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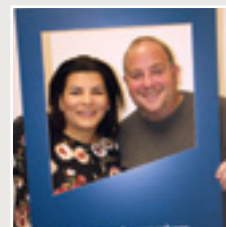
A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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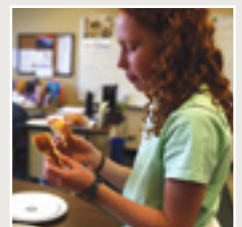
JANUARY 2020 | TEVET-SHEVAT 5780



LOOK:
GIVING
THANKS
(4)



DON'T MISS:
SUPER SUNDAY IS
JANUARY 26
(8)



INSIDE:
KADIMAH
SCHOLARS AT PARK
(14)

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something
about the JCC

Happening in January at the



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weigh to go

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January 5 - March 22

Here is how it works:

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This NEW series is designed to provide families an opportunity to learn and explore Jewish Culture through the arts, specifically focusing on the contributions that American Jews have made in the United States.



American Jewish Illustrators in Children's Literature

Sunday, January 5
2:00-4:00PM

Free event

Lippman Lounge and
Bunis Family Art Gallery



Exploring American Jewish Culture in Superheroes and Graphic Novels Workshop

Sunday, January 19
2:00-4:00PM

\$10/person

registration required, recommended ages 8-13
Benderson Family Building

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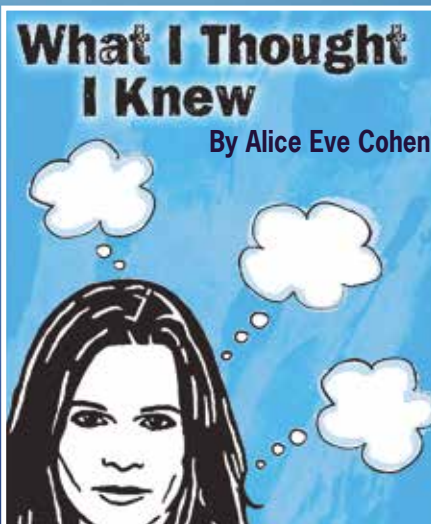
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at the
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Join us as we kick off
Summer 2020 camp registration!

February 2 12:30-2:30PM

You can enjoy family friendly activities,
and find out what's in store for summer 2020.
Free to everyone - Benderson Family Building



Benderson Family Building



Amherst

Holland Family Building



Buffalo

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

Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 31
Center closes at 6:00pm
Wednesday, January 1
Fitness Open 8:00am-3:00pm Aquatics until 2:30pm
Business Offices, Kids Place, Early Childhood closed

January 2020

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

The turn of the Millennium—20 years ago—seemed like just yesterday. Since that time we’ve been through a great deal as a nation and as a Jewish community as well. Self-absorption, self-promotion, self-obsession, unwillingness to listen to another’s point of view or frame of reference rule the day. And if we are not looking at our phone, we are focused on our computer screen.

It’s a whole new decade, the double 2s year of 2020, and I say time for a new attitude, a new point of view, a new change of heart. I am audaciously proposing the year 2020 usher in the “WE” decade; the decade of working together with other people, other groups, different individuals, new organizations.

This month’s *Jewish Journal* highlights some of the programs and projects that “WE” are undertaking in Jewish Buffalo – people working together with others to make our Buffalo better. Starting with the cover when we turn our dreams to summer camp amid the chill of January, the story on security (pages 4-5) where you’ll see how the Federation is working together with local agencies and law enforcement to make Jewish Buffalo safer. It’s unfortunate, but a necessary fact of life today in an increasingly divided world that we need to take extra measures to ensure all our Jewish agencies/buildings are as safe as possible. And you will see that we are asking you to participate in an effort to raise additional dollars for the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund during January.

Partnerships are not just about us in Buffalo. You can learn more about the Amiel BaKehillah program that brings Israeli ambassadors to the US (pages 13 and 43) and about our Partnership2Gether connection to Budapest and Israel (page 44), the second installment of a story by Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Chair Howard Rosenhoch and Jody Goldstein that featured their Israel journey last month.

The Kadimah Scholars at The Park School, featured on pages 14-15 is a beautiful example of how a new educational partnership in Buffalo is getting national notice. And finally, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich writes about Martin Luther King, Jr., and reminds us that “we are all responsible one for another.”

Welcome to the WE decade! Here’s to continuing to build a successful, meaningful community together!
Happy New Year!


Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Campers and Camp Director Michael Garcia jumping for the joy of a summer at the JCC’s Camp Centerland last summer. *Photo by Brenda Feldstein.*

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2019 - The Year in Review

This message contains excerpts from the President's Address given at the 116th Annual Meeting & Celebration December 4 at Northland WorkForce Training Center.

Last year when we gathered, I shared my vision for Federation in anticipation of beginning my presidency. I highlighted the following areas:

- First, our need to take a step back and consider how we raise money for our annual campaign for Jewish Buffalo, how we structure our fundraising and how, through legacy giving we secure our services for future generations.
- Second, the need to bring our buildings, primarily synagogues, up to effective security levels and to establish emergency response plans throughout our community.
- Third, our resolve to approach everything we do in Jewish Buffalo through the lens of Engagement, and to incorporate outside-the-box strategies while meeting 21st century challenges.



☆ Our Campaign

Last July our Campaign Leadership participated in a national Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) trip to Argentina and Uruguay to learn with leaders across the country about global Jewish Community needs, Federation services and campaign methodologies. At our Campaign Kickoff Dinner in September, we learned how our campaign leadership has expanded its scope and is working toward creating a comprehensive plan that creates a 21st century methodology to engage current and future donors around the pressing needs of our community.

☆ Community Impact Areas

This year, our board identified, developed and approved six key areas that we seek to impact every day, through our own work and together with our partner agencies.

- Jewish Experience, Engagement and Learning
- Caring for Jewish Buffalo
- Promoting a Civil and Just Society
- Connection to Israel and Global Jewry
- Preserving our Legacy
- Sustaining and Securing our Community

These six pillars define and shape our work, and are instrumental in our fundraising narrative, including our focus on Legacy gift planning.

☆ Security and Emergency Preparedness

Since last year's Annual Meeting, we raised nearly \$225,000 from over 300 individuals to invest in security, including a \$100,000 grant from the State of New York made possible through the efforts of Senator Tim Kennedy.

We hired Susan DeMari as our first-ever security director. Susan has arranged for numerous trainings, which have been and will continue to be open to both the Jewish community and to our friends in other communities here in WNY.

Susan has significantly expanded our partnerships with law enforcement, coordinated security details for synagogues and agencies, and has been accessible to us 24/7 to deal with any and all security-related issues. (See the story on page 4—all due to Susan's efforts.)

With the funds we raised we have awarded nearly \$75,000 in grants to make our synagogues and agencies more secure and help offset the cost of armed security personnel during Shabbat worship, special events and religious school.

While the Federation is taking the lead, we all know that security is a collective effort. To that end, we will be raising additional funds beginning January 1 through a one-week on-line giving campaign. We thank you for supporting our efforts to date and helping us strengthen our security program going forward.

☆ Jewish Engagement and Learning

During this past year, our new Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) expanded both its vision and reach, offering both traditional and non-traditional Jewish learning experiences.

The Center is strengthened by an extraordinary staff team led by Miriam Abramovich and a dedicated volunteer team led by Ellen Weiss. The Center seeks to: Engage and nurture relationships with and among families and individuals at all stages of life by creating opportunities for meaningful and relevant Jewish exploration and learning; and supporting and amplifying the work of synagogues and partner organizations.

We are investing more resources in Jewish engagement and learning – our Board of Governors approved a 2020 budget for CJEL which includes an increase in expense of \$85,000 from last year.

And we continue to seek, and receive, support from outside our budget: CJEL was awarded two rounds of funding from JFNA and The National Center to Encourage Judaism (NCEJ) to support an incredible program called *Living a Jewish Year*.

As an example of CJEL's important work, in response to declining enrollment in the former Hebrew High, board member Hadar Borden led efforts in the spring to engage teens and their families to learn more about what they want and need in their Jewish lives and from us. As a result, CJEL launched a new Teen Initiative and hired Mike Steklof, a dynamic, creative experienced Jewish youth educator and leader as Director of Teen Engagement and Inclusion, who is also working closely with JCC and synagogue youth professionals.

CJEL also obtained a new Mussar grant that has enabled us to greatly expand our Mussar offerings, reaching cohorts such as young mothers, graduates of Intro to Judaism which includes new Jews by Choice, Wise Aging groups, teens and more.

And, in 3 days, 15 mothers of school-aged kids will be embarking on a spiritual and cultural journey to Israel, led by Stacey Block and the National organization MOMentum. (As of this printing, this group has returned, and you will read about their journey next month).

We are reaching so many people—including so very many people who previously have not connected through Jewish Buffalo. I am deeply proud of CJEL's efforts in just this first year, and so confident in our leadership to further develop, innovate and ultimately engage greater numbers of people of all ages and stages, throughout Jewish Buffalo.

☆ Preserving Our Legacy

By focusing on this area we recognize that celebrating and honoring our rich heritage is central to a strong community. I'm pleased that our board voted this fall to provide a grant to support our ongoing archival work.

And to further connect us with our history, in March, 2020, Rob Goldberg and I will be leading a trip, in partnership with World ORT to Ukraine. We will begin our experience in the magnificent port city of Odessa and then travel to Kiev, where along the way, we'll stop in the region of Sokolivka, a place where my family and many other Buffalo families are rooted; and an entire region where so many Jews in Buffalo trace their family roots.

Our journey is just that – a "Roots" journey and will, I know, be inspiring and very powerful. Space is limited so please speak with Rob Goldberg or me if you are interested. (See more information on page 17.)

What I just shared is truly only a sampling of what our Buffalo Jewish Federation is accomplishing. To share all of it, we'd be here for hours. So please contact me or Rob Goldberg any time to hear about all that we are doing, and please continue to read our *Jewish Journal of WNY*—where we highlight important and exciting ideas and happenings in Jewish Buffalo.

In closing, I want to thank our incredible professional staff, beginning with Mara Koven Gelman, for her efforts in leading and growing Community Relations with passion and great humanity; and the entire, passionate and committed team led by Rob Goldberg. You should know that your Buffalo Jewish Federation is like a bee hive, constantly buzzing with activity, new ideas, growth and engagement in a dynamic, efficient and highly productive environment. If I can take that metaphor one step further, I can say that from this hive, together with our passionate and dedicated board of directors and our truly inspired volunteers, we are **all** producing the honey—the beautiful and miraculous rich Jewish life found here in Buffalo.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this community.

Leslie Shuman Kramer is President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

Thanks Amherst Police!

By Jill Komm

I recently had the pleasure of picking up five pounds of beautifully decorated cookies and bringing them to the Amherst Police Department (APD) as a small way to thank them for their work with our Buffalo Jewish Community. My son, Ethan, who just turned 4, dressed up as a police officer for Halloween this year - so he was pretty jazzed to dress up again and meet some real police officers! We made a thank you note to go with the cookies and snapped a quick picture of Ethan with the card



while we waited for someone to see us. Unfortunately, Amherst Police Chief John Askey was out of the office that day, so we met with the Lieutenant on duty. When he greeted us, Ethan said, "Thank you for keeping us safe," and handed him the card. We said we were from the Buffalo Jewish Federation and appreciated all they have done for our community. Then he grabbed another officer and we took a quick photo in front of the police patch. The female officer kept giving Ethan hugs! I'm pretty sure we put a smile on their faces. And Ethan hasn't stopped talking about his visit to the station since we left!

Jill Komm is Social Media & Communications Director

Security Coordinator Susan DeMari Joins Onondaga Sheriff's Office

Susan Case DeMari, Buffalo's Security Coordinator, has been appointed the Chief Deputy of the Civil Department of Onondaga (Syracuse) County, New York. In her new role, Susan will be responsible for managing the daily operations of the Civil Department. Her appointment was announced by Sheriff Eugene J. Conway at a ceremony in the Town of Onondaga Courtroom in early December.

Susan assumed the role of Buffalo's Security Coordinator last spring and will continue to provide guidance and support to Jewish Buffalo in addition to her new role for Onondaga County. She is a graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law and recently served as a Senior Attorney Advisor/Adjudicator for the United States Social Security Administration, Office of Hearings Operations. Susan,



Susan DeMari

who grew up in Buffalo, resides in Syracuse with her husband Joe. The DeMaris have two adult children.

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Your Gift Matters

2020 Online Campaign

The dramatic increase in hate incidents and anti-Semitic harassment in North America and around the world has left many in the Jewish community feeling threatened to a level not experienced since pre-War Europe. Pittsburgh's Tree of Life massacre in October 2018, last spring's hateful attack at the Chabad in Poway, California and the most recent attack in Jersey City were painful reminders that we are no longer immune to such heinous acts of violence.

The bottom line for Jewish Buffalo and other communities like ours is that the world has changed and we need to be better prepared, more resilient and ready to confront the potential threats that face us. For this reason, the Buffalo Jewish Federation acted swiftly to create the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund.

Last winter, Federation began a 2-month campaign which raised over \$225,000, including a \$100,000 grant of from the State of New York that was obtained through the efforts of Senator Tim Kennedy (D.-Buffalo).

This January our goal is



to raise at least \$50,000 from the community to further support efforts to secure Jewish Buffalo.

These efforts include grants to synagogues and agencies for security upgrades, training for Jewish professionals and volunteers, offsetting the cost of armed security personnel, and support for Susan DeMari, Jewish Buffalo's first-ever Community Security Coordinator. Since last April, Susan moved swiftly to address the security status of each community physical plant and has developed a standardized plan of action and toolbox to keep our communities safe.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the Jewish community is amnesia, when we forget about Pittsburgh, Poway, and Jersey City, and are lured into a false sense of security. That is why we need to raise additional funds to continue to provide the resources needed to strengthen our community's physical plants, train our leaders, and provide a sense of empowerment and increased vigilance that will ensure a more secure Jewish Buffalo.

Make Your Gift Today!

Now's the time to stand up and be counted! Do you want to help make Jewish Buffalo a safer place in which to live and grow? Can we count on your gift to the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund? Here's how to donate:

1) Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org/donate. Click on the "Secure Jewish Buffalo button in the lower left corner to make your secure donation.

2) Call the Federation office at 716-291-2250.

3) Mail a check to Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund / Buffalo Jewish Federation, 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY.

THANK YOU!

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 next month in our February 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 Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org or 716-204-2245.

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Your gift helps so many here in Buffalo, in Israel and throughout the world. Thank you!

Buffalo Jewish Federation's 116th Annual

The Buffalo Jewish Federation celebrated another jubilant year at its annual meeting at the vibrant new Northland Workforce Training Center on Buffalo's East Side. Chaired by Marjorie Godin Bryen and Deborah Goldman, the event honored Lana Benatovich and Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein, focused on the work of the re-invigorated JCRC, and featured 2forSeder founder Marnie Lyons Fienberg.



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION



Meeting & Celebration



Leslie Shuman Kramer Re-elected



The Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors unanimously voted to re-elect Leslie Shuman Kramer as President for 2020 -2021 at the 116th Annual Meeting of the Federation held Wednesday, December 4 at the Northland WorkForce Training Center. Kramer previously served as a Vice President of Federation and Chair of the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Kramer co-led the 2018 Buffalo Israel Experience. She is also a recipient of Jewish Federation of North America's prestigious national 2019 Kipnis Wilson/Freedland Award, which was presented at the 2019 Lion of Judah Conference in Florida. (You can read her Annual Meeting remarks on page 3.)

Also at the Annual Meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve as either new or returning Governors of the Federation Board: Hadar Borden, Brenda Feldstein, Ken Friedman, Deborah Goldman, Nina Lukin, Ellen Niles, Ezra Rich, Sheri Rodman and Cheryl Stein. Officers elected to serve include Blaine S. Schwartz and Shelly Yellen, Vice Presidents; Marjorie Godin Bryen- Treasurer, Andrew J. Shaevel- Secretary, and Steven J. Weiss, Immediate Past President.

JANUARY 10, 2020

PJ Library

TOT SHABBAT

5:45 PM

HOSTED BY

BENDERSON JCC

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Wanted: Volunteers for SUPER SUNDAY: January 26!



Be a Superhero and help out on Super Sunday.

Buffalo Jewish Federation will hold its 40th consecutive Super Sunday Phonathon for its Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Sunday, January 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 2640 North Forest Road. Super Sunday is the one day in which the Buffalo Jewish community comes together to raise funds to invest in vital programs through our local agencies as well as those in Israel, and in countries around the world.

Chairs Neil Block and Amelida Weinmann invite community member to join in this year, together with other volunteers, reach out to people in our local community to raise much needed dollars for the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Volunteers will be doing a mitzvah and perpetuating the spirit of *tzedakah*.

HERE's what's happening that day—even the smallest members of our community can do something SUPER!

ADULTS: Two shifts for adult callers—9:15-11:30 a.m. and noon to 2:00 p.m.

TEENS: Teens 13 and older can volunteer as runners. (Don't be fooled by the name, you don't actually 'run'.) We need your help collecting call sheets from the adults, as well as delivering fun prizes. You won't break a sweat!

High School teens can volunteer to make "Thank You" calls (a great way to get community service hours).



Neil Block and Amelida Weinmann
want YOU to join them
and other community volunteers
this Super Sunday.

For more information or to volunteer call
Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz
at 716-204-2245 or
Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org.

YES - Please sign me up to volunteer for Super Sunday, January 26.

Name (please print): _____ Phone: _____

I can work the following time shifts: 9:15 am - 11:30 am _____
12 noon - 2 pm _____

I prefer the following: Making phone calls: _____
Working in the office: _____
Anything you need: _____

Please send this form to:
Buffalo Jewish Federation
2640 North Forest Road,
Getzville, NY, 14068

or call:
Randi Morkisz at 204-2245
or Mary Jo Fragale at 204-2244
with your request.

New Book of Stories by Howard Wolf

UB Emeritus Professor and Senior Fellow in the Department of English (UB), Howard R. Wolf, has published recently a collection of five related stories – *Second Time Around and Other Stories* – with Prestige Books International (Delhi, London, Sydney). The volume also contains an afterword, “The Timely Birth of a Somewhat Comic Character.”

These stories are all centered on the experiences of one character, “Ludwig Fried,” about whom Professor Wolf has been writing since 2004 when a revelation about family history in relation to the Holocaust led to the creation of this character.

Although Ludwig Fried has some relation to the author’s life, he is an invention. Recently, Nobel Laureate J.M. Coetzee, who taught at UB for a few years in the late 1960’s, wrote to Howard, “Ludwig Fried has by now lodged



himself as one of the resident population of my imagination.”

Ludwig Fried keeps popping up in Howard’s imagination and will appear soon in a number of literary journals: “Under The Arc Of War,” *Evening Street Review*, “Stay Put, My Son, Putt,” *Trajectory*.

Howard currently has three new Ludwigs in the works:

“Look Homeward, Sailor!”
“Look Homeward, Tailor!”
and “Of Two Lives On The Lower Golan.”

Being a creative writer in a university setting has its limitations. The writer can easily mistake theories about literature with essential encounters with life that deep writing requires. At the same time, the writer-teacher can keep learning new things about life from students as each generation turns a new page.

Still, it’s important to get out of the classroom, and Howard has taught overseas: Fulbright Scholarships in Turkey and South Africa, a UB program in Malaysia, and three years at University of Hong Kong, as well as many lecture tours, including Israel.

Aging Gracefully

By Alex Lazarus-Klein

Not like an orange
that hardens
and shrinks
like a rock,
sour and
unapproachable

Nor like an apple,
softer and softer,
until all you want to do
is spit it out

And especially not like a strawberry,
glorious in its youth,
but quickly filled
with white splotches
of mold
and ruin

For my money,
I choose a banana,
soft and brown,
sweeter
the longer it sits
perfect for making
muffins



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein is rabbi at Congregation Shir Shalom. His poetry has previously appeared in The Jewish Journal.



Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

M&T Bank Classics

Offsite Concerts presented by Elderwood

19/20

Mahler & Bernstein

Sat Feb 8, 8pm
Sun Feb 9, 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Mahler’s “Adagio” from his unfinished Symphony No. 10, and Bernstein’s inspiring Chichester Psalms, plus a spirited Klezmer Concerto written and performed by Noah Bendix-Balgley, highlight a program with an expressive nod to the Jewish tradition.



High Octane Classics

Fri Feb 21, 10:30am

Sat Feb 22, 8pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor
Time for Three

An unforgettable program, including Jennifer Higdon’s bluegrass-classical fusion, Concerto 4-3, Hindemith’s frenetically brilliant Symphonic Metamorphosis, and Tchaikovsky’s turbulent tone poem, Francesca da Rimini.



The Music of The Eagles

Fri Jan 31, 8pm

Ron Spigelman, conductor

The original Eagles tribute band, Hotel California, joins the BPO to deliver an unforgettable performance of the classic rock icon’s hits.



Nobody Does It Better: The Music of Marvin Hamlisch

Fri Feb 14, 10:30am | Sat Feb 15, 8pm

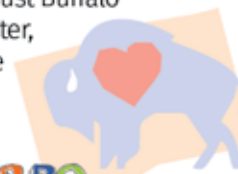
John Morris Russell, conductor
Longtime friend and collaborator

Kevin Cole joins JMR in tribute to the former BPO Pops conductor and composer, and Marvin’s favorite singers join in. The annual Sweetheart Dance featuring Bobby Jones and Colleen Williams tops off the evening.

BuffaLove!

Sun Feb 16, 2:30pm

Buffalo is an amazing place to grow up! Celebrate Buffalo arts with help from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Just Buffalo Literary Center, Verve Dance Studio, and others.



193854

For tickets call (716) 885 5000 or visit bpo.org



Report on the Findings of the National Study of Jewish Grandparents

Editor's Note: David Raphael, co-founder of the Jewish Grandparents Network (JGN), visited Buffalo this fall to share highlights of the recently released Jewish Grandparents study. The report provides an expanded, in-depth presentation and analysis of the findings and additional supplementary material for communities, organizations and families. This is a preliminary report.

The Jewish Grandparents Network (JGN) has released the report of the findings of the National Study of Jewish Grandparents. The report is available on the new JGN website – <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/the-national-study/>.

To deepen our understanding of today's Jewish American grandparents and their families, the JGN commissioned a landmark quantitative research study. The 20-minute survey, conducted by Impact:NPO, was available online from November 4 to December 2, 2018. 1,017 respondents were identified through a leading national provider of survey samples. An additional supplemental sample of 6,785 grandparents was recruited via 17 Jewish partner organizations, social media, and personal referrals. Buffalonians were part of the survey.

"It was a year ago, almost to the day, that a nationally recognized Jewish educator turned to us at the Covenant Award Dinner and, referencing the remarkable interest in the Jewish Grandparents Network said; 'You've got a tiger by the tail.' In the next weeks, close to 8,000 individuals across the United States participated in the first national study of Jewish grandparents. The announcement of the launch became one of the most highly read eJewish Philanthropy articles of 2018," said study co-author David Raphael.

"Over the months since we first began to share the study's findings, we have presented at over 20 national and international conventions, professional development workshops, and meetings. We participated in dozens of briefings and conversations with national and local organizations to elevate their interest in engaging Jewish grandparents," Raphael continued. "These presentations provided us with invaluable feedback

that deepened our understanding of the study's findings. The exchanges also challenged us to present the findings in a way that would provide significant insights into the demographics, attitudes, and aspirations of grandparents and their families, and also help communities and organizations to begin to work with the findings. We wanted these materials to be accessible and inspiring to grandparents and the organizations and professionals that will support and partner with them."

The recently released report presents a comprehensive exploration of the findings on the attitudes, practices, and aspirations of grandparents. Included in the report is a segmentation analysis that identified five groups (cohorts) of Jewish grandparents. Data from this analysis offers guidance for Jewish communities and organizations on developing effective strategies to engage different segments of the Jewish grandparent population.

In order to make the findings both informative and useful to communities,



David Raphael joins Rob Goldberg before sharing findings at a gathering of local grandparents.

organizations, and families, the Jewish Grandparents Network developed an array of supplemental material also available on the organization's website.


Concurrent with the release of the National Study of Jewish Grandparents is the launch of the Jewish Grandparents Network's new website jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org. The website provides a wonderful platform for grandparents and their families to learn from Jewish educators, experts in family relationship and each other. A resource page links grandparents and their families with activities and initiatives online and in their communities. A section entitled "Our Families" encourages grandparents to share their own stories, experiences, and concerns with other members of the grandparent community. And, of course,

the website provides the platform for the Jewish Grandparents Network to share the findings of the national study of Jewish grandparents.

Background on the Jewish Grandparents Network

The Jewish Grandparents Network is the first and only national organization empowering grandparents as they embrace both traditional and radically new roles in their families. Through research, network-building, advocacy, and institutional partnerships, we foster new models of grandparent engagement for the benefit of our families, our communities, and our future.

For more information regarding the JGN, contact David Raphael at david@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org.





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STOP THE BLEED

with a WNY Kosher Twist!

By Philip L Glick, MD MBA and Iris Danziger, MD

In total, there have been at least 2,318 mass shootings since Sandy Hook, with at least 2,624 individuals killed and 9,657 wounded. Most victims die of bleeding within the first 3 to 5 minutes after being injured. Fortunately, most of us have been unscathed by this insane carnage. However, the October 27, 2018 mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood that killed 11 and wounded seven made all the Jews in Western New York feel vulnerable. This was close to our home. It created a call to action.

WNY Jewish organizations have banded together, via the leadership of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, to make the safety of our community's the highest priority. With that in mind, Steve Schwartz, director of the WNY Jewish Service Corp, asked Iris and I for help. "Could we assist the WNY Jewish community to become more prepared?"

Our response is to create a WNY STOP THE BLEED training program. Launched in October of 2015 by the White House, STOP THE BLEED is a national awareness campaign and a call to action. STOP THE BLEED is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped (with DOD approved tourniquets and quick-clotting packing), and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. Via the incredible graciousness of Health Commissioner Dr. Gail Burstein and her Erie County Department of Health staff, to date we have certified more than a dozen STOP THE BLEED Trainers.

Many thanks to Rob Goldberg and Leslie Kramer for providing resources to buy the STOP THE BLEED training boxes. The first, in a succession of community-wide training session, certified more than 30 lay individuals in December at Temple Beth Tzedek. Please join us when your synagogue or other WNY Jewish organizations plans their STOP THE BLEED Training session. We all look forward to being prepared and never being called to action!

To plan a STOP THE BLEED training session for your Jewish organization, please contact Steve Schwartz (steves@localnet.com).



TEAM SPIRIT/BLUE JEAN SHABBAT

Friday, January 31, 2020

Wear clothing from your favorite team along with blue jeans or any casual clothing!

Happy Half Hour at 6:30pm

It will include gourmet pizza, hors d'oeuvres and snacks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Erev Shabbat Family Service at 7:00pm

Join us for our Family Service using Mishkan T'fillah for Youth Prayer book.

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Join us at the Camp Fair January 26

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning is hosting a Camp Fair January 26 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Superhero Training Academy (1590 Hopkins Rd. Suite 1000 Williamsville, NY 14221). The Camp Fair is free and designed for families with children interested in summer camp, and younger children are welcome as well! The Superhero Training Academy is a 7,000 square foot recreation center featuring a mind-blowing, full-size, two story challenge course, custom designed trampolines, a gymnastic spring floor and parkour apparatus. Children attending will be able to participate in the challenge course or a camp-themed PJ Library craft with Nicole Bard while their parents learn all about camp. Camp snacks will also be served.

Parents and potential campers will have the opportunity to learn more about Camp Centerland, Camp Seneca Lake, Camp George, Machane Lev, Camp Shalom, Camp Wise, Camp Stone, Camp



Havaya, Camp Gan Izzy, Surprise Lake Camp, Summer at PALS/Kadimah, USY Summer Programs, NCSY Summer Program and BBYO Summer Programs.



Centerland for the first time for a minimum of two weeks, and the One Happy Camper Program, which provides Incentive Grants (not based on financial need) of between \$700 and \$1000 to Jewish families with children attending non-profit Jewish overnight camp for the first time.

If you have any questions about the Camp Fair, please contact Mike Steklof at 585-200-2161 or mike@buffalojewishfederation.org. To RSVP for the fair, please contact Mindy Ponivas at 716-204-5380 or mindy@buffalojewishfederation.org.

In addition, staff will be available to answer questions about the Taste of Centerland Program, which provides Incentive Grants (not based on financial need) of \$250 to Jewish families with children attending Camp

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!

RSVP to Mindy Ponivas at mindy@buffalojewishfederation.org
716.204.5380 by January 22.

Why Jewish Summer Camp?

Summers at camp are packed with a wide range of fun activities—aquatics, arts and crafts, basketball and soccer, dance, music, cooking, archery, drama, outdoor adventure and hiking, and much more! Campers are encouraged to discover new skills and interests they never knew they had.

Jewish camp weaves Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of each day, helping campers to connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. Spirited and dynamic staff members use experiential learning to reveal what makes Jewish religion and culture so unique in today's world. At camp, Jewish and Israeli culture is celebrated through song, food, art, and dance.

Each camp designs its own program to be accessible and enjoyable for all campers. Whether they're telling stories in their bunks, learning about the environment, or playing tennis, campers explore what Judaism means to them in a



**Camp Centerland Celebrates
"Wear Your Camp T-Shirt Day"**

safe, nurturing, and fun environment.

The impact of Jewish camp is immediate—campers return home connected to a community and friends that will last them a lifetime. And it doesn't stop there. Children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities.

There are a variety of traditional and specialty overnight and day camps that span different denominations of Judaism, accommodate special needs and interests, and offer unique programming, catering to each family's needs.

Practicing Mussar, from Buffalo to Arizona

In early December Miriam Abramovich, Susan Schwartz, Nicole Bard, Mike Steklof and Evie Weinstein, traveled to Arizona to attend The Mussar Institute's Annual Kallah (conference/gathering). The conference was an opportunity to both train with leading thinkers, like Alan Morinis the founder of The Mussar Institute, and to refresh their personal Mussar practices.



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. For the past several years, The Buffalo Jewish Community

has been studying and learning Mussar in various cohorts, with much success and satisfaction. Through Mussar, each person works on their own personal, self-directed spiritual curriculum cultivating personal traits (*Middot* in Hebrew) such as patience, enthusiasm, humility, trust, gratitude and order, and making them

work more effectively in our everyday lives.

Because Mussar is something that you must do, conference attendees at the Mussar Institute's Annual Kallah engaged in study, conversation and practices on the theme of the Cultivating Your Inner (Mussar) Voice. Ideas explored included the need for clarity in speech, approaches to communication that honor the other, and systems for evaluating ourselves and our actions.

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) is currently running Mussar Va'adim (Mussar small groups) for teens, adults, and young adults. In the spring CJEL will launch a second class of Mussar for Moms, a Mussar Va'ad for women who work and parent young children. CJEL continues to offer our quarterly "Season of Mussar" drop-in gathering.

To learn more about Mussar or to find a Mussar offering that is right for you (no previous experience is needed), contact Susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Amiel BaKehila returns to Buffalo

Amiel BaKehila, part of the Ohr Torah Stone (OTS) network in Israel, returned to Buffalo in December for several programs featuring educator Rabbi Benjy Myers, violinist Ariella Zeitlin-Hoffman and trauma expert Sherry Laness.

The delegation met with a variety of groups, including Ariella's visit with students from Buffalo String Works (BSW), a non-profit organization providing afterschool string instrument education to students who are refugees and immigrants living in the West Side of Buffalo. Students are provided with a string instrument for a semester and taught by experienced violinists three times a week. Ariella performed and shared her background of being Jewish and living in Israel. She taught a master class to two students from Thailand who have taken violin at BSW for four years.



The photo to the right is Ariella and BSW's Yuki Numata Resnick, a student of Ariella's grandfather (Tzvi Zeitlin z"l) at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. The photo above was taken when the delegation met with local Jewish professionals.

More photos on pg. 33.



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Kadimah Scholars at Park: A Working Partnership

By Kyle S. Mackie

Editor's Note: The following is a digital version of a story on the Kadimah Scholars at Park School that first aired on WBFO Radio on October 23, 2019. We are grateful to WBFO Education reporter Kyle S. Mackie for her efforts in preparing the story. Since the story aired, the program at Park that supports Hebrew language and Jewish studies, as well as daily morning worship, continues to thrive. The Buffalo Jewish Federation is working in close partnership with Park and Kadimah leadership to raise additional funds to support the new venture beyond the \$60,000 committed through a new Federation Partner Grant. For more information on Kadimah Scholars at Park program, please contact Federation CEO Rob Goldberg (rob@buffalojewishfederation.org). You can listen to this story at www.news.wbfo.org/post/jewish-day-schools-are-closing-how-did-buffalo-manage-to-save-one.

FIRST OF ITS KIND PARTNERSHIP

Jewish day schools are “closing by the day.” How did Buffalo manage to save one?

A first-of-its-kind partnership to save a Jewish day school in Buffalo has cities like Chicago and Los Angeles taking notice.

After enrollment at Kadimah Academy dropped to just 32 students last year, the private pre-K-8 Jewish day school made the difficult decision to close. But much like the City of Buffalo, Kadimah is reinventing itself—by partnering with the secular Park School of Buffalo.

“When Kadimah was closed, we were very sad that we didn’t have a school anymore, and we were anxious. We didn’t know what to expect,” said Michal Shmuel-Lewis, the Hebrew instructor at Kadimah. “We started negotiating with Park, and the more time that went by, the more we found out how people were nice to us and supporting and welcoming. Coming here is really a blessing.”

Shmuel-Lewis spoke to WBFO from her new classroom in the middle school wing at The Park School’s Amherst campus, where posters of the Hebrew alphabet, maps of Israel and photos of Jerusalem and the beach in Tel Aviv cover the walls. Park has also welcomed the addition of Hebrew signage outside the classroom.

“Everywhere you go you can see the signs in Hebrew—on the bathroom door [and] the bulletin boards—and people are walking by and they say, ‘Oh, what is that? Can you explain about this?’ And the [Kadimah] kids are walking around and



Park students with Israeli visitors from Amiel BaKehillah.

they really feel at home,” Shmuel-Lewis said.

PARTNERSHIP, NOT MERGER

The new partnership is not a merger. Kadimah closed as an independent school, and the majority of its former students who migrated along with some of their teachers are now fully-enrolled Park pupils. But the remaining nonprofit organization Kadimah will continue providing Judaic Studies and Hebrew instruction within The Park School. Hebrew has been built into Park’s world languages department and Judaic Studies is distributed throughout the school day and some after-school curriculum.

“Kadimah needed some help and they asked us if we could do that. Our responsibility made it an easy yes,” said Jeremy Besch, Head of School at Park.

“What we’re really hoping is that this can be a model not just for secular and Jewish schools but for organizations across the country who might take opportunities to work together in terms of celebrating and promoting difference rather than, what I think, has become sort of a national, cultural tendency to stay separate.”

BUFFALO AS A MODEL

Kadimah Board President Hallie Keren said the organization’s school, which was founded in 1959, was far from the only center of Jewish learning struggling to stay open.

“It really is an issue that not only Jewish day schools but any private school that’s potentially religiously affiliated or not is facing,” she said. The costs of providing private education continually rise, which means tuition goes up and enrollment often declines—especially if the institution

is competing with high-quality public school districts.

Non-Orthodox Jewish day schools like Kadimah, which provide both religious instruction and comprehensive secular studies, have also faced greater financial challenges than Orthodox schools, or yeshivas, which emphasize religious learning. That’s because the ultra-Orthodox Haredi Jewish population is growing at a much faster rate than non-Orthodox communities and because most American Jews still don’t send their children to Jewish schools, according to the most recent census of Jewish day schools in the U.S.

So, Keren said, “[non-Orthodox] Jewish day schools around the country are closing by the day.”

The country’s only non-Orthodox Jewish boarding school, the American Jewish Academy in Greensboro, North Carolina, also unexpectedly closed for the 2019-2020 school year “due to insufficient growth in enrollment and our inability to secure adequate funding to cover future expenses.” However, the school announced in September it will reopen for at least three grades in 2020.

KADIMAH SCHOLARSHIPS

In order to make the Kadimah Scholars at Park program accessible to all Jewish families who wish to take advantage of it—regardless of whether their children were previously enrolled—Kadimah will provide scholarships to help cover the gap between the former tuition and that of Park’s, which ranges from around \$14,000 to \$22,000 per year depending on the age of the learner.

Besch said few Park families pay full tuition as a result of generous financial aid packages, and he added that Kadimah’s commitment to provide scholarships confirmed that the schools share common values, if not a religion.

“Despite [Park] being secular and [Kadimah] religious, our two organizations shared very similar missions in terms of things like honesty and kindness and responsibility to others,” Besch said.

Besch and Keren also acknowledged concerns about compromising their identities as secular and religious institutions.

“Do we lose the Jewish aspect? Does the



A student eats Challah bread after a Friday Kiddush, the ceremony that welcomes the weekly Sabbath. Photo by KYLE S. MACKIE/WBFO NEWS

program get watered down? These were concerns that were raised not only by board members but by the community at large and parents,” Keren said. “I think with the partnership we’ve managed not only to maintain the strength the Judaic aspect has, we were able to combine the secular education and make it a very strong program.”

“It also not only introduces a Jewish day school in a secular school, it introduces Judaism to the broader community and creates dialogue and understanding and respect.”

Besch said The Park School is committed to supporting children in becoming their fullest selves, which includes their belief systems.

“We are secular and we’re giving our community members who do have religious beliefs the time and space to be themselves, and why wouldn’t we?”

HISTORY OF WELCOMING STUDENTS

Besch said Park also has a history of welcoming students from area Catholic schools that have closed, and that the school has made accommodations for Christian and Muslim students to meet

and pray.

Nancy Enis’ children Ozzy and Talula have attended Kadimah since early elementary school. She said she was very concerned about the potential loss of one of Buffalo’s few options for Jewish education.

“In Judaism, the idea of conducting oneself properly, meaning conducting oneself in such a way so that the individual contributes positively to society through their actions is extraordinarily important. Community is paramount,” Enis told WBFO. “So, many schools—probably most schools—pay lip service to the idea of building the character of their students, but I think very few schools are able to create a culture which actually accomplishes this in a deep and meaningful way.”

Now that Ozzy and Talula are at Park, they can continue their Hebrew and Jewish education through high school, and Enis said they are all thrilled.

“I feel like we’ve won big,” she said. “They’re teaching these little people to grow up to be wonderful big people who are going to be repairing our world and making our world a better place.”

FEDERATION SUPPORT

The Buffalo Jewish Federation helped facilitate the partnership and is a significant funder of Kadimah. Executive Director Rob Goldberg said extending Jewish education through high school could help attract more Jewish families to the area.

“Whether it’s a new physician coming to town or someone studying at the university and doing their graduate work or a new rabbi that a synagogue is trying to attract, we need certain key things to make it possible for them to thrive in Buffalo,” Goldberg said. “One of those is Jewish day school alternatives.”

The only other Jewish school in Buffalo is Ohr Temimim, a small Orthodox elementary school that offers a more religious curriculum than Kadimah.

Paul Bernstein is CEO of Prizmah, the network for all Jewish day schools across North America. He said Jewish day schools sit within the heart of Jewish communities, and that he always encourages struggling day schools to seek innovative solutions to continue operating.

“I know that there are communities in other parts of North America who are looking to Kadimah, to Park, to Buffalo

for learning and the ability to follow the great example that everyone is setting,” Bernstein said.

NATIONAL INTEREST IN BUFFALO

Park and Kadimah leaders said they’ve already heard from Jewish day schools in Chicago, L.A. and other cities who want to learn more about the partnership. And with the school year in full swing, Kadimah’s first two high school students, Sophia and Shaina, are enjoying continuing their studies at Park.

“I came to Kadimah at fifth grade and I kept going and it’s just like a part of me now,” Sophia said after a Friday Kiddush, the ceremony that welcomes the weekly Sabbath.

Shaina said she instantly felt more connected to her peers at Kadimah than she did at the public school she used to attend.

“At Kadimah, you have more heart because they’re your family. They aren’t just your friends. They’re literally your family.”

Kyle S. Mackie is a reporter with WBFO News radio. This piece is reprinted with permission of the author and WBFO.

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Rabbi Jonathan Freirich: We are responsible one for the other

"To scholars and social critics, the racial segregation of our neighborhoods has long been viewed as a manifestation of unscrupulous real estate agents, unethical mortgage lenders, and exclusionary covenants working outside the law," writes Richard Rothstein in *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. This is what is commonly known as 'de facto segregation,' practices that were the outcome of private activity, not law or explicit public policy. Yet, as Rothstein breaks down in case after case, private activity could not have imposed segregation without explicit government policies (de jure segregation) designed to ensure the separation of African Americans from whites.



Americans often ask why we seemed to make progress on the issues of inclusion of LGBTQ people while, during the same time period of fighting for Civil Rights for African Americans, we have not significantly moved real outcomes for African Americans. Health, education, jobs, and wealth are drastically different, and worse, for African Americans more than fifty years after major Civil Rights Legislation in the 1960's, and more than one hundred and fifty years after making slavery and unequal treatment under the law unconstitutional.

Here's a hypothesis: the success of the LGBTQ community's pride and coming out movements made it clear to all of us that someone we are related to, or someone that we are close to, is likely to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, or Questioning. When people come out it becomes clear that there is no "us" and "them" regarding sexuality and gender. Since our families and neighbors include LGBTQ people, many of us found it much easier to accept that we all deserved equality under the law.

On the other hand, there is no coming out and revealing to us that we are related to, or live next to, people who look different than we do.

Professor Rothstein's vitally important book explains exactly how separate living for separate peoples was pursued and maintained through legal means, in every region of the United States, throughout the Twentieth Century. Our neighborhoods look the way they do on purpose, and that purpose was racist.

What can we do about racism?

Join the conversation with Professor Rothstein on January 15 – the details are below. Professor Rothstein will be the keynote speaker at the Annual National Day of Racial Healing, an event pioneered by the Racial Equity Roundtable. Professor Rothstein is beginning a nation-wide movement to fix the generational damage of housing discrimination.

Locally, the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable has been working to change the system. Partnering with every major employer in the region, leading business leaders, "Say Yes Buffalo," Erie County, the National Federation for Just Communities, WNED/WBFO, and led by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, the Racial Equity Roundtable has effectively changed hiring and procurement practices, improved the lives of young people through the Boys and Men of Color Coalition, successfully advocated for bail reform, and this year will open a game-changing "one stop" center to radically improve re-entry out of the Justice System. The Roundtable effectively begins systems change from the top down through all these initiatives and from the grassroots up with Racial Healing Circles among houses of worship and communities throughout the region.

As Jews we have always understood that justice for everyone is an imperative, a mitzvah, for us. Not only must we "not oppress the stranger because we were strangers in Egypt," we have to refrain from oppression, but we must also pursue justice and fight oppression. To do any

Richard Rothstein and *The Color of Law*

National Day of Racial Healing

Wednesday, January 15,
7:00 PM

Elim Christian
Fellowship

70 Chalmers Ave.,
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Celebration of community
at 6:00 PM.

Presentation by Professor
Rothstein at 7:00 p.m.

Book-signing and
discussion to follow the
formal event.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
and Rabbi Abraham
Joshua Heschel

A Shabbat for Justice and Action

Friday, January 17, 7:00 PM
Temple Beth Zion
805 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

Join Rev. Mark Blue of Second Baptist Church in Lackawanna and the NAACP, other African American community leaders, and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich for an evening of song and inspiration, reflection and resolution.

Socializing starting at 6:30 p.m.
Special Reception to follow this
Shabbat Service.

Join the celebration as Rabbi Freirich and several other community leaders are honored with the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award" for their role in creating a just society at this event. Rabbi Freirich is being honored for his Interfaith work.

"A Journey Traveled by Many, a Dream Living in All" Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration



Sunday, January 19, 6:00 PM
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less is to abandon the ethical mandate of Torah.

Join the partners from the Racial Equity Roundtable and many others this January at three events focusing on how we can bring greater equity and justice to our communities.

JDRF 20th Anniversary Gala Honors Cantor Penny Myers and Dr. Bennett Myers

The year 2020 is a banner year for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation-JDRF. It marks the 20th anniversary of the WNY Chapter JDRF gala, the 50th anniversary of the founding of JDRF, and the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin.

This year, JDRF is honoring Cantor Penny Myers and Dr. Bennett Myers and their family as the **Fund a Cure Champions** at the 20th Annual Journey to a Cure Gala, which will take place Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Resort. The event starts at 6:00 with cocktails and a silent auction, and is followed by dinner, a live auction and JDRF's signature Fund a Cure auction. Music and dancing conclude the evening.

The Myers have been involved with JDRF ever since their daughter, Corrinne, was diagnosed with type one diabetes (T1D) in November of 2011 when she was 6 years old. Penny and Bennett learned



about JDRF after Corrinne's diagnosis. They came to JDRF for support and for information about helping Corrinne better manage T1D and they threw their support fully behind helping fund research that would help JDRF turn Type One into Type NONE. In addition to their

work on behalf of JDRF, The Myers Family supports many other local organizations and nonprofits, and have done much to improve the quality of life for those living in WNY.

For more information, for sponsorship or tickets, call 833-2873

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- * Celebrate Jewish life with members of the Jewish communities of Odessa and Kiev
- * Visit and remember those who once lived and thrived in the shtetl communities of Sokolivka and Justingrad
- * Visit Uman and the gravesite of Hasidic master Reb Nachman of Bratslav
- * Travel with Jim Lodge, former CEO of Federation and leader at World ORT
- * Learn how ORT is impacting Jewish life in Ukraine and engage with kids and their teachers

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

BUFFALO JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Placing the Parables of Jesus within the Context—Literary, Cultural, Spiritual—of Second Temple Judaism

Rabbi Moshe Silberschein, interim rabbi at Temple Beth Tzedek, will be leading three learning sessions in February of parables in Classical Rabbinic Literature, placing Jesus' teachings within the gamut, continuum, of rabbinic parables of the last two thousand years. The series will also attempt to enable the students to understand how Jesus' parables were perceived by his many listeners when he first taught them.

Feb 5: - The parable of the Good Samaritan

Feb 12- The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Feb 19- The parable of the Tenants

All sessions are free of charge and will take place 10:30-noon at Temple Beth Tzedek 1641 N. Forest Road in Williamsville. Refreshments will be served.

Presenter: Rabbi Moshe Silberschein is interim rabbi at Temple Beth Tzedek and faculty member at Jerusalem University College- Institute of Holy Land Student and Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. *For more information contact mara@buffalojewishfederation.org or Rabbi Moshe Silberschein moshsue@gmail.com.*

Happy Hanukkah, Buffalo Sem!

Each December the Buffalo Seminary holds a Hanging of the Greens day, which was revamped to be more inclusive of more holidays and to engage all the students.

This past December, Leslie Kramer, whose daughter is a Sem grad, gave one of the cultural workshops at the school for the second year, presented on Hannukkah and Jewish celebrations, complete with multiple menorahs, dreidel games, and gelt.



Hanukkah at Sem: Student Kanika Durland, Leslie Kramer, Head of School Helen Marlette and Communications Director Erin Kelly.



Lighting Menorahs at Buffalo Seminary

Council Member David Rivera Secures Funding for Interpreters

JCRC recently met with Buffalo Majority Leader David Rivera (Niagara District) to discuss its priorities of social justice, combatting hate/antisemitism and building relationships with community groups and legislators. At that meeting, Council Member Rivera generously agreed to provide funds for interpreters at court and social service information sessions.



(l-r) Mara Koven-Gelman, Deborah Goldman, CM David Rivera, Amérida Weinmann, and Rob Goldberg.

Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin and other professionals who help organize these panels saw a gap in understanding in local immigrant and refugee community in Family Court and Social Services. "This is critical for us to help people navigate these systems," said Judge Rodwin. A recent panel was held in November with over 200 people and JCRC paid for the interpreters for that session. Four more sessions are planned for 2020. "I am happy to help newcomers and immigrants better understand our courts and social services," said Council Member Rivera.

Panelists present information and answered audience questions on the subjects of social services and legal concerns. Topics included social welfare benefits, child welfare and protection, family court procedures, interpersonal/family violence and immigration consequences.

Organizations represented on the panel include: Erie County Family Court, Erie County Department of Social Services, Family Justice Center, Coordinated Refugee and Asylee Legal Services.



The November panel

Lindy Says:

Did you know that if your employer has a wellness program, it must be voluntary?

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5 THINGS YOU CAN DO in January to Repair the World

- 1» **Attend the Jewish Camp Fair** with your kids and learn more about all kinds of Jewish summer camps. It's from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Superhero Training Academy, 1590 Hopkins Road. Parents can find out more about day and overnight camps, while kids can have fun. **Please RSVP to Mindy at 204-5380 by January 22.**
- 2» **You can be a Superhero Volunteer** Sunday, January 26 at Jewish Federation's Super Sunday. From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the JCC. Volunteer to make phone calls, help set up, work in the office. And you can make your 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo gift, too. **Call Mary Jo Fragale at 204-2244 to volunteer.**
- 3» **Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Sunday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Kleinhans Music Hall at the annual MLK community event. Rabbi Jonathan Freirich will receive an interfaith award that night, and the program is free and open to the community.
- 4» **Remember the Holocaust** at several events in January throughout the community: January 22 at Canisius College, January 26 at Canisius College and January 27 at Daemen College. **Call the Holocaust Resource Center at 634-9535.**
- 5» There is still time to **make a gift to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo**. Either answer the call on Super Sunday, January 26 or **go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org** and click on "donate."

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Where is this found exactly in Jewish Buffalo?

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

E-mail your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org

Last month Joseph Pechenik correctly identified the Yellow Jewish Stars being shown in an exhibit on the second floor of the Buffalo History Museum.

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Oranges & Lemons... Sunshine for Winter

By Robin Kurss

It's January and it's winter. For many of us this means trying to turn over a new leaf to eat healthier AND it's a great time to eat the wonderful citrus which is in season. Here's an easy, healthy and delicious way to start the New Year off in the right direction!



Sheet Pan Chicken with Winter Citrus

8 pieces of chicken on the bone...

4 different kinds of citrus...

mix oranges, lemons, tangerines, blood oranges...
anything you like, washed and sliced in 1/4 " rounds,
seeds removed

1/4 c olive oil

1/4 c pomegranate molasses (found in Middle Eastern
section of grocery store)

salt and pepper

1 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves off stem

1 Tbsp fresh mint, sliced thinly

Preheat oven to 425. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. Place citrus slices on bottom in single layer. Place chicken pieces on top. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and thyme. Drizzle over oil and pomegranate molasses. Bake for 35 minutes. Sprinkle with mint and enjoy!

Remembering the Past

Members of TBazY, the Temple Beth Zion youth group, put American flags on soldiers' graves in Forest Lawn this past Veteran's Day.



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buffalo@yahoo.com, bvkkosher@gmail.com

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Miriam Abramovich - Director of Engagement
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Chabad House of Buffalo

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Rabbi Moshe Gurary
www.chabadbuffalo.com

Chai Early Childhood Center

757 Hopkins Road
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716 580-4600
www.chainursery.com
Chani Labkovski - Director

Department of Jewish Thought

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

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

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716-204-1133
www.jewishphilanthropies.org
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www.hillelofbuffalo.org

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www.hrcbuffalo.org
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www.jccbuffalo.org

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Williamsville, NY 14221 (office)
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Rabbi Heschel Greenberg
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www.jewishdiscovery.org

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www.congregationbethabraham.net

Congregation Shir Shalom

(Reform/Reconstructionist)
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info@congregationhavurah.org

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

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http://ohrtzion.org/kot

Knesset Center (Orthodox)

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

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KOT Magic show: November 23



Shir Shalom Receives “Better Together” Grant



Congregation Shir Shalom received the prestigious “Better Together” grant, an initiative that encourages students and senior citizens to develop intergenerational Jewish relationships. The nationwide program aims to help students foster their own Jewish identities while connecting them with living history, creating a space in which an oral tradition can bring people together. The grant, which is already in use, will allow students in the sixth and seventh grades at CSS religious school to meet regularly with residents at The Amberleigh. During the first program on November 29th, students helped decorate the facility for Hanukkah.

Mazel Tov Marc and Stuart!

The University at Buffalo School of Management honored several alumni and business leaders for their impact on the community, the school and their industry. Among them were Marc A. Adler, MBA '82, CEL '08, president of Why Not Marketing, for his service to the School of Management, and Stuart H. Angert, founder and former CEO of Remarketing Services of America, for entrepreneurship.



Seated, from left: Judy Vredenburg and Tamara Owen. Standing, from left: Marc Adler, Stuart Angert, John Scannell and Brandon Glasgow.
Photo: Tom Wolf.

ROB'S COMEDY PLAYHOUSE

1340 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

2nd Annual Joint Fundraiser of Congregation Shir Shalom & Temple Beth Zion



Sunday, March 15, 2020
7:00pm

- Tickets are \$25 each and include 2 cocktails.
- Starring Rob Lederman from 97 Rock with Eric Neumann (as seen on Comedy Central and Late Night with Stephen Colbert)
- Basket Raffle and 50/50 Raffle.
- Food available for purchase.

THIS IS A NIGHT CLUB SHOW AND MAY CONTAIN ADULT HUMOR.

Contact the Temple Offices for tickets.
Tickets are available on both Temple websites:

www.shirshalombuffalo.org/comedy-night/

www.tbz.org/community/rob/



CSS: 633.8877
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Jewish Soldiers Project at TBZ

By Beth Steinberg

Shortly after I started as Director of the Religious School at Temple Beth Zion, I received an e-mail from the Honorable Keith Freedman of Rochester, NY, asking if we would be interested in participating in the Jewish Soldiers Project (JSP). Judge Freedman founded this group over a dozen years ago to send Hanukkah Care Packages to Jewish men and women serving in the armed forces of the United States around the world. At first, the JSP sought help only from their immediate Jewish community. Members of various synagogues and other groups contributed children's Hanukkah cards, gelt, dreidels, and home-made baked goods to help the soldiers celebrate the Festival of Lights. This year was the first time he was inviting organizations beyond the Rochester area to participate.



baking Hanukkah cookies to send to the soldiers!)

Small acts of kindness. Small demonstrations of Chesed. Making the world a better place one little bit at a time.

Beth Steinberg is Director of the Religious School at Temple Beth Zion



I responded with a handful of practical questions, and in his response Judge Freedman forwarded two photographs of soldiers opening their care packages. The smiles on their faces were broad and delightful! There was no way I wasn't going to plan this for our Religious School, and I couldn't imagine an easier way for our students to participate in a mitzvah.

A few weeks ago I prepared some brief instructions for our teachers and set out boxes of crayons and markers, stacks of construction paper, and some Hanukkah-themed stencils. What I didn't anticipate was that others in the Temple Beth Zion community would see what we were doing and decide to participate as well! The women who volunteer in our Sisterhood Judaica Shop realized that they had scores of small menorahs packed away and wondered if JSP might want them. Days after I mailed Judge Freedman a packet of hand-made cards, they sent off a quantity of items to be included in this year's Hanukkah Care Packages. (Last I heard they were thinking of

Singing Hanukkah Songs

Members of the Community's Ruach Choir performed Hanukkah songs at a TBZ Brotherhood Achim program for residents of Weinberg Campus.



Errol Sull to Speak at TBZ Achim January 12

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will host its Achim program Sunday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. The featured speaker will be Errol Craig Sull, a local author, educator and culinary expert. He has been a participant in the Achim program for many years and is a co-chairman of the Temple Beth Zion Achim Committee. He will be discussing and sharing thoughts and experiences about baking, and it will be a delicious event! He might also be preparing a cake and sharing the results with the audience.



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.

The program takes place at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road, and is held in the building across from the rear entrance to the Jewish Community Center.

PASS - Parents At Sunday School

Sunday, January 12, 9:30 a.m.

Who wants to be a Minyanaire? Come learn with Cantor Penny Myers as she teaches the secrets of our liturgy. This wonderful program is open to the entire community - not just TBZ Sunday school parents.



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Buffalo Corner Reading Series at Shir Shalom

By Peter Simon

Coffee shops, libraries and book stores are widely viewed as the most likely places for poetry and book readings. But Congregation Shir Shalom broke that mold by establishing a monthly reading series that was a hit right from the start. Nearly 40 people attended each of the first three readings, and organizers are aiming for even larger turnouts when the sessions resume at 7 p.m. February 20th at Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville.

"I think we are doing what we should be doing," said Dr. Gunilla Kester, co-host of the program. "A lot of people have felt welcome, and there will be new connections built." Dr. Kester, the author or co-author of six books and a teacher of classical guitar, said the first three sessions drew a broad range of people, including poets, Shir Shalom congregants and regular attendees at local literary events. "It's an interesting group of people," Dr. Kester said of her fellow poets. "Somehow we know each other and like



each other."

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, rabbi of Shir Shalom said "Gunilla is an amazing poet in her own right and has given such a gift to Shir Shalom. I expect it to continue to build over time." The readings were originally designed to honor Cantor Susan Wehle ((z"l) and the other 48 people who died in the Flight 3407 plane crash in Clarence 10 years ago. "This was a way of keeping Susan's legacy alive," said Rabbi

Lazarus-Klein. "It has turned into that and so much more."

Cantor Wehle and Dr. Kester were close friends, and recorded a CD together. Buffalo Corner Reading Series participants in future programs will include Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, the first female cantor in Jewish history. She was the cantor at Temple Beth Am (now Shir Shalom) for 12 years, and later the Placement Director for the American Conference of Cantors.



Cantor Ostfeld will read from her memoir, *Catbird: The Ballad of Barb Prim*.

Rabbi Lazarus-Klein will also participate. "He's quite a good poet," Dr. Kester said. "He doesn't always have the time to polish his work, but he has the heart of a poet." Perry Nicholas, an English professor at Erie Community College-North and a long-time friend of Dr. Kester, is co-hosting the program.

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Network for Religious Communities & NFJC Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: 11/25



Spiritual Recharge at Temple Beth Zion

Each of the following evenings will include coffee and desserts, a spiritual practice, and a chance to learn and share. Resources will be available ahead of time - please email Rabbi Jonathan Freirich at rabbi@tbz.org with questions and to RSVP.

“The Future and the Zohar”

Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.,
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Following the Tenth of Tevet we will “raise our eyes” and heed the signs, seeking new perspectives that inspire and energize our minds, hearts, and spirits.

We will have desserts and coffee for our bodies, and texts, practices, and conversations for our souls.

The Jewish project can be described as attending to these areas:

- **Doing** – acting together to make our community and state better.
- **Feeling and Thinking** – learning in a way that helps us reflect on the actions that may move the world to greater wholeness and justice.
- **Inspiring** – finding the deeper connections to the mysteries of the universe that provide us the inner strength and frameworks to engage the world with creativity and compassion.

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Play Mah Jongg, Dominoes, Canasta, any board game or card game.
Bring your own sets, board games, card games, Poker, Dominoes!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 15th, so we can plan table setups.

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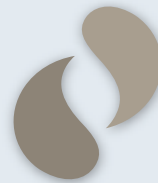
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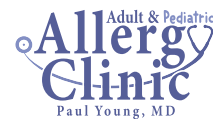
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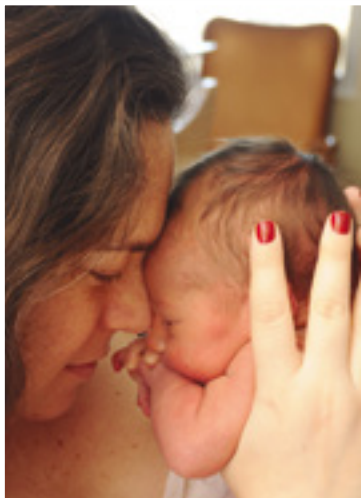
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Mazel!



Florence & Jacob Oppenheimer
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**Rand Kenneth
Oppenheimer**

born on November 30th, 2019.

The proud grandparents are
Eileen & Ken Grazi
and
Cindy & Randy Oppenheimer.



Phoebe Alexis Oppenheimer

*was called to the Torah
as a Bat Mitzvah*

*on Saturday, November 23, 2019
at Temple Beth Zion.*



Her proud parents are

*Julia Kagan, DDS
and*

Benjamin D. Oppenheimer, DDS

CALENDAR

JANUARY

January 2

Festival of Psalms Organ Concert
10:00 a.m.

Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave

January 5

JCC Cultural Artsventure family program

2:00 p.m., JCC Benderson Building

Call Katie Wzontek 204-2084

January 10

PJ Library Tot Shabbat

5:45 p.m., JCC Benderson Family Building

Nicole@buffalojewishfederation.org

January 12

Errol Sull @ TBZ Achim program

10:00 a.m.

Weinberg Campus/ Meadows Lounge
Free & Open to community

LGBTQ Inclusion Meeting

12:30 p.m. JCC/ Benderson

Contact Janet.gunner@gmail.com

January 13

JRT Staged reading of God of Vengeance

7:00 p.m. JCC Seller Theatre.

Call 688-4033 for info

January 17

Shabbat for Justice & Action

7:00 pm TBZ. 805 Delaware Ave.

January 19

Jewish Superheroes & Graphic novels

2:00 p.m., JCC Benderson Building

For kids 8-13 years.

Call Katie Wzontek 204-2084

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

6:00 p.m., Kleinhans Music Hall

January 20

MLK Day of Service @ Shir Shalom

10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Congregation Shir Shalom

January 20

JRT Staged reading of God of Vengeance

7:00 p.m., Kavinoky Theatre

Call 688-4033 for info

January 21

Soul Conversations with JDC

7:30 p.m., 831 Maple Road, rear building

International Holocaust

Commemoration Program

Featuring journalist Jack Fairweather

6:30 p.m., Canisius College, Regis Room of
Winter Student Center

January 22

United Nations Holocaust

Remembrance Day

Canisius College - Winter Student Center
6:30 p.m.

wyrobekml@gmail.com

January 23 & 24

PALS/ Kadimah Open House

10:00 a.m.- noon, Temple Beth Zion/ Broder

January 25

Temple Beth Zion's PALS/ Kadimah

Fund Raiser

6:00- 9:00 p.m. TBZ Broder

RSVP to 836-6565

January 26

Federation's Super Sunday

9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., Federation Offices

My Grown Up & Me

10:00 a.m., Whole Foods

Camp Fair @ Superheroes

Training Academy

3:00- 5:00 p.m.

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January 27

Remembering Holocaust Survivor

Joe Diamond

6:00 p.m., Rosary Hall in Daemen College



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Camp Centerland Receives Accreditation

Camp Centerland is now accredited through the American Camp Association, a community of camp professionals who, for over 100 years, have joined together to share knowledge and experience, and to ensure the quality of camp programs. Accreditation focuses on education and the evaluation of camp operations, using standards that go beyond the minimum requirements of licensing.

Just as Centerland's membership is diverse and its programs distinct, so are the children who participate in the camp experience. Through the Jewish values that are taught, the opportunities offered, and the examples set, children become part of a sharing community.

For more information on Camp Centerland, contact Michael Garcia at mgarcia@jccbuffalo.org.



JCC Friends of All Species

Early Childhood kids at the JCC had a visit from Caleb, a K9 service dog who belongs to The JCC's Health, Fitness & Recreation Director Randy Reimondo.



JEWISH THOUGHT AT THE GREAT LAKES

by Alexander Dzhadov

Editor's note: In early November 2019, a group of participants of the "Open World" program visited the University at Buffalo SUNY Department of Jewish Thought. Below, one of the program participants shares his impressions in a piece titled "Jewish Thought at the Great Lakes" where he offers and undermines, in his own words, "a perspective of an unenlightened European"

Modernity dictates the "modern" standards of higher education.

The main trends in the educational process today are the desire for clear practices and techniques, the desire to fit erudition and intelligence into a simple countable test scale, the unification of educational approaches and paradigms.



Alexander Dzhadov

Education is viewed as a "product", which, according to all the laws of the market, is offered to students (their parents, corporations, states by players of this market — higher education institutions. And this happens everywhere, whether you are in India, China, USA, Russia or South Africa.

Amid this, sincere surprise and admiration are caused by rare intellectual enclaves, which prioritize the process of cognition of the matters and categories which seem to be echoes of previous eras — critical thinking and philosophical tradition. Thinking as opposed to a simple set of skills and techniques!

It is all the more surprising to encounter such educational practices in the USA - the flagship of capitalism and a market economy, where, based on the prejudices of an unenlightened European, the very principles of practicality and "applicability" should flourish. Such an enclave of "pure reason," in our opinion, is the Department of "Jewish Thought" at the University of Buffalo.

Professors in the Department are a unique team of researchers and mentors, who set for themselves ambitious tasks, one of which is the study of the role of Jewish thought (tradition) in the formation of European civilization, along with the traditions of Ancient Greece and Rome.

The creators and inspirers of the Department see the scope of the subject of research much wider than just philosophy and principles of thinking. This includes history, religious practices, and an infinite number of cultural manifestations.

But what is truly unique is that these multifaceted manifestations of the spiritual life of mankind are recognized in the purely European tradition of a critical discourse on the subject of research. This is intended to equip students of the Department's courses with the most important tool for understanding and transforming the world, with a tool that does not depend on epochs and trends, with pure reason. And in what specific sphere [of life or career] the students of the Department chose to realize and apply themselves is the free and pure choice of theirs alone.

Alexander Dzhadov is a political scientist (Russia, Rostov-on-Don) and a Member of the program, "Open World". Translated by Polina Dolgopolskaia.

Repairing the World by Collecting Clothes

By Shayna Miller

I recently organized my very first volunteering initiative through Hillel of Buffalo, an experience that I will always cherish. Before Hillel, I had a passion for service and love for helping the world. I just didn't have a place to start. Once I started working with Hillel, I saw a whole new world of possibilities open up.

I started working with my mentor at Hillel, Alexa Zappia, around the beginning of September. She was someone to whom I could open up and collaborate with on ideas. She provided me with guidance, additional ideas, and help with every stage of planning.

Before Alexa and I started planning the clothing drive, it was a bit of a difficult choice on what project to take on first, since we had come up with so many great ideas on how to better our community. We decided on a clothing drive for a few different reasons. The most important reason being that winter is coming. As all Buffalo natives



several schools in the area who were potential options, and we settled on one high school and one elementary school which would really benefit from some extra winter clothes. From there, we made flyers and posted them all over social media. We hoped staff and students would both come out and bring clothes to support the project. We tabled for three days for a few hours at a time. We handed out cookies and encouraged people to come by with any old clothes they didn't need. At first, things were moving very slowly, and I was feeling almost discouraged, but we were patient. It paid off on the third and final day when we started seeing drop offs for the first time. After that, many students came by the Hillel office after the end of the actual clothing drive to drop off even more items! By the end of the drive, we had almost twenty bags full of clothes.

We were so happy and excited that this many people would come out to donate. After finally sorting through the clothes, we really got to see the huge amount of clothing we collected for the schools. I am now positive that we have been able to impact many children this winter one piece of clothing at a time.

Shayna Miller is a UB junior psychology major with a double minor in counseling and education.

know, it comes fast. With this in mind, I thought back to my time as a teenager in my hometown of Elmira, New York. There are many lower income schools, so I saw many kids struggle to get the winter clothes they needed for school. My mother was a principal in the district at the time and was always sure to keep extra sweaters and coats in her office which were too small on my siblings and me. This helped me to be conscious of this problem from a very young age.

As a result of my past experiences as well as reflecting on the poverty within schools, I decided to create a clothing drive for children at Buffalo Inner City schools. We wanted to do something where we could see the direct impact in our own community. We contacted

In honor of the 75th Liberation of Auschwitz and United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Holocaust Resource Center would like to present:



A 2nd Generation Presentation: The story of Holocaust Survivor Joe Diamond, told by his daughter, Wendy Weisbrot

JANUARY 27, 2020 AT 6PM
ROSARY HALL AT DAEMEN COLLEGE
4380 MAIN ST, AMHERST, NY 14226

HRC HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER OF BUFFALO BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION DAEMEN

JCC NIGHT AT THE BPO FEBRUARY 8



As a result of a collaboration with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the JCC has arranged for 40 half-price tickets to a concert of the works of Jewish composers on February 8th at Kleinhans Music Hall. Gustav Mahler and Leonard Bernstein's music will be featured as JoAnn Falletta conducts the orchestra. A Klezmer composition and violinist Noah Bendix-Balgley will round out the evening's performance.

Tickets will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis to JCC members at \$36 each and can be reserved by calling the JCC at 688-4114.

HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION JANUARY 22



In commemoration of UN Holocaust Remembrance Day and honoring the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College are presenting a book talk January 22 at 6:30 p.m. by former Washington Post war correspondent Jack Fairweather.

The presentation in the Regis Rooms of the Richard Winter Student Center, 81 Hughes Avenue on the Canisius College Campus, will be preceded by a brief memorial featuring Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's Cellist Robert Hausmann playing Ravel's *Kaddish*, which he offered as a memorial in the German Concentration Camp, Auschwitz, during the BPO's tour of Poland.



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JEWISH REPERTORY THEATRE TO PRESENT SPECIAL YIDDISH / ENGLISH STAGED READING JAN. 13, 20

GOD OF VENGEANCE, by Sholem Asch, translation
by Los Angeles playwright Steve Fife

- **Monday, January 13, 7 p.m.** at the 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 and Yiddish excerpt of the Yiddish play that inspired the Broadway hit, *Indecent*, will take place January 13 at the JRT at the JCC/Benderson Building and January 20 at the Kavinoky Theatre. The Kavinoky Theatre, in collaboration with JRT, is presenting *Indecent* March 6-29, 2020.



The January readings will also feature a 10-minute excerpt of the play in Yiddish, which is expected to be particularly attractive to audiences because of the recent Yiddish production of *Fiddler on the Roof* on Broadway.

This “notorious” play by Sholem Asch, was performed originally in Yiddish and is famous because the New York City police raided the Broadway performance. This famous incident sparked the play *Indecent*, which will be performed at the Kavinoky Theatre, in collaboration with JRT, March 6-March 29. The January readings will feature some of Buffalo’s most well-known actors in English and Yiddish, performed by the JCC’s Yiddish Circle, coordinated by Irving Massey, Tova Kristal and Regina Grol.



SPECIAL DISCOUNT!

JRT patrons can see *Indecent* at the Kavinoky Theatre at the reduced price of \$35! (regular price \$45). Just mention JRT when you call their box office at 716-829-7668. Visit www.kavinoky.com for show dates/times.

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TWO UN HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAMS THIS MONTH

In commemoration of UN Holocaust Remembrance Day and honoring the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College are presenting a book talk January 22 at 6:30 p.m. by former Washington Post war correspondent Jack Fairweather. His 2019 book, *The Volunteer: One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz* tells the story of a resistance fighter, Witold Pilecki, who infiltrated Auschwitz, smuggling out reports to the Allies on the death within its gates.

The presentation in the Regis Room of the Richard Winter Student Center, 81 Hughes Avenue on the Canisius College Campus, will be preceded by a brief memorial featuring Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra’s Cellist Robert Hausmann playing Ravel’s Kaddish, which he offered as a memorial in the German Concentration Camp, Auschwitz, during the BPO’s tour of Poland. The Yad Vashem Exhibit, The Auschwitz Album, will also be on display. A light reception will follow.

An additional commemoration program will be offered on January 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Rosary Hall on the Daemen College Campus, 4380 Main Street featuring 2nd Generation speaker Wendy Weisbrot on her late father, Survivor Joe Diamond. Daemen will host The Auschwitz Album Exhibit that evening, and it will be on display at the Canisius College Library Exhibition Hallway during the month of February.

Admission to both events are free and open to the public. A book signing will follow the January 22nd event. Additional co-sponsors are The Jewish Federation, Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, the Center for Polish Studies at Daemen College, Polish American Congress - WNY Division, Polish Legacy Project and the Kosciuszko Foundation - WNY Chapter.

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

LEGACIES SPOTLIGHT

By Irv Levy

THEODORE HOFELLER (1854 – 1930)

Theodore Hofeller was a well-known businessman and philanthropist born on March 17, 1854 who emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1869. He attended Buffalo schools and initially entered the clothing business. In 1881 he formed the firm of Theodore Hofeller and Company which went on to become one of the largest waste rubber companies in the world. In 1915, Mr. Hofeller became a principal owner of the Buffalo Susquehanna Railroad.



Theodore Hofeller

Philanthropist and Community Servant

Mr. Hofeller became interested in the Hebrew Men's Benevolent Society and became its first secretary and later president. On March 23, 1911, Mr. Hofeller was among a small group of men and women who met at Zion House, located on Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo to form what at the time was known as the Federated Jewish Charities of Buffalo and presently known as our very own Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

In addition to serving as the President of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Mr. Hofeller served as President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation. He also was a Trustee of Temple Beth Zion, and a founder of the Willowdale Country Club, a nine-hole golf course later to be known as the Westwood Country Club.

In 1881, Theodore married Fanny Levin, and to their blessed union two children were born, Ms. Lillian Strauss and Mr. David Eugene Hofeller. After the death of Fanny, Mr. Hofeller married Mrs. Ida Bendheim, mother of Mrs. Eugene Warner, by a previous marriage.

The Hofeller Joy Fund

On May 16, 1917, Mr. Hofeller wrote a letter (among the most inspirational I have ever had the pleasure to read) to the Board of Governors of the Federated Jewish Charities of Buffalo (The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies) establishing The Hofeller Joy Fund. Mr. Hofeller established the fund with a certificate of deposit from the Peoples Bank of Buffalo (now known as M&T Bank) in the amount of \$5,000.

It was Mr. Hofeller's direction that the income from this gift be expended for our poor; not for necessities, but for luxuries. Mr. Hofeller suggested that the income be used to purchase dolls, toys, picture books for girls and boys, for tickets to the moving picture shows, theatres or concerts for children or their elders or in any manner which would gladden the heart of a child or bring joy to a grown-up person.

Mr. Hofeller's Legacy today

On December 4, 2019, members of Jewish Family Services and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies delivered toys to patients at the Oshei Children's Hospital, and at Temple Beth Zion to children in need, including refugee families resettling in Buffalo.



Delivering toys to patients at Oshei

bringing joy to children and new immigrants to Buffalo in 2019.

A legacy is created by touching lives while one is alive. A legacy is preserved by touching lives after one has passed. I find Mr. Hofeller's personal vision, mission, and purpose to be as relevant today as when he served as one of the founders of The Foundation in 1911. Mr. Hofeller embodies the reason that I have chosen to serve the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies would be honored to assist you and your family in preserving your legacy. Please contact Irv Levy at 716-204-1139.

Irv Levy is Interim Executive Director of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies



What a tremendous legacy, 90 years after his death and 102 years after making this gift, Mr. Hofeller, through the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, continues to bring joy to our community. An immigrant to Buffalo from the 1800's is

Mazel Tov, Lynn Catalano



Lynn Catalano has been appointed Director of the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's Foundation. For the past four years Lynn has served as the Director of Development for the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. Her Foundation colleagues wish Lynn the very best in her new endeavor and look forward to Lynn continuing to be part of the Foundation family now and in the future.

The Foundation will commence a search for a new Director of

Development and will be sure to keep the community apprised of those efforts.

In the meantime, Irv Levy, Executive Director will be taking on the responsibility for development activities until a new Director of Development is retained.

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Violent Empires and the Interpretation of Scripture

DR. ALEXANDRA ZIRKLE JOINS THE
DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH THOUGHT

By Cecile Minkoff



This fall, the Department of Jewish Thought gained a new faculty member, Dr. Alexandra Zirkle. Dr. Zirkle researches and teaches in the fields of modern Jewish thought, biblical interpretation and politics, and Jewish-Christian relations.

In early November, Dr. Zirkle gave a stimulating talk examining how the power relationship between two unequal groups plays out in the field of scriptural exegesis. For examples, she used the Jewish community of 19th Germany; and the Muslims of the Middle East, who, since 2001, have been the target of U.S. foreign policy. In both cases, she argues, the more powerful group polices how these religious communities interpret scripture in order to justify violence against them.

That the relationship between Jews and the larger German polity was unequal goes without saying. Zirkle listed some of the ways by which German culture-at-large imposed its terms on the Jews if the latter wished to enjoy the full rights of citizenship in the German state. At the top of the list was the insistence that biblical exegesis only follow the methodology and assumptions of the historicist approach to Bible study, that is, that the Bible is a historical rather than a revealed text. This was accompanied by the demand that biblical exegesis focus only on the written Torah, subject only to historicism – no midrash, no commentaries, no Talmud; all rabbinic literature should be rejected as fusty, antiquated, and irrelevant. Torah laws such as kashrut and circumcision, and the tradition of burying the dead within twenty-four hours, were all called into question and considered no longer suited nor necessary for modern life. If Jews wanted to be considered “reasonable” or “modern” interpreters of scripture, the historicist method of Bible interpretation was the only one available to them. It is certainly not necessary to reject the validity of historicist Bible hermeneutics to recognize that this was a wholesale assault on the rich and varied sources of Judaism and the Jewish tradition. By using the terminology of empire building

and colonialism, Zirkle demonstrated that this intellectual strait-jacketing of Jewish lore and practice was indeed an act of violence against the community as a whole, a kind of “exegetic hegemony.”

Having laid down this argument, Zirkle made a striking analogy to the Muslims of the Middle East vis à vis the United States, specifically as expressed in policies formulated by the US foreign policy establishment. Zirkle cites contemporary research that points to a RAND Corporation publication outlining a road map for building networks of moderate Muslim partners with the object of molding Muslim societies in the image of western democratic regimes. A key element to this road map is to identify those groups of Muslims with “the right” approach to interpreting Islam, and restricting funding and organizational support to these, and no others. The “right way” is of course defined by the hegemon, in this case, the United States. And, according to the narratives cited by Zirkle, the intent was to strip Islam of most of its rich tradition of Qur’anic exegesis, the Sunna, hadith, jurisprudence, and folklore, mining these for that which suited western sensibilities, with the express purpose of promoting U.S. interests abroad.

In both cases Zirkle explores how, in her own words, “in both a nineteenth-century German context and a twenty-first century US context, scriptural hermeneutics have been weaponized to justify imperial violence against religious minorities.”

The talk was interesting, accessible, and thought-provoking, and was attended by students, faculty, and members of the community.

Cecile Minkoff is Librarian at UB’s Department of Jewish Thought.

JCC CULTURAL ARTSVENTURE SERIES LAUNCHES IN JANUARY

The JCC is excited to launch their NEW Cultural ARTSventure Series, designed to provide families an opportunity to learn and explore Jewish Culture through the arts, specifically focusing on the contributions that American Jews have made in the United States. This January there will be two programs offered as part of the series. Each program will be facilitated by artist and educator Catherine Shuman Miller. Catherine's teaching experience spans over 30 years. She has taught in numerous workshops and specialized programs. Catherine also taught as an adjunct at both Buffalo State College and Villa Maria College in Buffalo, as well as was the art teacher for 11 years at Kadimah Academy, teaching grades K-8.

The first program American Jewish Illustrators in Children's Literature, Sunday, January 5, 2pm at the JCC Benderson Family Building is free and open to the community. Together families will share some of the most beloved children's picture books, and learn



about the incredible illustrators behind them, all American Jews. Children will have the opportunity to create an art project using the styles of each of the illustrators discussed. Work Stations will enable children to move from one style to the next working in different mediums and creating with different textures and materials. In addition Talking Leaves...Books will have children's books available for purchase at the event and local artist Jessica Livingston will be available to speak about her exhibit in the Bunis Family Art Gallery which focuses on fairy tales, folklore and mythology.

The second program in the series,



Catherine Shuman Miller



Exploring American Jewish Culture in Superheroes and Graphic Novels, Sunday, January 19 from 2-4pm at the JCC Benderson Family Building is recommended for children ages 8-13. This workshop, sponsored by PJ Our Way, will point out some of the Jewish themes and characteristics evident in specific superheroes and graphic novels, looking at what Superman, Batman, the X-Men, Spiderman and other popular superheroes have in common. Participants will be tasked in creating their own superheroes and graphic novel storyboards, "drawing" from their own experiences, cultures, surrounding environments and imagination. **Registration is required, \$10 per child and space is limited, please call Katie Wzontek, Cultural Arts Director (716) 204-2084.**

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HADASSAH LEARNS & CELEBRATES

In November Hadassah members carpoled to Vicki Schneider's Expressive Glass Studio for a beautiful and informative demonstration of how to create lifelike glass flowers and other glass sculptures. While she sculpted glass leaves, delicate petals and even icicles, she explained her love for flameworking and her dedication to the art of glass and to teaching others. Everyone marveled at the pictures of Schneider's realistic creation of a glass playground filled with children. She recently donated the playground to Oshei Children's Hospital.



Hadassah has had wonderful programs with each Amiel Ba'Kehillah delegation that visited Buffalo. In December Arts Ambassador Ariella Zeitlin, a world renowned violinist, gave a lecture concert entitled "A Musician's Move to Israel" at the home of Phyllis and Ted Steinberg. Refreshments were served and the informal atmosphere allowed for questions by those in attendance.

An early Chanukah party was once again held at the home of Marlene and Michael Katzel. A pot luck luncheon was served and guests had time to mingle and enjoy looking at the very large collection of Hanukiahs collected by the Katzels. A Hadassah celebration at the Katzel home has become a tradition with the Buffalo chapter.

For membership information contact nangrnborg@gmail.com



Remembering Dr. Gary Cohen

Dr. Gary Cohen, a pediatric psychiatrist, passed away December 5 at the age of 85. The following are excerpts from the eulogies at his December 9 funeral at Temple Beth Zion.

Jonathan Cohen

It is often said that "patience is a virtue." Gary Cohen never heard those words. Certainly, he never paid them any attention.

We appreciated that Dad's impatience was an aspect of his zest for life. Nonetheless, it could be challenging. He drove fast and recklessly. Everyone feared being a passenger in his car. Impatient to eat, he almost always undercooked his meals on the backyard grill. By my count, my father served some 3,000 to 4,000 undercooked hamburger, chicken, steak and fish dinners in the course of my lifetime. It's a miracle we survived.

So, Dad was monumentally impatient, and it was often challenging. His impatience, however, was also a very special virtue.

He was impatient to help other people. Impatient to solve problems. Impatient to do the right thing. This led him to open his home to countless souls in need of one thing or another, a place to stay, a shoulder to lean on, someone to just listen. He gave them care and attention and made them feel good about themselves. He put them at ease.

Within our family, he was the go-to resource for aid and comfort when things got tough. If you were struggling with a personal problem, he assured you it was not the end of the world if you could just keep things moving in a "positive direction." Moving in a positive direction was one of Gary Cohen's favorite phrases. Note the emphasis on the word "moving."

There was one person, of course, for whom he had endless patience, and that was my mother, no slouch herself when it came to exuberant behavior. To watch my father care for my mother in her last years was to witness a miracle of tenderness and compassion and love. It was a great privilege to be around him during that time. Even then he was a lot of fun. Even when facing some of the most difficult and unhappy situations, he had energy and good humor to spare. I cherish those days spent with my parents as they contended with aging and illness.

My father was an exemplary friend, a magnificent buddy. A North Buffalo kid who never outgrew the spirit of the neighborhood that raised him. He had an abundance of energy and enthusiasm and he shared it with everyone. You just had to keep up with his rapid pace. I'm going to miss palming around with him. I know all of you are, too. He was a man of almost limitless high spirits. He was so much fun.

Michael Cohen

"Birth is a beginning, life is a journey and death is a destination."



Dr. Gary Cohen

This morning I want to speak about Gary's journey. One well lived. As mentioned by other speakers Gary was empathetic, caring, compassionate, concerned about others, intelligent, knowledgeable etc. But let me tell you about my relationship to him as his little brother. I was often told that I looked like him, talked like him, walked like him, and thought like him. What a tribute. Gary created a template that was easy and yet hard to emulate. Gary was always a role model. In 1942, as early as age five, he was 8, I remember both of our pictures appearing in *The Buffalo News* flattening tin cans to help the War effort.

If Gary did it, I needed to do it.

Gary was an Eagle Scout. I was an Eagle Scout.

Gary went to Boy Scout camp. I went to Boy Scout camp.

Gary delivered mail. I delivered the mail.

Gary went to Med School. I went to Med School.

Gary was interested in the nervous system and became a child psychiatrist. I was interested in the nervous system and became a child neurologist.

Gary matured early and In spite of his size became a good basketball player, playing in the Muny Leagues at the Buffalo armory as well as playing on the Bennett High School team. I was a great spectator. With a role model like this how could

the kid brother miss.

Gary's most enduring qualities were most exemplified during his beloved wife's terminal illness in the spring and summer of 2017. His devotion, caring and around the clock concern stands as a model of love and devotion for all of us. Dear brother you will be missed.

David Kaye

I met Gary when I first visited Buffalo in 1982 as a final year Child Psychiatry Fellow applying for my first job. As I recall he and Richard Cowan took me to the Steer restaurant and we had a grand time in a wide ranging conversation. Although I had never been to Buffalo, after that dinner I knew I was coming here. I immediately fell in love with Gary (and Richard) and although had offers at Case Western, in Milwaukee, and NYC, I thought: Gary is a person I would like to work for, could grow with, learn from, and have fun with. It was a done deal for me. These last 37 years proved those initial assessments correct. Although he was 20 years senior to me in experience, he always made me feel valued, affirmed, respected, and encouraged.

No matter what he was doing, whether it was with his family, as the consummate private practice doctor that everyone wanted to take their child to, as the Chief of Child Psychiatry for UB and Children's Hospital, in establishing and directing the adolescent inpatient unit at ECMC, or leading the state CPC in West Seneca he brought these qualities with him. It was just who he was.

I feel lucky that I got to work with him for nearly 20 years on a daily basis. No question he has been one of the biggest influences on my life personally and professionally. He was the real McCoy and will remain an inspiration to me as a model for how to live a life. His memory for me will always be a blessing, and be for a blessing. I will miss you Gary.

Mark Goldman

I don't know how many of you know this, but our friend Gary Cohen was an ardent basketball player and throughout the years of our friendship he made many references to his years as a member of the Bennett High School Tigers basketball team, 1950 and '51.

About a year ago as part of some research that I was doing at the Bennett High School Alumni Room, courtesy of Lenny Katz, I sought out the year books from Gary's years at Bennett. At that time, Gary was in the hospital, in the midst of an extraordinarily challenging

effort to recover from a fall that he'd taken, weak and for a while at least, unresponsive. Thinking that these photos from the Bennett Beacon that I'd found might cheer him up, I brought copies of them to his hospital room. Out from under the fog of his suffering, he emerged, his eyes lighting up, suddenly revived, pointing at those once familiar faces in those photos from so long ago. Clearly, his years as a member of the Bennett Tigers basketball team meant a great deal to him, more than perhaps any of us could possibly have known.

Sadly, there is nothing in the pages of the Beacon that tell us what kind of player Gary was. While he can be seen sitting in the front row of the team picture, there are no photos of him in action and no stats about him. Could I learn anything about the kind of player he was based on the kind of person that I knew him to be?

So, here goes: You can bet that Gary was fast and feisty, maybe even at times reckless (those of you who've had the frightening experience of riding shot gun with Gary will know what I'm talking about). You can bet that Gary was always in the mix, especially on defense. I'm sure that he was the front man on the full court press, the key guy in defense when the Tigers needed a man to stay close to the other teams' lead scorer.

I'll bet too that he was physically tough, not afraid to put his small body where ever it needed to be: to set a great screen, to box out; to take a charge, execute a play under pressure, and when the pressure was really on, to take the big shot.

I'll bet that he was mentally tough, able to deal with the problems and adversity that came his way and able to bounce back quickly, to regulate his emotions, to manage his behavior and act in a positive manner despite the situations.

I'll bet that he was a great point guard. Point guards lead by example, working to gain the respect of their teammates in order to get them to work better together. They see opportunity in adversity and know by experience they can help turn the game around. It is this resilience which separates them from the pack.

I'll bet that Gary was a gutsy and determined player, a kid who had it in his head that it was not size that mattered but desire and commitment. I'll bet that he was confident, maybe even cocky, that despite what others undoubtedly saw as the limitations of his size, he had

the smarts and the determination to be successful, to make an enormous impact on those around him, those on his team and those cheering him on in the stands.

Above all I bet that Gary had fun playing the game of basketball and that he brought to it the full force of his immense energy and got from it all that he, or any of us, knew was humanly possible.

And when the game was over, when he knew that time was out, when he'd given it all that he had, Gary, though he clearly wanted to keep playing, was resigned and ready to move on to that next and bigger challenge. Gary, we will continue to cheer for you, to root you on, to hold you in our highest regard and deepest affection as you take on whatever it is that lies ahead.

Amy Cohen

I'm Amy, Gary's first grandchild, and I'm at a bit of a loss. What can I say that hasn't already been said? My grandfather answered to many names. Gary, Dr. Cohen. Uncle Gary, Shimon, Soulmate, and of course, Papa Shim. It seems to me that to know him was to love him - I'm quite certain that almost everyone in this room could eulogize my grandfather with their own story of his warmth, generosity and good humor. Each and every person in his life shared

a unique and special bond with him, and yes I mean each and every single person. He was a marvel in that regard - a truly beloved man.

The thing is, as special as it is to be the grandchildren of Gary Cohen, I bet many of you felt the same love and support from Gary that the four of us felt from Papa Shim. His compassion was far reaching - he wanted the best for strangers and family members alike. He was a natural born care-taker, and would do anything he could to shine a light of hope for a person experiencing dark times. He loved people, and loved showing up for them. How many of you can think of a time that Gary showed up to support you, a time when he invited you into his home, made you a meal, poured you a cup of coffee, and made you feel less alone? I think if we all close our eyes for a minute, and picture Shim, we all see a similar, familiar, comforting sight. A smile on his face, arms reaching out as if to hug the whole room, a spring in his step, calling out words of welcome in a voice that will not be soon forgotten, maybe singing a song.

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

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from November 19–December 15*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Sheldon B. Benatovich, Esq.
Dr. Gary Cohen
Gloria Coopersmith
Esther S. Goldman
Edna Norman
Dr. Richard B. Norman
Cecile Tegler
Rita G. Weiss
Jerry Wolfish
Michael Zemsky



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

HBLA Annual Meeting: November 10



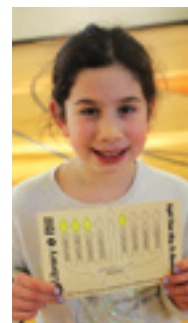
JDC's "Loaves of Love" Challah Bake

A lovely, fun-filled and inspiring evening of Challah Baking and Torah study was held last month, dedicated in memory of Moshe ben Yitzchak and Regina. The evening was hosted and led by Rivky Greenberg of the Jewish Discovery Center.

For more information on future events, please contact Rivky at rivkymusic@gmail.com or (716) 906-8890.

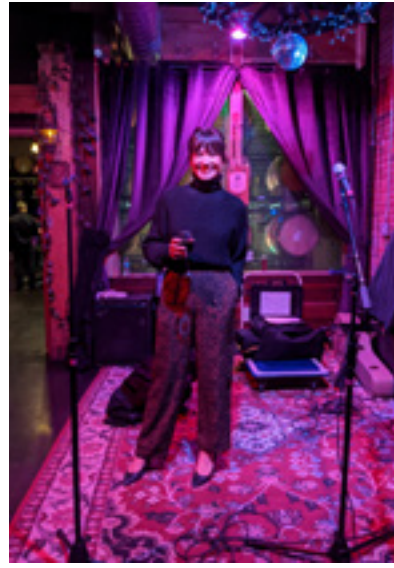
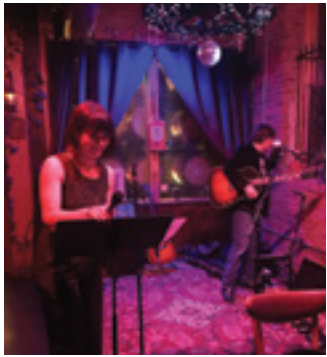


Hanukkah with PJ Library: December 15

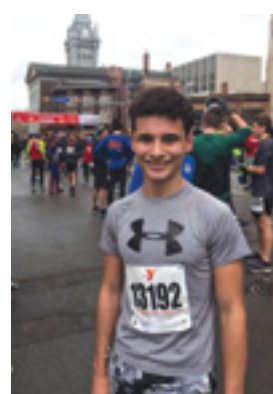
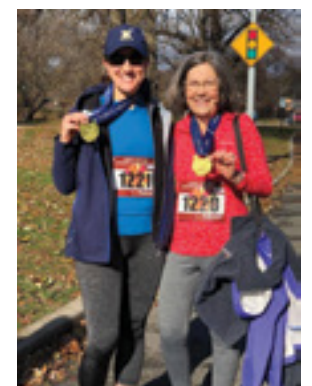
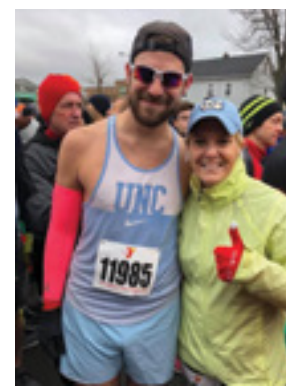


HRC Benefit Concert: November 23

These photos are from the Benefit Concert for the Holocaust Resource Center, 716 Music Gives Back, at Buffalo Distillery on November 23. The bands that preformed were Girl Crush, Sam and Frank, and Whether the Weather. The volunteer leaders in charge of the concert were Samantha Sugarman and Jessica Traub, who is a 3rd Generation Survivor.



Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot: November 28



Rebbetzin Lea Greenberg's 70th Birthday Celebration: November 21



Hanukkah Concert & Album Release @ CSS: December 14

Cantor Arlene Frank released her new Hanukkah album at an exciting concert. All Photos by Andy Schneider.



Amiel BaKehilla in Buffalo: 12/8-12/10

Amiel BaKehilla, an exciting initiative made possible by Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, returned to Buffalo in December for their 8th visit. Visitors this time were Rabbi Benjy Myers, violinist Ariella Zeitman-Hoffman and Sherry Laness. They met with students and community members at Park School/ Kadimah, PALS/ Kadimah at TBZ, Buffalo String Works, with the Wise Aging cohorts, performed a concert at TBT, held a discussion at Dash's, at Jewish Federation Apartments, and at the JCC with Jewish professionals.



Partnership Discovery Trip - Part Two

The Blossoming and Burgeoning Jewish Community of Budapest

By Jody Goldstein and Howard Rosenhoch

We were honored to be among nineteen 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.

Last month, we told you about our five interesting and intensive days in the Western Galilee. This month, the focus is on the time we spent with our partners in Budapest.

Budapest Day One: “Then and Now”

After a long day of travel from Israel to Budapest and a short nap, we enjoyed a lecture at the Israeli Cultural Institute. We learned about the generations of Jews who denied their religion after the Holocaust and during the communist regime. The parents have bonded over a Partnership program called “Parents2Gether” as the younger generation is now reclaiming their Judaism. Fascinating stuff! We welcomed Shabbat together with shots of Hungarian Palinka, followed by a kosher dinner at the Carmel Restaurant, complete with kiddush and motzi.



Howard (L) and Jody (R) in conversation in Budapest

Budapest Day Two: “Art and Spa” (because it’s Shabbat.... but there’s just so much to see!)

After breakfast we visited the “Shoes on the Danube,” an art piece by sculptor Gyula Pauer to honor the Jews who were killed by fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest during World War II. Most of the murders along the edge of the Danube River took place around December 1944 and January 1945, when the members of the Arrow Cross Party police (“Nyilas”) took as many as 20,000 Jews from the newly established Budapest ghetto and executed them along the riverbank.

Next, we traveled across the Chain Bridge to Buda. We found it so interesting that Budapest is divided by the Danube River into Buda and Pest. Buda is hilly, (as in bumpy) and Pest is



Iron shoes on the Banks of the Danube

flat (like a pancake). In Buda we toured the Castle District and marveled at the gorgeous architecture. After lunch, our friend István Bársony gave us a tour of the Hungarian National Gallery. István, a young Jewish architect and art historian who visited with us in Buffalo this past summer, is the chair of the Partnership Arts Committee. István expertly guided us through the Gallery’s presentation of Hungarian art from the settlement of the Magyars in the 10th century, through medieval ages, until the present day. Four of us then separated from the group to relax and soak at the Gellért Thermal Baths, an art nouveau spa founded in 1918. Then it was wine and burgers for two at an upscale bistro near our hotel.

Budapest Day Three: “Jewish History”

Today, we learned about the Jewish history of Old Buda, the first Jewish community in Budapest. The 200-year-old Obuda Synagogue there was amazing! We then visited the Goldberger Textile Museum. This extraordinary museum tells the story of Hungary’s textile industry and that of the textile factory founded by Jewish entrepreneur Ferenc Goldberger in 1784, which dominated Hungary’s clothing industry until the late 20th century and supplied fine fabrics to the Habsburgs in its heyday. We learned all about how gorgeous fabrics were made, and we participated in a fabric stamping workshop (where we made our own blocks for stamping). Next, we had a traditional Hungarian meal at Kehli

Restaurant which was established in 1899. After lunch we went to Teleki Square where we toured an old Jewish neighborhood and synagogue. After a brief rest we walked to the “Csanyi5”, home of the Jewish Historical Collection, where we enjoyed dinner and a lecture about Hungary’s participation in the Maccabiah Games.



A synagogue in Budapest

Fourth and Final Day in Budapest: “Judaism, Education, and Culture”

Today we went on a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter, including a visit to the Great Synagogue. Also known as the Dohany Street Synagogue or Tabakgasse Synagogue, it is the largest synagogue in Europe, seating 3,000 people, and is a center of Neologues Judaism. We then visited the Lauder Jewish School. This Jewish Community School, kindergarten, and music school opened in 1990, and provides a Jewish education to nearly 600 children. The school was built on a five-acre site in the Buda hills, on land provided by the Budapest municipality rent-free for 99 years. Our delicious wrap-up lunch was at the Koleves Restaurant. After some shopping and a nap, it was off to a night at the opera with our new Hungarian and Israeli friends, a fabulous way to end a spectacular adventure!

Our Discovery tour gave us the opportunity to intensively experience the Western Galilee and Budapest where our Partnership2Gether partners live and work. Even more importantly, we bonded with our Partners, and look forward to introducing them to you when they visit us in Buffalo. ***If any of you wish to learn more about Partnership, please email Jody at jagoldstein827@gmail.com.***

Jody Goldstein is on the Executive Board at Temple Beth Zion and is Buffalo Jewish Federation’s volunteer liaison to Partnership2Gether. Howard Rosenhoch is a participant in Partnership2Gether and serves as the Federation’s 2020 Chair of the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo.

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— Gisele Bündchen



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