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» SHANA TOVA 5781!

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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

SEPTEMBER 2020 | ELUL 5780-TISHREI 5781

THE CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH BUFFALO
PRESENTS:

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WEDNESDAY 9.23.20 @ 7 PM

(6-7)



INSIDE:
HIHOS
YOUR WAY
(8-14)



DON'T MISS:
HOLIDAY
COOKING CLASS
(19)



LOOK:
JEWISH BASEBALL
ODYSSEY
(20)

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WHAT'S INSIDE...

September 2020

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

I remember many years ago when Rosh Hashanah arrived at the beginning of September and I thought, “The Holidays are too early. I'm not ready for *yuntif* this soon!” In response to this thought at the time, I read or heard a rabbi mention that the Holidays always come at “just the right time.” Not too early and not too late. They come when we need them. And this year - 5781 - is a perfect example of that idea. After this past spring and summer, we really need the warmth of the season, the gathering (even if it's remote), the redemption, the blessings and grace and forgiveness of this auspicious time of year.


We in Buffalo have been spared the worst of the pandemic, although we've had many losses in lives as well as anything resembling normalcy.

As we approach the High Holy Days, please accept my thanks for the opportunity to edit this amazing newspaper and to help bring us together as a community. I thank you, Jewish Buffalonians, for your stories, photos, article submissions, and creative ideas which have made *The Jewish Journal of WNY* the quality publication that it is. I also thank our partners at *Buffalo Spree Publications*—Publisher Barbara Macks, Designer Kim Miers, Sales Director Cynthia Oppenheimer, President Sharon Levite, as well as the advertisers—for their continuing support and commitment to an excellent Jewish community print newspaper in this digital age. And I thank my colleagues at Buffalo Jewish Federation, especially CEO Rob Goldberg, for their wisdom, support, and partnership.

During these past five months of COVID-19, we have tried to focus on the positive stories in Buffalo and the awesome people who make our community stronger even during hard times. But some factors unfortunately have been out of our control. We know that many readers have been receiving their *JJWNY* late, despite our careful production schedule that would assure the papers arrive in homes by the first of each month.

You must, by now, know that the US Postal Service has been experiencing serious delays due to COVID-19 or political issues or both. While we apologize for the delays in receiving your *JJWNY*, we want you to know that we have been in constant touch with local postal officials to advocate for on-time delivery. Know that you can always read the paper online (before it lands in your mailbox) through Federation's website: www.buffalojewishfederation.org.

And finally, please accept warm wishes from me and my husband, Mitch, for a happy, healthy and sweet New Year full of life, community, creativity and joy.



Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



This marquee is an invitation for you to enjoy a star studded event as the Buffalo Jewish Federation kicks off its 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo September 23. You can read more on pages 6-7 and register today! Cover art by Jill Komm.

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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.

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2 www.buffalojewishfederation.org | September 2020

Embracing “Messy” for the Holidays

An expression I’ve heard a lot over the past six months - referring to many things including adapting Federation programming, complex issues in our society, and to nearly every aspect of life right now is - “It’s messy.”

This isn’t about food, but that’s a great analogy: little kids are messy because they’re always trying new things-when they eat, when they play and when they do just about anything. Think about your kitchen when you’re making something really amazing. All messy, messy, messy.

The messy I’m talking about refers, generally, to life. Especially to life as we know it now.

How do we figure out how to connect with our community in a time of social distancing? How will kids learn this fall and how do we process and address big questions arising in society - from LGBTQ+, #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, not to mention every other question the “World with COVID” has presented? Well, it’s messy.

Forging new frontiers and then establishing new norms involves trying new things, and both can be very, very messy. In the musical *Hamilton* there is a scene where the young Alexander Hamilton pleads with his rival and fellow lawyer Aaron Burr to contribute to the Federalist Papers in order to help influence votes in favor of ratification-to “defend the new U.S. Constitution.”

Refusing the offer, the conversation as depicted in *Hamilton* goes like this:

Burr: “The Constitution’s a mess.”

Hamilton: “So it needs amendments.”

Burr: “It’s full of contradictions.”

Hamilton: “So is independence.”

In the end, the Federalist Papers helped garner enough votes for ratification adopting the U.S. Constitution as the law of this land.

I love this exchange in the musical,



Leslie Kramer

because it shows how important it was –and is—to try new things, to experiment when building something new; even if it’s not a clear path. It took guts and tenacity and vision to build the foundation of this democratic country, as Hamilton calls it: “this great experiment.”

In the Jewish world we’ve made changes for millennia. In recent, modern history, we’ve created community according to the needs of the time and place. Not every Jewish community operates the same, but I would argue that each one strives to create a community that suits the needs of its constituents.

In every generation there are those whose practice becomes the new frontier, and then the new “norm.”

In times of prosperity, such as the mid-20th century, our American Jewish community adapted from the days we lived

in “the Old Country,” wherever that might have been. My grandparents, growing up in the *shtetl* of Sokolifka in Ukraine surely did not have a huge, elaborate synagogue that was the spiritual AND cultural center for its congregants. They certainly didn’t have JCCs or even a Jewish Federation.

These phenomena developed in the New World – the America of our immigrant parents and grandparents. The form of Jewish life and of prayer and synagogue that most of us grew up with was that generation’s answer to the need to sustain and build Jewish community in the time of the here and now in their new home.

We’ve also adapted to our circumstances in times of difficulty or threat too. Several examples come to mind—the synagogues in Europe from the Middle Ages that had no exterior adornment or identification, as the Jewish community didn’t WANT to bring attention to their house of prayer to people outside their community for fear of retribution.

And most of us are familiar with the famous photos of Israeli soldiers in wartime stopping in the woods for impromptu prayer services.

When I was a camper in Haliburton, Ontario, we held our Friday night Shabbat services on logs facing a beautiful lake. That became our sanctuary. Traditional prayers were replaced with poems and musings by our fellow campers on subjects such as “Friendship,” “Honesty” and “Integrity.” We were encouraged to appreciate the nature around us (“listen to the loons” on the lake) and each other. It was a special time that has stayed with so many for a lifetime.

This is what we Jews do – we adapt even when it is messy

Now, here we are, in the “World with COVID,” approaching the High

Holy Days. How will we observe these important moments? How will we create ceremony around this important time in the calendar? The answer may be more varied this year than most. Some of us will be the few permitted to physically enter actual sanctuaries of our beloved synagogues, whether it be ten, twenty or another number that fits within the NYS guidelines. Some of us will opt to participate in those very services from home, sharing the moments on Zoom or on Livestream. And after we enjoy the services from our own community, we may find other sources to join. When it’s online, there is suddenly so much available to enrich ourselves.

As for me and my family, I hope to be at home, sharing love and connection with whomever of my family may be in town. And I know that the little stream by my house will be the perfect waterway required for *tashlich*, as we symbolically throw away our sins of the past year.

As we each contemplate the holidays, I wish you all a healthy, peaceful New Year. If you fast on Yom Kippur, I hope that it is a meaningful one, and I hope everyone has the opportunity to sit in a sukkah and shake the lulav and etrog. And I hope those who want will dance and celebrate on Simchat Torah, perhaps joining in with others-with either Video On or Video Off.

I look forward to hearing about people’s experiences. This year is a big experiment, and it might not be exactly what we hope for. It might be messy. But let’s see what comes out of it. We just might find exciting ways to celebrate that we wouldn’t have otherwise thought of. Perhaps we’ll even get a glimpse into the new frontier.

L'Shana Tova UmeTuka, a sweet, good, healthy and peaceful year to us all.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

FLIP TO PAGES 6 – 7!

High Holy Days Worship

The following information is as of August 24. Please check with synagogues if you have questions on service dates, times and places and weather issues.

Chabad of Buffalo

For more information, call Chabad at 716-688-1642 for details.

Congregation Beth Abraham

All services on Zoom except for participants. The Zoom links will be provided on the CBA website approximately one week before the holidays.

(www.congregationbethabraham.net)

Friday, September 18th

Rosh Hashanah: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 19th

Rosh Hashanah: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Sunday, September 20th

Rosh Hashanah: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Tashlich at Hoyt Lake:

5:30 p.m. (bring bread, wear a mask)

Sunday, September 27th

Kol Nidre: 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 28th

Morning service: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Mincha: 5:15 p.m.; Ne'ilah:

6:45 p.m.; shofar blowing: 7:40 p.m.

Congregation Havurah

For more information, contact Bernie Schenkler at bschenkler@roadrunner.com.

Congregation Shir Shalom

Saturday, September 12th

8:00 p.m. S'lichot with livestream via Boxcast (Virtual Only)

Friday, September 18th

Shofar Blowing around town: 11:00 a.m.

Weinberg Campus, 11:30 a.m. The Amberleigh and 12:00 p.m. CSS Parking Lot

7:00 p.m.: Candle lighting via Zoom

7:30 p.m.: Erev Rosh Hashanah with live stream via Boxcast (Virtual Only)

Saturday, September 19th

9:00 a.m. Welcome via Zoom

9:30 a.m. Torah Service via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Park and Pray Rosh Hashanah - Transit Drive In Theatre

2:30 p.m. Park and Pray Rosh Hashanah Family Service - Transit Drive In Theatre (OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY)

4:15 p.m. Tashlich - JCC Benderson Building

Sunday, September 20th

10:30 a.m. Morning via Zoom

Congregation Shir Shalom (continued)

Sunday, September 27th

1:00 p.m. Kever Avot at White Chapel Memorial Park

7:00 p.m. Candle lighting via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre via Boxcast (Virtual Only)

Monday, September 28th

9:00 a.m. Welcome via Zoom

9:30 a.m. Torah Service via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Park and Pray Yom Kippur - Transit Drive In Theatre

1:00 p.m. Reflections via Zoom

2:30 p.m. Park and Pray Yom Kippur Family Service - Transit Drive In Theatre

4:00 p.m. Healing Service

5:00 p.m. Mincha via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Yizkor/Neilah with live stream via Boxcast (Virtual Only)

7:15 p.m. Park and Pray Final Shofar Blowing in the temple parking lot

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the changing nature and uncertainty of the pandemic, the High Holy Days Services are subject to change.

Hillel of Buffalo

High Holy Day services will be virtual with content from Hillel International. Pre-registration will be required. **Contact rabbisara@hillelsofbuffalo.org for dates and times.**

Kehilat Ohr Tzion

Saturday, September 19th

Morning service- 9 a.m.

Sunday, September 20th

Morning service- 9 a.m.

Sunday, September 27th

Kol Nidrei- 6:45 p.m.

Monday, September 28th

Morning Service- 9 a.m.

Neilah - 5:45 p.m.

For all other services including dates/times and location, please contact Rabbi Ori at 631-371-4201/ oribergman@gmail.com or visit mykot.org.

JDC Learning Center

831 Maple Road

Saturday, September 19

& Sunday, September 20

Full morning service on both days of Rosh Hashanah for a limited number of participants outdoors at 831 Maple Road. *Please register with Rabbi Heschel Greenberg at 716-245-9520.*

Sunday, September 20

An abbreviated, outdoor service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah at 831 Maple Road, combining a Shofar and Tashlich service. To allow for proper physical distancing, there will be three separate outdoor services:

4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

A children's program will be offered at the 4:00 p.m. service.

Please register for you would like to join (no charge) at <https://form.jotform.com/202184606612146> or at jewishdiscovery.org. All health and safety regulations will be observed.

Check the website for Yom Kippur service information.

JDC

757 Hopkins Road

Indoor and outdoor seating will be available

Friday, September 18

7:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Saturday, September 19

10:00 a.m. Morning Service followed by Kiddush luncheon

2:00 p.m. Inspirational Service

Sunday, September 20

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

11:30 a.m. Shofar Service followed by Kiddush luncheon

2:00 p.m. Shofar Blowing (15 minutes)

2:00 p.m. Inspirational Service (1 hour)

Sunday, September 27

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidrei

Monday, September 28

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

11:30 a.m. Yizkor

5:45 p.m. Mincha

6:45 p.m. Neilah

7:45 p.m. Shofar Sounding followed by a Break-the-Fast buffet

Children's programs during most services. See website for details.

More info & Reservations:

716-639-7600 or info@JewishBuffalo.com or www.jewishbuffalo.com.

Temple Beth Tzedek

Saturday, September 12th

Selichot - 10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. – Livestream only

Friday, September 18th

Rosh Hashanah Eve – 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - Livestream only

Saturday, September 19th

Service 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Service 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Livestream only

Sunday, September 20th

Services 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon – Tashlich/Minhah & Ma'ariv – 5:30 p.m. at stream across the street – Service livestream only 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 27th

Yom Kippur Eve 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Monday, September 28th

Yom Kippur Day – 9:30 a.m.-noon

Minhah/Ne'ilah – 5:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Those attending services in the TBT building will only be people participating in the service and must register. No one else will be allowed in the building.

Temple Beth Zion

All services (unless noted as “on demand”) will be held live via Zoom. All links to access services can be found at www.tbz.org.

Friday, September 18

Erev Rosh Hashanah, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19

Rosh Hashanah Morning, 10:30 a.m.

Tashlich, 5:00 p.m. - Japanese Garden, Behind the Buffalo History Museum. Attendees are asked to wear masks and adhere to social distancing protocol. Service also available via Zoom – go to www.tbz.org for the link.

Sunday, September 27

Memorial Service, Noon-Forest Lawn Cemetery, Section Z. Service also available via Zoom – go to www.tbz.org for the link.

Kol Nidrei – Erev Yom Kippur Service, 8:00 p.m.

Monday, September 28

Yom Kippur Morning, 10:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Afternoon Learning, 2:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur Mincha, 3:15 p.m.

Yom Kippur Yizkor-Ne'ilah, 4:30 p.m.

On Demand Services – go to www.tbz.org: Rosh Hashanah Alternate Morning Service, Rosh Hashanah Tot Service, Yom Kippur Tot Service

Shana Tova

from the
Buffalo Jewish Federation
Board of Governors



*The Buffalo Jewish Federation wishes you
and your loved ones a good and sweet New Year!*

Pictured above from left: Marjorie Bryen- Treasurer; Andrew Shaevel- Secretary;
Leslie Shuman Kramer- President; Shelly Yellen-Vice President,
and Blaine Schwartz- Vice President

*Wishing everyone a
happy and healthy new year*



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THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

MORE INFO ON PAGES 6 - 7

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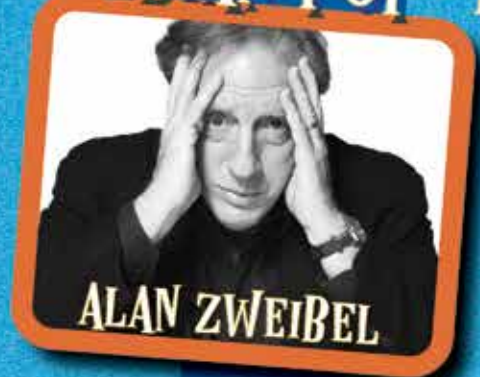
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- 1» There are still food scarcities during this difficult time. **You can help by donating to Feed More WNY**, which now encompasses Meals on Wheels and The Food Bank. **Go to www.feedmorewny.org to donate online, volunteer or learn more.**
- 2» **Enable those less fortunate to be able to celebrate** by donating canned goods and food to the Town Square Food Pantry at Weinberg Campus. It is open Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and you can drop off your food, personal items like toothpaste, soap, shampoo or other goods. Or take them to Temple Beth Zion Broder Center, where they will then be delivered to Town Square.
- 3» **Temple Beth Zion will hold its traditional Yom Kippur Food Drive for Feed More**, just a bit earlier. It will take place at the Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, on September 13 from 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and the Sanctuary building at 805 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo on September 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to drop off bags of non-perishable food.
- 4» **Don't miss the Kick-Off of the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo!** Join members of your Jewish Community Wednesday, September 23 beginning at 7:00 p.m. for a star studded special streamed event. Register at bit.ly/jewishbuffalo21. **See more on pages 6 & 7.**
- 5» **Fight back against this disease of aging! Walk to End Alzheimer's** Saturday, September 12. There is no large Walk gathering this year. Instead, you can walk in small teams of friends and family while others in the Buffalo community do the same. **For more information, go to www.alz.org/wny or contact Lauren Klenosky at 241-0355 or lklenosky@alz.org.**
- 6» **2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Gift** If you have not done so already, make your 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo gift before Rosh Hashanah at www.buffalojewishfederation.org/donate.
- 7» **It's a mitzvah to remember your loved ones**—your parents and grandparents who are no longer living before Rosh Hashanah. Visit their graves if you are able, then make a donation in their memory to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation. **Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org and click on "Donate."**
- 8» **Make a donation TODAY to the Community Compassion Fund**, a special fund opened to help support individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the funds will be distributed through Jewish Family Service. **Go to the Federation's web page at www.buffalojewishfederation.org to make your donation.**
- 9» **Debbie Stern needs a stem cell transplant, and she needs your help!** If you are or know anyone under 45 years old of European Jewish descent and you are willing to donate, contact Debbie at 716-688-0058 directly or Ezer Mizion bone marrow registry at ryan@ezermizionusa.org or call 718-853-8400 for a cheek swabbing kit to see if you can be a donor. See page 39 for more information.
Here are 9 ideas on how to address Racial Justice and Voter Engagement. For more information see pg. 17:
- 10» **Take this Race Literacy Quiz** to educate yourself on the common myths and misconceptions about race. It will only take you about 10 minutes! <http://www.whatsrace.org/images/racequiz.pdf>
- 11» **Buy something from a local Black-owned business.** <https://stepoutbuffalo.com/guide-to-black-owned-businesses-to-support-in-wny/>
- 12» **Listen to Episode No. 14: "American Jewish Communities After George Floyd" from the Identity/Crisis Podcast by the Hartman Institute.** (listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts for free) <https://www.hartman.org.il/identity-crisis-14-american-jewish-communities-after-george-floyd/>
- 13» **Read Chapter 1 of White Fragility** by Robin DiAngelo (read preview on Google Books for free).
- 14» **Watch 13th**, a documentary that explores the history of racial inequality within the criminal justice system (watch on Netflix).
- 15» **Encourage your family, friends, or book club to read and discuss** a book about racial justice. Here are some ideas:
Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi (for young children)
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (for teenagers)
So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo (for adults)
- 16» **Read and discuss Jewish texts** on Racial Justice. <https://jcouncil.org/page/listen-learn-act> lists texts that focus on people being created in the image of God and the universal need for justice.
- 17» **Voter Engagement: sign up to write postcards for Reclaim Our Vote**, an organization that writes and sends colorful postcards to voters who have been removed from voter rolls and encourages them to register to vote. Contact Deborah Cohen at deb@deblifecoach.com (Shir Shalom), Shelly Kerker at BethAbrahamshellykerker@hotmail.com or Renee Stith at postcard.renee@gmail.com to sign up, or read the article on page 16 for more information.
- 18» If you are interested in volunteering to assist community members with **voter registration**, or if you need help learning how to register to vote or how to vote by mail and would like to be linked with a volunteer (see page 11), please contact Jewish Family Service's Sierra Johnston at sjohnston@jfsbuffalo.org or 716-548-0431.

Learning to See the Other

By Rabbi Ori Bergman

In 2003, I took off my *kippah*. At the time, I experienced Judaism as stifling, judgmental and unachievable. These feelings were always amplified before the High Holidays. To make matters worse, one day I bumped into a man from my local synagogue. In the blink of an eye, his eyes peered to the top of my bare *kippah*-less head and then back at me. This infinitesimally insignificant eye gesture penetrated me so deeply that I feel the sting of his eyes to this day.

Why was I so hurt? I believe I needed what Oprah Winfrey describes here: I've talked to nearly 30,000 people on this show, and all 30,000 had one thing in common: They all wanted validation. I would tell you that every single person you will ever meet shares that common desire.

Validation is the most important thing we can give to each other and it's free. Offering validation is the simple act of letting people know: "I see you. I hear you. And what you say matters." It took me years to understand that Judaism is a relationship; the Jewish people are a family, and I am an integral part of that equation. Validation is the gateway for this relationship to thrive.

So what is the Day of Judgment about if not judgment? Rosh Hashanah celebrates the day God created Adam and Eve. On that day, they ate from the Tree of Knowledge and eventually hid from God soliciting the question, "Ayeka, where are you?" Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Hakohen Kook describes the sin as follows: The sin of the first human being, which estranged him from his true self, was that he turned to the advice of the snake, losing himself. He did not know how to clearly answer the question "Ayeka?" because... he lost touch with his true "I-ness," his truest self. We must seek our inner selves. When we seek, we will find (*Light of Holiness* 3, pg 140.)

On Rosh Hashanah, our job is to rectify this state of affairs by striving to reveal our inner selves. We start by giving others the safety of being who they are-validation. Furthermore, on that day, we say nothing of sin, but simply sing to God about who He is- *Avinu Malkenu*, Our Father, Our King.

Ultimately, though, we do so by giving ourselves the permission and safety to say to God- this is me, I am here (*hineni*).



Rabbi Ori Bergman

For God already sees us for who we are (see *Samuel 1* 16:7) and it is us who need to learn to remove the fear and masks of our imperfection in favor of the truest expression of who we are.

Here's a story to illustrate the idea: Once upon a time, there lived a very poor couple who had a son. When the boy was born, a relative sent some expensive and elegant cloth as a birthday present. The mother stored it away and said, "When my son will be a man I will

send him into this world with a beautiful robe made of this material."

One day, when the boy grew up, a rich merchant invited all the town's people to a feast. The son came in his usual tattered clothing, and no one made room for him at the table. Broken-hearted at the rejection, he went home. To console him, his mother gave him a beautiful robe made from the elegant cloth she had stored away all these years. The boy returned to the feast dressed in his new finery.

The rich man saw him, rushed over and bowed, and asked him to sit beside him. The boy took off his elegant robe, holding it by the collar and said, "Eat, robe. Eat as much as you want." "Why are you talking to your coat?" asked the rich man. "Because when I was here before, in poor clothing, no one paid any attention to me. But now I come in a fancy robe and you treat me royally. It is clearly not me you invited to eat beside you, but my robe. So if you love me for my robe, you rob me of myself. But if you love me for myself, you give me a treasure beyond price."

So on Rosh Hashanah, all we really need to do is to show up **fully**. This is the message of the piercing sound of the shofar which says "Wake up from your slumber" (*Maimonides, Laws of Repentance* 3:4). See yourself for who you are, opening the gate for what you can become, the eventual focus of Yom Kippur. A Happy and Healthy holiday to you all!

Rabbi Ori Bergman is the Rabbi for Congregation Kehillat Ohr Tzion and Jewish Educator for the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning.



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DO YOU 10Q?

By Susan Schwartz

This year's unexpected pandemic has forced us all to adapt and change how we are spending our time and living our lives. And while it has often felt as if time has stood still, the days, months and seasons continue onwards. While caught up in the everyday, how often do you take the time to pause, question, reflect and wonder? Jewish time provides us with an opportunity to reflect and ready ourselves for a new year during the month of Elul, and continues during the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

For the past 6 years, I have participated in Reboot's annual **10Q** project. **10Q** is a reinvention of the ancient ritual of reflection, a platform for people to rethink the significance of the time period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and its relevance to their lives today, by generating an online space for personal reflection. Reboot's **10Q** project offers a new way for people of all backgrounds to slow down and examine their lives in a meaningful way.

Each year I have waited in anticipation for my annual pre-Rosh

Hashanah e-mail to read my answers to the previous year's 10 Questions, which have been digitally archived. Questions like, "Describe a significant experience that has happened in the past year. How did it affect you? Are you grateful? Relieved? Resentful? Inspired?" or "Is there something that you wish you had done differently this past year? Alternatively, is there something you're especially proud of from this past year?" or "Describe an event in the world that has impacted you this year. How? Why?"

If you have not participated in 10Q in the past, this is a great year to begin! Registration is simple and

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fast and can be done at www.doyou10q.com.

Over 10 Days you will receive 10 Questions. Questions about life, future goals, relationships, ways to influence the world around you and more. Answer one question per day in your own online **10Q** space. Make your answers serious or simple, silly or spectacular, however you like; it's your **10Q**. At the end of the 10 days, you will have a day or so, post-Yom Kippur, to reflect on your answers. You will then be invited to hit the magic button and send your answers

to a locked digital vault. Next year, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, your answers will magically appear in your inbox, full of revelations and the process begins again. Over time, you will build an archive of your beliefs, values and experiences.

Reboot is an arts and culture non-profit that reimagines and reinforces Jewish thought and traditions. **10Q** is made possible by the generous support of the Righteous Persons Foundation.

Susan Goldberg Schwartz is the Director of Adult Engagement for CJEL.

How to Make an Origami Shofar



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What is a Shofar?

A Shofar is a musical horn typically made of a ram's horn, blown everyday (except for Shabbat) during the month of Elul leading up to Rosh Hashanah. The Shofar is also blown during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

How do I make it?

Follow the link below to find a how-to video on creating your own origami shofar with Kennedy Henry and Julia Maxick!

bit.ly/buffaloshofar

CJEL FALL CLASSES

Intro to Judaism

Wednesdays beginning 11/4

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Cost: \$72/12 week course (books purchased separately)

In collaboration with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors, this exceptional course is designed for couples of multiple faiths considering marriage, individuals interested in conversion, or individuals (Jewish and non-Jewish) interested in learning more about Jewish religion and history. This course will explore the Jewish calendar and life cycles, worship and beliefs, the Bible, Rabbinic literature, anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, Zionism and the State of Israel.

Living A Jewish Year

Tuesdays, monthly beginning 10/13

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Cost: \$72 (includes books and materials)

This year-long program will guide participants through a substantive Jewish learning experience emphasizing how a celebration of Jewish time can help

individuals integrate Judaism into the natural rhythms of their lives. Participants will experience living the Jewish calendar through the celebration of a variety of holidays and festivals. Additionally, the curriculum is designed to explore and discuss a different Jewish *middah*/character trait each month, using ancient and modern Jewish texts, stories and simple activities, as a starting point of the conversation.

Women Gathering Cohorts

New cohorts beginning in September and October

No Cost

Women gathering together has been a hallmark of Judaism since Biblical times. In each of these small groups, Wise Aging, Wise Women, Mussar for Moms and Well Circle, women will gather to connect with one another through text, joyful conversation, and a commitment to lift one another up.

Contact Susan Schwartz at susan@buffalojewishfederation.org for registration information and with questions.

PJ LIBRARY AND PJ OUR WAY PROGRAMS



My Grown Up and Me

Monthly, Sundays beginning 9/13

10:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom

No Cost

My Grown Up and Me is a monthly Jewish gathering for infants/toddlers and the adults who love them! Join us one Sunday morning a month for a 30-minute virtual gathering (over Zoom) which will include music, activities to do at home with our little ones, and a bit of PJ Library Story Time flair. Linger longer to schmooze with other families. This program is ideal for parents with children ages 3 and under.

Shabbat ShaFamily

Monthly, Fridays beginning 9/11

5:45-6:15 p.m.

Location: Facebook Live

No Cost

PJ Library of Buffalo's monthly roving Kabbalat Shabbat experience for tots is now called Shabbat ShaFamily. The whole family is invited for songs, stories, and to welcome-in Shabbat with prayer. Each month will

feature clergy and friends from congregations and organizations across Jewish Buffalo. For the remainder of 2020, Shabbat ShaFamily will be hosted on Facebook LIVE.

PJ Our Way 4th and 5th Grade Book Club

Monthly Book Club for children in grades 4-5. Come together in a virtual space to play games and discuss the monthly book selection. Cohort: 4th and 5th graders

6th and 7th Grade Book Club

Monthly Book Club for children in grades 6-7. Come together in a virtual space to play games and discuss the monthly book selection. Cohort: 6th and 7th graders

Contact Susan Schwartz at susanbuffalojewishfederation.org for questions about PJ Library and Mike Steklof at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org for questions about PJ Our Way.

BUFFALO JEWISH TEEN INITIATIVE CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

Teen Retreat

Saturday 9/26

11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Location: Camp Centerland

No Cost

Kick off a year of learning with the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative at a Shabbat retreat at Camp Centerland. This *Shabbat-friendly* retreat is designed for participants in the **Buffalo Jewish Teen Leadership Fellowship**, **Being Jewish in 2020**, and **Student to Student**. The day will include learning, self-exploration, community building and all the fun of being at camp! This retreat is for teens in grades 8 - 12, who are enrolled in (or are considering enrolling in) a Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative course for the year. CJEL Gathering Guidelines will be observed; all participants will be required to wear masks.

Being Jewish in 2020

Wednesdays beginning 10/7

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Cost: \$36

This year was not what anyone expected it to be. How has your life changed in 2020? How have the pandemic, George Floyd, and the upcoming election affected your life? Join University of Michigan senior Ben Wolfson, and Rabbi Ori to discuss what it's like to be a teen today and how Judaism can help us make sense and make meaning of our lives in 2020. This course is for teens in grades 8 - 9.

Teen Leadership Fellowship

Wednesdays beginning 10/14

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Cost: \$118

Teen Leadership Fellowship is the premier, selective program of the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative. The fellowship will offer participants a year-long opportunity to both develop practical skills (applicable in high school, college and beyond) and gain awareness of community history, civic responsibility, race/diversity, and personal potential all through the lens of applied Jewish wisdom. Each session will involve meeting prominent community leaders pertaining to the session topic. This program is facilitated by Hadar Borden, Director Blackstone LaunchPad and The WNY Prosperity Fellowship Program at the University at Buffalo and requires participants to apply for selection to the fellowship. Fellows are required to complete an impact project as part of the fellowship.

Student to Student
First Training:
9/16

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

No Cost

Student to Student is a national initiative which trains Jewish teens to travel to area high schools to engage in dialogue about Judaism with their non-Jewish peers. Trained teens make presentations and lead informal discussions about Judaism in local schools that lack a Jewish presence. The goal of this program is to reduce stereotypes and prejudice among teens through peer-to-peer dialogue. Participating students will receive up to 20 hours of community service for participating.



Contact Mike Steklof at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org for registration information and with questions.

DO-IT-YOURSELF TASHLICH

TASHLICH IS A JEWISH RITUAL PERFORMED EACH YEAR ON THE AFTERNOON OF ROSH HASHANAH. THE WORD TASHLICH IS HEBREW AND MEANS TO CAST OFF, AS IN, TO CAST OFF YOUR SINS.

In order to practice this ceremony, all you need is (1) moving water (explore one of the locations below, or even the kitchen sink can work if you feel safer staying at home), (2) some small pieces/crumbs of bread or a pile of stones or leaves, and (3) a mental list of all the wrongdoings, bad habits, or shame you would like to cast off in order to start your new year with a clean slate. Experience the feeling of symbolically casting away your sins by reviewing your mental list and tossing a crumb, pebble or leaf into the water for each item.

HERE ARE SOME PLACES AROUND BUFFALO TO DO TASHLICH



A great spot to visit Ellicott Creek is at the beginning of the Amherst Bike Path (North Forest Rd in Williamsville). You'll find a small bridge over the creek at the beginning of the path.

Glen Falls is a small park in the Village of Williamsville. Besides the beautiful waterfall and walking paths, it's a great place to have a picnic with family or friends!



Scataquada Creek (named derived from Native American, Philip Kenjockety) flows through Forest Lawn Cemetery, next to Delaware Park and over Serenity Falls in the city of Buffalo.

Tonawanda Creek is 90 miles long, giving you plenty of great access to the water. Check out Mayors Park, Ellicott Island Park, or Amherst Veterans Canal Park.



Canalside is situated on the Buffalo River in the inner harbor. This family-friendly spot in the city of Buffalo is filled with opportunities for hours of fun - including paddle boats and kayaks!

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Hillel Recommends Resources for the Days of Awe

This year, as always, we will pray for a *Shana Tova UmeTuka*, A Sweet and Good Year. At present, we taste the bitterness of this year, and find ourselves with a profound opportunity to make the most of this annual chance for reflection. And this past year has placed us in a global crisis and time of uncertainty that adds considerable layers onto our experiences.

In order to get the most out of the Days of Awe, it helps to spend the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah engaging in self-examination, or *cheshbon hanefesh*. This practice calls to mind the behaviors, thoughts and feelings that we often push below the surface during our busy lives, and that must be contended with in order for us to move forward and transform ourselves through the process of *teshuva*.

Hillel of Buffalo has curated resources for you to facilitate your *cheshbon hanefesh* heading into the High Holiday season. We hope these books will support you in your reflection heading into the New Year. **To learn more about Hillel, contact Rabbi Sara Rich at rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org.**

BOOKS:

***This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared*, Alan Lew.** Available in print and audiobook, this book offers spiritual practices for self-examination and awakening the soul.

***Overcoming Life's Disappointments*, Rabbi Harold Kushner.** In a year that has separated us from loved ones and caused us to modify or postpone happy occasions, this book provides support and compassion.

***Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews and America*, Rabbi Judith Schindler and Judy Seldin-Cohen.** This book offers a historical perspective and resources to engage in more social action in the year to come.

***One Hundred Suggestions for Spiritual Seekers and Activists*, Rabbi Joshua Bolton.** For those who are craving unconventional, provocative ways to spark reflection, this book promises you new ways to look at Judaism and yourself.

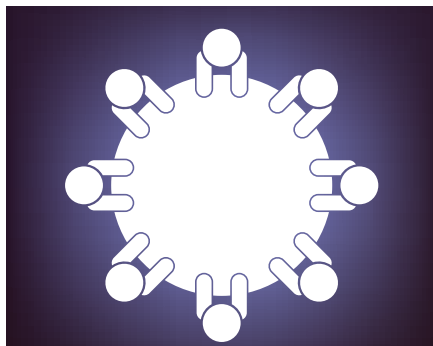
Who is (not) in your community? A Belonging activity for your family during this season

By Mike Steklof

Every year, during Rosh Hashanah, my family has the custom of hosting a local college student at our home for a holiday meal. One year, this custom became quite comical, when we picked up the “wrong” student. About halfway into our drive home the nervous non-Jewish college freshman in the back seat announced that he had no idea where we were taking him. We returned to campus, found the “right” student, and loved hosting *both* students for the festive meal.

A few weeks ago in the Torah portion *Re'eh*, we learned about the importance of inviting the stranger to celebrate holidays with us. Especially this year, after the death of George Floyd and the comments of DeSean Jackson, my family's **What's App** group has exploded with discussion about how we can be more welcoming to the stranger in our midst. The conversation has been especially difficult during the time of the pandemic when we are not comfortable inviting those outside of our bubble into our home. We are wrestling with questions about community and specifically *who is in our community, who is not in our community, and why it matters having a community where you feel like you belong*. I suspect that many are also having discussions about how we can include others in our community during these complicated times.

A community is most commonly defined as a social unit (a group of living things) with commonality such as norms, religion, values, customs, or identity. Communities may share a sense of place situated in a given geographical area (e.g.



a country, village, town, or neighborhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms.

In the Torah, we learn that Abraham and Sarah were the ideal model of welcoming others into their home. They rushed to greet their visitors, they made sure the visitors were comfortable and seated. When it was time for the visit to come to an end, Abraham and Sarah made sure to walk those visitors out so they could be sure to set off in the right direction. ***Is this the model we want to emulate with people who have been excluded in the past from our communities?***

During this High Holiday season, I encourage you to have a conversation with your family to explore these questions about community using a method called a Talking Circle. See below for how to have a Talking Circle with your family.

Talking Circle Ground Rules

During a Talking Circle, everyone is a member of the “circle” and each person has equal power. In the circle, everyone agrees to listen and respect the views of everyone else there. Use a totem such as a feather, stick or stone as the talking object. Only when holding the talking object can one speak.

At the beginning of the circle, intention setting should occur. Each member should agree to keep everything said confidential, to open their hearts to understand and connect with others and maintain a sense of gratitude towards the circle community they are now part of. Finally, everyone in the circle should set an intention to elevate the voices of those hesitant to speak above those who outside of the circle have the loudest voices and the most power.

Talking Circles are intended to resolve a problem, discuss an issue, or focus on a question. For this circle, focus on the questions: ***How do you define community? Who is in your community? Who is not in your community? Should we welcome others to our community? What does it feel like when you are excluded from a community? Why does this matter?***

Begin Your Talking Circle

Select a group facilitator. The group facilitator should facilitate in a non-judgmental way. The group facilitator cannot respond with words like, “great.” All they can do is acknowledge or clarify participants’ comments by using language such as “I understand that you are saying.....” **Pro-tip:** *select a teen in your family to be the facilitator. It is best when the facilitator is not the one who typically leads family conversations.*

During the circle, members can respond to the questions however they would like as long as they follow these basic rules:

- Participants indicate that they would like to speak by raising their hands or waiting for the totem to be passed to them. Only the person holding the totem has the right to speak, even if

they need to be silent for a short period to gather their thoughts.

- All comments should be about the topic at hand, not what other people have said.
- There should be no comments about what others have said even if the comments are positive.
- People are allowed to pass. No verbal or non-verbal judgement should be made if someone passes.
- It is important to go around the circle in a systematic way so that even non-vocal people are invited to speak.

Continue the circle until all members have talked (or passed) at least once. Usually it is quite evident when the Circle should end, as no one has anything else to add.

While the circle may not solve any problems, it is a good way to start up a conversation and for participants to reflect on their attitudes and actions.

After the circle is concluded, reflect on the following questions: Did your views change? Did you think about something in a new way? Do you plan to use this method to hold other family discussions in the future?

Sometimes it is easy to see rather than read about how to conduct a circle, check out this video: bit.ly/communitybuildingcircle for an example of a circle.

Did you love participating in a circle with your family and want to practice your circle-keeping skills? If yes, the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition regularly hosts zoom circles. Go to <https://www.ecrjc.org/> for more information. Finally, I would love to hear from you about your family's circle about community, email me to connect: mike@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Mike Steklof is Director of Teen Engagement and Inclusion.



REGISTER TODAY FOR

A STAR STUDDED KICK OFF EVENT

GO BACK TO PAGES 6 – 7 FOR MORE INFO!



New Year/New Checklist

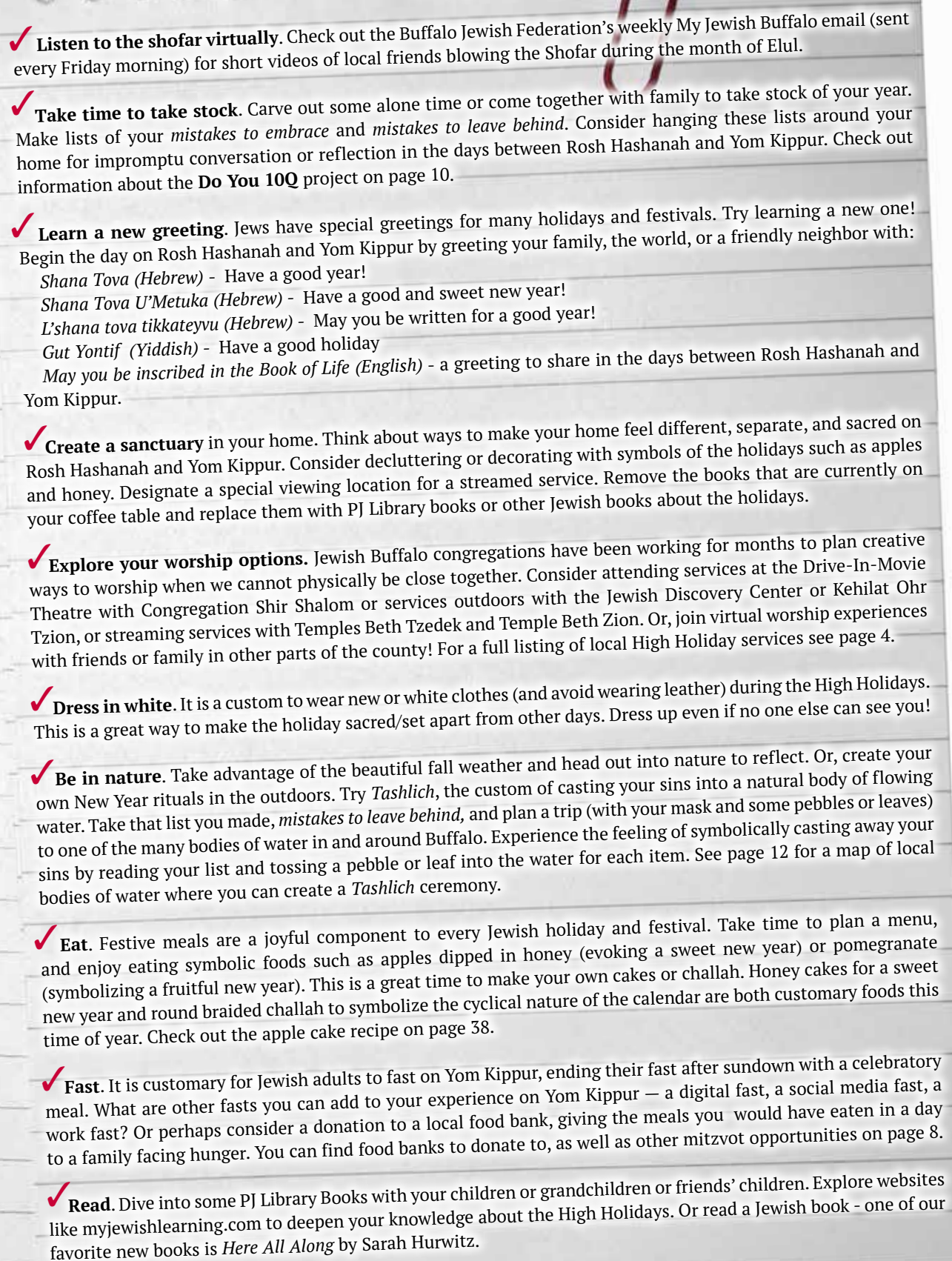
By Miriam Abramovich

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins at sundown on the evening of Friday, September 18 and is followed ten days later by Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This period in the Jewish calendar is referred to as *Yamin Noraim*, or the High Holy Days. On Rosh Hashanah, Jews are called to begin a process of acknowledging our mistakes, seeking forgiveness, making amends and committing to doing better in the future. This process is called in Hebrew, *Teshuvah* and *Slichah* (turning and repentance) and culminates on Yom Kippur. All of this hard, personal work can be elevated with a little advance preparation.

This fall will be like no other in memory, requiring us to adjust to a very different school calendar, preparing for the colder months without being able to seek refuge in warmer climates, and figuring out plans for this Jewish High Holiday season. Unlike our experiences planning for Passover Seders during quarantine, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are not home-based holidays. The *Yamin Noraim* are centered around communal worship and in-person gatherings, which make planning and preparing for them at home more complex.

Thankfully, Rosh Hashanah is preceded by a fixed planning period. The entire month of Elul, the month before Rosh Hashanah, is considered a time to spiritually prepare for *Teshuvah* and *Slichah*. For example, a unique feature of this month is the sounding of the *shofar* (a hollowed-out ram's horn) each morning (except on Shabbat). The blast of the shofar is a spiritual alarm, a wake-up call to arise from our summer slumber and to begin the work of reflection in advance of the High Holidays. The shofar call reminds us to take time to examine, to contemplate, and to take stock of ourselves and our actions over the course of the past year.

So, how do we begin to prepare for the High Holy Days in 2020? How can we use the month of Elul to prepare both spiritually and logistically for this New Year ahead? Whether this is your first experience learning about, observing, or creating rituals around the High Holy Days — or if you are simply trying to invent ways to make meaningful holiday experiences at home — here is a checklist to inspire your efforts.

- 
- ✓ **Listen to the shofar virtually.** Check out the Buffalo Jewish Federation's weekly My Jewish Buffalo email (sent every Friday morning) for short videos of local friends blowing the Shofar during the month of Elul.
 - ✓ **Take time to take stock.** Carve out some alone time or come together with family to take stock of your year. Make lists of your *mistakes to embrace* and *mistakes to leave behind*. Consider hanging these lists around your home for impromptu conversation or reflection in the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Check out information about the **Do You 10Q** project on page 10.
 - ✓ **Learn a new greeting.** Jews have special greetings for many holidays and festivals. Try learning a new one! Begin the day on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by greeting your family, the world, or a friendly neighbor with:
 - Shana Tova (Hebrew)* - Have a good year!
 - Shana Tova U'Metuka (Hebrew)* - Have a good and sweet new year!
 - L'shana tova tikkateyvu (Hebrew)* - May you be written for a good year!
 - Gut Yontif (Yiddish)* - Have a good holiday
 - May you be inscribed in the Book of Life (English)* - a greeting to share in the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
 - ✓ **Create a sanctuary** in your home. Think about ways to make your home feel different, separate, and sacred on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Consider decluttering or decorating with symbols of the holidays such as apples and honey. Designate a special viewing location for a streamed service. Remove the books that are currently on your coffee table and replace them with PJ Library books or other Jewish books about the holidays.
 - ✓ **Explore your worship options.** Jewish Buffalo congregations have been working for months to plan creative ways to worship when we cannot physically be close together. Consider attending services at the Drive-In-Movie Theatre with Congregation Shir Shalom or services outdoors with the Jewish Discovery Center or Kehilat Ohr Tzion, or streaming services with Temples Beth Tzedek and Temple Beth Zion. Or, join virtual worship experiences with friends or family in other parts of the county! For a full listing of local High Holiday services see page 4.
 - ✓ **Dress in white.** It is a custom to wear new or white clothes (and avoid wearing leather) during the High Holidays. This is a great way to make the holiday sacred/set apart from other days. Dress up even if no one else can see you!
 - ✓ **Be in nature.** Take advantage of the beautiful fall weather and head out into nature to reflect. Or, create your own New Year rituals in the outdoors. Try *Tashlich*, the custom of casting your sins into a natural body of flowing water. Take that list you made, *mistakes to leave behind*, and plan a trip (with your mask and some pebbles or leaves) to one of the many bodies of water in and around Buffalo. Experience the feeling of symbolically casting away your sins by reading your list and tossing a pebble or leaf into the water for each item. See page 12 for a map of local bodies of water where you can create a *Tashlich* ceremony.
 - ✓ **Eat.** Festive meals are a joyful component to every Jewish holiday and festival. Take time to plan a menu, and enjoy eating symbolic foods such as apples dipped in honey (evoking a sweet new year) or pomegranate (symbolizing a fruitful new year). This is a great time to make your own cakes or challah. Honey cakes for a sweet new year and round braided challah to symbolize the cyclical nature of the calendar are both customary foods this time of year. Check out the apple cake recipe on page 38.
 - ✓ **Fast.** It is customary for Jewish adults to fast on Yom Kippur, ending their fast after sundown with a celebratory meal. What are other fasts you can add to your experience on Yom Kippur — a digital fast, a social media fast, a work fast? Or perhaps consider a donation to a local food bank, giving the meals you would have eaten in a day to a family facing hunger. You can find food banks to donate to, as well as other mitzvot opportunities on page 8.
 - ✓ **Read.** Dive into some PJ Library Books with your children or grandchildren or friends' children. Explore websites like myjewishlearning.com to deepen your knowledge about the High Holidays. Or read a Jewish book — one of our favorite new books is *Here All Along* by Sarah Hurwitz.

Miriam Abramovich is Director of Federation's Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning.

How COVID-19 made me see healthcare as more than just a career

By Hannah Slabodkin

Like so many of my college-age peers, I had very different plans for this summer. Mine was supposed to have been spent working in a cancer research laboratory at Princeton University—my final summer on campus before beginning my senior year and applying to medical school. However, those summer plans were quickly derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic and it has made all the difference in shaping my view of physicians, nurses, and other critical caregivers.



Until this summer, my view of healthcare has been under “normal” conditions. I have observed doctors in clinical settings and in their private practices, shadowing them to get a better understanding of the demands of their work environment and the needs of their patients. I have even done ride-alongs in ambulances with EMTs to get a taste of emergency medicine. Yet, none of those experiences has been as eye-opening and inspiring as my work this summer as an entrance screener at a major urban hospital that—like so many medical facilities around the country—has been overwhelmed by coronavirus cases.

With financial support from a Princeton University COVID-19 Response Grant, I was able to volunteer as an entrance screener at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) for two months. My job was to greet incoming medical personnel, scan their temperatures, check for symptoms of coronavirus, and supply those in need with personal protective equipment. These interactions gave me a front-row seat to UPMC’s fight against COVID-19 and allowed me to see firsthand the sacrifices healthcare workers have made daily—and continue to

make—in response to this deadly virus.

What I valued most about my experience volunteering at the hospital were the conversations I had with patients, visitors, and UPMC staff. In between screenings, I comforted families admitting relatives to the emergency department, helped lighten the load of caregivers with whatever they needed, and chatted with security guards to pass the time. The kindness, compassion, and humanity of the hospital staff went above and beyond their job responsibilities. Each day, I felt proud to be working with these men and women who put their own lives on the line not just for their patients but for all of us.

As a premedical student, healthcare workers have long been heroes of mine. But, having witnessed their tireless and courageous efforts to help save the lives of the sickest COVID-19 patients, I have a new appreciation for their hard work and commitment in the face of the most trying circumstances imaginable. For them, medicine is clearly not just a job, a career, or a vocation, it is a calling. I am grateful there are healthcare professionals in their communities who step up during moments of great challenge without regard for themselves. It is a lesson from the pandemic that I have taken to heart as I pursue my chosen field of medicine.

Hannah Slabodkin is a rising Senior at Princeton University’s Molecular Biology department. In addition to her work at UPMC, Hannah is also an intern at Buffalo Jewish Federation.

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COMMUNITY

Deborah Cohen on Combating Voter Suppression during COVID-19

by *Hannah Gabelnick*

Given the global pandemic and current social and political unrest, many people are becoming involved with voter engagement. Voting allows people to make their voices heard and participate in the political system.

According to the American Bar Association, voter suppression has disenfranchised millions of eligible voters - especially voters of color - through voter purges. Voter purges occur when registered voters are removed from rolls because they have skipped voting in several consecutive elections. Congregation Shir Shalom (CSS) member Deborah Cohen is dedicated to helping those who have been purged to reclaim their vote.



Deborah Cohen and her husband, Rick Mahler, writing postcards for Reclaim Our Vote.

Raised by parents who were passionate about social justice, Deborah refers to herself as a “Red Diaper Baby,” or a child whose parents were members of the Communist Party. Her parents just had a passion for protecting the weak, a trait that transferred over to Deborah. Now a retired psychiatric nurse, Deborah and her husband, Rick Mahler, found social action volunteer work through their synagogue in Kingston, NY. Originally from Buffalo, she recently returned to be with family, then joined CSS, and is currently a personal life coach.

As a social activist, after the death of George Floyd, Deborah wanted to attend the Black Lives Matter protests, but knew that the pandemic made it too risky. “We wanted to be on the front lines, like we always have been, but we felt it was too dangerous to go out in public,” she said. But the pandemic could not stop her. She quickly became involved with **Reclaim Our Vote**, an organization that creates and sends colorful postcards to voters that have been removed from voter rolls. The postcard provides information on how to register, obtain a ballot, and vote. After training with Andrea Miller, the founder of **Reclaim Our Vote**, Deborah started her own postcard writing group at CSS.

Writing the postcards is a simple process, she explained. The NAACP looks at public records to find the names and addresses of everyone who has been removed from the voter rolls. With a small fee, you can acquire a list of these names and write postcards to them with a script approved by the local Board of Elections. Why a postcard? “If you have a colorful postcard that’s handwritten, people tend to give it a second look,” she added. It appears to be successful. Twenty-five percent of people who received a postcard have re-registered to vote, a statistic that astonishes Deborah.

Deborah is currently one of 50 CSS members who are writing postcards. Over the past three weeks, over 1000 cards have been written and sent to Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas. Deborah and Rick dedicate themselves to writing 20 cards weekly.

She strongly encourages anyone who wants to join CSS’s postcard writing group or start their own group to email her at **deb@deblifecoach.com**. “If you want to do something, but don’t want to go on the streets and be exposed to COVID-19,” Deborah encourages, “the **Reclaim Our Vote** project is something you can do at home and really make a difference.”

Hannah Gabelnick is a rising junior at Amherst Central High School and is currently interning with the Buffalo JCRC.

Engaging in Racial Justice: A New Working Group

By Deborah Goldman

The aftermath of the 2020 horrific killings of several African Americans under police custody and worldwide civil protest creates both a challenge and opportunity for the Jewish community. How does the Jewish community understand and respond to this moment? We are living in an unprecedented time of people from all backgrounds marching in peaceful protests against systemic racism.

The pandemic and police brutality have highlighted intense racial disparities in this country. This reality has ignited the largest social movement – a new Civil Rights movement – called Black Lives Matter. This movement is de-centralized, locally based, diffuse and diverse. The Jewish community is proud of its strong solidarity and participation in the Civil Rights movement of the past, and many in the community are eager to engage in this issue. As of this writing, 69% have responded to the Jewish Community Relations Council Survey, saying that the pursuit of Racial Justice is very important to them.

With the support of the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Relations Council, a three-month volunteer led- working group is forming to self-educate, evaluate, discuss, and submit recommendations to the JCRC Executive Committee and Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors. The Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) will recommend actions to address racial justice in our Jewish and general community. These concrete recommendations will move beyond statements and focus on specific individual and community actions to “chisel away at centuries of systemic racism.” The RJWG will be providing updates to keep this work as transparent as possible.

Members of the RJWG are Corey

Auerbach, Rabbi Ori Bergman, Molly Carr, Ann Marie Carosella, Adam Fogel, Hannah Gabelnick, Amy Heumann, Rise’ Kulick, Leslie Shuman Kramer. Hallie Keren, Sharon Nosenchuck, Rabbi Sara Rich, Harvey Sanders, me, and Mara Koven-Gelman as staff.

RJWG is rooted in values key to our Jewish community:

- *Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof* – Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue
- *Lo Ta’amod Al Dam Rey’echa* – Do not stand idly by. Making our voice heard on issues of vital importance to the Jewish community and the communities in which Jews live.
- *Tikkun Olam* – Repair the world. Making the world a better place for all people
- *Hineini* – We are present, accounted for and ready to take action.

Equally as important is being a good friend before you need a friend. The Jewish community has been supported by many people from other faiths, backgrounds and ethnicities embracing us as we mourned the shootings in at the Tree of Life in Pittsburgh, Chabad synagogue in Poway and stabbings in Monsey. Our friends in the African-American community and, within our community, Jews of Color, need us. Today, we need to stand up and say “*Hineini*: Here we are!”

Deborah Goldman is Co-Chair of the JCRC and Chair of the Racial Justice Working Group.

How to Engage in Racial Justice

Compiled by Hannah Gabelnick

As we look forward to the Jewish New Year, and wanting to make the world a better place for all people, consider some social and racial justice activities you can find on page 8. By taking the time to educate ourselves, examine our actions, and start conversations with others, we can begin to understand the roots of discrimination and racism in America. The list includes some concrete anti-racist actions you can take to make direct impacts towards justice and equity in our society. **Look for a full list of books, podcasts, movies, articles, webinars, and activities coming soon to the JCRC webpage <https://buffalojewishfederation.org/community-relations/>.**

ENGAGE IN RACIAL JUSTICE
EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. ACT.

United States Census 2020



#Census2020 results will help your communities secure the funding they need for things like health care, education, and infrastructure for the next 10 years.

To get started:
visit **MY2020CENSUS.GOV**
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September 30th is the last date to complete the Census—there's still time!

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COMMUNITY

Buffalo Hadassah Zooms Up and Stays Connected

Buffalo Hadassah has held their regular monthly board meetings by Zoom with different members of the board running each meeting, all coordinated by Elaine Kellick. Although our in-person summer and fall programs have been cancelled, the members are looking forward to Maxine Seller's virtual presentation on the life of Ernestine Rose, an influential Jewish suffragette. ***This event will be on Thursday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, email mseller@buffalo.edu.***




The Hadassah book club has also continued with their monthly discussion group and Zoom has allowed members in New York City and Florida to participate. ***For more information about Hadassah's book club, email phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com.***

A CONVERSATION WITH

Norman Weinberg

ON COMMANDMENT




Part science-fiction and part historical, *Commandment* is novel exploring the consequences to Humanity of a devastating plague brought by a microbe for disobeying the Commandment. Almost prescient, Dr. Norman Weinberg, an accomplished scientist, began writing this book four years before the Covid-19 pandemic appeared with its devastating and deadly effects.

Thursday, September 10
11:00AM - 12:00PM
Via Zoom

MODERATED BY
Rabbi Anat Moskowitz

To register, visit jfedsrq.org/events



The Jewish Federation

JCC and Federation Partner with Cooking Series

Online Cooking Demonstration with Award-Winning Chef Michael Solomonov September 14 followed by "Talk Back" with local chef

The JCC and Buffalo Jewish Federation are teaming up to present two High Holy Day cooking demonstrations this September. In partnership the JCC of Boulder, the first event took place September 1 and featured celebrated cookbook author Leah Koenig (*Modern Jewish Cooking* and *The Jewish Cookbook*), who shared an online cooking demonstration of two globally-inspired desserts just for the holidays. Following the demonstration, Chef Frank Mercado of M&T Bank shared his expertise and suggestions about recipes, holiday food traditions, Buffalo food connections, and food and culture.

The second event will take place at 8 pm Monday, September 14th and is presented in partnership with the Jewish



Chef Zach Rosenbloom will share his insights at the 9/14 "Talk Back"

Federation of Greater Portland. The cooking demonstration will feature James Beard Foundation Award Winning Chef Michael Solomonov. Known for his many restaurants in the Philadelphia area and numerous cookbooks including *Zahav*, Solomonov has created a special meal just for this event, including honey glazed chicken, kale-apple-walnut and sumac-onion tabbouleh, and honey cake with apple confit.

Following the demonstration, there will be a "Talk-Back" conversation led by Leslie Shuman Kramer, President of Buffalo Jewish Federation and Alon Kuperman, President of the JCC (both foodies who love to cook), and will feature insights by Zach Rosenbloom, Executive Sous Chef at Park Country Club. Zach is also the founder and co-owner of The Bloom & Rose, a company that brings artisanal knish made from scratch to our community.

The program is free and registration is required. For more information, please contact Stacey Block at stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org

Rosh Hashanah Cooking Series

PART 2: SEPTEMBER 14 @ 8 PM COOKING CLASS W/ MICHAEL SOLOMONOV



Join Michael Solomonov, Executive Chef and Co-owner of *Zahav*, for a virtual cooking class on some holiday staples. The menu includes: Kale, Apple, Walnut & Sumac-Onion Tabbouleh, Honey Glazed Chicken, and Apple Cake.



FOLLOWED BY A ZOOM TALKBACK WITH CHEF ZACH ROSENBLOOM

Zach Rosenbloom is the founder and co-owner of The Bloom & Rose, bringing artisanal knish made from scratch to Buffalo. He is the Executive Sous Chef at Park Country Club and has over a decade of fine dining experience.

REGISTER: [BIT.LY/JEWISHCOOKINGDEMO](https://bit.ly/jewishcookingdemo)

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP REGISTERING?
Contact stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org

RECIPES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE IF YOU WISH TO COOK ALONG!



CULTURAL ARTS
AT THE JCC
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Jon de Marte: Buffalo's Newest Franchise Player

Professional baseball, including the Toronto Blue Jays at Sahlen Field, is finally here this summer. And despite fan-less stadiums and teams dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks, for those who love the National Pastime, watching the big leaguers play on their TV, phone or tablet is a joy.

Well, Jewish Buffalo recently welcomed its own big leaguer in town, pitcher Jonathan (Jon) de Marte of the Israeli National Baseball Team. Jon moved to Buffalo this summer to be closer to his girlfriend Emily Barber, an Account & Operations Manager at HiOperator, and is working and training at Hot Corner Athletics in Getzville.

Jon's professional baseball journey began at Lakeland High School in Northern Westchester County. He received a number of honors including being named the New York State Gatorade Player of the Year in 2010 and 2011, and



Jon de Marte

the NYS Louisville Slugger Player of the Year in 2010.

Upon entering the University of Richmond (UR) in Virginia, Jon was named the Atlantic 10 Conference's Preseason Rookie of the Year, but his collegiate career was

anything but smooth sailing. While at UR, Jon endured five surgeries, four to his arm, forcing him to redshirt twice and miss almost three full seasons. He made the transition to corner infielder in graduate school, and returned to the mound as a two-way player in his last collegiate season. That year, Jon was named to the A-10's All-Academic Team and completed his Master's Degree in Human Resource Management. Jon then signed his first professional contract with the Normal Cornbelters. He also played for the York Revolution of the Atlantic League and the Quebec Capitales

of the Can-Am League.

Jon's career took off in 2018 when he made *aliyah* and became an Israeli citizen. In 2019 he helped the Israeli National Baseball Team advance through four qualifying events in Europe to earn the first spot in the 2020/21 Tokyo Olympics! Jon threw 15 innings for Team Israel throughout the summer, tallying just three earned runs (0 runs in nine innings in the European Qualifiers in Germany and Italy, earning two wins and a save while striking out 16 and walking none). This winter, Jon played in the prestigious Australian Baseball League (ABL) with the Perth Heat before traveling to Arizona to throw for Major League Baseball teams. In February of this year, it all came together when he was signed as a pitcher by the Chicago Cubs organization.

We not only welcome Jon to Western New York, but we look forward to hearing more about his baseball odyssey at a Zoom event co-sponsored by Nickel City Jews, Temple Beth Tzedek and the JCC Thursday, October 1 beginning at 7 p.m. See ad below for details on how you can join in the conversation!

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JFS and JCRC Volunteer Opportunity

Help a Community Member in Need with Voter Registration & 2020 Census Completion

Title: Volunteer

Department:
JFS Community Services

Reports to:
JFS Volunteer Coordinator

Time Involvement: One hour

Summary: Volunteer will be assigned to a community member in need of assistance with registering to vote, learning to vote by mail, and/or completing the 2020 Census. Volunteer will commit to one 1-hour-long phone call or video chat with their assigned community member. During this one-hour session, volunteer will determine what the needs are of the community member, using the suggested script below. Volunteer will then walk the individual through the process(es) they have indicated they need help with (registering to vote, voting by mail, and/or completing the census). Volunteer will send a brief update to Volunteer Coordinator upon completion of session, confirming that the individual's needs have been met and /or expressing any additional needs.

Qualifications:

- Multilingual is a plus
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Experience in registering to vote, voting by mail, and completing the census are preferred
- Demonstrates compassion for the aging population, the immigrant and refugee population, and people with different abilities
- Demonstrates patience, and the ability to operate from a mindset of cultural humility.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Sierra Johnston at 716-548-0431 or sjohnston@jfsbuffalo.org



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COMMUNITY

What's a "Pandemix?"

By Leah Kramer

When the Coronavirus pandemic hit the United States mid-March, we were all suddenly confined to our homes. Day-to-day life as we knew changed; from our "commutes" to work, to keeping busy with all this extra time, to figuring out how to cook all three meals every day at home, nothing looked quite like it had before. A sense of disconnect rattled the entire world; the way we were used to being together was no longer a possibility. While that was scary and difficult, it also shed light on opportunities for individuals to create different types of community.



In a class I took this past semester at school, we learned about "Imagined Communities"—the idea that shared identities and values can tie groups together despite not physically being in the same space. Through various communication devices developed in the 18th century, individuals suddenly had the capabilities to share their ideas far beyond where they actually were, and a unified consciousness began to form. I see a very similar thing happening today; when faced with the lack of physical communities, people around the world started creating imaginary ones online.

When I began my internship for Buffalo Jewish Federation this May, I wanted to do something that would help connect the community in a positive way, while still reflecting on the enormity of the Coronavirus. I wanted to make my own "Imagined Community" within our Jewish community. Thus, my podcast "Pandemix" was born. The name is a play on the words "pandemic" and "mix", referencing both COVID-19 as well as cooking and baking.

Pandemix is a weekly space to discuss Judaism, food, and how the two have tied in to our lives amidst the pandemic. The guests I feature are not restaurant chefs in the community, but normal people like you and me. Speaking with different members of the community each week has helped me cope with how lonely this time period can feel, and has offered up some outstanding recipes.



Leah Kramer

No matter who you are, or where you are, or what you are up to, living in a global pandemic is hard-- there is no denying that. I implore you to listen to Pandemix, to first learn something new about a fellow member of our Jewish community, and second, to set some time aside to try each recipe. In moments of life like these, sharing our stories and thoughts (and recipes) is more important than ever.

You can find all the past episodes in the My Jewish Buffalo section of the Buffalo Jewish Federation website (<https://buffalojewishfederation.org/my-jewish-buffalo/>) and be sure to keep a lookout for High Holiday-themed episodes this month. If you are interested in being featured on an episode, I would love to hear from you! You can reach out to me at leahkramer18@gmail.com.

Leah Kramer, a senior at the University of Wisconsin, is an intern for Buffalo Jewish Federation and has contributed to The Jewish Journal and the weekly My Jewish Buffalo emails.

Shana Tova!
From your JFS family.



A little over a year ago I became the CEO of Jewish Family Service and it has been wonderful. I have met so many amazing people, worked with dedicated staff to develop innovative programming, and each day I learn something new about the community we serve. At every step of the way I have felt welcomed and supported. I want to thank you for making this a wonderful year.

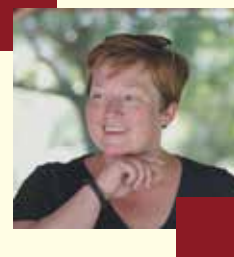
Together we are weathering the storm of COVID and continuing to look forward to what we can do tomorrow. I am excited about the year to come and the many challenges we plan to tackle to support the community. While we continue to provide needed services and expand our offerings during the pandemic, we are also building out new and exciting program lines to support unmet needs in our community. We are building partnerships and deepening our commitment to both the Jewish community and those in need throughout Western New York.

Thank you for your support and I wish everyone a happy Rosh Hashana. We truly are stronger together.

Gratefully,

Molly Short Carr, Ph.D,
Chief Executive Director

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COMMUNITY

JRT's 2020-21 Season

Jewish Repertory Theatre of WNY introduces audiences to playwrights who bring unique, entertaining, thought provoking stories and ideas from across the United States and Canada, in its 18th season- Five Staged Readings. Here are the plays which will be presented and their playwrights:

BAR MITZVAH BOY. Mark Leiren-Young is a Victoria, British Columbia based Canadian playwright, author, journalist, screenwriter, filmmaker and performer. He won the 2017 Writers Guild of Canada Award for Best Documentary for "The Hundred-Year-Old Whale," and is recipient of a Bron Iris Award, Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour, National Magazine award and Western Magazine Awards. **(November 5-26, 2020)**

HOLIDAY SHORTS. Hank Kimmel is a founding member and Board President of Working Title Playwrights, an Atlanta-based theatre company dedicated to the development of playwrights and new plays. He also serves as the Board President of the Alliance for Jewish Theatre which connects Jewish theatre to the world. JRT is proud to bring Kimmel's new work to our theater after introducing his plays at last season's successful staged readings. **(December 10-23, 2020)**

EXQUISITE POTENTIAL. Stephen Kaplan has been writing plays since age 15 and has numerous awards, commissions and productions including: Southeast Texas Festival of New Plays, NJ Playwrights Contest and B Street New Comedies Festival among many more. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves as Northeastern Regional Representative for the DG National Council. **(January 7-27, 2021)**

AN UNEXPECTED LIFE. Alice Eve Cohen, playwright and solo theatre artist is winner of the 2019 Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, award-winning author of two memoirs, *The Year My Mother Came Back* (Algonquin) and *What I Thought I Knew* (Penguin)—winner of the Elle Magazine Literary Grand Prix for Nonfiction, Oprah magazine's 25 Best Books of Summer, and Salon's Best Books of the Year. She is an MFA playwriting mentor at Augsburg University's Creative Writing MFA Program, and teaches undergraduate playwriting and creative writing at The New School, where she received the 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award. **(February 4-24, 2021)**

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BEAU JEST. James Sherman began his professional career as a writer and performer with The Second City in Chicago and received an M.F.A. degree from Brandeis University. He has had thirteen plays premiered at the Tony Award winning Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago. His many plays have been published and produced by theatres throughout the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, Australia, South America, England, Germany, Austria, Turkey, South Africa, Australia, China, and Korea. In the summer of 2006, James wrote and directed the movie of his play, *Beau Jest*, starring Lainie Kazan, Seymour Cassel, and Robyn Cohen and is available on DVD. James currently teaches Playwriting and Improvisation at Columbia College of Chicago and DePaul University. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America. **(March 11-31, 2021)**

Details and tickets at
www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com.

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JCC Awarded Grant By Wolk Foundation

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo is grateful to the Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation for a recent gift of \$17,500, which will be used to support scholarships at Camp Centerland, on the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds, as well as the Jewish Repertory Theatre and Cultural Arts programs at the JCC.

"We are very grateful for this gift which comes at a challenging time for our agency, due to losses of more than \$300,000 incurred early on in the pandemic," said Richard Zakalik, JCC Executive Director. "Taking care of our members' needs has always been our top priority and is now even more urgent as people seek high quality programs that will help them stay strong and healthy as well as reduce their future health risks."

The grant funding was facilitated by Wolk Foundation Trustee Michael Berger, a Buffalo, NY, immigration lawyer with a strong history of leadership in the Buffalo Jewish community. "Louis Wolk

was my cousin but he was like a second father to me," said Berger, who grew up in Rochester, attended law school in the early 70s at the University at Buffalo and stayed to raise a family and build a successful practice. "I have fond memories of taking trips together, and always admired Louis' commitment to giving back to the community," recalled Berger.

"The Wolk Foundation has been very generous, granting more than \$500,000 over the past 20 years to the JCC, Jewish Federation, Y'ad B'yad, the Buffalo Teen Scene (run previously by the Bureau for Jewish Education), Chabad and synagogues, all with the goal of building positive relationships between our communities," said Berger. "I'm honored to have the opportunity to help our communities and strengthen relationships between Rochester and Buffalo. This is the community I've served since graduating and I look forward to continuing to find ways to improve quality of life here."



May the year 5781 bring health, blessings and peace.
 5781 תנשב מולשו תוכרב, תואירב תנשל מילוחיא
 ~The Kadimah Family



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The Foundation: Celebrating our 109th Year

By Irv Levy

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies will hold its 109th annual meeting on October 13th at 7 p.m. via YouTube. The meeting is held in the fall each year right around the time of Rosh Hashanah. The Foundation's fiscal year end is December 31st and I have often wondered why the annual meeting is held annually in October. In giving it some thought, I realized how appropriate it is to hold our meeting around Rosh Hashanah, "the head of the year." At our meeting we take the opportunity to look back on the past year and look forward to the next.

In preparing for this article, I learned that Rosh Hashanah is in celebration of the creation of the world, not the passage of a year around the sun. I was told that in Orthodox tradition, Rosh Hashanah is the anniversary of when life was given to the clay known as Adam and Eve.

During this year's meeting, we will honor our past legacies, celebrate our donors, and envision our future. Again, how appropriate, at 109 years old, the Foundation is still evolving to

meet the needs of our community, celebrating our legacy, (our past) and our looking to our future (a rebirth).

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

This is the heart and the soul of any organization. At our June Board meeting the Foundation focused on the future and adopted the following:

Our Mission

Empower donors to fulfill their passions and dreams by establishing charitable vehicles designed to create a positive and enduring impact on Jewish Buffalo, Western New York, and the World.

Our Vision

Inspire every individual to find within themselves a cause for which they feel the passion and motivation to create a better world through philanthropy.

The Foundation's Values

We embrace the values of our Jewish Heritage:

Tzedakah (charity and justice) - Helping those less fortunate

Tikkun Olam (repair the world) - Leaving the world better than we found it

Gemilut Chasadim (loving kindness) - Performing acts of kindness and compassion

L'dor V'dor (generation to generation) - Passing on values, strengthening future generations, and sharing the importance of elders and youth

The Foundation's Purpose

- **TO PRESERVE** the legacies of our forefathers who built our community over the past 100+ years and encourage current and future generations to create their own legacies, enhancing our community for the next 100 years and beyond.

- **TO CREATE** permanent endowments, providing perpetual support for Jewish Buffalo, as well as those organizations that provide essential services to our local, national and world communities.

- **TO SERVE** our donors in identifying the most appropriate strategies to fulfill their charitable objectives and providing the vehicles designed to accomplish their goals.

The Foundation's Services

- **WE MANAGE** the investment, preservation and distribution of charitable legacies, bequests, trusts, and other donor directed philanthropic funds.
- **WE COUNSEL** donors to provide them with knowledge and expertise in planning and implementing charitable gifts.
- **WE PARTNER** with the families and organizations of Jewish Buffalo to develop a unified approach to supporting our community needs.

As the Foundation looks forward to its 110th year, we are focused on our core values of serving our donors, preserving their legacies, and ensuring that our Buffalo Jewish Community will be strong for another 110 years and beyond. Shanah Tovah um'tukah - May you have a good and sweet New Year! Happy 5781!

Irv Levy serves as the Executive Director of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. Please contact Irv at 716-204-1139 or irv@jewishphilanthropies.org to discuss how the Foundation can assist you in executing upon your philanthropic mission.



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Lori Raybold named the Recipient of the 2020 HRC Toby Ticktin Back Education and Excellence Award

On July 24th, the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo (HRC) had the honor of surprising educator Lori Raybold with the Toby Ticktin Back Education and Excellence Award. Named after the founder of the HRC, the Award is given each year to an outstanding educator who has dedicated his or her time and energy to teaching the Holocaust and other human rights issues, both inside and outside of the classroom.



Lori is beyond deserving of the Award. She has taught the Holocaust and other human rights issues throughout her past 17 years of teaching English Language Arts at Hamburg High School. She has also taken the initiative to start the elective, "Human Rights Literature," which has been very well-received by her students. For several years, Lori served on the board of the HRC and has led 4 groups of teachers-20 educators in all-to tour the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and most recently, the National Museum of African American Culture and History. In turn, this has inspired these teachers to increase and enhance their Holocaust and human rights teaching- not to mention, impact the hundreds of students they in turn will serve.

In addition, Lori has been recognized as a Museum Teacher Fellow by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and as a National Teacher Fellow by the U.S. Institute of Peace. She has traveled to Rwanda to study its genocide with the noted Upstander Carl Wilkens. And she has been the Co-Founder and Associate Director of the Academy for Human Rights, educating and impacting hundreds of students and teachers each year.

With kind words of congratulations and tears of joy coming from everyone, this surprise Zoom celebration was one of a kind. Ann Marie Carosella, President of the HRC, reflected, "It's really the first time I've been part of a virtual event that may have been more meaningful than if it had occurred as an in-person celebration." There were 50 people at the celebration including Lori's family members, closest friends, colleagues, former students, Superintendent, HRC board members, Academy for Human Rights board members and teachers that she has led on the various trips to Washington, DC.

The virtual event was really a testament of how many people love and care about Lori. Almost every person spoke about how remarkable she is as an educator and how remarkable she is as a person. Lori's friend and colleague Andrew Beiter said, "Time and time again, she serves as the moral compass and life force of the organizations and students she works for, using her incredible knowledge of Holocaust history to inspire and challenge us all. Lori is a warrior for those without a voice or power, using her platform as a teacher to change the world."



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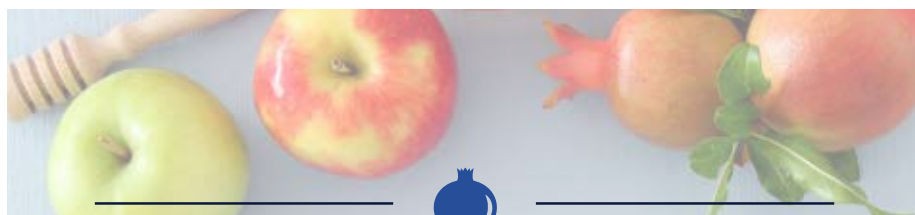
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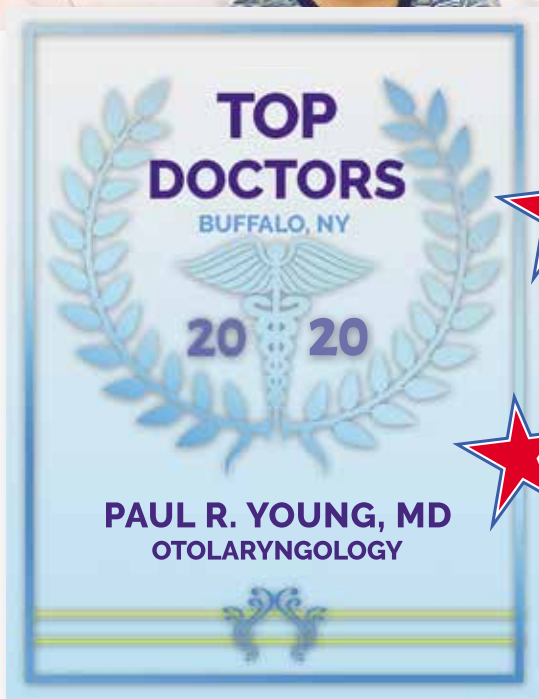
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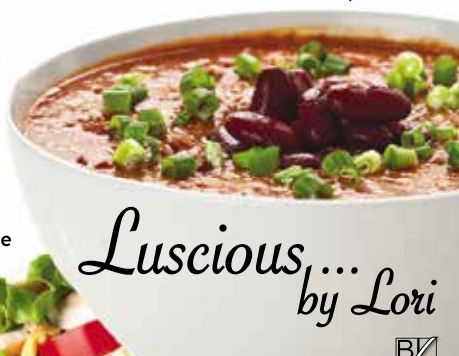
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COMMUNITY

FOOD

Upside Down Apple Pie

By Robin Kurss

Upside Down Apple Pie is a little different for Rosh Hashanah. It's a nice change from traditional apple cake, but every bit as delicious! Wishing everyone a very *healthy* and Happy New Year!

Upside down praline topping:

1/2 stick butter or margarine
3/4 cup dark brown sugar
3/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Apple pie filling:

5 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored
and cut into 1/2 inch slices
1/2 cup sugar
3 Tbsp flour
1 Tbsp cinnamon

Crust:

3 cups flour
1 cup shortening
7-8 Tbsp cold water
Pinch salt
2 Tbsp sugar



Preheat oven to 400. Grease a 9" pie plate, line bottom with parchment paper and grease that too. In a large bowl, toss all filling ingredients. Set aside. In a saucepan over medium high, melt butter or margarine, add brown sugar. When dissolved, add nuts and remove from heat.

In a food processor, mix flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and pulse till mix is the size of peas. Add 7 Tbsp. water and pulse till crust holds together. Add more water if necessary. Remove to floured surface; pat together. Divide in two and roll each half out.

Spread topping in pie pan bottom. Top with one crust. Pour in Apple filling and place other crust on top. Fold top and bottom crusts together and flute. Place on baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 325 and bake for one more hour. Cool and place in refrigerator for 8 hours or overnight.

To invert, place pie plate in oven for a few minutes on bottom rack until it is warm. Invert onto serving plate and peel off parchment paper. Return any loose topping to top of pie.

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Help Save a Life

Buffalonian Deborah Stern has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Her weekly chemo treatment is managing it, for now. However, her doctors have told her that a stem cell transplant is going to be needed down the line to save her life. She and her husband, Stephen, have done searches of all the international bone marrow registries but no match has been found for her yet. People who have an especially hard time getting a bone marrow match are any type of minority (including Jews) or people of mixed race. She really needs your help to try to beat this progressive cancer!

Since the best matches are from donors with the same ethnic background, her best chances of finding a match will be from another Jewish person of European descent.



If you know or are related to any healthy person between the ages of 18 and 45 who is of European Jewish descent, Ezer Mizion

the world's largest Jewish Bone Marrow Registry, has sent her cheek-swabbing kits which test for a donor match.

All the potential donor has to do to be in the registry, and possibly save a life, is call Deborah, request a cheek swab kit, then return it. Her phone number is: 716-688-0058.

The person you know, or are related to, could be the match for her or someone else who needs a transplant to stay alive. If they are compatible, the procedure is similar to giving plasma through the arm. That's usually it!

PLEASE share this with your family and friends. You can share by social media, text, or any other way, to get word out that she needs people to get swabbed. The more people the Stern Family can reach out to, the better the chance of Deborah finding the genetic match that she needs to save her life!

You can also get a swabbing kit directly from Ezer Mizion bone marrow registry, by emailing Ryan Hyman at Ezer Mizion, the world's largest Jewish bone marrow registry at ryan@ezermizionusa.org. or call: 718-853-8400.

Alternatively, anyone Jewish or of any other ethnic background, under 45, can contact "Be The Match" at <https://bit.ly/3ijyBq8> or call: 800-627-7692 to get a cheek swabbing kit.

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Inspirational Service (1 hour) - 2:00p
SUNDAY, SEP 20
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Shofar service - 11:00a
Followed by Kiddush Luncheon
Shofar Blowing (15 min.) - 2:00p
Inspirational Service (1 hour) - 2:00p

YOM KIPPUR
SUNDAY, SEP 27
Kol Nidrei Service - 7:00p
MONDAY, SEP 28
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COMMUNITY

High Holy Days Events

Selichot: Bringing in the High Holy Day Season from East to West

Saturday, September 12, beginning at 8:30 PM Eastern

More than 60 rabbis and cantors will present, including Temple Beth Zion's Cantor Penny Myers, who will speak on "Must We Forgive?" which will take place at 9:30 PM Eastern time. This program is free and open to all. Individual registration opens September 1. Full schedules and zoom links provided to all who register. **Go to <http://cjseilichot.org/> for program details and registration.**

WNED Classical to Air Jewish Music on Yom Kippur Day

An exciting collaboration between Temple Beth Zion and Buffalo Toronto Public Media will happen when the radio station broadcasts an hour of Jewish-themed music on WNED Classical from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, September 28. This exciting program was made possible through the generosity of WNED Classical, who has agreed to air this program for the enjoyment of all. **Please tune your FM dial to 94.5, and enjoy an hour of beautiful music, courtesy of our public radio station.**

Multi-Faith Welcoming – Beloved Community in the Making

Sukkot Havdalah

Saturday, October 3, 7:00 PM

At Canalside and on Zoom

Join Temple Beth Zion and the multi-faith community to welcome one another into a Sukkah and celebrating Havdalah, the intertwining of Shabbat and the normal week, and the intertwining of our multiple cultures, to become better neighbors to share Havdalah and Sukkot blessings, inspirational words, and conversations. Please wear a mask and respect physical distances. You can watch this on Zoom. **Go to the TBZ website for Zoom instructions.**

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YOM KIPPUR

Park and Pray Yom Kippur Service

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
2:30pm

Transit Drive In
6655 South Transit Road
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Please bring a mask and remain in/near your vehicle.
These in-person services are weather permitting.
Watch on live stream via Boxcast, Facebook, and Youtube.

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My Encounter with a Great Man: Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (1937-2020)

By Stuart L. Fischman, DMD

On my third sabbatical leave in Jerusalem (1996), I had the privilege of meeting with a truly great man, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, who passed away on August 7th this year. It was an unexpected and unique experience.

The *New York Times* called Rabbi Steinsaltz, “a towering scholar of the bedrock Jewish texts.” Best known for his translation of the Babylonian Talmud, Rabbi Steinsaltz said his work was intended to accommodate even beginners with “the lowest level of knowledge.” He was a prolific and wide-ranging writer and a sharp observer of humanity, author more than 60 books on philosophy, mysticism, theology and even zoology.

I was conducting a clinical study at an *ad hoc* dental clinic at Shaare Tzedek Hospital. The study was designed to identify the oral manifestations of a condition frequently seen in Ashkenazi Jews. Patients had been selected to come to the clinic at set times for a brief examination. Word reached me that Rabbi Steinsaltz would like to learn about the study and would be willing to meet with me at his convenience. Having heard of the Rabbi and his reputation as one of the world’s great Talmud sages, I readily agreed.

Word was then sent that he would like to meet with me at my clinic on a Sunday evening at 5 PM. To prepare to meet this *Talmud Chacham*, I tried to study up on the *Parasha Shavuah*, using the only reference in our Hadassah flat, the *Hirsch Chumash*. I did not want to appear as a complete ignoramus in front of this genius. He was in the process of translating the entire Babylonian Talmud from ancient Hebrew and Aramaic into Modern Hebrew.

At precisely the agreed time, the great man came to the clinic, removed his long black coat and sat before me. He explained that he didn’t qualify for my study but would like to know more about it. So far, no challenge.

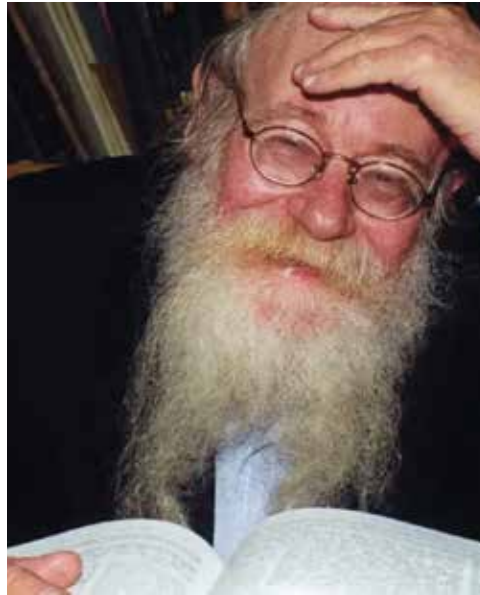


Photo Credit: Courtesy Steinsaltz Center

But first, he said, he would like to ask me a few questions. “Here it comes,” I thought. “Where are you from?” he asked. “Buffalo, N.Y.” I replied. “Do you know Clinton Bailey?” he challenged. “Of course, we were contemporaries,” I answered. “What was his original name?” “Irwin Glaser,” I answered. “How did he choose that name?” “His father’s gas station was at the corner of Clinton Street and Bailey Avenue in Buffalo,” I replied. “OK, you are genuine, now tell me about your research,” he quipped.

So then I explained the objectives and he readily understood all the clinical terminology and the protocol. “Now, tell me how you propose to analyze your data,” he asked. “No, tell me more detail about the statistical tests, he said.” He then made several suggestions to improve the analytical methods, which my statistical consultant found more appropriate and which we utilized.

Rabbi Steinsaltz said, “Now I would like to ask you some serious questions”. With great trepidation, I said “Of course”. “In your opinion, who was the greatest actor to portray James Bond?” For the next 15 minutes we discussed the pros and cons of each actor and the Rabbi was far sharper than I!

He then said that time was up and rose to leave. I went to help him on with his long black coat and he admonished, “Stop!” I must have looked astonished, and he said, “I make it a point not to let anyone help me with my coat unless they are prepared to give me a thousand dollars!” We laughed as I handed him his coat. We never discussed the *Parasha*!

His memory will always be for a blessing!

Post script: Writing in *The Times of Israel*, Nathan Jeffay, opined, “Our image of people can quickly fade to the sum part of their **Wikipedia** entries, or the hallowed pages of rabbinically-sanctioned biographies. I hope our memories of Steinsaltz capture something of the three-dimensional man.”

Forever a Buffalonian, Dr. Stuart Fischman lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Dr. Jane Fischman. Stuart is Professor Emeritus of Oral Diagnostic Sciences at the School of Dental Medicine of SUNY at Buffalo and retired as Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine. He continues to consult with faculty and students on dental research activities and is an active volunteer in the Jerusalem community.

Mazel Tov



Bobbie and Jack Vishner of Green Valley, Az, formerly of Buffalo, announce the marriage of their daughter Jessica Elaine to Rudy Mitchell Stoler, son of Wayne and Peggy Stoler of Baltimore.Md.

The wedding took place on June 7th in Baltimore. It was attended by immediate family.

Jess and Rudy are living in Baltimore.

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from July 22- August August 21*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Mary Gilbert
Betty D. Levin
Claire Levy Levi
Tobey Lintz
Georgia Mesches
Ellen Y. Primack
Florence Sands
Norman Schrutt
Wolf Tombak
Suzanne Troy
Harry Wiseman



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.

Surviving a Hate Crime & Not Being Afraid

By Cantor Penny Myers

Every year before Chanukah, my husband, Bennett, along with our children Hunter, Saul and Corrinne, erect a menorah on our lawn. This *chanukiyah* is not subtle by any means. Made of wood and decorated with blue and white twinkling lights, it stands at an imposing 6 feet by 10 feet near the 12 foot lit wood dreidel that proudly announces 'We are Jewish' on our front lawn. It serves as a display of our commitment to and pride of fulfilling one of the *mitzvot* of Chanukah.

As my husband enthusiastically *shleps* the parts, lightbulbs and wires, I question aloud whether these aren't symbols of our identity but rather a bright blue target as Jews. After all, the country's social climate is pretty charged at this time and we are a minority.

Competing with our neighbors' beautifully decorated and lit homes for Christmas, Bennett reassuringly says to me "Pen, Chanukah is the Festival of Lights. We are just doing our part and representing." I always respond with "okay, okay." And I think that NASA just wished us a 'Happy Chanukah' as no doubt our bright display is easily seen from the International Space Station flying above the earth.

This past Chanukah, this fear of our home being targeted was realized. After months of threats, two men shot an incendiary device into our dining room.



Cantor Penny Myers

Baruch Hashem (Praise God) we weren't hurt and although we lost furniture and Bennett's grandmother's Shabbos tablecloths, our faith in humanity and *Hashem* (God) didn't incinerate in that fire. In fact, we believe that we were very fortunate that the device fired into our house miraculously ricocheted and landed on top of the table as opposed to our hardwood floor.

You may wonder - how can you stay in your home after this violation? How can you feel protected in the place that is supposed to be your safe sanctuary away from the violence and *tsuris* (trouble) of the outside world? How did you

find strength being quarantined in the home that still has burn marks on our hardwood floor, and dining room table, and no drapes from the windows as they were burnt. It wasn't easy being in lockdown here. It still isn't easy. I knew I needed to do something to tend to my emotions, to acknowledge and grieve this tremendous violation.

I sat there, devoid of anything but two constant thoughts: I will not be afraid, *lo lefached klal* and *Hashem* is my strength and salvation.

My *dveikut*, clinging to *Hashem*, has always been my foundation for solace and safety. *Hashem*, *mitzvot* and Torah have always been my personal GPS. I found that familiar internal compass by zipping up my winter coat, and then I *took back my own house* by sitting on the porch every evening for weeks, overlooking the menorah and dreidel, next to the boarded up window, soot from smoke damage still on my window sill, and shed hot tears in the crisp winter air.

Under the watchful presence of the Amherst Police Department patrolling our house by day and a car parked

outside our home overnight for months, it was surreal as I held both truths simultaneously: reassurance of police presence and the reason *why* they were present.

I sat there, devoid of anything but two constant thoughts: I will not be afraid, *lo lefached klal* and *Hashem* is my strength and salvation.

Although I admit having struggled with feelings of significant anger coupled with *rachmones* (compassion) for these people, I don't hate these men who committed this crime. They are broken humans who need help and professional rehabilitation. If I harbored the same hatred towards them as they did towards us which motivated them to try to burn us in our beds that early morning, that would be a dilemma I couldn't reconcile living through.

From *Parshat Kedoshim*, Torah teaches us this most important mitzvah, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Believe me, I don't love these two criminals, but I don't hate them either. I don't share the *sinat chinam* (baseless hatred) towards them that they exhibited to us first through their threats and then by their actions. Hatred and violence often evolve from fear that turns cancerous from the narrow places within in our *neshamot* (souls). I will not allow this fear to overtake me.

Cantor Penny Myers is the Cantor at Temple Beth Zion.



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