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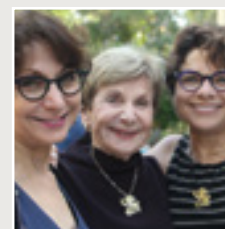
BUFFALO MOMS IN ISRAEL
(6-7)



DON'T MISS:
BELONGING AND
INCLUSION
(10-11)



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AMIEL BAKEHILA
IN BFLO
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February 2020

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Our Federation and many others in the Federation system have recognized the importance of inclusion – including all in Jewish life. And this month, leaders from all over the country will travel to Capitol Hill in Washington DC to participate in the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Jewish Disability Advocacy Day, lobbying for inclusion and disability rights.

This is timely because February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month, and even more so because this year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing into law of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) give civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA also assures equal access for individuals who have disabilities to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications.

For more on this topic, check the stories on pages 10-11 about the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning's (CJEL) work in Inclusion.

I also encourage you to read Federation President Leslie Shuman Kramer's column on page 3. In this era of increased anti-Semitism and ethnic hatred, Leslie directly takes on the issue of being Jewish and proud. Echoing Leslie's comments, you'll find on pages 4 and 5 a Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) report on the ways New York State (including Buffalo) is fighting anti-Semitism. Also on those pages, you'll see photos of past Federation President Steven Weiss, CJEL Chair Ellen Weiss, and JFNA President Eric Fingerhut, three of the many thousands of participants at the January 5th New York City March for Jewish Solidarity.

Finally, don't miss the report by the fabulous Jewish Moms of the December MOMentum Trip to Israel on their life changing adventure, including photos of the women in the Western Galilee region.

Stay warm and stay on your toes. This is not a time to become a disaffected Jew or a lax American citizen. There is work for each of us to do every day.

Ellen

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Gathered in Jerusalem at the AISH rooftop overlooking the Kotel is the Buffalo inaugural MOMentum group: Seated at Bottom from left: Nancy Fernandez, Donna Levy. Middle Row from left: Alla Kats, Julie Babat-Porter, Sharon Nisengard, Rachel Weiss, Laura Wexler, Lisa Balderman Rosenfeld. Top Row from left: Jennifer Dryja, Amy Pecora, Stacey Block, Brenda Turleltaub Feldstein, Sara Neiman, Meredith Levin, Rebecca Shaw.

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“I’m not that Jewish, except...”

I grew up feeling proud and lucky to be Jewish. I liked being Jewish. And I consider myself so very fortunate to have had that experience. It’s a great feeling, liking your own identity.

But how important is it to define that feeling, and to define it in others?

There were probably many ways of describing my upbringing: traditional, Conservative, modern, secular, fairly Jewish, Israel-focused-Jewish, and others. Just as then, today there are many ways Jews identify themselves: traditional, Orthodox, Reform, Interfaith, Just Jewish, culturally Jewish, unaffiliated, Jew-adjacent (married to/living with/related to or friends with at least one Jew) and not-very-Jewish, to name a few.

The span of Jewish identities among individual members of my family was great, from loosely affiliated to Orthodox. I married a Jewish man who grew up unaffiliated, and with whom, together, we have learned and evolved Jewishly, sharing old and new traditions, creating our own, and raising our Jewish children together. We have traveled to Israel together, separately, and with our children. We have searched out Jewish sites in other countries we have visited. We have welcomed many friends- Jewish, not Jewish, Israeli, and others, to our Shabbat and Seder tables. We have met and befriended Jews of all backgrounds, beliefs, and practices.

What does all of this make us? Just one of the many, many different iterations of what constitutes a Jewish family these days.

So, I am fascinated by something I have heard my whole life. I will be talking to someone Jewish, perhaps not even knowing they are Jewish when the conversation begins. And somehow the subject turns to one of Jewish context, and the person will say something like, “Well, I’m not really that Jewish.” And it is said with almost an apology, as if,



because of this state of not being “that Jewish,” he or she isn’t qualified to have the discussion we’re having. And guess what-often times it’s THAT person who brought up the topic to begin with!

I’ll give you an example. About a year ago some of our Israeli friends from our partnership region of Western Galilee in Israel were here for a visit. I and a fellow member of our Jewish community met the visiting couple at their hotel for breakfast. As we were being seated by our server, the 4 of us chatted and at some point some Hebrew was spoken. Hearing Hebrew, our server, a middle aged man who I did not know, asked if we were speaking Hebrew. Upon confirmation, he said “I’m Jewish too.”

Many of us have had moments like this, where being Jewish can automatically connect two strangers. But the irony in this situation was that of the four in my party, I was the only Jew. My American co-community member was a practicing

Catholic, married to a Jew, having raised their children Jewish and is now fully involved in the Buffalo Jewish community. Our Israeli friends were a Druze couple from Akko who are very active in our partnership community, which was begun and is supported by the Jewish Agency for Israel, our Federation’s Israeli partner agency. So, in fact, the Hebrew our server related to and identified with was spoken by non-Jews.

We welcomed his conversation and friendliness, and he began to describe what it felt like when he visited Israel in the 1980’s. He talked about the feeling of being on the Golan Heights, and seeing the Hula Valley below, and at that point understanding the importance of Israel controlling this strategic spot. And then he said, “but I’m not that Jewish.”

I was so struck by this entire conversation. Here was a man claiming his lack ofwhat? I’m not exactly sure. Was he unaffiliated and not particularly connected to the Jewish community? Did he not go to Hebrew School as a child? Did he give up on-or never observe the High Holy Days? I don’t know what prompted him to say he wasn’t “that Jewish.” But I do know that his enthusiasm in describing his visit to Israel was so very Jewish, and everything about his story, and even his reaching out to who he believed to be fellow Jews, was “so Jewish.” Nearly 18 months later the assumptions and misassumptions represented in that entire exchange continue to intrigue me.

More recently, I was chatting with a gentleman I know from the JCC swimming pool. One day we were talking about the upcoming holidays and he said something along the lines of “well, I’m not as Jewish as you,” in reference to our plans for celebration. Of course I understand what he was getting at-that I may observe the holiday in a more traditional manner, attending synagogue, celebrating with

a festive meal with family and friends. Yet... there we were, in the JCC pool. The JEWISH Community Center pool- a place that he repeatedly praises as the best place in the world to be. And, this is a man who is in that pool virtually every day of the year. One might believe that he swims there because it’s the best pool in the city-which, by the way, I would agree with! Yet...it’s more than just a pool. It’s a community. The Jewish, the non-Jewish alike, all recognize and choose to be at the JEWISH Community Center. Is it all accidental?

Growing up, I learned that we Jews must all take care of one another. I learned that we are all one family, no matter how we practice or observe our Jewishness. Traveling in Paris in our 20s, my brother and I came across a small bakery, off the beaten track near Montmartre, far from the Jewish quarter of Le Marais. Inside we met the proprietor, a Frenchwoman who recognized us as foreigners immediately. After asking, in very broken English, where we were from, she asked where our parents were from. We told her, like us, they are from the U.S. Then she looked at us with a particular knowing look and asked, “no, where are they FROM?”

I knew what she meant immediately. She didn’t want to come out and ask directly, but somehow I knew that SHE knew that we were Jewish. So we said, our grandparents came from Russia. “We’re Jewish.” With that her face lit up and she pointed to her chest and said that she, too, was Jewish. And voila, an instant connection between us and a Frenchwoman in a tiny, non-descript bakery, thousands of miles from our home.

I don’t have any answers, but I do know that each of us is Jewish in our own way, and that each of us matters, and that we are all part of something big, together.

So, next time it comes up, what will you think when someone says “I’m not that Jewish?”

Leslie Shuman Kramer is President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.



Thank you for your generous gifts to the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund!

The funds raised this past January support grants to synagogues and agencies for security upgrades, training for Jewish professionals and volunteer leaders, offsetting the cost of armed security personnel and support for Susan DeMari, Jewish Buffalo’s first ever Community Security Coordinator.

Thank You

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2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

Thank you for answering the call to donate to the 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo on Super Sunday and throughout the fall of 2019. In addition, individuals who made their donations to the 2019 Campaign will find their names listed on pages 38-42 of this issue.

If you wish to speak to Federation staff about your gift, contact Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org or call 716-204-2245.

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

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

COMMUNITY

4 ways New York's government is trying to fight rising anti-Semitism



Yehuda Gershonovitz - Security Director of JFNA, Ellen Weiss, Eric Fingerhut JFNA CEO and Steven Weiss at the January 5 Jewish Solidarity Rally in New York

By Ben Sales
Published January 7

NEW YORK (JTA) — After this past weekend's rousing march to protest rising anti-Semitism in New York — where Jews have been shot, stabbed, assaulted and harassed over the past year — two big questions still loom large.

What is causing all of this? And what are officials doing about it?

The first question is fraught, bedeviling experts and community members alike. The second has some answers.

From beefing up security to bolstering community outreach, here are four ways government and community leaders are trying to break the wave of anti-Semitism that has crested over New York City.

More money for synagogue security

On both the state and federal levels, governments are providing additional funding so that nonprofit institutions

at risk for terrorism (like synagogues, religious schools and Jewish community centers) can protect themselves.

The most recent federal budget, passed last month, increased the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which provides that funding, from \$60 million to \$90 million. Now, following the anti-Semitic attacks, New York Sen. Chuck Schumer wants to quadruple that figure to \$360 million. His fellow New York senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency she also supports increasing the funding.

At the march against anti-Semitism on Sunday (1/5/20), New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced \$45 million in new funding to protect religious-based institutions. Since 2017, the state has distributed \$25 million to more than 500 institutions, many of them Jewish. The funding goes to security enhancements like reinforced windows or cameras. But Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, who represents the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Midwood and Borough Park, said that Cuomo's announcement was misleading because the funding was allocated last year and is only being released now.

The government funding comes in addition to \$4 million in security funding for 2,000 Jewish institutions announced in October by UJA-Federation of New York, along with the local Jewish Community Relations Council. UJA is also hiring six directors who will collectively coordinate communal security for Jews in the city's



Steven Weiss, Miranda Weiss and Ellen Weiss at the Rally

five boroughs, as well as suburban Long Island and Westchester County, and a special coordinator for the area's Jewish summer camps.

More cops on the street

Both Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio have increased police patrols in Brooklyn neighborhoods with large Orthodox Jewish communities.

De Blasio had upped the police presence in these neighborhoods, such as Crown Heights and Williamsburg, during the High Holidays last year. He announced last week, following the stabbing attack in Monsey, that he would do so again. On Monday, New York Police Department Commissioner Dermot Shea announced that more than 150 additional police officers have been dispatched to the streets to specifically prevent hate crimes. De Blasio also announced the creation of civilian patrols to serve as community watchdogs for areas that have seen anti-Semitic incidents.

Cuomo has sent State Police to patrol Brooklyn's Jewish neighborhoods and has grown the ranks of the State Police Hate Crimes Task Force, which was established in 2017 during a previous spike in anti-Semitism. In November, Cuomo signed a bill requiring police to undergo training on how to recognize and respond to hate crimes.

On Monday, the NYPD announced that it would begin tracking hate crimes in COMPSTAT, their public record of crime.

More education against hate

In November, the Anti-Defamation League announced that it would double the funding for its anti-discrimination program in Brooklyn schools. The program, No Place for Hate, which educates kids against bias and bullying, will now expand from 22 schools to as many as 40.



Mark Gurvis, JFNA Vice President, with Steven and Ellen Weiss at the Rally in New York

De Blasio also said he would enhance anti-hate education in Brooklyn schools.

"We have to reach our young people more effectively," de Blasio said at a press conference on Dec. 30. "Our young people have to understand this history, but we have to teach it to them. We will be adding immediately in these communities in Brooklyn additional curriculum in our schools starting next month to focus on stopping hate."

New York City's new head of the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, Deborah Lauter, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last year that she plans to focus on promoting education against hate.

On the federal level, a bipartisan group of representatives proposed a bill last year that would fund Holocaust education in schools across the country.

Defining anti-Semitism as domestic terrorism

On Sunday, Cuomo announced that he supports legislation defining anti-Semitism as domestic terrorism. According to Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the ADL, that designation would allow the government to bring its full resources to bear in the fight against anti-Semitism.

In March, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin introduced a bill to define domestic terrorism on the federal level and require the government to combat it. The bill is motivated in part by the rise in anti-Semitism.

Can YOU help us make 2020 a safer year?



You've seen the news. It's shocking and sad. According to the FBI's latest statistics, 58% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the United States were directed at the Jewish Community, the highest level in decades and three times higher than the next group. While the United States remains one of the safest places in the world to be Jewish, there is a new reality to being Jewish in the United States today - and increasing concern for members of every faith. It's a new year, and a renewed

need to further enhance and ensure a more secure Jewish Buffalo. Our goal is to raise \$50,000! Can you help us meet that goal? Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org, click on the "DONATE" button and make your gift. Or call the Federation office at 716-204-2248. Thank you for helping to make Jewish Buffalo safer!



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Momentum 2019 Trip to Israel

Sara Neiman

The first time I ever thought about traveling to Israel was in my early twenties when my mother-in law encouraged my husband and me to attend a Birthright trip before we were “too old.” At the time, both of us knew very little about the trip or anyone who had ever been on the trip, so we decided not to attend. Fast forward ten years and my wonderful neighbor, Brenda Feldstein, told me about a possible opportunity to travel to Israel with a group of Jewish moms from Buffalo. I jumped at the idea! I was at a point in my life where I felt very unsure with how to incorporate Judaism into my own growing family. Upon applying, I also realized how little I actually knew about Israel.

Finding out I was selected to go on the trip was one of the most exciting and terrifying things to ever happen to me. I was super excited to embark on this journey, but terrified to leave my family, my life, my routine for ten days to go to somewhere I knew very little about.

One of the first places we visited was the Western Galilee region. Upon arriving, I was mesmerized by the beauty of the country, the people, the diversity, the energy-everything. One of my most memorable and impactful visits was helping at a local food pantry in Akko. We listened and learned from volunteers about their daily routines, lifestyle and why this work was important to them. At our next stop, a local elementary school, I was even more touched by the amazing children who greeted us right at the door and were beyond excited to have us as visitors. They were genuinely interested in our life, our families and showing us their school and daily activities. Leaving and reflecting on my day, I instantly felt changed. Empowered as a woman, mother and wife. I felt a shift in my energy and spirit with a newfound openness and connection to Israel.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this trip and the amazing women I have met along the way. We will forever have this special experience connecting us as Momentum Moms and I am excited to continue the journey with my new Buffalo sisterhood.



Nancy Fernandez

I flew to Israel not understanding the massive shift that was soon to come my way. I thought I would sit passively, observing the interactions of others and appreciating their growth while making some new friends and eating good falafel.

Something happened that first night in Tel Aviv, sitting in rows listening to our trip leaders tell us their stories. It was a combination of summer camp and sorority rush, until it wasn't; until Adrienne Gold began to speak her truth and in her magical way, touched the hearts of each one of us. She spoke to us as mothers, pulled out the secret incantations we chant to ourselves while we do our invisible work.

Momentum is about more than being a tourist in Israel, it is about being a present resident in the moment, to connect your deepest spiritual questions and desires to your most pressing trivial annoyances. This trip worked to re-frame my idea of what it is to be spiritual and Jewish, that they are not mutually exclusive and not at all tied to any prescribed notion from my childhood. This trip blessed and freed me simultaneously, and within that moment, brought me back to Judaism in a way I never expected. This epiphany began to color every moment of my trip, every interaction with a fellow traveler, the Hebrew that came back to me so I could order that falafel (not so great actually) totally *b'evrit* (in Hebrew).

Long walks to Shabbos dinners and lunches were opportunities of discovery, to check in with each other and dig deep into what brought us here and what we planned to take home with us.

Our Buffalo crew brought *ruach* (spirit) to the rest of the trip and we discovered kindred spirits from Indiana, Kentucky, Texas, Israel and Hungary. The intricate thoughtfulness of every moment was met with gratitude and appreciation and I look forward to seeing how this dynamic group of mothers disrupts the *status quo* and adds to Jewish life in Buffalo and beyond.

Brenda Turteltaub Feldstein

It was Shabbat and we were at the Kotel (Western Wall) in Jerusalem. Our Momentum group was made of hundreds of women from all over the US, Israel and Europe, all wearing colorful pashminas. They moved in several concentric circles, singing Jewish songs through the animated crowd.

We moved in the direction of the Western Wall. Near the Wall stood a large circle of women holding hands and singing a beautiful melody, surrounding an elderly woman in a wheelchair in the center of the circle. My friend Alla and I, immediately overtaken by emotion, looked at each other and started crying. No need for words. We had just witnessed a sacred moment. The power of prayer. The power of love. The faith. The unity.

That experience alone would have been worth it. But there were countless moving moments. We sang and cried together with a group of women that promote peaceful coexistence in the Western Galilee. We were inspired when our friend Laura organized a fundraiser for a ping pong table for special needs adults at Kivunim. We were moved by inspirational speeches. We were breathless while visiting historical sites in Jerusalem. I was grateful sharing a Shabbat meal with the Brauner family, whose lovely host was about to give birth at any moment. There was a powerful meditation in a Mikva in the Kabbalistic town of Tsfat. And not to forget the inspiring stories told on the open mic by our sisters during our bus rides - and the countless jokes by our bus leader Amy. Mud in the Dead Sea. The parties. The delicious food. And then there were the strong, resilient and generous Israelis. The sisterhood. And our beautiful Israel.

I came to this journey knowing a couple of women, and left it with lifelong friends from Buffalo and beyond, coupled with a strong sense of community, love for Israel and a deep appreciation for my family.

My gratitude goes to the Buffalo Jewish Federation, to our amazing group leader Stacey Block, and the Momentum organization for an unforgettable experience.





Sharon Nisengard

"Jewish women are the battery pack of the Jewish people. Israel is the charging station". This quote from one of our inspiring Momentum trip leaders Nili Couzens sums up the purpose of our journey to Israel. The mission aims to first transform ourselves, then our families and communities, by connecting with Jewish values and engaging with the State of Israel.

What I loved most about our journey were the sessions led by our trip leader, Toronto native Adrienne Gold Davis. Each day highlighted a different Jewish value. Her wisdom and ability to weave stories about each particular theme was soul filling. These sessions led us to dig deep and improve ourselves as individuals, mothers and partners.

Love for the Homeland came naturally, through food (of course) and the beauty and history of the land. From the grottoes of Rosh Hanikra, the mystical city of Tsfat, to the fortress Masada, I was in holy awe of the landforms and structures that are in pristine condition from thousands of years ago. Our tour guides masterfully brought history to life, while also giving us insight into the land as it operates in modern society. The sand and the sea, the Jerusalem stone and the lush Galilee, the vibrancy of the Israeli people, the arts and culture, the history of the Jewish people, the delicacies, the unwavering traditions; exploring the country on this trip rekindled my deep connection to Israel. Connection to the land, connection to my Buffalo sisters and my new sisters throughout the world, and connection to Judaism.

I achieved these goals which Momentum was founded on during my 10 day journey, and have already instituted them in my life. I am eagerly looking forward to our year long program, and continue into the future as more women from Buffalo partake in this program. I am grateful to Stacey Block and the Buffalo Jewish Federation for choosing me to be part of Buffalo's inaugural Momentum program; it was the gift of a lifetime.



Another Voice: Hineini- Standing up for Each other

By Mara Koven-Gelman

I still believe we live in a democratic and civil society. As former director of the Holocaust Resource Center, and married to a child of Holocaust Survivors, I know too well that hate exists. And despite witnessing the rise of anti-Semitism, I still believe in our society.



Yes, there have been horrific acts fueled by anti-Semitism in Pittsburgh, Poway, Jersey City, NYC and most recently Monsey.

This is why I still believe:

Within hours of the Monsey Chanukah attack, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Attorney General Letitia James, and all level of politicians and law enforcement were unified: to bring the perpetrator to justice, to condemn this act of terrorism and federal hate crime and assure the Jewish community of its safety.

As Rabbi Donniel Hartman of the Shalom Hartman Institute wrote, "It is critical that we remember that we are not fighting government-instituted anti-Semitism, but an anti-Semitism which the government is committed to fighting."

Rev. Al Sharpton called upon his African-American community to reflect on why some have such hate of Jews:

"We cannot remain silent as we see a consistent pattern of attacks against people based on their faith and based on who they are. And therefore, we wanted to convene to say, 'You can't fight hate against you unless you're willing to fight hate against everyone else.'"

Those marginalized and discriminated against should band together, to combat the evil of stereotyping and hate. We have always been, and continue to be, stronger together.

I am encouraged by Christian organizations who reached out to those in pain and fear: to say, *Hineini* in Hebrew "I am here," I am here to stand by you.

These voices were drowned out in 1938 during *Kristallnacht*, as German synagogues and Jewish-owned stores were smashed and looted. They were

drowned out when people of color were taken into slavery, murdered and de-humanized. It continues as systemic racism persists in criminal justice, education, housing and employment.

But the voices of unity are now being heard.

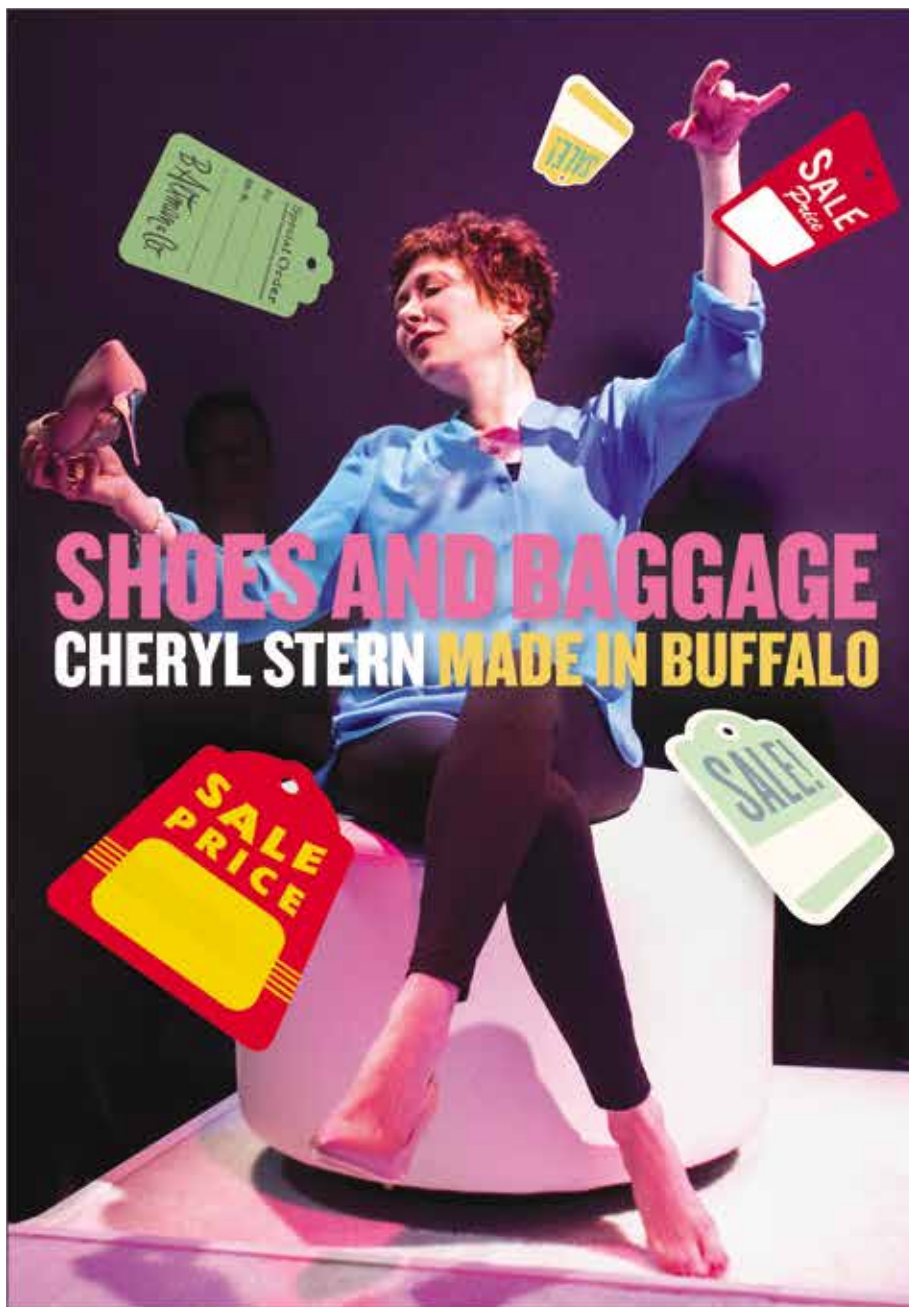
They are heard when the Buffalo Jewish Federation held its annual meeting at Northland Workforce Training Center showcasing programs aimed at those disproportionately cut out of educational and economic opportunity.

They are heard when JCRC partnered with Burchfield Penney Art Center highlighting criminal justice messages through the art of Valentino Dixon, a Buffalonian who spent 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

They are heard when a multicultural women's group visits a Sikh Gurdwara Temple, attends US naturalization ceremonies, share *Iftar* meals and huddle in cold sukkot (huts) with a bowl of warm squash soup during a Jewish festival.

The world is not falling apart. Our friends demonstrate the importance of showing up for each other. We need to repeat this aloud with word and deed—*"Hineini"* – I stand with you.

Mara Koven-Gelman is Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Director (JCRC) powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation. This piece appeared in The Buffalo News' "Another Voice" Op Ed section with permission of the author.



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Rich Newberg Honored by NY National Television Academy

WIVB-TV veteran newsmen Rich Newberg was honored by the National Television Academy's New York Chapter. The retired News 4 Senior Correspondent joined his former co-anchor Jacquie Walker in the Silver Circle, recognizing outstanding contributions to the television industry. Jacquie introduced Rich during ceremonies at the Friars Club in New York City in December.

Rich Newberg won eleven New York Emmy Awards during his 37 years at WIVB-TV. His documentaries explored multiple aspects of Buffalo life and history, including stories about Holocaust survivors returning to Auschwitz to confront their lost childhood.

Rich is currently spearheading efforts by the Buffalo Broadcasters Association to give Western New York its moving image history through the digitization of archival TV newsfilm and videotape dating back to the 1960s.



Rich, Lori and Michael Newberg

Colleague Jacqui Walker said the following about Newberg:

"He's known as a reporter with a brain and a heart. Someone who is sensitive to the needs of people in our community. Someone who can take the complicated and make it simple to understand. Someone who can use the power of the pen, the microphone, the spoken word, and the moving image—to move people in

many ways—move them to action, move them to understanding, move them to tears.

Rich has always taken the broader view of his work as a reporter—He sees his role as a historian. He has to get the story right at its core—the hallmark of good journalism—because these words—these thoughts—these images indeed have a place in the history of our daily lives. These stories that we tell as reporters, as documentarians, as photojournalists will live on."

Rich Newberg's remarks at the award ceremony included these words:

"When you bond with a community, you share in its joys and sorrows. If you happened to be a journalist lucky enough to have found a place where you feel you belong, you really care about the culture and the social issues you explore. You care about the impact of those issues on the people who depend on you to bring some insight into their world.

It's been four years since my so-called 'retirement,' and I'm leading efforts to get that archival material digitized and back out in the public domain. We are already up and running on the New York Heritage website."

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* Momentum Trips are free for participants excluding airfare. Additional costs for participants include \$25 for the Year Of Growth book, \$75 for tips, a \$99 acceptance fee, and the cost of 1-2 meals per day. Participants pay a \$500 deposit, which is fully refundable upon returning from the trip. This trip is designed for women with children at home under the age of 18. The Momentum Year-Long Journey continues with monthly gatherings and Jewish learning.

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CJEL's Inclusion Planning Team

Jewish Buffalo has been dedicated to the work of inclusion for individuals with disabilities for decades through the work of *Yad B'Yad*. Inclusion at its most aspirational level is the creation and maintenance of an environment where all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully, and have equal access to opportunities and resources.



Inclusion Team Members: First Row- Miriam Abramovich, Janet Gunner, Jamie Goodwin, Ellen Weiss, Robin Raphael, Kirstie Henry, Hope Bongiorno, Brocha Leah Greenberg. Second Row- Matt Stewart, Rabbi Adam Scheldt, Andrew Marcum, Mike Steklof, Jill Hamilton

In an effort to build upon *Yad B'Yad*'s work on inclusion for individuals with disabilities, the Buffalo Jewish Federation is exploring ways to actively engage those with disabilities and other underserved populations in Jewish Buffalo. In September 2019, the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL), powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation, began a year-long effort to examine inclusion efforts in Jewish Buffalo through the creation of an Inclusion Planning Team. Under Robin Raphael's chairmanship, the Inclusion Planning team is charged with making recommendations about the strategic direction of CJEL's inclusion efforts while building upon the legacy of *Yad B'Yad*, Jewish Buffalo's Disability Inclusion Program.

The Inclusion Planning Team will examine how Jewish Buffalo can be more welcoming to individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, genderqueer, a Jew of Color, a person with a disability (or disabilities), a person with an acquired disability, an Israeli Jew, a Russian Jew, a single parent, a member of a family of multiple faiths, or a Jew by Choice. The team recognizes that these groups have different needs and that no one size fits all approach will work for people in these groups who may not have felt welcome or may not have had their needs met in Jewish Buffalo.

The team includes a group of individuals who identify with one or more of the identities noted above, or identify as advocates or allies: Matthew Stewart, Andrew Marcum, Rabbi Adam Scheldt, Jamie Goodwin, Jill Hamilton, David Williams, Ellen Weiss, Janet Gunner, Sharla Bleichfeld, Hope Bongiorno, Kirstie Henry, Brocha Leah Greenberg, Robin Raphael, Mike Steklof and Miriam Abramovich.

Buffalo's Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) seeks to ensure that all Jews, their friends and life partners of other faiths, and those exploring Judaism, have access to Jewish living and learning experiences that help them thrive. CJEL is deeply committed to engaging and nurturing relationships with and among individuals and families at all stages of life, creating opportunities for meaningful and relevant Jewish exploration and learning, and supporting and amplifying the work of synagogues and partner organizations.

The Inclusion Planning Team looks forward to sharing the results of this work and will be providing updates along the way.

Questions about the Inclusion Planning Team? Reach out to Robin Raphael at robinmr1996@gmail.com or CJEL staff Mike Steklof at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org.

What Diversity and Inclusion Means to Me

By Dr. Andrew Marcum

My name is Andrew. I am a teacher, scholar, and advocate with a disability. I work for the Center for Self-Advocacy in Buffalo. Self-advocacy means people with disabilities empowering ourselves and others with disabilities to make choices; including where and with whom we live, how we spend our time, and even what we can eat, where we can shop, socialize, or worship. It's also about our preferences being heard, respected, and supported. Many self-advocates need extensive care and support. But just because someone depends on others does not mean they are less human. Even those who cannot speak, toilet, or feed themselves have feelings, thoughts, dreams, and desires.



Dr. Andrew Marcum

People with disabilities are often spoken about, spoken for, and spoken to but rarely given the chance to speak for themselves. Discrimination compounds exclusion. The poverty rate for people with disabilities is double that of the general population. The unemployment rate among people with disabilities is nearly 70%. If you get a job, you won't be able to keep it without accessible transportation. If you lack accessible, affordable housing or the support staff you need to eat, dress, or toilet, full community inclusion is impossible.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." King understood justice cannot be achieved for some and not others and that oppression is multi-faceted and intersectional. Those oppressed by racism, sexism, and poverty are also disproportionately affected by disability and the consequences that flow from disability in a society that doesn't value diversity and inclusion. Disability is not the cause of unemployment and

poverty. Failure to embrace, accept, and celebrate difference—and a lack of investment in meaningful alternatives to traditional educational and employment opportunities—are the problem. Inclusion for people with disabilities won't happen if we do not pay a living wage to care workers and professionals who support us or invest in jobs, housing, transportation, and educational options that work for everyone.

I work with people with disabilities frustrated by the limitations placed upon them by society; people who—because of limited access to transportation—struggle to volunteer at an animal shelter, attend peer support meetings at the LGBTQ Resource Center, or go to the public library; adults who, after mastering the bus route to and from their day program, are told they cannot continue traveling independently for fear it will endanger them; or group home residents who want to choose where, and with whom, they live.

Diversity and inclusion means adequate support services and access to decision-makers and decision-making processes for people with disabilities. Inclusion requires more than physical or cognitive access. It means changing how we think about, talk about, and treat people with disabilities. Getting a job is meaningless if your employer doesn't accept or support your differences. Inclusion means supporting people with disabilities to be themselves. When we challenge our assumptions, embrace difference, and recognize the dignity and value in everyone, the world becomes truly diverse and inclusive.

Andrew Marcum, Ph.D. is Program Coordinator for the Center for Self Advocacy in Buffalo, NY where he serves as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Erie County, NY Office for People with Disabilities. Dr. Marcum is Project Assistant for the First-Responders Disability Awareness Training Program at Niagara University and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Disability Studies at the City University of New York. He is also a former postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Disability Studies and Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access at the University at Buffalo.

My Jewish Experience

By El Bernatovicz

In a lot of ways, my experience with Judaism was a lot like coming out to myself for the first time. In college, my friends were all queer, mostly trans, and a good chunk were Jewish. I was a bi girl, at the time, and looking back now, it's no wonder I ended up here—a non-binary queer Jewish conversion student.

I was raised Roman Catholic, though we didn't go to church all that often. When I was 16, I refused to get confirmed. I didn't believe in the God of that church, or the power of the church—let alone their beliefs about reproductive rights, LGBTQIA+ people, and other things important to me. I found myself adrift, unable to make peace with Christianity as a religion, but needing a spiritual home, a community. I settled on calling myself agnostic, believing in the power of the Universe, and trying to be a good person.

I found solace and community online with people who believed in the same things I did, with people who were also non-binary or trans or queer or some mix. In these blogs I followed, and with the community I now interacted with, slowly I started seeing posts about Judaism. These people were also on their own journeys of study and conversion. And in Reform Judaism, I found peace.

The focus on social justice, the requirement to be present and change the world here, directive to challenge and question and study—were responses to everything I'd been frustrated with growing up. Here was the community I longed for, the structure and ritual I craved, the culture I could embrace.

So I did what every nerd does, and read as much as I could. Books on Jewish history and beliefs and theories. Blogs from converts to poems. I took Intro to Judaism classes. I talked to local rabbis and followed rabbis on Twitter. I listened and watched and learned.

But the process of conversion carried with it the same doubts and fears as I had: was I making this all up for attention? Should I just be happy with how I was born? Then came the fear of not fitting in. My personal version of Judaism isn't strictly halachic. Neither is my version of queerness. There are people who would say I'm not trans, the same as those who would say I'm not Jewish. It's a strange sort of imposter syndrome—comparing yourself to people more out, more frum,



just better.

And then slowly, it all begins to change. Calling yourself queer or Jewish doesn't feel like a foreign thing. It slowly becomes part of who you are. Who you were all along. You just didn't know it yet.

El Bernatovicz currently lives on Grand Island with their family. They are also part of the current Mussar cohort with Nickel City Jews.

Let's Help All Feel Welcome

By Mike Steklof

Think back to a time when you felt welcomed into a communal space or a communal experience. Was it when you joined a new professional association, or during your favorite group exercise class, or at the home of a dear friend, or at a Shabbat service at a synagogue? Or, maybe it was something entirely different? Regardless of the situation you imagined, being in a welcoming space is wonderful because it fosters a sense of community and makes you feel part of something greater than yourself. The sense of being welcomed, can lead to a deeper connection with others, and the feeling of safety, security, and acceptance.

Many of us are privileged enough to experience feeling welcome in a variety of different spaces, which makes it easy to forget that this is not the case for everyone. There are visible and

invisible barriers which prevent some individuals from feeling welcome in communal spaces. This idea is a driver behind the work of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning's new Inclusion Planning Team, which is exploring ways to ensure that all feel welcome in Jewish Buffalo.

I have always thought of Abraham as my role model when it comes to welcoming. He positioned himself at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day and he proactively sought out passing travelers and invited them to escape the heat by entering his tent. He welcomed guests eagerly and worked to ensure they had everything they needed to feel welcome. I challenge each of us to think about how we can use Abraham as our model to eagerly and proactively ensure that Jewish Buffalo is a welcoming community.

Mike Steklof is the Director of Teen Engagement and Inclusion for Buffalo Jewish Federation's Center for Jewish Engagement and learning. Want to discuss this issue? Text/email Mike at 585-200-2161/mike@buffalojewishfederation.org

Hanukkah at The Jewish Women's Group Home



On Sunday, December 22, the Jewish Women's Group Home gathered together for their annual Hanukkah celebration. Songs were sung, dreidels were spun and latkes and donuts were enjoyed by all.

Teen Leaders Experience Poverty Simulation

By Mike Steklof

When was the last time you rode public transportation in Buffalo? Have you ever had to survive on \$6.36 a day? A group of teens had the opportunity to experience both and more at the December session of the Jewish Teen Leadership Fellowship.

The Jewish Teen Leadership Fellowship (a project of the new Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative) invests in future leaders of the Buffalo Jewish community through an experiential nine-month long leadership program for teens. Fifteen teens make up the inaugural class of fellows. Together, they are developing practical leadership and life skills while also gaining awareness of Buffalo community history, civic responsibility, race/diversity, and personal potential all through the lens of applied Jewish wisdom.

The goal for the December session of the Fellowship was to gain insight into the challenges of those that are underprivileged in our community. In order to do this, the Teen Fellows gathered on a Sunday



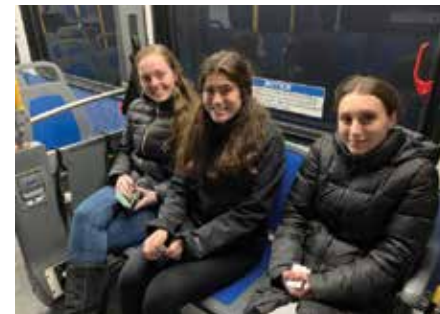
afternoon to participate in a Transportation Poverty Simulation designed in partnership with Leadership Buffalo. The learning began with the teens studying the story of Moses killing an Egyptian overseer. After



a close look at the text, the teens debated the merit of Moses' actions and asked each other hard questions: did Moses make a good choice, a bad choice, was he an up-stander? After a rich conversation the teens were divided into two groups. Each was given a scenario about a Buffalo teen who is living in poverty, a metro card, and \$6.36 (the average amount a person in poverty has for food each day). The groups were challenged to simulate all of the tasks that their assigned person would do during the day such as going to school and work, buying food and completing other daily errands.

For many teens, this was their first experience riding public transportation in Buffalo, having a daily budget, or learning about the life of a teen experiencing poverty. No group was able to successfully complete all of the assigned tasks and they each encountered many challenges and road blocks during their journeys. One group got off at the wrong bus stop and another missed their stop not realizing how to signal the bus to let them off. Teens were shocked to discover how cold it can be to travel without a car, and that certain establishments will not let you wait for the bus inside.

The groups were also challenged in deciding what food to buy to sustain themselves for a day. One group bought bananas, canned beans, canned ravioli, and cans of tuna (they also wanted to buy apples but they were too expensive). The other group purchased a bag of dates, a humus/pretzels snack pack and a cliff bar. For many of the teens, this was the first time they had to shop for food with



a budget. Thinking about the price of food was illuminating and both groups agreed that it would be difficult to sustain themselves on only \$6.36 each day.

After the simulation ended, the teens were left with questions, such as how would a teen adapt to this lifestyle and learn the bus system and survive? One woman they encountered on their journey provided a partial answer. While waiting at what ended up being the wrong stop, a group of teens met an elderly woman who assisted them by pulling out pamphlets for each bus route in Buffalo. In the teens' eyes, she was an expert bus traveler. One teen, reflecting on the encounter, commented that you would have to become an expert and rely on paper if you did this every day without a data allowance on your cellphone. All were left with a deep appreciation for the comforts of their lives including plentiful food, great education, access to personal transportation, and the many gifts that their lifestyles afford them.

Want to learn more about the Teen Leadership Fellowship? Want to get your teen involved? Email/Text Mike at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org or 585-200-2161.

Mike Steklof is the Director of Teen Engagement and Inclusion for CJEL.

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Welcome New PJ Library & PJ Our Way Chairs

Buffalo Jewish Federation is excited to welcome Marni Marciano and Brenda Feldstein as PJ Library (PJ) Chair and PJ Our Way (PJOW) Chair, respectively. Marni is a PJ Library Mom to her twins Max and Sylvie, currently plans children's programming at Kehillat Ohr Tzion, and will be an incredible asset to this team.



Top: Marni Marciano
Bottom: Brenda Feldstein

Brenda is a PJ Our Way Mom to her children, Eli, and Gabby. She recently traveled to Israel with 14 other Buffalo moms on the MOMentum Trip (read about it on page 6 & 7) and brought back new knowledge and energy that can translate to PJOW efforts. Together, Marni and Brenda will be thought partners, along with the PJ Library Executive Committee, in elevating PJ and PJOW here in Buffalo.

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Israeli Tech Expert Comes to Buffalo

Amiel BaKehila returns to our community February 25-27. Buffalo is one of several North American communities participating in Amiel BaKehila, an exciting initiative under the auspices of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs. This latest visit will feature Israeli Tech Expert Ilan Regenbaum.

Regenbaum is the Managing Director of Sitech, the Startup Lab at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Prior to this position, he served as Chief Innovation Officer for the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, Interim Commander of the Israeli Air Force Innovation Department, and founder of the Air Force's Accelerator where he worked to bridge the gap between the startup world and the military. Among the topics Regenbaum will address include "The Secret Sauce to the Startup Nation," and "Torah & Technology: How Jewish Tradition



is Evolving in the Face of Modern Technology."

Details about this next visit will be available on-line through **My Jewish Buffalo**.

Shiri Kester Named Nickel City Jews Chair



The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) is excited to announce Shiri Kester as the new Chair of Nickel City Jews (NCJ). NCJ helps make Jewish Buffalo a vibrant place to call home for young adults in their 20s, 30s and early 40s. For the past two years Shiri has served on the NCJ Executive Committee, enriching efforts through her energy and passion for Jewish living. In that time, Shiri has opened her home to host an annual Shabbat-Labor Day BBQ, a Hamantashen Bake Off, and also chaired larger gatherings including the 2018 Hanukkah celebration "Light the Night" at Buffalo Distilling Co.

In reflecting on this new role, Shiri shared, "After serving on the Nickel City Jews Executive Committee for the last two years, I am thrilled to be taking on this leadership role within an organization that has become such an important part of my life and I am looking forward to the many exciting opportunities to come."

In addition to her work with Nickel City Jews, Shiri is a full-time graduate student studying English Education Studies at the University at Buffalo. She is currently student-teaching in the Hamburg School District. When Shiri isn't teaching or engaging young adults through NCJ, she can be found traveling the world – some of her recent travels include Sweden and Germany.

"Nickel City Jews is an amazing community of people and the perfect place to meet other young professionals, make new friends, and explore Jewish Buffalo. I would love to hear from you and I want to personally invite you to reach out to me (**Shiri Kester, shirikes@buffalo.edu**) with any questions or ideas. I look forward to helping Nickel City Jews thrive in 2020!"

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PJ Library

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Hausmann to Open February 8 & 9 Concerts with Kaddish



The Buffalo Philharmonic concerts on February 8 and 9 will open with cellist Robbie Hausmann performing Ravel's *Kaddish*. Robbie performed the *Kaddish* at Auschwitz in memory of his great grandmother during the BPO's 2018 tour of Poland.

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.



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JCRC Women's Group

Members of Buffalo Jewish Federation's JCRC paid a visit to the Niagara Falls Sikh Temple in December with the multicultural women's group. JCRC Director Mara Koven-Gelman thanks Beatrice Singh-Arnone for inviting the Multicultural Women's Group to her Gurudwara (Sikh Temple). Koven-Gelman noted that the group was honored to witness a respectful and beautiful prayer service, and the vegetarian meal served (*langar*) was delicious.



Goodbye, and Thanks!

By Dr. Ted Steinberg

When my wife Phyllis and I retired to Buffalo, as so many people do, we thought we would lead a leisurely existence of going to the Buffalo Philharmonic, visiting art galleries, and shoveling snow. And then reality intruded. Phyllis had already been involved in Hadassah for years, helping to make the local Hadassah Chapter one of the most active among smaller communities in the country. But then we joined Kehillat Ohr Tzion, a small Modern Orthodox synagogue, where we soon discovered that we were in charge of recycling and the Social Action Committee, among other obligations.



An interfaith gathering which included Ezra Scott, Jr., JCRC Co-Chair Nina Lukin and her son, Sam, Dr. Nazir Khan, retiring JCRC Co-Chair Ted Steinberg and Phyllis Steinberg

And then we got the notice of a meeting that would look into reorganizing and restarting the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Because Phyllis had a Hadassah event that evening, I attended the meeting, which, honestly, was so inspiring that I volunteered to draft a vision statement. That gesture, as such gestures often do, led to further involvement and to my eventually becoming co-chair of the JCRC. Serving in that office has been a tremendous pleasure, a partial fulfillment of what I consider to be the essence of Judaism.

The JCRC is devoted to the furtherance of social justice, both inside and outside of the Jewish community. It seeks to follow the Jewish ideal as expressed in the first chapter of the prophet Isaiah's book: "Limdu heitev—Learn to do good: Devote yourself to justice; aid the wronged. Uphold the rights of the orphan; defend the cause of the widow." In short, do what is right, and focus on the rights of the weak and the oppressed.

The JCRC attempts to uphold this ideal by creating alliances with other organizations devoted to social justice, alliances that benefit the Jewish community and the Buffalo community as a whole, and by taking stands on a variety

of social issues.

I have been privileged to serve as co-chair with Nina Lukin, under the dedicated professional direction of Mara Koven-Gelman, but now my term is coming to an end. I am happy to be able to say, however, that my replacement is an outstanding member of the Jewish community, Deborah Goldman. I suspect that everyone in Buffalo probably knows Deborah, thanks to her active involvement in so many organizations and causes, but let me mention just a few of those.

Deborah has been involved in a number of organizations in the area of mental health, and she has also served as president of the Bureau of Jewish Education, as president of Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Western and Central New York, and in a wide variety of other capacities. The JCRC is really fortunate to have such a person as its future co-chair.

In the meantime, Phyllis and I will continue to serve on the JCRC Executive Committee, because we recognize how vital the JCRC's work is for both Buffalo and for its Jewish community. As we can see from the continuing relevance of Isaiah's words from more than two thousand years ago, the cause of social justice never goes out of style.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hatchets & Hops

PURIM PARTY MARCH 7TH

Shabbats

Paint Night

Mussar

MORE DETAILS ON FACEBOOK @NICKEL CITY JEWS

Interfaith Climate Justice Community Cares!

By Sara Schultz

Tu B'Shevat – the New Year of Trees – is almost here. Perhaps now is a good time to pay attention to what is so difficult to comprehend. We have read about floods and fires and recently of 11,000 scientists and more than 200 scientific organizations who have established the unequivocal scientific evidence that anthropogenic (man-made) climate change is happening. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment, has declared that time is running out. We need to make the huge changes to prevent future suffering on a scale that we have never seen.



Sara Schultz (L) thanking Gov. Cuomo outside at one of his Buffalo visits.

How do we cope with such overwhelming facts? As Jews, we are not permitted to feel powerless. As a people we believe in working toward *tikun olam* (repair of the world). Now is the time to pay attention to the commandment, *bal tashchit* (thou shalt not destroy). This commandment truly will repair the world! This may sound overwhelming but In *Pirkei Avot*, (*Ethics of the Fathers*) Rabbi Tarfon teaches: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either" (3:2). In other words, try not to get overwhelmed by the greatness of the task, but do jump in and do what you can. That is all that is expected of us.

I recently met with Mara Koven-Gelman and Deborah Goldman from the Buffalo JCRC to discuss the intersectionality between the JCRC mission of social justice, combating hatred and intolerance and Interfaith legislative work with the environmental justice work of the ICJC (Interfaith Climate Justice Community.) My volunteer work with the Sierra Club



2019 Youth Climate Change rally in Niagara Square.



2018 Youth Climate Strike

Niagara Group and now with the Interfaith Climate Justice Community has led me back to my own Jewish community.

Working on greenhouse gas drawdown, renewable energy, green transportation initiatives and the restoration of habitat for the very life that sustains us are all goals that should be woven into our Jewish lives. "The earth is the Lord's" Psalm 24:1. We are partners in her care not here to use and abuse. Sallie McFague suggests we "view the world through the lenses of Martin Buber's famous distinction between I/THOU and I/IT: the world is not an "it", not merely a tool in human hands to be used and then discarded. The earth and humankind stand in an I/THOU

relationship, in which we appreciate the earth as earth and fellow expression of our creative God."

The first opportunity for action can come as soon as February 10th. *Tu B'Shevat* is approaching as Israel welcomes spring and celebrates the awakening of life. Jewish law regarding trees guides us toward the profound importance of protecting them. This year, think about planting native trees that will contribute to the cycle of life in our region. The United Nations' trillion tree campaign is a serious response to the climate emergency of our time. Plant-based solutions to climate change are an excellent place for all of us to participate and contribute. If you are looking for more ideas, COEJL (Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life) and



Nuclear Waste protest in Buffalo

JCAN (Jewish Climate Action Network) are just a few of the organizations to find resources to help you and your synagogue walk more lightly on the planet.

On Feb. 6th Sierra Club Niagara Group is sponsoring a presentation on Community Solar. This is an opportunity for those who cannot have solar panels for various reasons to be tied into community solar projects around WNY. Please join us at the Crane Library, 633 Elmwood Ave. at 6pm to learn how you can save money and live more sustainably.

If you have teenagers, please encourage them to get involved with the WNY Youth Climate Council (buffaloclimatestrike@gmail.com). This group of passionate teens under the supervision of the WNY Environmental Alliance is working to push our local leaders to take action for the future of our youth.

From my connection with the Interfaith Climate Justice Community I have learned the strong need for faith groups to speak out. Pope Francis's 2015 Encyclical, *Laudato si'* "On Care for our Common Home" declares, "If we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us." And "We can no longer remain silent before one of the greatest environmental crises in world history." This is also a very Jewish concept. The churches are ringing their bells to call parishioners into action. Shouldn't we be sounding the shofar? We have an active Jewish community in WNY. Imagine what we could accomplish if we added "care for creation" to our list of life sustaining goals.

Where to go from here? Let's start with ourselves, our homes, our synagogues and very importantly who we support at the polls. Look for the Sierra Club endorsements. Our endorsed candidates understand local issues that affect our health and well-being, affirm science and promote policy that will determine the future of our children, all children. I pray that Jewish voices in our community will rise and the shofar will call us all to pay attention to the voice of creation. May every *Tu B'Shevat* seder include at least one action each of us can take that will lead to a more sustainable home for all.

Sara Schultz is Sierra Club Niagara Chair and Amherst Energy Conservation Citizens Advisory Committee Chair.

Cantor Barbara Ostfeld: I Think Playing is Holy

I write this column as a happy cantor. Not “camper,” CANTOR! I’m happy and lucky.

In December, I received an award from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the mainstream organization that makes connections across North America to “advance contemporary and inclusive Jewish life”. Sitting in front of me as I type is a plaque that reads, “URJ Debbie Friedman Award for Contribution to Jewish Music.”

Yes, I’m lucky. I was the first woman to be ordained as a cantor. And a huge part of that was an accident of timing. But the real reason I wanted to become a cantor was because I thought it would be FUN!

I’ve wanted to be a cantor since I was 8 years old and in my second year of junior choir.

Being in Temple as a kid was fun—not for everyone, but for me. Singing songs in Hebrew was like playing. It made me happy! I loved the cantor of my childhood synagogue and wanted to grow up to do what he did. He got to be in the synagogue EVERY DAY!

I wanted to grow up to be in a synagogue every day! Imagine singing every day! In Hebrew! It would be like playing!

I’m lucky because I got my wish. I learned how to be a cantor by studying for 5 years at Hebrew Union College Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. I’m extra lucky because no woman had applied to the School of Sacred Music before I did! My being a first is kismet. In reality, I won an award for wanting to have fun. An award named after someone who injected prayer music with fun.

If you don’t know the name, Debbie Friedman, you DO know her compositions! They’re heard in synagogues the world



Cantor Barbara Ostfeld accepting her award at the JRT Biennial from Rabbi Dan Frelander.

over. Her music is unique because it is meant to be sung by everyone. It’s unique because the Hebrew words are also sung in English. Debbie Friedman’s music has everyone singing the liturgy because everyone CAN. Her music is FOCUSED when the text is serious and it’s FUN when the text is merry. It’s prayerful and playful.

In connection with the Debbie Friedman Award, an interviewer asked me a great question. “If you could start a movement today, what would it be?”

As I started thinking of a good answer, I felt anxious. How will I, a 67-year old Reform cantor, do justice to this weighty question? And given the pervasive angst of our time, what on earth can I possibly suggest? The British writer Matt Haig tweeted, “It is difficult to tell “where anxiety disorder ends and where actual news begins.” I agree. Watching or reading or listening to the news, it’s easy to get worried and then to STAY worried.

As a Jew, I worry about anti-Semites who are fired up by the dark side of the internet. I worry about the racism that seems to be validated by this White House. I worry because there is famine in Zimbabwe, Yemen and Somalia. Do NOT get me started on climate change.

I’m supposed to come up with an idea for a movement while I’m

wondering if my five grandchildren will be able to recite the blessing “shekacha lo b’olamo?” Will there BE wonders on their earth that inspire them to bless the Source of nature’s beauty?

Back to the interviewer and his question. All the good global movements are taken. I’m supposed to come up with a new one, however imaginary! So I thought and thought. I finally came up with play time. My movement would institute daily play time. I’d start a movement that would help each person choose his, her or their brand of PLAY.

My mother played with a VERY amateur string quartet. My late sister Robin tended to hundreds of orchids. My dad wrote epic poems. I like to cavort with my grandchildren! My husband watches planes land. My brother has picked up his dusty trumpet again—the one he abandoned in childhood. I have cantor friends who sing in barbershop quartets. I have rabbi friends who travel the world speaking about chocolate.

Admittedly playing is one of those “You do YOU”

I participate in *tikkun olam*
because the world should be a place
where everyone can play.
So maybe I’d call my movement
“Mindful Playing.”

things. But it’s not entirely selfish. When I play with my grandchildren, I remind myself that ALL children deserve to play. That conviction is at the center of my work to repair the world. I participate in *tikkun olam* because the world should be a place where everyone can play. So maybe I’d call my movement “Mindful Playing.” Think about joining my imaginary movement. What kind of play makes you happy? Bird-watching, Scrabble, tennis, yoga, running, skiing? A combination?

The Torah tells us that Adam and Eve played in the Garden of Eden. Let’s do likewise while we work at doing whatever it takes to keep Eden green!

Cantor Barbara Ostfeld was ordained as the world’s FIRST female cantor. She lives in Buffalo with her husband, Todd Joseph. She is the author of the book *Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim*.



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- 2» You can shop at Amazon** and do good at the same time. (See page 20.) If you first go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate your donations to the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, Inc., Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to Jewish Buffalo's Security Fund.
- 3» Join the National Federation for Just Communities** in honoring Dr. Irwin Gelman and Mara Koven-Gelman, Senator Tim Kennedy (D-NY) and others at its Annual Community Leaders Luncheon Thursday, February 13 at noon at the Buffalo Convention Center. Tickets, which are \$50, may be purchased by calling 853-9596.
- 4» Pictures at an Exhibition: Check out CEPA's annual Members photography show** through February 15 at the CEPA Gallery, 617 Main Street. You will see works by artists such as Kathleen Corff Rogers and others up this month. www.cepagallery.org
- 5» Celebrate Tu B'Shevat** February 9-10. Tu B'Shevat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. Scholars believe that originally Tu B'Shevat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu B'Shevat that is similar to a Passover seder. The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends.

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Last month Joseph Pechenik and Daniel Ferber correctly identified the Kids Place sign located on the second floor of the JCC/ Benderson Building.



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COMMUNITY

FOOD

Heart Healthy Moroccan Stew

By Robin Kurss

Well, it is February...Heart Healthy Month. Trying to stick to my New Year's Resolutions, too.

This is a variation of my daughter Nicole's Moroccan Chickpea Stew....It will keep you warm AND healthy!



Moroccan Chickpea Stew

Serves 6

- 2 T olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 t. cumin
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 butternut squash, 1" dice
- 3/4 lb. potatoes, 1" dice
- 2 c. veggie broth
- 2 c. chickpeas, drained
- 14 oz. can stewed tomatoes, with juice
- 1 c. green olives, pitted
- salt and pepper to taste
- couscous on which to serve stew

To garnish:
cilantro leaves
slivered almonds
plain Greek yogurt

1. Heat oil in Dutch oven
2. Add onion, garlic, cumin and cinnamon; sauté until onions are soft
3. Add squash, potatoes-cook 3 minutes
Add broth, chickpeas, tomatoes. Bring to boil and reduce to low. Cover and simmer 10 minutes until squash and potatoes are tender.
4. Remove from heat, serve in bowls over couscous and garnish with cilantro, almonds and yogurt.

Just so you know how healthy this really is:

- 276 calories/serving
- 9.4 g of fat, only 2.2 saturated
- .5 mg cholesterol
- 8.6 g protein
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And so in this spirit three families recently sponsored meals on Shabbat in order to celebrate special occasions. Joel Marks sponsored a surprise Kiddush luncheon to commemorate the day he and his wife Karen started dating. After services he spoke about their memorable first date, delighting the congregation and certainly surprising Karen.

Jeff Schapiro, President of KOT, and his wife, Mirielle, celebrated their 49th anniversary and marked this happy occasion with a Kiddush luncheon. And in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son Ozzy Enis, Joe and Nancy Enis sponsored a Shabbat dinner after Kabbalat Shabbat services.

In addition to celebrating together, the

members of KOT like to learn together. The shul has embraced the experience of hosting Israeli delegations of artists and scholars through the Amiel Bakehila Program, which has been facilitated throughout the year by member Barb Chazen, Lori Morrison and Rob Goldberg at the Jewish Federation. Read about the next Amiel Bakehila visit in February on page 14.



Special TBZ PASS (Parents at Sunday School): World Wide Wrap 2020

Sunday, February 2, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

The World Wide Wrap unites men, women and children in prayer. Cantor Myers will take you through the mitzvah and journey of laying *tefillin*. If you have a set of *tefillin* please bring it with you. Cantor Myers will provide non-kosher sets to teach you the mitzvah of donning the phylacteries.

“We’re in it for the Tie!”

This is the day to try to have all Jews everywhere put on *tefillin*. Sounds crazy! No? But now it is a tradition! Picture this in the eye of your mind: It is the first week of February. The sun rises. It is time for *minyan*. Jewish families across the globe will gather together at Shul and put on *Tefillin*! They will experience the mitzvah and wrap themselves in the words and spirit of holiness. Be a part of this experience!

PASS is free of charge and open to the community.

Jewish Scout Shabbat at Shir Shalom

Friday, February 7, 7 p.m.

CSS welcomes Scouts who will attend in uniform and participate in the Erev Shabbat Service. An Oneg Shabbat will follow and be sponsored by the WNY Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Open to the community!

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
TBZ: 836.6565



Journalist David Mark to Speak at TBT Men's Club

David Mark, national political editor at *The Washington Examiner*, will speak at Temple Beth Tzedek Sunday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m., during a Sunday brunch discussion hosted by Temple Beth Tzedek Men's Club. David will be talking about the current presidential campaign and ongoing political climate, and may address other topics of interest to a broad audience, including the intersection of media and politics in today's environment.

David is a seasoned Washington journalist, and joined *The Examiner* just before the 2018 midterm elections. He was previously a senior editor at *Politico* for six years, a news editor at *CNN Digital* and, editor of a political news-and-discussion startup site in Silicon Valley, which helped fuel his interest in the role of emerging technologies in political campaigns. He is a graduate of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Brandeis University.

The price of the program – which includes brunch with bagels and cream cheese, coffee and juice, pastries and fruit is \$20. **RSVP to the TBT office at (716) 838-3232 or rsvp@btzbuffalo.org.** This event



marks the re-launch of TBT's Men's Club, and will be open to the entire Buffalo Jewish community, including both men and women, regardless of membership at TBT.

Family Court Judge Brenda Freedman To Speak To CSS Men's Group

The speaker at the Congregation Shir Shalom Men's Group Meeting February 23rd at 9:15 a.m. will be Hon. Brenda Freedman, Judge of the Erie County Family Court. Judge Freedman handles all the Juvenile Delinquency and Persons in Need of Supervision ["PINS"] matters in Erie County, as well as matters of child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, custody/visitation, child support violations and contested paternity.

Judge Freedman will be speaking about Family Court issues, including the Anti-bullying Initiative and the Raise the Age legislation which would allow 16 and 17-year olds to be treated as minors by the court system. Both men and women are encouraged to attend. Bagels and lox will be served.



Please email mensgroup@shirshalombuffalo.org to RSVP. Open to the community. For information, please contact Dan Kester at 536-5628 or via email.

Salaam/Shalom

**Tuesday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.
Jewish Federation Apartments**

Jewish Federation Apartment welcomes those interested in Salaam/Shalom conversations between Muslims and Jews Tuesday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Essjay Road building. Rabbi Ori Bergman, of Kehillat Ohr Tzion, will give a tour of the Himmel Chapel in Jewish Federation Apartments. JFA just celebrated its fortieth anniversary last June and was recently bought by Capital Realty.

Conversation will continue with a discussion about kosher foods, and will include snacks. Rabbi Ori Bergman and Dr. Yonina Foster, Jewish Federation Apartments Activity Director have planned this program with Farina Mirza, Community Outreach Coordinator and Faizon Haq, founder, of WNYMuslims, to bring both communities together for discussions. This will be the third effort at opening doors to learning more about one another's faiths. All faiths are welcome.

Contact Dr. Foster: afoster@capitalrealty.org, (716) 631-8471 for more information.

TBZ Shabbat Shira

**Sabbath of Song:
Kol Echad (1 voice)**



**Friday, February 7,
7 p.m.
805 Delaware Avenue**

This annual Temple Beth Zion Shabbat Shira Service Sabbath of Song will feature the new Community Jewish Adult Choir "Ruach Buffalo," Temple Beth Zion Children's Choir and Congregation Shir Shalom's "Pop-Up Choir" to present a musical and uplifting experience.

TBZ Achim is February 9

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion will hold its February Achim program at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, February 9 at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus. This month will feature a discussion among the residents and guests about past events, current events and favorite memories. 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.**

TBZ's Nosh & Learn

How to Make a Bagel

**Sunday, February 9, 1 p.m.
Broder Center,
700 Sweet Home Road**

Join TBZ friends Sunday, February 9 at the TBZ Broder building at 1p.m. for a bagel nosh lunch featuring homemade bagels and lox with all the fixings, plus desserts. Afterwards, you will learn how to make these delicious bagels with Sandy Wolchok. The cost is \$18.

You can register by sending a check payable to TBZ Sisterhood to Sandy at 6872 Forestview Dr., Lockport, NY 14072. If you have questions, call Sandy at 716-628-4959.



Unpacking the Parables of Jesus



WITHIN THEIR LITERARY, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT



FEBRUARY 5, 2020

The parable of the Good Samaritan

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The story of the Rich man and Lazarus

FEBRUARY 19, 2020

The parable of the Tenants

These 3 sessions will include an in depth study of parables in Classical Rabbinic Literature, placing Jesus' teachings within the gamut, continuum, of rabbinic parables of the last 2 millennia. The series will also attempt to understand how Jesus' parables were perceived by his many listeners when he first taught them.

GUEST PRESENTER: RABBI MOSHE SILBERSCHIN

Interim Rabbi at Temple Beth Tzedek
Faculty at Jerusalem University College – Institute of Holy Land Studies
Faculty at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

10:30 AM – Noon
Temple Beth Tzedek
1641 North Forest Road, Williamsville NY 14221

RSVP AND MORE INFORMATION

Mara at mara@buffalojewishfederation.org

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MYSTERY NIGHT

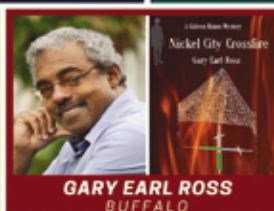


Song of Peace
4660 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221

Reading and discussion with five mystery writers from across New York State!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
7:00PM – 9:00PM

NO OPEN READERS THIS EVENING.



We would like to thank Gunilla Kester for bringing this exciting program to Shir Shalom.

Spiritual Tools for Today

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

February 25, April 7, June 9, July 7

Temple Beth Zion,
805 Delaware Ave., in the library

Kabbalah, Middot, Spiritual Practices – each of these help us manage and create more meaning and better living. In each session we will explore current readings of practical Jewish mystical teachings and look at practices to help us better cope, find balance, and thrive, even when facing challenges. Coffee and desserts for our bodies, reflections, learning, and inspiration for our hearts, minds, and spirits. Please RSVP to Rabbi Freirich, rabbi@tbz.org

TBZ Winter Kulanu Service



Rabbi Jonathan Freirich and Cantor Penny Myers led Temple Beth Zion's annual Winter Kulanu service on December 20, 2019 in the Sisterhood Chapel. The service, created by Matan Schwartz, celebrated diversity and honored the sacred links of love and communication among us all. Rabbi Freirich delivered a sermon in which he discussed the non-binary, non-heteronormative *pshtat* explicit in the stories of Rebecca and Isaac, particularly in the descriptions of Rebecca in Genesis Chapter 24, where Rebecca is described five separate times as *na'ar* (young man). The service was followed by a special Oneg.

TBZ Bagel Brunch

Sunday, February 23, 10-11 a.m.

Bagel Jay's,
100 Plaza Drive, Williamsville



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

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



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CALENDAR

February 2

PASS * at TBZ

*Parents @ Sunday School
9:30- 10:30 a.m. Broder Center.
Call 836-6565 for info

Institute for Jewish Studies

10:00 a.m. Modern Era, Deja Vu: Jewish History in the Early 20th Century
11:00 a.m. The Jewish Identity A Study of the Book of Esther
JDC's Learning Center, 831 Maple Rd.
Call 716.400.1550 for details

February 4

The Bubbie Club:

Inspiring Our Grandchildren

7:30 p.m. JDC's Learning Center
831 Maple Rd.
Call 716.400.1550 for details

February 5

Unpacking the Parables of Jesus- Part 1

3-part session taught
by Rabbi Moshe Silberschein
10:30 a.m.-12 noon
TBT, 1641 North Forest Rd. FREE

Lunch & Learn

Jewish Discovery Center
12:15 p.m. 831 Maple Rd.

February 6

Jewish Repertory Theatre

What I Thought I Knew

Through March 1
7:30 p.m. JCC Seller Theatre.
www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com

February 7

PJ Library Tot Shabbat

5:45 p.m. Temple Beth Tzedek

February 9

TBZ's Achim Program

10:00 a.m. Weinberg Campus
Meadows Lounge
Call 836-6565 for info

Institute for Jewish Studies

10:00 a.m. Modern Era, Deja Vu: Jewish History in the Early 20th Century
11:00 a.m. The Jewish Identity A Study of the Book of Esther
JDC's Learning Center - 831 Maple Rd.
Call 716.400.1550 for details

PJ Library My Grown Up & Me

10 a.m. JCC Holland Building

TBZ's Nosh & Learn: How to make a Bagel

1:00 p.m. TBZ Broder Building
Call 836-6363 for info

February 10

Tu B'Shevat celebrated

February 11

Salaam/Shalom Conversation

7:30 p.m. Jewish Federation Apartments
Call Dr. Yonina Foster- 631-8471 for info

February 12

Unpacking the Parables of Jesus Part 2

3-part session taught by Rabbi Moshe Silberschein
10:30 a.m.-12 noon
TBT, 1641 North Forest Rd. FREE

Lunch & Learn. Jewish Discovery Center

12:15 p.m. 831 Maple Rd.

February 16

TBT Men's Club with David Mark

10:00 a.m. TBT. 1641 North Forest Rd.
Call 838-3232 for info

Institute for Jewish Studies

10:00 a.m. Modern Era, Deja Vu: Jewish History in the Early 20th Century
11:00 a.m. The Jewish Identity A Study of the Book of Esther
JDC's Learning Center - 831 Maple Rd.
Call 716.400.1550 for details

February 19

Unpacking the Parables of Jesus Part 3

3-part session taught by Rabbi Moshe Silberschein
10:30 a.m.-12 noon
TBT, 1641 North Forest Rd. FREE

Lunch & Learn

Jewish Discovery Center
12:15 p.m. 831 Maple Rd.

February 20

Buffalo Corner Reading Series:

Mystery Writers

7:00 p.m. Congregation Shir Shalom

February 23

Shir Shalom Men's Group with Judge Brenda Freedman

9:15 a.m. Congregation Shir Shalom
Contact Dan Kester at 536-5628 for info

TBZ's Bagel Brunch at Bagel Jay's

10:00 a.m. 100 Plaza Drive, Williamsville
jagoldstein@gmail.com for info

Institute for Jewish Studies

10:00 a.m. Modern Era, Deja Vu: Jewish History in the Early 20th Century
11:00 a.m. The Jewish Identity A Study of the Book of Esther
JDC's Learning Center - 831 Maple Rd.
Call 716.400.1550 for details

Rabbi Manis Friedman

at Chabad Kneset Center

7:00 p.m. honoring Rebbetzin Shaina obm
Charitownow's yahrtzeit
500 Starin Ave.

February 26

Lunch & Learn. Jewish Discovery Center

12:15 p.m. 831 Maple Rd.

February 26-28

Amiel BaKehila in Buffalo

Various events and locations
Call Federation at 204-2242 for info

Celebrating Ely Bokobza and the Kosher Deli at UB

By Rabbi Sara Rich

If you have enjoyed a kosher meal at the University at Buffalo anytime in the last 22 years, you have one person to thank: Ely Bokobza. As of December 2019, Ely has retired from his longtime role as the chef and mashgiach (kosher supervisor) for the University at Buffalo's NY Deli & Diner, or "the Kosher Deli." Located in Talbert Hall on UB's North Campus, the Kosher Deli is run by Campus Dining & Shops and is under the supervision of the Vaad HaKashrus of Buffalo (BVK). The deli serves meat and vegetarian options to students, faculty and members of the community from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Ely has been instrumental in growing and supporting the Kosher Deli during his culinary career. He has created a broad menu of offerings that range from healthy grilled vegetable wraps to sentimental pastrami sandwiches and knishes. His food doesn't only draw a kashrut-observant crowd. Daily customers include Muslim students who follow Halal dietary rules, vegans, UB athletes, Israeli students and students from the New York City area who appreciate the tastes from back home.

In addition to serving individual meals, Ely frequently catered larger events, including Hillel's weekly Shabbat dinners for years, first privately, and then through the Kosher Deli. Students look forward to this meal each week, and will come back to Hillel days later seeking leftovers. He has also catered for Hillel's Israeli programming, such as falafel for over 100 students at the Yom Ha'atzmaut shuk (Israel Independence Day market) that students created in the Student Union, and he has provided kosher meals for guest speakers coming to campus.

Ely was born and raised in Israel and did not expect that life would take him to Buffalo to run the Kosher Deli. He reflects, "[Chabad of Buffalo's] Rabbi Nosson Gurary once told me that there are no coincidences in life. HaShem plans everything. He said that I was meant to be in Buffalo, all the way from Israel, to feed these people Kosher food."

Kosher on Campus

Indeed, the importance of kosher food at UB cannot be overstated. For



many students, the availability of kosher food on campus is a deciding factor when picking a college. It is one of the key criteria evaluated in Hillel International's College Guide, a resource for prospective students.

As sophomore Justin Weiss says, "As an Orthodox Jew, I was concerned about keeping kosher. Since I would be living in the dorms, I wouldn't have access to the appliances I needed to keep kosher. Thanks to Ely and his wonderful staff at the deli, my fears were alleviated the moment I walked through the door."

UB allows students on a university meal plan to purchase food at the Kosher Deli, which makes it easier for students who keep strictly kosher to eat their meals there, and allows flexibility for students who want to eat at the Kosher Deli as well as at the other dining outlets on campus. In addition to those on meal plans, students, faculty, visitors, and members of the Buffalo community can also enjoy the Kosher Deli, a delicious option on the local kosher eating scene.

Hot Food with a Warm Touch

More than just providing food, Ely has created a community. At the retirement party hosted in his honor by Hillel and Campus Dining & Shops, a diverse crowd gathered to honor him for his years of service. Guests included his UB dining co-workers, current and former students, rabbis and community members from Young Israel (Ely's synagogue) and Chabad as well as Ely's family and friends. Everyone in attendance shared their appreciation for Ely's devotion to the Kosher Deli, which surpasses the food on the plate.

Justin presents the feelings of many students when he comments, "I can say that after eating Ely's food and enjoying his sense of humor, my UB experience has been undeniably better and more meaningful. Thank you, Ely, for providing me with a smile, a second home and some outstanding food."

The feelings are mutual. Ely reflects, "In addition to the honor of having developed the Kosher Deli at UB into a successful restaurant, it was my great pleasure also to get to know, become friends with and try to help the Jewish students who were far from home. After 22 years at the university, I am still in touch with many past students and that ongoing connection means a lot to me."

Preparing for the Future

The NY Kosher Deli & Diner will now be under the daily management of Mireille Schapiro, who worked with Ely this fall to provide a smooth transition. Hillel and Campus Dining & Shops are working together to expand kosher offerings for students and to make them more accessible to the community, so stay tuned for more information. ***Ely's Kosher Food Fund has been established to support this expansion, and if you would like to contribute to the fund in honor of Ely's service to UB, please send a check or donate online at www.hillelofbuffalo.org/donate, making a note that it is for Ely's Kosher Food Fund.***

Rabbi Sara Rich is Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo.

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JCC Cultural Artsventure

Artist Catherine Shuman Miller facilitated a JCC Cultural Artsventure class in January where families and children learned about their favorite children's book authors and made some art of their own.



MARK GOLDMAN ON LONDON PODCAST



In August, *The Jewish Journal* ran a story about Buffalo author Mark Goldman and his newest book *Tillie: A New York City Girl 1906-2001*. Mark was recently interviewed by a British rabbi for the podcast *Jewish Views*, a monthly podcast recorded at JW3 in London, England. They interviewed Goldman about *Tillie: A New York City Girl, 1906-2001*. The recording took place on Sept. 23 from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. (London time) over Skype. It is tagged at @CityofLightPublishing on Facebook or Instagram and @CityofLightPub on Twitter. You can re-read the story at www.buffalojewishfederation.org. Scroll down to *The Jewish Journal* button and look for the "Humans of Jewish Buffalo" August 2019 issue on page 5, written by Marti Gorman.



For the link to the *Jewish Views* podcast on which Mark Goldman was interviewed on October 23, 2019 go to www.thejewishviews.wixsite.com.

B"H

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Jewish Community Care with JFS

By Molly Carr

Did you know that Jewish Family Service (JFS) now provides Jewish Community Care Coordination to the Jewish community of Western New York? Here at JFS we have the ability to provide care and support to you and your loved ones through challenging times. Jewish Community Care Coordination is a program for the Jewish community to connect easily with the support you need in a respectful and compassionate environment. JFS' principles of care are rooted in the Jewish value of Kavod, respect for each individual and their family.

So what can Jewish Community Care Coordination do for you? Jewish Community Care Coordination provides you and your family connection to an array of services to support your individual needs including:

- Care coordination to help



Matthew Stewart

navigate the often confusing and overwhelming health care and social service programs that are vital to well-being.

- Counseling services by respectful and compassionate counselors for you and your family, including in home visits for older adults who struggle with isolation.
- Financial assistance through the JFS Compassion Fund, supporting qualifying individuals with one-time financial aid to avert a crisis.

- Career planning services and assistance in finding employment.
- Parenting classes and counseling support to help new parents navigate the challenges of raising children in today's environment.

We are excited to introduce Matthew Stewart, MSW, our new Manager of Jewish Community Care Coordination. Matt is a recent addition to the JFS team and is available to help you today. Originally from Westchester County, Matt has made Western New York his home and is excited to be working with the JFS team to help engage and support our community.

Matt is your liaison to Jewish Family Service and is available by phone at 883-1914 or by email at mstewart@jfsbuffalo.org. You can also meet Matt from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the JCC Benderson Campus or the third Tuesday of the month at the JCC Holland Campus. Give Matt a call today and let JFS be there for you and your family.

Molly Carr is CEO of JFS.

INDECENT MARCH 6-29

The Kavinoky Theatre, in collaboration with JRT, is presenting *Indecent* March 6 - 29. This "notorious" play by Sholem Asch, was performed originally in Yiddish and is famous because the New York City police raided the Broadway performance in 1973. This famous incident sparked the play *Indecent*, which will be performed at the Kavinoky Theatre, in collaboration with JRT, March 6 - March 29.



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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Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2

Sat Mar 7, 8pm

Sun Mar 8, 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Konrad Skolarski returns to perform the masterful, haunting Piano Concerto No. 2 in a program complemented by Debussy's dreamy Prelude to *Afternoon of a Faun*, and two works by Schmitt, *Musique en plein air* and the fabled *Oriane* and *The Prince of Love*.



Mozart and the Divine

Fri Mar 20, 10:30am

Sat Mar 21, 8pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Ray Ushikubo, piano

A triplet of Baroque, Classical, and Romantic masters featuring Mozart's delightful Piano Concerto No. 23, Bach's gallant "St. Anne Prelude & Fugue," and Scriabin's mystical Symphony No. 3, "The Divine Poem."



Fri Mar 27, 10:30am

Sat Mar 28, 8pm

John Morris Russell, conductor

Tight harmonies and soaring melodies from The Four Seasons and The Temptations to reimagined a cappella versions of Michael Jackson, Maroon 5, and more, veterans of Broadway's *Jersey Boys* and *Motown: The Musical* deliver a night to remember!

The Music of Grateful Dead



Tue Feb 25, 7:30pm

Bradley Thachuk, conductor

Tribute band

Crazy Fingers

joins in to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the "lost show" from St. Patrick's Day 1970, when the Grateful Dead jammed with the BPO.



2021
JUST ANNOUNCED!

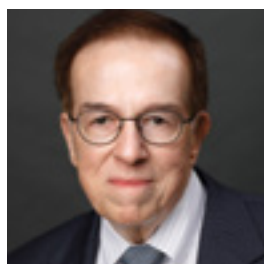
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The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

2020 OFFICERS AND NEW BOARD SPOTLIGHT

The following officers were elected to serve the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies for 2020.



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Donald M. Kohnstamm



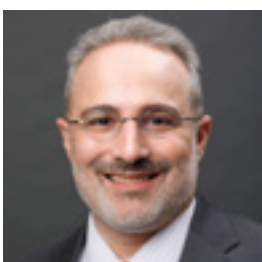
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The following new members have been elected to serve on the board for 2020.

Dr. Brian Snyder



Brian is a graduate of Northwestern University, and earned a medical degree from UB's School of Medicine. Dr. Snyder is currently the medical director of long-term care with Catholic Health, BLT & Southgate Medical Groups. He also serves on the Temple Beth Tzedek Board and resides in East Amherst.

David Stark



David earned a B.A. from Brandeis University in 1980, later graduating with a law degree from Boston University in 1983. Mr. Stark is currently a partner at Hodgson Russ, LLP and resides in Buffalo.

Richard Teibel
(Photo Not Available)

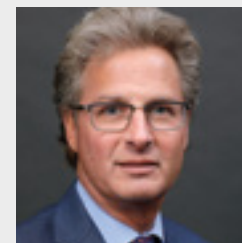
Rick is a 1979 graduate of UB's School of Management and is currently owner of and partner at The ZLC Group CPAs, LLC in Amherst. Mr. Teibel also serves on The Speed Compassion Foundation Board and is a resident of Williamsville.

Susan Freed-Oestreicher



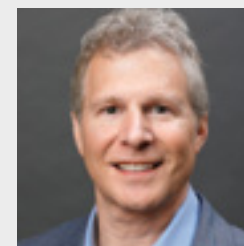
Susan received a B.S. from Boston University's School of Management in 1982 and is currently Vice President at M&T Bank in Buffalo. She also is immediate past president of The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo Board and is on the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council. Ms. Freed-Oestreicher is a resident of Williamsville.

Dr. Scott Goldman, D.M.D.



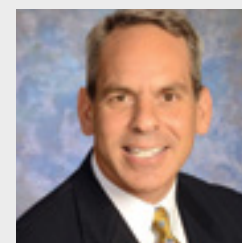
Scott is a retired dentist, who earned his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and later graduated from Boston University's School of Dentistry. Dr. Goldman also serves on the Board of Trustees at the Burchfield Penney Art Center and resides in Buffalo.

Eric Recocon



Eric is a 1990 graduate of UB's School of Law, furthering his education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Mr. Recocon is currently the Vice President of Development and Leasing with Benderson Development Company, LLC. He is a SUNY at Buffalo Advisory Committee member, an Advisory Council member of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and serves on the Holy Order Cemetery Corporation Board. Mr. Recocon resides in Williamsville.

Craig Small



Craig earned his bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in 1989, later graduating from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Mr. Small is currently an attorney at Small Law Firm in Buffalo and a resident of Williamsville.

HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER TRIP TO NYC EXPLORED EXHIBITION: *AUSCHWITZ. NOT LONG AGO. NOT FAR AWAY.*

By Elizabeth Schram

"It happened, therefore it can happen again: this is the core of what we have to say. It can happen, and it can happen everywhere."
– *Auschwitz survivor, Primo Levi*

This is the quote visitors read upon entering the exhibition, *Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away.*, housed at the Museum of Jewish Heritage located in New York City. On December 12th, the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) led a trip of teachers, community members and a Holocaust survivor to visit this powerful exhibit, which displays over 700 artifacts and 400 photographs, many of which highlight previously untold stories. The goal of this trip was to provide Buffalonians with the opportunity to have a rich learning experience at this world-renowned exhibit that would impact them and inspire them to share their experience with their families, friends, colleagues and students. The four dedicated teachers who attended this trip came from the Attica and Cassadaga Valley Central School Districts. The community members that attended were Ellen Weiss, Board Chair of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning and Ann Marie Carosella, President of the Holocaust Resource Center. The group was honored that Holocaust Survivor, Grigory Shershnevsky, joined the trip as well.

The most powerful part of the tour was when we reached the section about people who saved Jews during the Holocaust. At this point, Grig opened up and shared part of his story about how a non-Jewish, Polish woman took him in when he was an infant. Grig explained how grateful he was that she risked her life to save him, and also how incredibly strange it was when he had to go back to his biological father at the age of five, who was a complete stranger to him.

The opportunity to spend time with Grig added to the specialness of the day. Typically, when people do get the opportunity to meet a Holocaust Survivor, the Survivor is presenting his or her story to an audience. On this trip, it was heartwarming to see the group interact with him not only as a Holocaust Survivor, but as a husband, father, joke teller and friend. Upon returning to Buffalo, it was clear that our trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage was an impactful one.

The tour of the exhibit provided



the teachers with new artifacts, stories and enthusiasm for teaching this difficult subject. In addition, the teachers have new and deeper relationships with each other, with the ability to stay in touch and collaborate on their teaching. They also learned about HRC resources and conference opportunities that

can support their profession as well. Teacher, Jody Brydalski, reflected, "During our visit to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, I learned so much valuable information. I know I will be able to incorporate more stories to support my curriculum as I teach the Holocaust this year. For example, I know I will be including more conversation about the Roma people, since I was unaware that they were the second most-targeted group by the Nazis. There were many things that I did not know before our guided tour at Museum of Jewish Heritage. The tour of the Auschwitz Exhibit is something I will never forget."

Ellen Weiss, Board Chair of the

Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, added, "I would like to thank the HRC for organizing our visit to the Museum. We all benefitted from seeing the exhibit and hearing first hand from a Survivor. Today, more than ever, with the increase in anti-Semitism, it is critical that schools are teaching about the events leading up to and during the period of the Holocaust. Our youth need to learn from the mistakes of past generations. Now, the teachers that accompanied us on the visit will be able to retell stories and show photographs to help their students learn that tragedies, such as the Holocaust and other cases of discrimination and genocide, should never happen again."

Elizabeth Schram is Director of the Holocaust Resource Center.

JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER COURSES

COURSE A* MODERN ERA, DÉJÀ VU Jewish History of Early 20th Century



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6 SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 11:00 AM - 12:00
Sunday, February 2 through Sunday, March 8

COURSE B* THE JEWISH IDENTITY A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER & WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT OUR JEWISH IDENTITY



TWO
COURSES
OF
JEWISH
LEARNING!

"I'm Jewish." Am I, therefore, part of a race, an ethnic group, a nationality, or a religion? Am I a combination of two or more of these attributes? More broadly, what does being Jewish really mean? The answers are contained in the Book of Esther and its description of one of the Jewish people's most

6 SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM
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To register: **log-on to:** www.jewishdiscovery.org **or call/text** 716.400.1550
or email: info@jewishdiscovery.org

***Classes will be held at our NEW facility – 831 Maple Rd. (#110) in Williamsville**

Hadassah Offers Pray Tell and Book Club

Buffalo Hadassah plans many special programs throughout the year that attract different Hadassah members. In addition to these special programs there are two active groups that meet every month throughout the year. One is Pray Tell.

Pray Tell has changed its format several times depending on the interests of the members. This year there have been a variety of topics covered including Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews, reinterpreting the Book of Ruth, and Jewish traditions. There are recommended readings each month and various guest speakers have added value and insights into the selected topics. Rabbi Sara Rich spoke to the group about the Matriarchs in January. Pray Tell is facilitated by Carol Joseph. For more information about the group email pipersowners@yahoo.com

The other Hadassah group that meets regularly is the book club. They read a variety of genres within the scope of

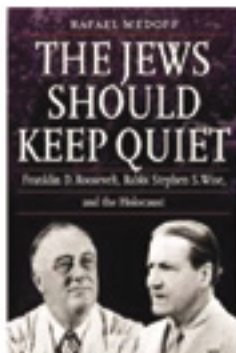


Jewish literature. Phyllis Steinberg has been facilitating this group for a number of years. Recently different Hadassah members have been proposing specific books for the club to read and have led the discussion for that book. It's been a tradition that before the discussions begin a Kosher treat is shared with the group which is somehow related to a theme in the book. The discussions are always lively and very interesting. **For more information about book club email phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com**

Save the Date!

May 15-17, 2020
The Rabbi Isaac Klein Scholar in Residence Weekend

Rafael Medoff
Author



Temple Beth Tzedek 1641 N Forest Road Williamsville

SUNDAY,
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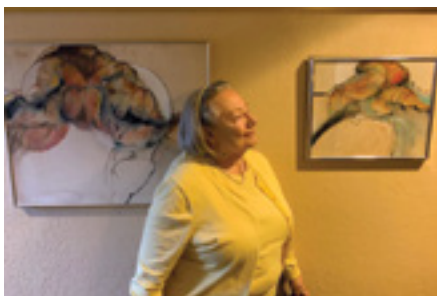
Madame Renaissance: RENATA LEFCOURT ART SHOW @ JCC BENDERSON OPENS MARCH 2

By Gunilla Kester

I call Renata Lefcourt, thinking of her love for music, art, and writing. Laughing, Renata tells me her name means “The Reborn.” Born into turbulent and dangerous times in Germany, Renata was a first and only child. I am aware of many firsts: her first invitation, as a convert, to have an art show in a Jewish space, and her first art show as woman, mother, and grandmother. I am aware of courage, humor, and resiliency.

When she first arrived in America, a young wife and mother, she relished her new freedom and explored it in art lessons. “I used to draw in the bomb shelters during WWII in Germany.” She started her education at Rosary Hill (Daemen College) and then completed a BFA at UB in Graphic Design. When she first applied, the Head of the Department responded: “Your work’s very nice, but why don’t you go back to your pots and pans.” Despite his discouragement, she entered the program.

Renata’s art is both representational and symbolic. She has many landscapes. During a lifetime of traveling, she always brought her sketchbook. Other times, she says, art renders visible what is hidden. In one of her most stunning paintings, Renata uses three music stands symbolizing her family during the War. Against a background of conflagration, they are neatly



Renata Lefcourt

drawn, each individual yet connected by mysterious red lines which seem to illustrate their relationships with each other and the world around them.

Renata will be exhibiting her work, a retrospect of pieces she has done throughout her lifetime, in the Bunis Family Art Gallery at the JCC Benderson Family Building March 2 – April 29, 2020. The gallery located on the 2nd floor is free and open to the community during JCC business hours.

HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER

8th Grade Students from Tapestry Charter School visit Temple Beth Zion and hear from Holocaust Survivor Martin Lewin and volunteers Leslie Kramer and Kitty Goldman to learn about Judaism, the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.



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Friday, February 7th at 7pm

Temple Beth Zion
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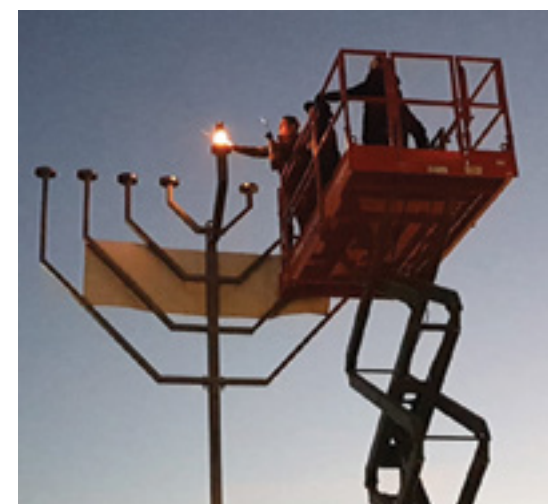
Special Oneg Shabbat to Follow

Happy Hanukkah

Buffalo Israel Experience



Chabad of Buffalo



Park-Kadimah



Temple Beth Zion



5780!

Jewish Buffalo celebrated Hanukkah in style his past December. On these two pages, you will see photos from Hanukkah events held by the Buffalo Israel Experience 2018 group at Rob & Shira Goldberg's home; the lighting of the giant menorah at Tops International by Chabad of Buffalo; A Hanukkah Shabbat service and a Havdalah service at Temple Beth Zion; A festive Hanukkah Party at Park School for the Park-Kadimah Scholars; a celebration at The Jewish Discovery Center; Young Israel's children's event; Shir Shalom's Hanukkah at Barnes and Noble, and a FROZEN Shabbat Hanukkah; and two of Congregation Havurah's Christmas Day volunteers at a church.

Congregation Havurah



Jewish Discovery Center



Young Israel



Congregation Shir Shalom



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The Buffalo Jewish Federation thanks and honors all of our donors to the 2019 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. Because of your generosity, our local and national agencies are able to provide much-needed services to ensure vibrant Jewish life here in Western New York, in Israel and around the world. The following names are people who have contributed to the 2019 Campaign through 1/10/2020.

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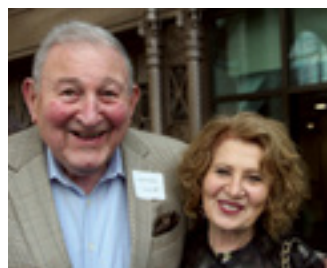
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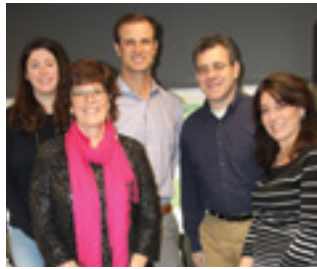
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Remembering Seymour Goodman

Seymour Ira Goodman passed away December 28, after a decade of debilitating cognitive and mobility infirmities. That said, for close to 88 years, Seymour and his wife Marian (née Farash; deceased August, 2018) lived a life rich in friendship, family, business success, volunteer enrichment, and travel. The following obituary was written by his daughter Barbara Goodman Stover.

The son of Bertha Bernstein Goodman, a second generation German Jew, and Nathan Goodman, an Eastern European immigrant, Seymour Goodman spent his youth living in rentals on Buffalo's West Side, as well as at his maternal grandparents' boarding house in Crystal Beach, Ontario. After serving as a navigator trainer in the Army Air Force, he took advantage of the GI Bill to pursue a business degree at the University of Buffalo, then worked as an advertising salesman for Ellis Advertising.

In March, 1953, Seymour married Marian in front of a graceful seated Buddha in the Chinese Room of the former Park Lane Restaurant. Years later, when Seymour partnered with his brother Neil and switched from advertising to hospitality, Seymour and Neil would come to own the historic restaurant. In 1972, after a fire destroyed the landmark (later rebuilt in the form of an English public house) the Buddha moved to Marian and Seymour's Park Lane condominium where it graced their living room for 47 years.

Though ownership of the Park Lane carried panache, Seymour and Neil found their greatest success in the breakfast business. In the early 1960s, Uncle John's Pancake House, a chain out of Santa Barbara, CA, was looking to expand eastward, and the brothers bought in. Ultimately they came to own or manage seven franchises across Western New York, Rochester and the Finger Lakes area. Among other fraternal and industry groups, Seymour was a member of the Masons, and the International Food Service Executives Association. He was also a member of Temple Beth El, originally on Richmond Avenue, later in Amherst.

In 1955, Seymour and Marian became the parents of a daughter, Barbara Ellen, and two years later, a son, Neil Michael. Both siblings begat grandchildren, Elisabeth Sarah Shovers, Caroline Rebecca Goodman, Charlotte Grace Goodman, and Nathan Stuart Goodman. They were also second parents to their niece, Karen Ellen



Barbara Goodman Stover with her father, Seymour Goodman

Goodman of Buffalo, who helped care for them as their illnesses accelerated.

As the pancake houses prospered, Marian and Seymour took advantage of the travel industry, which was exploding simultaneously. During his advertising career, Seymour had won promotional trips to Caribbean islands, but in 1964 the couple boarded a B.O.A.C. flight to Great Britain, and cemented their love with international travel. Over the next decades their passports were stamped with marks from every continent except Antarctica; particular favorites were Italy and Israel, the later of which they visited on multiple occasions, spending time with Marian's cousins and working on an Army base. Their last overseas visit occurred in 2005 when the couple, with their daughter, visited India for two weeks. "I want to see the Taj Mahal before I die," Seymour replied when asked, "Why there?"

A lifelong Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres fan, Seymour also enjoyed yellow polos, red wine, droll sarcasm, and late night television; after working long hours at the pancake houses or the Park Lane, he would make himself a bowl of raisin bran cereal and settle into his chair for the Johnny Carson Show, or later, Jon Stewart. At a time when parents were supposed to be shielding their children from drugs, sex, and rock 'n roll, he was promoting Rowan and Martin's "Laugh In" and sneaking kahlua into the kids' milkshakes. Hidden in a sock drawer was a photograph of him posing with the 50s bombshell Jayne Mansfield.

After retiring from the restaurant business, Seymour tried his hand at being a tax advisor for H&R Block, a second

career that went bust quickly; he followed that act by volunteering at the Buffalo Zoo where he became an expert on elephants and giraffes, and delighted in taking marmots and other small animals on school visits. When his granddaughters were young, one of the highlights of the summer was Zoo Camp, an overnight stay complete with camel rides.

It was probably as a grandparent that Seymour most enjoyed himself; in the late 1980s and early 90s he and Marian

rented a home on Hilton Head Island each Memorial Day weekend. One unforgettable incident involved Seymour taking Lizzie, Caroline and Charlotte to "pet the alligators" that sunned themselves on the bank of the water traps adjoining the property. Fortunately wiser minds prevailed.

Though almost all his family and friends predeceased him, Seymour will be mourned by—in addition to those aforementioned—his sister-in-law Muriel Markel Goodman, his daughter-in-law Emily Whiting, and his cousins Mimi and Grant Swados. In addition, he will be remembered by his nephew Jeffrey Goodman, his deceased wife's nephews Bob and Chic Lasser, his good friends Norman and Gert Cohen. He will also be missed by many home health aides who cared for him and Marian in their final years, particularly Kristin Laux. His brother Neil was with him as he expired.

Seymour's body was donated to the University of Buffalo Medical School. A memorial service for Seymour and Marian will be held in the spring.

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 December 16–January 19*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Carolee Arbeit

Dr. Melvin Brothman

Esther (Dolly) Goldman

Bernice Goldstein

Marianne Goldstein

Melvin Golub

Seymour Goodman

Lillian B. Hirschfeld

Sara Joseph

Dr. Joseph Krasner

Ludmila Lipovich

Dr. Mark Newberger

Lawrence Oppenheimer

Jerome (Jay) Schiller

Clifford M. Swadron

Lois Miller Weinstein



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.

It's Behind Us...Or Is It?

By Hallie Morrison Block

The war was over. It was 1946 or 47. Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini had died ignominious deaths. Japan was busy converting their warrior proclivities into peaceful and high-tech pursuits. We had nothing to fear from Russia. China was an overpopulated and underachieving country. We kids at Lafayette High School in Buffalo said, "Goodbye" to War stamps, ration books, scrap drives and knitting squares for afghans and devoted ourselves to learning the latest Hit Parade songs and seeing every movie that appeared.

Most of us enjoyed our classes but welcomed the diversion of assembly programs: football assemblies, concerts by the school orchestra, and listening to speakers. One day, we gathered in the school's auditorium. Freshmen sat in the horseshoe shaped balcony and we, the upper classmen, sat downstairs.

The speaker's name was Mr. Aptheker. If I ever knew his background, his first name or his credentials, I can't think of them at this moment. He started to speak and I started to become very uncomfortable. He spewed anti-Semitic epithets. No one moved. The principal of the school didn't move. The teachers didn't move and the only movement from me was that of my body sinking lower and lower in my seat. It was my first (and last) personal experience with overt anti-Semitism.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw him. Sam Shatkin, the only Jewish member of



Hallie Morrison Block with her newest great-grandchild

the football team, was walking slowly—very slowly—from the rear of the auditorium toward the stage. As if on

cue, every other member of the team fell into line behind him to participate in the slow processional that approached the

stage and then climbed the few stairs to stand quietly at stage right front. They simply stood there: didn't move, didn't speak.

Those broad-shouldered boys must have presented a menacing threat, because Aptheker briefly continued his rant and then disappeared, stage left. We students were dismissed and the incident was behind us. It was noted in the newspapers. Our football team, heroes before the incident, became even more heroic.

The following week, there was a new occupant of the stage. Dr. Joseph L. Fink, Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion—my congregation in Buffalo, appeared onstage. Again, I have no recollection of what he said. I just remember that I felt a lot better!

Native Buffalonian Hallie Morrison Block lives at Brooksby Village Senior Living Community in Peabody, Massachusetts. She wrote this piece as part of a "Writers Helping Writers" program. She was married to Irving H. Block, Jr, always called, "Buddy," and moved from their home on Chatham Ave. in Buffalo to Oakbrook Condo in Williamsville after he died. She then moved to Peabody to be near one of her daughters and lives happily in a retirement home. She is blessed with three grown children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She chose teaching as her profession in Buffalo --first at Temple Beth Zion Nursery School and then at Kadimah School.

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What I Thought I Knew
By Alice Eve Cohen



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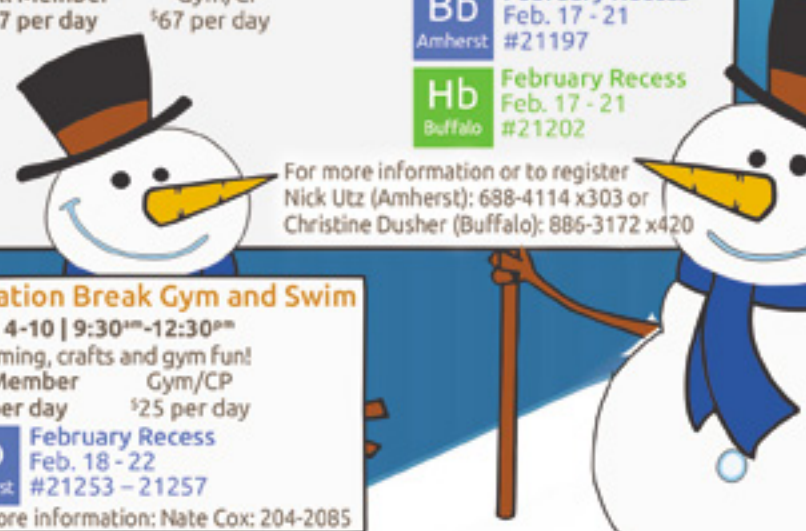
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When school's out for holidays or conference days, the JCC is in! Daily activities typically include a field trip, gym, crafts, drama, cooking, and other games. Bring a lunch, sneakers, swim suit and towel each day.
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Nick Utz (Amherst): 688-4114 x303 or
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Full Member \$20 per day
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Bb Amherst February Recess Feb. 18 - 22 #21253 - 21257
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JCC of Greater Buffalo

March 20-26, 2020
Amherst Dipson Theatre
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Purchase tickets at www.bijff.com

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Sunday, March 15, 6:00pm
Join the celebration as we kick-off our 35th Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival. Dinner catered by Buffalo Kosher Gourmet, live music and entertainment, spotlights on special events during the Festival, giveaways and more. Don't miss out.
Benderson Family Building

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Amherst Dipson Theatre



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