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APRIL 2021 | NISSAN-IYAR 5781



PRESENTS

**FROM BUFFALO TO  
BROADWAY**

**WAITING IN THE WINGS**

A LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT

*Starring Cheryl Stern*

**APRIL 25, 2021 • 7:30PM**

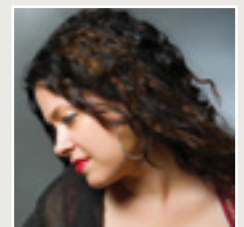
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2021

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# April 2021

## Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

As I sit down to write this message on March 16, 2021, I flash back to see what I wrote one year ago. And what a year it has been for everyone—individuals, families, People of Color, synagogues, agencies, Jews, students, teachers, schools, Israelis, governments, voters.

The original cover of the April 2020 issue of *The Jewish Journal* featured the 2020 **Made in Buffalo** event starring Buffalo native Cheryl Stern, which was cancelled due to COVID. But right before the print date, March 17, we changed the cover to an image with two hands holding a heart, anticipating a major change in the event. We included a note on page 3 explaining that many of the events in the paper might be cancelled or changed, which they were, including many *sederim* and other Passover-related events, Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

A year later, the 2021 **Made in Buffalo** event starring Cheryl Stern returns to *The Jewish Journal* cover, with the show slated to stream virtually into our homes April 25 (page 4). And last year's Yom Hashoah speaker, Buffalo native Jim Klein, son of Holocaust Survivor Gerda Klein and liberator Kurt Klein, whose original talk was cancelled will be speaking this year to the Buffalo community virtually April 11 to commemorate this important day (page 12).

Last year, we were looking into the COVID abyss, not knowing what to expect in our lives and the life of our community and nation. I wrote "As we move forward together to address these (COVID-related) challenges, we are confident that we will get through this crises together. Now is the time to lean hard into ancient Jewish truths: that strength comes from community; that we are all responsible for one another."

That truth holds. As we have seen this year throughout Jewish Buffalo, our region, our nation and beyond, that indeed, strength comes from the community and YES, we are all responsible for one another. May we continue to heal, to grow, to evolve and change in life-affirming ways and to discover a new world of post-pandemic possibility.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

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# Better Together

When we hear the words “**Better Together**” our thoughts may turn to Ice Cream and Sprinkles, Mac and Cheese, PBJ, or Milk and Cookies... you get the idea. Yet there is another thought process that is far more reaching if we consider **Better Together** in the context of Jewish Buffalo. Better Together is certainly not a new concept and has been the driving force in the decision-making process in recent years. Just think of temple and religious school mergers, shared programming and events, and community-wide fund-raising activities, all designed to be welcoming, inclusive, and offer a strength-in-numbers approach. This all sounds straight forward and logical given demographic trends and financial constraints; we are a mid-size community and working together only makes sense.

But the reality is that we are subject to the same constraints that often make good ideas and concepts difficult to execute. I am sure those in our community who have worked through mergers and collaborations can attest to these realities, yet they’ve achieved success by demonstrating the flexibility to navigate through troubled waters.

While much has been done out of necessity, I believe there has been a fundamental shift in thinking as our community plans for the future. Like many communities across the country and around the world, there is a heightened realization that a thriving Jewish life can only exist if we collaborate and treat each other as equals. The days of federations, foundations, agencies, synagogues, and others taking a “going it alone” approach are being replaced with a much more holistic vision of “we are all in this together.” This means that daily activities, planning, and decision-making take on a different feel as guided by principles that include:

- We are more effective when we work together.
- We are all equal stakeholders at the decision-making table.
- Mutual respect is essential.

Ultimately, we must constantly challenge ourselves by asking if the actions we take are ultimately better for the sustainability and vibrancy of Jewish



Shelly Yellen

Buffalo.

There are daily, if not weekly, examples of this thinking in action. If you are a regular reader of community activities and programs as seen in *The Jewish Journal* and e-mail blasts from synagogues, Federation, Foundation and community agencies and partners, you are already aware of the extensive collaborative and community-wide programs, events, and services that are offered throughout the year. The Federation convenes a bi-weekly Community Leadership Online Gathering, where community leaders gather together and share news of what is going on throughout their communities. There is sense of common purpose from this amazing group representing different segments of our

community that we must all have a voice to achieve the goal of a thriving Jewish Buffalo.

Further, we have a new cadre of professional leaders that understand that together we can accomplish so much more. The importance of this cannot be understated as these leaders are creating a culture shift that is driving the internal changes critical to making the principles actionable. These leaders recognize talent exists throughout our organizations and the challenge lies in how best to utilize them for the future of Jewish Buffalo and the greater community.

Here are just a few examples: The Federation, under the leadership of Rob Goldberg, and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, led by Irv Levy, have been working collaboratively in creating a bold shared services model. This has included marketing (just one example is the new Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies website), the establishment of the Compassion Fund, matching donors with specific community projects and programs, and the Life & Legacy initiative through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (read about it on page 19). Last week, Rob and Irv met with their counterparts to discuss expanding the shared service model. This was the first of what will lead to many discussions on how best to work together. The focus was on identifying unique strengths in areas

such Human Resources, Data base systems, Fundraising, Event Planning and Coordination.

As many know, February was Jewish Disability and Inclusion Awareness Month. The Center for Engagement and Learning (CJEL) changed their strategy initiative from “Inclusion” to “Belonging.” Belonging emphasizes “all people are integral and fully seen,” and “nothing about us without us.” Our community is well poised to meet this challenge and while not the main intent, I believe we can adapt these concepts to the processes and decision-making that will drive Jewish Buffalo by being better together.

On another note, the Federation held their annual Super Sunday event on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our exceptional volunteer leaders Howard Rosenhoch, Joni Shatkin, Ken and Merredith Levin, and our incredible staff led by Randi Morkisz and Stacey Block for putting together a very creative and successful event. Also, thank you to the many other volunteers and staff that participated and of course, to our donors, thank you for your generosity and kindness.

Finally, spring season is upon us and a time for us to celebrate the Passover holiday. Although still unable to gather in the manner we are accustomed, we look forward to being fully vaccinated this year and next Passover will once again celebrate in person with family and friends. For this year, consider participating in the March 28<sup>th</sup> Community Synagogue Seder as a great way to stay connected and celebrate the holiday. With peace, prosperity, good health, and happiness, wishing you *Chag Pesach Sameach*.

**Don't forget, please share your thoughts with me at [syellen@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:syellen@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

Mark your Calendars :  
**Community virtual Yom Hashoah April 11 @ 11 a.m.**

The program will feature candle lighting by Survivors and Children of Survivors and Keynote Speaker and Buffalo native Jim Klein.

Register at [www.bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021](http://www.bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021).







# Made in Buffalo is Bringing Broadway to Your Home April 25!

BY MARGIE GODIN BRYEN AND KELLY LIGNOS ZIV

The **Made In Buffalo** speaker series kicked off in April of 2017 with Seth Godin returning home to Buffalo to lead the way. Seth entertained, energized and stimulated a sold-out crowd at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and left everyone asking when they could attend the next event. **Made in Buffalo**, a transformational series showcasing famous Buffalonians who cut their teeth right here in our backyard, was brought to the community by the Buffalo Jewish Federation and underwritten by the family of Lenore & Bill Godin.

**Made In Buffalo** set out to celebrate personalities who lay claim to being “made in our region” and allow the Buffalo Jewish Federation to provide a dynamic program as a gift to the greater Buffalo community. Many expatriates hold a deep connection with Western New York and the Buffalo Jewish Federation thinks it should be celebrated.

Seth Godin provided a wonderful start for this series, and we set a high bar for future events. The original plan for our second event had been to bring in Buffalo native Cheryl Stern to perform her one-woman show, “Shoes and Baggage” at the Shea’s 710 Theater in April 2020. Well, we all know what happened there.

So, the **Made in Buffalo** team spent a good portion of 2020 brainstorming how to bring Buffalo all the jazz and pizzazz envisioned for that April 2020 in-person event, but in the safest way possible. The result is **From Buffalo to Broadway: Waiting in the Wings**, a free, live and virtual event featuring Cheryl Stern, accompanied by some exceptional Buffalo talent and New York City-based Broadway performers. The event takes place on **April 25th at 7:30 PM**, and can be viewed from the comfort of your own home!

This event will be a live, virtual showcase of Cheryl’s performances, alongside a spectrum of incredible talent that includes vocalists from various musical traditions, Bollywood dancing, Blues music, and much more.

Cheryl Stern, a Broadway and television actress, grew up in Buffalo, and attended Amherst High School. You may recognize Cheryl if you’re a fan of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. She played Ida (Benjamin’s Mom) in season 2 on the Emmy-winning series.

Cheryl grew up surrounded by a family of musically talented people. Her mom, Norma Avruinin Stern, was a talented singer and her father, Sol Stern, of blessed memory, an accomplished musician. Her uncle Harry Stern was a prominent violinist and band leader in Buffalo for decades, along with his wife Lorraine, a talented singer. Cheryl



Cheryl Stern



Slyboots Circus

recalls that she and her cousins would put on shows in their living room. She loved creating stories and characters and singing up a storm. She wanted to perform in front of an audience so much that they would pay the neighborhood kids a quarter to come see them “on stage”.

While at Amherst High School she excelled in academics, but her passion was always in the arts. Cheryl’s experience at Amherst and at Studio Arena helped her to get accepted to, and be successful at, Northwestern University’s theatre program.

We are thrilled to have Cheryl present



Nancy Fernandez



Devi Bollywood

**From Buffalo to Broadway: Waiting in the Wings** from her *alma mater*, Amherst High School, as part of our **Made In Buffalo** series. This cabaret-style event will also feature the local talents of Saranaide, Big J Blues, Nancy Fernandez, Devi Bollywood, Slyboots Circus, and Juliet Shatkin, combined with Broadway veterans Karen Mason, Bobby Daye, and Adam Heller.



Big J Blues

Tickets are **FREE** and include a swag bag full of goodies that can be picked up on the day of the show or delivered to you at home. Ticket holders will receive email confirmation with details on how to access the show. And while tickets are free, **Made in Buffalo** will be accepting donations to benefit the Arts Service Initiative of WNY. Arts Services Inc. (ASI) empowers the region’s artists and arts organizations with connections to funding, learning opportunities, and community access to the arts.

**Register for your free tickets at [www.madeinbflo.org](http://www.madeinbflo.org).**

*Margie Godin Bryen, the President and owner of Hard Manufacturing, is the Treasurer of Buffalo Jewish Federation and Chair of the **Made in Buffalo** committee. Kelly Lignos Ziv owns her own marketing company and is an original member of the **Made in Buffalo** committee.*



# City Of Good Neighbors Campaign

During the week of Purim, Federation launched an emergency campaign to raise funds to assist our friends in Texas impacted by February's severe winter storm. The campaign generated more than \$10,000 from over 125 donors to support relief efforts made possible by our sister Federations in Austin, San Antonio and Ft. Worth, three communities that are part of our Partnership2Gether Midwest consortium (read more about Partnership on page 11). "Thank you! This is SO appreciated," said Rabbi Daniel Septimus, the CEO of Shalom Austin, the hub of Jewish life in Central Texas. Daniel and his family fled Austin in the aftermath of the storm as they were without power and water.



"Buffalonians are tough when it comes to severe weather, but we know all too well how devastating a winter storm can be especially when it comes as a surprise. That's why we called our campaign *The City of Good Neighbors*," said Rob Goldberg, Federation CEO. "And, when we reached out to our friends from these communities," noted Federation President Shelly Yellen, "they were touched by our efforts. Michael Swanson, the Board Chair of the Federation in San Antonio wrote me expressing his gratitude: *This concrete example of why Buffalo has earned the proud title City of Good Neighbors, is not only a sign of your community's standard of excellence, but it is also a tangible demonstration of your commitment to living up to the Jewish value of kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh... we truly feel your sense of responsibility to all of us here in San Antonio and across all Texas.*"

**For more information on the Partnership2Gether Consortium or Federation's efforts, please contact Rob Goldberg ([rob@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:rob@buffalojewishfederation.org)).**

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## PROJECT BELONGING

# CJEL welcomes Rabbi Becky Silverstein (virtually) in June

BY SHIRA JACOBSON

Last year when The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning's (CJEL) Inclusion Taskforce completed its work and launched CJEL's belonging initiative, the vision was clear: for all Jews, their friends and life partners, and people exploring Judaism to feel welcome to participate in Jewish living and learning experiences regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability. With this vision in mind and with the generous support of the Institute for Liberal Jewish Studies Fund, CJEL is thrilled to announce *Project Belonging: a series of springtime Jewish learning experiences featuring Rabbi Becky Silverstein (he/him/his)*.

Rabbi Becky is a genderqueer, trans Rabbi who grew up in New York. Ordained at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, Rabbi Becky became the first out transgender rabbi to be hired by a Conservative synagogue. Rabbi Becky works to encourage people to bring *all* of their identities to their spiritual practices,



Rabbi Becky Silverstein

opening up conversations surrounding gender and sexuality within Judaism. He now serves as the Jewish Spiritual Advisor at Northeastern University, as Program Manager at the Boston Teen Beit Midrash, on the board of Keshet, and as Chair of both The Jewish Studio Project and SVARA.

Jewish tradition teaches the value of *B'tzelem Elohim*, the belief that everyone

was created with the spark of the divine, that everyone belongs. Project Belonging seeks to bring adults together for deep learning about gender in Judaism and for conversation about how Buffalo can continue to be more welcoming to a diverse array of individuals and families who identify as Jewish.

So, what does "genderqueer" mean? What are pronouns and why were they listed after Rabbi Becky's introduction? The term "genderqueer" means that one does not necessarily identify as solely male or female, but falls somewhere else on the gender spectrum. Gender is a socially constructed concept that explains how someone expresses themselves. Traditionally within cultural norms, one's gender has been categorized as either male or female and individuals would present themselves to the world in either a feminine or masculine way.

Our cultural understanding of gender identity has evolved; just like sexuality, gender also exists on a spectrum, and there is more on the gender spectrum than just male or female.

With the beginnings of awareness and acceptance of the idea that gender exists on a spectrum comes a need for new or different language. This is where pronouns come in to play. In the English language, we refer to other people using pronouns, "*she* went to the grocery store." These pronouns usually imply gender, such as using "he" to refer to a man and "she" to refer to a woman. People often make assumptions about the gender or identity of another person based on their name or appearance and will automatically assign or use the pronouns they think fit. However, the way someone looks does not define who they are or their gender identity. Everyone has the right to choose their own pronouns; gender identity is relative to each individual. It is always best to ask what someone's pronouns are before assuming them - this is a way to show respect to them and create an inclusive environment.

With Rabbi Becky's wisdom and expertise, Project Belonging will dive further into these concepts and how they connect to Judaism. The Project Belonging series of learning experiences will occur in the beginning of June, and will be open to all adults, at no cost. *For more information about Project Belonging, or to learn more about gender identity, look for information in future editions of The Jewish Journal of WNY or contact Mike Steklof, Director of Jewish Experience at the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning at: [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org).*



Shira Jacobson is a sophomore at the University at Buffalo studying English and psychology and serves as an Intern at the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning.

mike@buffalojewishfederation.org' and includes the CJEL logo and 'BELONGING' logo."/>

**PROJECT BELONGING**

A SERIES OF COMPELLING JEWISH LEARNING EXPERIENCES

JUNE 3 - 8, 2021 FEATURING:

**RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN (HE/HIM/HIS)**

KEYNOTE LECTURE  
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7:00 - 8:30 PM

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THROUGH THE LENS OF RABBI AKIVA**

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Do you have questions or need accommodations to make your time at this event more meaningful?  
Contact Mike at [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org)

**BELONGING**  
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# Reflections from the Belonging Initiative

BY MIKE STEKLOF

Last year the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) shifted the name of its effort to be more inclusive from “Inclusion” to “Belonging.” This change in language and framing represents the value of “nothing about us, without us,” meaning that at its most aspirational level, no decision should be made without the full participation of the constituent groups that the decision will affect. CJEL is focused on creating a culture of Belonging across Buffalo for Jewish individuals with disabilities, Jews who identify as LGBTQ+, those exploring Judaism, families of multiple faiths, and for Jews of Color.



February was devoted to Belonging awareness. Throughout the month of February, individuals who embody the values of JDAAM (Jewish Disability Awareness Acceptance and Inclusion Month) were featured in the Federation’s weekly e-newsletter **My Jewish Buffalo**, including Vickie Rubin, Jeremy Pratt and Kelly Special. In addition, CJEL hosted a virtual Book Talk featuring Vickie Rubin, discussing her forthcoming Book, *Raising Jess*. During the talk, Vickie shared the story of the birth of her daughter Jessica, who is a resident of Buffalo’s Jewish Women’s Group home. Vickie described how Jewish Buffalo has embraced this home and provided programming, music, friendship and a sense of belonging to each of the residents and their families.

In addition to programmatic offering and opportunities to gather, CJEL offers learning and development opportunities for professional and volunteer leaders in an effort to expand both abilities and the tools available to affectively create spaces of Belonging. For some individuals, creating a space of Belonging in Jewish Buffalo can only begin with repairing harm or interpersonal conflicts. In February the Buffalo Jewish Federation Professional team, including Miriam Abramovich, Mara Koven-Gelman, Elizabeth Schram, Ben Wolfson and Mike Steklof, participated in a two-day long Restorative Practice Facilitator training led by the Erie County

Restorative Justice Coalition.

Restorative Practice is a methodology of building positive relationships and repairing fractured relationships when harm occurs. Restorative Practices include the use of talking circles, active listening, self-expression, relationship building questions and dialogue to foster relationships between and among groups of people.

Carolyn Boyes-Watson, provides this definition of Restorative Justice, the result of restorative practices. “*Restorative justice seeks to build partnerships to reestablish mutual responsibility for constructive responses to wrongdoing within our communities. Restorative approaches seek a balanced approach to the needs of the victim, wrongdoer, and community through processes that preserve the safety and dignity of all.*”

Over the course of this two-day immersive training, CJEL and Federation professionals had the opportunity to experience restorative practices both as participants and facilitators. Restorative Justice is a tool that Federation Professionals can now use to build community while managing conflict and tension.

Mike Steklof is a Director of Jewish Experience at the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning. For more information, contact him at [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org).

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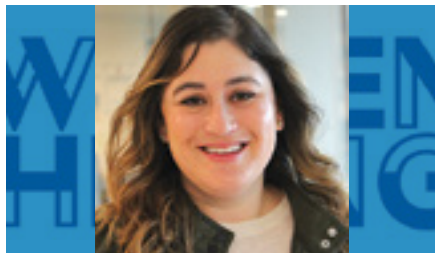
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RANDI MORKISZ AT  
716-628-3431**



# WOMEN GATHERING

## Reflections on Women Gathering Together

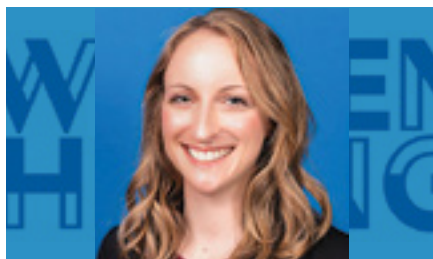
Women, gathering together, has been a hallmark of Judaism since biblical times. The first day of the month on the lunar calendar, Rosh Chodesh, has been set aside as a sacred time for women to gather, study, tell stories, and share experiences. Having sacred time to gather, connect through Jewish text/tradition, and lift one another up, inspired CJEL to design a series of small group learning experiences called Women Gathering. Since the fall, more than 70 women have participated in one of CJEL's monthly or bi-monthly learning circles including the Well Circle, Mussar for Moms, Wise Women, and Wise Aging. Please enjoy these reflections from Women Gathering participants. *For more information about Women Gathering cohorts contact Susan Schwartz at [susan@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:susan@buffalojewishfederation.org).*



**Naomi Wiseman**  
*Well Circle Participant*

I have had the wonderful opportunity for the past six months to participate in CJEL's Women's Well Circle. In a year of unbelievable twists and turns, I found that I needed an outlet for my emotions, my anxiety, and most importantly, I felt that needed comradery outside of colleagues. What I have found through the Well Circle is that Jewish women will always share a comradery; we feel safe and connected around one another and are willing to share and open up, more so than any other female co-worker or acquaintance I have encountered. Maybe it is the simple fact that we're all Jewish or maybe it is because we are a group of women, many of whom have never met prior to September, who are sharing life experiences while uncovering our own personal connections to inherited wisdom which has allowed for us to break down barriers and welcome new friendships and confidants into our lives. I

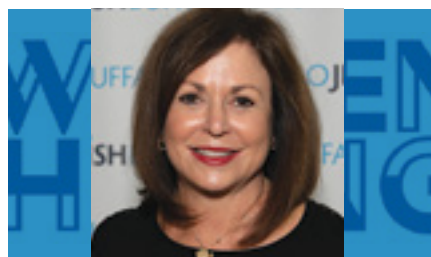
have found that these monthly gatherings have not only given me something to look forward to mid-month, but provide reflective, interesting and stimulating educational materials and conversation. More importantly, however, the Well Circle has provided me with a new group of friends in a community that I hold so near and dear to my heart.



**Rebecca Carmine-Shaw**  
*Mussar for Moms Participant*

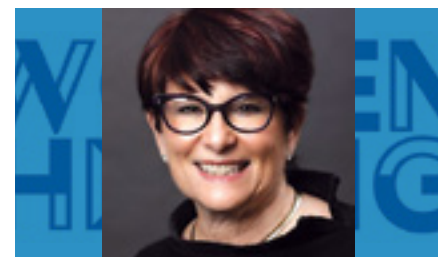
I am thoroughly enjoying Mussar for Moms. Our virtual classroom is inspiring, joyous, and healing. We have been studying personality traits such as humility, patience, and loving-kindness, and applying what we learn within our communities, our families, and for ourselves. It is amazing to think that even virtually, I have made friends! I thought it was impossible during such a dark time full of so much isolation. Our group leaders, Evie Weinstein and Miriam Abramovich,

have truly been able to foster a safe space in our classes. I am thankful for the opportunity to be in community with other Buffalo Jewish women, and I look forward to our next session!



**Joni Shatkin**  
*Wise Women Participant*

I feel so lucky to be part of the Wise Women group, as I always come away with that wonderful and warm feeling of being in contact with other Jewish women. It's nice to share our concerns and values while listening to how to tackle life as a Jewish woman. As COVID has impacted all of us, it's also especially nice to see everyone's shining faces on Zoom. I do look forward to the time when we can get together in person after COVID is gone and share a nice glass of wine. This group has been so inspiring! It is wonderful to be able to share thoughts with dynamic women as we join together to learn, kibbitz, and laugh!



**Gretchen Gross**  
*Wise Aging Participant*

I have been interested in joining a Wise Aging cohort since it began a few years ago and this year it became possible because of Zoom. Susan Schwartz is an excellent facilitator and has a gentle and wonderful way of engaging the women in our group. It has been a way to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. As we read and discuss each chapter of *Wise Aging* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan, (z"l) and Dr. Linda Thal, the book raises thought-provoking questions about the different stages of life from childhood to my hopefully long and healthy future. Wise Aging is a safe place to talk about things that may be uncomfortable, sharing our own experiences and finding support and understanding. It has given me permission and sometimes the courage to look deeply into myself to deal with life, and areas of aging that may be scary such as health issues, losing a life partner, how to stay engaged in the community, and looking forward to new adventures. Thank you, Susan, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, and The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning for making this vibrant program available to us.



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In a word, virtual Super Sunday was SUPER! In a year with so much pain, difficulty and loss, this Campaign for Jewish Buffalo fundraising event was FABULOUS! “What a great day,” said Federation Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz. “We raised over \$91,000 this year on Super Sunday, far exceeding the goal of \$50,000, and a higher amount than has been raised in many years.”

Challenged with having the entire event held virtually, Super Sunday chairs Ken and Merredith Levin immediately set out to plan something that would be innovative, engaging and inspiring. Through the Levins’ recruitment efforts, more than 60 community members volunteered to make calls either for donations, or to thank those who had already made a commitment to the 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, or to help distribute volunteer materials.

Each of two trainings began with a virtual welcome and information session. “During this time volunteers learned about the impact the dollars raised have in our community, Israel and worldwide directly from our partner agencies and programs. Local celebrities



shared words of encouragement and gratitude to all of the volunteers,” noted Ken, who loves to play music and can often be found in his basement playing guitar, mandolin, banjo and piano. “Earlier in the pandemic, I started creating and posting videos at the request of my cousin Dan Sterman, a physician in New York on the front lines of COVID,” added Ken. “Once I started posting some music, I was amazed at the connection it was providing at a time when we all were feeling rather isolated.”

The Levins were working on a tribute for the folk singer John Prine when Merredith suggested they incorporate some puppets. According to Merredith, “We cracked ourselves up laughing and put a John Prine music video together, which oddly lent itself to puppets! Our handful of fans asked for more and we happily obliged, dabbling



**Our sincere thanks to Bagel Jay's for donating gift certificates and to Wegmans and Tops for donating prizes for our Super Sunday volunteers!**

in a few goofy Happy Birthday puppet videos and then The Super Sunday Puppet Band was born.”

In thinking about what would be relevant for Super Sunday, Merredith suggested recording “We Are The World” (with puppets, of course). Ken was totally on board and so they recorded over a dozen videos. Finding themselves way over their heads when it came time to compile the videos into one piece, the Levins’ panicked faces inspired their son, Charlie (12), and daughter, Parker (15), to bail them out. They whipped up their teen/tween tech magic and had the final video complete in a few hours! Their youngest son, Archie (8), served as a creative advisor and puppet liaison.

As a different way to say thank you to the Super Sunday volunteers, the Levins also put together another puppet video of “The Todah Song” by local physician/musician Andy Symons. “To show our appreciation, a video with the Super Sunday Puppet Band was emailed the day after Super Sunday to all of the incredible volunteers and donors whose generosity fuels the campaign,” Ken said.

Even though it was virtual, Merredith and Ken felt that the entire day was warm and personable. “People need connection to others. It was so nice to make a thank you call, not just ask for money. Our kids made 44 thank you calls. They loved it and the people they called loved it. We were trying to keep the day light and fun and not take ourselves too seriously. We had fun doing it,” Merredith said.

The Levins are already planning for next year’s Super Sunday, and rumor has it that the Super Sunday Puppet Band has already been booked to perform.

## **Thank you Buffalo Celebrities who participated in messages and words of encouragement via Zoom to our volunteer callers on Super Sunday 2021!**

**Amherst Deputy Town Supervisor Jacqui Berger**

**Erica Brecher – WIVB Channel 4**

**Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown**

**Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein**

**Greg Cypin – KISS 98.5 Radio**

**Ed Dranch – WKBW Channel 7**

**Congressman Brian Higgins**

**New York State Senator Tim Kennedy**

**Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz**

**Don Postles – WIVB Channel 4**



# Help Us Grow Dignity Grows™

BY NINA LUKIN

Imagine having to choose between buying food for your family or buying toilet paper or running out of soap and having no money to purchase more. This is a reality for 1 in 5 women in the US who struggle with the difficult choice between paying for food, shelter and feminine hygiene items. Every month, some of our neighbors feel a sense of helplessness and embarrassment because they lack access to basic necessities whether by poverty, stigma, or lack of education.

The consequences prevent women and girls from going about their daily life. Girls avoid school during their periods and miss critical learning time. Women miss work, which can lead to lost wages. Poor women and girls and those who are homeless or incarcerated often struggle the most to access menstrual products. All of this further compounds the cycle of poverty.

Inspired by the Jewish values of *Tzedakah* (righteousness) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy has established a local chapter of Dignity Grows™ to provide monthly totes filled with menstrual and hygiene supplies to women in need. I am thrilled to chair this exciting and powerful initiative and continue the important work of community relations via building bridges with agencies serving underprivileged and at-risk individuals.

Dignity Grows™ is natural extension of the considerable local, Jewish-driven social action and JCRC work that supports the wider Buffalo community,



regardless of ethnicity, race, or religion. It reinforces Federation's visibility as a committed, caring partner for neighbors in need to reach their full potential. Dignity Grows™ was founded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford's Women's Philanthropy.

A key element of this effort involves identifying, connecting, and maintaining relationships with social service agencies as distribution partners so we can meet the needs of the populations they serve; think Jewish Family Service. 'Packing parties' allow volunteers to gather in a COVID conscious way to assemble the totes as well as engage new volunteers who will see first-hand our Federation's dedication to life-changing acts of kindness. Totes contains a month's supply of sanitary pads, toothpaste and a toothbrush, soap, deodorant and

shampoo, all packed in discreet, reusable zipper-top bags. Items are strategically sourced to ensure low prices via the Dignity Grows™ choice vender.

In the same way that Talmud cautions us to give charity in private to avoid offending the dignity of the recipient, volunteers arrange the hand-offs of goods to the distribution partner rather than the beneficiary themselves.

While there is no financial commitment, we encourage volunteers who host or participate in packing events to support the low barrier fundraising efforts. For as little as just \$10, anyone can donate a Dignity Tote to a neighbor in need in Buffalo, and each tote will be matched by an anonymous donor. For example, I purchased 5 for \$50 and the donor purchased another 5 for a total of 10 totes.

**For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help with this effort contact Stacey Block at [stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org), or me at [ninalukin@gmail.com](mailto:ninalukin@gmail.com), or visit the [DignityGrows.org](https://dignitygrows.org) website where you can learn more. To donate directly to the Buffalo Chapter, go to <https://bit.ly/DIGNITYGROWSBFLO>.**

*Nina Lukin is the chair of the brand new Dignity Grows™ project of Women's Philanthropy, a member of the Federation Executive Committee, and past co-chair of the JCRC.*



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Welcome to the Partnership2Gether (P2G) *Pinah* - the Hebrew word meaning "corner." With Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, later this month, we are very excited to launch the first P2G *Pinah* dedicated to the Partnership2Gether Consortium, of which Buffalo is a proud member.

Over the past 20 years, Partnership2Gether (P2G) has become Federation's most successful and effective model for creating meaningful relationships primarily between the North American Jewish Community and Israel. For the past 3 years, Buffalo has been an active member of the Central Area Consortium, a group of 16 U.S. communities as well as Budapest, Hungary that connects us to those living in the Western Galilee region of Israel.

Last fall, the Buffalo Jewish Federation created a new Partnership2Gether

Leadership Council composed of individuals who have a connection to and passion for our Partnership. The Council includes Jeff Blum, Cantor Arlene Frank, Jody Goldstein, Robbie Hausmann, Amy Pecora, Laurie Sadler, Blaine Schwartz, Julie Weinberg, Laura Wexler, Gil Wolfe, Katie Wzontek, and Leslie Kramer. The Council will provide strategic direction for the way in which Federation engages with our Western Galilee Area Consortium. For a wonderful example of this, check out the "Not the Last Word" column on page 32 by Jody Goldstein about a program she spearheads.

Please be sure to check out the *P2G Pinah* each month in *The Jewish Journal* for information about upcoming Partnership events, as well as new features of the Partnership. For more information or any questions, please contact Mandy Weiss at [mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org).

## Upcoming P2G programs:

**Thursday, April 8 @ 9:45 a.m.**

Israeli Holocaust Remembrance Day Closing Ceremony (Live stream)

**Sunday, April 11 @ 11 a.m.**

Israel Memorial Day- Yom HaZikaron- Bravery and Memory

**Sunday, April 18 @ 1 p.m.**

Celebrate Israel @ 73—celebrate Israeli cooking with world renowned Chef Uri Jeremias (AKA Uri Buri)

**Thursday, April 29 @ 1 p.m.**

Here We Are: Virtual Tour of Austin

*To participate in any or all of these events, visit <https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/> and click on "Events." Then go to the calendar in the drop down menu. Next, go to the date of the event in which you wish to participate and click on "RSVP." Make your reservation, and you will then receive a confirmation e-mail. For more information or any questions, please contact Mandy Weiss at [mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org).*

## ROCK STEADY BOXING at the JCC

Empowering people with Parkinson's disease to fight back!



"Watching class members with Parkinson's Disease improve motor skills, balance, speech and sensory functions in our Rock, Steady, Boxing program is inspiring," said Todd Schifferle, ACE Certified Personal Trainer and general manager of Health, Fitness and Recreation at the JCC Benderson Building. As a Rock Steady coach, Todd said he is constantly impressed by participants' dedication to improving their quality of life. "One class member works two full-time jobs but still makes time to attend Rock Steady weekly," added Todd. "Our group members help motivate each other and have fun working together to fight against Parkinson's each and every step of the way!"

More info at: <https://www.jccbuffalo.org/wellness/disease-prevention/>

## Federation Awards Commemoration, Celebration & Conversation Micro-Grants

The Buffalo Jewish Federation is excited to announce the recipients of the new *Commemoration, Celebration & Conversation* Micro-Grants for this spring. Through these micro-grants, totaling over \$4,500, Federation is encouraging and supporting our local partners in continuing to create engaging and fresh experiences/initiatives particularly as the impact of COVID-19 continues. Focusing on holidays and commemorations that happen in the spring, all applicants were encouraged to be innovative and creative as well as to engage with other partner organizations, both local and non-local and Jewish and non-Jewish.

### Congregation Beth Abraham

Kabbalat Shabbat with Neshama Carlebach (See page 24)  
Friday, April 23

6:30 p.m. (free and open to everyone)  
In partnership with Congregation Havurah and The Hospice Foundation of Buffalo



### Congregation Shir Shalom-Gesher Religious School

Celebrating Israel Together in partnership with Amberleigh Senior Living Facility

### Hillel of Buffalo

#### Matzah Match

In partnership with Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry

### JCC Cultural Arts

Photography of the Holocaust—The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross (See page 13)

Tuesday, April 6

2:00 p.m.

(free and open to everyone)

In partnership with The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, Jewish Community Relations Council, CEPA

Gallery, Daemen College and the Galicia Jewish Museum

The event will be presented on YouTube live and is free and open to everyone. Registration is required, please visit the JCC website or register directly at <http://bit.ly/HolocaustPhotography>. Questions? Contact Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).

### Temple Beth Tzedek

Holocaust and Hope (See page 12)

Sunday, May 2

7:00 p.m. free and open to everyone)

In partnership with The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, Temple Beth Zion and Congregation Shir Shalom

### Park School—Kadimah Scholars Program

Yachad in Yom Haatzmaut/Zeh Katan Aleinu Project

In partnership with Temple Beth Tzedek

*For more information about the programs that are open to the public, visit the Community Calendar at [buffalojewishfederation.org/calendar](http://buffalojewishfederation.org/calendar).*

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# Yom HaShoah: Deeply Personal and a Call to Action

BY ANN MARIE CAROSELLA

**Yom HaShoah, the annual remembrance of the 6 Million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, will be held Sunday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. over Zoom. Registration is at [www.bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021](http://www.bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021).**

For both co-chairs of this year's commemoration, the task of planning Yom HaShoah is deeply personal and heartfelt. Wendy Weisbrot, retired Williamsville teacher and Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) Chair of Education, recalls attending Yom HaShoah commemorations from a very young age with her family. Wendy's father, Joe Diamond, was a Holocaust Survivor. At that time, with the audience consisting primarily of Survivors and their families, Wendy's parents worried about what would become of this event when the number of Survivors diminished. Wendy and her brother lovingly reassured their parents by making a lifetime commitment to keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive. "Planning this event allows me the honor of helping to commemorate survivors like my father and remember those who didn't survive. It is with such gratitude that I see that the community has embraced the importance of this remembrance and that they take responsibility to come together each spring to honor victims and Survivors with their presence."

For Tara Karch Cross, a transportation lawyer and HRC leader, this year is the third year she has co-chaired the commemoration. Raised Jewish with a Jewish father and an Armenian Christian mother, Tara says it is "truly an honor" to help with this community remembrance of the Jewish victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Furthermore, she is moved to participate in the planning in recognition of the members of her mother's family that were killed in the Armenian genocide during WWI.



Wendy Weisbrot



Tara Karch Cross

Not only are personal stories the motivation behind the planning of this event, but they are also the power within the event that bring connection to those in attendance, and are what motivates us to move from remembrance to action. This year's program, **L'Dor Vador: From Generation to Generation**, will highlight the very personal intergenerational connection between local survivors, their children, and their grandchildren.

The Keynote Speaker will be Buffalo native Jim Klein, who will reflect on his life growing up in Buffalo as the son of Holocaust Survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein and the late Kurt Klein, a Liberator. The six candle lighters will be Eva Blum (Survivor), Gertrude Sloan (Survivor), Nicholas Leibovic (Survivor), Cindy Ashton (child of a Survivor), Sandy Eisen (child of a Survivor) and Carol Froehlich (child of a Survivor). Video recordings of intergenerational members of the Survivors' families will showcase the love shared, and the lessons taught, by their parent or grandparent.

Both co-chairs are excited by a program that promises to be meaningful and memorable, despite its virtual nature. "It's essentially the same program we intended if we were in person" said Tara. "The videos of the candle lighters and their families are moving, informative, and very personal." Wendy added that "the program really fits well with the platform," as the stories captured in the videos are "each so very different, so personal, and so relevant to the next generations."

Yom HaShoah is first and foremost a remembrance of the Jewish victims and Survivors of the Holocaust. Yet, both chairs believe the personal nature of the stories shared by Jim Klein along with the candle lighters and their families will not only honor the Survivors and victims of the Holocaust, but will prompt individuals to commit to taking to heart these personal messages and to transforming them into actions that spread the lessons and message outward. Wendy said "these stories of local people not only let us know where we came from, but they remind us to take responsibility for teaching the lessons of the Holocaust and taking the lessons forward. It's truly what every Survivor would want us to do."

*Dr. Ann Marie Carosella is president of the Holocaust Resource Center.*

## Suzanne Reyto: From Holocaust to Hope

**SUNDAY,  
MAY 2ND  
7:00 P.M.**

Suzanne Reyto was born as WWII was ending. She will talk about the difficulties of surviving in eastern Europe, life under Communist rule, and finding hope and trust in a better future.



Register at: <http://bit.ly/suzanne-reyto>  
Questions? Contact Beth Kassirer,  
[bethkassirer@gmail.com](mailto:bethkassirer@gmail.com)

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## HRC's May 20 Upstander Event Honors David Rust of "Say Yes Buffalo"

Upstanders are individuals who embody the integrity of our communities and change the world for the better. The Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) announces the second Upstander Event taking place virtually May 20, where the Sophia Veffter Upstander Award will be presented. This award is named in honor of Holocaust Survivor Sophia Veffter, who has dedicated her life to encouraging students and community members to be upstanders by assisting those who need help and to stand up in the face of adversity. The HRC presents this award to an upstander in the community who has made a significant impact and whose efforts exemplify the mission of the HRC.

The 2021 recipient of the Award is David Rust, Executive Director of **Say Yes Buffalo**, a non-profit education foundation committed to providing a powerful engine for long-term economic development through radically improving the life course of public school students in the City of Buffalo. **Say Yes Buffalo** combines a comprehensive K-12 support system with the incentive of locally funded postsecondary tuition to



remove the barriers (financial, academic, social and health) to college access and success for youth in the City of Buffalo.

The inaugural Student Upstander Award will be presented to a young adult in the Western New York community who exemplifies the qualities of an upstander by fearlessly defending what is just when others choose to be bystanders. The recipient of the Student Upstander Award will receive tuition to attend the Academy for Human Rights Summer Symposium which provides students the opportunity to hear internationally-known human rights experts, take part in hands-on activities and field trips, and learn the skills they need to make an impact on the community, nation, and world.

**Registration information will be available in the coming weeks. Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Schram at [Elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org](mailto:Elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org).**



# JCC Commemorates Holocaust April 6

Tuesday, April 6  
2:00 p.m.

## Photography of the Holocaust – The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross

The Jewish Community Center will offer a unique virtual presentation Tuesday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. to commemorate the Six Million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and honor the heroism of Survivors. Galicia Jewish Museum Chief Curator Tomasz Strug, artist, curator, educator, and historian Robert Hirsch, and Dr. Shawn Kelley, Professor of Philosophy/Religious Studies, Department Chair, Daemen College will discuss The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross z"l.

From 1940 to 1944, Henryk Ross



documented life inside the Lodz Ghetto. Ross worked for the ghetto's Jewish Administration's Statistics department, photographing the Jewish ghetto's

inhabitants for identification cards and for Nazi propaganda images. When Ross was not working in his bureaucratic capacity, he risked his life to photograph the reality of daily ghetto life.

This event is presented by the JCC in partnership with the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, the Jewish Community Relations Council, CEPA Gallery, Daemen College, and the Galicia Jewish Museum and made possible by a grant from the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

The event will be presented on YouTube live and is free and open to everyone. **Registration is required, please visit the JCC website or register directly at <http://bit.ly/HolocaustPhotography>. Questions? Contact Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).**

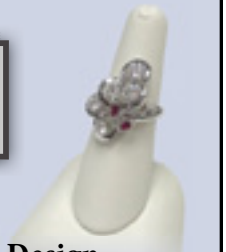
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# Take me Back to the East Side Shops!

BY CHANA R. KOTZIN, PH.D.

Several areas in Buffalo were known for their extensive Jewish commercial activity, especially the East Side and North Buffalo. This is the first article in a series of features about Jewish businesses tied to these particular neighborhoods.

The East Side is known for its many synagogues, the Jewish Community Building and other institutions including *Gemiliut Hasidim* (also known as The Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association) and the Talmud Torah. But it's also remembered for numerous family businesses, many of which were located along the long stretch of William Street. A brief snapshot across the 1910s to the 1930s illustrates the incredible range and popularity of particular goods and services on William Street.

From dozens of dry good and furniture stores, shoe shops, jewelry, furs, tailors, cigar shops to men's and women's clothing stores, you just had to walk down William Street and you could find what you needed for your home or yourself, including specialty stores



Men's Clothier, William Street, East Side, Buffalo, NY., c.1910s. Courtesy of the Benjamin and Dr. Edgar Cofeld Judaic Museum of Temple Beth Zion

to support religious practice. Well known among these was Hazzan Singer's book store and Rabbi Isaac Manch's Religious Goods store which

sold an array of Judaica. Rabbi Manch also served as a rabbi at the Jefferson Street Shul and his son, Dr. Joseph Manch, would later rise to superintendent of the Buffalo School district.

But as you might expect, food was often at the heart of this commercial vitality. Grocers, delis, bakeries, confectioners, meat markets and more, could all be found along the road, and it must have been wonderful to walk down the street following wafts of freshly baked bread and more! Less well known were a number of lodging places that also offered restaurant services. In 1910, for example, at 11 William Street, Green's Kosher Hotel and Restaurant offered "first class service and Hungarian cooking," according to its city directory listing.

Individual bakeries populated every block it seemed. In 1930, at 207 William Street, you could find Joseph Cohen's Bakery, and Rosenblatt's Bakery at 266-270 William Street spanned three shopfronts. Much further down the street you could choose from the bakeries of Isadore Guttman, Harry Ruddank and Joseph Stein. Got a sweet tooth? Then you were in luck! Sam Epstein, Isaac Besser, Max Weber and Nathan Kaplan each had a shop in the 200 block alone, and at either end of the street there were more confectionaries choices from the shops of Jacob Shumsky, Israel Feldman, Harry Hoffman, Tillie Herman, John Michael and Louis Sader.

But that was not all. William Street was also packed with delis that drew loyal crowds. Do you remember Chasen's,

Harry Fagin's or Steinhart's? Fish and poultry suppliers and grocery stores also were plentiful. Louis Reisner, Isaac Carrel, Simon Swartz and Jacob Singer all sold fish on different blocks and you could buy kosher chickens from several poultry purveyors including Jacob Wohlfeld, Sam Balber, Sol Car and Louis Silverstein.

There were at least 20 grocery stores from Weinstein and Cheplowitz Fancy and Staple Groceries at 337, to the grocery stores of Morris Glickstein, Hyman Levite, Eugene Drozen, the Fierstein Brothers (see a photo of this store on the website: [jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org)), Joseph Podlubick Grocers and Fish, and Benjamin Dekoff to name just a few others. Up and down the street were *shochetim* (ritual slaughterers) and kosher meat markets including those run by Jacob Ravinitsky, Sam Sultanik and Bernard Frey among others.

As an introduction to the rich commercial activity along William Street, this article is just a brief guide, and one that urgently needs images. There were many other streets on the East Side that also featured independent Jewish stores, including Spring Street, Broadway and East Genesee for which we have a few photographs, but William Street, the main artery of Jewish commercial life is almost completed limited to directory and ad book listings.

Over the next few months, some of the businesses in each of these neighborhoods and beyond will be featured in articles and will include more extensive information available to explore on the Jewish Buffalo History website ([jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org)). Future articles will highlight manufacturing sectors and scrap businesses, some of which have expanded into modern day recycling and allied industries. We are interested in photographs, documents and memorabilia and we can help with digitizing these materials. This will enable us to tell a variety of shopfront stories, and learn more about the families that created and ran them.

**If you have images or other material you'd like to share please visit the Jewish Buffalo History website ([jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org)) or contact Chana at [Chana@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Chana@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D. is the Coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo History Center.



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# Forgiveness After Hate: A Conversation

BY MARA KOVEN-GELMAN

More than 130 people from Buffalo and around the country attended the Zoom event “Forgiveness after Hate: A Conversation” in February. The presenters – Pardeep Kaleka and Arno Michaelis – were an unlikely pair; Pardeep’s father was one of the victims of the August 5, 2012 mass shooting at a Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Arno is a former White Supremacist who helped found and lead the hate group Hammerskin Nation. The Temple shooter was a follower of the group.

Two months after the Temple shooting, Pardeep, his family, and community, were devastated and searching for answers. He knew of Arno, who also lived in Milwaukee, and reached out to him. Arno’s extraordinary transformation came about due to single parenthood, love for his daughter, and the forgiveness shown by people he once hated. One night they met in a restaurant – both nervous and both resilient. This all helped to enable him to embrace diversity and practice gratitude for all.

After long, deep discussions, the two partnered to share their story primarily in Milwaukee and eventually the world. Later, Pardeep created **Serve2Unite**, and been working locally and internationally to build safe and inclusive communities. Arno wrote *My Life after Hate* and co-authored with Pardeep – *The Gift of Our Wounds* – and works with **Serve2Unite**.



Thomas Beauford Jr., president and CEO of the Buffalo Urban League, introduced Pardeep and Arno during the Buffalo event.

“The journey Arno took started at a very young age. It is important we speak to youth about the hurt that hate can bring. We need to nurture love within them. Today you will hear about the uncertainty of being loved. The absence of love can lead to hateful behavior.”

Beauford emphasized the importance of speaking out against hate, quoting Elie Wiesel, (z”l). “I swear never to be silent when human beings suffer humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

Beatrice Singh Arnone, an educator and active member in the Network of Religious Communities and the Sikhs

of WNY, moderated the conversation. “It was an extraordinary honor to be a part of such a meaningful program. Arno and Pardeep’s message of empathy and forgiveness inspired me. As an educator, it was affirming to hear them talk about the critical work of teaching students how to express themselves, and to recognize their behavior is a form of communication.”

Arno and Pardeep talked about instilling self-worth in students and that schools should focus on identity, purpose and belonging in their classrooms. This resonated with Elizabeth Schram, Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) executive director: “I’ve always known that Social Emotional Health (SEL) was important, but this answer just solidified why it’s so important,” she said.

Shelly Yellen, Jewish Federation president also found their dialogue

compelling. “I found myself carefully listening to the speakers’ comments. This is so relevant for what is going on today and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate.” Ann Marie Carosella, HRC president said this program was not only uplifting, but will hopefully fuel additional thought and action. “I don’t think we can dismiss the power of the diverse audience the program engaged,” she added. Deborah Goldman JCRC chair said an important long-lasting benefit of the program was strengthening relationships with community partners. While this was just one event, she noted that it helped amplify the work of all the partners and recommitted the JCRC to building a more caring and civil community.

The virtual event was organized by the Holocaust Resource Center, the Jewish Community Relations Council and Buffalo Jewish Federation. It also had a strong group of partners dedicated to creating a more just, compassionate world, including NAACP Buffalo Branch, Buffalo Urban League, Anne Frank Project of SUNY Buffalo, Network of Religious Communities, National Federation for Just Communities, Academy for Human Rights, and Sikhs of WNY.

**For more information about Pardeep and Arno’s book or work visit <https://www.giftofourwounds.com/serve2unite> or contact Elizabeth Schram at [elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org](mailto:elizabeth@hrcbuffalo.org).**

Mara Koven-Gelman is Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).

## JCRC Recognized by US Census Bureau

Buffalo’s Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) received recognition for their efforts as a member of the Erie County Complete Count Committee. JCRC chairs at the time, Deborah Goldman and Nina Lukin, expressed their pride at the efforts to amplify the message “**You should participate in the 2020 Census because it’s easy, it’s protected, and it’s important!**”

Note: 2020 Census data will determine the distribution of \$1.5 trillion a year in federal funding and congressional redistricting for the next 10 years. The Census Bureau officials hope to deliver state population totals to the Commerce Secretary by April 30.



## Help Support Literacy

**The Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY is inviting all community members to participate in El Día Del Niño – Day of the Child.** Please video yourself reading a book (in any language) to children (under age 12). Last year, more than 100 videos were shared with children in the Hispanic community in an effort to encourage reading and literacy. This is a wonderful opportunity for teens to read to younger children.

When recording your video, please include this introduction: “In celebration of El Día del Niño/Day of the Child in WNY, I \_\_\_\_\_ would like to read the following book, the Title is \_\_\_\_\_ by author \_\_\_\_\_ and I hope you enjoy it!”

**Videos are being collected until April 25.**

**Please contact [Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org) with questions.**



## Kadimah Scholars at Park Thrive!

The Park School of Buffalo, a century-old independent progressive private school, where nearly a quarter of the students are Jewish, has demonstrated resilience and innovation throughout the pandemic.

Many of them are in the Kadimah Scholars program, which combines a Jewish day school education – Hebrew and Judaic Studies – with the broad-based curriculum and diverse student population of Park. And with the exception of a handful, all of the students have been learning in-person, five days a week, since September, taking advantage of Park's 32-acre campus and 10 buildings to receive a safe and socially distanced education.

Kadimah's teachers and students at Park aren't missing a beat with their regular Hebrew and Judaic Studies classes – which usually start with *Hatikvah* and short prayers. But they're also enjoying special events.

Kadimah Scholars celebrated Purim with costumes, masks and hamentaschen, while exchanging *shalach manot*. They re-learned the story and meaning of the holiday, while taking the opportunity to teach it to their non-Jewish friends, classmates and teachers—who eagerly soaked up the knowledge. Michael Keren, a second-grader, even announced the holiday over Park's public-address system school-wide, while Park wished its Jewish community a “*Chag Sameach*” on Facebook and Instagram.

“There was a lot going on,” said Hebrew teacher Michal Shmuel-Lewis.

Tenth-grade Kadimah Scholars also studied the Great Migration from 1885-1909, and the settlement of Jews in the tenement houses of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. They learned about



Jewish delis, Yiddish theatre, and Jewish women laborers in the “sweat shops” of the textile industry. They even learned to make pickles.

Students also learned about the Israeli elections held in March through a Jerusalem-based educational program, in conjunction with the Congregation Shir Shalom-Gesher Religious School.

And Kadimah Scholars also prepared for Passover, although the celebration was different this year because of COVID-19 limitations on gatherings. Instead of the traditional model seders – an annual highlight of the school year for both students and parents – a special video for the holiday, featuring each grade picking up a different theme, was created.

And the teachers are planning for this month's Yom Hashoah, Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, including a collaborative video recording of students performing “*Zeh Katan Aleinu*,” a new hit song in Israel that was recently performed by Israeli pop singers.

“It's been a crazy year, but we're trying to do our best,” Lewis said.

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

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**1»** Join 2 virtual Community Yom Hashoah Commemorations this year: April 6 @ 2:00 p.m. Features photos of the Lodz Ghetto. Register at [bit.ly/HolocaustPhotography](http://bit.ly/HolocaustPhotography). Buffalo's Community Candle lighting and Talk by Jim Klein, son of Survivor Gerda Klein April 11 @ 11:00 a.m. Register at [bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021](http://bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2021).

**2»** Made in Buffalo is back virtually April 25 at 7:30 p.m. on your TV starring Buffalo native Cheryl Stern and an all-star cast. Free tickets and swag bag. Registration a must at [www.madeinbflo.org](http://www.madeinbflo.org)

**3»** 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](http://feedmorewny.org) to donate online, volunteer or learn more.

**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/>.

**5»** Join Women's Philanthropy and donate a Dignity Tote of feminine hygiene products to a needy Buffalo neighbor. Totes are \$10, and each tote will be matched by an anonymous donor. Go to the Buffalo Chapter website at [bit.ly/DIGNITYGROWSBFLO](http://bit.ly/DIGNITYGROWSBFLO) to donate. For more information or to volunteer, contact Stacey@[buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:buffalojewishfederation.org) or [ninalukin@gmail.com](mailto:ninalukin@gmail.com).

## 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, Linda Pollack and Cheryl Tobias (who also identified February's photo of the Ron Raskin Playground at the JCC) identified the Monument to those Jews from Sokolivka who died in the 1918 Pogroms. It is outside the gates of The Holy Order of the Living Cemetery on Pine Ridge Road.





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# Mindfulness Class at the JCC

Join Yonina Andrea Foster as she facilitates a new class beginning April 8 through the Jewish Community Center's New Horizons Adult Series. This will be a Mindfulness Class that invites participants to see themselves as, "tall and flourishing, still fruitful in old age," as were the date palms growing in the courtyard of the Holy Temple of ancient days. This is the bigger challenge to believe as our bodies-minds-spirits change shape and abilities once taken for granted now challenge us.

The class will incorporate activities from Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's (z"l) work on "Age-ing to Sage-ing," song, chant, and creative opportunities. Participants will reflect on individual and shared life experiences, to bring into their lives greater ease, forgiveness, laughter, and peace, no matter how far your date palm leans.

Classes will meet virtually, on Zoom, beginning April 8, and run every other Thursday, from 1:00-2:00 p.m., through Thursday, June 17. The class is open to everyone.



*Registration is required and can be done on the JCC website at [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org). Please contact Katie Wzontek with questions at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).*



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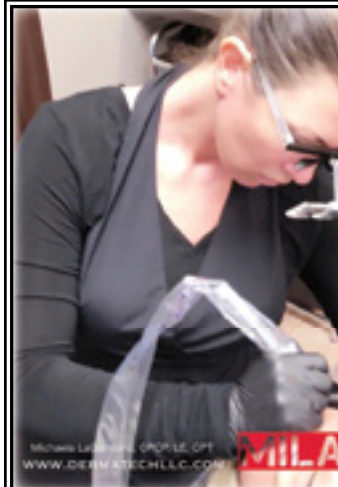
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## The Children Are Our Future

BY RABBI SHMARYAHU  
CHARITONOW

We are currently celebrating the Holiday of Passover, which marks the redemption from our slavery in Egypt. The Torah teaches us that the purpose for which Hashem redeemed us from Egypt was for the Jewish people to receive the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Beginning from the 2<sup>nd</sup> night of Passover we start counting 49 days until we finally reach the Holiday of Shavuot, the giving of the Torah. These days of counting come as a preparation, as well as to show our eagerness to receive our precious gift from Hashem, the Torah.

We find a common message that we can learn from both of these holidays. The verse states: *"Vehigadita Levincha"* - "You shall tell your son." Almost immediately as we begin the Passover Seder, the children ask the Four Questions, opening up an opportunity for us fulfill this commandment. Furthermore, this commandment is emphasized throughout the entire theme of the Seder by conducting ourselves with non-ordinary customs in order to initiate questions from the children.

When it comes to the holiday of Shavuot, we once again notice that there is a big emphasis on the children. Hashem was searching for a guarantor before entrusting us with his precious gift, and the only one that he was willing to accept as his guarantor, was the children.

The message of both Passover and Shavuot is clear: we must focus all of our energy on investing in the next generation. Our children are both the foundation of who we are and the future



Rabbi Shmaryahu Charitonow

of who we will be. Therefore, we must make every effort to provide our children with a solid Jewish education instilling in them the proper morals and values that the Torah teaches us.

In addition to teaching our own children, the Torah instructs us to be a light upon the nations of the world. Here too we can encourage them, as well, to teach their children to lead their lives by the guidelines of the 7 G-d given universal laws of Noah.

It is our hope, that just as Hashem released our ancestors from the bondage of Egypt, so too, speedily in our days, he should immediately redeem us from our current exile by sending us the righteous Moshiach. Have a Kosher and Happy Passover!

*Rabbi Charitonow is rabbi of the Chabad Knesset Center*

## Hillel of Buffalo Creates Service Opportunities Through "Serve The Moment" Initiative

BY MACIE CLAWSON

Hillel of Buffalo is proud to roll out the "Serve the Moment" campaign in partnership with **Repair the World**. This initiative through Hillel International helps students connect to service projects that benefit communities which are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Participating Hillels choose an intern who will engage 25 students while completing 10 acts of service over the course of the spring semester. Hillel of Buffalo has hired Hannah Nemerever, a sophomore geography major from Carmel, NY, as the "Serve the Moment" intern.

Hannah's first act of service was focused locally on college students, who have faced immense mental health challenges during COVID-19. To boost their spirits, Hannah partnered with a residence advisor on Valentine's Day to tape more than 150 flyers that read "You are loved" onto dorm room doors. On the reverse side of the flyers, there were resources from Jewish Family Services and UB Counseling services for students to choose from. "It was nice seeing people in the hallway get excited over the decorations on the door," Hannah reflected. "People were laughing and happy to see it."

"Serve the Moment's" newest initiative partners with JFS to match student volunteers with individuals in the community who need help signing up for a vaccine. JFS's Matt Stewart, who serves as the agency's Manager of the Jewish Community Care Program, looks forward



Hannah Nemerever

to the assistance that Hillel students can provide with this complicated process. "Asking an elderly person to navigate a webpage can be challenging, especially if the link doesn't directly navigate you to the only page you need to visit." This program was conceived of and launched as a partnership between the George Washington University Hillel and the Edlavitch D.C. Jewish Community Center, which to date has helped over 900 individuals get registered for the vaccine.

**Looking to the spring, future "Serve the Moment" service opportunities will be aimed at environmentalism and aiding the homeless population in Buffalo. Interested students should email Hannah Nemerever at [hnemerever@gmail.com](mailto:hnemerever@gmail.com) or me, Hillel Innovation Fellow, Macie Clawson at [macie@hillelofbuffalo.org](mailto:macie@hillelofbuffalo.org).**

*Macie Clawson is Hillel of Buffalo's Springboard Innovation Specialist.*



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# The Grinspoon Foundation LIFE & LEGACY® Program comes to Buffalo



The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, in partnership with the Buffalo Jewish Federation, has been selected to join 69 other communities across North America participating in a national Jewish legacy giving program that, to date, has secured more than 30,000 permanently endowed commitments for the greater Jewish community with an estimated value of more than ONE BILLION DOLLARS.

Through LIFE & LEGACY®, the Foundation and the Federation will partner with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) to launch a legacy giving initiative for Jewish Buffalo. As a part of the collaboration, the Foundation and Federation will partner with local Jewish agencies and synagogues in a four-year program that provides coaching, training and incentive grants to ensure that legacy giving becomes an integral part of the philanthropic culture of our Jewish community.

The initial year of the program will include five workshops with the first one, *Why Legacy? Why Now?*, being presented in April. After the



Alison Keane

first workshop, leadership from the agencies and synagogues will be invited to apply for participation in the full four-year program. Each participating organization must be able to dedicate the efforts of their professional staff and a team of 4-6 volunteer leaders who will be trained and actively engaged in the legacy development program.

"This is an amazing program, and a tremendous opportunity for our community. We do not have to reinvent the wheel as our partners at the Grinspoon Foundation have done this in 69 other communities and with great success," said Alison Keane, Chair of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies Development Committee. "Buffalo has very similar demographics as some of the other Grinspoon communities and they have proven that success is within our reach," she continued. "We will learn from other Jewish Communities across our nation, uniting with others of similar values in something larger than today.



Irv Levy

Future generations will benefit from the legacies we are creating and the seeds that we are planting. I can't think of a better alignment with Jewish values."

"Federation's focus on supporting and investing in our partner agencies and synagogues to ensure a secure and sustainable future is central to our mission," added Rob Goldberg, CEO of the Buffalo Jewish Federation. Our professional and volunteer team could not be more excited to work with Irv Levy and the Foundation in bringing these valuable resources to Jewish Buffalo."

As a participant in LIFE & LEGACY®, the Foundation will receive logistical and financial support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to provide our local Jewish organizations with the opportunity to receive training and unrestricted incentive grants.

"The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is very excited to be partnering with the Buffalo Jewish community, the



Rob Goldberg

Foundation and the Federation to enhance a culture of legacy giving in Buffalo and Western New York," said Arlene D. Schiff, National Director of the LIFE & LEGACY® program. "The time is right and Buffalo is right! This legacy program will make the most of the generational transfer of wealth, change the language and landscape of giving and provide generous and forward-thinking members of the Buffalo Jewish community with the opportunity to express their passion, purpose and commitment to their most valued Jewish organizations."

LIFE & LEGACY® is an initiative of HGF, which is investing \$30 million dollars over a ten-year period, to preserve vibrant Jewish life for future generations by ensuring the long-term financial health of Jewish community organizations in cities across North America, including Buffalo.

"Providing Jewish communities with proven tools and training to help them secure their long-term financial goals is absolutely vital. Through the LIFE & LEGACY® program, I'm hopeful that we will be able to help sustain vibrant communities that allow future generations to enjoy our rich Jewish culture and heritage," said Harold Grinspoon, the founder of HGF.

**For more information about the LIFE & LEGACY® program, please contact Irv Levy, Executive Director for the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at [Irv@JewishPhilanthropies.org](mailto:Irv@JewishPhilanthropies.org) or 716-204-1133.**

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# Buffalo Native Clinton Bailey Kicks Off Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival

BY RICK KOLLINS

For the second year in a row, the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival will be a virtual event with each of 13 films available online for 72 hours as well as special events related to a number of the films. Viewers will be able to purchase access to individual films, a flex pass for six films and an all-access pass for the entire lineup. This year's Festival lineup includes seven dramas and six documentaries, representing the U.S., Israel, France, Germany, Italy and Norway. Complete information is available on the Festival web site at [bijff.com](http://bijff.com), including the full schedule, film synopses, trailers, ticket prices, and instructions for streaming the films and special events.

## The Buffalo Angle

A special prelude to this year's Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival will have a Western New York connection with Buffalo native and Middle East scholar Clinton Bailey featured in an acclaimed documentary about David Ben-Gurion. The film will be available online from April 10-13, and Clinton will be a guest on a follow-up Zoom teleconference at 4 p.m. on April 13, the day before Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut.

The film *Ben-Gurion Epilogue* explores Israel's first prime minister as both a person and a politician through a previously lost interview conducted by Bailey in 1968, five years after Ben-Gurion retired and one year after the Six Day War.

The interview was intended to be part of a British documentary, but the project was never completed and the interview forgotten until a few years ago.

The current film, released in 2017, provides an insight into Ben-Gurion's thoughts about a variety of topics, including German reparations after World War II, the failure to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East, Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and developing religious and cultural divisions within Israeli society. With the passage of time, the interview also demonstrates Ben-Gurion's prophetic wisdom in identifying issues that have challenged Israel for more than half a century.

Bailey met Ben-Gurion by chance in January, 1967 when Bailey was 31 and Ben-Gurion 82. "I was walking back from a job interview when I accidentally met Ben-Gurion's wife Paula near their house in Kibbutz Sde Boker," Bailey explained. "She invited me in for tea and the next day I met Ben-Gurion." Thereafter, Bailey and Ben-Gurion would often take walks together and discuss the major issues of the day. "He wasn't into small talk," Bailey said. "If I asked a question, he'd answer."

When a British film company embarked on producing a documentary about Ben-Gurion, the former Prime Minister requested that his friend Clinton Bailey be the interviewer. The



original interview ran for six hours, but has been edited for "Epilogue." After the original British project fell apart, the interview video minus the audio was lost until rediscovered a few years ago in the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive in Jerusalem. The soundtrack was subsequently retrieved from the Ben-Gurion Archives in the Negev and spliced back together with the video in the production of "Epilogue."

Although Bailey had long forgotten about the original interview, he is very pleased with the recent film by Israeli producer/director Yariv Mozer. "I wanted the interview to show Ben-Gurion's persona, character and outlook on life, and I believe this film achieves that," Bailey said. "He was a very modest and pragmatic man, and his whole life was dedicated to the cause of Israel."

Bailey grew up in the Humboldt Parkway area and attended PS 74 (now Hamlin Park Academy) and Temple Beth David (now the Faith Missionary Baptist Church). After completing his high school education at Nichols School, he attended several universities and

served in the US Navy before making Aliyah to Israel in 1958. Born Irwin Glaser, Bailey changed his name when he moved to Israel. He selected the name "Clinton Bailey" from the intersection where his father operated a service station. It's now the location of the Clinton Bailey Farmers Market.

Bailey admits he hadn't given Israel much thought until he spent time at an *Ulpan* summer camp in Upstate New York in 1957, an experience that gave him "a new focus on life". The following year, he enrolled at Hebrew University to study Middle Eastern history and Islamic culture and learned Arabic while living in a Palestinian village in the Galilee. He then earned a PhD. from Columbia before returning to Israel permanently and concentrating his research on the history and culture of the Bedouins. "I became interested in Bedouin history and culture after I met Bedouins while jogging," he said. "This is a culture that goes back 1500 to 2000 years before the Bible, and has its roots among the nomadic tribes that produced the Jewish people."

Bailey, now 84 and living in Jerusalem, has written four books on the Bedouins, the most recent, *Bedouin Culture in the Bible*, traces the parallels between Bedouin history and culture and those of the ancient Hebrews. He has also served as an advocate for the Bedouins and an advisor to the Israeli government on Arab issues. In 1994, he was presented with the Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award for "his extensive range of activities and many years of work to preserve the dignity, uplift the spirit, and help the members of Israel's Bedouin tribes to realize their rights."

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Tuesday, April 13

4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday Talkback: *Ben-Gurion Epilogue* with Dr. Clinton Bailey

### Thursday, April 22

8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Kick-Off Event  
at the Transit Drive-In  
The Samuel Project

### Tuesday, April 27

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday Talkback: *The Passengers*  
with Director Ryan Porush

### Tuesday, May 4

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday Talkback: *Shared Legacies*  
panel discussion

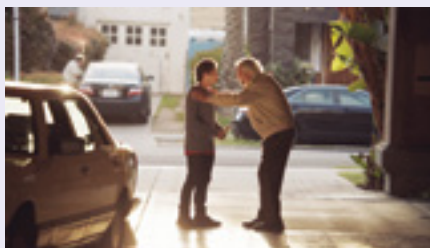
### Tuesday, May 11

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday Talkback: *An Irrepressible Woman* with Eileen Angelini



## Drive-In Kick-Off April 22



*The Samuel Project*

The Festival will host a, kick-off event featuring *The Samuel Project* at the Transit Drive-In Thursday, April 22, 8:30 p.m. An ideal film for parents and grandparents to share with children, *The Samuel Project* stars Hal Linden as Samuel, a grandfather reconnecting with his grandson when he is made the subject of a high school project. Eli (Ryan Ochoa) discovers that his grandpa, a Jewish dry cleaner, was heroically saved from Nazi capture in Germany. After some hesitation, Samuel agrees to tell his story for the project—a story he hasn't told in more than 75 years.

## More Film Talkback Nights



*Shared Legacies*

In addition to the Clinton Bailey "Talkback", there will be Tuesday Talkbacks related to three other films. Producer/director Ryan Porush will be guest on the April 27 Talkback to discuss *The Passengers*, his documentary about the quest of the remaining Ethiopian Jews to immigrate to Israel. The May 4 Talkback for *Shared Legacies*, a documentary exploring the bond between Jewish and African-American activists during the civil rights movement, will feature a panel of leaders from Buffalo's Jewish and African-American communities.

Eileen Angelini, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at SUNY Empire State College and former Chair of Modern Languages, Literature and Cultures at Canisius College, will lead a discussion on May 11 about the plight of French Jews during the Holocaust in connection with *An Irrepressible Woman*, the dramatic love story of French Prime Minister Leon Blum and Janot Reichenbach, who were married during their internment in the Buchenwald concentration camp during World War II. All three talkbacks will run from 7 to 8 p.m.

## 2021 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

April 10 – May 14, 2021

[www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com)

Saturday, April 10 6:00 p.m. –

Tuesday, April 13 6:00 p.m.

*Ben-Gurion Epilogue*

Saturday, April 24 6:00 p.m. –

Tuesday, April 27 6:00 p.m.

*The Passengers*

*The Samuel Project*

Tuesday, April 27 6:00 p.m. –

Friday, April 30 6:00 p.m.

*Syndrome K*

*Sublet*

Saturday, May 1 6:00 p.m. –

Tuesday, May 4 6:00 p.m.

*Shared Legacies*

*Starry Sky Over A Roman*

*Ghetto*

Tuesday, May 4 6:00 p.m. –

Friday, May 7 6:00 p.m.

*The Last Supper*

*Aulcie*

Saturday, May 8 6:00 p.m. –

Tuesday, May 11 6:00 p.m.

*An Irrepressible Woman*

*Bukra Fil Mish-Mish*

Tuesday, May 11 6:00 p.m. –

Friday, May 14 6:00 p.m.

*The Crossing*

*Incitement*

Multiple options for tickets are available including single tickets, flex passes or all access passes.

*Film synopses, trailers, ticket prices and streaming instructions available at [www.bijff.com](http://www.bijff.com).*

*For more information about the BIJFF, visit [bijff.com](http://bijff.com) or contact Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).*

*Rick Kollins is a member of the Film Festival Committee*

# Exquisite Potential

## Virtually from the JRT

The Jewish Repertory Theatre presents a filmed staged reading of *Exquisite Potential* by Stephen Kaplan, available for digital download, April 8-28, 2021. This is fifth selection in a series of Five Staged Readings, performed on the JRT stage and seen, through the magic of video, wherever audiences choose to enjoy.



Playwright Stephen Kaplan

All parents think their children are brilliant. Alan Zuckerman just happens to think his 3-year-old son, David, is the Messiah. Thirty years ago, Alan and his wife, Laura, visited their rabbi to verify David's possible divine nature. Thirty years later, everyone older and wiser, it appears that dad might have been onto something.

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

*Exquisite Potential* is directed by Adam Yellen and stars Brittany Bassett, Jordan Levin, David Lundy, and Ricky Needham. Kellin Higgins is Stage Manager, Adam Yellen and Steve Vaughan are Set Designers, and Nick Quinn is designing both Sound and Lighting for the production. *Exquisite Potential* 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.

*All productions will be professionally produced and video recorded in The Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC Benderson Family Building at 2640 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY. 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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## COMMUNITY

# Hadassah Is Happening!

BY PHYLLIS STEINBERG

The Buffalo Hadassah Chapter has recently become part of the Northern New England Region, which extends all the way to Boston and beyond. As members, during the week before Purim, the Chapter participated in the first virtual *Shabbat Zachor* that celebrated 109 years since the founding of the Hadassah organization. Our chapter had more participation than any other city in the region on the Zoom, and included programs scheduled with Kehillat Ohr Tzion, Temple Beth Tzedek, Congregation Shir Shalom and Hillel of Buffalo.

In collaboration with the JCC, a special cultural program was held during March with the directors of the Ujima Theatre, who discussed the history and the work of this multicultural theatre company. Interesting events are being planned for the spring, including a virtual art auction and a celebration of Buffalo Jewish veterans.

All Hadassah meetings continue to be held virtually, and there are many programs. **Book Club** and **Pray Tell** meet regularly and



members have been participating even when they're in Arizona or Florida.

**For more information on how to join either of these groups, email [phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismksteinberg@gmail.com).**

**For more information on programs email [amrose@roadrunner.com](mailto:amrose@roadrunner.com) or [mseller@buffalo.edu](mailto:mseller@buffalo.edu).**

## The TELL Fund

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**Rabbi & Comedian : Bob Alper**

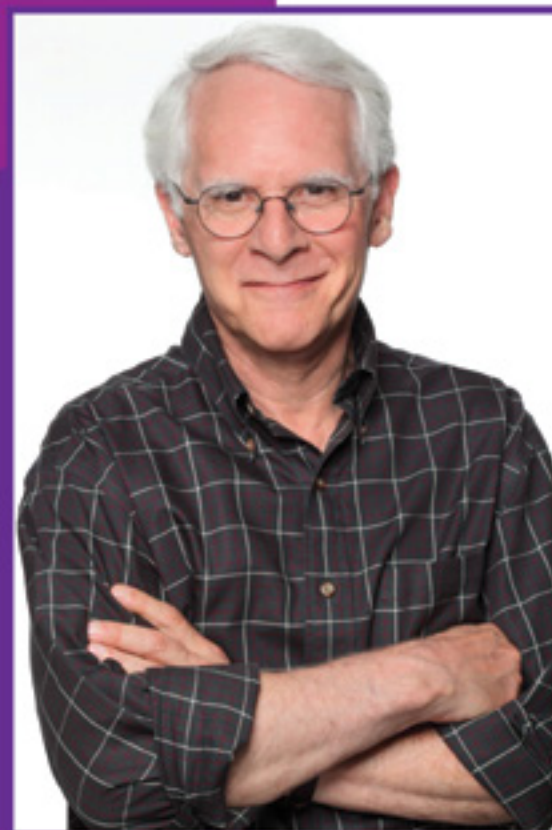
**"THE SPIRITUALITY OF LAUGHTER"**

**THURSDAY, MAY 20TH - 7:30 P.M. on Zoom**

Rabbi Alper, former Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion, is a stand-up comedian and entertainer! He has been featured on the Today Show, Good Morning America, ABC Evening News, CNN, Comedy Central, and in hundreds of articles. He will inspire and make you laugh in his uniquely kind, intelligent, and completely "clean" humor.

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Prior to the event, you will receive your Zoom link to join.



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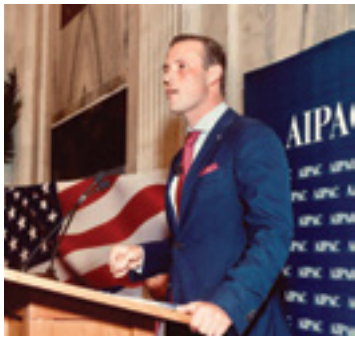
# Temple Beth Tzedek Explores the Changing World

As part of a synagogue-wide initiative, Temple Beth Tzedek is launching a series with experts to help understand dramatic ways in which the world is changing. The April speakers will be:

- **Jonathan D. Epstein**, Business Reporter, *The Buffalo News*, on “The Media is Changing” April 1 at 8:00 p.m.
- **Mark Waldman**, AIPAC National Director of Outreach, and **Jacob Scheiner**, AIPAC Upstate New York Director on “Israel’s Neighborhood is Changing” April 15 at 8:00 p.m.



Jonathan D. Epstein



Jacob Scheiner

You can register for these Zoom events by [emailingrsvp@btzbuffalo.org](mailto:emailingrsvp@btzbuffalo.org). The presentations are free, with donations appreciated. Visit [www.btzbuffalo.org](http://www.btzbuffalo.org) to learn more about additional presentations on our changing climate and Jewish communities in May, as well as a range of ongoing classes and opportunities curated by TBT's recently formed Program Committee.



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## KOT Rocked Purim!

Kehillat Ohr Tzion celebrated Purim together at the Clearfield Recreation Center. The idea of Purim and the month of Adar bringing joy and happiness certainly was evident throughout the evening. The adults' eyes lit up on their masked faces as they watched all the children dressed up in costumes who were so delighted to be part of the festivities. As is the custom at KOT, everyone brought pasta boxes to be used as their groggers, which were then donated to a local food pantry.



Virtual classes led by Rabbi Ori Bergman continue throughout the week, but Shabbat morning services are now in person as long as you sign up first and follow CDC guidelines. More in-person opportunities will be coming this spring.

*For more information on available classes and services, email [oribergman@gmail.com](mailto:oribergman@gmail.com).*

## CBA to Host Kabbalat Shabbat with Neshama Carlebach April 23



Neshama Carlebach, internationally renowned and award-winning performer of Jewish and spiritually inspired music, will be joining forces with Congregation Beth Abraham, Congregation Havurah and Hospice Buffalo in conducting Kabbalat Shabbat services, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. This program is made possible through a grant from Buffalo Jewish Federation.

The service, hosted by Congregation Beth Abraham on Zoom, will include participation by Cantor Irwin Gelman and Marty Kerker (CBA), Susan Goldberg Schwartz (Havurah) and Rabbi Adam Scheldt of Hospice Buffalo. The entire Buffalo Jewish Community is invited to join in this live, interactive event. Please go to the CBA website at [www.congregationbethabraham.net](http://www.congregationbethabraham.net) to register and receive the Zoom link.

Thanks to the Buffalo Jewish Federation for their support in what promises to be a truly inspirational program, one that lives up to the very name of our esteemed guest.

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# Chocolate Ganache Torte

BY JESSICA MEYERS ALTMAN

Enjoy the last few days of Passover with a Chocolate Ganache Torte. It is AMAZING! Warning-it's very rich, velvety, and sinful (well, not as sinful as your normal ganache). This torte is made with a whole food raw sweetener-dates, and raw cacao powder. If you'd like to make this completely free of any processing, omit the agave, and use maple syrup or additional date paste (fully raw).

Date paste is a whole food sweetener that is rich in vitamins and fiber, unlike most sweeteners. It's very easy to make and leftovers can be placed into a freezer safe container to be used in place of sugar in recipes. It will not be as sweet as a traditional sugar, but as you lessen your intake of refined sugars, you will like them less and less, and your sense of taste will become more sensitive when you do eat sugar. Dates are rich in potassium, which helps to regulate kidney and nervous function, as well as regulating heart rate. They are also rich in plant-based iron, a form better absorbed and tolerated by the body than animal sources. They are rich in magnesium and manganese which helps them to boost bone health and prevent osteoporosis. Because they are high in fiber, they are also great for digestive health and help to regulate blood sugar spikes, unlike other forms of sweeteners.

Cacao is the raw, pure form of chocolate. You can find raw cacao powder in grocery stores, food co-ops, and on Amazon. I use the Nativa brand. Since it's unadulterated, it has kept its nutritional benefits in tact. Cacao is rich in flavanols, which are chemicals that help to detoxify the body and may boost memory and heart health, preventing conditions like Alzheimer's and forms of cancer (Source:<http://www.livestrong.com/article/522112-health-benefits-of-raw-cacao-nibs/>)

This recipe is from [www.rouxbe.com](http://www.rouxbe.com), the organization I received my plant-based cooking certification from, with a modification in the amount of chipotle powder in the crust. You may find its addition to be odd, but it bring out the flavors in the chocolate with a little kick. I suggest keeping it in the recipe, however, you can drop it to 1/8 tsp if you don't like bold flavors. This is a great do-ahead dessert, as it's best kept frozen.

## INGREDIENTS

### Crust

- 1½ cup raw pecans
- 3 tbsp raw sugar
- ½ tsp sea salt
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp chipotle powder



### Filling:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ½ cup almond butter   | 1½ tbsp tamari or gluten free soy sauce |
| ½ cup date paste*   |   |
| ¼ cup maple syrup   | 1 cup raw cacao powder                  |
| 4 tbsp coconut butter (or increase the almond butter another ¼ cup) | 1 tsp vanilla                           |
|   | ½ cup filtered water                    |

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Date paste:** Soak 1 cup dates in warm water for about 10 minutes. Place dates into a blender, saving their soaking liquid. Add a little of the reserved soaking liquid, and turn on blender, add just enough water to get the dates to turn into a thick paste. This is a great alternative sweetener. Dates are a low glycemic whole food sweetener and can be used in place of sugar.

**Crust:** place all ingredients into a food processor until blended, similar in texture to a graham cracker crust. Smoosh into a 9-11" fluted tart pan, with removable bottom. Place ganache filling ingredients into a blender, and puree until smooth. Pour filling into tart crust and place into freezer for at least 1 hour to set. Remove from pan to serve. Serve paired with a tart sorbet, like clementine or cherry, or on its own. You don't need large pieces to feel the love from this dessert. Store leftovers sealed well in the freezer. It will last for several weeks.

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# Pandemic Purim 2021!

Purim is still Purim, and our Jewish Community found ways to celebrate this festive holiday despite COVID restrictions. Here are photos of a Drive-Thru Purim celebration with Federation, Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Tzedek; and the JCC, Kadimah Scholars at Park, Kehillat Ohr Tzion and the JDC festivities.







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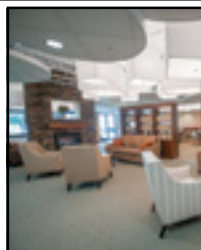
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### Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

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Michael Paskowitz - President

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Miriam Abramovich - Chief Experience Officer  
Sheri Rodman - Chair

### Chabad House of Buffalo

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Rabbi Moshe Gurary

### Chai Early Childhood Center

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Jonathan Schechter - President

### Hadassah

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716-688-5260  
buffalohadassah@gmail.com  
Elaine Kellick and Annette Magid - Co-Presidents

### Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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### Hillel of Buffalo

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W. Amherst, NY 14228  
716-616-0083  
hillelofbuffalo.org  
Rabbi Sara Rich - Director  
Dr. Jeffrey Lackner - President

### Holocaust Resource Center

2640 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
716-634-9535  
hrcbuffalo.org  
Elizabeth Schram - Director  
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### Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

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716-688-4033  
jccbuffalo.org  
Mike Rawl - Executive Director  
Alon Kupferman - President

### Holland Family Building

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Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-886-3145  
jccbuffalo.org

### Jewish Community Relations Council

2640 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
buffalojewishfederation.org  
Mara Koven-Gelman - Director  
Deborah Goldman - Chair

### Jewish Discovery Center

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

### Jewish Family Services Of Western New York

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Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-883-1914  
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716-631-8471  
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Getzville, NY 14068  
716-204-2246  
jfdbflo.com

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congregationbethabraham.net  
Cantor Irwin Gelman  
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#### Congregation Havurah (Reform)

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716-689-8059  
congregationhavurah.org  
info@congregationhavurah.org  
Bernard Schenkler, President  
Enid Edelman, Membership Chair

#### Congregation Shir Shalom

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shirshalombuffalo.org  
Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein  
Cantor Arlene Frank  
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#### Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

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Jeff Schapiro - President

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#### Temple Beth Tzedek (Conservative)

1641 North Forest Road  
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716-838-3232  
btzbuffalo.org  
Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum  
Cantor Mark Spindler  
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#### Temple Beth Zion (Reform)

Sanctuary: 805 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
Religious School and Offices:  
700 Sweet Home Road  
Amherst, NY 14226  
716-836-6565  
tbz.org  
Rabbi Sharon Sobel  
Jeff Clark - Executive Director  
David Goldberg - President

#### Temple Beth El (Reform)

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

#### Temple Hesed Abraham of Greater Jamestown (Reform)

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President - Joe Gerstel (716-665-2118)  
valprojdg@netsync.net

#### The Family Shul (Unaffiliated)

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

#### Young Israel of Greater Buffalo (Orthodox)

105 Maple Road  
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yibuffalo.org  
Rabbi Eliezar Marcus  
Richard G. Berger- President

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# Remembering Lola Swede 1926-2020

*Helen Swede, a daughter of Lola Swede (z"l) prepared this remembrance of her mother.*

Lola Lipschutz Swede, long-time Buffalo resident and active community member, passed away at 94 on December 30, 2020 due to complications of COVID and chronic illness. Lola was a Holocaust survivor from Łódź, Poland. Defying all odds, with her beloved husband of 66 years, David, also a Holocaust survivor from Łódź, they built a life together of love and *tikun olam*. They ran two small businesses in North Buffalo, a dry goods food store and a hair salon. Lola and David moved to Connecticut in 2004, where many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were living. David and Lola lived in Buffalo for 50 years, and called it home. David died in 2012.

Lola moved to Buffalo in 1955 from Austria, with their young daughter, Renata, to join David who was living in Buffalo with one of Lola's sisters. Soon after, magnetic and witty Lola quickly established a large circle of friends - many of whom were survivors. Lola was the founding president of



Austria, three years before arriving in US, 1952



Lola's 90th birthday with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, 2016

the Ima Club, a philanthropic organization of survivors who raised funds for Israel, to provide sustenance and education for Jewish war orphans like herself. The group selected "Ima," Hebrew for "mother,"

as their name to represent nurturing of children. The Imas raised funds via social activities throughout the year, as well as from private donations. Funds were directed to the *Youth Aliyah* program of Hadassah.

The Ima club received several awards from national Hadassah and the Buffalo Jewish community. Lola was a Lifetime Member of Hadassah and served as a Chapter President in Buffalo. In recognition of her community efforts including sustained support of Israel Bonds, Lola received the *Israel Leadership Award* from the Israel Bond Program in Buffalo in 1984.

One of Lola's chief missions in life was to make sure that the Holocaust was never forgotten. In 2009, she was the keynote speaker at the Greater Hartford Yom HaShoah Remembrance. Her story and her delivery were electrifying. Lola spoke about the loving and enriching family in which she was raised, loss of her father and two siblings to starvation in the ghetto, and risking her life to sabotage bullets being manufactured in a forced labor camp. She also told of a fateful encounter with the notorious Dr. Josef Mengele at Auschwitz, who pulled her from the "bad" line to ask her age. Lola instinctively lied, making herself two years older. Mengele challenged Lola asking if she were telling the truth, and she calmly and convincingly responded. Then Mengele sent her to the "good" line, saving her life, where she witnessed her mother and three young sisters walking towards the crematorium. The next day, a guard informed her exactly with whom she had spoken at the line, and the significance.

In Hartford, Lola also relayed a dramatic moment soon after being liberated by the American GIs: Lola and several friends stepped up to prevent the shooting of the Camp Commandant - imploring for justice, not revenge. "We are better than this," 18 year-old Lola said. She also spoke about being selected by the Red Cross to present General Eisenhower with a bouquet of flowers in deep appreciation for conquering fascism and saving their lives, concluding with an inspirational story about the journey she and David made and their infant daughter in 1949 to make *Aliyah* in Israel to support the nascent struggle for Israeli Independence, where David served as an officer in the IDF. They later moved to North America where most of their family was living.

Lola contributed oral history interviews to Steven Spielberg's Shoah Institute and the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, both archived at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 1983, Lola was part of the Buffalo delegation to the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Washington DC. There she and other survivors met with US Rep. Jack



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Kemp to speak about Holocaust education. Lola had joyous reunions with several friends from the camps, which included circle dances on the National Mall under the stars in the capital of the nation that liberated them.

Most fulfilling was meeting a first cousin for the first time. The cousin lived in France, Lola in Poland, and, they had not met before World War II. In the early 1980s, the family received word that several French cousins had indeed survived, and plans were made to unite at the Gathering.

David and Lola had deep ties to Buffalo in several ways. The Swedes were sponsored in their immigration by Henry Posmantur. Lola's sister Regina, already living in Buffalo, was married to Henry's cousin Samuel Frankel. A few years after Lola's arrival, Mr. Posmantur served as sponsor of another sister, Bluma Markowitz. The fourth sister who survived, Eva Rosenberg, lived in Toronto. In the mid-1960s, Lola and David were incredulous one day when Moritz and Trude Friedler, whom they had known in Austria, had moved a few houses down on Blantyre Road in North Buffalo. Also remarkable was that Rose Pohl, a close friend, also had settled in Buffalo. Lola and

Rose met on the train to Auschwitz and remained together through Liberation and the immediate post-War period. Lastly, two survivors in Buffalo grew up in the town where Lola's father was from, and knew Lola's grandfather who was a local rabbi, her grandmother, and their children.

Lola was one of ten children born to Rabbi David and Ruchla Lipschutz, five of whom perished in the *Shoah*. Left to cherish her memory are daughters Renata Lantos (Joseph) and Helen Swede, both of Connecticut, Sari Swede (Neil Grossman) of California, and Marci Swede (Bruce Taillon) near Chicago; grandchildren, Paul, Daniel, Aaron, and Katherine; and, great-grandchildren, Abigail, Benjamin, Max, and Julia, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

Lola would have been justified in being bitter for the unspeakable hardships she endured, but she was unstoppable in her drive to build a better world in partnership with David. By both example and words, they taught their children that if goodness is not present, you have the power and obligation to create it for yourself and others. May her memory be for a blessing.

# In Remembrance

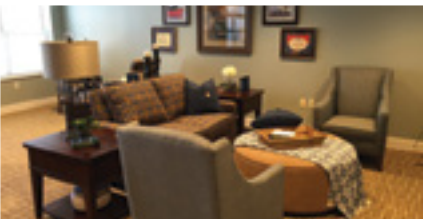
The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from February 15 - March 17, 2021\*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

**Mark Alan Eisenberg**  
**Dr. Herbert L. Foster**  
**Joan Armstrong Fox**

**Rakhil Khinkis**  
**Mitchell B. Levy**  
**Robert Peter Marquart**  
**Milton Miller**  
**Marvin Morris**  
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**Rose Davis Swartz**  
**Ronald Zackem**



*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.*



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# Let's Talk! New P2G Program: Café Anglit+

BY JODY GOLDSTEIN

The first step necessary in developing a partnership between individuals or groups is having the ability to communicate with one another. Our Partnership2Gether (P2G) consortium consists of sixteen communities within three countries: Israel, Budapest, and the United States. While many languages may be spoken within our regions, the predominant ones are Hebrew, English, Arabic, and Hungarian. To be able to work together, we need to be able to speak with each other (see Mandy Weiss' story on page 11).

While attending the Partnership Discovery Trip to Israel and Hungary in 2019, I spoke about developing a program to teach English to people in the Western Galilee. It would be a NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) program focused on teaching those who wanted, but did not have the opportunity, to learn. I imagined a program in a community center or coffee shop where Arab and Jewish children (and adults) would have the ability to study and practice English together. Creating a language-learning community would form



Jody Goldstein

a partnership within our Partnership. When COVID-19 eliminated the ability for me to travel to the Western Galilee to develop the program, it rapidly shifted to one that would take place virtually, and Café Anglit+ was born.

I am a long time educator with thirty-five years of experience developing and providing Special Education services for children in the Buffalo Public Schools. During my last year of full-time employment, I studied for and received a second Master's Degree in TESL/TEFL (Teaching English as a Second, or Foreign Language). My life plan was to combine my love for travel and my



Zooming with Café Anglit+ pals

love for teaching into a post-retirement life of traveling around the world and obtaining short-term English teaching positions. Then, on the Partnership Discovery Trip, I fell in love with the Western Galilee, and wanted to focus my English teaching in that area. I wanted to develop a program that would build and strengthen ties to people within different communities, with different lifestyles and different belief systems.

In May, 2020 when the world was closed down, Café Anglit+ opened its virtual doors after weeks of development. I piloted the program with three enthusiastic Israeli English language learners. We met for an hour each week and just talked. Sometimes we followed the daily lesson plan practicing our vocabulary about food, or travel, or family, but we often strayed from those topics and talked about ourselves and our lives and our dreams and our fears. As long as everyone spoke English, it was okay. For an hour each week we were a partnership of language learners sharing ourselves from one country to another in the comfort of our living rooms.

Since the program was piloted, there have been six more language learning partnerships: two in Hebrew and four in English. All contained participants

from at least two of the three countries in our P2G consortium. Each group met for twelve weekly hour-long sessions. Planning is now underway for the next groups which will be starting on May 2nd. In fact, with the addition of more languages, a new name for the program is being explored. To vote for the new name from the three suggestions of Café Safah (Safah means "Language" in Hebrew), Café Olam (Olam means "World" in Hebrew), or Café Y'alla (Y'alla is a slang for "Let's Do It" in both Hebrew and Arabic), visit the P2G Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/p2gwgilil/>). If you are interested in facilitating or practicing English, Hebrew, Arabic, or Hungarian please let us know. What begins as a conversation may turn into a life-long partnership.

Jody Goldstein is the developer of Café Anglit+, a member of the Partnership2Gether (P2G) Buffalo Council, and a Vice President of Temple Beth Zion. P2G is a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and Buffalo has been a participant in the Mid-Western Consortium of P2G for the past 3 years. If you are interested in Café Anglit+, email Jody at [jagoldstein827@gmail.com](mailto:jagoldstein827@gmail.com). If you would like more information about P2G in Buffalo, email Mandy Weiss at [Mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org).



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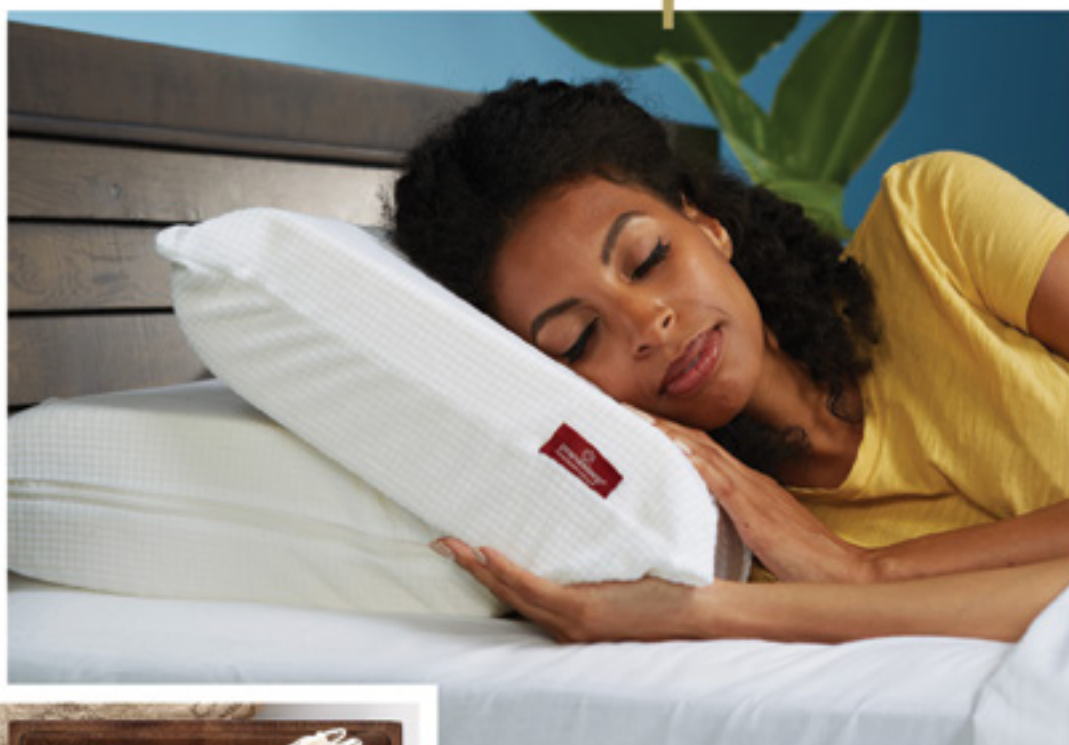
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