

The Award Winning

» CELEBRATE AMERICA'S
244TH BIRTHDAY!

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

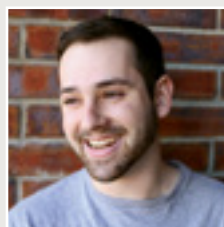
BUFFALO, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | WWW.BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG

JULY 2020 | TAMMUZ-AV 5780

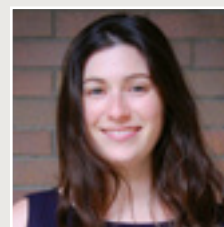
A DIFFERENT KIND



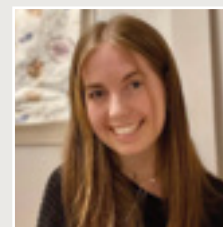
(4)



LOOK:
GIVING
BACK
(4)



INSIDE:
A TIME
OF CHANGE
(9)



DON'T MISS:
DNA TESTING
MATTERS
(13)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



**CONNECT
WITH**

Buffalo's best writers

who share their knowledge and insider tips on WNY

Local influencers

and the stories behind their successes

**Your neighbors &
the community**

doing their part for the Best of WNY

12 ISSUES
for only

\$12

Order with code **MORE20** and **\$4** will be donated to **FeedMore wny**
(Offer expires 7/31/20)

Call 1-855-MYSPREE (1-855-697-7733) or visit BuffaloSpree.com



CAMPAIGN for JEWISH BUFFALO

OUR VISION

A robust, caring and connected Jewish Buffalo where every Jew and their loved ones can access a welcoming and thriving network of communities, engage in meaningful collective Jewish experiences, and explore their own personal Jewish journey.

MAKING AN IMPACT

JEWISH
EXPERIENCE,
ENGAGEMENT
& LEARNING

CARING
FOR JEWISH
BUFFALO

PROMOTING
A CIVIL AND
JUST SOCIETY

CONNECTION
TO ISRAEL
AND GLOBAL
JEWRY

PRESERVING
OUR LEGACY

SUSTAINING &
SECURING OUR
COMMUNITY

YOUR GENEROSITY

Allows the Buffalo Jewish Federation to make our vision a reality. Over the next several months we will highlight one of our impact areas to illustrate some of the exciting things happening because of your support in our community.

JULY 2020 SPOTLIGHT : PROMOTING A CIVIL AND JUST SOCIETY JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Together, with so many organizations in our area, the JCRC works to build bridges by communication and collaboration. Here are just a few of the recent activities that have taken place.



VALENTINO DIXON DRAW AND TALK WITH ME VIRTUALLY

- June 1, 2020 over 450 people were inspired and educated by Valentino, a Buffalo based artist, exoneree and criminal justice reform advocate.
- JCRC in partnership with the JCC and Buffalo Public Schools offered a virtual exhibit of his artwork and Q&A about his story.



A VIRTUAL PASSOVER OF HOPE PASSOVER SHEINI

PASSOVER OF HOPE

- May 7, 2020 over 60 people attended the virtual Passover Sheini Program, which was viewed over 600 times on Facebook.
- Faith leaders offered inspirational messages highlighting the themes of journeying from darkness and pain to light and hope.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

- A webpage has been created focusing on local county voting and generic election-related information, including absentee ballot voting in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- buffalojewishfederation.org/vote2020



STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

- May 31, 2020 JCRC issued a statement to the community and provided resources about what Jewish Buffalo can do to help the African American communities and help stop systemic racism.
- June 7, 2020 JCRC participated in the WNY Day of Prayer and Reflection for Peace, Power, Prayer and Justice.

Caring for each other is what the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo makes possible, every minute of every day. And we've been doing this for over a century. Your support helps us continue the important work of the JCRC and so much more.

Please consider making your gift today:

[BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG/DONATE](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/donate)

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

By any and all measures, this has already been a different kind of summer. We are seeing it everywhere. No overnight camp for kids, some closed municipal swimming pools, The Ride for Roswell completely changed, Garden Walk, Allentown Art Festival and the Elmwood Village festival, Taste of Buffalo and the Shaw Festival all cancelled, and Chautauqua Institution featuring virtual lectures, concerts and events, which you can read about from its President Michael Hill on page 32.

But all is not lost, and our Buffalo Jewish Community has pulled together in spirited Buffalo fashion to create a meaningful summer from Zoom Shabbat candle lighting to Zoom JRT performances, to an adapted Camp Centerland at the JCC to sports, family and kid-friendly activities, schools, and so much more. In this issue, President Leslie Kramer discusses how the community leader weekly Zoom meetings have kept us informed, engaged and connected (page 3). We learn how three college students have managed to intern for Federation even with the office being closed (page 4), and we discover how Federation's Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning (CJEL) is creating opportunities (pages 10-11) to keep families and kids occupied, entertained and having fun.

This summer is also different because the ugly specter of racism has again raised its head, with an immediate, world-wide response. Rabbi Sara Rich and Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty address this issue on page 6; Rabbi Jonathan Freirich and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein are among 11 signers of a letter (page 7) originally printed in *The Buffalo News* decrying the brutal murder of George Floyd, as well as urging all of us to work together to create a more just community, and Sheri Rodman articulates an ethos of a new generation of younger Jews (page 9). And finally, our JCRC's co-chair Nina Lukin implores us all to vote, resister to vote or work to get others to vote this November.

To quote the wise Rabbi Tarfon, "You are not required to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." The work of repairing the world will not be complete today, tomorrow or even within our lifetimes – but each one of us has the power to be part of the healing. If we indeed believe in *B'zelem Elohim*—that everyone is created in God's image—

we must continue to work to make it so. Have a safe, meaningful and healthy summer.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Some Community Members Sharing A Different Kind of Summer: (From left-standing) Mike Steklof with CJEL is planning many Virtual events; Ethel Melzer has been working out with the JCC Virtual classes; JCC Executive Director Rick Zakalik is managing a phased-in re-opening of the two buildings. (From left-seated) Sofia Reisman is going to an adapted Camp Centerland; Mitch Flynn will be participating in a very different Ride for Roswell; and Hailey and Gabe Epstein are making plans for a summer without overnight camp. Photo by Ellen Goldstein

- 1 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Impact Report
- 3 Letter from the President
By Leslie Shuman Kramer
- 4-5 A Different Kind of Summer *By Leah Kramer*
- 6-7 Religious Responses to Recent Events
- 8 JCRC: We Stand in Solidarity and We Vote!
- 9 A Time of Change *By Sheri Rodman*
- 10-11 A CJEL Summer
- 12-13 Rosenhoch, Shatkin to Lead 2021 Campaign
- 13 Genetic Testing Can Save Lives
By Talia Stoffman
- 14 Karla Wiseman Retires from the JCC
- 15 Camp Centerland is Open for Summer 2020
- 16 Mazal Tov!
- 19 TBT Welcomes Rabbi Rosenbaum
- 20 5 Things You Can Do to Repair the World in July
Where in Jewish BFLO?
- 21 *Special Advertising Supplement: Mazal Tov!*
- 22 Rabbi's Column *By Rabbi Adam Scheldt*
- 24 Hillel Students Choose Buffalo
- 25 *Special Advertising Supplement: Senior Living*
- 27 *Special Advertising Supplement: Dining Guide*
- 28-29 Organizations & Synagogue Listings
- 31 In Memoriam
- 32 Not The Last Word *By Michael E. Hill*



Published by
Buffalo Jewish Federation
 2640 North Forest Road
 Getzville, NY 14068
 716-204-2241
www.buffalojewishfederation.org


BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

CEO/Executive Director.....Rob Goldberg
 President.....Leslie Shuman Kramer
 Editor.....Ellen S. Goldstein
 Intern.....Leah Kramer



The Buffalo Jewish Federation is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America and the American Jewish Press Association

Produced by



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

Members of


Submissions:

Submit editorial stories, photos, and calendar items by the 1st of the preceding month of issue to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org.

To Advertise:

To advertise, call Cynthia Oppenheimer at 716-783-9119 x2240. Ad space & materials are due by the 10th of each month prior to publication. For a rate card and any additional information, please email Cynthia Oppenheimer coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com or Barbara Macks bmacks@buffalospre.com.

To Subscribe:

To subscribe, visit www.buffalojewishfederation.org and click on "JJWNY subscription." Free for Western New York area residents and donors to the Campaign. Non-resident subscription is \$36 for 12 issues, payable to The Jewish Journal.

The Jewish Journal of WNY (JJWNY) reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time. The Buffalo Jewish Federation and Buffalo Spree Publishing, Inc. are not liable for the content or errors appearing in the advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied. The *JJWNY* does not assume responsibility for the kashruth of any product or service advertised in this paper. Editorials, columns, advertisements, agency reports and other outside articles do not necessarily represent the views of the newspaper or the Buffalo Jewish Federation, but rather express the view of the writer.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it "illegal to advertise "based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

On Leadership

I've been thinking a lot about Leadership lately.

We've always told our kids, since they were little, how important and hard it is to be and find a good leader. As we have struggled through, and now seek to emerge from, a three-month-long shutdown, we have looked to our leaders from all aspects of our lives to guide and direct us, and to encourage us and help us believe that we will get through this difficult time. We've received letters from University Presidents, new rules from job supervisors and we've adapted to changes at Wegmans that brings to mind scenes from the dystopian story *The Handmaid's Tale*. All over the world we are reminded just how important strong leadership is in a time of great need. Some leaders are demonstrating hope and making substantial progress, and some are falling short of the task at hand. We yearn for leaders who are truthful and unite us, and whose convictions and goals align with ours. It is no coincidence that my son named his new "pandemic puppy" Winston.

Many of us, like Moses in Egypt, have been unexpectedly-or reluctantly- called upon to lead in this seminal moment in time. Here in Jewish Buffalo, our agencies and synagogues find themselves navigating around CDC, state and local guidelines, and worry and concern from their communities. I'm so proud of the Jewish Federation's weekly Zoom gatherings of agency and synagogue professionals and volunteers, which has given many leaders from across the community the opportunity to come together, share ideas and fears, and learn from one another. Over the past 12 weekly calls (as of this writing) we have also grown closer to one another, finding common ground and helping each other succeed in building a stronger, more cooperative and caring Jewish Buffalo. And these leaders have shown up. They continue to show up for all of us: to lead, to nurture, and to help us, as my husband says, "get through the knothole."

There are different kinds of leaders, and different styles. Some common threads are conviction of ideas, passion for a cause or goal and the ability to bring people together around them. But leaders are nothing without their people. Each member of any community is an important piece of the puzzle that makes that community tick. Whether we are "leaders" or not, each of us has the voice



Leslie Kramer leading one of the Agency & Synagogues Leadership gatherings via Zoom. Look for her in the 2nd row at the left.

to make a difference. These past few weeks we've seen the power and possibility that comes from people coming together over a cause or experience. A *New York Times* article from June 3 entitled "Today's Activism: Spontaneous, Leaderless, but Not Without Aim" highlights some of the challenges in the digital age when movements start with ideas germinating or proclamations made online but within which there are no clear leaders. In these cases there is often confusion and chaos. But I'm hopeful that people, when they believe deeply in something, will find the path that supports and amplifies that belief.

Sometimes leaders arise because of their actions in the moment, for knowing the difference between right and wrong, justice and injustice. And sometimes it's the individual, the puzzle piece who is not a leader but who believes so strongly in her convictions, who takes the action that changes the world.

I love the story of Shifrah and Puah, the two brave Egyptian midwives who, in the Exodus narrative, followed their own convictions and defied a mean and powerful Pharaoh whose edict called for the killing of all male Hebrew babies. They famously refused to comply, at great danger to themselves, and saved those boys, one of whom was Moses. Everyone knows about our great leader Moses, but how many of us grew up knowing or

remembering these midwives' names? Imagine what would be if they had not taken such bold action; if that had not followed their own morality at such a critical moment.

When we follow our own convictions, we find our community.

These last few months have brought our world through a truly global experience. Because of modern means of communication, a mobile society and a global economy, countries and peoples all over the world find ourselves sharing, in varying degrees, certain experiences such as fighting a deadly virus, facing economic hardship, confronting racial and other inequality and now having to move forward as we grapple with those challenges. In these historic times, each of us has the chance to make our voices heard.

It is in this spirit that we have recently announced a "Women Leading" workshop retreat, designed for all current female governors of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Board. For two days in October, both in person and virtually, we will deepen relationships and trust among the women, develop and enhance leadership skills and learn from Jewish text, experts and each other. I look forward to continuing a long history of leadership development through our Jewish Federation and spending time with this passionate, committed group.

Finally, I recently participated in a Zoom meeting with past recipients of the Ruth and Milton Kahn Women's Leadership Award. We discussed the possibility of skipping this year to award this honor because, due to the pandemic, our traditional mode of presentation and celebration won't be possible. I am thrilled that we unanimously decided on the contrary, that of all years, this year of challenge and change DEMANDS our recognition of emerging leaders. It is in difficult times when we face the tough challenges that true leaders step up. We look forward to reviewing all nominees and selecting this year's winners, both for the women's award and The Ann and Meyer Riwehmen Men's Leadership Award. We look forward to hearing their voices, and to entering the future under their leadership, together as community.

If there is someone you would like to nominate for consideration for these awards and who meets the following criteria, has potential for future community leadership, has been involved in the work of Federation and/or its constituent agencies, is able to attend a future JFNA conference, has been active in the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, is under the age of 45—please contact Joan Kwiatkowski at joan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Leslie Shuman Kramer is President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

A Different Kind

Interning at Buffalo Jewish Federation

By Leah Kramer

This summer, the Buffalo Jewish Federation staff welcomed three



Leah Kramer

interns to their team: Ben Wolfson, Hannah Slabodkin, and me, Leah Kramer. Each of us are natives to the Buffalo Jewish community and rising seniors respectively at the University of Michigan, Princeton, and the University of Wisconsin. Ben is interning with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL), Hannah with the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), and I am working with the Communications and Social Media Department and the *Jewish Journal*.

With uncertainty currently plaguing the United States at every turn, we young adults share our gratitude and excitement about having the opportunity to work in, learn from, and give back to a community that they have been a part of our whole lives, and has given us all



Hannah Slabodkin

so much.

Ben, who is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Digital Studies from the University of Michigan, feels that the Jewish community here in Buffalo helped shape him into who he is today. "The Federation is doing amazing work to help engage and enrich the lives of Jews of all ages in the community, and the opportunity to be a part of it is extremely gratifying and humbling." He said.

Hannah is interning for the Holocaust Resource Center and will be assisting with projects that align with both her personal and academic interests. "I have a number of projects to look forward to!" she said. "That said, perhaps the



Ben Wolfson

most exciting is my helping to plan a virtual presentation of "**Speak Truth to Power**," a play adapted from the book by Kerry Kennedy. This production aims to bring attention to continuing injustices and to urge individuals to involve themselves in the fights against human rights violations. I believe such messages to be especially timely."

I am studying Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Wisconsin and am excited about the opportunity to learn from professionals who use the tools I study at school in their everyday lives. As much as I can learn in a classroom, real life experience is unmatched. I hope to pursue a career in entertainment. Understanding how people react and engage with material is crucial to the world of communication, and I look forward to continuing to observe how the community here in



Photos clockwise from top left: Women's Zoom Shabbat Candle lighting; Shavuot gifts to Holocaust Survivors from JFS and HRC; CJEL Zoom singing; JCC Early Childhood staff parade signs; TBZ child's art project; photos of CSS members on seats in the empty sanctuary; (Woman in yellow) CJEL goes to a farm; Ozzy Abramovich at a PJ Library meet-up; Dr. Irwin Gelman at the interfaith rally in memory of George Floyd.

Buffalo reacts and engage with what is around them, both Jewishly and otherwise.

Ben, Hannah and I each are so aware that our intern experiences changed due to the coronavirus, specifically with the large switch to remote working. However, we all have all learned to see the positive, despite of course missing the small, treasured moments that can only come with an in-person working environment. I'm ultimately just super grateful for the opportunity to work for and give back to such a warm and welcoming community. Despite it being a summer that had to be altered, I think it's going to be a great one.

Leah Kramer, a rising senior at the University of Wisconsin, worked remotely in her home in Buffalo on this issue of the Jewish Journal and the weekly My Jewish Buffalo emails.

of Summer

WNY Day of Prayer and Reflection
6-7-20



By Leah Kramer

The end of May and beginning of June spurred conversation throughout the United States that centered around one thing: ending police brutality and racism in America. On Sunday, June 7th, Western New York hosted a Day of Prayer and Reflection in Martin Luther King Park. The goal of the gathering was to bring peace, power, policy, and justice through listening to the voices of the diverse community here in Buffalo. Many organizations throughout the city partnered on the gathering, including the NAACP, Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Family Service, Congregation Shir Shalom, and the National Federation for Just Communities (NFJC). The event was moving, spiritual, respectful, and inspiring. It showed how strong people are when they come together and unify against oppression and unfair treatment. Each speaker brought unique points and perspective, and demonstrated how powerful it is to simply listen to one another.



47 ASCOT CIRCLE

47 Ascot Circle - Exciting and beautifully maintained, this Country French residence is situated on a sprawling cul-de-sac setting in the Transit and Williamsville East School district. Some special features included are: central air, new furnace and siding within the past 3 years, hardwoods in bedrooms & family room, updated kitchen & baths, granite counters, stainless appliances, all replacement windows, master suite with separate dressing area, first floor laundry, and a fabulous yard with stone patio.



BONNIE CLEMENT

Licensed Associate RE Broker
O: 633-0300 C: 553-8384



Small Law Firm
1904 Liberty Building
Buffalo, NY 14202

אינז'ורד ?



Small 847-2600
LAW FIRM

Personal Injury Attorney • Small Firm, Big Difference

Religious Leaders Respond to Recent Events

These two pages feature responses from some Western New York religious leaders to the killing of George Floyd, May 25 in Minneapolis. Letters from a Hillel rabbi and a Presbyterian minister are on this page. Page 7 features a joint interfaith letter from 11 multi-faith clergy and organizational leaders including Rabbi Jonathan Freirich of Temple Beth Zion, and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom, which was published in *The Buffalo News* June 14 with permission of the authors.

Pursuing the Ways of Peace

By Rabbi Sara Rich

As Jews, caring for one another feels fundamental to who we are. We have internalized the biblical teachings: “You shall not wrong nor oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt” (Exod. 22:20) and “Love your neighbor as yourself, I am the Eternal” (Lev. 19:18). These feel like core concepts in our understanding of what it means to be Jewish. But, as Jews, we do not just act from a place of feelings. We are guided by *halacha*, Jewish law. In order to answer the question of “What’s next?” for us as Jews in this critical moment of change in America, we turn to over 2000 years of legal discourse.



Rabbi Sara Rich

For most of this time period, Jews had a tight communal structure and clear definitions of who was in and who was out. The laws were clear about the obligations to support members of the community and, before I share my thoughts about our responsibilities to others, let us remind ourselves of our responsibility to Jews of Color within our communities. We cannot pride ourselves on diversity and inclusion without listening to their voices and making changes in areas where we have fallen short.

Navigating external cultural boundaries has been a topic in Jewish law for generations. As a minority in the places where they settled, often an oppressed minority, Jews had to contend with how to relate to their neighbors. In areas where the obligation to care for others was limited to just Jews, the ancient rabbis developed a new principle that aimed higher.

In the Jerusalem Talmud, Tractate Gittin, it states: “We provide for the gentiles’ poor with Israel’s poor, we visit gentiles’ sick with Israel’s sick, and we

bury the gentiles’ dead with Israel’s dead, due to the ways of peace (*mipnei darchei shalom*).”

Although these benevolent obligations were originally only required within the Jewish community, this teaching expands this requirement to non-Jewish neighbors. The rationale provided is a concept called *mipnei darchei shalom* – in the pursuit of peace, and it appears in other areas of Jewish law. It means going beyond the letter of the law to support positive feelings and relationships.

There is much to appreciate about this concept. We cannot ignore the people around us who are in need. If there are ways that we can help create peace in our communities, we must act. But there are shortcomings to this idea as well. Today, our communal boundaries are more fluid, and our obligation extends beyond our immediate communities. We do not strive to merely keep the peace between us and our neighbors, or act with kindness out of self-preservation. We must act *mipnei darchei tzedek*, in the ways of **justice**. The last month has revealed much injustice and pain – more than we previously knew or wished to acknowledge. We are continuing to learn what the needs are in our society and where there is injustice in our current systems. Let us pledge to stand by our neighbors, for the sake of peace, and for the sake of justice.

Rabbi Sara Rich is Director of Hillel of Buffalo.

A Letter to the Jewish Community

From Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Dear Friends,

Given the strange suspension of life we are just coming out of, though are not yet completely out of, it seems an excellent opportunity to consider what kind of world we are shaping and re-entering. Many thanks to the Jewish Federation for lifting up this theme in this newsletter.

The dramatic impact of the pandemic from loss of life to loss of jobs in record numbers as well as the simultaneous movement for racial equity and justice in the wake of George Floyd’s brutal death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer has set in motion forces for change that perhaps no one could have predicted. Not to mention we are in the last months of a presidential election year. Surely the candidates will be using these events to appeal to voters not just to be elected to the White House but to positions of leadership from city government to the United States Congress. It is truly an opportunity to reshape and/or reaffirm our local and national priorities for policies and programs that affect every American.

Here are a few things to keep in mind in the midst of this season of flux and change. Our national awareness and conscience have been disturbed and awakened. Those protesting in our streets have maintained a largely peaceful vigil for justice. Many if not most of them are young, born into a world of 9/11 terror and mass shootings our elected leaders have largely failed to do anything to prevent from reoccurring. We are hearing as we haven’t heard since the 1960s the voice of a generation cry out. Older Americans would do well to listen.

1) The first and most precious means to strengthen our neighborhoods and nation is to exercise the right to vote, to seek candidates who pledge to unite the country and promise an end to systemic racism and the stoking of fear and prejudice that have long divided us.

2) Financial and volunteer partnerships with organizations that improve the quality of life on the East Side of Buffalo are now being formed. These need to be strengthened and followed through on in post-pandemic life. Back to Basics, Stop the Violence, Habitat for Humanity are organizations that are making a difference.

3) White privilege continues to blind many in positions of power and authority. Excellent resources are available to educate ourselves about this barrier to equitable socio-economic



Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

systems. *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* is an excellent title to start with.

4) The National Federation for Just Communities is overseeing the Healing Circle movement, the goal of which is to get people together who usually might not encounter one another and build upon the bonds of our common humanity. The program has traction among a wide range and diversity of churches, synagogues and mosques in WNY. Sheltering in place has put a halt on this program. As we return to the new normal, Healing Circles will hopefully expand to include more religious communities.

The Bible we read at Westminster and the faith we live by commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us rejoin our hearts and minds to this great principle of the Abrahamic faith traditions. Not only did Jesus identify this as the second half of the Greatest Commandment, he routinely reached out to the poor and marginalized often even to those outside of his own faith tradition. His Sermon on the Mount that starts with the Beatitudes lifts up those who are blessed—they are not the ones we might expect: the wise, the wealthy, and the worthy—but a long list of humble, disenfranchised, long-suffering, loyal to their faith servants of God. The world has been turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic and the cry for racial justice. That’s the world Jesus’ followers are called to navigate with the compass of the Gospel.

Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty is Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. This letter was written June 22, 2020.

Interfaith Clergy: *George Floyd: “I Can’t Breathe”*

Everyone deserves to breathe. This is not a privilege. This is a fundamental right.

The death of George Floyd on May 25th in Minneapolis has left us all gasping for breath. For eight minutes and forty-six seconds he was pressed under the knee of police officer Derek Chauvin, unable to perform this basic function. This time frame is frozen in our collective memory, a reminder of what we need to do to prevent similar incidents from ever happening again in our society.

We are grappling with two viruses: The Coronavirus and, far worse, the virus of Racism that has become a crippling chronic disease in our nation. Black Americans are, all too often, dehumanized at the hands of this societal virus.



Yes, we have repeatedly said ‘enough is enough’ only to witness the cycle of police brutality and anti-black murders continue year after year. Again, and again these types of injustices have occurred without the faith communities rising in unison to stop such inhumane acts.

Far too often, the faith communities have been silent about this carnage.

That stops now. We, the religious voices of Western New York, are committed to change and do our part to make a difference. All our faith traditions teach us to love our neighbors, to lift up the aggrieved, and to protect life. How could we have been so blind to the continued oppression and subjugation of our brothers and sisters in the African American community?

The Covid-19 pandemic has prevented us from gathering in traditional ways. It has curtailed our celebrations of Passover, Easter, and Ramadan. It has put masks on our faces for the brief moments that we may have been together, if at all.

The cold-blooded murder of George Floyd has reminded us that there are masks, many in our communities, have been forced to wear that are far opaque



Rally at Buffalo City Hall in June

and more sinister than the ones currently on our faces. This mask is a real cancer in our country. This mask has been designed not to allow us to take a breath, but to take it away.

We come together as a multi-faith, multi-ethnic and multi-racial community of leaders to pledge to build personal and communal relationships so that all of us are more connected between our groups. We will work moment by

moment, conversation by conversation, to build the Beloved Community that we need with a foundation of justice for everyone, that Buffalo may become what it has always aspired to be: ‘A City of Good Neighbors’.

Unless we all are free, none of us are truly free.



Rabbi Freirich at the rally

Mitzvah Masks

By Linda Barat

This story started as a gift. An unknown act of kindness from Louise Anne Metz, my aunt, of blessed memory. Her passing last fall was a great loss to her friends and family. While there is never an answer to the question of “why,” a reaction of “what now,” has been answered. Louise was a gifted quilter and made many quilts over her lifetime for her family and friends.

When Covid-19 hit our communities, my uncle, Roger Metz, reached out and asked if I would want material he had from Louise’s quilt-making. Material she had not had the time to use. “What now,” became the act of putting her quilting fabric into the creation of face masks, which I am currently making. It has become a loving act of protection which my



Linda Barat at her sewing machine

aunt had left. A true mitzvah.

I am a seamstress from Buffalo, and a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology. I lived and raised my family in Westchester County (north of New York City) and worked in New York City, including

a successful career in the fashion industry as a buyer at Bloomingdale’s. In the summer of 2019, I relocated back to Buffalo, NY to be closer to my family of origin.

Community is an important value in the Jewish faith. A mitzvah is defined as an “individual act of human kindness or good deed.” Mitzvah is related to the word “tzavta,” which means “connection.” The name and creation of Mitzvah Masks fulfills this act. In a world where we have become isolated by “staying in place,” and social distancing, keeping a human connection alive is more important than ever.

May we be united together, even as we define ourselves as separate by different creeds, nationalities, and ethnicity. For more information on the masks, inquiries can be sent to: mitzvahmasks18@gmail.com or Lbarat21@gmail.com.

BUFFALO JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS

powered by the BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

MAY 31, 2020 | 8 SIVAN 5780

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY

The Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council, powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation, joins the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (125 social justice organizations) to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the African American community.

We mourn the senseless death of George Floyd. Racism will not be defeated unless we come together. We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a long-standing disgrace, for which we all share responsibility. Violence, indifference and prejudice must not prevail. We rededicate ourselves to a basic Jewish tenet: to uphold our responsibility to care for all life. All humans are created in the image of G-d and we will work alongside our neighbors to secure a more just and caring world.

Nina Lukin & Deborah Goldman
Co-chairs

Mara Koven-Gelman
Director

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS



A Statement of Solidarity

We, the undersigned, are outraged at the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers.

We stand in solidarity with the black community that have for far too long been targeted by police and have suffered rampant racism and unfair and uneven applications of the law.

We call upon our government and law enforcement at the national and local levels to fully investigate and hold accountable all the involved officers and to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

We call upon our government and law enforcement agencies at every level to institute sweeping reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice.

We pledge to join forces with the black community and other Americans to see through these changes to law enforcement, end systemic racism, and work for a more just American society.

Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council
Seeking to sustain a more civil and caring community in
Western New York and around the world



On Voting

By Nina Lukin

Voting. A civic right, patriotic duty, foundational act, or individual responsibility? Marian Wright Edelman, Presidential Medal of Freedom Winner and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, said, "Voting is not a spectator sport." If that's the case, then why is voter turnout in the U.S. so low in comparison to most highly developed democratic countries? Certainly, some folks are disillusioned by previous experiences, are indifferent, or simply do not care. But many who forgo voting have legitimate reasons.



*The only title in our democracy superior
to that of President is the title of citizen.*

- Louis D. Brandeis, Associate Justice on the Supreme Court
of the United States, 1916-1939

You may think that when it comes to something as important as the right to vote, Americans would have a secure, inclusive system. In fact, certain communities are particularly susceptible to voter suppression including people of color, students, the elderly, people with disabilities, and parolees. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) works on high-level policy to reduce disenfranchisement. For example, New York State recently enacted Early Voting, Pre-Registration of 16 and 17-year olds, and Consolidated Primaries to make voting more accessible. There is endless policy work to do, but JCRC has decided to tackle a legitimate, important and generally unaddressed issue of providing easily accessible, centralized, non-political voter information.

The Erie County Safe Voting 2020 webpage went live on Tuesday June 9, 2020 with the NAACP, the League of Women Voters Buffalo Niagara, National Federation of Just Communities, Network of Religious Communities and Voice Buffalo/VIBE as sponsors. You can find it at <https://buffalojewishfederation.org/vote2020/>. JCRC met with various groups to identify the information gaps, gathered best practices, and listened to our partners who have been working in this space to produce this countywide, community resource. The JCRC views voting as a means for pursuing justice, giving people choices, and repairing the world. We hope this work and tool inspires you to engage and exercise your voice as an Erie County citizen.

Nina Lukin is co-chair Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council

**REGISTER TO VOTE!
VOTE ABSENTEE!**

Erie County Safe Voting 2020

[Buffalojewishfederation.org/vote2020/](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/vote2020/)

A Time of Change

By Sheri Rodman

After the Jewish people were freed from slavery in Egypt, we wandered the desert in search of the Promised Land. We walked, we camped, we ate manna, and — believe it or not — we kvetched at times, sometimes even longing for our days as slaves. Being tired of manna, we craved the foods of the land we escaped: “We remember the fish that we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.” (Numbers 11:5)

“Change is hard,” said San Francisco-based Rabbi Elliot Kukla when he wrote about the Torah portion *Beha'alotcha* (<https://ajws.org/dvar-tzedek/behaalotcha-5768/>) twelve years ago. He reflected on what comes after change — transition. He said, “Leaving Egypt was a change. Leaving slavery is a transition.” He talked about the inner reorientation and self-redefinition that must take place in order for change to work. I’d argue that everyone, the slaves and the oppressors, and their children, must go through that transition.

As we go further into *Exodus*, we’ll learn that though we made it to the Promised Land, God determined that we were not quite ready to enter Israel, and forty years later decided that the decades spent wandering in the desert and the birth of one new generation was enough for the Jewish people to enter the land of Israel with fresh minds and open hearts. One might have expected smooth sailing once we crossed the threshold into the Promised Land, but that was not the case. For thousands of years the Jewish people continued to face oppression and expulsion. Today, some see us as the oppressors.

What have we, as Jews, learned from our own history of oppression and unfair treatment that can help us improve race relations in America? God had us wait one generation, but slavery in America ended five generations ago and still today Black Americans and their allies fight for justice and equity.

America has seen many periods of transition. From the Reconstruction era to Jim Crow to the Civil Rights Movement and from generation to generation, we improve. But we still have work to do. We live in a time when our parents remember having to use White-only water fountains on



Sheri Rodman

trips to Florida and when Blacks (and Jews, for that matter) weren’t allowed in the neighborhood north of Sheridan Drive in Amherst. It is hard to unsee and unlearn these experiences. For many in our parents’ or grandparents’ generation, the White-only water fountain may have brought feelings of comfort. For many in my generation, it would bring overwhelming discomfort.

In the case of race relations in our country today, will this be the turning point for enough White Americans, especially those in power, to rally behind finally making the transition to a society that is equitable for all? It’s hard for a lot of Whites because they don’t identify as the oppressor, while simultaneously acknowledging that previous generations of White people created the systems of racism that have left Blacks forced to continue “wandering in the desert.”

I can’t help but wonder how we’ll look back on this moment in history in 20 or 50 years from now. Will it prove to be pivotal? For Rabbi Avi Olitsky of Temple Beth El in Minneapolis, it has been. He talks about once grimacing at the rallying cry “Black Lives Matter” but now, after listening, he comes to understand that it doesn’t mean that other lives don’t matter. But all lives cannot matter unless we work together to ensure that Black lives do.

The correlation between historical segregation in the Twin Cities and the last half-century here in Buffalo is remarkable. Rabbi Olitsky talks about the creation of a highway that destroyed and isolated neighborhoods, similar to how our Kensington Expressway ultimately cut the East Side community in half.

Nearly 50 years ago, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (z”l) wrote, “Morally speaking, there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings. Indifference to evil is worse than evil itself. In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.”

I feel part of a generation that *wants* to be held responsible. Hundreds of years later, we know that systemic racism is still present and is the cause of so much suffering and pain and inequality. We are empowered to stand up for what is right and more prepared to wrestle with our own privilege and confront our country’s trail of oppression and poor treatment of

Black and Brown people.

Whether or not this moment will prove to be pivotal will likely depend on what we decide to do. How many White

people will stop and listen? What action can you take to help move our country forward? Can you learn more and start a book club with friends or family? Can you make sure your childrens’ bookshelves are stocked with opportunities to discuss anti-racism (<https://www.today.com/shop/anti-racism-books-children-t183171>) and that their toy boxes have dolls of all races? Can you support a local Black-owned restaurant? (<https://stepoutbuffalo.com/guide-to-black-owned-restaurants-open-for-takeout-in-wny/>) Can you ask Black and Brown friends how you can be a better ally?

I hope my generation is equipped with the understanding and skills, deemed worthy by God, and trusted by the leaders in our country positioned to enact change, to finally — six generations later — raise children and grandchildren who are treated with kindness, fairness, and justice, together.

Sheri Rodman is a director at Cambiar Education, serves on the board of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, and is the Vice Chair for the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning.



Discrimination and Retaliation.

Do you think you are a target of disability discrimination?

If so, talk to us.

The Law Office of LINDY KORN

856-KORN

(856-5676)

ELECTRIC TOWER

535 Washington Street, 9th Floor | Buffalo, NY 14203

LKORN@LKORN-LAW.COM * LKORN-LAW.COM



Lindy Korn, Esq.
Attorney & Mediator

The Center for Jewish ENGAGEMENT & LEARNING

powered by the
BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Planning for the Summer of 2020

For many children and teens, camp and summer experiences are an integral part of their identity. As parents and educators, ourselves, we are keenly aware of the feelings of loss our kids are facing after three months of virtual schooling and canceled summer plans; and the logistical hardships these closures pose for working parents. *The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL)*, and our Jewish Buffalo partner organizations and congregations want to be responsive to these realities. We know that there is no substitute for overnight camp and canceled summer plans, however, we want to be helpful in enriching your child(ren)'s summer.

In order to understand more about the needs and interests of Jewish Buffalo's families, CJEL invited parents (with children ages 18 and under) to participate in a Summer 2020 Survey. Over the course of one week in early June, 175 families completed the survey. It was incredible to have had the opportunity to hear directly from you: parents of children ages 0 to 9 years old (50%) and parents, children and teens ages 10 to 19 years old (50%).

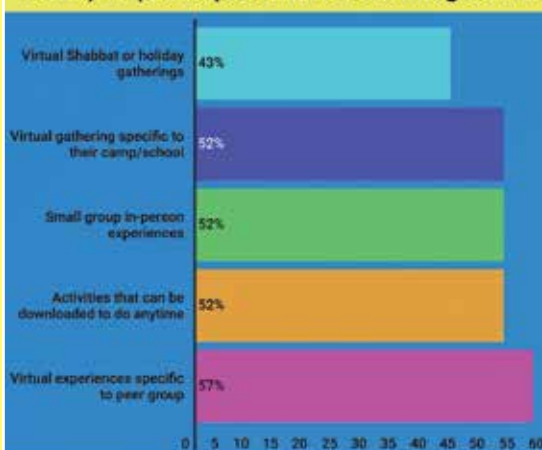
What did we hear?

Parents and teens are craving opportunities to be together.

For some, there is a desire to gather together in person, in small peer groups, with safety protocols in place: "the kids miss their friends, so if there are ways to safely gather they would love it." In addition, survey results clarified that virtual programs will continue to be an integral part of the landscape of Jewish Buffalo now and perhaps well into a post-Pandemic future: "we have a special needs child and... the virtual opportunities open up our world! Don't stop them once we go back to normal."

We asked about your connections to Judaism and learned that **for some families, quarantine has led to an increased connection to Judaism**; in those cases 65% of parents reported celebrating Shabbat more often.

How likely are one or more members of your family to participate in the following activities?



TIMING

01. 60% prefer weekday mornings/afternoons
02. 42% prefer Sunday mornings/afternoons
03. 23% are **not** interested in virtual summer programs



What does this mean for the summer of 2020?

Based on the wealth of information gathered through this survey, our team was able to better understand that your children and teens share some of the same interests. Our littlest community members enjoy arts, music and being in the outdoors. Some of our older children and teens share those same hobbies (art, music, the outdoors) but other are passionate about sports and gaming.

Based on this survey, we are able to better plan for the summer ahead. Working together with partners, these are three things that are going to be important in CJEL's work this summer.

For more CJEL information, contact miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Fun with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning



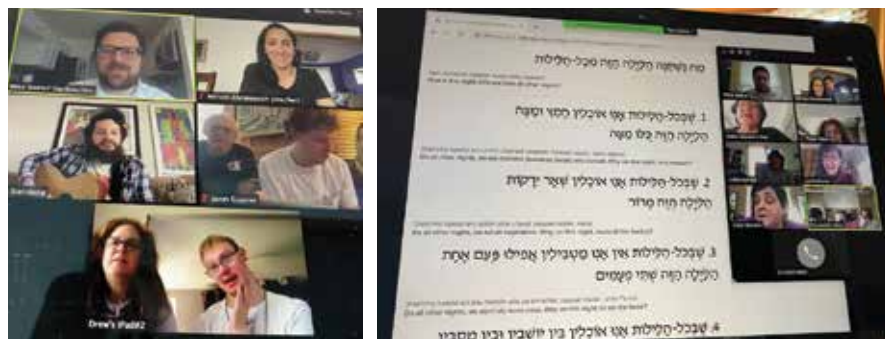
Once a month, families from across Jewish Buffalo are invited for a joyful, song-filled Kabbalat Shabbat with CJEL's new program SHABBAT SHAFAMILY. Hosted by Susan Goldberg Schwartz from the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, each month features a different congregation or organization as a co-host, giving families the opportunity to learn with the community's wonderful clergy and educators. In May, Shabbat ShaFamily collaborated with Zahava Fried from PALS-Kadimah at Temple Beth Zion. In June, Shabbat ShaFamily collaborated with Zach Steinberg and Sofia Reisman representing Camp Centerland. Keep an eye on for information about the July Shabbat ShaFamily, which might happen outdoors with physically distant rules observed!



How can we best support your family this summer?

Although CJEL and our partner organizations and congregations cannot make overnights camps or pools open; we can listen to you and design programs based on your feedback and your needs. We hear that you want us to provide "multiple options for participation in activities to support families who are at different comfort levels with re-opening." We see that your "kids & teens need something to look forward to, be a part of & get an escape from what is happening around them." And, we understand that we need to keep connecting, keep asking, keep checking in well into the summer, fall, and beyond.

CJEL has continued to hold monthly Miriam's Well programming led by Yonina Foster at the Women's Jewish Group Home virtually during the pandemic, and has also begun holding monthly virtual programming for the future residents of the Men's Jewish Group Home led by Zack Steinberg and Mike Steklof.



PJ Library parents and children had a great time participating in May's event Shavuot Live: Ice Cream/Cows/Scavenger Hunt. We all need reasons to celebrate these days and Shavuot, the holiday commemorating when the Jews received the Torah, gave us a perfect excuse to be joyful. Families were invited to join Facebook LIVE for a virtual program that included learning about the holiday of Shavuot, meeting some real live cows and singing songs with CJEL Music Educator Zack Steinberg. Then, families moved the fun out of the virtual world and into the fresh air, participating in a car-based scavenger hunt that ended at Sweet Jenny's in Williamsville. Many thanks to Howard and Tara Cadmus from Sweet Jenny's for treating PJ Library kids to ice cream cones.



A huge
**THANK
YOU**

To our Investors
Who support
The Campaign for Jewish Buffalo!

Thank you for your gift!

During this time of crisis,
the Federation is here for you, as
it has been for Jews in need in our
community for more than 100 years.

If you have not yet made your gift to the
2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo,
please do so today.
Your gift will help us continue to sustain and
support Jewish life here and abroad.

Please go to our website:
buffalojewishfederation.org/donate,
or call Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz
at 716-628-3431.

Rosenhoch, Shatkin to Lead the 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

The 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo will begin later this summer, and will be led by Howard Rosenhoch as General Campaign Chair and Joni Shatkin as Women's Philanthropy Chair. As both acknowledged, the 2021 Campaign, will not be "Business as Usual."



Howard Rosenhoch

"As Joni and I prepare to start this year's campaign, we are awed by the way Jewish Buffalo has responded to the COVID-19 crisis with such passion and generosity," Howard Rosenhoch said. "Who could have predicted when, last September, we officially kicked off our 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo with local comedian Rob Lederman and Alan Zwiebel of Saturday Night Live fame lightening our mood with laughter at our annual event, that our Campaign, and our very lives, would be overshadowed by a global Pandemic? As I write these words, we do not know how we will Kick Off our 2021 Campaign, or what that 'event' will even look like. Rest assured that we will have an 'event' (the creative and inventive task force we have convened to reimagine our Kick-Off is hard at work as I write these words)," he said.

"I feel so proud to be part of this organization as we raise money through the Community Compassion Fund to help both Jews and Non-Jews in Buffalo who need food, supplies (including masks) and emotional support," Joni Shatkin said. "Our Jewish community immediately came together, and along with the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies raised the necessary funds to be able to help the most vulnerable in Jewish Buffalo. Right from the start, many



Joni Shatkin

volunteers began making phone calls to make sure people were ok as they were confined to their homes, to see if they needed anything, or just to say a friendly "Hello." We suspended the 2020 Campaign for 3 months because our concerns were for people's immediate welfare."

Both praised the way the Federation, the Campaign, and the entire community, nimbly responded to this pandemic health and economic crisis with compassion and purpose. "It was very gratifying to see Federation helping so many of the temples and agencies apply for and receive PPP loans to help survive during the COVID-19 climate. I loved how both Federation and The Foundation worked closely together to make our community stronger," she said.

We have reimaged ways to connect virtually instead of personally," Rosenhoch explained. Examples include the Women's Zoom Shabbat Candle Lighting events conceived and hosted by Joni, the Zoom tours at the Jewish Museum of Miami when participants viewed the Judith Leiber exhibit, and the unforgettable Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibit at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

"So many community members have participated in these virtual events, which tells us what an incredibly supportive,

generous and engaged Jewish community we have here in Buffalo. Together we will get through this; together we will rally and make Jewish Buffalo better," said Shatkin.

Rosenhoch, a native of New York City, came to Buffalo as a University at Buffalo undergraduate in 1967. Howard was Federation President from 2014-16, and his community involvement is extensive. He has been a long-time member of Federation's Campaign Cabinet, and has served on many Federation committees. Howard has been a frequent visitor to Israel, most recently after the passing of his late wife Valerie in 2018, on Federation's *Buffalo Israel Experience* with nearly 80 individuals from Buffalo, which Howard says was truly restorative, and in 2019, with his fiancé, Jody Goldstein, on a Partnership2Gether Discovery Trip in the Western Galilee. Howard Rosenhoch is a member of Temple Beth Zion, where he served on the Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2014, and was President of TBZ from 2010 to 2012.

Joni Shatkin is a Buffalo native and proprietor of the Tres Aures' Day Spa located at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Main Street. She served on the board of the former Bureau of Jewish Education for many years and was a member of its Nominating Committee. She and her family are tireless volunteers for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Joni and her husband Sam co-chaired the Federation's Kick-Off Dinner twice. She has been an active Lion of Judah, attending national conferences, and was part of the Young Leadership Group in the 1990s. She is a Life Member of Hadassah, and a member of Temple Beth Zion.

More information on the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo and its much-anticipated Kick-Off Event will be featured in the August *Jewish Journal*.

Genetic Testing to Help Save Lives

By Talia Stoffman

The old adage "time flies" couldn't be truer as I watch students from grades below me graduate from high school. Two years have passed since completing my high school studies at SEM and beginning the next chapter at Binghamton University. As a Biology major, I have been exposed to many exciting areas of study, but human genetics has been of particular interest to me.

While attending the annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington D.C. this past March, I was introduced to an incredible organization dedicated to preventing genetic diseases. JSscreen is a national non-profit organization based out of the Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Human Genetics. They provide easy, affordable, at-home testing on saliva for over 200 genetic diseases, including those most common in people with Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi backgrounds. I am excited to be interning for JSscreen this summer. There is so much education that needs to be done when it comes to genetics knowledge. For example, did you know that there are many more diseases being tested for than just Tay-Sachs? Or that interfaith couples also need to get tested?

Though it is challenging for many organizations to be fully operational during this pandemic, JSscreen's online testing model with Telehealth genetic counseling has allowed them to continue testing as normal. My role is to help spread the word about the importance of JSscreen in my beloved Buffalo community. I feel fortunate to be



Talia Stoffman

working in a field where I can help save lives in a community that is supportive and tight-knit.

Genetic carrier testing helps individuals and couples understand their genetic risks and plan ahead for the health of their future families. It is important for all couples to get tested before eventually starting or expanding their families. JSscreen's DNA saliva collection kit makes it possible for individuals and couples to get tested

from the comfort of their own home. Once the saliva specimen is mailed to the laboratory, a sequencing method is used to examine the genes to determine if that person is a carrier for one or more genetic diseases. When the results are in, a genetic counselor will follow up with the individual or couple to let them know if they are at-risk to unknowingly pass on a disease to their future babies. If they turn out to be a carrier couple, the genetic counselor discusses the many options they have to maximize their chances for having a healthy baby.

To learn more, request a kit, or purchase a kit for a loved one, visit www.JScreen.org. JSscreen believes that education and genetic screening, along with personalized support, will help prevent devastating diseases. I hope to have a hand in shedding light on such a valuable organization!

Talia Stoffman is a rising Junior at Binghamton University and the daughter of Dana and Dr. Michael Stoffman.

Barbara Oliver
Jewelry

A Shopping Experience Like No Other



Barbara L. Oliver

Graduate Gemologist - GIA

5820 Main Street, Suite 311 | Caldwell Building | Williamsville, NY 14221
P- 716.204.1297 | F- 716.204.2260
jeweler@barbaraoliverandco.com

"A Trusted Jeweler is Worth Her Weight in Gold."

Sigrid (Ruth Chana) Pechenik, PsyD
Licensed Psychologist
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist



Clinical Practice Dedicated to
ADDICTION · SUICIDALITY
MOOD DISORDERS
LIFE TRANSITIONS

ASSESSMENTS & CONSULTATIONS
INDIVIDUAL, COUPLES & FAMILY WORK

716-598-0036

30 North Cayuga Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
sigrid@drpechenik.com | www.drpechenik.com

Karla Wiseman Caps an Extraordinary Legacy of Service Across Jewish Buffalo

By Ezra Rich

Before the COVID-19 crisis disrupted communal life across the landscape, Karla Wiseman was winding down an amazing 65-year communal service career during which she touched practically every corner of the local community. Based on the scope of her work, there are few Jewish Buffalonians she hasn't affected.

Commencing with Camp

Starting off as a counselor at the JCC's Camp Centerland upon its opening in 1954, Mrs. Wiseman has been an educator, youth director, *ketubah* and Judaica artist, a program coordinator and dedicated community volunteer.

In the 1960s and '70s, she worked closely with Rabbi Shay E. Mintz, (z"l), as the art teacher at Temple Shaarey Zedek (now Temple Beth Tzedek) and with United Junior High School. In the 70's, she was instrumental in bringing his vision to life for the Israel Expo by designing a model of Jerusalem with students using milk cartons and other flotsam, and with the recreation of Masada using chicken wire and papier-mâché.



Karla Wiseman and student building the model of Jerusalem for Israel Expo in 1976

Cultivating Artful Jewish Education

Mrs. Wiseman began teaching art at Kadimah School in 1971 and subsequently nourished student leadership as USY advisor in the '80s and then with BBYO in the '90s. Her warmth is fondly recalled by her former colleagues in the youth field. Judge Lisa Bloch-Rodwin remembers initially meeting her in 1980, shortly after moving to Buffalo.

"I adore Karla! I was the USY Director for Temple Beth El and she was the USY Director for Temple Shaarey Zedek," notes Judge Rodwin. "We worked together for several years and became close friends.



Karla Wiseman

I had no family in town, and she and Lou were like family to me. When my son was born, she was a wonderful source of friendship and support. Not only did she design the announcement for his *bris*, but her daughter Marci was one of his first babysitters!"

"Karla knew everyone, and everyone was a friend," Judge Bloch-Rodwin warmly adds. "I felt like our friendship came full circle when my parents moved to Buffalo in 2010, and she brought them into the fold of her Adult Education group. From youth groups to adult education there are few in our community who have not been touched by her kindness and her beautiful heart. I count myself lucky to have her as my friend."

Impacting the Classroom

Her educational impact is also recalled by students even decades later. "Mrs. Wiseman was one of the great teachers who taught me at Kadimah School. She really made art fun for those who were 'artfully challenged' like myself. In addition, her positive demeanor and strong Jewish identity resonated with me and my fellow classmates," recalls Marc Brown, a Kadimah student in the 1980s who today is an attorney and partner at Goldberg Segalla.

"There probably isn't a Jewish middle-aged person here in Buffalo who didn't study under Karla's magic," notes her friend Charlotte Gendler, a fellow longtime Jewish professional and Temple Beth Tzedek member.

Invigorating JCC Programing

Reflecting on her impact at the JCC, Executive Director Richard Zakalik says, "After a lifetime of service to the Jewish community of Buffalo, Karla Wiseman has decided

to take an "early" retirement in her ninth decade. Known for her outstanding work as an artist, Hebrew calligrapher and Judaica purveyor, Karla also had an exemplary career with the JCC of Greater Buffalo. Her dedication and commitment to excellence in programs both Jewish and secular continues to enhance our community to this day. Karla's daily presence will be missed but we wish her all good things in her well-deserved retirement."

Among her various roles with the JCC, Zakalik highlights the blossoming of senior adult programs she nourished. "Karla was the perfect staff member for this position. She was often seen in the lobby recruiting for her programs, engaging members and making people feel welcome. She grew the adult programs to include the Yiddish Club, discussions, art classes, current events forums, cultural programs, Café Europa for Holocaust Survivors, numerous trips and events."

The Lady Leading Limmud

"Karla is a staple of the Buffalo Jewish community. She is an amazing artist whose work has helped enhance hundreds of life cycle events," reflects Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom. "Where she really has shined is with Limmud. Every Thursday morning for as long as I've been in Buffalo, dozens of seniors have come out to be stimulated by high level programs. They look forward to it. It's like a little family, with Karla at the helm."



Karla Wiseman at Temple Beth El Anniversary and Torah Fair 1992

Judaica for a Global Clientele

In addition to her education and youth programming, Mrs. Wiseman became a *ketubah* artist in the mid '80s, her first upon request by Rabbi Dr. Mitchell S. Parker, and she's subsequently created and exhibited custom artwork and papercuts for clients across the country and the globe.



Dr. Steven Covey (z"l) accepting a Karla Wiseman custom design as a gift

In 2010, she was invited by the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami to design a custom piece for Dr. Stephen L. Covey, (z"l) based his on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, his bestselling business book. Later, when the JCC Benderson Building underwent its renovation, she was asked to design a feature for a glass wall divider on the second floor.

An Exemplary Legacy

Reflecting on her many accomplishments and broad impact, Mrs. Wiseman says, "Looking back on all the years, and all the people, young and not so young whose lives I touched, and who have touched my life, I am truly grateful."

Ezra N. Rich is marketing communications manager at Uniland Development Company and a proud Camp Centerland parent.

Camp Centerland at the JCC Open For Summer 2020

On June 29th, the Jewish Community Center and Camp Centerland at the Irving M. Shuman campgrounds, opened camp this summer, continuing a long legacy of bringing meaningful summer experiences to children and their families.



For many decades, young people in Western New York and beyond have attended JCC resident and day camps during the summer. When the summer of 2020 was threatened, the JCC and Camp Centerland leadership committed to pursuing all options. Plans and preparations for camp continued even as the COVID-19 pandemic added an element of uncertainty as to the legality, appropriateness and advisability of opening camp.

At the end of May, NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that day camps, an integral part of childcare plans for most working families, would be permitted and encouraged to operate. Protocols in line with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, the New York State Department of Health, the Erie County Department of Health and best practice guidelines from the Foundation for Jewish Camping, American Camping Association and the JCC Association have been accepted and implemented.

There will be changes to typical camp operations. Pandemic-necessitated guidelines include masked counselors, the elimination of swimming, limited physical contact, smaller group sizes, daily health screenings and reduced

enrollment. New activities, which function well with social distancing, such as 9-Square in the air, human foosball and slip & slide have been scheduled. With more than 20 natural acres in our grounds, Camp Centerland is confident that campers will enjoy another great summer with a substantially reduced level of exposure to the coronavirus. Camp staff will receive enhanced training concerning safety and health protocols with refresher courses during the summer. Hiring for camp counselors has focused on experienced staff who have previously proven their skills and dedication.

The JCC has received an outpouring of gratitude from families whose children plan to attend camp this summer. "Most children have been confined to their homes for more than three months and need a healthy outlet where they can socialize, learn, play and develop," says Michael Garcia, Camp Centerland Director. "We're doing this the right way and I'm confident that despite the necessary restrictions our kids will have another great summer."

Limited spaces are available for some weeks. For more information visit www.CampCenterland.org or call the JCC at 688-4114.

Summer Day Camp 2020

June 29–September 4 children grades K-10
To learn more, call Director Michael Garcia: 204-2078.
campcenterland.org

Amherst
2640 North Forest Road
behind the JCC
Benderson Family Building

Bus transportation available from Buffalo location

ACCREDITED

CAMP CENTERLAND JCC at the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds

Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival
JCC of Greater Buffalo

August 1–21, 2020
For a schedule and info visit: www.bijff.com

We are going virtual!

We're looking forward to offering you an amazing line-up of films to view from the comfort and safety of your home. Plus join us on Talkback Tuesdays as we present live, interactive Zoom conversations.

2019/20 Cultural Arts Season Sponsor

A program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo

powered in part by the BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

M&T Bank

Goldberg Joins New York Forward Interfaith Advisory Council

In early May, Buffalo Jewish Federation CEO Rob Goldberg was invited to represent Western New York's Jewish Community on the New York Forward Interfaith Advisory Council. The Council has played a critical role in helping guide the re-opening of religious institutions throughout New York State in the wake of COVID-19. Governor Cuomo expressed his thanks to Rob and dozens of faith and community leaders who serve on the Council for their willingness to help the State navigate this unprecedented challenge and introduce a comprehensive approach that protects and promotes public health while allowing religious institutions to resume their important work.

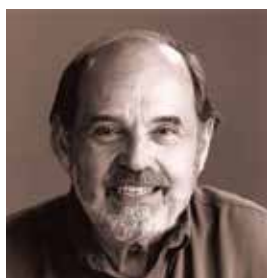
On June 7, the Governor announced that during phase 2 (Western New York was one of 7 regions impacted), places of worship were permitted to reopen



Rob Goldberg

with 25 percent occupancy with all social distancing protocols in place. The Governor noted that his announcement and positive development comes on the heels of productive discussions held with the New York Forward Interfaith Advisory Council over in May.

Elkin, Grelick Receive Amherst Arts Awards



Dr. Saul Elkin



Susan Grelick

The Town of Amherst Arts and Culture in Public Places board announced the winners of the 2020 Amherst Awards for the Arts. Nominations were received in six categories, and the winners included Saul Elkin and Susan Grelick.

Dr. Saul Elkin, founder/artistic director of Shakespeare in Delaware Park, co-founder and artistic director of the Jewish Repertory Theatre, and former chair of the University at Buffalo's theatre and dance department, was named the winner of the Individual Artist Award. He began his acting career at the age of seven, when he was cast by the founder of the Yiddish Art Theater, Maurice Schwartz. His acting and directing credits include more than 250 performances in film, television and regional and seasonal theater companies. His influence in Amherst and all over Western New York is significant.

Susan Grelick, currently counsel and legislative director for the New York State Senate and a former Town of Amherst Supervisor, was named the winner of the Individual Arts Supporter Award. She serves on the boards for the Amherst Symphony, Amherst Dance Club, Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village and MusicalFare Theatre. She has always been a significant supporter of arts and cultural events in Amherst.

Gretchen Gross Named Recipient Of 2020 Ralph Kushner Volunteer Services Award At JCC

Gretchen Gross, an early childhood educator who founded Audubon in College Park, a national accredited program for young children, and served as its director almost continually for 38 years before retiring, has been named this year's recipient of the Jewish Community Center's Ralph Kushner Volunteer Service Award. The award, established in 1998 and named after the late Ralph Kushner, a longtime community volunteer coordinator, is given annually to a community member who demonstrates exemplary volunteer community leadership. Gretchen received it this year in June at the JCC's virtual Annual Meeting.

"Gretchen has been a strong leading force for many years at the JCC," said Richard Zakalik, JCC Executive Director. "During her presidency at the Jewish Community Center, her late husband Gordon gifted the Gretchen S. Gross Omanut (Arts and Crafts Center) at Camp Centerland. Gretchen has helped the JCC grow and expand community programs and services through decades of personal generosity and board leadership," said Zakalik. "She's a hands-on leader and volunteer who's always participating, often bringing her tremendous talent as a photographer to capture the spirit and energy of JCC members, staff, programs and events, helping share stories of how we make a difference in lives every day."

In addition to serving as the JCC President 2013-2015, Gross is Chair of the Camp Centerland Committee and a board member of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. She is currently enrolled in her second year of professional training with the national Harold Grinspoon Foundation's GIFT program, joining with camp & JCC professionals from across the country to share best practices, successes and challenges of Jewish summer camps.

Gretchen's leadership and philanthropy extends to numerous educational and not-for-profit agencies throughout Western New York. She has served on the New York State Division of the Women's Steering



Gretchen Gross

Committee, board member at the Bureau of Jewish Education and as a frequent committee and taskforce member with the Buffalo Jewish Federation. She is involved with the Department of Jewish Thought at the University at Buffalo, has served on the Advisory Committee of United Way's Success by Six and has chaired Kids Voting in Western New York.

She is a recent recipient of the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Nathan Benderson Award, has been honored by the AJC, Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center, University of Buffalo, and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies among others.

Ellen Goldstein Receives Semper Fidelis Award from SEM

Ellen Goldstein, Editor of *The Jewish Journal of WNY*, was honored by Buffalo Seminary (Sem), her high school, on June 6 with the prestigious Semper Fidelis Award. Established in 1997, the Semper Fidelis Award recognizes a graduate who demonstrates a profound and extraordinary commitment to the Buffalo Seminary, is actively involved with the greater community and serves as an inspiration for all. Mazal Tov to Ellen for both receiving the award and celebrating her 50th reunion from Sem!

Past recipients include Joan Kostick Andrews (z"l), Ansie Silverman Baird, Shelley Cole Drake, Robin Simon Magavern (z"l), Melanie Franco Nussdorf, Betty Lehman Oppenheimer (z"l), and Susan Rubenstein Schapiro (z"l).



Ellen Goldstein

JCC Re-Opens Gradually

After nearly three months, The Jewish Community Center is phasing in the re-opening of programs and serving members again, beginning with Early Childhood families who returned at the start of June. Children have been so happy to see friends and teachers, and parents have expressed how grateful they are as they head back to their workplaces. Camp Centerland, on the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds opened June 29 (see pg. 15) and the Fitness Centers are opening gradually, with modifications and new protocols for entering the JCC buildings that include temperature and health checks at the doors.

“Members have played an enormous role in the JCC’s reopening,” says Rick Zakalik, Executive Director. “The support of our members and donors will continue to be instrumental as we begin this new decade. Engagement, confidence and generosity will determine the destiny of our agency and its more than 10,000 individuals who call the JCC their second home. We couldn’t ask for better partners.”



Early Childhood teachers with signs at a care parade for students

Jewish Repertory Theatre Announces Its 18th Season: A Selection Of Five Staged Readings

The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York (JRT) is proud to announce its 18th Season, a Selection of Five Staged Readings. “Like everyone in the performing arts community, we want to see people in our theatre soon,” said Saul Elkin, Artistic Director and co-founder of the Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York. “In the meantime, we hope our audiences will join us online as we offer professional video productions of the type of plays you have come to expect from our theatre.”

This season marks JRT’s 18th year, a significant number that is associated with the word “life” in Hebrew. “We couldn’t let this year pass without making theatre happen,” said Jordana Halpern, managing director. “Our recent staged reading series showed us that audiences clearly enjoy and appreciate this form of theatre, so we decided to bring the medium to them in their homes.”



JRT will team up with Full Circle Studios, a Buffalo video production company with expertise in making the experience of seeing the arts on a screen engaging and exciting. In addition to the five play performances available to subscribers and ticket holders, November 2020 – March 2021, JRT will present video shorts with directors, playwrights and actors on social media sites, inviting people to learn about the performances before they are released.

“We are motivated by a belief that dramatic arts offer a unique opportunity to connect with people and we are looking forward to our 18th season of sharing Jewish culture,” said David Bunis, JRT Producer and co-founder. “It is our hope that through continued theatre we will help bring people together and revive spirits.” *Plays, dates and tickets will be available soon at jewishrepertorytheatre.com.*

BUFFALO
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

BPO

2021

Be inspired. **P**lay your part. **O**wn your passion.

**Your Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra needs YOU more than ever
Subscribe NOW to the 2020-21 Season!**



SUBSCRIBE



SUPPORT



CONNECT




ENGAGE




LEARN

Call (716)885-5000 or visit bpo.org today!



CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM
Song of Peace

SEND US YOUR PICTURE FOR OUR SANCTUARY

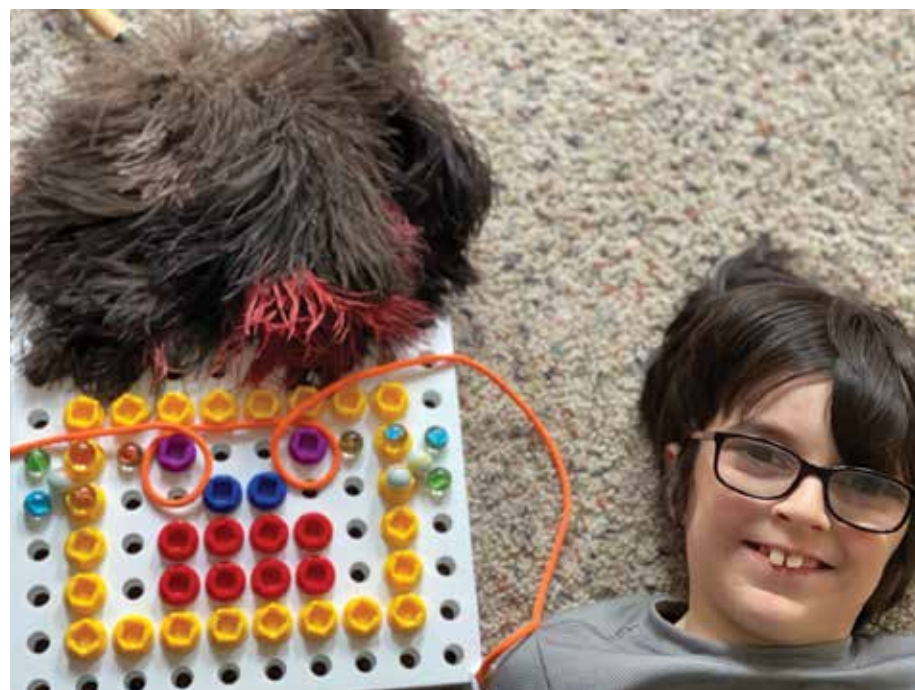


We would like to feel your presence in our Sanctuary. We miss all of you!!! So please send us your picture. We will be putting the pictures on the chairs in our Sanctuary so that the clergy can see you during the service.

TBZ Students End Year With Unique Art Project

By Beth Steinberg

The Religious School of Temple Beth Zion celebrated the end of the school year with a school-wide art project based on the work of Hanoch Piven, an Israeli artist, illustrator, and educator. Piven's specialty is creating portraits of famous people using everyday objects. His style, like his personality, is wildly creative and absolutely delightful. (Google his name if you'd like to see his work and videos of him explaining his technique.)



Eli Coutu, 3rd Grade



Carolyn Thompson, Kindergarten



Ayla Goldhirsch, 4th Grade

I invited all of our Religious School students to create their own self-portraits using objects they could find in their homes to display their feelings about who they are. The rules were minimal. The purpose of the project was to explore their identity, connect with their Religious School community, engage their creativity, and have some fun. What kinds of items did they use? Legos, seashells, parts of toys and games, feathers, stickers, beads, packaging materials, pieces of fabric, pencils, markers, candy, lots of food, kitchen tools, jewelry, and more... one student even included her cat!

The students created at home and sent me photos of their work. I compiled all of these photos into a very entertaining video that was shared during our last session of Virtual Religious School. It was a fun, interesting, and rewarding project for all of us to enjoy at the end of a very unusual school year!

Beth Steinberg is Religious School Director of Temple Beth Zion.

Summer Celebration Cancelled

It is with great regret that we have decided to cancel the August 3, 2020 Summer Celebration/Golf Tournament/Wine Tour. The health and safety of our participants, volunteers and staff are of the utmost importance to the members of Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom and Buffalo Jewish Federation. Additionally, it has become clear over the past several weeks that there are too many roadblocks to providing a good experience and the community togetherness that our event is known for.

We'll be back bigger and better on August 2, 2021, so mark your calendar now. In the meantime, we hope that you and all those you care about are well and that we see each other soon.

Kenneth Polk • Tom Lansing • Rob Goldberg



My COVID-19 Spring

By Marcia Goldstein

The past few months have been unnerving, disheartening and trying for all of us, and many of our lives have been upended. I am a part-time community pharmacist, so I have still been going out to work, the same as I have for the past 38 years. At first this was frightening, as I worried about contracting the virus, but my fear has leveled off, and I now just continue to care for my customers as always.

But my home looks different. My husband has planted himself in the dining room, from which he is running his office. This is the most time that we have spent together since we were in college! As my friends and family know, coffee is my life, and specifically Starbucks. This was seriously the hardest adjustment, until I remembered that I had bought this great Nespresso pod coffee maker. Every morning now, I make my delicious iced café mocha and my husband prepares his own mocha Frappuccino from the single and double espresso pods and we love it.

As this newspaper goes to print, Phase 3 of the WNY Region Re-opening is just beginning and I am thankful that Starbucks has now reopened, but I still make my coffee at home in the morning. My husband and I are getting along well, except when he wants to discuss what groceries we need from Wegmans or watches me cook dinner. We have added a 3.6-mile walk to our everyday agenda, unless the weather is inclement. This is more exercise than I have ever had, sad to say.

When my children were young, I worked until 2:00 p.m. and always had time to bake challah for Shabbat dinner. That had gone by the wayside as they got older and had activities. But now, I have gone back to baking challah on Friday and I love it. I have also joined Temple Beth Tzedek's Zoom Havdalah service most weeks now, and I thoroughly enjoy it. Baking and cooking have always been a passion for me, but now those skills have been thrown into high gear.



Marcia Goldstein and her granddaughter Dana baking challah

For example, I prepared 140 blintzes for Shavuot and shared them with my family and friends. I began a sourdough starter and my next-door neighbor, and I have been bread sharing on a regular basis. I have cooked every night during the quarantine, except for 3 of them, one being my birthday, and am thinking about preparing a pandemic cookbook when this is over.

What I miss the most is my family. Although my children and grandchildren do not live here, we would have seen them for Passover, as many of you would have as well. We also usually see them for Memorial Day Weekend (didn't happen), and we had a trip planned for the whole family this month. Those in-person visits will have to wait. We were also very excited that we had a two-week trip planned to Israel in October, but moved that trip also.

For now, we will continue to enjoy our beautiful backyard and invite a few people to our home for dinner. Hopefully, we will be able to take a long drive and visit both our children and grandchildren. I have been doing video calls with the granddaughters, reading to them, and we set up a Zoom account, so all three granddaughters could do a Scavenger Hunt in their respective homes, together virtually.

However, the most unusual thing that I did during this time was agreeing to become the President of Temple Beth Tzedek! *How hard could it be with a pandemic and a new rabbi coming to town*, I said to myself? I am just staying optimistic and know that we will all be together soon, and I look forward to seeing many of you (at a distance) in the months to come.

This spring Marcia Goldstein was elected the new Temple Beth Tzedek President.

Beth Tzedek Welcomes Rabbi Rosenbaum

Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum has been selected as the new rabbi of Temple Beth Tzedek. He arrives into the Jewish Buffalo community this July, bringing a rabbinate committed to helping foster a synagogue of learning and caring. Rabbi Rosenbaum joins TBT from Synagogue Emanu-El in Charleston, S.C., where he was their spiritual leader since 2009.

Rabbi Rosenbaum was born in Winnipeg, Canada, and grew up in Denver, Colorado. An alumnus of Northwestern University with a B.S. in Journalism, he was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in 2005, where he also earned a Master of Arts degree in Bible and Semitic Languages.

While at JTS he served as Student Rabbi at Degel Israel Synagogue in Watertown, N.Y., and as Rabbinic Intern at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston,



Rabbi Rosenbaum

N.J. Upon ordination, Rabbi Rosenbaum served as Temple Beth Shalom's Assistant Rabbi for four years.



MOLLOT & HARDY, INC.
FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES

SERVICE BUILT ON INDEPENDENCE & TRUST

Securities and advisory services Offered Through FSC Securities Corporation A Registered Broker/Dealer Member FINRA/SPIC and a registered investment advisor. Additional advisory services offered through Mollot & Hardy, Inc. A registered investment advisor not affiliated with FSC Securities Corporation.

646 N. French Road Suite #9, Amherst, NY 14228-2125
716.691.7121 • www.mollot.com

The Only International Academy of Low Vision Specialist in Western and Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Ontario

Dr. Kornfeld specializes in the design and mechanics of miniature telescope glasses to help patients with:

- Macular Degeneration
- Low Vision
- Regaining the ability to read, use the computer and drive
- Improving motor skills impeded by poor vision



MEMBER



**45 YEARS OF
HELPING PEOPLE
WITH VISION LOSS**

**Reclaim your
Independence with
George Kornfeld, OD**

866-446-2050
KornfeldLowVision.com

Divorce and Conflict Mediation

CREATIVE RESOLUTIONS WHILE PRESERVING RELATIONSHIPS



Paul D. Pearson, Esq.

Paul Pearson has over 40 years' experience in providing innovative resolution services for a variety of conflicts. As an attorney and senior mediator, Paul facilitates out-of-court settlements, crafting individual solutions for each problem- saving you time, money and stress.

1404 Sweet Home Road, Suite 9 Amherst, NY 14228
pdp@pdpesq.com • (716) 632-2728 • www.mediate.com/pearson/

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO *in July to Repair the World*

SPONSORED BY

Do you need time off to care for a sick or injured loved one?
Your employer may be required to accommodate you.

The Law Office of LINDY KORN
716-856-5676 * LKORN-LAW.COM



- 1» Families in WNY are hungry and there are still food scarcities during this difficult time. You can help by **donating to Feed More WNY**, which now encompasses Meals on Wheels and The Food Bank. **Go to www.feedmorewny.org to donate online, volunteer or learn more.**
- 2» **Be Counted!** You should have received an invitation to **participate in the 2020 Census**. You have three options for responding: Online. By phone. By mail. **Go to www.2020census.gov for more information.** You can respond through mid-August.
- 3» **Why not thank a mail deliverer, doctor or nurse, janitor, garbage worker, fire fighter, grocery store employee or other essential worker this month.** It doesn't cost a dime, but will be worth the time you take to offer thanks to those individuals who often go unrecognized, but has been so necessary during this pandemic.
- 4» **Register to vote today!** Go to <https://buffalojewishfederation.org/vote2020/>. From mayors, to sheriffs, to district attorneys, to judges, to governors, to state legislators, to senators and representatives in congress, and to the president, each election counts and is incredibly important. Let your voice be heard today.
- 5» **Stay informed by listening to a podcast!** One great option is *The Daily* by *The New York Times*, a podcast that chronicles the daily news in short, digestible pieces (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/podcasts/the-daily>). Another fantastic choice is *Unorthodox* (<https://www.tabletmag.com/podcasts/unorthodox>) which *Tablet Magazine* describes as "a smart, fresh, fun weekly take on Jewish news and culture hosted by Mark Oppenheimer, Stephanie Butnick, and Liel Leibovitz."

WHERE IN JBFLO ?



Where is this found exactly in Jewish Buffalo?

The first 5 people to correctly identify the location will win

\$10 gift certificate to the JCC's Buffalo Kosher Gourmet at the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café.

E-mail your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org

Last month, Joan Forman, Sharon Krebs and Cheryl Tobias correctly identified the front of the former Temple Beth El on Richmond Avenue in Buffalo,

Mazel Tov
on your graduation
from Williamsville East,
Hannah!



Photo credit: Onion Studio

We can't wait to see you soar
at Northeastern University.

We are so proud of you!

Much love, Mom, Lauren
and Jared



Joel, Karen, & Benjamin
happily celebrate
Asher Alexander Marks
having become
bar mitzvah
on Sivan 28/June 20th.

**Mazel Tov,
Asher!**

You bring us such nachas!



1970-2020
Helen & Bernie Weinstein

**Celebrating
50 years together!**

*Excited to see
what the future holds!*

**MAZEL TOV
Sarah**

on your
Bat Mitzvah and
Yishar Koach
for your hard work
and perseverance.



Love, Abba and Ima

Rabbi Levi and Rivky Greenberg
wish their sweet son,
Nochum Sadya,
a big

MAZEL TOV
on the occasion
of his 3rd birthday and
Upshernish (inaugural
haircutting celebration).



Keep making us proud!

We love you,
Tatty and Mommy



**Mazel Tov
Maya Koven**

on graduating from
University of Rochester
with honors
May 2020.

**We are so proud
of you Maya!**

Love Mom, Irwin, and Noah

Mazel Tov

Peretz on your
Graduation from UB!
*We are all proud
of you!*

*Love your parents,
brothers and sisters*

.....
**Mazel Tov,
Zelda,**

on your Bat Mitzvah!
July, 11 2020
.....

**MAZEL TOV
Talía**

for graduating 5th grade.



Yishar Koach for all of
your accomplishments in
elementary school.
We are excited for you to
start your next stage.

Love, Abba and Ima

Rabbi Adam Scheldt

“So what are you watching right now—anything good?” asked Martha.

“Oh! Yeah, I’ve been watching... wait. What have I been watching?” I replied. I thought, and indeed had to think, to remember what I’d been watching recently on TV. And that is how I knew that the summer season—or as I call it, garden season—was in full swing.

As soon as it becomes warm enough to be outside, my television goes off, and it rarely comes on again until the next winter. Even when we get some late spring cold snaps (or snow storms, as was the case this year), it’s not out of the question to see me bundled up and outside doing what I can to enable things to grow as soon as the warmth returns.

And to be sure, I am perennially eager to dig in and get the garden started not only because it’s fun and it makes my yard beautiful, but because it is my favorite form of prayer. It is my conversation with the Divine. And this year more so than perhaps any other, I



Rabbi Scheldt with some of his own hybridized daylilies

feel that I have A LOT that I need to say. And when I garden, I know that God is listening.

Each time I put my shovel into the earth, plant a new plant, and care for it, I do so in conversation with God. Each time a new leaf emerges, or a new flower blossoms in my garden, I am the first to see and witness it, and in so doing, I feel that God is giving me answers. With each new beautiful little bud, it’s as if God reminds me of beauty in all its forms. And because I am

the one cultivating this beauty (again, together, in conversation with the Divine), I selfishly feel like the Universe is talking just to me.

I walk out into my garden in the morning, and I am surrounded by all these little conversations with the Divine—every leaf, every stem, every flower a reminder of beauty, a reminder of growth, a reminder of possibility itself. Not only is all that growth creating oxygen for my body, but it is inundating me with oxygen for my soul.

Now, I will be the first to admit, this is all a bit intense. I’m a little *meshuggenah* when it comes to gardening. My garden is an explosion of flowers—they’re everywhere (even the roof). And if gardening really is a conversation with the Divine, then I may have invited God to shout it at me. But seriously, these days, I need that reminder to start my day. I need it to come home to at the day’s end. And I think that it probably helps to have it said loudly and clearly.

We are moving through a summer like no other, right now. Our world-famous garden festivals are canceled. We are staying apart from one another now so that we can be together in good health later. And in the meantime, we need things like our gardens in which we can find beauty, solace, joy, healing, prayer—you name it. Even if you’re not a gardener, get outside, take a walk or a drive, and enjoy the beauty that is waiting for you. Strike up a conversation with the Universe, and see what happens. Now is the season to cultivate that which you want to grow.

Rabbi Adam Scheldt is Director of Spiritual Care at Hospice Buffalo. He is a Master Gardener with a penchant for collecting and breeding daylilies and hostas.

One Place to Turn: JFS Helps Individuals and Families Get Back on Their Feet



While many of us are beginning to talk about the world opening back up, the most vulnerable in our community remain in desperate need of **food, financial assistance, and mental health services.**

JFS is providing comprehensive, wrap-around services for individuals and families who are struggling during the pandemic, including career counseling and job placement, financial assistance, virtual support groups, and teletherapy services for anyone in need of counseling, including children and teens.



Please remember that you are not alone. If you or someone you care about need assistance, please call JFS at 716.883.1914 or visit our website at jfsbuffalo.org.

Shavuot Music Class

A fun and interactive virtual Pre-Shavuot Music class was hosted via Zoom and Facebook Live by Rivky Greenberg of the Jewish Discovery Center. She engaged children in music, movement and song, all from the comfort of their own homes!



The children learned about the Ten Commandments, Numbers (counting till 10), the various customs of the holiday (like enjoying dairy food such as cheesecake and ice cream) and danced to awesome Jewish songs. Rivky prepared ice cream cupcakes for the attending children to pick up from her the following day. Music with Rivky is a program of the Jewish Discovery Center.



For more information about upcoming classes, please log on to www.muicwithrivky.com or contact Rivky at rivky@musicwithrivky.com or (716) 906-8890.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Jacqui Berger will be a strong voice for our community and our values in the New York State Senate.

JACQUI BERGER
STATE SENATE

www.BergerForSenate.com



EDUCATOR. ELECTED. EFFECTIVE.

NOW OPEN
FOR DINE IN



Buffalo's Best wishes you all good health and much gratitude.

homemade shmears
deli sandwiches • soups • salads
finest dark roasted coffees • fresh-baked bagels
signature tuna fish • and more!

MARSHALL'S PLAZA 2130 Delaware Ave, Buffalo 716.874.1800
4498 MAIN ST. Snyder, NY 14226 716.839.2222
DASH'S PLAZA 100 A Plaza Dr, Williamsville 716.639.1000

Let us do the work!
SHIVAH PLATTERS • KIDDUSH PLATTERS
N.Y. WEDDING BRUNCHES

WWW.BAGELJAYS.COM



Affordable One-Bedroom Apartments for adults ages 62+

Spend time enjoying life—not worrying about bills. Rent is based on what you can afford!

Heat, hot water & cable included in rent; air conditioning; elevator; handicapped accessible & adaptable; enhanced security; near shopping & restaurants



Amherst Glen • Amherst Towne • Amherst Ridge
Call for free application 639-3311 ext. 3326



465, 467 and 475 John James Audubon Pkwy | Amherst, NY 14228 | WeinbergCampus.org

Hillel Student Leaders: We Choose Buffalo!

By Rabbi Sara Rich

All of us who live in Buffalo know about the excellent quality of life that this region offers: affordability, community, culture, nature, history, sports and, my personal favorite, no traffic! Each year, thousands of students from outside of the region come to Buffalo for college. Although many will return to their hometowns or nearby areas for jobs and to be close to family, we are seeing a growing trend of more students graduating and staying in Buffalo for work or to continue their studies. We are delighted to share with you the stories of three leaders from Hillel of Buffalo who have graduated and chosen to start their next chapters in Buffalo. As you will see, they are not just drawn here for practical reasons, but because of the relationships that they have formed. We hope you will embrace these young adults and that you will join Hillel in our efforts to connect students to the greater Buffalo Jewish community.



Eric Mandel

Where did you grow up? Westchester, NY.

What did you study? I earned a BA from UB in 2018 in Speech and Hearing Science and graduated this spring from UB with an MA in Communicative Disorders and Sciences.

What will you be doing in Buffalo in the coming year?

I recently accepted a position as a speech therapist for Children's Rehab Services of Western New York. I will also continue to serve as the USY Advisor and will lead Junior Congregation on Shabbat mornings at Temple Beth Tzedek.

Why did you decide to stay in Buffalo?

I decided to stay in Buffalo because of the strong sense of community I found, both in and out of the Jewish community.

What are you most looking forward to?

I'm not quite sure what to expect from my next chapter, but I'm excited to find out where it will take me.

on my decision to stay in Buffalo.

What are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to using my role to serve as an advocate for students to ensure that, during their time in college, they will thrive as I did during my college experience.



Jacob Barkan

Where did you grow up? Long Beach, Long Island

What did you study? I graduated this year with a BS in Architecture.

What will you be doing in Buffalo in the coming year? I will be pursuing a Masters in Architecture and will be in Buffalo for the next two years.

Why did you decide to stay in Buffalo? Buffalo offers an excellent value for the cost. The architecture program is great in Buffalo. It allows me the freedom to study a variety of topics, and I appreciate that. I feel established in Buffalo after spending the last four years here and I have a network of friends and professors with whom I have formed relationships.

What do you hope to gain in your next chapter? I hope to gain a clearer sense of purpose and I look forward to refining my skills. I want to focus on integrating my interests in art into architecture and further exploring and developing my identity in architecture. Also, I'm really looking forward to exploring parts of Buffalo that I didn't get a chance to explore as an undergrad - I feel like I have only scratched the surface.



Stephanie Gavin

Where did you grow up?

Holbrook, NY- a small town on Long Island.

What did you study?

I received my BA in Anthropology with a minor in Management from UB in 2018. This May, I graduated from UB with a Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration with a concentration in Student Affairs Administration.

What will you be doing in Buffalo in the coming year?

I'm grateful that I can stay in Buffalo and at the University, working as an Admissions Counselor, to help future students take advantage of all that UB and Buffalo can offer them.

Why did you decide to stay in Buffalo?

The faculty and staff here at UB, in addition to the opportunities I have been given, have had the greatest impact

Lawley is proud to be a
long-standing supporter
of the Jewish Community
of Western New York



Fred Holender
716.849.8257



Stuart Scheff
716.636.5818



Gary May
716.636.5803



Steve Jacobs
716.849.8258

"Protecting what you've worked so hard for"

Lawley

BUSINESS
INSURANCE

EMPLOYEE
BENEFITS

PERSONAL
INSURANCE



It's a Suite Life!

Spacious two-room assisted living suites now available.

Call Anna for specials! 716-639-3332

Take a virtual tour! Visit WeinbergCampus.org



Greater Buffalo's Jewish Monument Company for Over 90 Years

1640 E. Delavan Ave. near Pine Ridge Rd. & Online at www.leonkomm.com

Trusted by
Jewish Buffalo
Families for
Four Generations

893-2500



BRUCE ADER

ESTATE SALES & APPRAISALS



To advertise in the

THE JEWISH JOURNAL
A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

Call Cynthia
at
972-2240

coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com

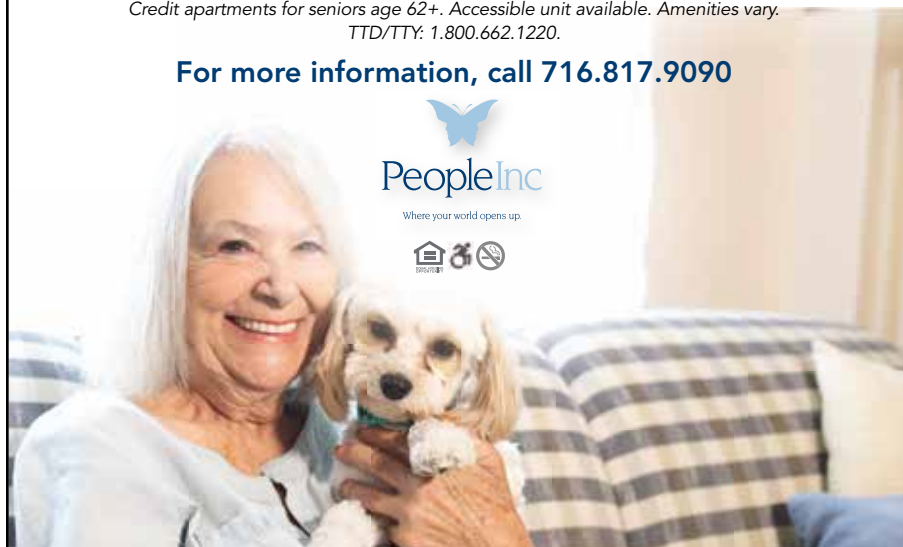
People Inc. Senior Living is in YOUR neighborhood!

Safe and maintenance-free apartments for independent older adults age 62 and up who are income eligible. Some utilities included.

Locations: Amherst • Angola • Blasdel • Cheektowaga • Clarence
Grand Island • Hamburg • Lackawanna • Lockport • North and South Buffalo
• Springfield • West Seneca • Wheatfield • Gowanda*

*Our Gowanda apartments provides HUD Section 202 Affordable Housing and NYS Tax Credit apartments for seniors age 62+. Accessible unit available. Amenities vary.
TTD/TTY: 1.800.662.1220.

For more information, call 716.817.9090



- **FREE CONSULTATIONS**
- **CERTIFIED APPRAISER**
- **FULL RANGE OF SERVICES**
- **INSURED**

**SERVING WNY
SINCE 1985**

*"Our Success is
Measured by your
Satisfaction"*

716.510.4484

EMAIL: BRUCEADER@YAHOO.COM

WWW.BRUCEADER.COM

The CARES Act enhances Your Ability to Deduct Charitable Contributions

By Irv Levy

New \$300 Universal Charitable Deduction

For past few decades, the rule was that individual taxpayers could deduct charitable contributions only if they itemized their personal deductions instead of taking the standard deduction. If you didn't itemize, you got no deduction. Taxpayers should itemize only if all their personal deductions, including charitable contributions, exceed the standard deduction. For 2020, the standard deduction is

\$12,400 for single taxpayers and \$24,800 for marrieds filing jointly. Taxpayers who don't itemize may now deduct up to \$300 per year in charitable contributions. Such deductions must be:

- in cash (no property like old clothing), and
- donated to a 501(c)(3) public charity

Contributions to non-operating private foundations, support organizations, and donor advised funds don't come within the new deduction. Since this is an "above-the-line" deduction, taxpayers don't have to file Schedule A (itemize) to claim it.

No Annual Limit on 2020 Charitable Deduction by Itemizers

Taxpayers who itemize their deductions may deduct charitable contributions up to only 60% of their adjusted gross income (AGI). Any contributions over this amount must be deducted in future years. For example, if your AGI is \$100,000 you may deduct no more \$60,000 in charitable contributions; so if you contribute \$70,000, the extra \$10,000 must be deducted the next year.

For 2020 only, the CARES Act allows itemizers to deduct contributions up to 100% of their AGI. Thus, for example, if your AGI is \$100,000, you may deduct \$100,000 in charitable contributions and wipe out your income tax liability entirely.

The Foundation is happy to discuss the use of charitable gift planning to minimize your income taxes. ***If you have questions, please call Irv Levy at 204-1139.***

Irv Levy is Director of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies



Irv Levy

Siegel Foundation, Jewish Family Services And The Foundation For Jewish Philanthropies Partner to Distribute Food On Buffalo's East Side



Volunteers helping to distribute food on Buffalo's East Side

During three Fridays in June, a total of 3,000 meals were distributed to those experiencing food insecurity in Buffalo. The Herb and Aaron Siegel Foundation spearheaded an effort to deliver meals across the East Side of Buffalo in order to address food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the support of its partners Rich Products, Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Citizen Action of New York, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Jewish Family Services and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the Siegel Foundation donated 1,000 meals on each of those three days to families during these difficult times. "Our concern is that while we may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with regard to the pandemic, we are in the early innings



A volunteer with food made possible by the Herb & Aaron Siegel Foundation

of persistent food insecurity in many of our communities," explained Aaron Siegel. "We need to make sure that, as the pandemic begins to recede from the headlines, we are not forgetting our neighbors who are still struggling."



Our Comprehensive Approach Means Your Upcoming Move or Estate Liquidation Will Be Stress Free

Dale and Candace Kadish

716-580-4822

www.CaringTransitionsBuffaloNY.com

Caring Transitions Will Help:

- ❖ Organizing & Decluttering
- ❖ Downsizing
- ❖ Senior Relocation
- ❖ Move Coordination
- ❖ Complete Cleanouts
- ❖ Right Sizing
- ❖ Relocation Planning

Lipman's KOSHER MARKET
for over 70 years

has all of your
Kosher
Meats & Groceries

- Brisket
- Veal
- Roasts
- Chicken

1482 Monroe Avenue • Rochester
585-271-7886

Delivery at Shir Shalom • Amherst • JULY 19TH

More Pandemic Mitzvot

During this time of working at home, staying at home and very few social interactions, the JDC's Mrs. Lea, Brocha Leah and Rivky Greenberg have been distributing 'A Taste of Shabbat' - Shabbat Gift Packages to members of the Buffalo Jewish Community.



If you would like to pick up a Shabbat Package - free of charge (consisting of Challah, soup and other Shabbat treats) send us an email at: rabbigreenberg@jewishdiscovery.org. Please let us know by Thursday of each week.

VIRTUAL GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

While we continue to social distance,
JCC Buffalo is bringing the Fitness Center to you!
Livestream over 20+ classes a week with some of
your favorite JCC fitness instructors.



JCCBUFFALO.ORG

**Benderson Family Building
Amherst
688-4033**

**Holland Family Building
Buffalo
886-3145**

Dining Guide

CASUAL COMFORTABLE CREATIVE CRAFTY & COOL CULINARY

VIVA PIZZA PLANT

FAMOUS PODS
- The original Buffalo trademarked fresh baked food icon - only at the Plant

CRAFT BEER
Award winning selections

STUFFED PIZZA

SALADS
Breadbowl Salad

BURGERS
Turkey, Veggie Angus & Impossible

PASTAS
Pasta Chiccoli

WINE & COCKTAILS

COOKIES
House Made

LIVE MUSIC Every Saturday @ 7:30 Transit

VEGETARIAN • VEGAN • BEER EVENTS • MUSIC • TRANSIT
DINE IN • TAKE OUT • BANQUETS • CATERING

Williamsville
7770 TRANSIT ROAD
TRANSIT AT SHERIDAN EXIT

Pizza Plant
ITALIAN PUB

Canalside
125 MAIN STREET
IN COURTYARD MARRIOTT

Nissan Berg

Tops • 3980 Maple Road Amherst
Glatt Kosher Meats • 2,000 Kosher Grocery Items

Kosher Catering • Party Platters • Delivery Service

Mon - Th 10 - 7 | Fri 9 - 2 | Sun 9 - 3

www.buffalokosher.com

Our readers are *Dining Connoisseurs*,
always looking for new experiences, and supporting
Local Restaurants, Cafes and Markets
with Drive-Thru, Curbside Pick-Up & Delivery!

FEED OUR READERS.

The Jewish Journal features a Dining Guide in every issue.

1/6 page ad (4.75" x 3.125") • Full color • Space is limited

For information, contact Cindy (716) 972-2240
coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com

DONATE to Jewish Buffalo's Security Fund when you Shop on Amazon



AmazonSmile Charity Lists is a new and meaningful way for you to donate items directly to charitable organizations. With Charity Lists, all charity accounts are verified so you can take the guesswork out of giving and donate worry-free. If you want Amazon to donate to us, go to smile.amazon.com, and select "Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, Inc." Then each time you shop, start each session at smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.

Visit Your AmazonSmile Impact at www.smile.amazon.com to see donation information and learn more about your charity.

Rent assisted apartments for seniors & mobility-impaired adults



Jewish Federation Apartments



Watch your favorite shows with your new friends on our big screen TV!



New Kitchen Renovations
Great room • Media room • Wifi • Fitness center
Data center • Beauty salon • Laundry facilities
Full time social worker • Activities • Transportation
24 hour emergency maintenance • Two elevators • Library
Computer room • Pool table • Emergency medical call system • Chapel • Card room • Large screen tv

Open to all religious denominations

Jewish Federation Apartments
275 Essjay Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

For application information please call
716-631-8471 TTY/TDD #711

*Jewish Federation Apartments does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted program and activities.



SYNAGOGUES

ORGANIZATIONS

Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

Buffalo Jewish Federation

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-204-2241
www.buffalojewishfederation.org
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director
Leslie Shuman Kramer - President

Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

49 Barberry Lane
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-534-0230
Rabbi Eliezer Marcus - Regional Director
Michael Paskowitz - President
www.bvkkosher.com
buffalo@yahoo.com, bvkkosher@gmail.com

Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
www.buffalojewishfederation.org
Miriam Abramovich - Director of Engagement
Ellen Weiss - Chair

Chabad House of Buffalo

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

Chai Early Childhood Center

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

Department of Jewish Thought

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

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-204-1133
www.jewishphilanthropies.org
Irv Levy - Executive Director
Don Kohnstamm - President

Hadassah

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

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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

Hillel of Buffalo

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

Holocaust Resource Center

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-634-9535
www.hrcbuffalo.org
Elizabeth Schram - Director
Ann Marie Carosella - President

Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

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

Holland Family Building

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

Jewish Community Relations Council

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
www.buffalojewishfederation.org
Mara Koven-Gelman - Director
Nina Lukin - Co-chair
Deborah Goldman - Co-chair

Jewish Discovery Center

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

Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And Erie County

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

Jewish Federation Apartments

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

Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Inc.

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

Kadimah

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

Kosher Meals on Wheels

757 Hopkins Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-639-7600
www.koshermow.com
Rabbi Laizer Labkovski - Director
Jeffery Pasler - President

Ohr Temimim School

411 John James Audubon Parkway
W. Amherst, NY 14228
716-568-0226
www.ohrtemimimschool.com
Rabbi Shmuel Shanowitz - Principal
Jonathan Gellman - President

One Stop Jewish Buffalo

A free website updated weekly about all that's happening in Jewish Buffalo
Nathan Sull - Publisher
Aaron Sull - Editor
www.OneStopJewishBuffalo.com

Weinberg Campus

2700 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-639-3311
www.weinbergcampus.org
Robert Mayer- President & CEO
Kenneth Rogers- Chairman of the Board of Directors

Western New York Synagogues and Temples

Chabad House of Buffalo (unaffiliated)

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

Congregation Beth Abraham (Conservative)

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

Congregation Shir Shalom

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

Congregation Havurah (Reform)

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

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

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

Knesset Center (Orthodox)

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

Saranac Synagogue (Orthodox)

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

Temple Beth Tzedek (Conservative)

1641 North Forest Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum
Cantor Mark Spindler
Marcia Goldstein - President
Kim Jones - Administrator
716-838-3232
www.btzbuffalo.org

Temple Beth Zion (Reform)

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

Temple Beth El (Reform)

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

Temple Emanu-El (Reform)

124 Bank Street
Batavia, NY 14020
585-343-7027

The Family Shul (Unaffiliated)

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

Young Israel of Greater Buffalo (Orthodox)

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

Attention Snowbirds!

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

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

Trust

We Offer
Pre-Need Planning
Mikvah
Concierge Services
Yahrzeit Candles
Off-Site Catering
Flowers
Limousine
Much More.

Faithfully serving
the Jewish
Community
for decades.
We are WNY's
only Funeral Home
able to preform
all Jewish Religious
rituals



Mitchell Steinhorn
Licensed Funeral Director



Leon Komm
Licensed Funeral Director



Amherst
MEMORIAL CHAPEL, LLC.
FUNERAL HOME

Contact Amherst Memorial Chapel today.
281 Dodge Road, Amherst, NY • 24 Hour Phone Line: 716-636-4174
www.amherstmemorialchapel.com info@amherstmemorialchapel.com

Wesley Rehabilitation Center

— An Affiliate of Beechwood Continuing Care —

We're Masters In the Art of Caring



Choose Wesley
for your rehabilitation stay!

*Providing cardiac, orthopedic and
reconditioning therapies.*



- ♦ ALL PRIVATE ROOMS
- ♦ INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS
- ♦ CONVENIENT LOCATION



Call 810-7000 Today
to schedule a tour and pre-apply!

2235 Millersport Highway ♦ Getzville

www.beechwoodcare.org



Dr. Ronald I. Dozoretz

April 10, 1935 – May 8, 2020

Dr. Ronald I. Dozoretz passed away on May 8, 2020. Ron dedicated his entire life to helping people with his gentle and kind nature. He was a strong, confident leader who touched many communities and individuals worldwide.

Born in 1935 in Buffalo, he graduated from Bennett High School. Ron earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Buffalo. He was a psychiatry resident at Case Western Reserve University Hospital and served as Lieutenant Commander at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Ron was a pioneer in the mental health field and the Founder and Chairman of ValueOptions, Inc., one of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies serving over 38 million people.

Ron's passion for his family was reflected in every aspect of his life, always advising, mentoring and taking care of his immediate and extended family throughout the years. He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife of 30 years, Beth Dozoretz, who he adored and always wanted by his side. He is also survived by his four children, Shari Friedman, Renée Strelitz (John Strelitz), Josh Dozoretz, and Brody Dozoretz, his former wife, Marilyn Bass Buxbaum, and his 6 grandchildren, Erica Friedman, Craig Friedman, Jason Friedman, Julia Strelitz, Jacqueline Strelitz, and Joseph Strelitz. His endless charm will be forever missed.

Revving up to thank Rabbi Silberschein

By Ezra N. Rich

While the coronavirus has caused considerable disruption, it has also forced some interesting adaptations to achieve noble goals. In advance of the end of his time as our interim rabbi, Temple Beth Tzedek convened a car parade on May 26 to serenade and send off Rabbi Moshe M. Silberschein in advance of his return to his wife and family in Jerusalem. Many congregants also donated to Leket Israel, The National Food Bank in his honor.

Held in the Benderson JCC parking lot, over 100 vehicles assembled in a long line to individually thank the rabbi for his leadership of the congregation and his positive impact on Jewish Buffalo. Many attendees included kind signs to complement their smiles and artistic masks. The cars, SUVs and minivans were a fitting send off for a son of the Motor City. While waiting in line, congregants caught up with each other from their cars and enjoyed Israeli tunes played by three talented TBT members and musicians, Dr. Andrew B. Symons, Dr. Gil I. Wolfe, and Marty Kerker, respectively.

Reflecting on the parade and his year with Temple Beth Tzedek, Rabbi Silberschein noted in his final service, "It was very touching, I was very moved [by it]. Buffalo has been a home away from home, I've made some good friends I really love this city and its Jewish community," he said before ending with an invitation to reconnect with him in Israel. "You're all invited to visit me in *Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem). My wife and I would love to see you. Israel is our spiritual home and the center of inspiration," he added.

Special thanks are also due to JCC Executive Director Richard Zakalik for



use of the Center's lot and to the Rabbi Silberschein Send-Off Committee, chaired by Lisa Kovel: Linda Boxer, Andrew Gewurz, Steven Lippa, Beverly and David Schiller, Jacob Sherman, and Lynn Williams, with additional support from Lori Morrison and Jeremy Werbow.

Ezra N. Rich is marketing communications manager at Uniland Development Company and a member of TBT.



HRC & JFS Deliver Holiday Baskets to Holocaust Survivors

On May 28, Vilona Trachtenberg, Board Member of the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), Elizabeth Schram, Director of HRC and Matthew Stewart, Manager of Jewish Community Care at Jewish Family Service, delivered Shavuot baskets to 20 Holocaust Survivors around the region. The baskets were prepared by Brocha Leah Greenberg and included matzah ball soup, challah, cheesecake, flowers and a printout of the Ten Commandments. The Holocaust Survivors greatly appreciated receiving this gift during this difficult time of



(From Left) Vilona Trachtenberg, Matt Stewart and Elizabeth Schram getting ready to deliver Shavuot packages to Holocaust Survivors

isolation and uncertainty. HRC is deeply grateful that funding for this delivery was made possible by an anonymous donor.



Why Life Care?

You Get the Most Out of Life
No Matter Where in Life You Are.

Our spectacular lifestyle inspires limitless possibilities. And, when limitless possibilities are supported by modern apartments, the right blend of activities, friends, delicious dining, convenient services, amenities, and the security of on-campus health care. You'll be empowered to enjoy a fulfilling, worry-free life. It's what you've earned. It's what you deserve.


Canterbury Woods
Gates Circle

1 Gates Circle
Buffalo, NY 14209
(716) 239-4535


Canterbury Woods
Williamsville

705 Renaissance Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 427-5107

Contact Us Today
www.canterburywoods.org



Remembering Philip Beckman 1924-2020

Obituary courtesy of the Holocaust Resource Center.

Philip Beckman survived the Holocaust but passed away June 2 from COVID-19, at 95 years old. Philip was born in Krakow, Poland on November 6, 1924. He was forced to live in the Krakow Ghetto and was then sent to Plaszow Labor Camp. In 1944 he was transported to Mauthausen Concentration Camp and sub-camp Linz. Philip survived a Death March to caves where the Nazis intended to bury the men. That was thwarted by the advancing American Army. He was eventually liberated in Austria by the US Armed Forces in 1945.



they married in Bari, Italy. In 1950 they were finally allowed to immigrate to America and they boarded the New York City bound naval ship, the General Hersey which left from Bremerhaven, Germany. Passengers were required to work on the ship. They arrived in New York City during Rosh Hashanah. After the holiday, Marta and Philip continued to Buffalo, where they settled.

"To his dying day, my father bore physical scars on his head and torso from the beatings," his daughter Melissa Beckman said. "Beatings also caused permanent hearing loss that could not be improved by hearing aids or surgery. The mental and emotional scars were much

Following liberation, Philip joined other Survivors and Italian repatriates who crossed into Italy. He met his wife, Marta Roth (z"l) also a Survivor, in an Italian Displaced Persons camp. In 1947

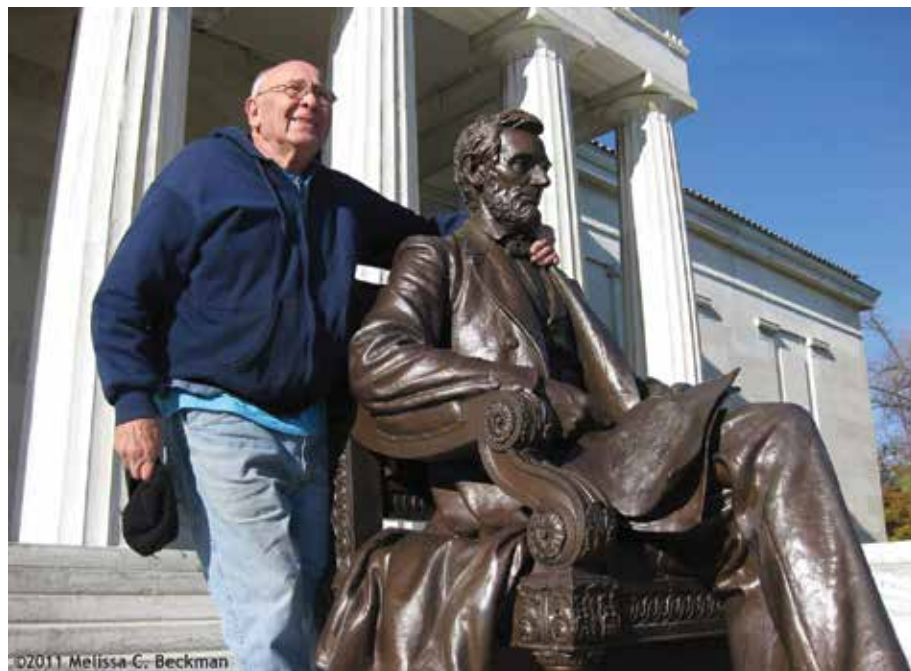


Photo by Melissa Beckman

deeper. He rarely had a night without nightmares," she said.

Philip is survived by Melissa C. Beckman

(Alex Goldman), another daughter Debbie Beckman (the late Jay Boyar) and grandson Evan Boyar.

In Remembrance

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

Bertha Ader
Irving Atlas
Philip Beckman
Dr. Steven Braunstein
Audre Bunis
Mary D. Cohen
Roberta DeBruin

Lorrie Desbecker
Arnold Etelson
Rose Gellman
Evelyn Kierstein
Brian Kreeger
Edith Lama
Herbert R. Lisow
Louis Pozarny
Renee Gal Primack
Joyce Slepian
Joan C. Stovroff
Joan Abzug Sugarman
Dr. Ilja J. Weinreib



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.



"In the Family Tradition"

The Mesnekoff name is synonymous with caring for our Jewish community for 3 generations.

• Condolence meals
 & Live streaming from
 funeral home now offered
 Call Jay at
(716) 639-8890

Service Beyond
 Expectation
 8630 Transit Road
 East Amherst, NY 14051

www.mesnekoff.com

email:
contact@mesnekoff.com

•Visit us on Facebook



A Summer Unlike Any Other

By Michael E. Hill, President, Chautauqua Institution

Summer is a time of rituals for me.

As President of the 146-year-old Chautauqua Institution located on 750 acres about an hour and 20 minutes south of Buffalo, my summer is usually a highly scripted affair. Over nine weeks, Chautauqua explores the best in human values through some 3,000 individual events. Ours is a storied institution replete with traditions and a sing-song routine for those of us called to be stewards of this special place. On a normal June 15, which is when I am writing this, we would be preparing to receive more than 100,000 summer visitors. Our artists, speakers, preachers, some 1,200 seasonal workers and others would be descending on our grounds to open up 100-plus public buildings in preparation to explore nine themed weeks centering on the most pressing issues of our time.

As I look out my window onto Bestor Plaza, our town square, I don't see any of that occurring. I see a few residents walking by in masks, having just visited the Post Office on the grounds. Through my open window, I hear one of our small business owners talking about the promise of a Phase Three reopening of her shop and what it will mean if people want to access it. A few members of my staff have returned to their offices for the first time in four months but many of our offices are still dark as we work through COVID-19 safety plans and protocols.

So what does this mean for our



Chautauqua Institution President Michael Hill reacts to an exchange between renowned jazz trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis, left, managing and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and his brother, the poet and photographer Ellis Marsalis III, on Aug. 19, 2019, on the Chautauqua Amphitheater stage.

summer? Will we break the arc of tradition that so many have come to know about Chautauqua? You may have read in *The Buffalo News* or another media announcement that Chautauqua Institution's Board of Trustees voted in May to cancel all in-person programming on our grounds. Some might think that we are simply going to "moth ball" the place and try again next year. But what I find so thrilling is that we have no intention of breaking that all-important arc of tradition.

In June we previewed a new way of engaging with others for the summer.

Chautauqua is unveiling an ambitious effort we're calling "CHQ Assembly," a multi-platform online digital collective that will allow us to share all nine theme weeks, our featured lecture speakers, our chaplains of the week, our interfaith speakers, performing arts events, an impressive set of online master and enrichment classes and a space for Chautauqua Visual Arts that allows people to view exhibitions, view artwork, and shop in our Gallery Store, only hinting at the hundreds of young visual and performing artists who will be studying with us online.

COVID-19 has surely shaken the foundations of all of our worlds. We have been quarantined inside our homes, and, for many, the thought of re-emerging into society is either thrilling or horrifying. Organizations across the country are struggling with how to keep their missions alive – financially and programmatically. This summer at Chautauqua, though, we have a chance to not only maintain many of our vehicles for sharing our mission, but we get to invite others to share it with us in a way that's as simple as watching Netflix, signing into your Apple TV, your Roku or viewing things on any internet-enabled device. Our team has worked hard and with breakneck speed to make this portal to our mission available in a matter of weeks. We hope you'll help us refine this experiment – what we're calling a beta test by joining us on the journey. Visit Assembly.chq.org to sign up for a free 90-day subscription to the video platform, click through to learn. chq.org to explore the available master and enrichment courses, and begin to explore the conversations we will curate on CHQ Assembly's Virtual Porch. All CHQ Assembly platforms will be live by June 28.

This is Chautauqua's first step toward expanding its reach far beyond our Western New York boundaries and curating a dynamic space to convene people year round.

While all of us are looking at a summer far different from the traditional, I'm excited to think about what opportunities are emerging from this very unique time. I may not be hosting large garden gatherings. We may not have 4,000 people in our Amphitheater for a lecture, a concert or a religious service. But we will be convening people, as we have for 146 summers prior, to explore the best in human values with the desire to take all we've learned back out in the world to make it a better place. What has long been our calling now has new relevance. Through CHQ Assembly, we aim to translate that into greater, more meaningful impact.

Michael Hill is the 18th President of the Chautauqua Institution.

KENMORE EYE CARE *and* AMHERST EYE CARE

Dr. David Burstein
Optometrist

Dr. Sandra Segerson
Optometrist

- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Specially Trained in Treating Eye Diseases
- Contact Lens Specialist
- Fashion Eyewear

Visit our newly expanded Amherst location!

KENMORE EYE CARE
924 Kenmore Ave., Buffalo, NY
(716) 876-2020

AMHERST EYE CARE
606 N. French Rd., Suite 7 & 8, Amherst, NY
(716) 688-8127



2020 XT4 PREMIUM LUXURY
ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE WITH
GM EMPLOYEE PRICING

\$369/ 39 /\$0
PER MONTH MONTHS DOWN

or 0% APR Financing and \$1500 rebate!
Security deposit waived. Tax, registration, 1st pay-
ment and bank fees due at signing. Mileage charges
of \$0.25 per mile over 32,500 miles.

2020 XT5 LUXURY AWD
ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE WITH
GM EMPLOYEE PRICING

\$389/ 39 /\$0
PER MONTH MONTHS DOWN

or 0% APR Financing and \$1500 rebate!
Security deposit waived. Tax, registration, 1st pay-
ment and bank fees due at signing. Mileage charges
of \$0.25 per mile over 32,500 miles.

2020 ESCALADE LUXURY AWD

MSRP \$88,355

Rebate -\$9000

GM Employee Discount -\$8312

BUY \$71,043 plus taxes
FOR & fees

Must qualify for GM Employee Pricing.
Offer good through 6/30/2020. Stock #RB20246

XT5 Luxury MSRP \$47,815, Stk. #RB20436; XT4 Luxury MSRP \$42,735, Stk. #RB20260; Escalade MSRP \$88,355, Stk. #RB20044. All leases on approved credit. Lessee responsible for routine maintenance and excess wear and tear. Leases require lease in household and must qualify for GM Employee Pricing. 0% APR financing for up to 60 months, includes \$1500 manufacturer rebate. All offers end July 31, 2020.

ROBERT BASIL CADILLAC

RobertBasilCadillac.com

LOCATION
3475 SOUTHWESTERN BLVD.
ORCHARD PARK, NY
14127

SALES
716.288.9620
MON, TUES & THURS 9AM - 6PM
WED & FRI 9AM - 6PM
SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM

©2018 General Motors. All Rights Reserved Cadillac®

Save 15% on your best defense against pests

Just present this coupon to our technician at the time of service.



Proud partner of the Buffalo Sabres & Buffalo Bandits



Proudly keeping WNY homes and businesses pest-free for more than 45 years!

We protect you from bugs, birds, bats, mosquitoes & ticks

Family-owned and operated • Fully licensed and insured

Now offering the new HOME SHIELD DEFENSE program



SUBURBAN
PEST CONTROL

Your best defense against pests. Period.

suburbanpestcontrolinc.com • 716-646-5700
7350 Boston State Road • Hamburg, NY 14075



Giancarlo's
SICILIAN STEAKHOUSE & PIZZERIA

THE OYSTER BAR

Your favorite dining experience just got better with the addition of our new Oyster Bar.

Book Your Table at GiancarlosSteakhouse.com

Monday - Saturday [5PM - 10PM] | @Giancarlos5110



5110 Main St. Williamsville NY, 14221
Call [716] 650-5566