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February 25 & 26

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

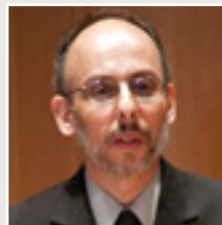
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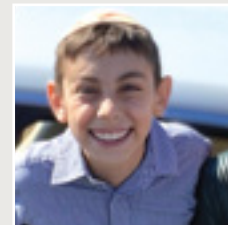
FEBRUARY 2021 | SHEVAT-ADAR 5781

The New Buffalo Jewish History Center

(6)



DON'T MISS:
TBT'S
KLEIN SERIES
(11)



INSIDE:
REFLECTION ON
BELONGING
(13)



LOOK:
HILLEL RABBI PLAYS
NATIONAL ROLE
(20)

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February 2021

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

As I write this note on a balmy 40 degree day in mid-January, the Bills are in the playoffs, and our nation has just experienced a horribly wrenching week. AND...the days are getting longer, our community is staying strong and the Bills are still in the playoffs! Yes, the world is difficult and painful. And yes, we are hanging in, hanging on and making lots of lemonade together!

I love the cover photo of the 1968 Temple Shaarey Zedek groundbreaking on Getzville Road in Amherst. However, we are not able to identify all of the people in it. If you can recognize your dad or grandpa, let us know who they are and where they are in the photo (see page 6.) And this picture is just the tip of the iceberg of the new Buffalo Jewish History Center website as you will see when you read Dr. Chana Kotzin's story on page 6.

And hey, Super Sunday is still happening but virtually this year on February 28. That means that you can help to raise much-needed funds for our Jewish community from the comfort of your own home—even in your jammies, if you wish. Check out the story on page 7, and be sure to call Stacey Block if you want to volunteer, or plan to make your 2021 gift to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo that day.

Purim is at the end of this month, February 25-26, and it will be celebrated in many different ways. But plans for most Purim celebrations were not solidified by the time we went to press, so you will have to contact your synagogues and agencies directly to find out what's happening, how you can participate, and where the best hamentaschen are baked!

Finally, a huge and warm "thank you" to the donors to the 2020 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo who are listed on pages 22-26. You are the people who ensure that Jewish Buffalo continues to thrive and endure in good times and in tough times. You are our community heroes. Thank you!

Today! Stay safe and well this month, and stay in touch.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Ground-breaking ceremony in 1968 for Temple Shaarey Zedek on Getzville Road in Amherst. Read more about this on page 6. Photo by Frederic Marschall.

3	Message from the President by Shelly Yellen
4-5	By the Numbers- Part 2
6	On the Cover - The Jewish Buffalo History Center
7	Super Sunday is February 28
8	JCRC: Not in Our County!
9	Israel Startup Nation is February 23
10	Buffalo Jewish Film Festival offers Chai Flicks in February
11	TBT Features Rabbi Klein Lectures each Saturday
12	CJEL: A New Model for Jewish Buffalo by Rob Goldberg and Miriam Abramovich
13	CJEL: Belonging
14	Winter Roots Series
15	5 Things You Can Do to Repair the World in February
	Where in Jewish Buffalo
16-17	Special Advertising Supplement: Purim
18-19	Organizations & Synagogue Listings
20	TBZ Welcomes Rabbi Sobel
	Rabbi Rich Elected to National Cabinet
21	Special Advertising Supplement: Dining
22-26	2020 Honor Roll of Donors
28-29	In Loving Memory
	The Challenge of Saying Goodbye During the Pandemic by Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein



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Thanks for your kindness

In this edition of *The Jewish Journal*, we recognize and thank our many donors to the Federation's Campaign (see pages 22-26 for Honor Roll listings). Thank you for generously contributing your time and gifts in support of our mission on local, national, and international levels. Your kindness, commitment, and dedication to helping others is inspiring. This is especially true given the real suffering and hardships COVID has caused for so many across the globe.

It is probably no surprise to many of you that donors who repeat gifts to an organization often believe in the mission, trust the organization's leadership, have a personal connection to the organization, want to be part of something bigger than themselves, and are hungry to see the impact their dollars make. Consider this when you are reflecting on your gift or reading the names of others on the list. Conversely, top reasons why donors stop giving is they do not know how their gift is being used or they are not convinced their gift is having an impact.

Making an impact on our community and feeling that you are having an impact are fundamental for the Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF). As part of this, BJF has evolved from primarily a fund-raising

organization to one that provides services and Jewish experiences. I mentioned in the January *Jewish Journal* that the BJF has defined success and created Impact Areas to support our mission. Fluid and evolving, there are currently six Impact Areas:

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

The services, programs, agencies, and other community activities supported by your gifts are part of one or more of these Impact Areas. Now, through a recent



Shelly Yellen

update of the BJF website (and included in this month's *Journal* as well on page 4-5), you can see exactly how each area is defined, details of the community services and programs provided by each impact area, important links to partners, and how your gifts are funding each area. All are available as well by visiting buffalojewishfederation.org/making-an-impact. This is a powerful page on the website allowing you to drill down from a very high level from specific Impact Areas to the specific agencies, services, and programs that are impacted by your dollars and your volunteer time. Thank you to Rob Goldberg-CFO, Jill

Komm-Chief Creative Officer, and Mandy Weiss-Director of Planning and Overseas, for creating this page.

Thanks as well to Randi Morkisz-Assistant Executive Director, and the Annual Campaign team led by Howard Rosenhoch and Joni Shatkin. The new page helps us all to visualize in a transparent and informative way how donor dollars are invested.

Also, thanks to the efforts of Debbie Pivarsi-CFO, and Margie Bryen-Treasurer, our budget process aligns with the Impact Areas, providing the Board of Directors with the right information to ensure the priorities we set are consistent with Jewish Buffalo needs.

Not a donor or want to learn more about how you can have an impact in the community? **Please reach out to Rob at rob@buffalojewishfederation.com or Randi at randi@buffalojewishfederation.org** and they will welcome a conversation with you. Once again, thank you to all our donors for all that you have done and will continue to do for Jewish Buffalo. **Please share your thoughts with me at shelly@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

With much admiration, Shelly.



SUPER SUNDAY 2021



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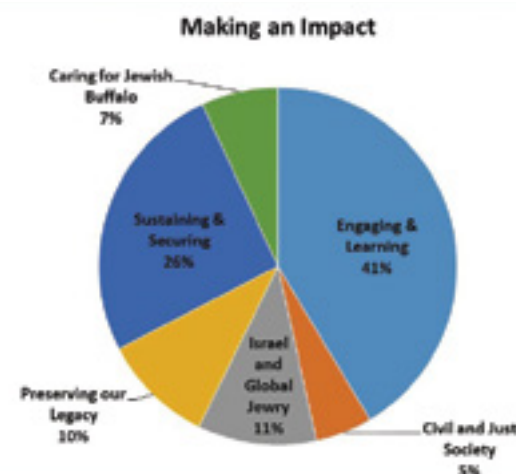
SIGN UP TODAY [BIT.LY/2021SUPERSUNDAY](https://bit.ly/2021SUPERSUNDAY)

BY THE NUMBERS: Federation Makes An Impact *Part 2*

As referenced by Federation Shelly Yellen on page 3, the Buffalo Jewish Federation has changed from primarily a fund-raising organization to one that provides an array of services and programming with our mission and goals aligned with six Community Impact Areas:

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

In crafting Federation's operating budget and determining grants for our local and overseas partners, Federation's leadership connects the resources we raise from thousands of donors (listed on page 22-26) to each impact area so that we and our partners can build a more connected, caring and vibrant community in Buffalo and around the world.



Jewish Experience, Engagement and Learning

Nurture relationships that connect, engage, and enrich all Jews and their loved ones and those exploring Judaism. Promote community engagement through activities, experiences and learning. Amplify the work of and promote collaboration between traditional institutions and innovative Jewish groups, including synagogues, minyans, agencies, schools and affinity groups.

PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$827,300):

- Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning
- JCC of Greater Buffalo
- The Park School/Kadimah Scholars
- Ohr Temimim Jewish Heritage Day School
- Hillel of Buffalo
- Chabad of Buffalo
- Holocaust Resource Center



Promoting a Civil and Just Society

Cultivate and foster meaningful and collaborative relationships with other faith and ethnic groups and cultural communities with the goal of educating, advocating and building a more civil and just society. Combat hate, anti-Semitism and discrimination in all forms; teach the lessons of the Holocaust through effective education and programming; highlight Upstanders as role models; and provide support to individuals and communities in times of crisis.

PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$102,600):

- JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council)
- Holocaust Resource Center
- Hillel of Buffalo



Caring for Jewish Buffalo

Ensure that care and support is available for Jews and their loved ones facing financial, emotional, physical or spiritual needs.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$138,750):

- Jewish Family Services of WNY
- Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association (HBLA)

Connection to Israel and Global Jewry

Advocate on behalf of, and develop connections to, the State of Israel and the Jewish people around the world.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$214,300):

- The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- Partnership 2Gether Western Galilee Central Area Consortium (P2G)
- World ORT
- Hand in Hand
- ALMA: Pre-Military Academy for Female Leadership
- Galilee Medical Center
- OneFamily
- Krembo Wings
- Ethiopian National Project



Preserving our Legacy

Celebrate and honor our rich heritage, collective history and enduring faith by curating and promoting Jewish wisdom, cultural arts, history, communal celebrations and memorials.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$201,600):

- Public Relations
- Cemetery Corporation
- Jewish Buffalo History Center
- Holocaust Resource Center



Sustaining and Securing our Community

Create and strengthen the structure necessary to support a strong and vibrant Jewish Buffalo. Cultivate investments to support the current and long term financial, and facility needs of the entire community. Develop human capital to ensure innovative and responsive leadership by both professional and volunteer leaders. Foster collaboration and partnership among community partners through convening, planning, and shared services to optimize our collective resources. Lastly, invest in security measures and coordinate with all levels of law enforcement to enhance the safety and well-being of Jewish Buffalo at places of worship and community gathering.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$513,000):

- Fundraising/Security
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Celebrating our culture, sharing our stories: a look into the history of Jewish Buffalo

BY CHANA REVELL KOTZIN, PH.D.

This month, Federation is launching an exciting new community resource, one that seeks your participation to be part of history making! The Jewish Buffalo History Center website, powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation, is an evolving gathering point for community-based history. From synagogues to agencies and organizations, to family and businesses, the website includes a selection of materials from resources generated over the last decade including the illustrated history of Jewish Buffalo released through Arcadia Publishing (*Jewish Community of Greater Buffalo*, 2013) and the image collection available online through *New York Heritage* (<https://nyheritage.org/collections/jewish-buffalo-image-collection>). These images came out of the work of the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project, supported by the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. With the launch of Jewish Buffalo History Center website (<https://jewishbuffalohistory.org>) our goal is to expand upon these materials collaboratively. We hope to provide a place where evolving stories of organizational, commercial, civic and family histories can grow with your help.

Current features of the website include institutional, biographical and thematic sections that explore stories and experiences of Jewish Buffalo from the nineteenth century to more recent times. Touching directly on international, national and local experiences that have animated Jewish life in America over the last two centuries and more, it explores stories of diversity, mobility, connection and community. These themes are especially relevant to the broader Buffalo region which has served as a crossroads and nexus point across much of its histories. As an international port, a manufacturing base, a city of culture, and as an ever-evolving metropolitan region, its vital mix of communities old and new, both ethnically and religiously diverse have made it a place of connection and reinvention.

Being Jewish in the Buffalo region has changed over time too, as Jewish residents have worked to maintain traditions, to fashion new identities and to participate in a variety of Jewish religious streams, or none. Jews in Buffalo have created an array of diverse local institutions and organizations, businesses and initiatives. In communities and social networks within Jewish families and beyond them, in organizations and outside of them, and in ties within non-Jewish communities, Jewish Buffalonians have shaped events, built and maintained communities, faced challenges and catalyzed social and cultural change, producing an array of deep

attachments, past and present, in this place we call home.

This content-rich website highlights these themes as it explores streams of Jewish religious groupings practiced and supported over time. It outlines the histories of agencies, synagogues and voluntary organizations created by Jews in Greater Buffalo, and it pairs these with biographies of Jewish individuals, past and present, who have impacted Buffalo through their creative works, science, arts, culture, volunteerism, leadership and philanthropy. Future plans include online exhibitions and an expansion of the *Made in Buffalo* series that showcases the contributions of Jews who have “cut their teeth” in Buffalo whether born and raised here, attended school or begun their careers here in Buffalo.

We are very grateful for the many Jewish organizations that have shared their materials with us, particularly when most collections in our local archives have been inaccessible during the pandemic. We also thank the individuals and families that have been willing to share their family histories, and we look forward to highlighting many more. **Please help us grow this website further!**

You are invited to explore the website and immerse yourself in our region’s diverse Jewish histories and heritages, and follow links to participate.

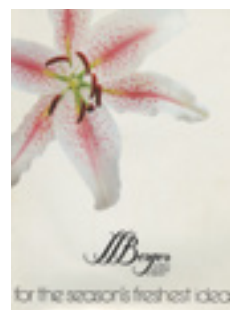
Dr. Chana Revell Kotzin is Director of the Jewish Buffalo History Center.



Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association, Officer Pins, photograph created by Izon Productions-Don Dannecker, 2013. Courtesy of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.



Hadassah Follies Show, Fundraiser Program Cover, 1955. Courtesy of Hadassah of Greater Buffalo



Buffalo's First Family of Fashion, LL Berger Marketing Brochure, 1980s. Courtesy of Marcia R. Frankel/ TBZ Cofeld Judaic Museum.



Sol Messinger aboard the SS St Louis with his parents. Courtesy of Sol Messinger, MD.

You can also check back monthly in *The Jewish Journal* for developing stories and updates to the website, beginning with helping us to match some names and faces on our feature photograph above. Avy Serman and Nathan Kornmehl are at the center, and Rob Goldberg's grandfather, Louis A. Goldberg, is second from the left in this iconic image by local photographer Frederic Marschall from the groundbreaking ceremonies at the site of Temple Shaarey Zedek in 1968, part of a move to suburbia. Can you help us identify who else is in the picture from left to right? Please email Chana at chana@buffalojewishfederation.org, with your answers! Looking forward to celebrating our culture and sharing our stories with you!



The new Jewish Buffalo History Center website was designed and built by Telesco Creative Group. We are especially grateful for the work of Mike Telesco, President and Creative Director, and Kim Stacy, Art Director, who have transformed our ideas and content into a wonderful place to explore. Telesco is located at 344 Delaware Ave, Suite 250, Buffalo, NY 14202 and you can find them on the web at <https://telescocreativegroup.com>.

“Virtual” Super Sunday is February 28

What do you get when you combine an exciting, popular community fundraising event that brings community together on behalf of Jewish Buffalo with the worst pandemic in the last 100 years? VIRTUAL SUPER SUNDAY 2021!

Yup! Super Sunday is still taking place—and it’s happening Sunday, February 28 whatever the weather, because it’s virtual this year! You can be a part of it right from the comfort of your own home. Meredith and Ken Levin are this year’s chairs and we are working towards raising \$50,000 with your help! Look forward to fun Zoom training, surprise appearances and entertainment to make it a great day!

“We are delighted to be part of this year’s Super Sunday,” said the Levins. “During such a challenging time, this is a great opportunity to connect with people throughout the Jewish community. Although we will be engaging with the other volunteers virtually this year, we are looking forward to sharing some laughs and joining together to celebrate and support Jewish Buffalo.”

HOW?

That’s easy! There will be two shifts of callers this year, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 12:00 noon, calling community members in Jewish Buffalo to be Super Heroes and donate to the 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo.

DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

That’s easy, too. If you make a gift to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, you are eligible to volunteer. First, you need to register to make phone calls, deliver volunteer materials, or make Thank You and check in-calls to community members. Next, you need to schedule a time to pick up your volunteer packets on Friday, February 26 between 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Benderson JCC.



Meredith and Ken Levin

Or, if you are unable to pick them up during that time, let us know and they will be delivered to you. Then, on Sunday, February 28, join us for a Zoom Welcome and Worker Training before your desired shift. As you make your calls, you will be able to submit your results and pledges through a new online form.

WHAT IS THE FEBRUARY 28 SCHEDULE?

The day begins with a Zoom Welcome and Worker Training at 9:00 a.m. and noon. When you sign up, you will get the Zoom link the week of Super Sunday. There will be a variety of gift certificates and prizes from local companies. Randi Morkisz and Stacey Block will be available by zoom or by phone from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for Super Sunday support.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You can register online at <https://bit.ly/2021SUPERSUNDAY> or call Stacey Block at 716-861-0018 or e-mail Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org and you will get a volunteer confirmation form.

NEW: JRT Theatre for February

Covid-19 related challenges have resulted in updates to the Jewish Repertory Theater’s season line-up and schedule. *Exquisite Potential*, originally January 7 – 27 has been rescheduled for April, 2021 – dates TBA. *The Year My Mother Came Back*, a world premiere, will replace *An Unexpected Life*, also written by award-winning Alice Eve Cohen, February 4 – 24.



The Year My Mother Came Back is a compelling story. Thirty years after her death, Alice’s mother appears during the hardest year Alice has had to face. She learns that she must walk in her mother’s shoes in order to understand her, forgive her, and rediscover her love for her. In this story of a parent lost

and found, Alice finds her mother and rediscovers herself. A love story. A ghost story. A contemporary tale that reaches back through generations.

Thank you for your patience as we keep theatre alive in this unprecedented year! **Tickets and info at www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com.**

Legislator Vinal Secures Funding For The JRT

Hon. Jeanne Vinal, Esq. has lived in the town of Amherst with her family for the past twenty years. Vinal was elected to serve as Erie County Legislator for District 5, which contains about 75 percent of the Town of Amherst and includes Eggertsville, Snyder and the Village of Williamsville. In her first year as Legislator, Vinal secured \$5,000 worth of funding for Jewish Repertory Theatre.

Legislator Vinal said, “It was a priority to get funding for Jewish Repertory Theatre because I know how important community groups such as this one are.” The pandemic and shutdowns have strained community groups from both working toward their mission,

but also from providing the fellowship, community, support, and fun of being together enjoying a performance. In addition, membership outreach which is always necessary in any group, has also faced setbacks with the pause on large groups meeting in person.

The funds will be used at the discretion of the Theatre’s board, and Legislator Vinal plans to attend the next meeting to answer any questions and to speak on the budget and the state of the county. This season, under Saul Elkin’s artistic direction, the Jewish Repertory Theatre is presenting Five Staged Virtual Readings. **Find more information, the schedule and tickets at www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com.**



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Not in Our County: Defending Dr. Gale Burstein and Mark Poloncarz

Thirteen (13) Buffalo Jewish organizations and synagogues along with the Town of Amherst rapidly signed-on to a Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) opinion article published in *The Buffalo News* this past December defending Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein and County Exec Mark Poloncarz against antisemitism and hate.

They include: Buffalo Hadassah, Congregation Beth Abraham, Congregation Shir Shalom, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, Hillel of Buffalo, Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Jewish Discovery Center, Jewish Family Services of Western New York, Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Kehillat Ohr Tzion, Open Door Judaism, Temple Beth Tzedek and Temple Beth Zion.

County Executive Mark Poloncarz publicly denounced strong antisemitic and hate attacks toward Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein and himself in response to COVID-19 safety protocols issued by the county. Dr. Burstein, who is a member of the Jewish community and the recent recipient of the Ann Holland Cohn Community

Impact Award, has worked tirelessly and professionally during the pandemic, never focusing on the antisemitic tropes aimed at her.

In addition, the Buffalo Jewish Federation (at the recommendation of the HRC and the JCRC) adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, which ran last month in *The Jewish Journal*. Over 35 nations, several states, cities and universities have also adopted the definition to use an educational tool. Examples of antisemitism definition are cited in the op-ed below, which was originally signed by the JCRC, HRC, National Federation of Just Communities of WNY, and the Network of Religious Communities.

The following is the text of the op-ed which appeared in "Another Voice" in *The Buffalo News* December 16, 2020.

The job of a county health commissioner is one of the most thankless in all of local government, particularly during a global pandemic. It requires hours and hours of educating the public, sitting in administrative meetings, attending press conferences, and attending the seemingly endless crisis we have faced the past nine months.

We are blessed in Erie County to have someone who is at the top of her game, not just in New York State, but also in the entirety of the country. Dr. Gale Burstein has truly gone above and beyond, working round the clock with little in the way of complaint or celebration. Having aggressively tackled the opioid crisis, saving countless lives along the way, she is a seasoned professional who works out of a sense of deep duty to the public who she serves.

What she does not deserve is the endless stream of what Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz called "very serious, antisemitic attacks" in a Sunday, December 13th Buffalo News article.

Violence against Jews is at a historical level. The Anti-Defamation League reports that American Jewry is experiencing the highest rate of antisemitism since it started collecting data in the 1970s. The language used against our local officials is age-old antisemitism that has led to violence against Jewish communities around the world. We need to stop this rhetoric before it becomes lethal.

Like all antisemitic attacks, the attack on Dr. Burstein consisted of, mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power

of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

We fully support our government leaders who work passionately each day to help contain this COVID-19. While we acknowledge frustration at not being able to run businesses, pray with fellow congregants in churches, mosques, gurdwaras, temples or synagogues, we are committed to following the direction from medical experts, scientists and political leaders.

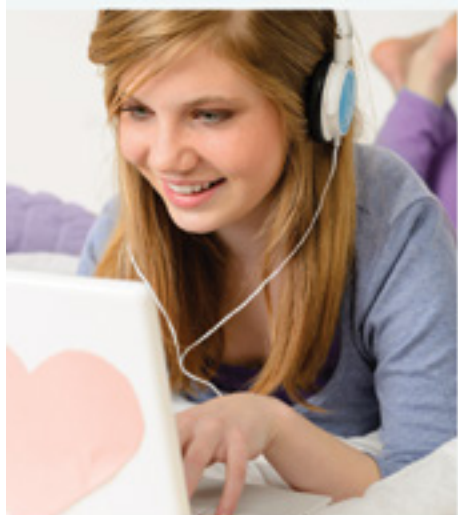
We support Mr. Poloncarz as a current day Upstander — one who did not ignore or look the other way at the explosion of hate towards his staff or himself. During the Holocaust, Nazi Germany systematically murdered six million Jews and five million other peoples (including a member of Mr. Poloncarz's family). If more people had been Upstanders, not bystanders, this atrocity could have been prevented.

Mr. Poloncarz refused to stand by, calling out hate and reminding our community of its democratic values. Again, we join Mr. Poloncarz and remind community members, "We must do better. We can do better."

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or visit jfsbuffalo.org to schedule your appointment.



Israel Startup Nation (Version 20.21)

The Baltimore/Buffalo/Rochester office of Israel Bonds, in partnership with Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, invites you to an exciting virtual event: "Israel Startup Nation" Tuesday, February 23 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. There is no cost and registration is required.



Al Kinzel, President and Founder of Strategic Interests, a company that focuses on transforming healthcare through innovation, will moderate a conversation featuring CEOs of three of Israel's most exciting healthcare start-ups: Shani Toledano of HTBioImaging, Eran Orr of XRHealth, and Uri Bettesh, of Datos Health. The program will also include special guest, Inon Elroy from the Israel Economic Mission.

At the close of the one-hour event, every individual will have an opportunity to purchase Bonds.* **To register or for questions, please email Federation CEO Rob Goldberg at rob@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

**Development Corporation for Israel: This is not an offering which can only be made by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in Israel Bonds. Member FINRA*

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VERSION 20.21

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 | 5 - 6 PM

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Applications available starting February 15.

Questions? Email: scholarships@jewishphilanthropies.org



Buffalo Jewish Film Festival Offering Chai Flicks Film and Talkback Series

BY RICK KOLLINS

Following the success of the past year's Virtual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, the Festival Committee and JCC of Greater Buffalo are presenting a special **Film and Talkback Series** featuring four movies that were screened and well-received at previous festivals. These films are available online through Chai Flicks, the streaming platform launched in August to bring Jewish-themed movies to audiences everywhere. Each of the four films will be followed by a discussion on Zoom.

"Since we received so much positive feedback for our virtual festival in August, Chai Flicks presented a perfect opportunity to offer more films that people can watch and discuss in the comfort of



their homes," said Katie Wzontek, Director of Cultural Arts at the JCC. "Once people have a subscription to Chai Flicks, they can watch our four featured films and more than 150 other selections whenever they wish."

Subscriptions to Chai Flicks (chai flicks.com) cost \$5.99 a month or \$65.99 a year, and can be canceled at any time. In addition to feature films from Israel and around the world, the streaming service offers documentaries, TV series, music, sports and instructional videos, and is being described

as the "Jewish Netflix."

Chai Flicks was created by executives from Menemsha Films, the California-based distributor of Jewish-themed entertainment operating since 1998. Previously, Menemsha distributed its films exclusively through Netflix, as well as to Jewish film festivals across North America and Europe. However, when Netflix began to focus on producing its own films, there was need for another outlet for Jewish content, especially once the COVID pandemic closed down theaters.

Similar to the Tuesday Talkbacks that

were part of the virtual film festival in August, viewers are able to register for the Zoom discussions through a link that will be provided. Each discussion will be led by a member of the Festival Committee. The regular Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival will once again be virtual this year and run from April 24 through May 15. **For more information, contact Katie Kwzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.**

Rick Kollins is a member of the Film Festival Committee.

Chai Flicks Film and Talkback Series

FEBRUARY 2 -23, 2020



The Testament (Israel 2017)

Drama/Thriller | Hebrew, German, English (with English subtitles) | 94 minutes

Yoel, a meticulous historian leading a significant debate against Holocaust deniers, discovers that his mother carries a false identity. A mystery about a man who is willing to risk everything to discover the truth.

Zoom Talkback: Tuesday, Feb 2, 2021 @7pm



The Rape of Europe (USA 2006)

Documentary | English | 117 minutes

For 12 years, the Nazis looted and destroyed art on a scale unprecedented in history. But heroic young art historians and curators from America and across Europe fought back with a miraculous campaign to rescue and return the millions of lost, hidden and stolen treasures.

Zoom Talkback: Tuesday, Feb 9, 2021 @7pm



Once in a Lifetime (France 2017)

Drama | French (with English subtitles) | 105 minutes

A French high school teacher enters her inner city students in a national competition on the child victims of Nazi concentration camps. The project is initially met with extreme resistance, until a face-to-face encounter with a Holocaust survivor changes the students' attitudes dramatically and they begin to see one another – and themselves – in a whole new light.

Zoom Talkback: Tuesday, Feb 16, 2021 @7pm



Fanny's Journey (France/Belgium 2016)

Drama | French (with English subtitles) | 105 minutes

Based on true events, this is an epic tale of bravery, strength and survival, as 13-year old Fanny and her younger sisters escape from the Nazis and make their way on their own from a Jewish foster home in Italy to freedom in Switzerland.

Zoom Talkback: Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021 @7pm

Rabbi Isaac Klein

Scholar in Residence Month

Featuring Dr. Rafael Medoff

Author of: The Jews Should Keep Quiet: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rabbi Stephen Wise, and the Holocaust

<p>Saturday, February 6 7 p.m.</p> <p>FDR and The Holocaust: New Research, New Controversies</p>	<p>Saturday, February 13 7 p.m.</p> <p>The Jewish Vote: Myth and Reality</p>
<p>Saturday, February 20 7 p.m.</p> <p>Babe Ruth and the Holocaust: Unlikely Allies of the Jews, Then and Now</p>	<p>Saturday, February 27 7 p.m.</p> <p>Multi-media presentation: Cartoonists Against the Holocaust</p>

TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK

These virtual events are Free and Open to the community.
RSVP to KleinSpeaker@btzbuffalo.org

Donations can be made to the Klein Fund online at btzbuffalo.org or mailed to:
Temple Beth Tzedek, 1641 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Temple Beth Tzedek to Hold Rabbi Klein Lecture Every Saturday This Month

Dr. Raphael Medoff, the founding director of the David Wynman Institute for Holocaust Studies, will be the TBT Scholar in Residence every Saturday in February at 7:00 p.m. as part of Temple Beth Tzedek's Rabbi Isaac Klein Month. Dr. Medoff will connect America's response to the Holocaust with today's world for these lectures, whose theme is **"How America Responded to the Holocaust,"** and will be virtual and free of charge.

February 6: Dr. Medoff will present "FDR and the Holocaust." His recently published book, *The Jews Should Keep Quiet*, addresses the American government's unwillingness to undertake serious rescue efforts and the deep divisions within American Jewry at that time.

February 13: Dr. Medoff will discuss **"The Jewish Vote: Myth and Reality."** The behind the scenes efforts by Republicans and their Jewish allies to woo Jewish voters away from President Roosevelt during the 1944 presidential election will be



Dr. Raphael Medoff

explored, and Dr. Medoff will also discuss his recent research about the 1948 presidential contest between President Harry Truman and Republican candidate Thomas Dewey. Dr. Medoff's presentation will challenge the conventional wisdom of Jewish voting patterns in that race with important implications for Jewish voting trends today.

February 20: Dr. Medoff

will address prominent non-Jews in his presentation of **"Babe Ruth and the Holocaust: Unlikely Allies of the Jews, Then and Now."**

February 27: The focus will be on a multi-media presentation, **"Cartoonists Against the Holocaust."**

Reservations for these free and virtual events can be made at KleinSpeaker@btzbuffalo.org. Donations can be made to the Klein Fund at Temple Beth Tzedek, 1641 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Thanks to the staff of the Buffalo Jewish Federation for providing tech support, and the following patrons for making the Rabbi Isaac Klein Scholar in Residence Month possible:

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From Engagement to Investment: A New Model for Jewish Buffalo

BY ROB GOLDBERG AND MIRIAM ABRAMOVICH

More than five years ago, the Buffalo Jewish Federation began to lay the groundwork for a new model of Jewish communal infrastructure, one best suited to an American Jewish community of our size. This effort began by creating a culture of engagement and receptiveness to new perspectives and ideas and took a significant leap forward through the first-ever ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE and MADE IN BUFFALO featuring Seth Godin. Building upon our learnings, the Federation created opportunities and paths for new leadership through: Task Forces, Community Leadership Gatherings, the Council of Synagogue Presidents, and the leadership councils of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) and Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC.) We worked towards a state of collective responsibility and collaboration through the establishment of the Secure Jewish Buffalo Fund and most recently the Community Compassion Fund, consolidation of historic agency infrastructures, and reimagining the Federation's primary mission from a fundraising organization to one focused on building a more robust, caring and connected 21st century Jewish Buffalo.

Our work is far from complete. However today, Jewish Buffalo, now more than ever, operates collaboratively and engages Jewish Buffalo's leadership beyond the walls of respective agencies or synagogues. We are proudly a community where both professionals and volunteers work across institutional lines to address the fundamental questions of individual engagement and building and sustaining Jewish communities, in a coordinated and consultative fashion.

As part of this new communal model, the Federation launched a new lively experiment which builds upon both the idea of collective responsibility and the understanding that exceptional Jewish professionals and synagogue rabbis are crucial partners in our work. As a pilot project for 2021, the Federation is providing grants to three local synagogues to enable their rabbis to embed themselves in specific Federation projects, taking on these part-time roles in addition to their congregational roles and pulpit responsibilities.

In partnership with leadership at Kehillat Ohr Tzion, Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Tzedek, this novel investment deepens Federation's commitment to communal collaboration, assists in retaining exceptional rabbinical talent here in Buffalo, and helps to offset costs borne by each synagogue. Here is a little more about the three Rabbis who are a part of this pilot project, and the communal projects on which they are focused.



Rabbi Ori Bergman
Rabbi of Kehillat Ohr Tzion
and Jewish Educator with the CJEL

Rabbi Ori Bergman arrived at Kehillat Ohr Tzion (KOT) in 2017. Prior to finding his passion in serving the Jewish community, Rabbi Bergman began a career as an Immigration Lawyer in Toronto, Canada. In addition to his work at KOT, Rabbi Bergman has taught at Kadimah Academy, provided kosher supervision through the Buffalo Vaad HaKashrus (BVK), and taught numerous classes to congregants and the community. Rabbi Bergman and his wife Nora, are parents to four children: Ruvi, Simcha, Devorah Leah, and Zusha. As the earliest participant in the pilot project, Rabbi Bergman has been working part-time as an Educator with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning since the summer; his portfolio includes designing and facilitating Jewish learning experiences with teens and young adults through the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative and Nickel City Jews.



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein
Rabbi of Congregation Shir Shalom
and Rabbinic Consultant for the JCRC

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein is a 2004 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He also holds Masters and Bachelor Degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary, as well as a Bachelors degree from Columbia University. Before coming to Buffalo in the Fall of 2008, he served as rabbi of Temple B'nai Abraham in Bordentown, New Jersey, and directed the Community Partnership Program for the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Rabbi Alex and his wife, Ashirah, are parents to three children: Jarah, Boaz, and Noam. In addition to his congregational work as rabbi of Congregation Shir Shalom, last month Rabbi Alex began as the Rabbinic Consultant for the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) serving in various roles including building relationships from the JCRC to the greater Buffalo faith community and engaging in programming around issues of racial justice.



Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum
Rabbi of Temple Beth Tzedek
and Jewish Educator with the CJEL

Born in Winnipeg, Canada, Rabbi Rosenbaum grew up in Denver, Colorado and attended Northwestern University before his ordination by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2005. Upon ordination, Rabbi Rosenbaum served as Temple Beth Shalom's Assistant Rabbi for four years. Rabbi Rosenbaum joins Temple Beth Tzedek (TBT) from Synagogue Emanu-El in Charleston, SC, where he was their spiritual leader for the past 11 years. The Rabbi is the proud father of three children: Shoshana, Jonathan, and Eliana. Beginning last month, Rabbi Rosenbaum has been working part-time as an Educator with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL), focusing primarily in the Belonging and Adult Engagement space.

This is the beginning of our efforts to reimagine and re-engineer a communal infrastructure for the future. By linking our organizational arms and investing in our community's rabbinic talent, we hope to create a fully integrated community, and in so doing to fully realize the Talmudic creed - Kol Yisrael Aravim Zeh LaZeh - All of Israel is tied to one another.

Rob Goldberg is CEO of Buffalo Jewish Federation. Miriam Abramovich is Federation's Chief Experience Officer. They offer many thanks to Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein for his input in writing this article.

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL)'s Belonging Initiative leads Jewish living and learning gatherings for residents of Buffalo's Women's Jewish Group Home and future residents of Buffalo's Men's Jewish Group Home. Group homes are residences in a community where adults with disabilities are able to live together with peers, while receiving the daily supports that they need.

BY DR. YONINA FOSTER

Stories, songs, laughter, come to mind as I reflect about working with the women and families of the Jewish Women's Group Home. Stories? Song? Laughter? How, amidst the challenges of Coronavirus, could this be? I reviewed my file and notes to ensure that my mind wasn't playing tricks. Here are the people that I remember:

J with her kindness and reference to her Mom and dog.

J with her unique laughter.

K with her special singing.

S reminding us of angels.

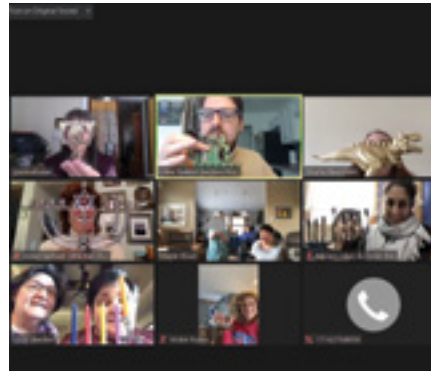
L with artwork and thoughtful ideas.

Sometimes other special adults tuning in from homes around the area.

And Moms, Dads, families, popping in from wherever they were, sometimes visiting family in New Mexico. Mike with his Power Point contributions when I'd say Chanukah blessings. People dancing. And remember, please, some folks in wheel chairs and multi colors, all for our JEWISH programs.

What I used to do in person, we now share over Zoom:

Let's turn around....Well, spin...a dreidl. You can turn in your chair, with your finger, or your arm, maybe your body. Let's go.



That same turning, becoming a dreidl, we reflected upon earlier in the Fall for Sukkot. I ask what turns? How do we turn Jewishly? The season and here we are at Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. We turn our Torah back....and Mike shares a Torah being returned from those last words of Torah, “Kol Yisrael,” “of all Yisrael,” back to the beginning for “B’reishit,” the first word, as we KNOW we are ALL people of Israel.

The last letter, “lamed,” to the first, “Bet.” Put them together? “Lev.” Heart, saying to us in our heart of hearts, “We are all the people of Israel, whatever the abilities of our bodies, minds, spirits.” And we teach Jewishly.

Dr. Yonina Foster serves as a Jewish Educator for the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, The Federation Apartments and synagogues throughout Western New York.

BY OZ ABRAMOVICH

Seeing my friends J, J, K, S and L from the Jewish Women's Group home is not really the same over Zoom but I still get a happy feeling being with them. I didn't get to visit the house very often, but especially now with COVID, Zoom is better than not seeing them. My favorite time was last year when we went to the house to celebrate the High Holidays. We couldn't take everyone to a river for Taschlich, so



we did it together
at the house
with buckets and
watering cans.
I poured water
slowly over K's
hands so she could
feel it and do

Taschlich with me. It is great to hang out with people who are always happy.

Oz Abramovich is in 5th grade at Casey Middle School.

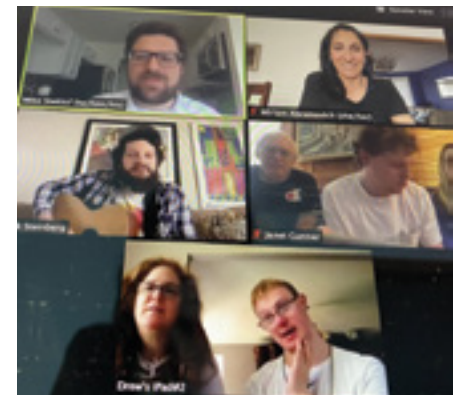
Singing with the Residents of the Future Men's Jewish Group Home

BY ZACK STEINBERG

Since last May I've had the pleasure of working with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning to provide virtual musical programming for the men and families of the future Men's Jewish Group Home. The Men's Jewish Group Home is a residence that Janet Gunner is working tirelessly to bring to fruition for men with differing abilities that will allow them to live independently and provide support for one another.

Over the years I've had countless positive experiences singing with people of all different backgrounds, including people with differing abilities. Going virtual over Zoom was a different and exciting experience. I didn't know quite what to expect. I always love hearing people sing, and feeling the energy that creating musical experiences with other people can bring. Over Zoom, the only thing I hear while playing songs is my own voice and guitar. It could feel a lot like singing into a void. Throughout this year, I've been encouraging everybody on my musical video chats to sing their hearts out anyways. I can tell how happy everybody is when, after each song, everyone is "unmuted" and we all laugh, clap, and get back to our conversations.

During these past months, we've sung through a wide variety of music. We sang Jewish folk songs for holidays (and lit



candles together for Chanukah), a whole lot of rock and roll (including Cody's favorite request "Star Spangled Banner" in which I try to do my best Jimi Hendrix impression on acoustic guitar), 70's soul, some Matisyahu raps, and plenty of the campfire songs that are sung at Jewish summer camps around the world. I've had fun taking our virtual sessions with me on my phone, playing at the campgrounds of Camp Centerland, my parents' backyard in Williamsville, and my apartment in the Elmwood Village. We always sign off our Sunday morning programs with an enthusiastic "Go Bills!" I hope that we keep our spirits going for the months to come, and that sometime this year we can finally sing together in a place that we'll all call home.

Zack Steinberg serves as a music educator for the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, Temple Beth Zion and the Jewish Community Center.



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Beets, carrots, parsnips and turnips are among those vegetables commonly known as root crops. They offer a prolonged harvest season, a long storage life, produce a large amount of food in a small amount of space and are staples in an Eastern European diet.

The Buffalo Jewish Federation's **Winter ROOTS Series** pays homage to these staples, appreciating the sustenance they bring during a long winter season. In that spirit, ROOTS co-chairs, Leslie Shuman Kramer and Rise' Kulick, invite you to join them for two more engaging virtual sessions, one this month and March 9. "Our goal is to connect Jewish Buffalonians with their genealogical roots in Eastern Europe, with a particular focus on Ukraine," Rise' explained. "Each of our sessions take their inspiration from the root crop cycle," added Leslie. "The first program in the series was held January 25 and featured a conversation between Charlie Shuman and his son, Rabbi Dan Shuman.

Details on the two experiences are below. **For more information, please contact Joan Kwiatkowski by emailing her at joan@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

Weed and Feed:

Sunday, February 21 at 12 - 1 p.m.

We'll discuss Ukraine today featuring Rabbi Julia Gris of Congregation Shirat ha-Yam in Odessa and her daughter Izolde. Hosted by Jim Lodge, Senior Development Officer, ORT America.

Eat and Enjoy

Tuesday, March 9 at 5 - 6 pm

We'll explore Eastern European food and culture with a number of special guests.

Purim is February 25 & 26

Due to COVID, Purim plans were not complete by the time the February issue of *The Jewish Journal* went to press.

Purim events are happening in Buffalo, so please check with your synagogue or agency as to their Purim holiday events, virtual or in-person. Listings are on pages 18-19.



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2» **Super Sunday is February 28th this year, and it's a virtual event.** If you are a Campaign for Jewish Buffalo donor, you can volunteer to make calls, thank you calls and other tasks. **To volunteer, register online at <https://bit.ly/2021SUPERSUNDAY> or call Stacey Block at 716-861-0018 or e-mail Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org and you will get a volunteer confirmation form.**

3» **Temple Beth Tzedek will present Rabbi Klein Memorial lectures during February.** Dr. Raphael Medoff, the founding director of the David Wynman Institute for Holocaust Studies will be the TBT Scholar in Residence every Saturday in February at 7:00 p.m. This year's theme is "How America Responded to the Holocaust," and will be virtual and free of charge. **Make your reservation for these events at KleinSpeaker@btzbuffalo.org.**

4» **Explore your Jewish roots at Federation's Roots Winter Roots series.** This month's discussion about Ukraine Today takes place Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. ET. It will feature Rabbi Julia Gris of Congregation Shirat ha-Yam in Odessa. Hosted by Jim Lodge, Senior Development Officer, ORT America – **The event is free, but you must register with Joan Kwiatkowski at joan@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

5» **Purim begins Thursday, February 25.** Remember Queen Esther, one of the Jewish People's heroines, at a Purim spiel on your own, or contact one of our synagogues or agencies to see what is planned during this COVID season. Synagogue and agency listings are on pages 18 and 19.

WHERE IN JBFLO ?



Where is this found in Jewish Buffalo?

The first 5 people to correctly identify the location will be mentioned in next month's *Jewish Journal* because the JCC's Buffalo Kosher Gourmet at the Myers Family Tel Aviv Café is closed due to COVID-19.

Last month, Sharon Krebs and Carol Schmeidler correctly identified one of the Jewish-themed sculptures at the back of Congregation Shir Shalom.



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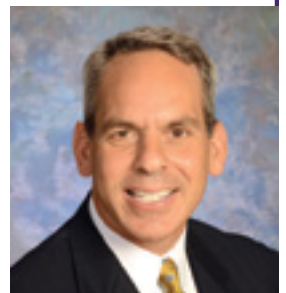


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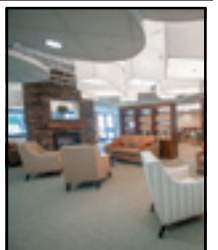
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Temple Beth Zion Welcomes Interim Senior Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel

BY JODY GOLDSTEIN

Temple Beth Zion has announced that Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel is currently Interim Senior Rabbi at the synagogue through June 2022. Rabbi Sobel is a second-generation Reform rabbi who grew up with the synagogue as her second home. Her parents and grandparents were ardent Zionists and instilled within her a strong sense of *ahavat Yisrael* – love of Israel. Their passion and commitment for Judaism, Israel, and the larger Jewish community inspired her to study for the rabbinate and pursue a career as a Jewish communal professional.

She comes to Temple Beth Zion with more than 30 years in the rabbinate, working with congregations both large and small. She has served both as a congregational rabbi, and also for the broader Reform movement as the head

of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) in Canada. She has knowledge, skills and specialty training in crisis management, board and leadership development, organizational behavior, strategic and long-range planning, and system theory.

Rabbi Sobel's responsibility as the TBZ Interim Senior Rabbi is to facilitate community-building and enable an atmosphere where strong, healthy relationships thrive and grow at Temple Beth Zion. It's her goal to make sure that people feel their voices are heard, their voices matter and that the community is richer, healthier and stronger through their participation and presence.

For Rabbi Sobel, Judaism is about community and building relationships, relationships between all types of people and each other and relationships between people and God. She has dedicated her professional life to the Talmudic teaching "*Kol Yisrael arevin zeh lazeh*" – all of Israel is responsible for



Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel

one another." This Talmudic teaching exemplifies who she is as a rabbi, as a Jew and as an individual.

The daughter of a Reform rabbi (Rabbi Richard J. Sobel, z"l, from Glens Falls, NY), Rabbi Sobel was ordained from

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, in May, 1989 and was awarded her honorary doctorate for 25 years in the rabbinate from HUC-JIR in 2014. She received her undergraduate degree in Mass Communications from Boston University's School of Public Communications. In her spare time, Rabbi Sobel loves to write, read, travel, cycle, run, entertain, garden and cook. You can read more on her personal website: "Food for Mind, Body & Spirit" at www.rabbisharonsobel.com.

We are extremely grateful to our Search Committee led by Kenneth Graber and Eric Snitzer for their hard work in finding and bringing Rabbi Sobel to our community. We look forward to the next eighteen months of working together at Temple Beth Zion to build a greater sense of trust, community, spirituality, and joy.

Jody Goldstein is a Vice President of Temple Beth Zion, and head of its Engagement Committee.

Rabbi Sara Rich Elected to Hillel Directors Cabinet

Hillel of Buffalo Executive Director Rabbi Sara Rich has been elected to the Hillel International Directors Cabinet. The cabinet is comprised of a group of directors of local Hillels to foster collaboration and best practices between campuses and Hillel International's Schusterman International Center, the organization's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Serving a two-year term, Rabbi Rich represents Hillels with two to four staff members serving public universities. She was installed during the 2020 Hillel International Global Assembly, the movement's annual conference. The Global Assembly also included a workshop on Herd Community, Hillel of Buffalo's initiative to foster community among students during COVID-19. The workshop was co-led by Director of Engagement Logan Woodard and Springboard Innovation Specialist Macie Clawson.

This role will further the partnership between Hillel of Buffalo, Hillel International, and the 550 local Hillels serving communities around the world. The Directors Cabinet was initially created by current Federation CEO Rob Goldberg during his 15 years as a Vice President at Hillel International.

Rabbi Rich, who will celebrate her



Rabbi Sara Rich

tenth anniversary in the Hillel movement this summer, has strived to expand opportunities for every student in Buffalo to learn about Judaism, make a difference on campus and in the local community, and explore their connection to Israel. Since joining Hillel of Buffalo in 2017, she has brought a number of Hillel International initiatives to Buffalo, including the Jewish Learning Fellowship and the Organizational Design Lab, a user-centric approach to student engagement.

In addition to her Hillel work, Rabbi Rich is active locally as the chair of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors, Secretary of the board of the JCC of Greater Buffalo, and member of the JCRC's Racial Justice Working Group.

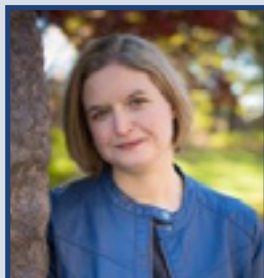
The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, in conjunction with Erie 1 and Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, are proud to present:

A Conference for Educators Americans and the Holocaust

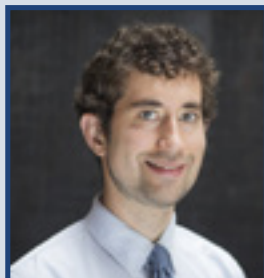
This conference will look at America's response to the Holocaust with a focus on the War Refugee Board and the Emergency Refugee Shelter in Fort Ontario. This conference will also explore the History Unfolded project, which allows students and teachers to learn what Americans could have known about the Nazi threat by examining local newspapers from the 1930s and 1940s.



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Monday, March 15, 2021
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Zoom

This conference is designed for middle and high school teachers in English Language Arts, Media Studies and Social Studies. Attendees will receive two hours of professional development. **The registration fee is \$20.**

Information and Registration at www.elb.org

Questions? Email Elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org



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Join monthly for live Zoom cooking demos, shared tips and recipes. Each class will feature a different recipe demoed by Chef Marshall. Recipes will be sent out in advanced so you can cook-along if you like.

Chef Marshall has an Associate's degree from Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, South Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. Since graduating from The Johnson and Wales Hospitality University in 1992 Chef Marshall has gone on to work in many facets of the Culinary world. He was featured on a local Food show in the Toledo area called "Let's Eat Toledo" and has been written up in multiple newspapers over the many years. He currently has worked the last 14 years as an award-winning Executive Chef in the Healthcare industry. Events are Free and Open to the Public. Registration is required.

FEBRUARY 11

"My Dad's 40 yr-old Rugelach," with a Chef's twist at 7 p.m.

MARCH 11

Babka, "My Israeli breakfast, lunch and dinner" at 7 p.m.

The JCC is happy to present our events at no cost making it accessible for anyone to participate but do appreciate your support of our programs through donations. Please consider making the suggested donation when registering.

For more information visit www.jccbuffalo.org or email Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.



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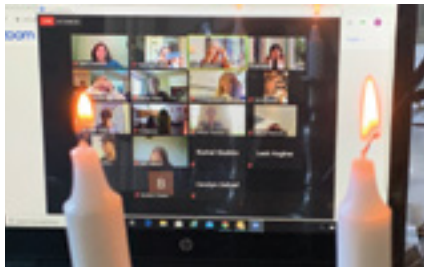
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Ice Designs

BY ELIZABETH BERGMAN

In the middle of winter
It's as cold as can be
But I look out my window
And what do I see?

Iceicles fringing the rooftops
Melting and shining in the sun
I open my window
And take, oh, just one

I reach out again
To take only one more
But I stop and think
Just what are they for?

They are to be admired
Not to be taken away
They come only in winter
And are not here to stay

There is ice coating everything
Forming all sorts of designs
Dripping from roofs and treetops
Hanging off of street signs

Some icicles are only one inch
Others are five feet
If I take this one inside
It will melt in the heat

I pull my hand in
With the only one I took
And I run downstairs
Where no one will look

I put it in the basement freezer
Behind the roast beef
So I'll have my own private icicle
For only me to keep!

The late Elizabeth Bergman wrote this poem when she was 12 years old. Her parents, Susan and Jerry Bergman, sent it to The Journal as a remembrance during winter.

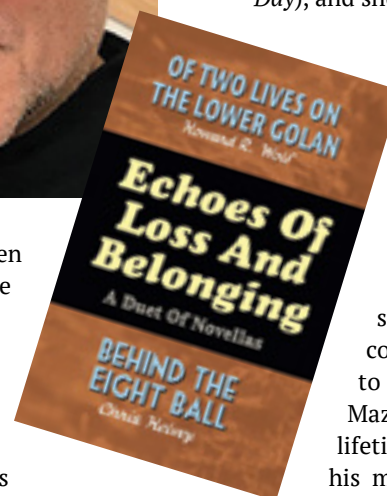
Howard Wolf Publishes New Novel

Howard R. Wolf, Emeritus Professor and Senior Fellow in the Department of English at University at Buffalo recently announced the collaborative publication of two novellas—Chris Helvey's *Behind The Eight Ball* and his novel *Of Two Lives On The Lower Golan*—as one volume: *Echoes of Loss and Belonging*. This innovative publication brings together two authors with vastly different backgrounds whose two novellas reveal deep and shared perceptions about the quest for "belonging." Their protagonists—Earl Turner and Ludwig Fried, the former a Kentucky police officer, the later a displaced Manhattanite living in Israel – both look for a place to belong in communities where they are outsiders; life in Kentucky and Israel echo each other as Earl and Ludwig try to integrate their origins and possible destinations.

Born in 1936, Howard attended the Horace Mann School in New York City before attending Amherst College where



he earned a B.A. He then went to Columbia where he earned his masters and The University of Michigan for his Ph.D. He was a full-time professor at the University at Buffalo's English department for 40 years, from 1967 to 2007.



Wolf has lectured throughout the world as an Americanist, creative writer, and literary journalist. One of Buffalo's few Jewish American writers of fiction, Howard is widely published, pursuing an interest in personality in memoir form (*Forgive the Father*), the novel (*Broadway Serenade*), drama (*Home at the End of the Day*), and short fiction.

For the past fifteen years, he has created a character, "Ludwig Fried," in twenty stories who, living in the shadow of the Holocaust and various kinds of displacement, struggles still, often in comic terms, despite loss, to belong somewhere. Mazal Tov to Howard on his lifetime of achievement and his most recent publication which is available through Amazon in print and kindle.



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In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from December 19, 2020- January 15, 2021*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

**R. Bruce Baum
Bernice Berger
Bernard Engel
Herbert Feder
Anne Haber
Mark Hyman**

**F. Warren Kahn
Frederic Kasimov
Estelle Lenard
Henry Mann
Annette Masling
Joseph Masling
Natalie Miller
Thelma Perlow
Richard F. Pierce
Ellen Pine
Professor Ronald P. Rubin
Mona Schwartzberg
Helene T. Smallen
Lola Swede**



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

IN LOVING MEMORY

The Challenge of Saying Goodbye During the Pandemic

BY RABBI ALEX LAZARUS-KLEIN

The call came in from the family to visit their relative at a suburban hospital. I knew the congregant well and was devastated to learn she was dying. I was even more devastated to learn it was from COVID. Visiting would be out of the question. The woman, a 98-year-old, died the next day. Her family decided to postpone any memorial until we could gather again in person.

Of all the many indignities of the pandemic, not being able to say goodbye to congregants is one the harshest. As a rabbi, I have been trained to offer comfort to those nearing life's final door. The prayer itself is called the *vidui* or confessional prayer. It involves asking forgiveness from any past wrongs and



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein

offering the words of our central prayer, the *shema*. We pray for the soul to make a safe passage back to God.

The *vidui* is meant to be offered every day of our lives, and is the centerpiece of the Yom Kippur holiday. But, like so many things in life, human beings often wait until the last moment to have the words uttered.

Baring our souls, we beg God, "...May it be Your will that You heal me with total recovery, but, if I die, may my death be an atonement for all my wrongdoings... Master of the Universe may my passing be in peace."

While some may shy away from these moments, I find them beautiful. I am grateful for whatever measure of support I can offer to both the individual and family. I am there both to pray with them and just to witness all they are going through. Watching the body calm into its peaceful final trance is the closest I will get to God before it is actually my turn to exit this world.

For the past ten months I have not even been inside a hospital, let alone offered any final prayers. What once was a routine trip to visit with the many congregants in need, now seems like a perilous journey into the dangerous and unknown. Every week when we receive the hospital census, my heart breaks just a little knowing there is so little I can do to help.

Life and death, though, have continued as normal, now mostly behind the veil of computer and telephone screens. I have conducted conversions on my iPhone, while sitting under the shade of a tree

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of a cemetery, blessed wedding couples outside of a retirement center while the couples' grandparents looked on from the windows of the facility, and welcomed babies to the world over a Zoom screen hundreds of miles away from my own. None of these moments were ideal, but I felt fortunate to be present at all, even virtually.

This past week a dear congregant lay dying in the hospital. He was only in his seventies, a vibrant, loving soul, who had navigated years of health challenges. His wife of only a few years was by his side, a blue mask covering the majority of her face. Despite all the two had gone through, she had remained steadfastly by his side.

The staff at our local trauma center had gone above and beyond to contact me and set him up with a Google Duo device in order for us to talk. My congregant's face was frail, with tubes extending out of his throat to help him breathe. I barely recognized that it was the same person.

He nodded his head and mouthed words to communicate and I tried my best to express what was in my heart,

and he to share what was in his.

I told him that I loved him and appreciated all he done for me over the years. I voiced the words of the Deuteronomy: *Hear O Israel the Lord Our God, the Lord is One*, and asked forgiveness for anything that had been left undone.

The moment was so preciously painful. I could not even begin to imagine what his spouse and family were going through. Afterwards, one of the nurses, who happened to be a congregant, texted to let me know how peaceful the man had gotten after our conversation. A few hours later he was gone.

As I stood at the cemetery a few days later with the meager crowd of ten we were permitted (all masked, of course), tears welled up in my eyes, not just for this congregant, but for all the moments stolen from us by this insidious virus, for the lesser world into which we would eventually return, and for the overwhelming grief of not being able to properly say goodbye.

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein is rabbi of Congregation Shir Shalom.

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PRELUDE TO POPS

Tue Mar 2, 7pm

Jaman E. Dunn, conductor

What defines Pops? Popular and light classical music, the tunes that make you want to dance, smile, and feel alive. This concert explores works across the generations that have stood the test of time through film, television, commercials, and more. Everyone should recognize *Can Can*, *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, and *Hoedown*, plus *Over the Rainbow*, to name just a few.



BPO CLASSICS

BEETHOVEN & STRAUSS

Tue Mar 9, 7pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Ray Ushikubo, piano

TURINA *La Oración del Torero*
("The Bullfighter's Prayer")

R. STRAUSS *Metamorphosen*

BEETHOVEN *Piano Concerto No. 2*
in B-flat major

Double-threat violin and piano phenom Ray Ushikubo returns to perform Beethoven's youthful, imaginative, first full-length orchestral piece, contrasted by the subdued resignation of Richard Strauss' sunset years in *Metamorphosen*. The pulsating Spanish rhythms of Turina's tone poem capture the torero's prayers to survive the ring versus the crowd's blood-thirsty anticipation of the spectacle.



BPO CLASSICS

HANDEL & MOZART

Tue Mar 23, 7pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

HANDEL *Concerto Grosso in C major*
("Alexander's Feast"), HWV 318

KAY *Pietà*

MOZART *Violin Concerto No. 4 in D major*

IBERT *Divertissement*

Handel's grandiose interlude music to his choral works is an audience favorite, while Mozart's witty and blissful violin concerto puts concertmaster **Nikki Chooi** through his paces. The extraordinary talent of 20th-century American composer, conductor, and educator, Ulysses Kay, is on display when English hornist **Anna Mattix** undertakes his soulful and profoundly beautiful *Pietà*. The amusing and high-spirited *Divertissement* of French composer Jacques Ibert completes the program.



BPO POPS

**CHARLIE PARKER:
EASY TO LOVE!**

Tue Mar 30, 7pm

John Morris Russell, conductor

Pioneering improviser Charlie "Bird" Parker changed the face of jazz forever with the creation of bebop. Join us for an evening of iconic jazz tunes of the 30s, 40s, and 50s including *Easy to Love*, *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *Just Friends*, *Moon Mist*, and more, featuring our own jammin' saxophonist, **Sal Andolina**.



BPO POPS

RAGTIME KINGS

Tue Feb 2, 7pm

Jeff Tyzik, conductor

A combination of early Blues, French march music, and classical song, ragtime was born and bred in New Orleans. Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, and W.C. Handy are the musical innovators who created the exciting, joyous and sophisticated melodies that became the foundation for jazz and popular music of the past century, influencing other musicians including George Gershwin. Your BPO is the star of the show with step out features for our very own clarinet, trombone, and trumpet soloists. Songs include *The Entertainer*, *Maple Leaf Rag*, *King Porter Stomp*, *St. Louis Blues*, and *Rialto Ripples*.

BPO CLASSICS

**DREAMS, DANCES
AND VARIATIONS**

Tue Feb 9, 7pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Randall Goosby, violin

ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH

Prologue and Variations

BOLOGNE de SAINT-GEORGES

Violin Concerto No. 9 in G major

DEBUSSY *Dances sacrée et danse profane*

MOZART *Symphony No. 29 in A major*

The 18th century produced the first known classical composer of African ancestry; Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. Often compared to Mozart, his lyrical violin concerto is performed by young virtuoso Randall Goosby, a former Sphinx Concerto Competition winner. The program also celebrates the ground-breaking achievements of Zwilich, the first female to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music, and includes a sensual dreamscape by Debussy, plus Mozart's enchanting yet spirited symphony.



BPO POPS

HAVANA NIGHTS

Tue Feb 16, 7pm

Jeff Tyzik, conductor

Trumpeter, arranger, and conductor, Jeff Tyzik currently serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Known for his inventive programming, this concert recreates a sultry, passionate evening of Latin music from Cuba, Spain, and Argentina, from steamy tangos to seductive ballads.

BPO CLASSICS

DRAMATIC REFLECTIONS

Tue Feb 23, 7pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

ARENSKY

Variations on a Theme
of Tchaikovsky

SHOSTAKOVICH *Chamber Symphony*
for Strings in C minor

HAYDN *Symphony No. 44*
in E minor, "Trauer"

Composed as a memorial to his countryman, Arensky's lyrical work reinvents a theme from Tchaikovsky's "16 Songs for Children," while fellow compatriot Shostakovich prophesied his chamber piece, colored by the WWII destruction of Dresden, would be his requiem. The program concludes with the yearning of Haydn's dissonant and dramatic *Symphony No. 44*.



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