

The Award Winning

» Chag Shavuot Sameach!

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

BUFFALO, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG

MAY 2021 | IYAR-SIVAN 5781

PROJECT BELONGING

CLEAN PLATE PICTURES



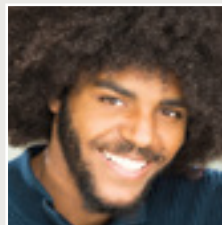
A SERIES OF COMPELLING VIRTUAL JEWISH
LEARNING EXPERIENCES FEATURING:

RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN
(HE/HIM/HIS)

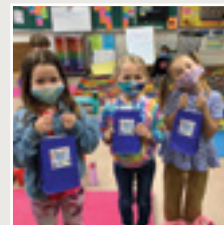
THURSDAY, JUNE 3 - TUESDAY, JUNE 8

(6)

BELONGING
The Center for Jewish
ENGAGEMENT
& LEARNING
presented by the
BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION



INSIDE:
Looking to a
Better Summer
(4)



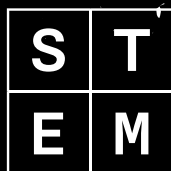
LOOK:
Celebrating Israel
at Park
(9)



DON'T MISS:
The Spirituality
of Laughter
(10)



SO CAN YOU.



@SheCanSTEM

SARAI LLAMAS • AMPLIFIER.ORG





There's
something
about the JCC

Happening now at the JCC



Summer Day Camp 2021



at the
Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds



June 28–September 3 children grades K-10

To learn more, call Director Michael Garcia: 204-2078.
campcenterland.org



Buffalo
International
Jewish Film Festival

www.bijff.com



EIGHT FILMS REMAINING

Shared Legacies
Starry Sky Over A Roman Ghetto
The Last Supper
Aulcie

An Irrepressible Woman
Mish-Mish
The Crossing
Incitement

TUESDAY TALKBACKS

SHARED LEGACIES

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, May 4, 7:00pm



AN IRREPRESSIBLE WOMAN

Led by Eileen M. Angelini

Tuesday, May 11, 7:00pm



JOIN OUR JCC FAMILY

State of the Art Fitness Centers, group fitness
classes in person and virtually, indoor and
outdoor pools.

Please visit www.jccbuffalo.org
for a complete listing of membership options
and class times.

You are invited to join us for our

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 7:00pm

JOIN US LIVE ON ZOOM
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Register: bit.ly/AnnualMeetingJCC21

Holiday Hours

Shavuot

Monday, May 17

Center closed

Tuesday, May 18

Fitness, Aquatics, Kids' Place, Early Childhood open
Business Offices closed

Memorial Day

Monday, May 31

Fitness Open 8:00am-3:00pm

Aquatics until 2:30pm

Business Offices, Kids' Place, Early Childhood closed



JCC BUFFALO

Benderson Family Building

Bb Amherst

2640 North Forest Road
adjacent to UB North
688-4033

Holland Family Building

Hb Buffalo

787 Delaware Avenue
at Summer Street
886-3145

JCC Hours

Sun 8:00am - 5:00pm
Mon-Fri 5:30am - 8:00pm
Sat 8:00am - 5:00pm

May 2021

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

May is blossoming all over Buffalo. Trees are leafed out. Flowers are blooming. Everyone is going for walks and enjoying outdoor spaces. The world may look normal, but we know we are not quite there yet. All the same, this May 2021 issue of *The Jewish Journal* is about hope.

"Holding on to Hope. Looking to a Better Summer," on pages 4 and 5, highlights five individuals who share their hopes and dreams for a summer less about COVID and more about happiness, joy and healing. Our cover story features a piece by Rabbi Becky Silverstein (he/him/his), the Belonging Initiative's guest speaker in early June, talking joyful Torah (page 6). Rabbi and comedian Bob Alper, an assistant rabbi at Temple Beth Zion in the early 1970s, is headed back to town through the generosity of the TELL Fund (pages 10 and 11) for a virtual discussion on the spirituality of laughter. And if that's not funny enough for you, read about 92-year old Amherst resident Sue Buyer and her first published novel. All these stories shine with hope, passion and the vitality that is happening in Western New York this month.

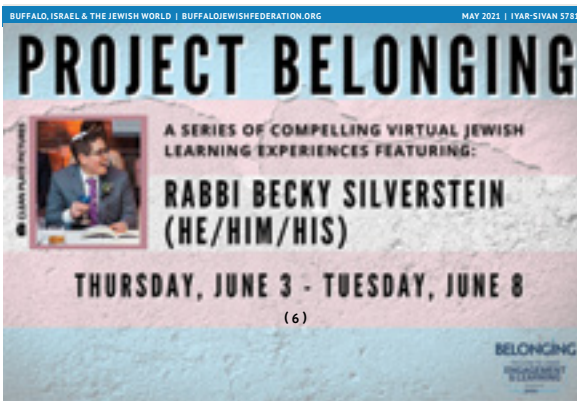
Can you remember back to Sinai? Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Torah, begins the evening of May 16, and our community has the opportunity again to study at a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (page 18) with Rabbi Moshe Silberschein, who spent a year as interim TBT rabbi (as well as other community scholars) from the safety of our homes.

Finally, a rare opportunity comes our way May 4 when the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival holds a talkback session with Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, NAACP President Mark Blue and Rabbi Everett Gendler, who is featured in the film "Shared Legacies" about Jewish/ Black relations during the Civil Rights era. Be sure to read the interview (page 20) with Rabbi Gendler by his cousin, Buffalo native Gail Gendler.

I'll be working in my garden this month and catching up with friends and family. I'll be learning with our community for Shavuot, and I'll be counting my blessings for the kind, caring, beautiful Western New York Jewish community of which I am so fortunate to be a part. Stay well and safe.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



CJEL brings Rabbi Becky Silverstein (He/Him/His) to Buffalo for a series of virtual programs in early June. *Graphic by Jill Komm.*

3	Message from the Federation President Meet the Board Officers
4-5	Looking to a Better Summer: Nadine Chalmers, Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Michael Sanders, Peter Simon, and Amérida Ortiz Weinmann
6	Torah as Transformation: Project Belonging By Rabbi Becky Silverstein (He/Him/His)
7	Reflections on CJEL Leadership By Sharon Nisengard, Donna Levy
8	Reflections from CJEL Adult Learners By Sam White, Dan Gattuso
9	Partnership2Gether Pinah
10	Rabbi's Column: Rabbi Bob Alper & the TELL Fund Event
11	Trendlines: Covering Credit Card Fees
12-13	The Promise of Youth- Jewish Buffalo History Center By Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D.
14	JCRC's Interfaith Seder By Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein
15	JCRC: UB Candelight Vigil Honors Atlanta Victims By Mara Koven-Gelman
16	5 Things You Can Do to Repair the World in May
	Where in Jewish Buffalo?
17	Sue Buyer Publishes First Novel at 92
18	Virtual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot May 12, 13, 16
20-21	Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival
22	Hillel Partners with Gift of Life
24	FJP Offers Academic Scholarships & Loans
25	Special Advertising Supplement: Gardening/ Mother's Day
27	Special Advertising Supplement: Dining Guide
28-29	Organizations & Synagogue Listings
30-31	In Remembrance: Dr. Herbert Foster
32	Not The Last Word: By Nancy Kelton

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



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

CEO/Executive Director.....Rob Goldberg
President.....Shelly Yellen
Editor.....Ellen S. Goldstein



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

Produced by



Creative Director.....Jean-Pierre Thimot
jpthimot@buffalospree.com
Lead Designer.....Kimberly Miers
kmiers@buffalospree.com
Senior Graphic Designers.....Josh Flanigan, Adam Van Schoonhoven, Nicholas Vitello
Director of Advertising.....Barbara E. Macks
Sales Director.....Cynthia Oppenheimer
coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com
Senior Account Executives...Terri Downey, Keren Green, Mary Beth Holly, Caroline Kunze, Robin Lenhard, Rachel Wasserman
Proofreader.....Amy Goldstein

BUFFALO SPREE PUBLISHING, INC.

President & CEO.....Sharon C. Levite
Publisher/Chief Revenue Officer.....Barbara E. Macks
Associate Publisher/Editor-In-Chief.....Elizabeth Licata
Vice President/Administrative & Finance.....Michele Ferguson
Corporate Counsel.....Timothy M. O'Mara, Esq.

Members of



Submissions:

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

To Advertise:

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

To Subscribe:

To subscribe to the *Jewish Journal*, please email info@buffalojewishfederation.org. Free for Western New York area residents and donors to the Campaign.

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

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

Meet the Officers of the Buffalo Jewish Federation

I wanted to take the opportunity this month to introduce you to the officers of your Buffalo Jewish Federation. I'm honored to work with this esteemed group that represents the best of our community, and grateful for their passion and commitment to our vision of ensuring a more robust, caring and connected 21st century Jewish Buffalo.

Shelly Yellen, President



Risé Kulick
Vice President

Risé has served in a variety of leadership capacities in the Jewish community including past Chair of the Hillel of Buffalo's Board of Directors, past President of the JCC of Greater Buffalo, and as past President of Hillel of Ithaca College when her daughter Abigail was a student there. Risé has been nominated to serve as Vice President of Federation beginning in 2021 and also currently serves as Chair of the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy. Risé helped to manage her late husband Kevin's medical office. She is the proud mother to three children: Benjamin (Jesse), David (Laura), and Abigail (Alex), enjoys traveling to be with her six grandchildren, and spends the winter in Phoenix.



Shawn M. Frier
Vice President

Shawn is a new member of Federation's leadership, joining the board this January after leading Buffalo Jewish Federation Housing and the sale of the property in 2019. He is a CPA with Freed Maxick and serves as a Director of the firm's Enterprise Advisory Services Practice. Shawn is responsible for the overall planning, supervision and completion of client engagements, audits, reviews, complication, bookkeeping, and tax returns. In addition, Shawn is involved with supervising staff, recruiting, training, and internship programs and is the Director in charge of recruiting for the firm.

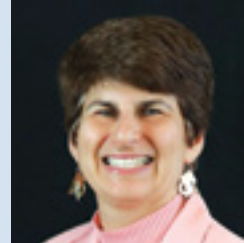
In 2011, Shawn was named a winner of *Buffalo Business First's* Healthcare 50 Award, which recognizes professionals serving the medical profession and their contributions in improving the quality of healthcare in Western New York. In 2006 Shawn was recognized for his business and community leadership by *Business First* as a "Forty Under 40" award recipient.



Leslie Kramer
Immediate Past President

Leslie has served in many leadership roles across Jewish Buffalo including Federation Campaign Chair, Women's Philanthropy Chair and past President of the Bureau of Jewish Education. Passionate about Israel, she co-chaired the BJB Emerging Leadership Mission, the Buffalo Israel Experience, and the JFNA Heart 2Heart Mission in 2017 and currently serves as the American Chair of our Partnership2gether Consortium.

Leslie's volunteer leadership portfolio includes a board position on both the Jewish Federations of North America Board and the National Women's Philanthropy Board. In addition, Leslie previously served on the school board of the Amherst Central School District. A graduate of Cornell University, Leslie spent a year studying at the Tel Aviv University in Israel. A graduate of SUNY Law School, she practiced law in Chicago and Buffalo before devoting herself to her community and raising a family. Leslie is married to Jim Kramer and has three children, Josh, Joey and Leah.



Marjorie Godin Bryen
Treasurer

For her day job, Marjorie is president and owner of Hard Manufacturing, a leading manufacturer of hospital cribs and youth beds across the world. Prior to returning to Buffalo to take over the business, Marjorie held several executive positions, including EVP and division general manager at Truven Health Analytics (now part of IBM Watson), a healthcare analytics company located in Ann Arbor Michigan. She earned a Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Michigan Graduate

School of Business, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University.

Marjorie chairs Jewish Buffalo's Made in Buffalo series as well as being a member of the Board of Governors. Her volunteer work with Jewish Buffalo has provided an avenue for her to reconnect with and give back to the Buffalo community. She is on the Board of Northland Workforce Training Center and the general manager of the Allegro! Synchronized Skating Teams.

Marjorie commutes between Buffalo and Farmington Hills, Michigan where she resides with her husband Eric. They have two grown children, Madelaine (recently married to Kris) who lives in Chicago, and Elysa who resides in Michigan. Marjorie is a competitive synchronized skater and loves to play golf when she can find the time.



Ellen Weiss
Secretary

Ellen has been an active volunteer with the Buffalo Jewish Community for over 30 years serving on the Federation's Executive Committee, its Board of Governors, and as Women's Philanthropy Chair. Most recently, Ellen served as the inaugural Chair of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning, facilitating the transition from the Bureau of Jewish Education to an organization that touches every segment of the Buffalo Jewish Community. Presently, she serves as the Secretary of the Buffalo Jewish Federation. In addition, Ellen is a board member of

National Women's Philanthropy, a division of the Jewish Federations of North America. According to Ellen, "I volunteer with the BJB and JFNA in order to build a strong Jewish Community for the next generation. We serve as a social, educational, and advocacy organization for Jews locally, nationally, and internationally."

Ellen is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University at Buffalo MBA program where she concentrated in marketing and health care administration. Professionally, Ellen is a certified Integrative Health Coach. She helps individuals make small habit changes in what they put inside their body and what they do with their body to maximize their overall wellness and be the happiest and healthiest versions of themselves. Her programs are not a diet - they are a lifestyle change. She specializes in women's wellness, weight management, and stress mastery.

HOLDING ON TO HOPE

LOOKING TO A BETTER SUMMER 2021

As we have been carefully navigating the Red Sea of COVID beginning last Passover into the spring of 2021, we have all been impacted: as individuals, a community, a nation and a world. In Western New York, the coming warmer months bring more time outdoors and more time with friends and family. And as more and more individuals have been fully inoculated, we all wonder if our lives will return to “normal.” We invited five Jewish Buffalonians - Nadine Chalmers, the Hon. Lisa Bloch-Rodwin, Michael Sanders, Peter Simon and Amélida Ortiz Weinmann – to reflect on the question: “What are your hopes and dreams for this coming summer, hopefully in a post-pandemic time?” Below are their thoughtful responses.

**Nadine Chalmers**

My greatest hope for this summer is for the community to experience less fear. For almost a year, we had to train ourselves to fear other humans - our co-workers, our neighbors, other people on the bus, even our family and friends. I'm looking forward to greeting other people without worrying that we are a danger to each other.

On a personal level, I'm looking forward to celebrating lifecycle events again. While I always enjoyed holidays and family gatherings, I didn't realize how important they were to helping me mark time. Without them, the days and months blend together. I missed celebrating the Jewish holidays with my family - especially Passover and Rosh Hashanah. I was fortunate to be vaccinated in time for

Passover with my parents this year, but my sister and her family could not join us. My best friend had a baby in August who I still haven't met, and my sister is about to have a baby who, thanks to vaccinations, I hope to be able to meet within a few days of his/her birth.

I'm also looking forward to traveling again. New York has been a wonderful state to be “stuck” in for the past year, but now that we are allowed out of the state (though not out of the country), my wife and I are planning a trip to Maine this summer for some hiking, biking, and canoeing.

Though I am incredibly grateful for the hope that this spring brings, there are some things from the pandemic that I do want to hold on to: appreciation for the simple things like home, family, friends, and dogs; learning how to be okay with having nothing to do; spending lots of time outside on our porch, and waving to our neighbors who are out for a walk. I hope to bring the sense of gratitude and community that we found during the pandemic into a future that feels safer and more optimistic.

Nadine Chalmers is a Senior Transportation Planner at the NFTA, and is part of the planning team for CJEL's Project Belonging.

**Michael Sanders**

I believe something that this pandemic has taught us well is that we don't always know how quickly life can change. Returning to what was once normalcy is going to be a much more gradual shift than we had expected; not only in regard to vaccine distribution, but in regard to our own human adjustment to things. So I'm reluctant to say that “normalcy” or “the way things were” is a fair expectation for the ensuing months.

I know I personally have learned things about myself and the world around me that will forever change the way I go about any endeavor, and I intend to take those values with me as I travel to my summer job at Camp Ramah in Canada, and then my gap year in Israel. And I expect to keep learning



and growing. I think everyone should take a step back and evaluate what we can take away from the events of the pandemic, and what it means for it to be over. What kind of growth we've all gone through. Or perhaps places where we've neglected to keep ourselves accountable.

Quarantine for me has provided an outlet to keep myself in check in many ways, but I know loved ones personally who haven't had the same opportunity. If we've taken steps back somewhere, let's notice it now.

So what I think I'm most looking forward to is ultimately a new beginning with a new tool belt, carrying with it the losses that have brought new-found gratitude for what we have, the things we do, and what connection and isolation means to us.

Michael Sanders is a senior at Williamsville North High School, where he participates in Musical Wind Ensemble and Chorus. He also competes for Spezio's Dance Dynamics, and is a member of Temple Beth Tzedek.

**Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin**

When I think about what I hope for in our future, I have to evaluate what

I learned in our recent past. COVID-19 didn't care who was a part of which community — it was transmitted anywhere we gathered together — restaurants, grocery stores, public transit, hockey games, religious services, nursing homes, hospitals, workplaces, and our own living rooms.

The fact that this disease didn't follow the lines we drew between ourselves and others, and between whatever communities we identified with and those we didn't, showed us that the lines and separations between individuals and communities weren't as strong -- or as real — as we might have thought they were.

The only way to beat the pandemic has been to work together: to wear masks to protect ourselves and to protect others from a virus we may not have known we were carrying; to wash our hands, to practice social distancing, and to get vaccinated as soon as we could.

My hope for this spring, the lesson we need to hold in our minds and hearts in the future, is that we continue to keep in mind this idea that some of the lines we had previously drawn between ourselves and others (and between our community and other communities), are just lines in the sand without much substance. The reality is our very existence is both connected and interdependent. Our

wellbeing requires that we recognize this connectedness. My hope is that by keeping this connectedness in mind, we can work towards being healthier and happier individually, within our family and professional circles, as a Jewish community, and as good neighbors within our larger WNY community.

Lisa Bloch Rodwin is a recently retired Family Court Judge and was previously chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau in the District Attorney's Office. She assisted in the creation of the Family Justice Center for victims of domestic violence. Lisa is currently serving on the Board of JFS. Her favorite current role is “Nana” to Marlow Lawrence and Charlie Ruben Rodwin.



Peter Simon

I'm not asking for the world. On second thought, that's exactly what I'm doing: striving, hoping and longing to get the world back. My world. The one I knew before anyone heard of COVID-19.

That's when it was safe and comfortable having dinner with friends, enjoying live music with Elaine Ablove, going to a Bisons baseball game with my buddies, visiting my 93-year-old cousin, leading tours at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site or simply -- without fear or hesitation -- greeting a neighbor face-to-face.

We took those things for granted, then had them snatched away. Fear, illness and death, the lethal weapons of an invisible virus, drove the world to its knees.

Yes, there are now new forms of the virus to deal with. A possible new wave of cases is looming, just as our patience and resolve are waning. But this nightmare is coming to an end. That may or may not be the consensus of experts at Johns Hopkins, Harvard or Stanford, but I felt it the moment the pharmacist at Tops Market placed a needle in my arm. After more than a year of worry, doubt and fear, we have, with seemingly miraculous speed and precision, found a way to respond.

I knew I was getting my world back when my two Williamsville grandchildren began coming over for Sunday breakfast rather than waving to me from the driveway. It's the highlight of my week, and keeps me strong and positive.

Now, ecstatic and grateful, I'm planning to fly to Denver to spend time with my three grandchildren there. I used to visit three or four times a year, but haven't been to Denver since the coronavirus took hold. So this trip means the most. Sometimes, despite darkness and fear, dreams do come true.

Peter Simon is a retired Buffalo News reporter and a past president of Congregation Shir Shalom.



Amérida Ortiz Weinmann

This Pesach, It felt like that of our ancestors in the first Pesach thousands of years ago in Egypt, not knowing the future, too scared to go, not knowing what to do. But by trusting in *Hashem's* plan through His emissary, Moshe, and doing the *mitzvot* of preparing, most of us got out of Egypt, but not without loss. So it has been for us in 5780/2021.

By the end of the Nights of The 10 Plagues, with the Great Escape through the desert, and after the point of crossing the Red Sea, many of our ancestors perished. Isn't this just what we have been going through?

We planned for the best last year, but our plans had to change dramatically. Many of us lost relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and community leaders. We need to honor their memories and live life forwardly, in hope, health, and yes, with happiness.

During the rest of the year, members of our family hope to do many things: trying to go to Israel with Camp Seneca Lake this summer. Deciding this spring which university to attend. Planning and participating in a family bridal shower and wedding. Helping in fundraising and community activity endeavors within the Jewish, Hispanic, and greater communities, or just wanting a normal summer to enjoy with family and friends!

We have to 'roll with the punches,' but still plan for the future. We need to take care of ourselves, but also those in the greater community by trying to help the person in front of us, behind us, but especially the people next to us, our family.

So please, wear a mask, socially distance, get vaccinated! As the expression goes, 'This too shall pass.' Like everyone else, our family dreams of celebrating our 'new normal' more fully together.

Amérida Ortiz Weinmann was this year's International Lion of Judah Recruitment co-chair and a past Super Sunday co-chair. She is a TBZ Board member, a past TBZ Kol Nidre Campaign co-chair, and is on the Board of the Hispanic Women's League.

The Bonnie Clement Team



Mary Hutton, Bonnie Clement, Lisa Levin,
Sheryl Martin, Beth Joseph

BONNIE CLEMENT

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Cell: 716.553.8384

bsclement@aol.com | BonnieClement.com

HUNT ERA Williamsville Village Branch:

5570 Main Street, 1st Floor, Williamsville, NY 14221

HUNT
Since 1911

Always 'There For You' ERA

KENMORE EYE CARE and AMHERST EYE CARE

Dr. David Burstein
Optometrist

Dr. Sandra Segerson
Optometrist

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

Visit our newly expanded Amherst location!

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

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

PROJECT BELONGING

Torah as Transformation: A Prelude to Project Belonging

Thanks to generous funding from the Institute for Liberal Jewish Studies Fund (ILJS), CJEL's Belonging project will welcome Rabbi Becky Silverstein (pronouns he/him/his) who will visit Buffalo virtually next month. Rabbi Becky identifies as a gender queer, trans Rabbi, who uses both his birth name (Becky) and he/him/his pronouns. Rabbi Becky is well known for teaching from a place of personal experience and truth, to make the vocabulary of gender and sexuality accessible. ILJS is a fund intended to support adult Jewish learning. The founders believed that exposure to a broad spectrum of Jewish views and scholarship would strengthen the identity of the Buffalo Jewish community, and that an educated and enlightened community will have a greater commitment to Jewish continuity.

BY RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN

One of my favorite activities is to invite a group of students, of any and all ages, to define "Torah." The answers range from the five books of Moses, to a scroll in an ark, to a word that encompasses all the Jewish wisdom that ever was, is, or will exist. The root of Hebrew word *Torah* is "yud-resheh." It is defined in Jastrow, a commonly used dictionary in the study of Talmud and Midrash, as "to permeate or penetrate, to point or shoot, to aim, to instruct, or to decide." The noun is defined as "teaching" or "law." Looking at the root of the word brings me to my favorite definition of Torah: something that has an impact. Thus, a *dvar Torah* is an impactful experience or teaching. The goal of Torah study is for the Torah we learn, experience, and/or come to embody to, according to the teaching of Rabbi Akiva, make an impression on our hearts (Avod d'Rabbi Natan 6:2).

I entered the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College for the sake of my own learning and with the goal of ultimately earning a title which would allow me to ask people questions about their relationship with G-d. What I left with was a deeper sense of myself, a love for Torah that I could have never imagined, and a vision of the Torah as the source of color in our universe, whose full palette could only be revealed if the breadth of humanity was learning it. Rabbinical School was also the backdrop for the deepening of my gender journey and the context for my exploration of different names and pronouns. While I came out as queer within my Jewish community in college, it was in Rabbinical School where I came out to myself as transgender. My stories of gender and sexual identity development and Jewish identity development are intertwined and inseparable. I believe that for Torah to be transformative, we must create spaces where all the parts of our identities are not only present but are invited to intertwine with our holy tradition.

It is my hope that I will bring this mode of potentially transformative learning to the Buffalo community next month in support of your goal of creating a culture of belonging. The work of creating a culture of belonging requires a combination of approaches including policy changes, communal education and exposure to different ways of being in the world, supporting educators and leadership to bring those narratives into their work, reaching out to individual community members and more. These approaches are overlapping and mutually reinforcing. For cultural shifts to take place, it is this kind of Torah that is necessary.



Rabbi Becky Silverstein

I am looking forward to bringing multiple learning opportunities to adults in Jewish Buffalo and to engaging with a broad spectrum of ideas. We will dive into teachings that feature Rabbi Akiva, discuss expertise and self-determination in the Talmud, think together about ritual creation and innovation, and dive deep into the words of the Talmud. Each of these broad topics reflects my own experience finding grounding in Jewish tradition. Though some of the goals vary session by session, all of them share a goal of surfacing potential experiences of queer and trans Jews.

The Talmud (Menachot 29b) teaches that many generations after Mt. Sinai, Rabbi Akiva would be found deriving heaps and heaps of *halakhot* from each crown that G-d tied on to the letters of the Torah. We are swept into Rabbi Akiva's Beit Midrash where we witness Moses at first grow weak as he hears Torah that is unrecognizable and then gain strength from hearing that the Torah being taught was learned from Mt. Sinai. May our learning together mirror the learning of Rabbi Akiva's Beit Midrash -- new and exciting, while also grounded in our holy tradition. May we create the conditions for deeper revelation of Torah within your communities. And may our own love of Torah grow deeper along the way.

For more information about CJEL's Belonging initiative or Rabbi Becky's visit to Buffalo contact Mike Steklof, mike@buffalojewishfederation.org

PROJECT BELONGING

A SERIES OF COMPELLING VIRTUAL JEWISH LEARNING EXPERIENCES
FEATURING:

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

**FEATURE EXPERIENCE
THURSDAY, JUNE 3 @ 7 PM**

Torah as Transformation
Explore progressive approaches to Jewish learning and queer narratives as Rabbi Becky brings diverse voices to conversations about Torah, featuring teachings by Rabbi Akiva.

MORE VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

MONDAY, JUNE 7 @ 7 PM
**Ritual Innovation in the lives
of Queer and Trans Jews**
This event is for Nickel City Jews.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 @ 6 PM
**This is Yours: A SVARA-method
Talmud Exploration**
This event is open to the community.

**REGISTER:
BIT.LY/RABBIBECKY**

Logos for ILJS, Center of Western New York, JFS, Hillel of Buffalo, and BELONGING The Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning.

Reflections on CJEL Leadership

BY SHARON NISENGARD

Volunteering as the Vice Chair for the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning's (CJEL) middle school engagement and PJ Our Way has been a personally fulfilling role for me. To see my children engage with their Jewish peers creatively through social programming has never been more important than in this past year. Helping to build relationships among Jewish middle schoolers during a pandemic has taken a lot of creativity and enthusiasm, but with the stellar team of Brenda Feldstein (CJEL Middle school engagement and PJ Our Way Chair) and Mike Steklof (Director of Jewish Experience), we are seeing more children than ever participating.

We work closely with the kids who comprise the Middle School Leadership Council, which ensures our programs are tween approved. This winter we



The Nisengard family

have hosted a sledding event, interactive scavenger hunts, and interactive online gaming where kids from all over our region are broken up into teams to play games together like **Among Us**, Passover-themed **Minecraft** and **Rocket League**. We are all looking forward to gathering outside safely, seeing the bonds that have begun continue to flourish and watching the kid's connection to the Jewish community strengthen.



The Levy family

BY DONNA LEVY

It has been a joy to serve as Vice Chair of Teen Engagement in partnership with Chair Hadar Borden and our professional partner Mike Steklof. In January, I went door-to-door surprising teens with Buffalo Bills-decorated cookies to celebrate their exciting season. This was a great opportunity for me to meet teens and the adults who love them and talk about ways they could be involved in the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative.

With copious amounts of snow falling in early February, we were able to host a Pop-Up Sledding event at Billy Wilson Park with COVID protocols in

place. Everyone donned masks and snow attire to keep warm and safe. The event was attended by teens of all ages and everyone enjoyed sledding, hot chocolate and Jewish Teen Initiative winter hats. It was a much-needed break from being cooped up in the house and in isolation. The teens were happy to see their friends and enjoy some winter fun outside, and parents were equally happy to get out of the house connecting with old friends and meeting some new ones.

My daughters have been very active this year in Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative virtual programming. My younger daughter participated in "Being Jewish in 2020," a series of gatherings in the fall with Ben Wolfson and Rabbi Ori Bergman which allowed her to process the difficult year. My older daughter is a Teen Leadership Fellow and has been learning and practicing leadership skills monthly with Hadar Borden at monthly Teen Leadership Fellowship gatherings.

I am so excited for our upcoming in-person events including Mussar for Teens, Mini Golf and the Mystery Bus Tour. We would love to engage your teen!

Sharon Nisengard is CJEL's Vice Chair for Middle School Engagement and PJ Our Way and Donna Levy serves as CJEL's Vice Chair of Teen Engagement. For more information or to get involved in Middle School Engagement or Teen initiative experiences, contact Mike Steklof, Director of Jewish Experience at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org or 463-5061. He would love to meet you over coffee or ice cream, in person or virtually.

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



Fred Holender
716.849.8257



Stuart Scheff
716.636.5818



Gary May
716.636.5803



Steve Jacobs
716.849.8258

"Protecting what you've worked so hard for"

Lawley

BUSINESS
INSURANCE

EMPLOYEE
BENEFITS

PERSONAL
INSURANCE

Wesley Rehabilitation Center

- An Affiliate of Beechwood Continuing Care -

We're Masters In the Art of Caring



Choose Wesley
for your rehabilitation stay!

Providing cardiac, orthopedic and
reconditioning therapies.



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



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

2235 Millersport Highway ♦ Getzville

www.beechwoodcare.org

Reflections from CJEL Adult Learners

This past year, CJEL offered a number of ongoing virtual Adult Learning cohorts for students to explore Jewish history, culture, the Jewish holiday cycle, prayers, spiritual practices and the Hebrew language. This year's students included individuals or couples new to Judaism, those discovering their Jewish roots or looking to deepen their Jewish practices. Despite the virtual learning format, the students developed deep relationships with each other and with their teachers. We invited two of our recent learners to share their thoughts on their experiences and offer an example of Jewish wisdom that they now apply in their daily lives. To learn more about CJEL's Adult Learning opportunities, email Susan Schwartz, Director of Engagement: susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

BY SAM WHITE

In past years, our family has celebrated Passover by hosting non-Jewish relatives and holding a Seder using the Maxwell House Hagaddah. After participating in this year's *Intro to Judaism* class, we learned the importance of sharing the Seder with our community, which prompted us to join Buffalo's community-wide 2nd night Seder. That Seder gave us a sense of what it might have felt like to be in that multitude of people from all different segments of the community being in that great exodus together.

Technology created more opportunity for participation and allowed even those of us who were differently abled to join the Seder and recount our exodus as one. Our little girl sang *Ma Nishtana* along with



The White family-Sam is front right

the other children. The breakout rooms, which we were used to after months of the intro class, were fun! A little boy shared his

chocolate macaroons and to our daughter's surprise we grabbed one from the kitchen for the two kids to share together. It was almost like meeting families at the banquet, while at the same time you got a glimpse of their home environment while being in the comfort of your own home. We did dress up, simply to honor each other and the holiday. All-in-all, the best Seder yet!

Sam White describes herself as a Puerto Rican Jew from Long Island and is a Public Defender in Buffalo City Court. She married her husband Byron, a union steel worker, in 2013, and they have one daughter, Alison who will be 5 in June. Byron is in the process of conversion to Judaism. The White Family lives on the East Side of Buffalo and are members of Temple Beth Zion.

BY DAN GATTUSO

While I was initially disappointed that the pandemic forced my two CJEL adult learning courses to go virtual, I ended up learning a lot and enjoying my time with my teachers and fellow students! With



Dan Gattuso

Susan Schwartz and *Living a Jewish Year*, I have been learning how to incorporate more spiritual practices in my life. The practice of *hakarot hatov*, or gratitude, is one such practice that I've incorporated into my daily routine that has brought me great joy. With Dr. Yonina Foster as our Hebrew teacher, my fellow students and I have made great progress in reading Hebrew prayers and blessings. I am much farther along in my Hebrew than I had thought I would be!

Susan and Yonina bring a ton of *zerizut*, or enthusiasm, to their classes, and I can't wait to see what Hebrew and Jewish spirituality classes will be offered next year!

Dan Gattuso is an educator and a lifelong learner, originally from Olean, now residing in Buffalo.

Get ready to SPRING into awesome Teen Programs!

The Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative has teen programs open to teens in grades 8-12 happening in May and June and we can't wait to see you there!

Mini-Golf at Adventure Landing!

Join us at Adventure Landing for a fun afternoon of mini-golf and arcade games! This event, organized by the Teen Leadership Fellowship, takes place Sunday, May 23 from 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m., and is open to all teens grades 8-12. Masks and social distancing will be required. Please register at bit.ly/bufminigolf.

Mystery Bus Field Tour!

Did you miss having field trips over the last year? Now is your chance to make up for lost trips by joining the Mystery Bus Field Tour, happening Sunday, June 6. This event will be a full-day trip around Buffalo with stops all over the city and is open to teens in grades 8-12. The stops on the trip will be a *mystery* to the teens, but parents will be sent an itinerary before June 6. Save the date, and be on the lookout for a registration link soon!

Want to learn more about the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative? Want to get your teen involved? Email Mike at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Save The Dates For..

TEEN SPRING EVENTS

Mini-Golf at Adventure Landing!
Sunday, May 23rd
1 pm-2:30 pm

Mystery Bus Field Tour!
Sunday, June 6th
10 am-6 pm

Questions? Contact
Ben Wolfson at benw730@gmail.com



Welcome back to the *Partnership 2Gether (P2G) Pinah* - our new monthly column that highlights our partnership with the Western Galilee as well as with the other communities in our consortium (16 in the U.S. as well as Budapest, Hungary).

This month, we are excited to introduce the new chair of the P2G Leadership Council, Laurie Sadler. A member of the Federation board, Laurie is looking forward to taking on this role with the Council to further deepen her own love for and relationship with Israel. Over the past few years, Laurie has traveled to the Partnership region in the Western Galilee as part of two experiences with the Federation, once with the Heart-2-Heart mission in 2016 and the other as part of the 2018 Buffalo Israel Experience. Both experiences were incredibly meaningful, along with the other times she has traveled to Israel with her family.

In her new role, Laurie will help strategize ways in which Jewish Buffalo will continue to engage more people in connecting to Israel, and our partners living in the Western Galilee, as well as with our partners across the other communities.

Laurie is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Oishei Children's Hospital where she has practiced for



Laurie Sadler

nearly 30 years. She is a clinical geneticist and pediatrician. In addition to her clinical practice, Laurie teaches at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Laurie completed all of her medical training in Buffalo after attending the University of Michigan for her undergraduate education. Her husband, Ron, is the managing partner and a practicing dentist at Inspire Dental Group. Ron and Laurie have three grown children – Evan (Elle), Mollie, and Alanna.

Be sure to come back and check out the *P2G Pinah* next month. **For more information or any questions, please contact Mandy Weiss at mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

Upcoming P2G programs:

Sunday, May 2 @ 1 p.m.

P2G Book Club—join for a discussion on Dara Horn's book *A Guide For the Perplexed*
Sunday, May 23 @ 12:30 p.m.

Virtuarts #1: ZUMU--The Museum on the Move

A new professional lectures series about Art and Community. This session will focus on art as a path for a better society with Milana Gitzin Adiram –Director and Chief Curator, ZUMU Museum.

For more information, visit <https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/>

Taste of Israel

Last month the State of Israel celebrated its 73rd birthday April 15. As a way to share our love of the Jewish homeland, Buffalo Jewish Federation shared a *Taste of Israel* gift bags with each of the 250+ students, pre-k through 12th grade, at the Park School of Buffalo. Included in each bag was a variety of items representing different parts of Israeli culture, such as delicious Elite chocolate, birds of Israel stickers, animated Israel map pens, a fun activity to make hummus in a bag (thanks to PJ Library!), map of Israel bookmarks and Ahava Dead Sea hand cream.

The Buffalo Jewish Federation is a partner with The Park School of Buffalo in providing financial support for the Kadimah Scholars at Park program. Launched in 2019, the Kadimah Scholars Program represents a relationship that transitioned Kadimah Academy from being an independent school to an education program and scholarship fund with classes, students, and teachers integrated into Park's vibrant community. With nearly 40 students in early childhood



through Grade 12 participating in the Kadimah Scholars Program this year, the program adds to Park's impressive curriculum and diverse programming. With classes in Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Park students have more opportunities to learn about the wider world, encouraging a global perspective and enhancing Park's commitment to diversity.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this project! Together with our friends at Park School, we wish Israel a *Yom Huledet Sameah* (Happy Birthday in Hebrew)!



Everett Bennett
Manager

BIG SAVINGS!
Brakes, Exhaust, Fluids, Factory
Scheduled Maintenance, Suspension,
Wheel Alignments, Belts, Hoses,
Head Lamps, Bulbs and more.

**PREMIER
CAR CARE**

\$10 OFF SERVICES OVER \$100 (excludes tax)	\$20 OFF SERVICES OVER \$200 (excludes tax)	\$30 OFF SERVICES OVER \$300 (excludes tax)
-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Excludes tires, batteries, and oil changes. Discount off regular price. Consumer pays all taxes. Motor vehicles. Cash value 1/100th of 1¢. Once coupon per total invoice. Not valid with other offers. Coupon required at time of purchase. Valid at all Premier Car Care locations. Void if sold, copied or transferred and where prohibited by law.

Premier Car Care | 1171 Niagara Falls Blvd. | Amherst, New York 14226
Phone: (716) 837-4000 | Fax: (716) 362-0733 | www.premiercarcarewny.com

Lipman's
for over 70 years

**KOSHER
MARKET**

has all of your

Kosher

Meats & Groceries

- Brisket
- Veal
- Roasts
- Chicken

1482 Monroe Avenue • Rochester
585-271-7886

Delivery at Shir Shalom • Amherst • MAY 30TH



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

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

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

Pickup & Dropoff
service available

WWW.BAGELJAYS.COM



I'm Shuffling off to Buffalo May 20!

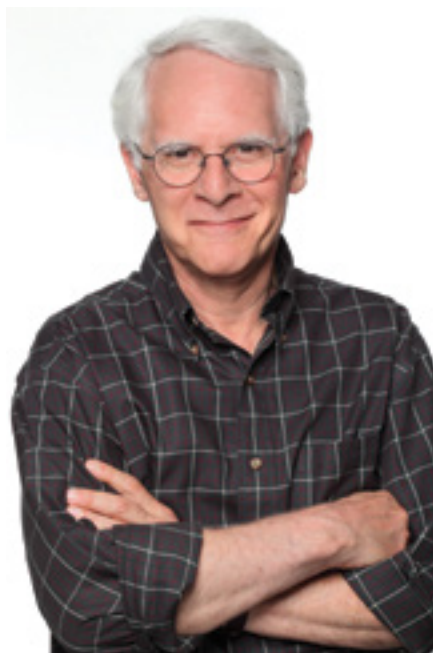
BY RABBI BOB ALPER

Rabbi and comedian Bob Alper will be appearing in Buffalo via Zoom Thursday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the TELL Fund with support from the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Zion. You can register at http://bit.ly/TELLFUND_ALPER. Details are in the ad on page 11.

My upcoming May 20th ZOOM program reminded me of some of my favorite Buffalo memories. Like this:

"He's reportedly holding a shotgun. You may want to stay in the squad car, rabbi, while we investigate."

Good advice. I let the driver and his partner, members of the Buffalo Police Department's SWAT Team, do their thing while I did mine. Which was to scrunch down so low in the back seat that I could practically taste the floor mats. It was all in a night's work for these men, and my presence helped put some variety in what they cavalierly called



their "routine." Some routine. As for me, accepting the invitation to tag along on patrol was a way to get to know them better. After all, they were my students.

It was back in the early 1970s and I

was serving as assistant rabbi at Temple Beth Zion (TBZ). I taught a course in Judaism at Hilbert College, a small Catholic school in nearby Hamburg. Half my class was comprised of recent high school graduates, with the other half police officers pursuing a part-time criminal justice program. I loved it there.

Fifty years have passed, yet I can still see the earnest face of a burly sergeant reporting to me on his foray into Jewish culture.

We met for three hours each week, and the entire group visited TBZ for field trips. The course was not meant to be an arduous academic challenge, but we did cover a significant amount of material, culminating in a final exam. One of my favorite extra-credit questions: "What is the difference between a) **Kiddush**; b) **Kaddish**; and c) **Kadish**?"

Fifty years have passed, yet I can still

see the earnest face of a burly sergeant reporting to me on his foray into Jewish culture. He had just returned from a police convention at a Catskills resort, and was eagerly sharing a fabulous discovery:

"The first morning, I ordered my usual, bacon and eggs. So guess what? No bacon! 'OK,' I told the waiter, 'Make it ham and eggs.' No ham. 'Well, then, eggs and sausage.' Nope. No sausage either.

What kind of place is this, I'm thinking, and then the waiter said he'd bring me something I'd really like. He came back with this orange stuff, and it tasted terrific. Had it all three mornings of the conference, and now my family loves it. Delicious."

"So, rabbi, you ever hear of lox?"

I concluded each class with a question-and-answer session, assuring everyone that no subjects were out of bounds, and that I wanted to dispel any rumors or harmful myths about Judaism. One student asked if it was true that Jews were buried standing up, so the loose change wouldn't fall out of our pockets. I was glad to have a chance to correct that misinformation and address prejudicial stereotypes.

I had become fairly friendly with a state trooper, a crew-cut, straight arrow type who, I knew, was in the midst of a difficult divorce. On a morning late in the semester he shared this quandary: "My lawyer's Jewish, and he and I have become pretty good buddies. But he's always using a word when he talks to me, and I don't know what it means. I kind of think it's a term of friendship, but I'm not certain. Maybe you can translate. He's always calling me a 'schmuck.'"

That launched an interesting discussion.

And by the way: the answers to that exam question?

Kiddush is the Hebrew blessing over wine.

Kaddish is an Aramaic prayer of praise, best known as a memorial prayer.

Kadish, in the early 70s, was the defensive left tackle for the Buffalo Bills.

Looking forward to seeing many of your smiling faces on my May 20 ZOOM screen!



Cooking with Chef Krista Van Wagner
Fashion Lab NY with Arlene Kaye
Arts & Crafts • Sports • Game Design
Sailing and Learn-to-Row

June 21 - 25
Summer@SEM Junior
A Special Week of Programming
Only for Girls Entering Grades 4 & 5

June 28 - Aug. 13
Day Camp for All Girls Entering Grades 4 - 9
with Junior Pods

Covid-Safe

SUMMER@
SEM

BuffaloSeminary.org/SAS

205 Bidwell Parkway Buffalo, NY 14222
716-885-6780

Trend Lines: Why Charities Invite Donors to Cover Credit Card Fees

Inviting donors to cover credit card processing fees when making an online donation is almost a given these days. Yet, how organizations do it in a way that is respectful to donors is the key to it being successful.

Beginning this month, Federation will be providing donors with the opportunity to cover processing fees (an average of 3% of the gift) when paying by credit card. This checkbox offsets the cost Federation is charged by the credit card companies while at the same time educating donors on the real cost of the transaction.

"When speaking with many of our donors, they told us that this option increases the impact of their donation and makes them feel even better about their gift," noted Randi Morkisz, Federation's Assistant Executive Director, who oversees the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. "Every organization



is doing it these days," said one donor. "Charities like Federation should be asking especially if it's optional," added another. "If a donor is passionate about the cause," she continued, "they will gladly include the additional expense in their gift."

After speaking with these donors along with other Federations and reviewing dozens of not-for-profit

websites, Federation decided to provide donors the option by checking a box which reads: *I will cover the 3% credit card processing fee to ensure my gift has the greatest impact.* Once a donor chooses the option, the full amount will be shown for transparency and if they then decide they don't want to cover the costs, they just can unclick before submitting.

"Our hope is by providing this option to help to cover processing fees, our donors can feel good about making an added difference," said Rob Goldberg, Federation's CEO. "In the end, Federation will be able to keep a larger portion of the dollars processed through our on-line platform which will provide more funds to invest in Jewish Buffalo."

If you have any questions about Federation's new on-line option, please contact Randi Morkisz at Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Two Iconic Buffalo Businesses Together...

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES!
Special attire or Gifts! We are here for you!



Riverside welcomes the Florsheim Shoe family
All leather, business and casual line.....And...

Tingley Shoe
Protectors

for the Spring rain!
BOTH 20% OFF



S&E
JEWELERS

Gift Ideas:
Assorted
Cufflinks also
Diamond studs
set in 14kt
gold starting at
\$199

6470 TRANSIT RD., DEPEW, NY 14043
RIVERSIDEMENS.COM | 716-833-8401
SANDEJEWELERS.COM | 716-832-1595

The TELL Fund Buffalo Jewish Federation & Temple Beth Zion

Invite you to join this Zoom event

Rabbi & Comedian: Bob Alper

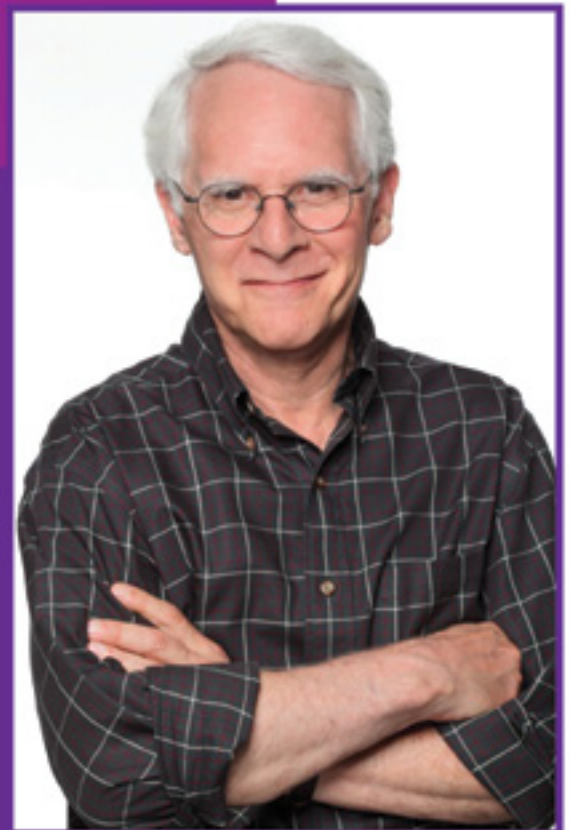
"THE SPIRITUALITY OF LAUGHTER"

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

Rabbi Alper, former Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion, is a stand-up comedian and lecturer! He is heard regularly on Sirius/XM and 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 with his uniquely kind, intelligent and completely "clean" humor.

To co-sponsor this event, or for more information, please contact TELLFund@gmail.com

Suggested Donation: \$18.00 • Register at: http://bit.ly/TELLFUND_ALPER
Prior to the event, you will receive your Zoom link to join.



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

The Promise of Youth

BY CHANA R. KOTZIN, PH.D.

The Jewish Buffalo History Center (<https://jewishbuffalohistory.org/>) is celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month with new additions that focus on youth! New documents and images on the new History Center website range from Confirmation images to youth groups.

Jewish American Heritage Month was spearheaded in 2006 by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. They guided a series of resolutions that led President George W. Bush to proclaim May as “Jewish American Heritage Month.”

Since April 20, 2006, Jewish American Heritage Month observances have occurred annually, led by institutions including the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In March 2007, a coalition of the American Jewish Archives, the American Jewish Historical Society, and the National Museum of American Jewish History came together to provide greater access to their resources online.

To celebrate this year, we have added many new additions to the website that relate to youth as well as other allied topics including education and leisure that we are collecting for the release of new sections of the website in the Fall. Groups that involved children, youth and young adult groups were a major part of the early to mid-twentieth century Jewish Buffalo landscape, and continue to play a vital role. The friendships that emerged from these groups, from the adults who organized them, to the youth



Standing, L-R, Tsiporah and Anna Maisel. Sitting, Daniel Maisel on right, at his 1st birthday party, Jewish Mother's Club and Home, 1921

who participated within them, created long lasting bonds of affection and memories that they could recall decades later. This article provides a sampling of some of these recollections.

In 1919, a volunteer women's organization for the service of children and youth incorporated formally, and was called The Jewish Mothers Club. It was initially founded as the Jewish Mothers Club Nursery and Temporary Home when it was located at 252 Adams Street starting around 1914. Without an extensive public health and welfare network for children and their families, the Home proved a lifeline for mothers experiencing long term illness, as well as for working women with large families. The Jewish Mothers' Club maintained a day

nursery for working mothers and a temporary home for children who needed a place to stay, as well as hot meals and free medical attention. It was organized by a tight knit group of East Side women who were also supported by the Ladies Manhattan Auxiliary.

By 1921 the home was caring for Jewish children aged 18 months to

Joint bat mitzvah classes were very popular group celebrations within various streams of Judaism in the mid-twentieth century. Bat mitzvah as an American Jewish innovation of the twentieth century has its roots back to 1922, but it was during the 1950s and 1960s, when it was still a relatively new innovation, that a group celebration became a general form. Traditions




B'nai B'rith Girls, Rena Chaim Chapter, 1957-1958. Courtesy of Elaine Kellick

12 years of age. There was a cook, a domestic educator and a field officer as well as volunteer workers. The Home relied on fundraising, fees and donations of items and services, much like many Jewish organizations today. Eventually the space was outgrown and a new home at 56 Johnson Street was purchased. Check the new entry for the Jewish Mother's Club to learn more about Daniel Maisel (pictured with his mother and his grandmother) and his family's connection to the home and its services.

continued to vary, bounded as much by attitudes and practices relating to gender within various synagogue movements and individual synagogues. Although by simply turning 13 years of age, Jewish boys and Jewish girls became bar or bat mitzvah and needed no formal ceremony, the status allowed for a boy to be counted in a minyan, receive an aliyah, and chant Torah.


For girls, who could also observe this rite from the age of 12, the ceremony in group form was more of a public act of commitment to live a life in the Jewish tradition. Observances often had




Why Life Care?

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

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



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



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

Contact Us Today.
www.CanterburyWoods.org

a pattern of two or more girls, generally on Friday nights when the Torah was not read. Shabbat/Saturday morning celebration could include various reading from a printed book rather than from the Torah scroll itself. Later these practices changed, and became either the direct equivalent of boy's observance to the full congregation or to women-only groups, but also with a multitude of variations in between. The Ahavas Achim Lubavitz Synagogue joint Bas Mitzvah Class, May 15, 1960 pictured in this article is courtesy of Judith J. Baron (then Judy Rosenberg) and you can find out who else is in this wonderfully evocative photograph when you visit the History Center website.

Theater was a significant part of many youth activities within synagogues and outside of them, just as Jewish theater held a strong presence in Buffalo more

generally. *(Keep checking back to this column as this will form the topic of a future article.)* From productions at local theaters especially popular in the 1920s organized by Temple Beth El, to groundbreaking theater at the Jewish Center's various stages by adults, children and youth were also creating theater in these same spaces. The image included here is a production by Temple Emanu-El youth complete with a large cast, set and costumes! To find out more about this image and Temple Emanu-El, check the entry for Temple Emanu-El at the site.

Just as theater groups produced friendships, so did other groups that were created upon the basis of service and learning. Friendship and continued connection with these organizations were the lasting effect of many of these youth associations. Bridging across different synagogue affiliations and public and private school associations, youth groups of all varieties had a strong presence



Ahavas Achim-Lubavitz Bas Mitzvah Class, 1960.
Photograph by Fredric Marschall. Courtesy of Judith Baron

in Buffalo. These included national fraternities and sororities in local form, as well as groups that came out of national service groups like B'nai B'rith.

In addition to activities like theater, there were a range of service and educational options. Many of these are recalled in a scrapbook maintained by Elaine Kellick for her activities with her twin sister in Rena Chaim chapter which was very active within Buffalo in the 1950s. The scrapbook highlights a wide array of social, educational, recreational and community service activities of the group through one particular year and you can see samplings of this on the website from May.

B'nai B'rith Girls across the US had many individual groups from the 1920s, but they really became popular as B'nai B'rith Women gained strength as female corollary to the

male organization. With that expansion, support and development of the girls groups also expanded, and there were several in Buffalo. We'd love to know more about them as well as about Aleph Zadik Aleph, the auxiliary program for boys and young men. Please contact me at Chana@buffalojewishfederation.org if you have images and would like to share!

My thanks to brothers Daniel Maisel and Richard Maisel, and Daniel Maisel's daughters Barbara Spector and Elizabeth (Betty) Maisel, Gail Golden, daughter of Beverly Maisel Goldsman, and sister of Daniel and Richard Maisel, and to Geoffrey Golden, grandson of Beverly Goldsman. I would also like to thank Elaine Kellick, Joyce Edelman Greenspan and Judith Baron.

Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D. is the Coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo History Center website which you can find at <https://jewishbuffalohistory.org/>



Theater at Temple Emanu-El, c.1950s. Courtesy of Joyce Edelman Greenspan

To advertise in the

THE JEWISH JOURNAL
A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

Call Cynthia at
308-4843

coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com

**NOW OPEN
IN BUFFALO**

urbanAir
ADVENTURE PARK

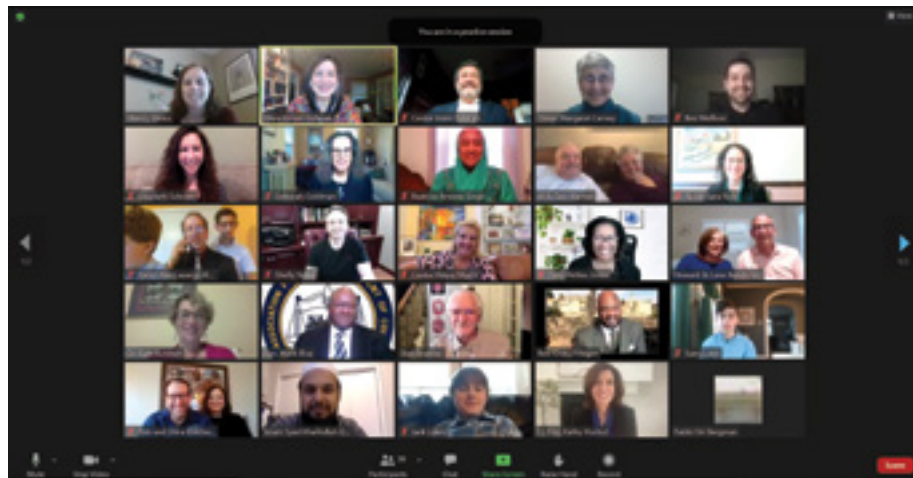
UrbanAirBuffalo.com
One Walden Galleria • Buffalo, NY 14225

JCRC's Interfaith Seder

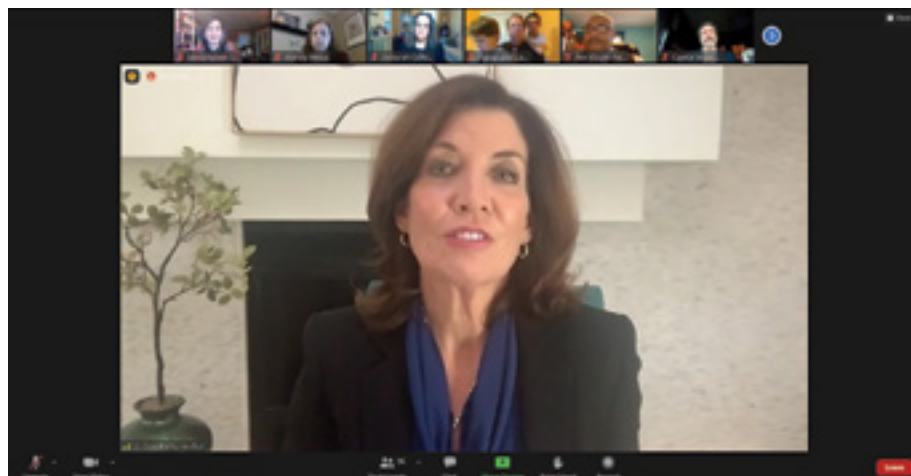
BY RABBI ALEX LAZARUS-KLEIN

On Tuesday, March 23, a group of 30 Buffalo-based interfaith leaders gathered in a Zoom room with over 130 "guests," to lead a Passover Seder. This was not the first time most of us in the room and had taken part in such an activity. The year before in 2020, we had held a similar event on *Pesach Sheni* that we called "Passover of Hope." *Passover Sheni* is the Biblical makeup day for when our life's circumstances interfered with the celebration of the holiday. Only a little more than a month into the pandemic we were still shell-shocked from watching life shut down around us.

This year was different. All of us were now experts in virtual gatherings and well used to quarantining. For the leaders in the room, many of whom had traveled to Israel



Zoom view of the Interfaith Seder participants



New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul

together in December of 2017 as part of Federation's Interfaith Clergy Trip, this felt like a reunion. For all of us, this has been a challenging year, regardless of our individual faith community. Holidays, life cycle events, weekly services, had been in a state of constant flux for well over a year. Passover with its themes of slavery and freedom seemed like the perfect metaphor for our pandemic life. Now, with vaccines being distributed more widely, the Promised Land was finally within view.

New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul started the event by asking us to look toward history as a way of freeing others and ourselves from oppression. The National Federation of Just Communities of WNY president Rene Petties-Jones offered the opening reading calling on all of us to recognize our own capacity to make a difference. Our Federation CEO Rob Goldberg and his wife, Shira, offered the candle-lighting blessing, and Rev. Mark Blue, the head of our local NAACP, raising the first cup of wine toward awakening to the injustices all around us, followed.

An Imam, a local Sikh leader, the head of the Network of Religious Communities, the head of our Jewish Family Service, and the director of Hillel, were among the many who participated. Of particular importance, were the words of Sister Margaret Carney, the President Emeritus of St. Bonaventure University who described freedom as "the face that is no longer lined with anxiety, but wreathed in smiles because the person is fully vaccinated." (Read the whole text below.) We concluded with Cantor Irwin Gelman leading us in a rendition of "Next Year without COVID."

The Interfaith Seder was an opportunity to celebrate the amazing work of our JCRC - Jewish Community Relations Council - and the building of many deep friendships, making our experience through such times, at least livable. We are so grateful for all of our participants, as well as the many others who tuned into to watch the event live.

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein is Rabbi of Congregation Shir Shalom and Rabbinic Consultant for Buffalo's JCRC.

What does Freedom look like?

- ~ The face that is no longer lined with anxiety, but wreathed in smiles because the person is fully vaccinated.
- ~ The child whose mother does not object to dancing through mud puddles and arrives home tired but delighted by the mess they have made in cooperation with Mother Earth.
- ~ The handshake between leaders of opposing parties, armies, leaders who have just agreed -have offered a hand of friendship—to put down arms—or beat them into ploughshares.
- ~ The joy on the face of a musician who is lost in the melody rising from his clarinet, or her piano—the joy of knowing you were born to keep that music alive for new generations.
- ~ The relieved smile of the son or

daughter who has just experienced a parent's unconditional love upon learning that this child identifies as LGBTQ

- ~ The steps of the person moving into a new culture, a new community, a new relationship in order to testify to the common good and put old ways and prejudice behind to open new beginnings.
- ~ The solemn face of the person who announces forgiveness and reconciliation for wrongs suffered, who know they have come to this through terrible pain, but who choose the path of life that Psalm 16 proclaims.

This piece was read by Sr. Margaret Carney OSF at the Federation's interfaith Seder in March.



WNY's Heritage Funeral Home For All Jewish Families

Offering Live Streaming from
our Funeral Home and The Cemetery • Mikvah
Yahrzeit Candles • Counseling Services • Offsite Catering
Flowers, • Limousine • Much More

**Your Loved One Will ALWAYS
Be Under Our Roof And In Our Care**



Mitchell Steinhorn, Owner
Licensed Funeral Director



Leon Komm
Licensed Funeral Director

Locally Owned, Operated and Deeply Involved in the Community

Contact Us Today
 281 Dodge Road, Amherst, NY
24 Hour Phone Line: 716-636-4174
www.amherstmemorialchapel.com
info@amherstmemorialchapel.com

UB Candlelight Vigil Honors Memory of Atlanta Victims

More than 100 people gathered distantly in UB North parking lots after Shabbat on March 20



BY MARA KOVEN-GELMAN

The news of eight people, six of them of Asian descent, killed by a single gunman in late March, was yet another act of hate toward Asian-American and Pacifica Islanders (AAPI).

The Buffalo JCRC immediately reached out to our close friends at the Chinese Club of WNY (CCWNY) to offer moral support. When past president Yanghong Baranski asked the Jewish community to attend a candlelight vigil in memory of those killed, we said, "Yes, of course." More than 100 people gathered distantly in UB North parking lots after Shabbat on March 20th. Given the proximity of the event to start of Shabbat, large-scale publicity was not possible.



Rabbi Alex-Lazarus-Klein shared heartfelt sorrow on the increased scapegoating, slander and hate while also expressing gratitude to the Chinese Club for all the mask and food giveaways they organized this past year. He spoke about the Havdalah ceremony Jews practice at the end of Shabbat, showing the unique Havdalah candle. "This candle is braided, just like we are braided together. If one section falls off, the light will not be as bright and it will not work. Like the Havdalah candle, we always need to be intertwined together." Cantor Irwin Gelman led the gathering in the U.S. national anthem.

I also shared the Jewish commandment to "Not Stand Idly By when our neighbors' blood is shed." The JCRC helped connect the Chinese Club to NAACP and National Federation of Just Communities of WNY. Rev. Mark Blue shared passionate words about all of us working together, and the importance of voting for legislators who ensure we have laws against hate. Rene Petties-Jones of NFJC also shared her organization's dedication to tolerance and building a civil community. Nina Lukin, immediate chair of the JCRC, and her family joined the event and took photos.

The CCWNY was extremely grateful for the Jewish community's help with the event. "Thank you so much for coming tonight, thank you for your support and being our friends." Yanhong Baranski said.

Mara Koven-Gelman is JCRC director.

BRUCE ADER

ESTATE SALES & APPRAISALS



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

SERVING WNY
SINCE 1985

*"Our Success is
Measured by your
Satisfaction"*

716.510.4484

EMAIL: BRUCEADER@YAHOO.COM

WWW.BRUCEADER.COM

*Barbara Oliver
Jewelry*

A Shopping Experience Like No Other



Barbara L. Oliver

Graduate Gemologist - GIA

5820 Main Street, Suite 311 | Caldwell Building | Williamsville, NY 14221

P- 716.204.1297 | F- 716.204.2260

jeweler@barbaraoliverandco.com

Shop By Appointment - Curbside Available

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

5 THINGS You Can Do in May to Repair the World

SPONSORED BY

If you are a victim of domestic violence, and need time off to go to court or medical appointments, your employer may be required to accommodate you.

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



1» Study with your community virtually on Zoom for Shavuot May 12, 13 and 16. Join TBT in partnership with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis & Cantors at special Virtual Tikkun "Leyl" Shavuot sessions from 1-4 p.m. May 12 and 13 and May 16 from 4-6 p.m. Pre-registration required. To register, please email Rachel Anderson at rachand74@outlook.com. **For more information, please visit www.btzbuffalo.org.**

2» Save the date for the Virtual Hospice Memorial Walk, Saturday, May 15 & Sunday, May 16! To ensure the safety of The Buffalo Hospice Community, the Walk will be virtual this year. You, your family, and friends can participate in this tradition, but in the safest manner possible. Registration is \$35 and will count towards your fundraising goal. Walk kick-off days on Friday, May 7 & Saturday, May 8 at 225 Como Park Blvd. Pick up your T-shirt, claim your Walk gear & rewards, grab your goody-bag, & drop off donations. **Call 716-989-2010 or visit HospiceMemorialWalk.com for more information or to register as a virtual walker.**

3» You can participate in the mitzvah of writing a torah scroll with Kehillat Ohr Tzion Sunday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as KOT completes and dedicates its Children's Unity Torah scroll, beginning at the Clearfield Rec Center and walking to KOT. You can purchase words or even letters of the scroll in honor or memory of a loved one to be part of this mitzvah. **For more information visit www.ohrtzion.org/new-torah.**

4» Need a laugh? Then don't miss The TELL Fund's Zoom event Thursday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. "The Spirituality of Laughter" features former TBZ Rabbi and Comedian Bob Alper. This event is presented in memory of the late Joan and Dr. Sam Shatkin (z"l) and you can **register at bit.ly/TELLFUND_ALPER.**

5» 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 to donate online, volunteer or learn more.**

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.

Last month, Marcie Frankel correctly identified Seymour Drumlevitch's exquisite painting, "The Ark of the Covenant," which is located in the Lippman Lounge on the second floor of the JCC/ Benderson Building.

A HUGE THANK YOU

TO OUR INVESTORS WHO SUPPORT
THE CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH BUFFALO!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!

DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS, YOUR
FEDERATION IS HERE FOR YOU, AS WE
HAVE BEEN FOR JEWS IN NEED IN OUR
COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS.

If you have not yet made your gift to the 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, please do so today. Your gift will help us continue to sustain and support Jewish life here and abroad.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG/DONATE
OR CALL ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RANDI MORKISZ AT
716-628-3431

Former Journalist Sue Buyer Finds New Calling, Publishing Her First Novel at 92

Retired journalist and Amherst resident Sue Buyer's novella, *All Things in Time* (Atmosphere), draws on her real-life experience in what was a male-dominated world of the newsroom in the 1950s and 60s. Recently, her *alma mater*, Vassar College profiled Sue on their website. The story is reprinted below. And her book announcement and photo premiered in Times Square in view of the entire world! Her book, which is NOT autobiographical, is available at Nest in the Village on Main Street in Williamsville and online at Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com.

BY KIMBERLY SCHAYE

Like many Vassar grads of the late 1940s, Sue (Fruchtbaum) Buyer '47 found that the postwar economy offered many opportunities...if you were male. "Those were the days when what you did was get a secretarial job," Buyer recalls. "You could be a teacher, you could be a social worker; there weren't a lot of jobs that were eager to have women." Yet Buyer was eager to escape these limitations, so she became a journalist. Her life as a reporter in the 1950s is the basis for her first novella, *All Things in Time* (Atmosphere Press, 2020).

Few things can stop first-time novelist Sue Buyer '47 once she puts her mind to it. Not even a blizzard!

The book tells the story of two spirited women, one a young journalist, united by a mysterious death. "The plot of the book is totally fiction, but the characters are real people," Buyer says, with one big difference: "The women in the book led a much more interesting life than I did."

Maybe, but her own story is interesting enough.

In an eerie echo of today's student experience, Sue Fruchtbaum, a lifelong resident of suburban Buffalo, NY, entered Vassar in the midst of a polio epidemic. For the early part of her first year, no one was allowed to leave campus or visit from outside. Yet being quarantined, she says, helped her and her fellow residents of Raymond House forge strong bonds, and the group never lacked for amusements. "Somebody wrote a musical show, everything was on campus," she recalls. "We all went into the parlor room after dinner and sang and put off doing homework for half an hour and we got to know each other." More than 70 years later, she is still in regular contact with her Raymond roommate.

Her academic experience was equally absorbing.

"We had a teacher, Mabel Newcomer, an economics professor, who really got us going," she says, adding that because Vassar was an all-women's school, "we weren't trying to be sweet and cute for the boys. We just spoke up. We all went through the rest of our lives speaking up."



Sue Buyer on the screen at Times Square

"It was a very different time. Five years after the end of World War II, many of the veterans who had finished college under the GI Bill dreamt of a house in the suburbs, a stay-at-home wife and four or five well-behaved children. There were magazine ads that encouraged those dreams. One showed a smiling young woman in high-heeled shoes pushing a vacuum cleaner. Another depicted a smiling housewife hugging rolls of toilet paper. This is the story of two women who didn't buy into that picture...."

Graduating with a sociology degree, Buyer took the path of many of her classmates and became a secretary. But it was clear that her heart wasn't in it. "One day, the boss came back from lunch, and I was eating my lunch, reading a book, and talking on the telephone," she remembers. "And he honestly said to me, 'If you like to do many things badly instead of one thing well, why don't you go into journalism?' I thought, what a good idea, and I never had to be a secretary again."

Buyer entered Columbia Journalism School in 1950 as one of 7 female students in a class of 62. She credits her *alma mater* with giving her the courage to make the leap into such a male-dominated profession. "Vassar taught us that!" she exclaims. "Speak up, don't play dumb." She received her master's degree in one year and went right to work. "I graduated on a Friday and started at the *Buffalo Evening News* on Monday," she says.

Although she enjoyed the work, she soon realized there were stories she would never get to cover: crimes, accidents—basically anything that involved leaving the building.

"One time, when there was a big, breaking story, it was New Year's Eve afternoon, and no one was in the office but three women. The city editor got on the phone to some guy who was at home and said, 'I have nobody here, please come in,'" she recalls. Apparently, a plane had crashed about 70 miles away. "They never sent women on that kind of story in those years," she says.

Although Buyer worked at the paper for 25 years—marrying fellow reporter Robert Buyer along the way—she would not see the day when women were finally sent to cover breaking news. Instead, she embarked on a new career where no boss would tell her she couldn't go 70 miles down the road. "I left journalism in the 1970s to go into the travel business because it was such fun—we got big discounts and went all over the place!" she recalls with obvious glee. "I like to walk around big cities and just see what I see: Paris, London, Rome."

Buyer has once again decided to try something new—yet writing a novel was hardly a long-standing ambition. "I wrote it out of boredom in the winter because I don't ski anymore," says the 92-year-old author, who hung up her skis at age 85. "I wasn't a wonderful skier," she adds with a journalist's penchant for accuracy. "I was just playing in the snow on non-threatening slopes."

The terrain of her novella is perhaps a little more threatening—especially to those who would disparage a female journalist on the basis of sex.

"One of the women at the paper was a little feistier than the rest of us," says Buyer. "She covered the courts back then, and once when somebody made a disparaging, anti-feminist comment to her about her job, she kicked him. He was out of work all week."

Wait—did that really happen?

"Yup."

This story is reprinted with permission of the author and the Vassar College communications department.

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



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

Dr. Kornfeld specializes in:

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



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

MEMBER



866-446-2050
KornfeldLowVision.com

Send
Mazel Tov
wishes

\$36 for up to 70 words
\$54 with added photo

CONTACT:

Cindy Oppenheimer

716-308-4843

coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

Shavuot Yizkor Service

Monday, May 17
10:30 a.m.



Please join the Shir Shalom Shavuot Yizkor Service where we will join in virtual community together. We will honor the memories of our loved ones and recite memorial prayers.

Go to our website
www.shirshalombuffalo.org

Click "Watch Our Services Live" or visit us on Facebook Live.
Follow along with the Shavuot Yizkor Service prayers located below the service on our website.

Beth Tzedek Hosts Virtual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot



Rabbi Moshe M. Silberschein will teach a class May 13

Jewish Buffalo is home to a cadre of Rabbis, Cantors, professors, and educators who will be coming together to teach Torah in celebration of Shavuot this month. Temple Beth Tzedek is proud to host this virtual gathering from May 12-16 in advance of the start of Shavuot which begins the evening of Sunday, May 16. This year's keynote speaker will be Rabbi Moshe M. Silberschein, TBT's beloved interim rabbi from 2019-2020, who will be presenting from his home in Jerusalem.

A native of Detroit, Rabbi Silberschein made Aliyah to Israel in 1982 and is a well-regarded teacher. The former Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical School of the Masorti Movement in Israel, he is currently a faculty member at the Reform Movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Jerusalem campus and the Jerusalem University College on Mount Zion, a global academic consortium of Protestant colleges and universities. He also taught a course on Judaism at Canisius College during his year as TBT's interim rabbi.

Please join TBT for this special line-up:

Wednesday, May 12

- 1:00 p.m.** - Prof. Sergey Dolgopolski, University at Buffalo Department of Jewish Thought: "Where is the Palestinian Talmud going?"
2:00 p.m. - Rabbi Sara Rich, Hillel of Buffalo: "Coming Back: Biblical & Rabbinic Teachings about Returning from Israel, and What it Means for Us as We Emerge from Isolation"
3:00 p.m. - Dr. Yonina Foster, Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning: "A Meditation of Receiving"

Thursday, May 13

- 1:00 p.m.** - Rabbi Moshe Silberschein: "Returning, Reconnecting, with Ourselves, Our Community and the Holy One: T'shuvah in Midrash & Weekday Jewish Liturgy"
2:00 p.m. - Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, Congregation Shir Shalom: "Coming Down from Sinai: Why the Journey Back Can Be Just as Hard as the Journey There"
3:00 p.m. - Rabbi Ori Bergman, Kehillat Ohr Tzion: "Going Beyond Labels"

Sunday, May 16

- 4:00 p.m.** - Rabbi Sharon Sobel, Temple Beth Zion: "Ruth: Renewing Our Connections to Sinai through the 'Other'"
5:00 p.m. - Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, Temple Beth Tzedek: "The Morning After"

All the sessions will be held via Zoom with pre-registration required. To register, please email Rachel Anderson at rachand74@outlook.com. Special thanks to event co-chairs Rachel Anderson and Dr. Bernie Weinstein for continuing this sacred tradition in partnership with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis & Cantors. For more information, please visit www.btzbuffalo.org.

CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ

Tuesdays, May 4th & 25th

4:00pm-7:00pm (or until sold out)

\$11 PRESALE Includes

1/2 chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, roll with butter
French fries available for \$3.00 per order or 2 for \$5.00

TO GO ONLY

Drive Thru Pickup-MUST wear a mask/face covering at pickup

Please DO NOT exit your vehicle

\$12 At The Door

GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENT.

THANK YOU!!!



Congregation Shir Shalom
4660 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-633-8877
www.shirshalombuffalo.org

KOT to Dedicate Unity Torah May 16



The final commandment set forth in the Torah is for every single Jew to take part in the writing of a Torah scroll in their lifetime. Of the 613 mitzvot, this was what G-d determined important enough to 'save the best for last' - quite the honor (and a solid factoid for your next happy hour, virtual or otherwise)! It is important to note that the mitzvah is to take part in the writing - this implies that the scribing of a Torah scroll should be undertaken as a community. It is perhaps the most powerful and enduring way a community can unite and create something special for generations to come. This is precisely the goal of the Children's Unity Torah scroll for Jewish Buffalo.

An initiative of Kehillat Ohr Tzion (KOT), powered by the generous donations of Al (Z"L) & Julia Aroeste (in memory of Howard Lapides Z"L) and Irv & Cheryl Stein, the Children's Unity Torah scroll is finally ready to make its Buffalo debut! On Sunday May 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the entire Jewish Buffalo community is invited to join us for its dedication, a celebration of Jewish Buffalo's new addition. This date, the eve of Shavuot, the holiday of the

Giving of the Torah, is an auspicious opportunity to rededicate ourselves, as our ancestors did 3300 years before, to the eternal bond we share to G-d's gift to us, the Torah. Starting at the Clearfield Community Center, where families will find interactive and educational booths and games, we will then parade our new *sefer* Torah to its new home at KOT, where a *Sopher* (a Torah scribe) will write the final words, formally completing the mitzvah.

The source of festively celebrating the dedication of a new Torah is the biblical account of King David welcoming the Holy Ark into his capital: "David went and brought up the Ark of G-d... into the City of David, with joy... David danced with all his might before G-d... David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of G-d with shouts and with the sound of the Shofar." (*II Samuel 6:12-15.*)

Hundreds of our fellow community members have purchased letters, words or even full *parshiot*, thereby fulfilling this mitzvah of such importance. We hope you will join this festive occasion. There is still time to purchase a letter or section of the Unity Torah in honor or memory of a loved one. **To do so please visit www.ohrtzion.org/new-torah.**

Beth Tzedek Explores Our Changing World

Furthering the discussion on major trends, Temple Beth Tzedek will be hosting two virtual events in May on climate change and Jewish demographics.

On Sunday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m., Nancy Boxer, founder of the Association for Climate Health, will present "The Climate is Changing." Founded in 2019, the Association for Climate Health started as a nonpartisan forum for the sharing of ideas and information sharing across disciplines in response to the growing threat of climate change and disruption. Ms. Boxer will discuss the growing awareness about global warming as well as air, land, and water pollution.



Nancy Boxer



Matt Boxer

On Thursday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m., Prof. Matthew E. Boxer, assistant research professor at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University, will present "Jewish Communities are Changing." A Kadimah Academy graduate raised in Niagara Falls, Prof. Boxer was the Principal Investigator of the 2013 Western New York Jewish community study commissioned by the Buffalo Jewish Federation. He will be covering mobility, population trends, and the long-term sustainability of Jewish institutions.

Please RSVP for these events, which will be held on Zoom, to laurence.boxer@gmail.com. For more information, visit <https://www.btzbuffalo.org/changingworldspeakers>.

Small Law Firm
1904 Liberty Building
Buffalo, NY 14202

אינז'ורד ?



Small 847-2600
LAW FIRM

Personal Injury Attorney • Small Firm, Big Difference



Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Panera Fundraiser

8200 Transit Road, Amherst
Thursday, May 13 • 4 - 8 p.m.

Take the night off from cooking and get a delicious meal from Panera! Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood invites you to enjoy a drive-thru, curbside, contactless delivery or in cafe meal. A portion of the sales will be donated to TBZ Sisterhood. See more details at www.tbz.org/events/.

36th Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival Screening Virtually Through May 14, 2021

This year the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 36th Season. The Festival will stream films virtually through Thursday, May 14. "After successfully transitioning to a virtual format last year we are thrilled to continue presenting the Film Festival in a safe and easily accessible way for the Buffalo community and beyond," said Katie Wzontek, Cultural Arts Director, Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo. "

The Festival will host three virtual Talkback Tuesdays streamed on YouTube. Talkback Tuesday, April 27 features Ryan Porush, director of



Aulcie

The Passengers, about Ethiopian Jews trying to emigrate to Israel. On May 4, the Talkback includes a panel discussion on *Shared Legacies*, the story of Black and Jewish collaboration during the Civil Rights movement. Moderated by Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum from Temple Beth Tzedek, panelists include Rabbi Everett Gendler, interviewed throughout the film, Rev Mark Blue, president of NAACP Buffalo Branch, and Rene Petties-Jones, president of the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc. The final Tuesday Talkback on May 11 features the French WWII film *An Irrepressible Woman*, and will be moderated by Dr. Eileen Angelini, an expert on Vichy France. The following films are included in the BIJFF screening schedule, through Friday, May 14, 2021:

2021 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Through May 14, 2021 www.bijff.com

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Interview with a Jewish Civil Rights Activist: Rabbi Everett Gendler

BY GAIL GENDLER, DAUGHTER OF ALAN GENDLER (Z"l) AND CHARLOTTE GENDLER

Shared Legacies: The African-American Jewish Civil Rights Alliance is a documentary revisiting and reviving the crucial historic lessons of the Black-Jewish cooperation during the Civil Rights era. It is being virtually screened as part of the BIJFF with a talkback May 4 at 7:00 p.m. During the post film program, Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum of Temple Beth Tzedek will moderate a panel including noted civil rights era activist Rabbi Everett Gendler, who is featured in the film, NAACP's Rev. Mark Blue and President of the National Federation of Just Communities Rene Petties-Jones. We are pleased to share a recent interview with Rabbi Gendler by Buffalonian and family member Gail Gendler.

When did you start working with the Civil Rights movement?

I started working at my first congregation in Princeton, NJ in 1962 (after graduating from Jewish Theological Seminary-JTS). A rabbi colleague phoned and said, "King (Rev. Martin Luther King) really hit some roadblocks in Albany (GA) and he's hoping that some Northern clergy can come participate in a prayer vigil. It might help boost the movement." Obviously, King's approach of non-violence, active, engaged, prophetic justice and, reliving the exodus from Egypt, had intrinsic appeal to me.

I realized that the timing for this sort of venture is never convenient. I asked the question 'Do you put your feet and body where your mouth has been, or do you take refuge in inconvenience?' I simply felt moved to risk, so I went.

While that (first) demonstration was postponed, I was able to sit in on the planning session. I saw (King) and his fellow organizers at



Rabbi Everett Gendler

work. Being in the room was very instructive.

The next year, during May 1963, I was in the Catskills with the Rabbinical Assembly (Conference). Nineteen rabbis at the Conference were delegated to go support activities in the South, to help Civil Rights efforts. I was one of the leaders of that delegation and stayed for two--three days. I returned to Princeton and stayed in touch with the movement. After the horror of bloody Sunday in Selma (March 7, 1965), Mary (my wife) and I returned to Selma for "Turnaround Tuesday," a second planned march that drew 2500 people.



Shared Legacies

What was your relationship like with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel z"l?

Rabbi Heschel was one of my teachers at the Seminary (JTS). He was certainly an inspirational figure; he had a profound influence on me. I was fortunate enough to have contact with him throughout my studies at the Seminary and afterwards.

Historians mention that I persuaded Heschel to go to Selma for the famous, triumphant march. That should be qualified. There was no need to persuade him to go; he had a deep instinct, a deep identification with King and the freedom movement. He did ask me if I thought it was responsible, how much danger was there for him, as he and his wife, Sylvia had a young daughter.



I had a blessed amount of contact with Rabbi Heschel; I wish it had been more. In the same way, I wish I had more time with (King), but what contact I had was pretty close up.

Rev. King Jr. was the keynote speaker at the Rabbinical Assembly in March 1968, celebrating Rabbi Heschel’s 60th birthday. I chaired a session asking (King) questions about Civil Rights. Ten days later Rev. King Jr. was assassinated. I was blessed to have a fair amount of contact with King. I was a faithful non-violent foot soldier. When needed, I would turn up.

What can the Jewish community and their allies do to foster and include others in the struggle for civil rights today?

For the astonishing progress that followed the Civil Rights movement, we (still) need the kind of vision that King provided. We need the shared values, the affirmation of the dignity of all human beings, the emphasis on **all** of us as Americans. We need to articulate that, not just through words but through engagement; we need to address them together. Our best chances for moving forward is to find commonality and not just trading favors for advancement for one group or another.

What is needed to create more unity in Civil Rights work today?

We need to engage in clarification of what our vision is... of the future. It is not clear at this point, at least not clear to me, exactly what various groups want.

The people who want to broaden our cultural sensitivities have a very important point and of course, other points of view have to be included. On what basis is there this inclusion? We recognize that our differences have to be acknowledged and celebrated. But let us also identify human elements that all of us share. We have more in common than divides us. We have to find a way to recognize that “distinctive” need not mean “divisiveness.”



**NEW 2021 GENESIS GV80
2.5 TURBO AUTOMATIC**

MSRP STARTING AT \$56,075

STOCK: 21E126

Meet the first-ever SUV from Genesis, pushing the limits of style and performance with a full suite of intuitive technology, all-road capability, luxurious comfort for all passengers, responsive 300-horsepower, and a design that stops you in your tracks. The Genesis GV80 ushers in a new era of what a modern luxury SUV should be.

GENESIS OF AMHERST

3673 SHERIDAN DRIVE | AMHERST, NY 14226

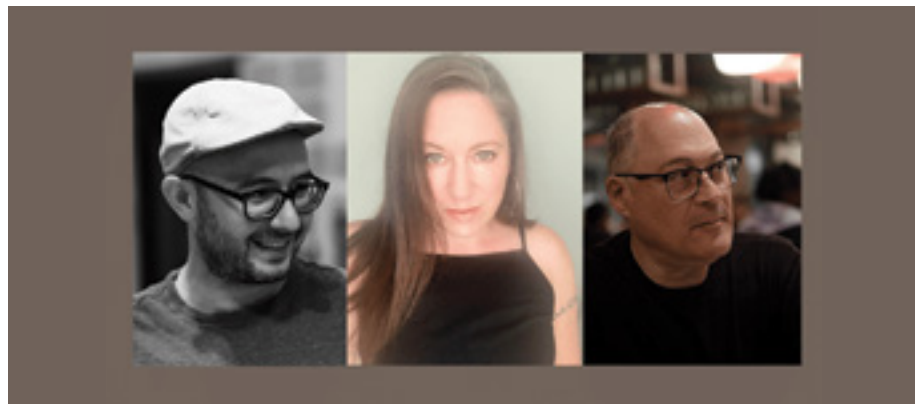
716.265.6825 | GENESISOFAMHERST.COM



JCC Poetry Reading Series Concludes May 24

The JCC Poetry Reading Series concludes on Monday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. This new program has featured poets of national and regional interest that represent poetry's enormous richness and variety. The final reading will include three outstanding poets Jake Marmer, Norman Finkelstein and Erika Meitner.

Jake Marmer is a poet, performer, and educator from the Bay Area. Born in the provincial steppes of Ukraine, in a city that was renamed four times in the past 100 years, he is the author of three poetry collections: *Cosmic Diaspora* (Station Hill Press, 2020), *The Neighbor Out of Sound* (The Sheep Meadow Press, 2018) and *Jazz Talmud* (The Sheep Meadow Press, 2012). He also released two klez-jazz-poetry records: *Purple Tentacles of Thought and Desire* (2020, with Cosmic Diaspora Trio), and *Hermeneutic Stomp* (Blue Fringe Music, 2013). Jake is the poetry critic for *Tablet Magazine*.



Norman Finkelstein is a poet, critic, and Emeritus Professor of English at Xavier University. His publications include *In a Broken Star* (Dos Madres, 2021), and *Like a Dark Rabbi: Modern Poetry and the Jewish Literary Imagination* (Hebrew Union College Press, 2019). In addition, he has widely published a poetry review blog.

Erika Meitner is the author of five books of poems, including *Ideal Cities* (Harper Perennial, 2010)—a 2009 National Poetry Series winner; *Copia* (BOA Editions, 2014); and *Holy Moly Carry Me* (BOA Editions, 2018), winner of the 2018 National Jewish Book Award and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry. Her poems have been published in *Best American Poetry*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Tin House*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. Meitner is currently a professor of English at Virginia Tech. Her sixth book, *Useful Junk*, is forthcoming from BOA Editions in 2022.

There is no fee to participate but registration is required at <https://www.jccbuffalo.org/event/poetry4/>. Questions? Email Katie Wzontek, JCC Cultural Arts Director at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.

Hillel and Gift of Life Partner for Matzah Match

BY RABBI SARA RICH

Passover is a time to reach out and consider the needs of people we don't know. We reflect on the experience of our Israelite ancestors and the cruelty they endured and in turn commit to caring for all people. In fact, the *mitzvah*, or commandment, to love the stranger is mentioned 36 times in the Torah – more than any single other obligation.

During Passover this year, 50 Hillel students acted upon this mitzvah by registering for the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry. This organization helps individuals with blood cancer and others in need of a bone marrow transplant find a match. Because matching is so specific, many in need will not be able to find a donor within their own network of friends and family. This database broadly expands the pool of people who can offer a life-saving match.

The path to registering these 50 students was a twist on a Passover favorite – matzah pizza! In a program called *Matzah Match*, students were able to order a gourmet matzah pizza kit that they either picked up or had it delivered safely to their dorm. Upon receiving the pizza kit, the student provided a quick cheek swab saliva sample, so that they would be included in the Gift of Life Registry.

UB student Max Carrol is a Gift of Life ambassador, which is a program that trains college students to carry out registration drives on campus. Their efforts were supported by Hillel staff member Macie Clawson, Hillel's Springboard Innovation Specialist, and Hannah Nemerever, Hillel's Serve the Moment social justice intern.



Left to right: Max Carrol, Hannah Nemerever, Aaron Yang and Macie Clawson

The Matzah Match program was made possible by a grant from the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Commemoration, Celebration and Conversation micro-grant program that incentivized organizational partnerships to create innovative initiatives this spring.

Hillel has partnered for the last several years with Gift of Life, but wanted to boost their joint efforts this year because the pandemic has reduced the number of students who would typically enter the registry. Matzah Match provided a new way to reach students, offering safety, convenience, and a delicious Passover treat.

Gift of Life seeks to register individuals from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. It is this broad community outreach that Max enjoys most. He remarked, "Nearly everyone you meet has been affected by cancer in some way during their life. Being a part of Gift of Life has helped me reach diverse communities to work towards a common goal."

Approaching students on campus to invite them to join the registry means breaking them out of their usual routine, and making a profound request. While some students are initially caught off-guard, once they understand the purpose of Gift of Life, they are eager to participate. As Macie reflects on the experience, "It feels amazing knowing that the one person you stop on their way to a class who agrees to get swabbed could be the next match to save a life."

Hillel expresses its gratitude to the Buffalo Jewish Federation for sponsoring Matzah Match and looks forward to continuing the partnership with Gift of Life.

Rabbi Sara Rich is Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo



- DRAIN CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE
- CAMERA LINE INSPECTION
- SEWER REPAIR, FULL EXCAVATION SERVICE
- FLOODED BASEMENT
- SUMP PUMPS
- GAS LEAK DETECTION
- TANKLESS WATER HEATERS
- AND MUCH MORE

24 EMERGENCY SERVICES




OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE, MASTER PLUMBER, FULLY INSURED, LOCALLY OWNED, SERVING ALL OF WNY

716-491-5564

JCC Professionals Step Up to Aid Others in Crisis

The 2018 mass shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, caused profound despair around the world. There was also confusion. What do you do first when crisis hits?

Soon thereafter, JResponse®, a signature program of JCC Association of North America, organized an action plan to support the community's recovery and healing. JCC professionals from across the continent travelled to Pittsburgh in the days and weeks after the tragedy to provide assistance and relief to their colleagues at the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh, who were anchoring their community during this difficult time.

Many JCCs became part of that response and had the chance to support the JCC staff in Pittsburgh. Though people didn't really know what help they would need or provide, they simply wanted to be there and do whatever to be supportive.

The JCC of Pittsburgh quickly transitioned to become a refuge for people seeking support and services for food, shelter, funeral services, therapy



Michael Garcia

dogs, family counseling, and more. While in Pittsburgh, staff assisted in served lunch to seniors and helped staff respond to calls from individuals affected by the shooting or in search of loved ones.

JCCs from across the country stepped up to help during that crisis and continued with a plan to continue to expand and provide training to JCC professionals.

JCC of Greater Buffalo's Michael Garcia, director of Camp Centerland, quickly was

identified to help design and facilitate this foundational training. "As a long-time mental health first aid instructor with the National Council for Behavioral Health, Garcia is an essential member of the JResponse® community," said Mark S. Young, JResponse® director. "Michael's professional and calm presence combined with his expert knowledge, experience, and ideas enhanced our program, building our capacity to help where and when it is needed."

For Garcia, giving back through JResponse® is a way to respond to community needs at a critical time. "I'd been looking for a way to give back since the Tree of Life synagogue shooting," he says. "I'm proud to be part of this powerful initiative that can harness the skills and passion of nearly 12,000 full-time JCC professionals from across the continent to provide tangible support and relief to other JCCs in the aftermath of a crisis," Michael shared. "I have been serving since I was very young. It is one of the values my parents gifted to me as a child, and I still hold that dear to my heart."

JResponse®, originally conceived after Hurricane Harvey severely damaged greater Houston, including the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC of Houston, Texas, was designed to respond after natural disasters in which JCCs were affected. That notion changed following the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh and changed again with the onset of the pandemic, said Young. "With COVID-19, we can't travel, and nearly all JCCs have faced tremendous challenges during the past year. Regardless of the type of disaster, JResponse® stays true to its 'why.'"

"We're building bridges and elevating talent among JCC professionals to strengthen our communities that encounter trauma as a result of crisis. JResponse® is more critical now than ever because the need is tremendous. Our specially trained JCC professionals possess the spirit, dedication, and desire to help each other, so we are seizing this moment to initiate additional JResponse® programming, including our new, online foundational training, Hineni ("to step up"), said Young.

For more information about JResponse, visit <https://jcca.org/what-we-do/jresponse/>.



IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING,
consider an online
counseling session
with JFS.

Getting started is easy. jfsbuffalo.org | 716.883.1914

Academic Scholarships and Loans Available at FJP

BY IRV LEVY

For over 30 years, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies has administered the Academic Scholarship and Loan program. The importance that Judaism places on both education and charity converge to make the scholarship program a favorite cause to support for both our donors and our community volunteers that serve on the Foundation's scholarship committee.

Since 2006, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.6 million dollars helping hundreds of students pursue their educational aspirations. We award both 0% interest rate loans under the Hoenig Academic Loan Program and scholarships that are not subject to repayment. Both are based upon financial need which is confidentially evaluated by the professionals at Jewish Family Services.

We believe that the gift of an education is not only a gift today, but one that continues to give for lifetime. Consider this poignant

example: Several years after completing his undergraduate degree, a young man went to graduate school to get his advanced degree to become a teacher and eventually a school guidance counselor. Every day, he works to improve the lives of others, sharing his time and his talents to advance young minds. He received a Hoenig loan to help him when he needed it most. He has since repaid the loan in full and he now makes an annual contribution to the Foundation to pay it forward.

This story is similar to so many of the stories that we hear at the Foundation, and we hope to become part of YOUR story too! We're here to help you achieve your academic goals. Our application is open until June 1. **For more information, visit jewishphilanthropies.org/academic-scholarships or contact Barb Miller at barb@jewishphilanthropies.org.**

Irv Levy is Executive Director of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

Coming soon: Kadimah Scholars at Park Ad Book!

The Kadimah Scholars at Park are in the middle of their second year, and the collaboration with The Park School has been a huge success. Amidst the global pandemic which has prevented schools from classroom learning, Kadimah at Park has been able to teach students in person 5 days a week as well as offer an option to those families who preferred to learn via Zoom.



Kadimah has stayed true to its longstanding mission of ensuring that a Jewish education is accessible to all, regardless of financial means. You are an



integral part of that goal.

But because we still can't host our annual dinner, we have decided to continue putting together a Program Book. The proceeds from sponsorship and advertising will ensure the continued success of our mission. Your ongoing support is always appreciated. We hope that you'll participate this year and help us successfully reach our fundraising goals. Check the Kadimah Facebook page and Kadimah.org for more information.

APPLY ONLINE TODAY FOR
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
JEWISHPHILANTHROPIES.ORG
APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1

FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES

**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

Presented by:

HRC HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER OF BUFFALO   

Made possible by a grant from: **BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION**

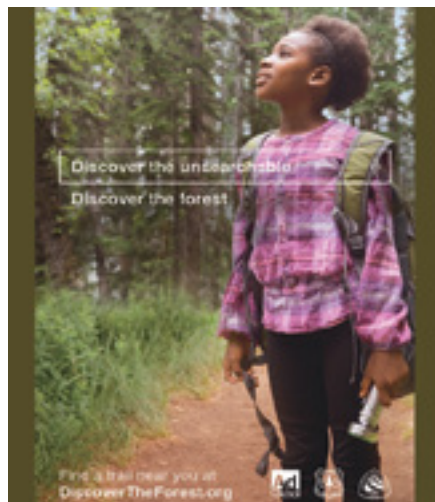


Mischler's
florist • greenhouses

118 S. Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
(between Main St. and Wehrle Dr.)
716.632.1290
www.mischlersorist.com

We grow and sell quality flowers and plants right here in Williamsville!
Open Year Round • Daily Delivery in the Greater Buffalo Area

Thank You for Supporting the Jewish Family Services March Plant Sale




Spot's
FARM MARKET

Spring - Flowers & shrubs
Summer - Homegrown
fruits & vegetables
Fall - Pumpkins, Mums,
and fall decor
Winter - Wreaths, and
decorative accents

5757 Transit Road
Open 7 days a week
688-1110

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



**CONNECT
WITH**

Buffalo's best writers
who share their knowledge and insider tips on WNY

Cultural leaders
driving the arts forward

**Your neighbors &
the community**
doing their part for the Best of WNY

**FREE
DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION
WITH YOUR
ORDER**

Subscribe with code **JOURNAL** and receive 12 issues for just \$12

Call (716) 972-2230 or visit www.buffalospreemag.com



Wishing you
a joyful
Mother's Day.

THE JEWISH JOURNAL



**Having
a baby?**

**DOTAN
HERSZAGE**
CERTIFIED MOHEL

Text or Call
614-580-0416
mohel.herszage@gmail.com

**“YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
BE SO
STRONG”**

BUT IF I'M NOT, WHO WILL?

Being a caregiver takes a special kind of commitment.
We know your strength is super, but you're still human.

FIND SUPPORT FOR YOUR STRENGTH.

AARP.ORG/CAREGIVING
1 - 8 7 7 - 3 3 3 - 5 8 8 5

AARP
Real Possibilities

Ad Council

*Mazel
Tov*

Mazel Tov
to
**RABBI SARA
& EZRA RICH**
on Their
10th
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



May 30th, 2011 – 26 Iyar 5771
Temple Oheb Shalom - Baltimore

From Baltimore to Buffalo, may
we continue to celebrate smachot
together for many years to come!

Mazel Tov to my shayna keppie,
Jonah Matan Earne!



Jonah celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Satur-
day, March 6th, Shabbat Parah 22 Adar at
Congregation Beth Am in San Diego, Cal-
ifornia where his father is a Rabbi. Jonah
is the son of Elizabeth and Rabbi Matthew
Earne and dear brother of Gabriella Lily.
Jonah is a 7th grader at San Diego Jewish
Academy and loves sports, especially the
Buffalo Bills!

Love always, Your Bubbe

Nickel City Jews Take a Hike!

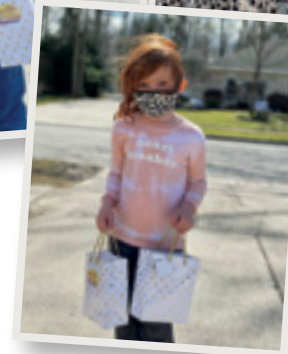
Participants in Nickel City Jews gathered on Sunday, April 11 to enjoy a hike to the Eternal Flame and dinner at Public House on the lake. It was great to come together after Passover to enjoy the outdoors.



Music with Miss Rivky

A fun and interactive virtual Pre-Passover Music class was hosted on Zoom by Rivky Greenberg of the Jewish Discovery Center. Rivky acted out the story of Baby Moses, Pharaoh and the Jews in Egypt through props, tools, dress up and song. The children learned about the various types of Matzah, the Seder plate, the Hagadah, the Ten Plagues and danced to the Dayeinu song. A few days later, all the families attended a Passover Drive-by, where the 75 little participants each received a beautiful holiday gift bag with grape juice, real kiddush cup and delicious Kosher for Passover treats.

Music with Rivky is a program of the Jewish Discovery Center. For more information about upcoming classes, please log on to www.muicwithrivky.com or contact Rivky at info@musicwithrivky.com or (716) 906-8890.



Shavuot Treats

BY ROBIN KURSS

Yummy Cheesecake

Cheesecake is my husband's favorite food group, so Shavuot, when we traditionally eat all things dairy, is one of his favorite holidays. This year, we are going to lighten things up a little with a yummy cheesecake mousse! Enjoy!

Cheesecake Mousse

INGREDIENTS

8 oz cream cheese, room temp
1/2 cup confectioners sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped



INSTRUCTIONS

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, confectioners sugar and vanilla till fluffy. Lightly fold in whipped cream. Place in pastry bag with a large tip and pipe into 4-6 decorative glasses (I use long stemmed wine glasses). Put in fridge for 2 hours or more. This delicious dessert can be served with fresh berries, a drizzle of chocolate or anything else you'd like. Chag sameach!

The Best Noodle Pudding (Kugel)

Who doesn't love a good noodle pudding or kugel? My grandmothers and my mother made delicious ones for sure, but my all-time favorite is from Sue Berzon Teibel. Sue was the mother of Rick and Amy Teibel, the mother-in-law of Lori Teibel and grandmother of Juliana. This kugel is THE BEST and only kugel my family will eat. I am sure that you will love it too!



Kugel

INGREDIENTS

1st layer:

4 eggs
1 1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1/2 lb. (1 stick) melted butter

2nd layer:

1 lb cooked noodles

3rd layer:

1 lb. small curd cottage cheese
1/2 cup milk
1 pint sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
4 eggs
Juice of 1 lemon

Kugel Topping

1/2 c melted butter mixed with
2 c corn flakes and 1/2 c brown sugar

To make the first layer, beat together 4 eggs, 1 1/2 c sugar, 1 tsp vanilla 1/4 lb melted butter and put it all in the bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Lay the cooked noodles (2nd layer) over the first layer.

Mix all the third layer ingredients together and then put on top of noodles. I guild the lily with my favorite kugel topping. Then sprinkle the topping on the kugel before baking. Bake at 350 for 1 1/2 hours.

Serve with sour cream and strawberries.



DINING GUIDE



**Assorted Burgers,
Hot Dogs & Steaks**
*For Your Spring and
Summer BBQs*

Nissan Berg

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

Kosher Catering • Party Platters • Delivery Service

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

www.buffalokosher.com

716-515-0075



ENJOY EAGLE HOUSE FAVORITES

In Person Dining • Curbside Carry Out • Delivery thru Takeout Taxi

www.eaglehouseonline.com
716.632.7669

Private rooms available for
Groups or families 5-30 guests



**CURBSIDE
PICKUP**

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY TAKEOUT

Jewish Federation Apartments, 275 Essjay Road, Williamsville

Menu Changes Weekly including **Indian, Thai, Chinese, Greek,
Stuffed Cabbage, Chicken Schnitzel, Shepard's Pie, Brisket**

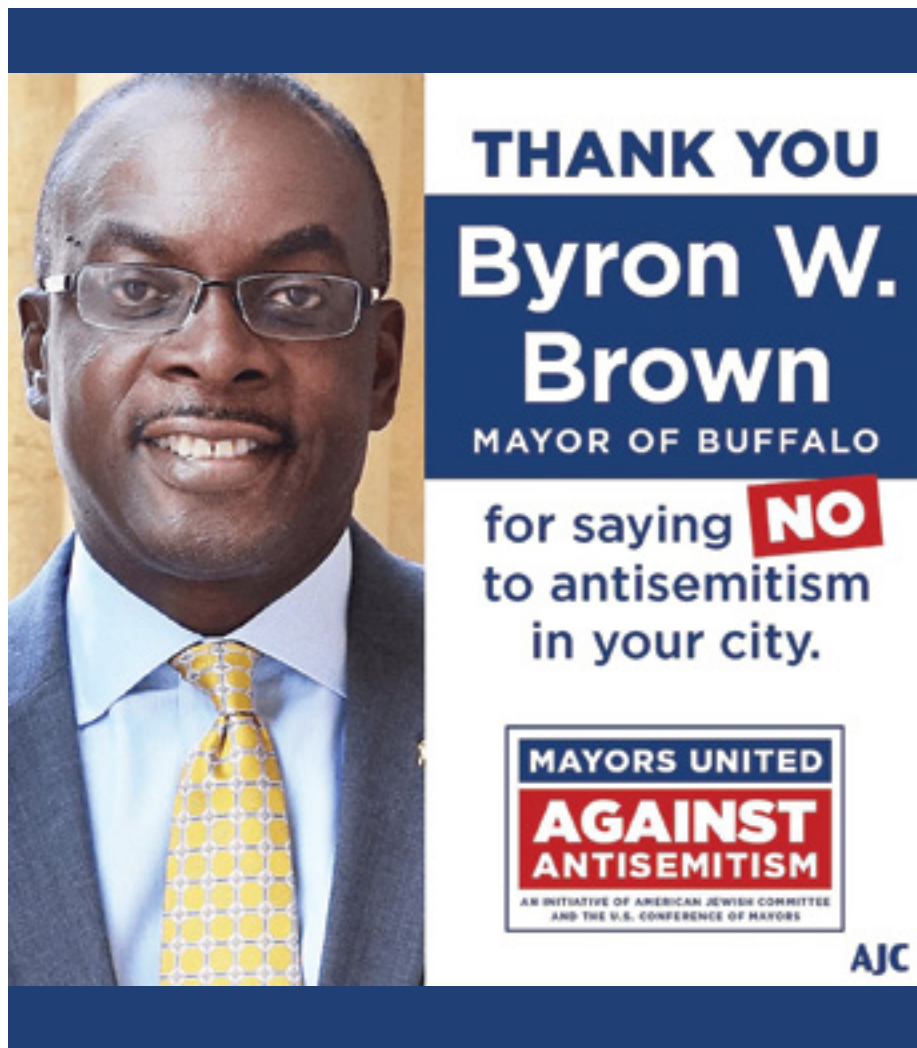
Soups: Butternut Squash, Chicken, Brisket, Red Lentil, Pasta Fagioli, Veggie Chili, Minestrone

Follow on Facebook for Weekly Curbside Pickup Menu
www.facebook.com/koshercateringbuffalo

Looking to make that **SOMEONE** feel **SPECIAL**?
How about a delicious meal delivered to their home!
Check out our website for menu suggestion www.lusciousbylori.com

All Meals
Certified
Kosher by
Va'ad Hakashrus
of Buffalo





DONATE
to The Campaign
for Jewish Buffalo when
you Shop on Amazon



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

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

SYNAGOGUES

ORGANIZATIONS

Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

Buffalo Jewish Federation

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-204-2241
buffalojewishfederation.org
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director
Shelly Yellen - President

Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

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

Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning

2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
buffalojewishfederation.org
Miriam Abramovich - Chief Experience Officer
Sheri Rodman - Chair

Chabad House of Buffalo

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

Chai Early Childhood Center

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

Department of Jewish Thought

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

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

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

Hadassah

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

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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

Hillel of Buffalo

Campus Center of Jewish Life
520 Lee Entrance/UB Commons
Suite #101B
W. Amherst, NY 14228
716-616-0083
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
Ann Marie Carosella - President

Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

Benderson Family Building
2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-688-4033
jccbuffalo.org
Mike Rawl - Executive Director
Alon Kupferman - President

Holland Family Building

787 Delaware Avenue
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

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

Jewish Federation Apartments

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

Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Inc.

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

Kadimah

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

Kosher Meals on Wheels

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

Ohr Temimim School

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

One Stop Jewish Buffalo

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

Weinberg Campus

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

Western New York Synagogues and Temples

Chabad House of Buffalo (unaffiliated)

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

Congregation Beth Abraham (Conservative)

1073 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
congregationbethabraham.net
Cantor Irwin Gelman
Marty Kerker - President

Congregation Havurah (Reform)

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

Congregation Shir Shalom

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

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

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

Knesset Center (Orthodox)

500 Starin Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214
716-832-5063
chabadbuffalo.com
Rabbi Shmaryahu Charitonow

Saranac Synagogue (Orthodox)

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

Temple Beth Tzedek (Conservative)

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

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)

Meeting biweekly at Jamestown, NY Lutheran Church
Rabbi Allen Podet
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
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-634-0212
yibuffalo.org
Rabbi Eliezar Marcus
Richard G. Berger- President

Attention Snowbirds!

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

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

Discrimination and Retaliation.

Do you think you are a target of disability discrimination?

If so, talk to us.

The Law Office of LINDY KORN

856-KORN

(856-5676)

ELECTRIC TOWER

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

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

Lindy Korn, Esq.
Attorney & Mediator

Rent assisted apartments for seniors & mobility-impaired adults



Jewish Federation Apartments



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



New Kitchen Renovations

Great room • Media room • Wifi • Fitness center

Data center • Beauty salon • Laundry facilities

Full time social worker • Activities • Transportation

24 hour emergency maintenance • Two elevators • Library

Computer room • Pool table • Emergency medical call system • Chapel • Card room • Large screen tv

Open to all religious denominations

Jewish Federation Apartments

275 Essjay Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

For application information please call

716-631-8471 TTY/TDD #711

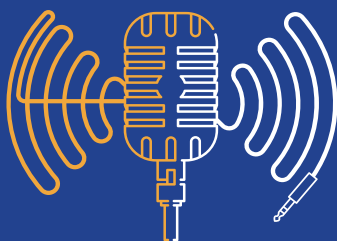
*Jewish Federation Apartments does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted program and activities.

The Songs
You Know,
The Music
You Love



.....
LISTEN & WIN
.....

**\$1,000
A DAY
GIVEAWAY**



WEBRRADIO.COM



Morton D. Brooks,

a longtime resident of Williamsville, NY, passed away at the age of 95 on March 24, 2021. He was residing in Pompano Beach, Florida. He was a past president of the Western New York Psychological Association and of the Buffalo Jewish Education Association and was an active member of the Buffalo Jewish Federation and a past member of Temple Sinai.

Morton was with the American Army during WWII and an ex-POW held at Berga in Germany. He was highly decorated and received many honors such as the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the French Foreign Legion award. He went on to practice psychology in North Tonawanda Schools and at the Beeman Clinic in Niagara Falls.

Mort will be remembered for his kindness, generosity and beautiful smile. He is survived by his daughters, Audrey Brooks of Katonah, NY and Ruth Brooks Katten of Plainview, NY. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Donations may be made in his memory to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

To contact Audrey or Ruth:
audreyhbrooks@gmail.com or
rkatten9@gmail.com

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. Herbert Foster 1928-2021

Dr. Andrea Yonina Foster, one of Dr. Herb Foster's daughters, compiled this remembrance, and included portions of her father's obituary from the *Vineyard Gazette*, which are reprinted with permission.

Dr. Herbert Foster, UB Emeritus Professor at the School of Education, died at the age of 93 years at his home in Martha's Vineyard on February 26. Living life right up to the very end, he watched a drive-by celebration of some 80 residents for his 93rd birthday on January 31.

Herb and his wife, Anita, welcomed friends, acquaintances, and family into their lives for 54 years together, both from their home in Williamsville and when they relocated to Martha's Vineyard after Herb's retirement in the mid-1990s.

Gregarious by nature, he loved people and his adopted home town of Edgartown. Herb was known to many in Edgartown, where he cut a wide swath across socio-economic lines, many of those people invited to his yearly birthday parties. He became an Edgartown library trustee, advocate for veterans, and a land-bank participant, who trained his beaming



Dr. Herbert Foster in Martha's Vineyard

smile on everyone he knew and met. "He always had a twinkle in his eye and it was so infectious," the Edgartown library director said. "He was an amazing force of nature." A lifelong educator and professor emeritus of the State University (Buffalo) of New York School of Education, he was a prolific writer and speaker.

Brooklyn born, Herb's Jewish heritage cultivated his lifelong interest in Yiddish, and later, Jive, when he was

**Leon & Son
Monument Company**

Distinguish. Preserve. Honor.

"We felt educated and supported through every step of the process of designing the perfect monument to my father. We were given all of the time we needed and never felt rushed or pressured in any way."

★★★★★ - Peter H.

Trusted by
Jewish Buffalo
Families for
Four Generations
893-2500

Greater Buffalo's Only Jewish Monument Company for Over 90 Years

www.leonkomm.com

teaching junior high students in Harlem. “You have to learn the language of your students, and students have to learn standard English,” he told the *Vineyard Gazette* in 2018 when his seventy-year project, *Ghetto to Ghetto: Yiddish & Jive in Everyday Life*, was published. In this book, Foster explored how Jews and Blacks have contributed more words than any other groups to languages in America. “No one ever put together Yiddish and Jive, and the book includes a history of two groups of people,” Foster said. Foster’s first book, *Ribbin’, Jivin’, and Playin’ the Dozens* (1974), is a classic in the field and illustrated the language and behavior challenges teachers and students needed to work through.

Herb and Anita met at New York University’s Outdoor Club and married December 24, 1951. During their lives together, they moved from Brooklyn to Rockland County and, to Williamsville, ending together in Edgartown. Through the years they had enduring relationships with friends and family while raising

her wind-up clock to 6:00 a.m. to do homework, awakened to a smoke-filled house and alerted the family. Herb rescued his dissertation in the briefcase by his bedside as they tromped in the morning frost to neighbors Jerry and Phyllis Shapiro’s house, only to have Herb disappear back to the house, his Boy Scout sense bringing out the fire extinguisher. The Fire Chief said fifteen more minutes and the family would have died from smoke inhalation. She is now caretaker of the family legacy and the thousands of slides and photos from all the hiking and camping trips family and friends shared together.

Grandson Alex Katz, currently a Williamsville resident as is his mother, Yonina, spent several years living with his grandfather on the Vineyard. They formed a special relationship during those years. Yonina’s return to Buffalo in mid-2017 from Maryland, following her husband’s death, created special moments of reminiscence with her Dad during the last years of his life.

“He always had a twinkle in his eye and it was so infectious. He was an amazing force of nature.”

daughters, Donna, and Andrea (Yonina), welcoming a son-in-law, Steve Katz (z”l Sept 2016), and a grandson, Alex Foster Katz.

Both Herb and Anita earned Doctor of Education degrees, Herb, from Columbia Teachers College, Anita, from UB. And life in Williamsville began in 1967 and when Foster’s UB Department of Education moved to new offices in Baldy Hall on the new North Campus, where he frequently biked from his home on Sedgemoor Court. Herb’s education work at the University was innovative in teacher training, incorporating outdoor education, and transformed the work teachers did in inner city schools and elsewhere. Anita was a long time educator at Maple West Elementary School, starting as a fifth and-sixth grade teacher moving into the role of Reading Specialist years before her retirement in 1994.

Herb’s relationship with daughter Donna was that special one a first child has with parents and she cared for him in the last months of life. That bond was strengthened by an unlikely event soon after the family settled on Sedgemoor Court in Williamsville. Donna, setting

Phone calls began, “Hey, Dad! Do you remember...?” after walks at Tiff Farm, Chestnut Ridge, Niagara Falls, and countless other locations they’d been together as a family, along with dog Buffy, short for Buffalo, or with school friends, and Foster’s UB students.

Recently, Herb’s daughter Yonina and grandson Alex and took a walk at Whirlpool Park. This and Devil’s Hole were their familiar hiking places in the 1970s. This time, taking the stone steps down into Niagara Gorge, Yonina said a brief prayer and dedicated the hike to her father.

Burial was on Martha’s Vineyard. Donations welcome to Anita G. and Herbert L. Foster Student Scholarship Endowment Fund at University at Buffalo (UB Foundation); or an outdoor education center of your choice. In addition, for years Foster’s birthday celebrations invited donations directed to the Island’s Food Pantry. His daughter Yonina suggests you feed Western New Yorkers through FeedMoreWNY.

Yonina Andrea Foster, Ph.D., welcomes Herb and Anita stories. Contact her at bflagalagain@gmail.com.

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from March 20- April 18, 2021*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Carlton H. Doboizin
Michael Eisen
Marvin Gareleck

Marcia Grobman
Arlene Hayman
Gregory J. Jay
Samuel Korus
Dr. Norman Mohl
Shirley Jacobson Scalice
Edith Schaefer
Hyman Shuman



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



“In the Family Tradition”

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

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

Service Beyond
Expectation
8630 Transit Road
East Amherst, NY 14051

www.mesnekoff.com

email:
contact@mesnekoff.com

•Visit us on Facebook



Mom's Lessons on Love

BY NANCY KELTON

It takes a village to raise a child. It took most of my life to appreciate my mother. Now years after her death, I can embrace her spirit and legacy. In 2000, on what was to be our last visit, I brought my then beau, a well-dressed CEO with a fine coat of polish (a card-carrying mother pleaser), to the nursing home to meet her. Sitting in the living area while he made calls, I asked, "What do you think of him?"

"What I think doesn't matter," she said. "You're the one who must go for him and eventually sleep with him, right?"

"Right." I cracked up. At 52, I wasn't about to spill the details of my present or "eventual" sex life, but I recognized how human was my mother, a proper lady with a list of "should."

She again reminded me my gut was my best guide in all circumstances no matter who stuck in her two cents. Like when I was 8 and in a store fitting room, trying on a plaid dress I hated and she loved. "If you're not sure, don't buy it. You're the one who'll wear it." We left without that dress.

At 12, I was on the phone with my first boyfriend in my parents' bedroom while Mom sewed. I had remembered her advising my older sister that she needed to always be the one to she should end phone conversations with boys. When I told Danny I had to go, he said, "I love you." I said, "I love you" too. When we hung up, I panicked.

"Mom, I told Danny I loved him."

"So."

"When I said I had to go, I'm not sure if he said 'I love you' or 'I do, too.' Now I feel like a jerk. Even if he does love me, I was forward saying it."

She looked up. "He probably said it.



Nancy Kelton

If not, it's nice you could. It's hard to express certain things. You let him off the hook."

And she did me. Another night years later, she told me to wait until I was married before going all the way.

"What if I fall for a garage mechanic?"

"You probably won't."

"But say I do, Mom." At the time, I viewed the opposite sex as bad boys or bespectacled dorks.

She took a beat. "Then I guess it would be OK."

"To sleep with him before we're married?"

"Just sleep with him," she said.

The desire for a bad boy was not all Mom understood. In 1963, when I was a sulky, sassy teenager, and angry she was neither Betty Crocker nor working at an interesting job, I was watching my stupid soap opera when she appeared with a book. "Read this instead. It's important. You'll understand me and figure out your life better." It was *The Feminine Mystique*, the groundbreaker I had read about. Wow! I ran to my room and dove in.

The following day, I showed it to my friends. "My mother would never read that or allow me to," one said.

I devoured the book, appreciating Betty Friedan's powerful message but my mother's even more. We discussed it briefly, once while she cooked. I wish I had thanked her for sharing her frustrations and for guiding me to a fuller life.

I understood her better when I became a mother, my most important and challenging job.

After my divorce, when I began dating, I got that she understood me.

"I see why you like him," she said after meeting my first post-marital beau, who was more garage mechanic than nerd.

"I doubt I'll marry him."

"I see that, too." A pause. "If you tie the knot again, make sure that physical bond is there.

Marriage is hard. That glue helps."

"Do you have it with Daddy?"

"Sure." She blushed. "Can't you tell?"

I nodded. Even in their 80s, the attraction was apparent in their eyes, their touch, their laughter. Lucky them, I thought. I have that now. I brought a richer, fuller woman to my present husband. That glue is there. Thank you, Mom.

Nancy Davidoff Kelton, raised in Buffalo and now living in New York City, is the author of 7 books, including "Writing from Personal Experience," and her memoir, "Finding Mr. Rightstein" which she is adapting into a play with the same title. Nancy's essays have been published in The Buffalo News, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, AARP, Next Avenue, Parents, and elsewhere.



Your Hometown
Connection to Arizona

Exceptional
Concierge Services

BARB DAVIS

real estate:elevated

(716)913-7327

NORTH&CO.
REAL ESTATE BY TRADE

REALTOR OPEN HOUSE



DERMATECH LLC

Esthetics Center | Tattoo Clinic

ESTHETICS · FACIALS · MICRONEEDLING
MICRODERMABRASION · LASH LIFT & TINTING · WAXING CENTER

PERMANENT MAKEUP · COSMETIC TATTOOING · 3D
AREOLA/NIPPLE · SCAR CAMOUFLAGE · TATTOO
SCALP MICRO-PIGMENTATION CLINIC

5823 Main St., Williamsville, NY · (716) 601-5498
dermatechllc.com · michealal@dermatechllc.com



The design of your dreams.

THE VILLAS AT WINDSTONE

Step into maintenance-free luxury that has never been more affordable.

- Large open floor plans with upscale amenities
- Pricing as low as the \$250s
- Significant "condo status" property tax savings
- Why rent when you can own for less than \$1600 a month
- Move-in ready units available

Visit our model center located at 293-B Northhill Drive off Sheridan Drive, just east of Youngs Road in Williamsville. Open daily (closed Thursday & Friday) from 1-5pm.

Call 716-809-8682 for more information.



Save 15% on your best defense against pests

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



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

We protect you from bugs, birds, bats, mosquitoes & ticks
Family-owned and operated • Fully licensed and insured
Now offering the new HOME SHIELD DEFENSE program



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

Proud partner of the Buffalo Sabres & Buffalo Bandits



MY SHELTER PETS ARE MY BEST FRIENDS

#AdoptPureLove



OLIVIA MUNN WITH CHANCE AND FRANKIE:
ADOPTED 2014 AND 2016.

THESHELTERPETPROJECT.ORG

