hamazon*. At her request, she is now learning *MaNishtana* in preparation for *Pesach*."

Sharla Bleichfeld writes about Daniel Pincus: "While I had fully expected to be the teacher and Daniel the student in

the Kesher Lifelong Learning Program, I found that Daniel has taught me a lot and remains a constant source of inspiration."

Bernard Weinstein writes about Clifford Slabotkin: "Clifford's desire for learning is great, and he wants very much to learn to read Hebrew. I have encountered hundreds of students in 32 years of teaching college physics at UB, but seldom have I met a student with more motivation."

The residents of the Women's Jewish Group Home were taught by Beverly Schiller and Amy Kottler Lipkind. The five women who live in the group home are Suzanne Fried, Karen Merrick, Jessica Rubin, Lizzy Skerker and Jessica Tolbert. They were joined by Taylor McLanahan. Amy writes: "It has been a joy to spend time each week with these women, sharing our mutual love for music and singing the Havdalah prayers together." Beverly writes: "Wow! These ladies are all so very special...We sing and laugh together, we made Havdalah spice bags and bejeweled Kiddush cups. I hope that these women have enjoyed the time we spent together as much as we have!"

If you are interested in participating as a teacher, or know someone who would benefit as a student, please contact Marian Lustig at mblustig@gmail.com or 716-465-2705.

TBZ Religious School's Mitzvot

By Beth Steinberg

Temple Beth Zion's Religious School held its first Mitzvah-of-the-Month of the 2019-20 school year on October 27. We know that over 45% of people in Buffalo and Erie County currently live below the poverty line, that over 5,500 people in Western New York face occasional or permanent homelessness, and that approximately 25% of them are children. For the second year in a row, we decided to make Blessing Bags in a small effort to help combat this crisis.

Items donated by our families as well as items purchased from the Tzedakah money collected each week in Religious School included toothbrushes, toothpaste, hats, gloves, deodorant, soap, lip balm, and Band-Aids. Everything was set out on several long tables in our Social Hall. Class by class, in assembly-line fashion, our students filled gallon-size plastic bags with an assortment of these items. Some of the students also visited the crafts table and made cards of encouragement and good wishes to be placed inside the bags.

The Blessing Bags were then delivered to the Pride Alliance at D'Youville College. As the weather gets colder, members of the Pride Alliance will hang these bags on outdoor clotheslines they place in a number of locations in Buffalo. People in need are invited to take whatever they need from these clotheslines. There are



no forms to fill out. There is no proof of need required. In this manner, people who lack these basic personal necessities can keep themselves clean and warm. This is a perfect example of one of Judaism's highest levels of Tzedakah -- giving assistance in such a way that the giver and recipient are unknown to one other. We will continue to perform Mitzvot in our community as the year continues.

Beth Steinberg is Director of the TBZ Religious School.

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKFAIR AND STORY TIME With Congregation Shir Shalom

Sunday, December 8th at 1:00pm
1565 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst, NY 14228

Join Congregation Shir Shalom clergy and staff for Hanukkah stories!
Enjoy singing Hanukkah songs!
Stop by and do some holiday shopping!
Free gift wrapping available from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please present a Shir Shalom voucher (to be available) prior to making your purchase and a percentage of the sale will go to CSS & Geshur Religious School!

Bookfair from December 6th to December 13th.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Marquisee, Executive Director, at 716-633-8877.



Hanukkah Party!

Latkes, Applesauce & Rock 'n Roll

Join us at Congregation Beth Abraham for our annual Hanukkah party/oldies sing along.

December 28 at 5:30 PM

You are welcome to bring latkes or a dish/dessert to pass...or just come hungry!
To RSVP, please visit the CBA website at

www.congregationbethabrahm.net

(Please indicate if you will be bringing latkes or another dish)

Hanukkah Concert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019
7:30 PM

Featuring the songs from the newly released
Hanukkah Nights album and more



Cantor Arlene Frank and Guest Musicians

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CD's will be provided, while supplies last. Donations accepted. Festive Dneg to follow.

TBT Judaica Shop Now Open



Linda Linsky and Myra Werbow

The Women's Network Judaica Shop of Temple Beth Tzedek has a brand new location at 1641 North Forest Road in Williamsville. The Judaica shop has expanded with four tall glass cabinets located in the Community Court. The Grand Opening of the shop is Tuesday, December 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Included in the shop are items for all the major holidays, plus many gifts for the home, birthdays, bar and bat mitzvahs, anniversaries, and weddings. When you come to visit the new temple, stop and window shop in the Judaica area, too. You can purchase items or meet with shop representatives whenever the temple is open.

You can call the Temple at 838-3232 to make an appointment for a shop visit.

Pickle Barrel Romance and Deli Lunch

Wednesday, December 25, 12 p.m.

Temple Beth Tzedek's Membership Committee will host a December 25th get together at noon. Kosher deli meats, salads and, of course, pickles of many varieties will be on the menu, plus a pickle barrel romance. The cost is \$18 per person and pre-paid reservations are a must. The committee extends its many thanks to Mitchell Steinhorn of Amherst Memorial Chapel and Jay Mesnekoff of Mesnekoff Funeral Home for generous support to help defray expenses. The event is open to the community.

Watch the website for more information: btzbuffalo.org. Payment should be sent to the Temple Beth Tzedek office, 1641 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. Questions should be directed to Linda Boxer, 716-390-6661 or boxerlinda@gmail.com.

A New Tradition at Shir Shalom



This year, Congregation Shir Shalom members created a "Memory Wall" to share a picture or memory of a loved one who passed away in the past year. Pictures were added to the Memory Wall from Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, September 30th, through Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 9th. Our Temple Family offered support for the mourning members. It was a special way to keep their loved ones close to them during the High Holy Days.

Kulanu Winter Service - Love and Inclusion

Friday, December 20, 7 p.m.

More than ever, we must extend warmth and welcome, inclusion and understanding to each other. We gather to celebrate each of our unique and miraculous natures and to honor the sacred links of communication among us all.

Through words, images, song, and reflection on the cycles of betrayal and vindication, selfishness and sharing, meanness and acceptance in the stories of Tamar and Judah and Joseph and his brothers, we will celebrate our diversity, and honor sacred bridge-building between us all.

The service at Temple Beth Zion will be followed by a special Oneg.

TBZ's Hanukkah Bazaar Roots

Did you know that the Temple Beth Zion Hanukkah Bazaar was started more than 50 years ago?

In the public schools, the PTA held a "Secret Santa Shop" to provide students a way to shop for Christmas. Most of the items sold were screwdrivers, mugs, combs, picture frames - all with a Christmas theme. Susan Bruckheimer remembers asking her parents—the late Ruth and Arnold Fernandez—for money to buy presents. She and her three sisters were then able to buy holiday presents. That year, Susan's dad, Arnold, received four screwdrivers with a picture of Santa on each one. After that, the women of TBZ Sisterhood decided to provide the children of Temple Beth Zion the opportunity to purchase Hanukkah-themed presents to give to their parents and family, and the Sisterhood Gift Shop was born!

Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood's Hanukkah Bazaar hours this year are from December 8-24. Please support this wonderful tradition. Menorahs, decorations, gifts for children and adults are there! See our ad in this issue on page 20 for locations and times for the Bazaar.



Ruth and Arnold Fernandez (z"l)

TBZ Hanukkah Service

Friday, December 27

6 p.m. Happy Hour • 7 p.m. Shabbat Service

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Come to TBZ for a lively Hanukkah celebration!

The evening will begin with a special Happy Hour including mini latkes (a Catering by Karen specialty), jelly donuts and hot chocolate.

Our Hanukkah Service will begin at 7 p.m. and all are encouraged to bring their menorahs so we can light candles together.

Please join us for this warm and festive evening. If you plan to come for Happy Hour, please let us know by emailing becky@tbz.org or calling the temple office at (716) 836-6565.



CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM HOSTS HANUKKAH EXTRAVAGANZA!

Friday, December 27, 2019

6:00 p.m. Happy Hour for adults and children with a Latke Bar
7:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Family Hanukkah Service

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

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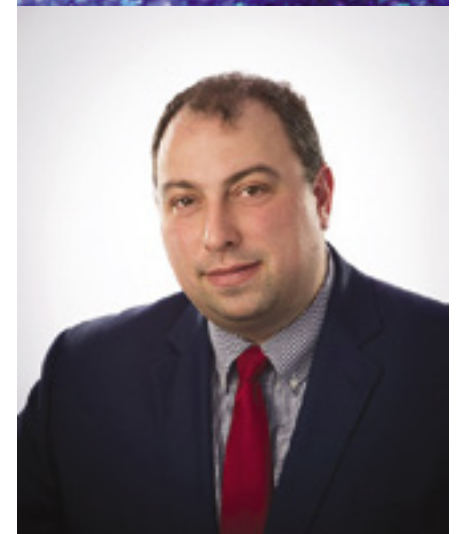
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(A separate calendar of Hanukkah events appears on pages 12 & 13)

December 2

JRT presents a staged reading of the play **HOLIDAY SHORTS**

7:00 p.m.

Jewish Repertory Theatre,
JCC Benderson Building
FREE.

688-4114 for info

December 3

Lunch & Learn

Jewish Discovery Center

12:15 p.m.

831 Maple Road, rear building

December 4

**Buffalo Jewish Federation's
Annual Meeting**

6:00 p.m. hors d'oeuvres & tours

7:00 p.m. program

683 Northland Ave, Buffalo

RSVP 204-2242

December 6

PJ Library Tot Shabbat

5:45 p.m.

Jewish Federation Apartments
275 Essjay Road

Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

December 8

My Grown Up & Me

10:00 a.m.

JCC Benderson Building

Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

Ariella Zeitlin

Violin Concert

7:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Tzedek
1641 North Forest Road

FREE

RSVP to Joan 204-2242

December 9

Israeli Resilience Lecture

7:00 p.m.

Dash's Market- 2nd floor
1770 Hertel Ave.

FREE

RSVP to Joan 204-2242

December 11

Lunch & Learn

Jewish Discovery Center

12:15 p.m.

831 Maple Road, rear building

December 14

**Cantor Arlene Frank
& guest musicians**

Hannukah Concert & Album Release

7:00 p.m.

Congregation Shir Shalom

Donations appreciated.

Oneg to follow.

December 18

Lunch & Learn

Jewish Discovery Center

12:15 p.m.

831 Maple Road, rear building

December 20

Kulanu Winter

Love & Inclusion Service

7:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Zion

805 Delaware Ave

December 22-30

Hanukkah is celebrated

December 25

Pickle Barrel Romance & Deli Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Tzedek, \$18

Call 390-6661

December 31

New Year's Eve is celebrated



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JRT OFFERS THREE STAGED READINGS THIS SEASON

The Jewish Repertory Theater will present a staged reading series as part of its 2019/20 season.

HOLIDAY SHORTS

by Atlanta playwright Hank Kimmel

Monday, December 2, 7 p.m.

Jewish Repertory Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY (in the Jewish Community Center)

A funny series of offbeat, comic 10-minute plays ranging from the saucy to the sanguine to the sentimental, all featuring themes of the holiday season.

GOD OF VENGEANCE

by Sholem Asch, translation by Los Angeles playwright Steve Fife

Monday, January 13, 7 p.m.

Jewish Repertory Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY (in the Jewish Community Center)

Monday, January 20, 7 p.m. at The Kavinoky Theatre, 320 Porter Ave., Buffalo, NY

An English translation of the Yiddish play that inspired the Broadway hit, INDECENT, which The Kavinoky Theatre is presenting, in collaboration with JRT, March 6-29, 2020. This event will also feature the JCC's Yiddish Club performing a 10-minute excerpt of the play in Yiddish.

FINDING MR. RIGHTSTEIN

by Buffalo born writer Nancy Kelton

Monday, June 8, 7 p.m.

Jewish Repertory Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY (in the Jewish Community Center)

In this heartbreaking, hilarious memoir, Nancy Davidoff Kelton takes us from the gray house of her Buffalo childhood with a depressed mother who was in and out of "the nervous hospital," to the often daunting but never dull world of dating as a divorced mom in Manhattan.

The Jewish Repertory Theatre'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.

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Hillel Students Reflect: What Does it Mean to Be Jewish?

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are times to look deep within to assess our actions from the past year. We are called to return to our true selves and to a life lived in accordance with our highest values. Each of us has a story to share about what these values mean on a personal level. This year at Hillel's Yom Kippur morning service, three students were given the opportunity to share their stories with the community. They were asked to deliver a five minute talk on the topic, "What it Means to Me to Be Jewish." Each student spoke with sincerity, authenticity, and emotion, and their words helped the community present in the Student Union that morning to engage in their own process of reflection. Here are some excerpts from two of the students:

Eve Brunswick

Freshman, Theater Production

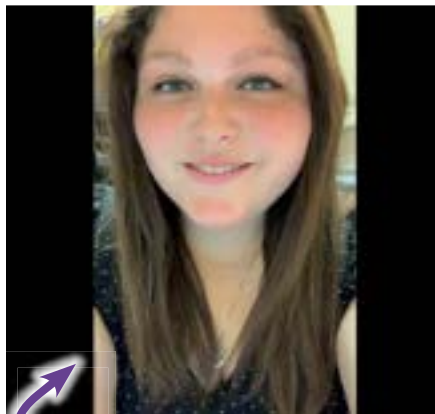
The High Holidays have the unique ability to allow us to see past all of the superficial and surface-level distractions, and focus on ourselves and our presence, here, today. Judaism has taught me to be more present and focus on what is important. It is not just about sitting or standing and praying or thinking. It is about how we universally struggle and need help, even on a regular, less holy day, or with the smaller problems in our lives. And the Jewish community has been there for me through it all.

So, this High Holiday season, and whenever you may find your mind



wandering, I invite you to sort through the 1, 10, or thousand questions in your mind and consider how/and if they matter to you. That definition can and will change over time. I hope that you are able to connect to your sense of self, just as I am working on finding mine in the Jewish community.

May the words of these students inspire you to consider what being Jewish means to you, and how you might live your values to the fullest this year!

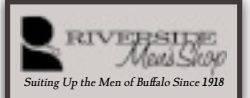


Stephanie Gavin

UB Graduate Student,
Higher Education Administration

Being Jewish means being able to find a community everywhere. There is something so special about this group that the moment you discover another person is Jewish, you instantly considered yourself attached and have created a bond. One thing I never really worried about moving to Buffalo was feeling homesick because I knew that the moment I found my Jewish family on campus, I would have a friend that cooks me matzo ball soup when I'm sick and another that helps me go shopping for a new High Holiday outfit. It also meant that I would always have someone to support me, to be that listening ear I needed after a long day of classes and roommate drama, and force me to turn off Netflix and leave my room for once. I think that is something so unique to the Jewish people- that no matter where we go, we welcome others with wide open arms and a plate full of food with no questions asked... I feel so blessed to be a part of this community each and every day. My Jewish identity has influenced my life in ways that have made me a better student, a better professional, and a better person overall. If there is one thing I hope you can take away from listening to me up here today, it's that being Jewish is a gift. I was blessed at birth and sealed it with a bow when I was 13 at my Bat Mitzvah, but I am Jewish, and that identity has changed my life in beautiful ways.

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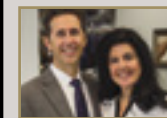
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My Grown Up & Me
Storytime
**December
6th**
10AM-11AM
Benderson Family JCC
Getzville

**PJ
Library**

AGENCIES

UB Students Experience a Russian Shabbat

By Logan Woodard

Hillel was filled with the aroma of a beautifully home cooked Russian meal – a meal cooked entirely by students October 25, when Hillel of Buffalo hosted its first Russian Shabbat. Recently, we have learned that there are a number of first generation American Russian Jewish students on campus. A handful of these students came together to create a Shabbat experience that reminded them of the foods they ate growing up.

Sasha Vool, a sophomore Biostatistics major who coordinated the Shabbat meal and cooked the food from her family's recipes, shared that she "likes exposing students to Russian food and giving Russian students a nostalgic feeling that hopefully helped take their minds off of the stressors of school."

Jennifer Shafran, a junior English major who attended Russian Shabbat,



Shabbat at Hillel

was thrilled when she learned about the service and meal. Jennifer said that "it isn't common to see a Jewish event or Shabbat celebrated with Russian

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Saturday, December 21
6:00-7:30PM
FREE Event
Space limited, registration recommended

Including:

- The Maccabee Warrior Obstacle Course
- Festival of Lights Scavenger Hunt
- Dreidel Decorating Contest
- Fun Hanukkah Snacks

In the spirit of Tikkun Olam (Hebrew for "repair the world") please bring one non-perishable food item, per family member, to be donated to the Town Square Food Pantry.



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adjacent to UB North
688-4033

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204-2084 or
kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org

AGENCIES

customs and food. It made me feel more welcome and at home. Most of the dishes served I actually ate growing up!" Some of the menu items included potato salad olivier, kasha, pierogies, and borscht - the crowd favorite! That night we heard students express an interest in more Russian cultural events, as well as a Yemenite Shabbat. We look forward to continuing to support students create experiences they find meaningful, and delicious.

Logan Woodard is Director of Engagement at Hillel of Buffalo.



JCC AT JCAMP 180



Pictured l-r: JCC Past President Gretchen Gross, Camp Centerland Director Michael Garcia, HGF Founder Harold Grinspoon, HGF President Winnie Sandler Grinspoon, and JCC Director of Development Jordana Halpern.

JCC Buffalo was well represented at the JCcamp180 and the GIFT Institute conferences hosted by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF). JCcamp 180 works with nonprofit Jewish summer camps and other organizations to provide and sustain meaningful youth experiences and The GIFT Leadership Institute prepares organizations with breakthrough training to instill a powerful new culture of philanthropy.

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PREPARE FOR HANUKKAH LIKE A MACCABEE WARRIOR

Sat, December 21

6:00-7:30pm

FREE Family Event

Benderson Family Building
Space limited, registration recommended
Katie Wzontek: 204-2084, kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org

Including:

- The Maccabee Warrior Obstacle Course
- Festival of Lights Scavenger Hunt
- Dreidel Decorating Contest
- Fun Hanukkah Snacks

*In the spirit of Tikkun Olam (Hebrew for "repair the world")
please bring one non-perishable food item,
per family member, to be donated to the
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Sat 8:00am - 6:00pm

Holiday Hours

Wednesday, December 25
Fitness Open 8:00am-3:00pm Aquatics until 2:30pm
Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed
Wednesday, January 1
Fitness Open 8:00am-3:00pm Aquatics until 2:30pm
Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed

Holocaust Education for Teachers

By Elizabeth Schram

For many educators, the Holocaust is a complex and daunting subject to teach to students. Even adults have a difficult time comprehending how this atrocity happened. On October 30, the Holocaust Resource Center brought in Liz Elsby, a staff member from the Yad Vashem Education Department in Jerusalem, to train local student-teachers, teachers and professors on best practices of Holocaust Education. Elsby provided rich presentations on the topics of: General Holocaust Pedagogy, the Origins of Antisemitism and Teaching the Holocaust through Art.

Each presentation provided teachers with appropriate guidelines, concrete resources and creative ideas about how to most effectively teach these topics. When filling out the evaluation form after completing the workshop, one teacher replied to the question, "What ways, if at all, did the program develop your understanding of effective practices for teaching about the Holocaust?" by emphasizing, "The importance of teaching



Elizabeth Schram (center) with others at the HRC Teacher training program.

students the human story- how valuable that is to allow students to connect to history." The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo would like to thank Liz Elsby for providing this training, and the Erie County Public Library

Audubon Branch for hosting the program.

Elizabeth Schram is Director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo

JEWISH SERVICE CORPS "SOUNDS THE ALARM"

Members of the Buffalo Jewish Service Corps, in partnership with the American Red Cross through their "Sound the Alarm" program, installed smoke alarms at Federation Housing over the past several weeks.



Installers included Jerry Markzon, Janet and David Shucard, Cliff and Ronni Mahler, Richard Lepie, Jake Katz and Dan Mink.

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATED IN BUFFALO

By Kelsey Reed



Holocaust Resource Center organized an inspirational Kristallnacht Commemoration Week in early November. Remembering the 81st Anniversary of the atrocities of Kristallnacht, Holocaust Survivor, Dr. Herman Stone and UB professor Dr. Noam Pines presented talks on the events leading up to Kristallnacht as well as the aftermath. Audience members had a chance to ask thought-provoking questions of both speakers and to examine Herman's documents and other artifacts. There were so many take-aways from these two talks but the most important thing was; "Do not just turn a blind eye to hate; stand up in some fashion and do something."

Kelsey Reed is Program Coordinator of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.



HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY TO YOU! Sylvia Rosen



With love from
all your friends
At the JCC!



Remembering Irving Isenberg

Irving Isenberg, a Getzville Firefighter and EMT and information technology specialist, passed away in early November. His funeral was held at Temple Beth Zion on November 4, where half of the Temple sanctuary was filled with uniformed colleagues from the Getzville Fire Company and other stations, who escorted his body from the Fire Station on Dodge and North Forest Rds. to the synagogue earlier in the day, and finally to the cemetery. Several people gave warm, moving and loving tributes to this hometown hero, including his sister, Ruth Isenberg Lipsitz and Past Chief of the Getzville Fire Company Steve Herberger. Their remarks are excerpted here:

Ruth Isenberg Lipsitz

At age 18, Irving joined Campus Ambulance Corps, Gold Cross Ambulance, Tri Town, Twin City and Getzville Fire Department. He's been an active volunteer for 37 years, and spent the majority of his life and essentially all of his free time in service. He was an EMT "Extraordinaire", and a certified scuba diver as part of the water rescue team. He served in Getzville for 29 of those years, rising to the levels of Chief and President, always with honor and the respect of his peers.

In the days following the September 11th attacks of 2001, Irving, who was the Assistant Fire Chief and 3 of his colleagues--Lieutenant Bob Zacher, Ladder Captain Ryan Labertew and EMS Captain Richard Stuewe, who are here today--drove to New York City to help in the recovery.

Years later, Irving was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a rare cancer that has become increasingly common in the September 11th first-responder population. Irving said that had he known he would wind up with this diagnosis, he would not have changed his decision to go help, because it was so important to him. That's what he did. Like so many times before and since, Irving, a man with a family and a day job, put himself at risk to help people he didn't know. And like so many of you here today, he volunteered: never earned a penny from his service, never sought attention for it. Irving is a hero.

During these last months, many dozens of Irving's friends and colleagues showed up at Roswell Park Cancer Institute to



Irving Isenberg

donate blood and platelets for him. The staff at Roswell said they've never seen such an outpouring of donations.

His firefighter friends and his first responder family came in packs to visit him at Roswell. Many of Irving's visitors wrote words about him on the dry-erase board in his room that encapsulate what he means to so many of us: Teacher, Mentor, Friend, Captain, Uncle, Chief, President, Papa Bang Bang, Son, Brother, Over-Achiever, Dude, Lieutenant.

When Irving didn't have the strength to walk, you--his firefighter and first responder friends--carried him. Many of you literally gave him your blood. You built a ramp in his garage, you transported him to his final resting place and have been there for him at every step, and here to honor him today. People like you who dedicate and risk so much to help others - people you don't know - you are special people, brothers and sisters who make up an incredible community. It's been an honor to have a glimpse into that community during Irving's sickness. Thank you for being such wonderful and supportive friends and colleagues; brothers and sisters to our brother; and thank you for all that you do.

Irving had quite a life for 55 years. He gave so much. He left us much too soon, but he left us with an incredible model of how to serve and how to live our lives. Irving did his thing, and he did it without making a fuss. He faced cancer the same way he faced life - with a quiet dignity and bravery. Rest in peace little brother.

Past Getzville Fire Chief Steve Herberger

It is hard to imagine the reach of Irv's time in the emergency services. From the early beginning as an EMT with Campus and Baird Point Ambulance and until his death, Irv has spent his entire adult life helping others in their moment of need. During the almost 30 years in the Getzville Fire Company, he held the office of EMS Lieutenant, EMS Captain, Assistant Chief, Chief and President of the organization. While it is no secret Irv loved EMS, he was also an interior firefighter, auto extrication technician and water rescue technician, he fully believed that by having knowledge in all these activities it would give him a better understanding of all patient needs. Irv was always at the ready to assist anyone who made the call. He truly believed that with any request for assistance where someone was in need, he would do all in his power to help in any way, because what may be very simple and routine for us was someone else's emergency.

Shortly after the attack on America September 11, 2001, a call came out for assistance to the Fire Department of New York. They were looking for crews to provide assistance during the rescue operations at the World Trade Center. Irv was the first to offer assistance, and with three other Getzville firefighters, headed off to the City to do whatever was

needed. All of us now understand just how great this sacrifice would be, but Irv never thought about the consequences of that trip and how the many ways it would influence his life. He did know that his brother and sister firefighters needed help and he was honored to offer all he had.

While it was never really that simple, Irv new he could lead us to better horizons in the EMS world and leading the way to higher quality service. He implemented some of the greatest changes in the fire service EMS program at Getzville by leading us through improved training, Basic Certification Program, Advance Life Support Certification and most recently Electronic Pre-Hospital Care Reports.

His leadership and dedication to service should be a model for us all. For just weeks before his passing, he was still making updates to computers, researching problems and communicating with us about how things were progressing and when he thought things would be operational.

Irv lived the life of service each and every day. He provided us with an example of how to pursue excellence and enjoy the rewards that come with the accomplishments made.

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 if you would like to share your words.

In Remembrance

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



Carolee Arbeit
Joseph Buch
Hynda Burdman
Miriam Enis
Diane Garbarsky
Paul Gurevich
Dr. Leonard Horowitz
Barbara Horwitz

Irving Alan Isenberg
Marilyn Levin
Elinor L. Lippman
Yetta Midda
Naomi Rosenhoch
Rebeca Sidel
Sandra Sheldon
Henry J. Wertheim

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

Tea & Torah: October 20



A group of 40 Buffalo women, some of whom attended for the first time, enjoyed an inspiring morning of "Torah & Tea" in the Sukkah, hosted and led by Rivky Greenberg. They explored the Jewish perspective on achieving true happiness based on a seemingly bizarre story mentioned in the Talmud, and learned how you can't search or own happiness, but instead, what you can do so that happiness will own you! Women got to study, schmooze, sip tea and taste some delicious refreshments. They also had a chance to fulfill the special Mitzvah of shaking the Lulav and Etrog on the last day of Sukkot. "Torah & Tea" is a program of the Jewish Discovery Center. A different topic is chosen every month and women are welcome to participate in one or any number of classes. Email Rivky at TorahandTea@gmail.com or contact her at (716) 906-8890 to learn more about this program.



MAZAL TOV!

**Ken Friedman Honored by Buffalo History Museum:
November 4**



**Cantor Penny Myers Honored by
Williamsville Schools Wall of Fame:
November 8**



**Wayne Wisbaum (z"l) Remembered
as Philanthropist of the Year:
November 13**



Kol Ishah Concert @ TBZ: November 3



Opening of the Levy and Daniel Families Gallery @ The JCC: November 6



JDC Challah Bake: November 7



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KOT Sukkot



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(NOT) THE LAST WORD

Partnership Discovery Trip

By Jody Goldstein and Howard Rosenhoch

We were honored to be among 19 participants from the United States who took part in the inaugural Partnership Discovery Trip to the Western Galilee and Budapest, Hungary this fall. Partnership2Gether (P2G) is the brainchild of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Jewish Buffalo, along with fifteen other mid-sized US cities, partners with the Western Galilee and Budapest to develop close relationships among Jews in the diaspora and Israelis. Buffalo joined the consortium in 2016. Since then we have had the opportunity to meet and befriend a host of people from multiple communities, as we learn from one another.

The focus of this Discovery Trip was to build deeper relationships among the participants and to take a deep dive into the Western Galilee and Budapest. The two of us have been to Israel several times, including visits to the Western Galilee. This trip, however, enabled us to see two of our Partnership regions through a new and more intensive light. We were not tourists; rather, we studied each region in depth.

The Western Galilee is situated on the tension filled border between Israel and Lebanon, which has historically presented a multitude of challenges. The Western Galilee is both the most diverse region in Israel, inhabited by Jews (who make up less than a majority of the population there), Muslims, Christians and Druze, and a region that is among the less wealthy in Israel. We found it fascinating to learn from the people who live there how daily life is pursued in



Howard Rosenhoch and Jody Goldstein in Israel with Achmed Samniya, Bedouin Community Center Director at Sheich Danun Arab Village

equanimity even among these challenges.

After our first day in the Western Galilee, during which we received an overview of the program and a tour of our beautiful new partnership center located just north of Nahariya, each day focused on a specific theme. The next day we experienced "Living on the Edge." We started at the Partnership Center with a lecture by Dr. Moshe Farchi on effective ways to engage with people during emergency situations, such as terrorist attacks, and reduce the risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorders. At Kibbutz Rosh Hanikra, we meet Idan Zaccai, chair of the partnership's Youth Committee, who talked about growing up on the border and kibbutz life today.

We toured an elaborate bomb shelter with capacity to sleep thirty. From there we continued to Moshav Betzet where Idan HaPri talked about her dried fruit business located close to the border and treated us to a delicious lunch. In the afternoon we heard security insights from Ariel Zali, head of the command center in Matte Asher, and went to El Aramshe, an Arab village located half in Israel, half in Lebanon. We ended the day visiting Yuval's distillery "Julius" in Kibbutz Hanita, also on the border, where we received plenty of delicious tastes (Yuval visited Buffalo last year).

The next day gave us the chance to "Meet the Neighbors." Diversity was the theme as we heard first from Janan Fallach, a Druze woman living with her family in Akko, a professor and lecturer in literature, multicultural, and gender studies, and chair of the Partnership Academic Committee, who also has visited Buffalo before. Then it was on to the Urban Kibbutz in Akko, where we were introduced to a wide variety of social and educational projects for people of all age groups and religious backgrounds. Next, we wandered the streets of Old Akko and ate delicious hummus and falafel. In the afternoon we traveled to Nes Amim, a multicultural community where Christians live among Jews. Here we spoke about 'Acceptance in our Communities.' The day was capped off with a visit to the Arab Village, Sheich Danun, where we enjoyed Debka dancing, a delicious dinner of Arabic food, and a provocative discussion with Achmed Samniya. Achmed, the Bedouin Community Center Director, spoke about what it's like to live in a Jewish Municipality and State as an Israeli Arab, and proclaimed when asked that he considers himself a Palestinian.

"Experience Western Galilee Arts" was the theme of our next day. In Akko, we toured the "Treasures in the Walls" Museum, an ethnographic center in the

ancient walls of Old Akko. We walked around the old city, and then had an amazing lunch in 'Roots' restaurant, run by Muslim, Christian and Jewish owners. After lunch, we visited the Kupferman museum in the Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz, where we viewed a unique exhibit and learned about Israel Prize winning artist Moshe Kupferman, z"l. We also learned about "Kivunim", a program for young adults with disabilities that focuses on teaching participants strategies for independent living. We visited the "Shop for Meaning" where we were able to purchase souvenirs made by the young Kivunim participants.

The focus of our final day in the Western Galilee was "Sustainability." We started with a lecture in the community center of Matte Asher about repurposing water, solar energy, and recycling. Then we visited the unique kibbutz Klil, where the residents take organic, creative living to a different dimension. This community, nestled in the green hills east of Nahariya, is fueled almost exclusively by natural energy sources. Next, we enjoyed a fabulous lunch at "Beit Gani" in the Moshav Ushrat while hearing about the many activities and programs for seniors in the area. After packing for Budapest, we ended the day with delicious home hospitality dinners hosted by our Western Galilee friends.

The sites we visited and the people we met were only exceeded in importance by the relationships we built while in the Western Galilee. Please join us next month as we take you on the second half of our Discovery Trip, this time learning about the blossoming and burgeoning Jewish community of Budapest.

Jody Goldstein is an active leader at Temple Beth Zion and one of Federation's volunteer liaisons to Partnership2 Gether. Howard Rosenhoch is a participant Partnership2 Gether and serves as the Federation's 2020 chair of The Campaign for Jewish Buffalo.



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