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A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

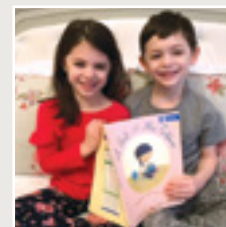
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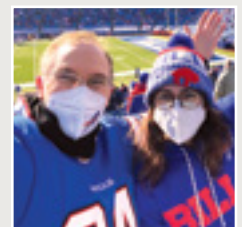
MARCH 2021 | ADAR-NISSAN 5781



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THE JEWISH JOURNAL

*Happy Passover!*

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# March 2021

## Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

It's March 2021. *Mitzrayim* ("Egypt" in Hebrew, also "narrowness" or "narrow places" and a euphemism for the COVID-19 pandemic) is behind us. *Mitzrayim* to the left. *Mitzrayim* to the right. What's ahead?

As you will see throughout this entire issue of *The Jewish Journal*, spring is on its way, Passover is right around the corner, and HOPE is in the house! Federation CEO Rob Goldberg sets the tone of hopefulness with a beautiful essay on Passover and hope for this year, despite the pandemic (page 3).

And what is Passover without special food? So we have again invited community members to share special recipes (pages 6-7), and included two awesome recipes from famed Israeli Chef Michael Solomonov (page 8), who will be teaching a Zoom cooking class on March 16 for which you can sign up (page 13).

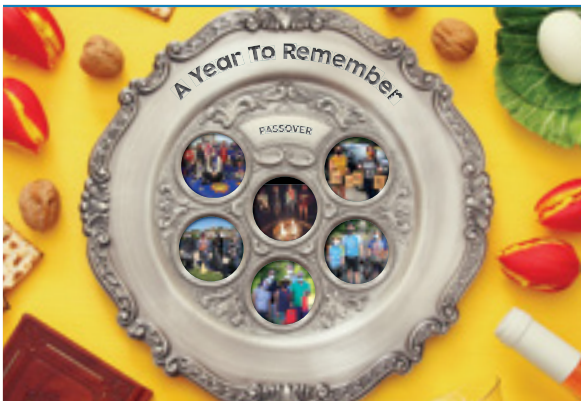
Lots of others things happening in Jewish Buffalo: Laughs are in order March 9 as the famed TV comedy *The Office* comes to town via Craig Small's Zoom interview with his old college pal "Toby" Paul Lieberstein (page 9). CJEL takes us through a year of pandemic survival and virtual get-togethers (pages 12-13), Jewish Buffalo History Center Director Chana Kotzin clues us in as to some of the individuals breaking ground for Temple Shaarey Zedek on the cover of last month's Journal (page 17), and the JCC's Camp Centerland in Amherst is open for registration for the 2021 summer (page 32). And in case you are still sitting in front of your computer screen or TV, Silver Sneakers® instructor Kathy Rogers urges all of us to learn to get moving and stay safe while doing so (page 33).

Finally, lifetime Buffalo Bills fan Sam Shatkin takes us with him through the Bills' playoff run in Buffalo and in Kansas City with enthusiasm, pride, delight and hope (page 40)! And you can see, through his eyes, how the Buffalo Bills have helped our entire community hold on to positivity, to sanity even, throughout one of the worst years of many of our lives.

Wishing you Chag Sameach Pesah—a happy Passover—from me and my family to you and yours. We will again celebrate this year –somehow together- on Zoom, Facetime, or distantly together - and together we will hold on to the hope the community provides for us.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

## On The Cover



Using the timeline Passover affords us, we look back at the year from last Passover through photos. CLOCKWISE from the word "PASSOVER" 1: HRC Director Elizabeth Schram and Vilona Trachtenberg deliver Shabbat packages to Holocaust Survivors last spring. 2: Leslie Kramer, Ken Rogers and Jim Kramer complete the 25th Ride for Roswell despite the pandemic this summer. 3: Federation Executive board members (CLOCKWISE) Shelly Yellen, Blaine Schwartz, Leslie Kramer, Margie Bryen and Andrew Shaevel pass out summer treat bags at a drive-thru board distribution. 4: Nickel City Jews participate in Tashlich during Rosh Hashanah by helping to clean up Buffalo's waterfront. 5: JCC Child Care students cheer on the Buffalo Bills! CENTER: CJEL Teens enjoy a safe campfire during a Teen retreat this past fall.

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# My Passover of Hope

Last April, my sister Susan Schwartz and I, along with our dear friend Adam Scheldt, hosted a Second Night Seder. Dozens of friends and family from all over the country joined us over Zoom. The day before, my wife Shira and I hosted a couple of child-friendly virtual Seders with our kids and grandkids from Chicago, LA and Clarence. We had all of the essential Passover elements at these virtual experiences: matza, wine, some horseradish, story-telling—and we even tried to sing a little over Zoom.



But, no part of these virtual experiences compared to being together in person; nothing could replace the energy and connectivity created by 35 people stuffed into our dining room the year before, but at least we were together with family and friends.

This was of course the beginning of the pandemic, and at the end of the Rob/Susan/Adam Seder we shared our screen with the image below and recited “Next Year in Person” rather than “Next Year in Jerusalem.”

The expression gave us hope that this

newish normal we were experiencing would soon be over. But here we are in March 2021, nearly a year later, and COVID 19 is still among us. Vaccine distribution is scattershot, and while the numbers are lessening every day, we still read about more cases and more suffering. We are all still coping and adapting, and gathering for Passover like we used to may not be possible - again - later this month. And so, for the second year, we need to get creative and figure out ways to tell the story of the Exodus through food, song and debate even if we



Rob Goldberg

can't be together around a physical table.

Interestingly, the proclamation: “Next Year in Jerusalem” is actually recited twice a year – at the end of the Yom Kippur (Neilah) service and at the conclusion of the Seder. This reflects the Talmudic dispute as to whether the coming of the Messiah is more likely to take place in the month of Tishrei (during Yom Kippur) or Nissan (during Passover). In our impassioned hope for redemption, we pray equally in both seasons.

I love the idea that we say these words twice: as the sun is setting after a day of fasting and after the retelling of the miraculous story of our people's journey from slavery to freedom. And while I understand the yearning of the Messiah when we recite these words, it is the phrase *Next Year* that provides for

me the widest entry point to hope.

*Next Year* drives me toward that flicker of hope at the end of this crazy COVID tunnel. The same hope that sustained our people for centuries amid despair – whether during Egyptian bondage thousands of years ago, expulsion from Spain over 500 years ago, state-sponsored mass murder of 6 Million 80 years ago, or invasion by enemies of the new State of Israel 60 years ago – *next year* – suggests a sense of possibility that is close at hand, ready for picking.

Rabbi David Hartman, in *The Leader's Guide to the Family Participation Haggadah: A Different Night*, sees a “radical futurism” reflected in this phrase, an overwhelming sense of potential, that things don't have to be the way they are. He writes that every year we drink four cups of wine and then pour a fifth for Elijah. “The cup is poured, but not yet drunk. Yet the cup of hope is poured every year. Passover is the night for reckless dreams; for visions about what a human being can be, what society can be, what people can be, what history may become. That is the significance of ‘*Le-shanah ha-ba-a b'Yerushalayim*’ (Next year in Jerusalem).”

I'm confident that next year we will be together, in person, for Seder. With friends, family, strangers – letting all who are hungry come and eat together. For there is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel as more of us get vaccinated and winter gives way to spring. We can feel it as we inch closer; we can taste the freedom on our tongues that we've yearned for these past 13 months.

This year, may you all enjoy a Passover of hope– whether in small pods around festive tables or in front of computer screens via Zoom or Facetime. And may we all be together – in person – next year!

## Chag Pesach Sameach! Happy Passover

From the Board of Governors  
and Professional Team of  
The Buffalo Jewish Federation





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Allows the Buffalo Jewish Federation to make our vision a reality. This month we are highlighting another one of our impact areas to illustrate some of the exciting things happening because of your support in our community.

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## ROOTS Series Concludes with Unique Cooking Demo

Free Event on Tuesday, March 9 at 5 p.m.



The Buffalo Jewish Federation's Winter ROOTS Program, a series that celebrates the connection so many Jewish Buffalonians have with their genealogical roots in Eastern Europe, will conclude with a live cooking demonstration led by Chefs Corey Kadish and Stephen Forman on Tuesday, March 9 from 5-6 pm. Kadish and Forman are co-owners of Thyme-N-Honey, a food consultant company specializing in teaching and demonstration of classical and modern cooking techniques.

Called "Eat and Enjoy," the free zoom event takes its inspiration from the root crop cycle, vegetables that not only offer a prolonged harvest season and long storage life, but are staples in an Eastern European diet.

The program will begin with a special presentation by Leah Kramer, a senior at Wisconsin studying Journalism, who has been interning with the Jewish Federation since late spring. "I love food and all that comes with it, from a sense of community to feelings of joy" said Leah. "Food is both a reflection of culture and a fun and delicious way to experience one's roots," she added.

To register, visit [bit.ly/winterroots](http://bit.ly/winterroots) or call Joan Kwiatkowski at 716-204-2241. Several days before the program, we will send you a participation link as well as a list of ingredients you'll need to cook right alongside Corey and Steve so that you'll have a delicious dinner to "enjoy" at the end of the program!

## Dr. Gil Wolfe Speaks on French Jewish History March 4

Gil Wolfe, a member of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors, will speak on "An Avenger in Paris: the Tale of Herschel Grynszpan," Thursday, March 4, at 8:00 p.m. as part of Temple Beth Tzedek's monthly speaker series.

Dr. Wolfe is the Irvin and Rosemary Smith Professor and Chairman of the Dept. of Neurology at Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, where he also holds the title of Distinguished Professor. Although his main focus is neurology and neuromuscular disorders, he enjoys reading about history, especially as it pertains to Israel and world conflicts.

The talk with focus on Herschel Grynszpan, a young Jewish refugee in France, and the unleashing of Kristallnacht by the Nazis in November 1938. Go to the TBT Website at [btzbuffalo.org](http://btzbuffalo.org) to connect to the program Zoom link.



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# Let All Who Are Hungry

Zoom Passover seders may not be new (so last year!) but Pesach food is still delicious and fun. Again, the *Jewish Journal* invited some Buffalo cooks to share their favorite holiday recipes. Chag Pesach Sameach!

## Apple Matzo Cake

LORI MORRISON

3 large eggs, separated plus 3 large egg yolks  
2/3 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp coarse salt  
3 cups grated Granny smith apples, squeezed dry  
1 cup matzo meal  
2 tsp finely grated lemon zest  
1 Tbsp plum brandy  
2 Tbsp honey  
1/4 cup chopped pecans  
Preheat oven to 350

Lightly coat 8-inch springform pan with non-stick spray  
Beat together 6 egg yolks, sugar and salt until thick and pale, about 3 minutes. Fold in apples, matzo meal, lemon zest and brandy.

In another bowl, beat 3 egg whites until stiff peaks form, about 4 minutes. Gently fold egg whites into apple mixture, then transfer to spring form pan. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle on pecans.

Bake about 45-50 minutes, should be golden brown and set in the middle. Cool completely in pan. Remove from springform pan when cool.

## Jess's Cabbage Soup

JESSICA MEYERS ALTMAN

SERVES 6-8

1 cup of chopped onion  
1 Tbsp minced garlic  
1 cup sliced carrot  
1/2 cup peeled parsnip, 1 parsnip  
1 1/2-2 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp pepper  
6 cups fresh chopped cabbage (save remaining for a nice slaw)  
2 cups fresh tomatoes, or 1 quart canned tomatoes (if using canned, reserve juice and add to total liquid amount)  
1/4 tsp chili flakes  
7 cups vegetable stock  
2 tsp dried thyme, or 1 1/2 tbsp fresh  
1 bay leaf  
1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar  
1 Tbsp dijon mustard  
fresh parsley for garnish  
salt/pepper to taste

Heat soup pot. Place onions, carrots, and parsnips into pot, and sauté with a little bit of the broth or water to prevent sticking, about 5 minutes.

Add in chili flakes, thyme, and garlic, and sauté until onions have softened, about another minute.

Add cabbage, and a pinch of salt and let soften, about 5-10 minutes. Add stock, tomatoes, remaining salt, pepper, bay leaf, and mustard. Simmer for about 15 minutes

Add apple cider and season with additional salt, pepper, and vinegar as desired. Top with parsley and serve.

## Sweet Potato Kugel

CHANI LABKOVSKI

This sweet potato kugel is super easy to make and truly delicious! It is so sweet and melts in your mouth.

1/3 cup olive oil  
5 lb sweet potatoes, peeled  
8 eggs  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 Tbsp cinnamon  
2 tsp salt

Grate the potatoes in a food processor. Place into a large bowl, Add the eggs, salt, sugar and cinnamon and mix well. Add the oil. Pour into a 9x13-inch greased pan. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Bake for about 40 minutes or until golden brown.

## Pear, Sour Cherry and Raspberry Macaroon Crumble

ROBIN KURSS

1 cup liquor of your choice...amaretto, slivovitz, triple sec  
3 pears, peeled, cored and cut into 1" pieces  
1 cup sour cherries, pitted...can be canned or frozen  
1 cup raspberries  
1 1/2 cup coconut macaroons, crumbled  
1/2 cup slivered almonds  
4 Tbsp butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 375. In a small saucepan, reduce liquor to 1/2 cup over medium-high heat. Combine pear, cherries and raspberries in a bowl and pour the hot liquor over. Stir and let sit for half hour.

Place crumbled macaroons in a bowl and mix with almonds and butter or margarine until all is combined and crumbled.

Butter an 8" pan. Spoon in fruit and their juices. Spread macaroon mix on top. Bake for 30 minutes till bubbly and golden brown on top.



# Come And Eat!

## Tuna-less Chickpea Salad

JESSICA MEYERS ALTMAN

### Chickpea Salad

3 cups of cooked chickpeas, drained (this is 1½ cans if using)  
½ cup chopped dill pickles, we used our Garlicky Dills  
3 Tbsp finely minced red onion  
½ cup chopped celery  
½ cup cashew sour cream (recipe below)  
½-1 tsp salt to taste  
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper  
fresh parsley for garnish  
juice of 1 lemon, about 2 Tbsp

**Cashew Sour Cream**—this will make double the amount you need for the recipe above, makes a great topping for tacos or as a base of a creamy dressing as well:

1 cup raw cashews, soaked overnight or a few hours, and then drained  
1-2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice (depending on your taste)  
pinch of salt  
½-¾ cup of water to thin

Blend ingredients for cashew cream in a high powered blender, like a Vitamix, chill until ready to make the chickpea salad. Cashew cream can be made ahead of time, and extras will keep for 5 days.

Mash chickpeas until you get a pasty consistency

Add finely diced onion, celery, cashew cream (adding 1/3 cup to start, up to ½ c depending on the consistency you like), pickles, and lemon juice, mix

Season with salt/pepper and serve or chill until ready to serve.

## Leah's Sweet Matzo Brei

LEAH KRAMER

While this recipe is basic and easy, I truly look forward to making sweet matzah brei each time Passover rolls around.

2 eggs  
2-3 sheets of matzo  
Cinnamon and sugar to taste

Begin by whisking the 2 eggs in a separate bowl. Once thoroughly mixed, crumble however much matzo you want to use and put it straight into the egg mix. Next, add as much cinnamon and sugar as you would like! Spend about 30 seconds mixing it all together. Once thoroughly mixed, scramble on a pan until the eggs are cooked completely and enjoy! Top the brei with maple syrup, jam, yogurt, honey, or whatever your heart desires. The recipe can be easily tweaked to be savory but adding salt and pepper instead of cinnamon and sugar. Either way, delicious!

## Matzo Balls

ROBIN BERNHARD KURSS  
AND BARBARA GROSSMAN MACKS

Passover is on its way, so we thought some Matzo Ball Maven tips would be fun!

Although Barbara Grossman Macks and me—Robin Bernhard Kurss—are “kissing cousins” and love each other dearly, our matzo balls couldn’t be more different.

Let’s just say, Barbara’s matzo balls are highly compact (aka dense) as can be, and mine are heavenly (aka fluffy as a cloud.) Barbara’s parents, Dolores and Joe Grossman, and her maternal Grandmother Annie Isenberg, preferred a matzo ball on the heavier side—just like the ones that Barbara’s mother in law, Marion Macks, used to make.

My family, Gloria and Harold Bernhard and grandmothers Kate Bernhard and Esther Grossman, preferred the featherweights. But, whatever your family’s fancy—and believe me there are those who love each kind—whether you like your matzo balls dense and delicious or light and airy....have we got a recipe for you!!! Happy Pesach.

### Barbara's Matzo Balls

*Makes 12 sinkers!*

2 Tbsp oil  
2 large eggs  
¾ cup Matzo Meal  
2 Tbsp. water or broth  
1 tsp salt

### Robin's Matzo Balls

*Makes 12 floaters!*

2 Tbsp oil or schmaltz  
4 large eggs  
1 cup Matzo Meal  
¼ cup club soda  
1 ½ tsp salt

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl until thoroughly combined. Barbara’s chill for 30 minutes, Robin’s for 2 hours. Bring 6 cups of salted water to boil. Form 12 balls and place in water, bring to simmer and cook for 30 minutes, covered. Serve balls in chicken soup and enjoy!



# Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat!

**Zoom in for a Passover Cooking Class  
with world-famous Israeli chef  
Michael Solomonov  
Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

**It's free and presented by Federation's  
Campaign for Jewish Buffalo.**

*Look for more info on page 13,  
including the registration link.*

## Mina with Ground Beef/Charoset with Cilantro

MICHAEL SOLOMONOV

SERVES 6

### Mina

1 Tbsp canola oil,  
plus more for brushing  
1 pound ground beef  
½ onion, diced  
5 garlic cloves, minced  
1½ teaspoons kosher salt  
1 teaspoon finely ground coffee  
½ teaspoon ground cardamom  
4–6 sheets matzo  
1 large egg, beaten

### Charoset

4 carrots, peeled and grated  
½ apple, peeled and grated  
½ cup chopped walnuts  
1 cup chopped fresh cilantro  
2 Tbsp fresh horseradish  
2 Tbsp raisins  
1 Tbsp white vinegar  
Kosher salt

Mina is the ladino word for pie. This Passover dish, common throughout the Sephardic world, is almost too good to be true. Once the matzo is soaked and baked, it magically transforms into something more like traditional pastry than unleavened bread. Mina has great vegetarian potential and can be filled with anything from eggplant to spinach and cheese to potatoes. But I like the way the matzo soaks up the fat and juices from ground beef in this version. The mina is topped with the fruit-and-nut condiment so crucial to the Passover table: charoset. Cardamom is used to flavor coffee and in sweets throughout the Middle East, but the cardamom-coffee combination works perfectly in savory recipes like this one. The cardamom is super piney and fragrant, with a sweetness that balances the roasty, bitter coffee and the rich, salty meat.

*For the charoset:* Combine the carrots, apple, walnuts, cilantro, horseradish, raisins, vinegar, and salt in a medium bowl. Toss to combine. Set aside.

*For the mina:* Preheat the oven to 400°F. Brush the bottom of a 10-inch cast iron skillet or a baking dish with oil.

Heat the 1 Tbsp oil in another large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the ground beef and cook, stirring to break up the meat, until it begins to brown, about 5 minutes. Add the onion, garlic, and salt and continue cooking until the vegetables have softened but not browned, 5 to 8 minutes more. Add the coffee and cardamom and stir to combine.

Soak the matzo in warm water until pliable, about 1 minute. Line the bottom of the oiled cast iron skillet with the matzo, breaking up the pieces as needed to completely cover the bottom and sides of the skillet. Spoon the beef mixture over the bottom and cover the top with more matzo, pressing at the edges to seal. Brush with the beaten egg and bake until the mina is golden brown and crisp, about 30 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes.

Invert the mina onto a serving platter. Slice into wedges and serve topped with the charoset.

MINA WITH GROUND BEEF, CARDAMOM AND COFFEE is excerpted from ZAHAV by MICHAEL SOLOMONOV and STEVEN COOK. Copyright © 2015 by MICHAEL SOLOMONOV and STEVEN COOK. Used by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.



# A Conversation with “Toby,” aka Paul Lieberstein

Have you even wondered what it would be like to work at Dunder Mifflin Paper Company in Scranton, PA, the fictional setting of *The Office*? If so, join Buffalo Jewish Federation for a conversation with “Toby” (aka Paul Lieberstein), the character Paul portrays on the now infamous television show.



Craig Small is far left and Paul Lieberstein is second from the right in the blue shirt in this photo that was taken on a camping trip in the Adirondacks during their time at Hamilton College.

The idea to bring Paul to Buffalo was the brainchild of his friend Craig Z. Small, a college classmate of Paul's at Hamilton College. “Paul lived across the hall from me in Dunham during our senior year. He was a mellow, funny and friendly guy and I was fortunate to get to know him...and I've got pictures to prove it!” Craig recently said.

Craig will interview Paul in a virtual event on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8 p.m.** There is no fee to join the event but guests are encouraged to donate to “The Compassion Fund,” a fund started by The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropy and Buffalo Jewish Federation to provide financial support for individuals significantly impacted by the pandemic.

“I loved watching *The Office*, as much as I loved telling my family that Paul was my friend. I would often remind them he and I went to college together!” Craig added. “So I am super-psyched and honored that Paul was completely agreeable to joining us for this event in Buffalo.”

Paul's character, “Toby,” is a role unique to the American version of *The Office* - one the most binge-watched TV shows in 2020. In a recent Nielsen ratings survey, viewership of *The Office* in 2020 exceeded all other streaming television shows with 1.23 billion minutes watched

(*Washington Post*, June 1, 2020). Fans of the show know that Toby entered the field of human resources after leaving seminary training in order to pursue a woman he would later marry and painfully divorce. Toby was often an HR “office downer” and noticeably despised by Steve Carell's character, Michael Scott.

Professionally, Paul Lieberstein is a sought-after actor, screenwriter, television producer, and director of many well-known television shows including *King of the Hill*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *The Drew Carey Show*, and his own movie, *Song of Back and Neck*. Paul is also the recipient of a Primetime Emmy Award for his work on *The Office*.

This entertaining evening with Paul Lieberstein is presented by Buffalo Jewish Federation in partnership with Hillel of Buffalo, Nickel City Jews, The Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative, and our Jewish Community Center. “I am looking forward to sharing someone I know and admire with my friends,” concluded Craig. “Introducing Paul to our community while raising money for The Compassion Fund is a great combination and will make for a very special evening. Tell your friends to come!”

**To register for the conversation with Paul Lieberstein, go to the following link: [BIT.LY/TOBYFROMTHEOFFICE](https://bit.ly/TobyFromTheOffice).**

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## meet toby from "the office" [aka Paul Lieberstein]

TUESDAY, MARCH 9  
8 - 9 PM



Join us for a fun conversation and Q&A with Paul Lieberstein -  
writer, executive producer and cast member on *The Office*.

REGISTER: [BIT.LY/TOBYFROMTHEOFFICE](https://bit.ly/TobyFromTheOffice)

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## B<sup>H</sup> Here The Child Asks

BY RABBI HESCHEL GREENBERG

Asking questions is an integral part of the Seder. It does not suffice to simply tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt; one must tell the story in response to the questions of the children. In fact, there are four questions that are traditionally asked by the children at the beginning of the Seder.

In many *Haggadot* (the classical text recited at the Seder) the “Four Questions” are prefaced by the following, instructional phrase:

“Here the child asks...”

At first blush, these words were intended to indicate that this is the appropriate place for the child to ask the questions. However, Chassidic commentators are quick to point out that these introductory words actually convey a poignant message.

We are All G-d's Children.

The word “child” here is a metaphor for all of us, who are G-d's little children. At this point, when we are ready to begin the process of retelling the story of the Exodus, each and every one of G-d's children can ask their Heavenly Father for all of their needs and requests.

One is entitled to ask, “Why is this particular place singled out for asking G-d for our needs? Isn't the process of asking G-d for our needs the function of prayer? And don't we, in fact, pray three times every weekday; asking G-d for our needs? Why do we need to set aside a few moments before the child asks the Four Questions to turn our hearts heavenward and petition G-d for our needs?”

The answer lies in the unique status



Rabbi Heschel Greenberg

of the child that all of us, including the adults, assume on the night of Passover.

However, despite the fact that we are all G-d's children, there is a special place in G-d's “heart” for the innocence and purity of one who is also very literally a child. Even some of the most hardened people seem to melt away when they are in the presence of a child.

This phenomenon, like all phenomena, is a representation of the way G-d relates to us. Because G-d has a special feeling for children, we, who were created in G-d's “image,” also relate to children in an unusual way.

The unique status of the child assumes particular importance at the time that we are required to exhibit the childlike quality of inquisitiveness.

Let us now return to the introductory remark that precedes the Four Questions: “Here, the child asks...”

Where is “here”?

“Here,” refers to the Seder night, when we relive the experience of the Exodus, which marked the birth of the Jewish People and their entry into the stage of infancy.

“Here,” more specifically, refers to the point that is reserved for children. The energy generated by all the little children, poised to express their innocence and inquisitiveness, awakens the child in all of us. And as G-d's children, we can ask for anything.

“Here,” refers even more specifically to the geographic and spiritual state of exile in which we are situated. We just concluded saying: “This year we are **here**, next year we will be in the Land of Israel; this year we are slaves, next year we will be free.”

At this point, when we realize the fact that we are still “here,” in exile, this is where the children, and the child within us, is aroused to ask, “G-d, why?” Why are we still in exile? Why are we not totally free, both physically and spiritually? Why are we still suffering from Covid-19?

When we ask, with the innocence and purity of a child, why we are still in exile, G-d listens to our childlike purity of heart and assures us that the “night of exile” is but temporary. Just like He saved us from the Pharaohs in past generations, so too will He redeem us from this present exile so that we can indeed celebrate the Seder—this year—in Jerusalem!

*Rabbi Heschel Greenberg is founder and Director of the Jewish Discovery Center.*



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## Community Interfaith Seder is March 23

Join Rabbis Alex Lazarus-Klein and Adam Rosenbaum and Interfaith Clergy who attended the 2017 trip to Israel for a special Interfaith COVID-19 Passover Seder Tuesday, March 23, 2021 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Email

[mara@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mara@buffalojewishfederation.org)  
with questions.

Register here:

<http://bit.ly/JCRCInterfaithSeder>



# JCRC's Takes Steps to Address Racial Inequity

BY DEBORAH GOLDMAN AND  
MARA KOVEN-GELMAN

*Are you Jewish? Excuse me, are you Jewish?* This is how Rabbi Angela Buchdahl started her Yom Kippur sermon at Central Synagogue in NYC. When she was a student at Yale, some Jews on the quad asked students, "Are you Jewish?" before offering tefillin to put on or give Shabbat candles. "No one ever asked me. I am a Jew of Color, my mom is Korean-born Jew-by choice and my dad is an American-born Jew by birth." Rabbi Buchdahl was raised and educated as a Jew, knew how to *daven* (pray) an entire prayer service, but was never asked, *Are you Jewish?* "I would have loved a pair of Shabbat candles or to sit in a makeshift sukkah, or even once been acknowledged as a member of the Tribe." Even with 25% percent of Jews in the Yale student body, Rabbi Buchdahl felt she never "belonged."

Belonging and equity has been a widespread theme this year. While COVID-19 pandemic spread in early 2020, so did worldwide civil protest in the aftermath of several deaths of African-Americans under police custody. The country is discussing race and racism that is long overdue and Jewish communities across the country have also begun to look at how Jews of color are accepted and welcomed into their communities.

Racial Justice has always been a Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) priority but a summer survey we conducted revealed that 69% of

respondents identified Racial Justice as a major issue facing the greater Buffalo area. JCRC leadership felt it was time to learn more about and try to take some steps toward addressing issues of racial justice and attitudes within the Western New York Jewish and larger community.

The journey started with the creation of a work group comprised of a diverse cohort of Jewish and Jew-adjacent individuals who took a deep dive into learning about racial inequities in the Jewish and larger community. For three and half months from August 2020 to January, the Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) heard many compelling personal and community stories of being excluded, marginalized and discriminated against.

Members included Corey Auerbach, Rabbi Ori Bergman, Molly Carr, Ann Marie Carosella, Adam Fogel, Hannah Gabelnick, Amy Heumann, Leslie Shuman Kramer, Risé Kulick, Sharon Nosenchuck, Rabbi Sara Rich and Harvey Sanders. We facilitated the group – with Deborah as chair and Mara as her staff partner.

The group chose topics which included housing and healthy disparities in the African-American community, and understanding equity, diversity and inclusion. A post-group survey revealed the most motivating speakers were Jews of Color who shared issues of discrimination which occurs in the Jewish community. The RJWG created six major institutional recommendations and compiled a list of resources for interested individuals

(<https://buffalojewishfederation.org/racial-justice/>). The major institutional recommendations include:

- Offer Racial Justice speakers/workshops for the entire Buffalo Jewish community.
- Create a travelling presentation of the three-month work of the RJWG.
- Strengthen efforts to be a true multiracial/multiethnic Jewish community, inclusive of Jews of different backgrounds, races, and ethnicities. *Specifically:*
  - Work with the "Belonging" Committee of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) on Jewish agency/synagogue Racial Justice Assessments. (Work with agency/synagogue leadership on ensuring spaces are welcoming to all.)
  - Pursue resources and opportunities from the Jewish Federations of North America's commitment to Racial Justice, led by the newly hired Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein.
  - Strengthen relationships with Black community leader/organizations and others committed to Racial Justice.

• Form a JCRC Racial Justice Sub-Committee to ensure implementation of the recommendations.

The group was incredibly respectful, willing to listen to each other and to embark on this journey with openness to learning. RJWG member Harvey Sanders added, "This was one of the most meaningful projects I have ever been associated with. I learned so much about the systemic and institutional context of these racial justice issues, and I am proud that we identified some concrete steps that we can take as a Jewish community and as individuals."

"Learning about racial justice through the lens of my Jewish identity has helped further develop my world view," said Corey Auerbach, RJWG member. When asked what his largest take-away from being part of the group, Corey quoted Rabbi Marc Soloway from a his Yom Kippur video sermon, "We need to commit as a community and as individuals to learn, to confess and to act for justice."

**If you are interested viewing the full report and recommendations, please contact Mara Koven-Gelman at [Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

## A Chinese New Year greeting from the Jewish Community

BY DEBORAH GOLDMAN

A year ago, I was graciously invited to bring greetings from the Jewish community to the Chinese Club of WNY during a Chinese New Year Dinner Banquet. But COVID-19 closed down that celebration and so many others. We then saw the painful rise of anti-Asian racism. The Chinese Community's response was to reach out with generous distributions of masks, food and clothing to the broader community, and the Jewish Community was privileged to help with these efforts. To the Chinese Community, You have enriched all of our lives. We look forward to working together in this next Year of the Ox.



Our work is based in *G'milut Chasidim* – acts of loving kindness. Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (OBM) said, "Acts of kindness never die. They linger in the memory, giving life to other acts in return."



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## CORE VALUES

Several core Jewish values underpin our mission and are central to activating our vision:



### HAZON - VISION & INNOVATION

We are forward thinking and believe that Jewish living and learning can happen both inside of and outside of institutions. We facilitate new kinds of Jewish experiences; our work is iterative and continually improving.



### ANAVAH - HUMILITY

We focus on building relationships and creating shared Jewish experiences that build and deepen connections.



### SAKRANUT - CURIOSITY

We encourage anyone to ask questions, explore, and seek depth and meaning in their Jewishness.



### BTZELEM ELOKIM - CREATED WITH THE SPARK OF THE DIVINE

We believe that everyone has something of value to contribute and everyone has a right to belong. We are inclusive of those raised inside Jewish community, those raised completely without Jewish community, individuals who are Jew-adjacent, and inclusive of all abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations.

# CJEL Reflections on a year of Virtual

**Chadeish Yameinu Kekedem:**

Looking Backwards and Forward - Reflections on a Year of Growth and Loss

March 13, 2021 marks one year since Covid-19 started to profoundly affect our lives. While this year has been personally trying for each of us and our families in different ways — from sickness, to the loss of those we love, and the loss of in-person connections — it has also been a time of growth.

Do you remember where you were when you realized the potential impact the COVID pandemic would have on our daily lives? Our team was huddled in the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) office, sketching out a two-week plan on a whiteboard for how to move classes and programs into a virtual environment. After our brainstorm session, we spent the rest of the day consulting with our volunteer partners to prepare a statement that would guide our work into this new reality. At the time, CJEL had one shared Zoom account and we anticipated needing to work virtually for two to four weeks total. Our sense was that we were crafting a temporary, short-term pivot. Little did any of us fully understand what the year ahead would bring.

As the weeks turned into months, it became clear that life as we knew it might not get back to normal. In fact, much of our ongoing planning conversations turned into redefining and imagining what a new normal might look like.

As we grappled with these drastic changes, we were reminded of the phrase from Ecclesiastes: *Chadeish Yameinu Kekedem*, beseeching God to “renew our days as of old.” Through this prayer we seek renewal while acknowledging our roots in a past that both defines and guides us. This phrase captured the delicate balance that the CJEL team, alongside all those we engage with, faced: we yearned for what was, yet needed to grasp the opportunities of what could be.

Just as challenges often bring out hidden strengths and blessings, this fine balance squeezed out the best in the CJEL team. It reinforced the timeless relevance of our tradition, while requiring us to create novel access



points that were appropriate in these times. This year helped reinforce our core values in ways we didn't think possible. We were required to approach our planning with greater *Hazon* - Vision and innovation as we applied novel modalities to our work. Furthermore, these times brought out greater *Anavah* - Humility, as each of us needed to come to terms with our limitations in the presence of something much greater than us. Yet, this aroused *Sakranut* - Curiosity, as we explored “what if” and “what can be” the future of Jewish Buffalo. Finally, we were struck with the fundamental Jewish principle of *B'Tzelem Elokim* - that we are all created with the spark of the Divine. We mourned the inconceivable loss of life and hardship inflicted on so many, and were reminded how infinitely valuable is each individual person.

These values kept us grounded and centered as we plowed ahead to ensure CJEL's vision continued to shine: that all Jews, their friends and partners of other faiths, and those exploring Judaism, have access to Jewish living and learning experiences that help them thrive... no matter the challenges.

How did all this translate into our day-in and day-out work? First, as we quickly adapted to our new reality, we came to realize that to be most effective and impactful virtually, we would need to build new capacities and skills. We became students again, reimagining how to engage, connect and empower in a virtual setting. We learned how to use innovative and then unfamiliar platforms such as Zoom, Discord, Adobe Spark, and

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Poll Everywhere. We became our own scriptwriters, Zoom producers and iMovie video editors.

As our new skill sets increased, we trained dozens of Wise Aging participants to use Zoom so that they could continue to gather, learn and connect. Hundreds of phone calls were made to Nickel City Jews participants and PJ Library families, teens and their parents, and we developed guidelines for virtual gatherings and best practices for virtual events and meetings.

Some highlights from those early months included:

- Virtual Lag B'omer, Nickel City Jews Seder, and a teen music events.
- Launching a Jewish Youth/Family Professionals group, to promote greater collaboration among community organizations.
- The establishment of Middle School and Teen Leadership councils.
- The conclusion of the Inclusion Planning Team's year of work, a name change from "inclusion" to "belonging" and the creation of a roadmap to promote a sense of *belonging* for all throughout Jewish Buffalo.



As summer rolled around, the pivots kept coming. In response, CJEL developed in-person gathering guidelines, hosted a full-day immersive Teen Leadership retreat at Camp Centerland, designed a series of *Anytime Activities*, and ran multiple outdoor game days for teens, middle schoolers, and PJ Library families. We created and distributed 70 *Boxes of Love* for Tu B'Av, the Jewish holiday that celebrates love. In addition to the positive response to the Jewish content provided in the Boxes of Love (supplemented by accompanying digital content), it was the simple encounters and interactions while distributing the boxes in the JCC's parking lot that created a profound impression for many people. Indeed, it was a breath of fresh air, literally - but, before long we were back to planning for virtual spaces.

As the pages of the calendar continued turning, fall was upon us. **Wise Aging**, Intro to Judaism and Hebrew classes resumed their learning over Zoom. Four new cohorts of **Women Gathering** learning circles were also launched. It was here that we discovered that deep, personal conversations and relationships can, indeed, be developed and deepened via Zoom. CJEL's **Being Jewish Gatherings** provided a space for 8th and 9th graders to process the ups and downs of 2020. **Student to Student** was launched with a virtual visit to Hamburg High School and the second cohort of the **Teen Leadership Fellowship** was selected. Nickel City Jews continued to host pop-up events outdoors until it was time to transition back to virtual events. The fall culminated in December with *Chanukah Box of Light*, a collaborative effort of our team, volunteer partners and generous donors - which

brought text and activities to celebrate the festival of Hanukkah into the homes of 275 individuals and families.

What have we learned over the last year? We learned to hold fast to our roots even as we grow forward in new directions. As we mourned the tremendous loss that we've endured and yearned for what was, we also invited the opportunity of what could be: new ways to experience rich Jewish living and learning and develop deeper personal connections. Indeed, as our tradition teaches: we pray, *Chadeish Yameinu Kekedem* — bring us back to each other again and renew our days as in the past. Our hope for each other is that we can keep our eyes on both the past and the future and that we can have faith that the next season in our lives will be even greater.

*This piece was written by the CJEL team, including Ori Bergman, Mike Steklof, Susan Goldberg Schwartz, Ben Wolfson and Miriam Abramovich. To learn more about the work of CJEL, contact Miriam Abramovich, Chief Experience Officer miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org*

# Passover Cooking Class

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 @ 7:30 PM  
WITH MICHAEL SOLOMONOV



Join Michael Solomonov, Executive Chef and Co-owner of Zahav, for a virtual cooking class on some Passover favorites. The menu includes Mina w/ground beef, cardamom and coffee, a classic Charoset, and another holiday delight (to be announced soon).

4

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Exploring the Passover Seder through the lens of fours (four cups of wine, four questions, four children)

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# What are PJL and PJOW, how do they work?

## The Gift of PJ Library and PJ Our Way

BY MIRIAM ABRAMOVICH

**PJ Library** is an international Jewish book subscription program, created in 2005 by the Massachusetts-based Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF). **PJ Library**, in partnership with the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, sends free books into the homes of Buffalo families raising Jewish children 8 years old and younger. Each month the gift of a new book arrives at subscriber homes, allowing families to build their own libraries of Jewish-themed children's books. These books spark moments of connection and discussions about Jewish ideas, traditions, and values – all while respecting the fact that there are as many ways of celebrating Judaism as there are families who are doing so.



*"We are so grateful to have a shelf full of PJ Library books from the last 5 years. Our*



*kids love that they're part of a special book club that celebrates our culture. Our favorite part is seeing their Jewish pride and connection to the holidays grow with each meaningful story!"*  
– Marni Marciano, **PJ Library Chair**

In Buffalo, 400 children receive the gift of **PJ Library** books in their mailboxes each month, and another 65 tweens go online to select books on their own through **PJ Our Way**, the expanded program for children ages 8 ½ to 12. In addition, **PJ Library** is a global enterprise with more than 680,000 children and their families receiving books in 29 countries and in 7 languages.

But, **PJ Library** and **PJ Our Way** are so much more than just books. In partnership

with incredible volunteer leadership, **PJ Library** and **PJ Our Way** are vehicles to connect and engage with families and children and parents. The books are an on-ramp to an exploration of Jewish ideas, Jewish relationships and Jewish community.

*"We have moved several times since having children, but wherever we are we have always received our PJ Library books. The books have helped our family to feel welcome in our new communities and every month we look forward to receiving our new books. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."*

– Rebecca Freedman,  
**PJ Library Vice Chair**



**PJ Library** in Buffalo is made possible by the Golden and Goldman Philanthropic Fund, Altman Dental and the Buffalo Jewish Federation. With deep appreciation to these investors, a child in Buffalo who grows up with **PJ Library** can build a home library of Jewish books that all convey an uplifting message about Judaism. **PJ Library** in Buffalo is led by Chair Marni Marciano and Vice Chair Rebecca Freedman. **PJ Our Way** in Buffalo is led by Chair Brenda Feldstein and Vice Chair Sharon Nisengard.

**Are you interested in connecting? Do you know a child who would like to receive PJ Library or PJ Our Way Books, contact Miriam Abramovich, Chief Experience Officer [miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

Miriam Abramovich is a Chief Experience Director for the Buffalo Jewish Federation.



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### Correction:

Last month we incorrectly listed the following names on the 2020 Honor Roll. We have corrected it below. We apologize for the error.

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# Making Summer Camp a Reality for All

The Buffalo Jewish Federation is deeply committed to supporting Jewish camp experiences and making Jewish camp a reality for every child in Jewish Buffalo. Through The Buffalo One Happy Camper program, we are able to provide need-blind grants of up to \$1000 to Jewish families with children attending nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time for a minimum of 12 consecutive days. The Buffalo One Happy Camper program is in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) and made possible through the generous support of The David Feuerstein Family Foundation.

*Families can find camps and apply for grants by visiting <https://buffalojewishfederation.org/camper-incentive-grants/>. Check out the following information about some of the regional camp options. Should you have any questions, contact Mandy Weiss at [mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org).*



## Camp George

Since 1999, Camp George has served thousands of campers and has played a significant role in the strengthening of the Reform Jewish movement. Camp George enables Jewish youth to participate in Reform Jewish camping while enjoying the beauty and serenity of the Northern Ontario camping experience. At Camp George, Jewish youth from all over Canada and the United States participate in a unique camping experience that blends the best of Reform camping with the historic traditions of Ontario camping.

*For more information about Camp George, contact Karen Kollins, Associate Director at [kkollins@urj.org](mailto:kkollins@urj.org).*



## Camp Seneca Lake

Camp Seneca Lake has provided children entering grades 4-12 with over 90 summers of fun, friends and cherished memories. Our 200 beautiful wooded acres in the Finger Lakes region of New York State provide the ideal backdrop for camp. Campers participate in a variety of exciting areas, including waterfront (skiing, sailing, wakeboarding and more), high and low ropes courses, most land sports, overnight hiking, nature, drama, and arts and crafts.

*For more information about Camp Seneca Lake, contact Lori Field, Director at [lfield@jccrochester.org](mailto:lfield@jccrochester.org).*



## Camp Ramah Canada

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*For more information about Camp Ramah Canada, contact Sami Eisen, Program Director at [sami@campramah.com](mailto:sami@campramah.com).*



## Camp Havaya

Camp Havaya is all about the joy of summer camp and becoming the best possible version of yourself. They board an incredibly diverse and welcoming community where kids are encouraged to discover what being Jewish means to them—no matter who they are or where they come from. It's why so many campers call Havaya home.

*For more information, about Camp Havaya, contact Sheira Director-Nowack, Director, at [sheira@camphavaya.org](mailto:sheira@camphavaya.org).*

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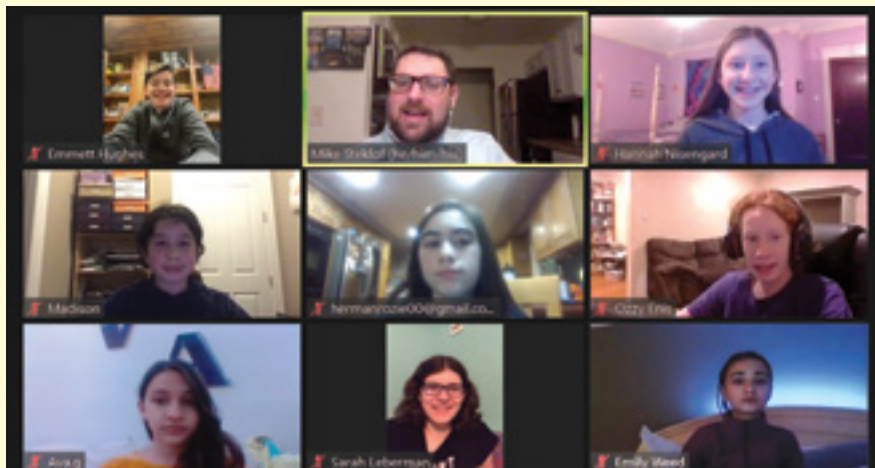

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## Engaging Middle School Students in Leadership



BY MIKE STEKLOF

This past summer, the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) launched Buffalo's first Middle School Leadership Council, which is made up of tweens in grades 5-8 who are interested in engaging with and creating gatherings for their peers. Council leaders come together monthly to collaborate, discuss, and learn from each other. This is a space for Middle School students to experience leadership through the lens of designing meaningful Jewish gatherings and Jewish peer engagement.

Each Council meeting consists of the tweens discussing engagement and programming ideas and also engaging with one another through conversation or testing virtual games for future Middle School gatherings. To date the Council has planned an in-person game day, a Hanukkah party, and an "Among Us" Game Night with many more gatherings planned for the future.

At a recent meeting, the tween leaders were asked why they choose to participate in the Leadership Council. Sarah Leberman shared that she "really enjoyed planning the game day" in October and Emmet Hughes and Jarah Lazarus-Klein said that they "really enjoyed getting to know the people [in the group] and getting to play games." Hannah Nisengard said that her favorite part was "coming up with creative ideas."

It is a privilege to work with and get to know these amazing tween leaders: Sarah Lewis, Jarah Lazarus-Klein, Emily Weed, Kate Rosen, Emmet Hughes, Aaron Weiss, Logan Fey, Jude Freirich, Sofia Reisman, Gabe Epstein, Rozie Herman, Talia Lewis, Ozzy Enis, Talula Enis, Sarah Leberman, Madison Weiss, Hannah Nisengard, and Ava Green.

**To learn more about Middle School email Mike Stekloff at [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

*Mike Stekloff is a Director of Jewish Experience for the Buffalo Jewish Federation's CJEL.*

## Mike Stekloff Named to National Educators' Cohort

Mike Stekloff, Director of Jewish Experience at the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL), was recently named to the prestigious Shalom Hartman Institute of North America's Created Equal Educators Cohort. At CJEL, Mike works with children, teens, and adults throughout Jewish Buffalo to deepen their connection to Judaism through gatherings, relationships, and text.

The Shalom Hartman Institute's Created Equal Educators Fellowship is a learning laboratory for educators dedicated to examining questions of gender and power. This fellowship is informed by the work of **Created Equal: Gender and the Ethics of Shared Leadership**: a research and education project which brings Jewish thought into conversation with these challenges through both critical and constructive lenses.


Selected fellows are a diverse and impressive group of senior Jewish educators who teach Jewish content and influence the educational vision of their institutions. Participants in the fellowship are given access to educational and curricular materials that they can use in crafting their own educational vision on these topics. The fellowship experience emphasizes peer learning and group discussion about how to incorporate the ideas and texts studied into participants' educational frameworks.

Mike also leads the CJEL's Belonging Initiative, which works to create a welcoming environment for all who seek to engage and find their own space in Jewish life. "I feel so blessed to be selected



as part of this awe-inspiring group. Mike said. "I am excited to explore how Jewish ideas and experiences can inform our struggle for gender equality and expand my professional network with peers who are also passionate about gender equality within Judaism. I know that this fellowship will greatly influence my work with the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning's Belonging Initiative. I am so thankful to Miriam Abramovich and Rob Goldberg for giving me the opportunity to participate in this fellowship," he concluded.


Formerly, Mike was a Regional Director for BBYO and the Assistant Director of Camping and Youth Services for the Jewish Community of Louisville where he was part of the Merrin Teen Professional Fellowship. Mike is doctoral student in Education at Gratz College where he is exploring how children are educated about gender in Jewish educational spaces. He holds a Masters of Arts in Education from Gratz College and a Masters of Arts in Women's Studies from the University at Albany, State University of New York.




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# Jewish Buffalo History in your Living Room

BY CHANA REVELL KOTZIN, PH.D.

The Jewish Buffalo History Center website ([jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org)) is now live and you can enjoy it from the comfort of your living room! Our first roll out of the Jewish Buffalo History website focuses mainly on institutions of Jewish life with an emphasis on synagogues, agencies and organizations. More will be added in the next few months, so check back often! We've drawn on some of the materials uncovered during the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project, a bureau of Jewish Education Initiative, that led to the assembly of an archives of more than fifty collections publicly available at the University at Buffalo Archives at the North Campus. In addition, we have been supported by agencies and organizations, families and individuals who have given us permission to scan materials or provided us with images to use on this website. Thank you!

Our special emphasis in the months ahead is two-fold. First, we are interested in all forms of historical Jewish businesses in Buffalo from the scrapyard to the store-front! While we have some information about a few well-known businesses, this is otherwise a very under-sung area of Jewish life in Greater Buffalo. Businesses are the warp and weave of Buffalo life and historically many Jewish businesses served the local community, and some grew them into national and multi-national corporations!

Other Jewish businesses, including kosher butchers and kosher caterers, Judaica and book stores, Jewish funeral homes, and monument businesses, supported forms of Jewish observance. From the founding of Jewish businesses to their transition to something else, including closure, Buffalo's Jewish life is intimately connected to these stories - to Jewish family lives, to immigrant and generational stories, to changing gender roles, to civic endeavor, and to organizational life. We seek your stories and contributory materials so that we can illustrate "making a living" in all its diversity.

Our second area of interest is Jewish women's organizations and clubs. Buffalo has been the home to many branches of national Jewish women's organizations and some entirely homegrown ones too, including the Jewish Liberal Arts Club and the Jewish Mothers Club. Donald and Sharon Wander donated a commemorative cup to the former



Temple Sinai, Congregational Model Seder, 1960s. Courtesy of Congregation Shir Shalom.

archives project, which is pictured in this page, that documents Betty Wander's service to the Jewish Mothers Club over the years.

By the time she received this cup in 1924, she was serving as Vice President of the Jewish Mothers Club. The organization had at least two homes that we know of and was a mother-run child care service and so much more. From looking after older children when a mother had just had a new baby, to the care of children while women worked, as well as temporary foster care, the Jewish Mother's Club was an essential service to many on the East Side and beyond. ***If you have memorabilia or recollections you'd like to share, please contact us: [chana@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:chana@buffalojewishfederation.org).***

We are also interested in tracing materials relating to Jewish women's organizations and clubs, from completely under documented organizations like Pioneer Women and ORT to the partial records of B'nai B'rith Women auxiliaries as well as girls youth wings.

Images of a B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) scrapbook will be visible on the site within the next few months, and we are thankful to Elaine Kellick for the opportunity to make available this beautifully assembled keepsake. It is a window into the activities of the BBG in the 1950s and what it meant to the girls who were a part of it. To find out



Groundbreaking for Temple Shaarey Zedek in Getzville, 1968. Photograph created by Frederic Marshall, Buffalo, NY. Courtesy of Temple Beth Tzedek, Williamsville, NY.



Betty Wander, Service Cup, Jewish Mother's Club, 1924. Photograph created by Izon-Don Dannecker. Courtesy of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

when this section goes live, sign up for our newsletter on the website.

If you would like to share your own historical materials you can do this in a number of ways. The primary method is directly through the website itself, and you'll find upload buttons scattered liberally around the website and also on the home page. There is no capability for direct upload to the site itself, but the "Upload" button feature allows you to add material that is already in a digital form into our digital storage space.

These might be old family photographs that you have scanned or had converted into a digital photograph, and it might include old documents too - anything that can be photographed - even an image of an item like the

Jewish Mother's Club cup. It could include photographs you took directly with a digital camera. You can upload other items such as a Word or a pdf document using these upload buttons too. If you are planning to submit a substantive amount of materials, please let us know first. If you have materials in their original form, i.e. still in the scrapbook, please email us so that we can discuss this further.

Last month I asked for help identifying people on the *Jewish Journal* February cover photo (also on this page) that featured a photograph which observed the groundbreaking for Temple Shaarey Zedek. Donald Sheldon, William Tobbe, Cantor Gudovitz and Julius Zimmer were all identified (some by several people) in the photo. Other tentative identifications included Joseph Scheff, Max Dozoretz and Dr. Louis Doren. Thank you to Wendy Zimmer, David Bunis, Marna and Irwin Burstein, Pam Buehler and Joan Alexander.

In celebration of the upcoming holiday of Passover, the third image on this page is one of many images from the Temple Sinai holdings. It's from the late 1960s and if you look closely you can see Rabbi Joseph Herzog. There is a feature essay about Temple Sinai on the Jewish Buffalo History Center website, as well as interconnecting articles relating to Temple Beth Am and Congregation Shir Shalom. We want to thank Congregation Shir Shalom for their permission to use photographs and images from across all three collections!

Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D. is the Coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo History Center. Email: [chana@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:chana@buffalojewishfederation.org). Visit the website: [jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org),



# Buffalo Jewish Community Commemorates Yom Hashoah April 11

BY ELIZABETH SCHRAM

The community-wide 2021 commemoration of Yom Hashoah will be held Sunday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. over Zoom. Co-chaired by Tara Karch Cross and Wendy Weisbrot, the event's theme is *L'dor V'dor - From Generation to Generation*, and will highlight the emerging role of the children and grandchildren of our Buffalo Survivors as they commemorate the 6 Million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. We are fortunate to have many Survivors of the Holocaust selflessly willing to share their stories in schools and throughout our community. As our Survivors age and pass away, we look to the next generation to continue to share these important stories.

The six individuals being honored include Eva Blum (Survivor), Gertrude Sloan (Survivor), Nicholas Leibovic (Survivor), Cindy Ashton (Child of a Survivor), David Weinstein (Child of a Survivor) and Carol Froehlich (Child of

a Survivor).

The Keynote Speaker will be James (Jim) A. Klein, President of the American Benefits Council and son of Holocaust Survivor Gerda Weissmann-Klein and the late Kurt Klein. Gerda was 15 years old when Nazi Germany invaded the city of Bielitz, Poland in September 1939. In her memoir, *All But My Life*, she shares her experiences of losing family and friends, of life in concentration camps, of the death march and of liberation in 1945 by an American soldier named Kurt Klein, who later became her husband. Gerda and Kurt Klein resettled in Buffalo in 1946, where they were able to build a family and raise their three children.

Attorney Jim Klein is a 1975 graduate of Kenmore West, Tufts University and the National Law Center-George Washington University. His group, the American Benefits Council, is



The Klein Family: James (Jim) Klein, Vivian Klein Ullman, Gerda Weissman Klein, Leslie Klein Simon

a trade association based in Washington, D.C. representing primarily Fortune 500 companies that either sponsor or administer health and retirement benefits covering more than 100 million Americans.

"I am deeply honored to be invited to participate in Buffalo's Yom Hashoah commemoration. I look forward to sharing the importance that Buffalo played as the place that shaped my father as an American when he arrived there in

1937, not quite 17 years old; and the place where my mother's life was restored to normalcy after the experiences she endured during the Holocaust," Klein said. "As Mom has told audiences in countless speeches across the globe, to her Buffalo, New York is unquestionably the most beautiful city in the world. It is the place that warmly embraced her when she arrived as young bride, speaking no English, in 1946. It is where tragedy transcended into happiness and where, together with Dad, she raised a family, made life-long friends and began a career as an author. She wants the community to know how deeply she loves Buffalo," he noted.

**You can register for this April 11 event at [www.bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021](http://www.bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021). Contact Elizabeth Schram at [elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org](mailto:elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org).**

*Elizabeth Schram is Director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.*

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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**Eric Schmalz**  
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## Monday, March 15, 2021

6:00 – 8:00pm ET  
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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.

Register at [bit.ly/americans\\_and\\_the\\_holocaust](http://bit.ly/americans_and_the_holocaust)  
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# Meet Ujima Theatre, a Buffalo Cultural Gem March 10

BY MAXINE SELLER

Whether you have enjoyed the wonderful productions at Ujima Theatre over the years, or you are not yet familiar with this unique part of the Buffalo cultural scene, this virtual program is for you! On Wednesday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m., Buffalo Hadassah and the JCC will present an overview of this award-winning, community-oriented multicultural and multiracial Black theatre and a preview of its future. Two Ujima “insiders,” Margaret Smith – Managing Director, and Maria Ta- Program Director, will share their first-hand knowledge and experiences from both sides of the curtain, along with some film clips of Ujima in action.

Ujima Theatre was founded by nationally recognized actor, poet and community activist Lorna Hill, who left her position in the Theatre Department of UB to be the artistic director of the new theatre and remained its guiding light until her death in 2020. In December 1978, Hill gathered 28 young people with talents, skills and enthusiasm but few resources, to begin the theatre collective which she named “Ujima,” a Swahili word meaning collective work and responsibility. Operating more as an extended family than a traditional company or corporation, Ujima survived through the hard work of its members, and the support of its community.

Its central mission is to perpetuate and perform African American theatre,



to create more opportunity for its mature artists, and to train the next generation. Ujima also presents plays from other underserved communities and classics from the European and other theatre traditions. The company, its managers, and its audiences are multicultural, and one of its goals is to move all people towards social justice.

Both Margaret Smith and Maria Ta bring a variety of educational, professional, and practical experience to their leadership roles at Ujima. Margaret Smith has a bachelor's degree in Theatre from UB. “The position I currently hold brings me back to my first job in the arts,” said Smith, who was a member of the original company. After a successful career in development and finance elsewhere, Smith was invited back to Buffalo to work with Ujima again. Maria Ta holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Canisius College, where she later assisted the Admissions office in orienting new students. Her experience includes leadership roles in the Vietnamese Eucharist Youth Movement and in Journey's End Refugee Services.

**The program is free. To register, contact Patricia Quinn at [pquinn@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:pquinn@jccbuffalo.org), who will email you a link the morning of the program. For further information, contact me at [mseller@buffalo.edu](mailto:mseller@buffalo.edu).**

*Maxine Seller is co-chair, with Marlene Katzel, of the Hadassah programming committee.*



JRT Presents

## Beau Jest, by James Sherman

March 11-31, 2021

**The Jewish Repertory Theatre will present a filmed Staged Reading of *Beau Jest* by James Sherman, available for digital download, March 11-31, 2021. This is the fourth selection in a series of Five Staged Readings, performed on the JRT stage in Amherst, and seen by audiences in 20+ states, three Canadian provinces and possibly beyond, through the magic of video.**

In addition to the filmed performance, JRT will present a live interview with playwright James Sherman moderated by Founding JRT Artistic Director Saul Elkin streaming on YouTube, Thursday, March 4th at 7:30 p.m. This event is free and can be accessed at [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com) and JRT's Facebook page.

*Beau Jest* follows the story of what a nice Jewish girl decides to do when her parents expect her to marry a nice Jewish doctor even though she's already in love with another man. Hiring an actor to play her imaginary beau in front of the family seems like a good idea until the charade is a little too successful and the “hired” boyfriend begins to capture her heart.

Playwright 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. 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.

*Beau Jest* is directed by Steve Vaughan and stars Arin Lee Dandes, Matthew Divita, Steve Jakiel, Darleen Pickering-Hummert, Nick Stevens, and Adam Yellen. Kellin Higgins is Stage Manager, David Dwyer is Set Designer, Ann Emo is Costume Consultant and Nick Quinn is designing both Sound and Lighting for the production. *Beau Jest* will be filmed and edited by Full Circle Studios, and Closed Captioning options are being produced by Leah Barron at All Inclusive Productions, LLC.

**The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the JCC of Greater Buffalo. Unique links to the online video performances will be sent to subscribers and ticket holders shortly before “opening nights.” Tickets: \$20/household and are available at [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com). For more information on JRT, productions, dates and tickets, visit [www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://www.jewishrepertorytheatre.com). Tickets also at JRT Box Office: 716-650-7626.**

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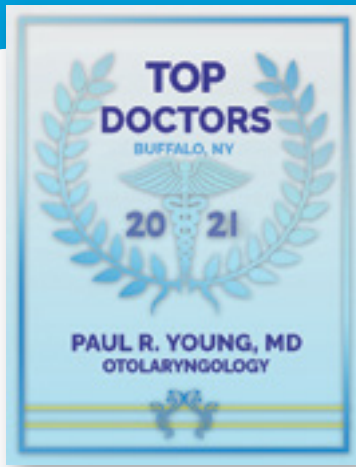
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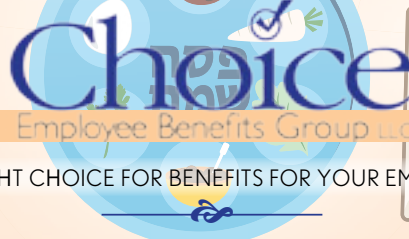
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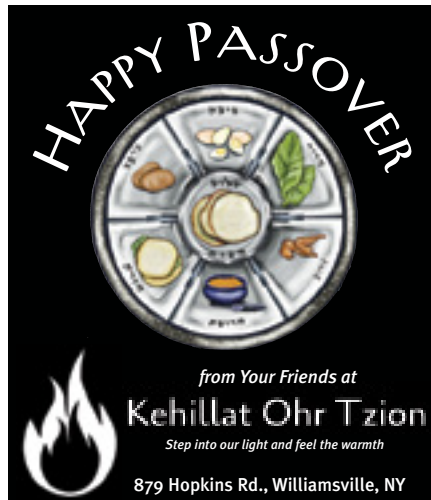
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Happy Passover

To all our friends, family and  
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*Best Wishes*  
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*Mazel Tov*

*The children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of*  
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## TBZ Religious School: Healthy Learning

BY BETH STEINBERG


TBZ Religious School students from Kindergarten through 6th grade are now more than half-way through “*La-Bri’ut: To Our Health and Wellness.*” This is the remarkably innovative curriculum written by the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland in response to the social and psychological needs of Jewish children as they deal with the stresses of a worldwide pandemic — using Jewish texts and teachings to develop life skills critical for mental, emotional, and physical health.

In January and February, our *La-Bri’ut* learners focused on “*G’vurah*,” or “Strength and Power for Good,” the third of five modules for the year. During their online cohort sessions and by pursuing their at-home activities and challenges, they explored the following questions: What is *G’vurah*? What are my powers and strengths? What are some of the ways people can use their *g’vurah*? What is the potential impact (for good or for bad) of combining our strengths with the strengths of others? And, how will I choose to use my *g’vurah* for good?

Our Kindergarten - 3rd grade learners painted rocks to symbolize their greatest strengths and decorated little cardboard boxes in which to keep their “*G’vuROCKS*.” Holding a special rock with a meaningful word or picture on it is a tactile way to remind yourself of your strengths and powers to do good. They created frames to showcase pictures of themselves along with descriptions of the *g’vurah* they displayed in those photos. And by gluing colorful illustrations to the sides of small wooden blocks, they created puzzles they could then solve to “tell” stories of *g’vurah*.

Our 4th - 6th grade learners engaged in a longer project, writing and illustrating their own Jewish Superhero comic books, featuring themselves and a Jewish hero. By partnering together, they are able to successfully save the world!

In March, they will all move into the “*K’hillah/Community*” module. Our Jewish community is a network of groups which, hopefully, provides each one of us with strong support systems for our most joyous days, our most dreadful days, and our “every days.” I am delighted for our Religious School students to discover the importance of *k’hillot* in their own lives!



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## 5 THINGS You Can Do in March to Repair the World

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**1»** Missed Super Sunday last month? Give a gift to the 2021 Buffalo Jewish Federation's Campaign for Jewish Buffalo and get the feeling of making a difference for your Jewish Community, because you have! Go to [buffalojewishfederation.org](https://buffalojewishfederation.org) or call Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at 716-628-3431.

**2»** Families in WNY are hungry and there are still food scarcities during this difficult time. You can help by donating to Feedmore WNY, which now encompasses Meals on Wheels and The Food Bank. Go to [feedmorewny.org](https://feedmorewny.org) to donate online, volunteer or learn more.

**3»** A Passover Seder for You March 28—The whole community is invited to the Community 2nd Night Seder Sunday, March 28 at 6:30 from the comfort of home. Organized by Congregation Shir Shalom, the Zoom Seder will include clergy from Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Tzedek and Temple Beth Zion. It is free and open to all, but registration is necessary. Contact Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom or Temple Beth Tzedek's offices to get the registration link.

**4»** Summer camp is calling the Kids! Federation is able to provide need-blind grants of up to \$1000 to Jewish families with children attending nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time for a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Families can find camps and apply for grants by visiting <https://buffalojewishfederation.org/camper-incentive-grants/>. Read more about this program on page 15.

**5»** Can't do a Seder of your own? Yes you can with Kosher Meals on Wheels Seder In A Box. It's free. You can also sponsor a Seder meal for an individual or family, too. Just call 716-639-7600 for your complete Seder meal or go to [jewishbuffalo.com](https://jewishbuffalo.com) to request a meal or donate.

## 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, Cheryl Tobias and Richard Lipsitz, Jr. correctly identified the Ron Raskin Playground plaque located at the play area at the back of the JCC Benderson Family Building on North Forest Rd. Lipsitz, a friend of the late Ron Raskin and one of the prime forces behind the creation of the playground, said that the fund created was originally for a baseball diamond at Camp Lakeland, because "Ronnie was one of the best ball players to come out of North Buffalo in the latter part of the 20th century, and we are really happy the plaque is now at the JCC playground."



# Seders in WNY

## Community Interfaith Seder

**Tuesday, March 23**  
**7:00-8:00 p.m.**

Join Rabbis Alex Lazarus-Klein and Adam Rosenbaum and Interfaith Clergy who attended the 2017 trip to Israel for a special Interfaith COVID-19 Passover Seder. (See page 10).

Email [marab@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:marab@buffalojewishfederation.org) with questions. Register at <http://bit.ly/JCRCInterfaithSeder>

## Hillel of Buffalo

Hillel of Buffalo will make Seder available to students, most likely 'Seder to go' that they can register for and can host a Seder with a small group of friends, or join one virtually.

Contact Logan Woodard, Director of Engagement, [logan@hillelofbuffalo.org](mailto:logan@hillelofbuffalo.org).

## Jewish Discovery Center

**Saturday, March 27 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, March 28 8:00 p.m.**

757 Hopkins Road

Free, but RSVP necessary.

Contact [www.jewishbuffalo.com](http://www.jewishbuffalo.com) or 639-7600. Sponsorship is also available.

## Kehillat Ohr Tzion

KOT is not holding a community Seder, but invites anyone who needs a Seder to contact Rabbi Ori Bergman.

Email [oribergman@gmail.com](mailto:oribergman@gmail.com).

## Kosher Meals on Wheels

Kosher Meals on Wheels offers **Seder In A Box**. It's free and includes Seder food, dinner and a Hagaddah. You can also sponsor a Seder meal for an individual or family, too, at \$36 for an individual and \$144 for a family of 4.

Call 639-7600 for a complete Seder meal or go to [jewishbuffalo.com](http://jewishbuffalo.com) to request a meal or donate.

## Temple Beth Zion

**Saturday, March 27**  
**YouTube**

TBZ will offer a pre-recorded Seder, and will post/broadcast the service on **YouTube** for congregants to enjoy at their convenience.

Go to [tbz.org](http://tbz.org) for the link.

## Temple Beth Tzedek

**Saturday, March 27**  
**8:30 p.m. ZOOM**

Rabbi Rosenbaum will host the Zoom Seder. Go to [btzbuffalo.org](http://btzbuffalo.org) to receive the ZOOM link.



## Community 2nd Night Seder

**Sunday, March 28**  
**6:30 p.m. ZOOM**

Jewish Buffalo is invited to the Community 2nd Night Seder Sunday, March 28 at 6:30 from the comfort of home. **Organized by Congregation Shir Shalom**, the Zoom Seder will include clergy from Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Tzedek and Temple Beth Zion. It is free and open to all, but registration is necessary. Contact Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom or Temple Beth Zedek's offices to get the registration link.



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Even a pandemic cannot stop the Kadimah Scholars at Park from learning! Between participating in Shabbat on Fridays and learning about the holidays of Tu B'Shvat, Purim and Pesach, the next generation is hard at work!



### Coming Soon:

Keep an eye out for our Facebook Page for a special Pesach video of the Kadimah Scholars!

[Facebook.com/KadimahAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/KadimahAcademy)

**Donate today to ensure that Jewish Buffalo benefits for generations to come:**  
<https://www.kadimah.org/donate-to-kadimah/>

## JCC presents “Passover the Food Board: A modern take on the Seder Plate”

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

With family gatherings still discouraged, we find ourselves in a familiar place once again, looking for new ways to celebrate the Holidays and stay connected with family and friends.

Join Sharon Kostiner from the JCC in conversation with Amy Stopnicki, a food blogger and winner of the 2016 Gourmand Culinary Award for her book, *Kosher Taste* (Feldheim), for a virtual event that will focus on creating fun food boards you can serve or gift during Passover. It's an unconventional ode to the Seder plate that's both beautiful and delicious. “I love to create and I love to entertain. The warmth and beauty of sharing a beautifully set Shabbos or holiday table with friends and family is my passion and my joy,” Amy said. These fun Kosher food boards will certainly add to your own Passover celebration or are great gift ideas to give to a family member or friend that you may not be



able to celebrate with in-person this year.

Amy Stopnicki's food journey includes a weekly food column for Metroland Media, brand ambassador, recipe creator, author, food photographer, an active social media following, and countless live cooking demos (one of Amy's favorite ways to interact with her followers!). Amy lives in Toronto with her husband and four children. You can find Amy's recipes, tips and ideas in her book, *Kosher Taste*, on Instagram @amyskoshertaste or check out her website [www.amystopnicki.com](http://www.amystopnicki.com).

**The event is free and open to everyone. Registration is required, visit [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org).**



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# Ohr Temimim Plans for Pesach!

BY BROCHA LEAH GREENBERG

The Second grade class at Ohr Temimim Day School learned how masks and costumes are disguises that allow us to try on identities. So many of us struggle through life pretending to be someone we are not. No one should have to be afraid to reveal who they really are. Purim was a reminder that we spend so much of our lives masking and leading lives that are dissonance with our souls.

Then comes Passover, our holiday of freedom. Freedom is achieved through shedding the mask, sometimes layers and layers of masks. We won't place our faith in the masks we wear. We place our faith and trust in G-d. Our goal as Jews is to find our true selves, both as individuals and as a nation.

The Second grade prays every morning for Hashem to remove the COVID 19 plague. They look forward to the day when we will all be able to remove the COVID masks. I look forward to seeing their beautiful faces which shine with truth and radiance. Ohr Temimim wishes you all a truly meaningful and liberating Passover. Leap forward and return to the real you.

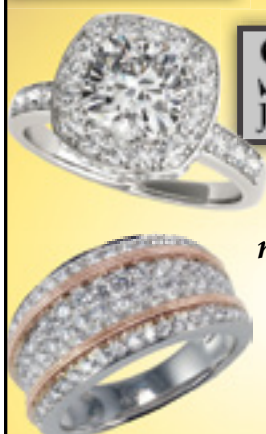
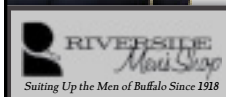
Brocha Leah Greenberg is a 2nd Grade Teacher at Ohr Temimim Day School.



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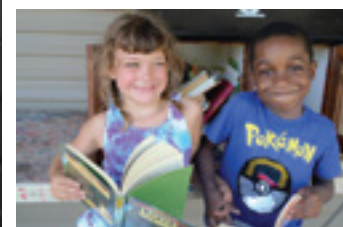
# Prepping for Camp Centerland This Summer

BY MICHAEL GARCIA

Camp Centerland is the main Jewish Day Camp in Western New York serving (pre-COVID-19) more than 400 campers each summer. This past summer we operated as one of only 102 Jewish Day Camps (statistics from the Foundation for Jewish Camps) that provided in-person camping in North America. That is only 68% of the total day camps in 2020 which ran any programming at all. Also, while running Camp Centerland in 2020, we were able to maintain a COVID-free summer, keeping all of our campers and staff healthy, happy and safe.

We learned a great deal from Summer 2020, and as we approach Summer 2021, preparations for Jewish camp are in full swing. We are increasing the enrollment at camp to allow more children to attend this summer. Camp Centerland has several advantages over schools that enable us to operate even more safely: the camp day is predominantly outdoors where we know spread is lower, and the camp has the advantage of being in session during the summer months and not during the time of year where infection rates in the general community are higher.

Now as enrollment is underway with registrations hitting 50% on the first week it was open, we are hopeful that this summer truly will be the best summer ever! Children and families are ready for engaging outdoor activities that will directly combat some of the mental health challenges afflicting many of us.



Camp Centerland provides more than 40 hours of staff training for all camp staff. The training topics include, but are not limited to, developmental levels of children, how to engage with children, emergency procedures, and how to address any mental health concerns of the children in our care.

Summer 2021 will expand access for inclusion this summer, as well.

Our expansion of the Sukkot Shalom "Space of Peace" program will be more intentional in addressing these mental health concerns. It is not only a respite, but also a specialist location used to build skills for children to freely express their feelings and emotions. The Inclusion staff will be available to jump into any situations for campers where needed.

All of this allows our staff to be mentors, leaders, role models, and help the camp to reach our goal of putting a caring adult in the life of every child. If you have a Kindergartener through 10th grader and are looking for an opportunity to have them in a fun safe environment this summer, please reach out to the camp office.

Michael Garcia is Camp Centerland Director. He is always available to talk over the phone or by Zoom. Tours for families are available all season as well. You can reach Michael at [mgarcia@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:mgarcia@jccbuffalo.org) or (716) 204-2078. You can check out everything camp at [www.campcenterland.org](http://www.campcenterland.org).

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# JCC SilverSneakers® Helping Virtual Class Participants Get Down and Up Safely

BY JORDANA HALPERN

Are you taking care of yourself and making sure you are strong enough for the future? Are you making good habits to help you stay healthy? As a seasoned SilverSneakers® instructor at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Kathy Corff Rogers works to provide strengthening exercises and safety information to her virtual class participants. One of the issues she feels strongly about is making sure that members can get down and up from the floor safely.

“Everyone wants to feel confident enough to get down to reach a plug, feed the cat, or reach something on the bottom shelf and then strong enough to get back up safely. Everyone also wants to know they can get back up if they happen to fall,” said Rogers, the retired graphic designer who teaches virtual SilverSneakers® classes from her Buffalo home studio, to over a hundred members, ages 40 - 101, four times weekly.

Falls can often be prevented with better balance and core strength, two areas of focus in the JCC Buffalo’s SilverSneakers® Cardio and Classic classes. Rogers’ classes at the JCC Buffalo can help strengthen leg, arm and the core muscles in order to keep people moving through life. This is part of functional fitness and mindfulness focus that is stressed daily.

“Knowing that a fall can happen to anyone, we work to build better balance by strengthening and balancing our muscle groups,” says Rogers, who has been teaching fitness classes at the JCC for 35 years. “When someone does fall, getting up is often a challenge, especially if knees are an issue. I address a few different scenarios and offer alternatives.”

Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four Americans aged 65+ falls each year.

Learning to safely get up from a fall came in handy



Kathy Corff Rogers

when JCC member Joy Feldman, a long-time SilverSneakers® class participant recently got a call from her 87-year-old friend Nancy, who had been falling repeatedly. “Nancy’s husband is 89, and he simply cannot help her get up,” said Joy. “When Nancy called to say she had fallen, I headed over to her home where I demonstrated the method Kathy showed us. She has little strength in her arms or legs and couldn’t get it on the first try, so it was a process. We used a small pillow from the couch for cushioning, and we managed to get her over and up with the help of a chair, just as Kathy had been demonstrating,” said Joy. “It was a huge relief to Nancy and her husband and a great illustration of why it is so important for all of us to be doing these classes. I did not think I needed the lesson on how to get up, still feeling 20 years younger than I am, but clearly I’m so glad to have watched Kathy do it several times, and tried it myself just to see how it feels.”

Rogers’ virtual JCC classes attract members

Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four Americans aged 65+ falls each year.

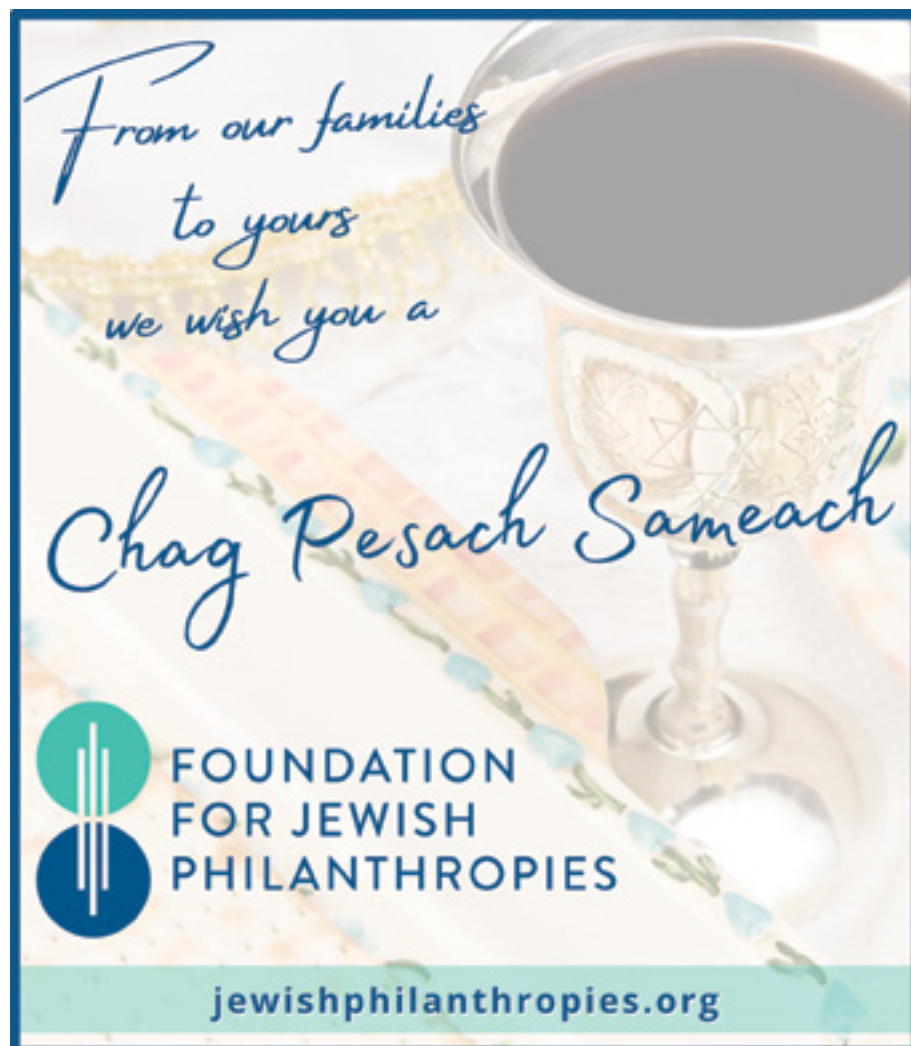
who are dedicated to staying healthy and strong while staying home during the pandemic. To continue helping people prepare themselves for a variety of situations, Rogers worked with JCC Buffalo’s Health, Fitness and Recreation

Group Fitness Manager of the Holland Family Building, Kathy D’Ostroph to produce, “Getting Down and Up from the Floor,” a demonstration video now available on the JCC Buffalo’s YouTube page.

“We want to stay connected to our members, especially during this time,” says Rogers. “When we need to get down to the floor – and up again - it can be frustrating and physically challenging for many. If someone practices safely and strengthens their limbs, then it will give them more confidence for the process.”

**Getting Down and Up from the Floor demo video on YouTube, JCC Buffalo. JCC Virtual and on-site schedules at [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org)**

Jordana Halpern is Managing Director of the Jewish Repertory Theatre and JCC Director of Development.

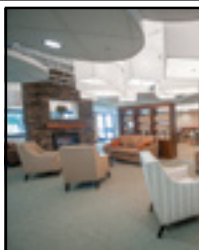




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## COMMUNITY

# Hillel Holds Virtual Career Networking Event

BY LOGAN WOODARD

Hillel of Buffalo aims to meet the diverse needs of Jewish college students. A major priority for these students while in college is to prepare for their careers post-graduation. Sasha Vool, who is a junior studying biostatistics and serves as the student member of Hillel's Board of Directors, saw that the members of the board and their colleagues are a rich community that can serve as a resource for students. This realization inspired Sasha to organize a Professional Networking Virtual Event in January.

Professionals representing fields including medical, dental, business, engineering, law, local government, and communal services volunteered their time to speak with students. The event began with the professionals introducing themselves and then transitioned to breakout rooms where the students could join based on their areas of interest. Kelsey Boardman, a sophomore biological sciences major

commented, "I found the event helpful and am grateful to have connected with Dr. Jeff Goldberg (Hillel Treasurer and local dentist), who I am scheduled to shadow and who connected me with other dentists across New York."

In response to the positive feedback from students and professionals, Sasha noted, "I am excited to see more programming like this and look forward to creating similar opportunities." Following Sasha's example, other Hillel students are also planning career-oriented events. Through Design Hub, Hillel's entrepreneurship incubator, students are working on projects including a mentorship program, a professional headshot event, and workshops about resume-writing, interview skills, and using LinkedIn. If you are interested in taking part in future networking or mentorship opportunities, please contact Logan Woodard, [logan@hillelofbuffalo.org](mailto:logan@hillelofbuffalo.org).

*Logan Woodard is Hillel's Director of Engagement.*

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## Survival in the Age of Covid

BY RABBI ALLEN PODET

Ours is a small congregation now, but not that long ago Congregation Hessed Abraham of greater Jamestown was an assembly of hundreds, with its Rabbis, choir, a considerable religious school, and a splendid building in which we gathered to pray and socialize—and eat, of course. Jamestown is a regional catchment center, not a large metropolis, and Western New York itself has been shrinking, so we tend to include Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and altogether secular Jews. And others.

I have been here for nearly three decades: marrying, burying, bar/t mitzvahing, counseling, and sharing laughter and tears with my people. Many kids have grown up and left to seek opportunity, but a core have remained. We meet biweekly and can get a couple or three minyans or more on occasion. Our enthusiasm is not diminished, our discussions are lively. There is no oneg of course, thanks to Covid.



Eventually we had to sell our building, and like some other congregations, we made an arrangement with a nearby Jamestown church, where we have a large dedicated meeting area, storage for our Torahs and Tallises, books, and artifacts. There is enough room for us all to meet together twice a month, with “social distancing” and wearing masks. And no food (almost-- sometimes someone will bring a nosh, but don’t count on it). The fellowship and warmth are there, something I have found missing in Zoom arrangements. We do what we can in troubled times. We genuinely like each other; in the last 30 years, this congregation has been pretty much free of cliques or exclusions.

Survival for Jews—as Jews—has historically often been a challenge. Since losing the building, some community listings no longer mention us, although we still live and function. There is a lot of love and respect holding us together, and for now that is enough. We are blessed with an energetic President, Joe Gerstel, and dedicated helpers. With God’s help we are still singing.

*Dr. Podet is Rabbi of Congregation Hessed Abraham of Jamestown, NY. Contact him at apodet@yahoo.com.*

## TBT Thrives During COVID



Rabbi Rosenbaum teaching his “Megillah Midrash Madness” class.

**The Covid-19 pandemic is still raging in Western New York, and vaccine distribution is far from widespread yet. But that’s not stopping Temple Beth Tzedek (TBT) from developing a series of creative programs for members of all ages to safely enjoy – even if it’s from the comforts of their own home.**

Recognizing that the pandemic is going to continue for a while, but eager to get back to some sense of normalcy for members, TBT’s leadership and committees introduced an array of activities, from Zoom speakers and musical presentations to virtual tours of museums and Israel. And that’s in addition to daily minyan on Zoom, and weekly livestreamed Shabbat services.

TBT’s Programming Committee is coordinating a series of speakers for the first Thursday of every month. The effort started with a presentation from Larry Boxer about music, followed by a virtual art studio tour by Cathy Shuman Miller and Ellen Steinfeld, along with a Q&A. March 4, Gil Wolfe will speak about the origins of Kristallnacht, (see page 5) followed in April and May by a two-month series of focused talks around a central theme: The World is Changing.

TBT members listened to a presentation by the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, titled “Basic Law at Israel Supreme Court.” The chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary spoke to Women’s Network. And TBT will sponsor a virtual tour of the Tenement Museum in New York City on April 18.

As Purim and Pesach approached, leadership also turned their attention

to holiday programming. Women’s Network – formerly Sisterhood – arranged to have gift bags assembled and delivered to congregants for Tu B’Svat, in advance of the Tu B’Svat Seder hosted by Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum.

Rabbi Rosenbaum also conducted an

online Megillah reading for Purim on Thursday, Feb. 25. Congregants received lottery tickets for every food donation in advance, and the rabbi drew “lots” between each chapter to win prizes. In lieu of the normal free pasta dinner prior to the service, TBT arranged for free pasta meal pick-ups from Lori Morrison’s Luscious by Lori.

Finally, Rabbi Rosenbaum will host Zoom Seders on both nights of Pesach for those who are unable to be with anyone else. The second Seder will be in conjunction with Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom. Rabbi Rosenbaum will also be participating in an Interfaith Model Seder March 23 through the Buffalo Jewish Federation’s JCRC (see page 10).

Pandemic or not, there’s no shortage of activity and creativity within the virtual walls of TBT.

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buffalo@yahoo.com, bvkkosher@gmail.com  
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buffalojewishfederation.org  
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### Chabad House of Buffalo

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### Jewish Community Relations Council

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### Jewish Discovery Center

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### Jewish Family Services Of Western New York

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## Attention Snowbirds!

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

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

## TEMPLE BETH ZION is in MOTION



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IN LOVING MEMORY

# Remembering F. Warren Kahn 1933-2020

*This remembrance was compiled by  
Warren's daughter, Liz Kahn.*

F. Warren Kahn – an attorney in Niagara County known as much for his sense of humor and love of golf as his respected law practice and influential appointed legal roles - died Dec. 22, 2020, surrounded by family in his home in Youngstown, New York. He was 87.

Kahn, who hung a shingle in Lewiston and practiced law on his own for much of his 54-year career, also served in several appointed positions. Some of them include Assistant Niagara County District Attorney; First Assistant Niagara County Attorney for 10 years; Town Attorney in Wheatfield, Niagara, and Wilson; school attorney for the Wilson and Lewiston-Porter school districts; Labor-Relations Specialist for Erie 1 BOCES; legal assistant for the New York State Assembly, and special counsel to the towns of Lewiston and Porter.

After retiring in 2013, Kahn's sense of humor was so loved by members of a neighborhood social group that they asked him to be the group's stand-up comic



F. Warren Kahn

for their monthly gatherings. It was unclear where a man who didn't really know how to use Google found the jokes he told the group, but it was assumed by his family that some of them came from books of jokes he found at the local library.

Kahn was often described by colleagues and clients as a consummate professional with unwavering principles, and even more often as a "mensch" or a "sweetheart." In a sealed, hand-written note titled "To Be Read At My Funeral," he said he "died a happy man" and that he was writing the note because "as a lawyer, I'm trying to get in the last word."

His humor was evident even as he waged a long battle with cancer. Despite pain and other ravages from disease, he remained kind and hilarious, his one-line zingers intact, always joking with family, friends and others caring for him right up until he was too weak to speak.

Kahn was active in the Jewish community in Niagara Falls, as a lifelong member of Temple Beth El and a past president of the Board of

Directors. In recent years he was an advisor to the Temple Board.

In 2018, Kahn was instrumental in erecting a tombstone and providing an unveiling, complete with military honors, at the previously unmarked grave of a Jewish Civil War soldier in the Temple Beth El Cemetery near Oakwood Cemetery in Niagara Falls.

Kahn collaborated with area historians and Rabbi Ellen Franke to piece together some history of the Niagara Falls' Jewish community, including the information that the soldier, who died of disease in March of 1865, was the son of a family whose purchase of the cemetery land appeared to be the first organized effort of the Jewish community in that area. Descendants of the 16-year-old soldier attended the ceremony.

Kahn was an avid golfer and longtime member of Niagara Falls Country Club, where he golfed every Saturday, weather permitting, for decades. He was an enthusiastic sports fan who supported local teams, attended many Super Bowls, and loved watching the New York Yankees on TV.

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Kahn received a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1951, and graduated from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 1955. He spent 11 years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

He was a director of the New York State Bar Association, Municipal Law Section. He was a president and director of the New York State Association of School Attorneys and was one of the founding members of the Niagara County Employee Credit Union. He supported many local charities.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Leila; two sons, David, of San Francisco, CA, and Alan, of Lewiston; a daughter, Elizabeth, of Buffalo; four grandchildren and three step-grandchildren.

Due to the COVID pandemic, a Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date.



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# Remembering Barbara D. Holender 1927-2020

Barbara Holender was a poet who inspired many people with her work. She was born in Buffalo and spent most of her life there, and was very influenced by her practice of Judaism and her relationship to the Jewish community. Her poems have been included in many anthologies, and she published four books of poetry: *Ladies of Genesis*, *Our Last Best Perfect Day*, *Shivah: Poems of Mourning*, and *Is This the Way to Athens?* One of the writers she influenced was Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, who offers a eulogy here.

## Ode to Barbara D. Holender

BY RABBI ALEX LAZARUS-KLEIN

**The old-new poet (Never call her a Poetess!) always wore her blue velvet hat, carried an ornate wooden cane, and walked, briskly with a bright smile. At several inches shy of five feet, Barbara D. Holender was far from physically imposing, but was truly a giant among those who knew her.**

When I first sat down with her in her picturesque carriage house at the intersection of Brantwood and King’s Highway in Amherst, where she lived by herself, I could not resist her youthful giggle. This was more than a decade ago, only a few years after I had arrived in Western New York. Holender was already well into her eighties and spent the afternoon recounting her journeys in Netanya, a little beach town in the Western Galilee, where she fell in love with Hebrew and in turn, fell in love with Judaism.

Holender was not always a poet, but, like so many things in her own life, came across it in her later years. It was in the stories of our Biblical matriarchs that she found her voice, creating poetry with a wry sense of humor and a wink at all of her detractors. This was in the early stages of Jewish feminism, and Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah were still, amazingly, just waiting to be rediscovered.

*Ladies of Genesis*, a collection of poetry developed out of conversations with a long standing Bible study group at Temple Beth Zion, was published in 1991, just a year after Judith Plaskow’s seminal *Standing Again at Sinai*, and, like Plaskow’s work, inspired a bevy of others. So what if our scripture largely ignored women; that just gave poets like Holender more space to invent new stories.

Her life was not without tragedy, having had to bury a teenage grandson, an event that led to her final collection of poetry in 2007 - *Our Last Best Perfect Day*. And, while the sadness from that



Barbara D. Holender

event never left her, her optimistic spirit also never waned. When others in her age group were slowing down, she refused, surrounding herself with younger people, bringing her poetry with her whenever and wherever she went.

At Weinberg Campus, where she spent her last few years, she was a shadow of her former self, and yet she never stopped smiling. I would visit her on my Thursday morning rounds and inevitably find her with a cup of cold coffee and bowl of oatmeal. Her language was as colorful as ever. As she would often tell me, “I have a pretty good forgettery, an even better confusery, and my memory is so good I can remember things that never even happened.”

The last time I saw her was this past Rosh Hashanah, during a drive-by shofar blowing session outside of Weinberg. While she needed to be escorted out, and sat on the lap of her walker, her hat was still a deep blue, and her smile still glowing in the cool, late September Buffalo sun. One day, I may too understand why “getting old is not for sissies,” as she would often tell me, but if I am lucky enough to live a long and full life, I hope to have as much fun as Holender had with hers.

## A Message For My Children

BY BARBARA HOLENDER

I will be busy when I die  
leaving messages in several languages  
along your possible paths,  
clues you may not understand but  
will recognize as mine, and therefore  
meant to encourage.

I will never be done with this world—  
I will leave my tracks, not to follow  
but to know, when you feel most at risk,  
No life is entirely without precedent.

You will find me when you least expect  
in your words and gestures and, with  
the years,  
in your morning face in the mirror.

My leavetaking will be a leave-giving.  
Talk to yourselves what possessed me—  
The Tree of Life cries out, Eat, eat!  
Be hungry.

## In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from January 17 - February 14, 2021\*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



- Phyllis Ables
- Inna Beyder
- Edward Chassin
- Helane Goldfarb
- Lothar “Larry” Gottlieb
- Barbara D. Holender
- Harold Kalnitz
- Arnold Lubin
- Natalie P. Schwartz
- Beryl Eiduson Small

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



# A Season to Remember

BY SAMUEL J. SHATKIN, JR.

**Football is my passion. After not missing a home Buffalo Bills playoff game since I was 8 years old during the 1966 season at the old Rock Pile with my mom and dad, I was determined to continue my streak and enjoy another game (or two) in Orchard Park this season.**

January in Buffalo is cold, but I always say, “There is no such thing as bad weather just bad clothing!” The first home playoff game in 27 years turned out to be a perfect day. Crisp air, sunshine and my daughter Danielle, her boyfriend, and another die-hard Bills fan, Rob Goldberg rounded out our foursome. Our seats were not far from our regular season tickets, on the visitors’ side in the area I call “the Jewish Section,” as it was the main area that many of us made home with our friends with season tickets. We enjoyed a perfect day and game. Even the experience of getting my nose swabbed in the parking lot across the stadium earlier that week was something to remember. Beating the Baltimore (oops), Indianapolis Colts was great, but any win at home in the playoffs was another one of those ‘once in a lifetime’ experiences. There was no charging the field like in the 90’s and tearing down the goalposts (that was not me you saw on the field back then). There was however elation and relief and then an orderly dismissal as if leaving grade school class at the end of the day, due to specific guidelines thanks to COVID precautions. But that win, coupled with our second seed standing in the AFC, guaranteed another game at home!

The following week was somewhat the same routine, getting the State-mandated COVID test a few days before the game, but the Bills had a “Won not Done” attitude giving us (the players and the fans) that added drive to push further. Still, waiting for the next game on Saturday night was like torture. The week went by fast, keeping busy at work kept me distracted. Game day was brutal, being a night start and it seemed like eternity before kickoff. But, it did give me ample time to pick out my cold weather gear for the game and to plan our tailgate party. There was not onsite tailgating allowed, so we improvised and had our pregame activity at the parking lot of my office. I picked up the traditional pregame meal, La Nova pizza, and brought a garbage can and

started a wood burning bonfire (it was a cold night), and we threw around the football just like old times in “Rich” Stadium. I remembered the old “pop up” table and bench that Joan and Sam Sr. would bring to the game, true tailgating, setting up shop behind the car with all the fixins during the 90’s. My mom was the biggest fan. She never missed a game, but was also the first to want to leave if the team was not producing. I did laugh to myself, for this game she would have definitely stayed in her seat! Not the huge offensive showing that was expected, but a thrill for the fans to not have a nail biter and a huge win over the Baltimore Ravens to take us to the AFC Championship!



Todd and Sam in K.C.

After that win it was all about deciding whether to go to Kansas City for the AFC Championship game against the Chiefs. My brother, Todd, helped to make all the arrangements, right down to the flight and hotel, as well as procuring the game tickets. I had been to Arrowhead stadium once before, during a cross country trip while in college. That stadium was one of the first AFL-mandated increased capacity stadiums constructed in the early 1970’s and it was a cool ‘must see’ at the time. Our hotel, filled with Bills fans, was 1/2 mile away and we could see the red and



Sam and daughter, Danielle, in Buffalo at the Bills/Colts game.

yellow seats of the stadium in the upper deck. Outdoor seating at Arrowhead did not require COVID testing, so no pre-game swab up the nose. I could not relax the night before as the buildup of the game was too much to bear, so I watched the 1993 AFC Championship game, Bills vs. Chiefs played at home in Orchard Park. I watched Thurman Thomas rip through the line tearing up the turf for a record number of yards. I fell asleep on the couch in the hotel room, which I rarely do, but unlike a movie, I knew the ending. The day of the game seemed like it was an eternity. We watched countless experts predicting the outcome, but I was convinced that I knew more and the Bills were destined to win. As the day went on I was sure that would happen and we started to make plans for a trip to the Super Bowl.

There were 8 of us that went together from Buffalo to the game. There were appropriate seating restrictions at the stadium due to COVID and I had an empty seat on my end and my brother at the other end of our group. I placed my scarf and a hat on the seat next to me for my mom (OBM), and my brother did the same for our father (OBM), making sure they felt right at home next to us as we did all those years before. We were not

going to have them miss out on all the excitement.

The game started out in full glory for the Bills, getting to a 9-0 lead in the first quarter. We were in heaven! The cheers in the stands after the Bills touchdown and a sea of blue looked as though Buffalo fans occupied near half of the stadium! Things quickly quieted down (at least for the Bills fans) o y vey, and the rest is history. The end of an amazing season, coming up short, but none the less, a team we are proud of and love.

We flew back that night, arriving shortly before the Bills arrival at the Buffalo-Niagara Airport. As I left the airport to drive home, there were dozens of police cars at every street corner. I passed along Cayuga, and noticed what looked like thousands of fans waiting for the team to return. Bills fans are the best in the NFL and came out to support one of the best Bills seasons of all time and one that I know that we’ll talk about for years to come. But next year? Could this magical season be overshadowed by a trip to the Super Bowl? From your lips to G-d’s ears!!

*Samuel Shatkin Jr, MD FACS is a board-certified plastic surgeon practicing in Amherst and Williamsville.*





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