



#JEWISHJOURNA A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

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SEPTEMBER 2021 | ELUL 5781-TISHRI 5782

A Buffalo First:

Reverse TĀŠĦĪĪCH

International Jewish Community Cleanup

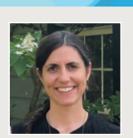
In Partnership with





September 12

(6)



LOOK: **Promoting Racial Justice** (18)



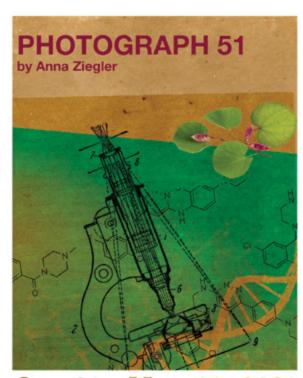
DON'T MISS: **Foundation** Awardee (23)



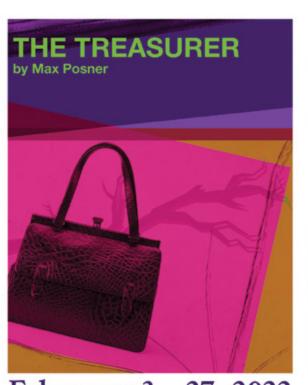
DON'T MISS: Mutual Respect (26)



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by Daniel Goldfarb



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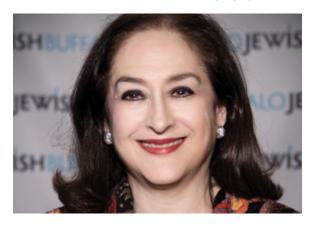
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#JEWISHJOURNAL



September 2021

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Isn't the New Year coming at just the right time this year? For me it is, and I am sure that for many of you it is as well. I know I need the New Year now. It will be a great relief to push the spiritual "reset" button on September 6 and tiptoe quietly into the year 5782, watching the year 5781/2020-2021 fade away in the rear-view mirror.

And what a year it has been!

On the one hand, COVID is still with us and there is great uncertainty as to how it will impact our lives as we move into

COVID has changed the way we relate to each other socially, communally, personally. This lack of normal day-today life has created more illness, isolation, loneliness and a palpable sense of separateness from our community.

On the other hand, this summer's garden has been absolutely glorious! One of the flowers in our yard, called Kiss me over the Garden Gate, stands over 11 feet tall. Huge cucumbers and abundant morning glories, cone flowers, daisies, sunflowers are growing all over my garden, the neighborhood, the city and country gardens and roadways. We have been blessed with many garden visitors this year as well.

Still, I miss friends, family, colleagues, arts and culture and the way in which we socialized pre-COVID. I'll bet you do, too. But, I am grateful for my friends, family, loved ones, colleagues, the Buffalo Jewish Community and my other communities much more than before. And I would like to call out my Buffalo Jewish Federation colleagues-each and every one of them-led by CEO Rob Goldberg, who have made it possible to continue to live in a vibrant and caring Jewish community this past 18 months, though a somewhat different kind of community. Thank you all!

So this year, in 5782, join me in grabbing onto the opportunity to create a "new normal," to create community differently from before. In these pages of the largest Jewish Journal in more than a year (Thank you Cindy Oppenheimer), you will find events such as Reverse Tashlich (see page 6) where we will gather together to clean up our local waterways, new CIEL classes for adults and teens (see page 11), a list of things you can do to make the world better this season (see page 19), and even live, in-person theatre at the JCC's Jewish Repertory Theatre (see page 30).

I look forward with joy to seeing many of you during the High Holy Days at shul, at Reverse Tashlich starting at Camp Centerland, at the JRT in-person, and at many more community programs and projects. Wishing you and yours a sweet

and healthy New Year filled with new things, new discoveries, new joys and insights, with love from Mitch and me.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

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The cover graphic comes from Tikkun HaYam, a Jewish marine conservation program, which is sponsoring the Reverse Tashlich program September 12.

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Looking Back/Looking Forward

BY SHELLY YELLEN

Happy New Year to all as we welcome in 5782. Hopefully, the past few months have been filled with the many joys of summer, including the opportunities to connect in person with family and friends and just enjoy time together.

This is an exciting and busy time for the Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF). In August, we embarked on our 2022 Annual Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. We started with a campaign cabinet opening meeting and will be holding our Premier Dinner on September 1st at the home of Joni and Sam Shatkin! After much thought and consideration to our current COVID environment, our Annual Kick Off Event for the entire community will once again be virtual this year on Sunday evening, September 19th. Please mark your calendars.

So much is happening in our Jewish Buffalo and here are a few important highlights from the BJF perspective:

Congratulations to Merredith Levin and Ezra Rich as this year's Emerging Leader Award recipients. The Ann and Meyer Riwchun Men's leadership Award and the Ruth and Milton Kahn Women's Leadership Award provide an opportunity each year to recognize and invest in leaders who demonstrate the commitment to the growth and sustainability of our vibrant and caring community. We look forward to honoring Merredith and Ezra at the 118th Annual Meeting of the Federation this December.

The Federation professional team is now working full time remote under the umbrella of "Virtual First." Virtual First means remote work will be the primary experience of all employees, with intentional in-person gatherings designed for collaboration, celebration, and other activities. Federation offices closed shop officially at the JCC on Friday, August 13, offering significant



Shelly Yellen

cost savings that can now be pushed back into the community through grants in our budget and grant cycle for 2022. Not to worry, the Office telephone line rolls over to the new main office line (716-463-5050).

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) has selected the Buffalo community to participate in two new data collection projects that seek to identify trends that will be helpful to the system. The first project also includes Boston, Atlanta, Houston, and Memphis while the second project includes Austin, Charlotte, Albany, and Madison. In addition, join me in congratulating Rob Goldberg for being selected by JFNA as the New Chair of the Intermediate Federation Cohort. Our Federation has been recognized by JFNA as one of the leading innovators throughout our movement and what great opportunities for Jewish Buffalo to be represented a National level.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) continues to work in three major areas: combatting antisemitism and hate, social justice, and building relationships with other ethnic, cultural, and religious groups. JCRC convened an initial meeting with National Federation of Just Communities of WNY (NFJC) to start discussions on creating a WNY Anti-Hate Coalition. Several JCRCs are part of these coalitions providing one supportive voice against hateful acts.

Partnership2Gether (P2G) has forged a new partnership collaboration with the JCC that will support a higher level of Israel programming for Jewish Buffalo. The JCC's work will be led by Gon Erez, Chief Program Officer. Gon joined the JCC earlier this year from Youngstown, Ohio, where he was the program Director at the JCC. Gon will be working with the P2G programs while Mandy Weiss will work with Laurie Sadler in leading our Council.

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) has been very busy with Project Belonging, CJEL's Week of Giving, and their first Annual Participant Survey. CJEL has also been working on a re-branding effort to better embody their mission, vision, and values. Teen Engagement through the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative is in full swing with an official kick-off to the year at the August 29th Teen Leadership Retreat at Camp Centerland. Lots of planning has been underway for the 2021-2022 gatherings for Nickel City Jews and Adult Engagement. Finally, this Fall CJEL will

host KOLOT Pro: Bringing our Authentic Voices to Leadership. This two-day retreat, for female professionals who work full time for an agency, institution, or congregation of Jewish Buffalo, will take place October 18-19, 2021.

The Jewish Buffalo History Center (JBHC) continues to attract more and more viewers. On average, adding 50 new visitors each month and support between 300-700 new page views per month. Much gratitude to Chana Kotzin for her dedication and passion to this project. The site is a gem with many new features and exhibits in the works.

...And these are just the highlights. I did not even touch on Securing Jewish Buffalo, the Pew Study Update, Partner Grants, High Roads Research Fellow, Visit to Black Achievers Museum, One Happy Camper, Life & Legacy, Project Belonging, PJ Library, or plans for another Israel Experience trip in October 2022.

All of the above is in constant pursuit of achieving our mission of creating a thriving Jewish Buffalo. So, how are we doing? Is the impact of all the programs and activities driving us towards the community we envision? Are we already there or still have a long way to go? How can we work better together to strengthen our bond? These are the questions that should challenge all of us and drive our passion for continuous improvement. I am often encouraged when speaking with other volunteer leaders as I know the pursuit of answers to these questions is what ties us together. I am very proud that so much time and effort is focused on setting a solid foundation to ensure a prosperous and thriving community for now and future generations.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year, one filled with joy and fulfillment. *Shana Tova Umetukah*.



2022 CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The 2022 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Virtual Kick Off Event!

WHEN IS IT?

Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE SHOULD I GO?

In an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our community, the program will be virtual this year. You can enjoy the live streamed event from the comfort of your own home OR gather with your friends to schmooze, nosh and enjoy the fun together!

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

There are so many extraordinary things to celebrate in our community. One of them is the impact of the strong relationships that have been built over the years to make Jewish Buffalo more caring, connected and vibrant! We truly are Better Together! During the program, you will get a glimpse of some of the deep partnerships that have formed recently like that with Kehillat Ohr Tzion, our connection with the University at Buffalo and Hillel, new initiatives with the Jewish Community Center, and more!



The Hillel Summer Intern project took Buffalo by storm this summer! Register for the kick off event to hear about our partnership with Hillel and the University at Buffalo.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

YOU! This FREE event is open to everyone and will feature many local friends... and maybe you too!

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Register for FREE today at bit.ly/BETTERTOGETHERKICKOFF. Each registration comes with a Swag Bag of fun if you RSVP by September 12. You will receive a link to view the program on September 17.

BUT WAIT... THERE'S MORE!

This year when you register for the event, you will have an option to make an additional donation to Dignity Grows™, a program of Women's Philanthropy in partnership with Jewish Family Services of WNY. This special program provides a monthly supply of personal hygiene essentials free of charge to every body who needs them (learn more at dignitygrows.org).

AND WHAT ABOUT THAT SWAG BAG?

For local residents, your Swag Bag can be delivered to your home, OR you can choose to pick up your bag on Friday, September 17 from Noon − 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center (2640 North Forest Road, Getzville) at our pre-event! This will also provide a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to help our neighbors in need by participating in our Dignity Grows™ community packing party!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Stacey Block Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org or 716-463-5053



Empathy in the Instagram World

BY RABBI ADAM J. ROSENBAUM

What if our most meaningful biblical stories had been captured on Instagram?

The thought might be absurd, but let's play along: Imagine the story of the binding of Isaac, the Akeidah, on social media. Prior to their journey to Mount Moriah, Isaac might have posted a series of selfies next to his camel with captions like "Can't wait for my father-son hike. #funwithdad." Abraham might have documented their walk up the mountain with scenic shots of the peak above and his servants waiting below. Even more harrowing, Isaac might have later posted the ram his father eventually sacrificed, commenting, "Thank goodness Dad killed this instead of me! #worstdadever."

might be ridiculous assumptions. But the casual reporting of serious events happens regularly today. For example, five years ago, a rare baby Franciscana dolphin was pulled by tourists from the water to the shore of Santa Teresita Beach in Buenos Aires. Argentina. Dozens of people at the beach posed for pictures with it while it lay on the sand. Then, the dolphin was left to die from dehydration and heat stroke. At the time, there were only 30,000 of these dolphins left on the planet.

Now, I certainly don't mean to imply that everyone on Instagram only cares about making their social media feeds entertaining, even at the expense of endangered species. To the contrary -I use Instagram, and there are many individuals and organizations who use the platform for messages of hope and positive activism.

But in the Instagram world, we sometimes feel the need to be bold and brash so that we can stand out - and that has real consequences. This fear was expressed by psychologist Sharon Borba in her book, UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About Me World. Dr. Borba told the New York Times about what she terms "selfie syndrome": "Selfabsorption kills empathy. Narcissism is 'it's all me.' Empathy is feeling with someone. Empathy is always, 'we, it's not me.' The problem is kids are tuning into themselves, and what we need to do is flip the lens and start looking at others."



Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum

What would Dr. Borba have said to Abraham and Isaac had she been present during the time of the Akeidah? We, of course, don't know. However, a famous midrash (rabbinic tale) theorizes that the moment Isaac goes blind is the same moment when his father is about to slaughter him - he is blinded by Abraham's tears. We also know from the Torah that the text records no conversations between Abraham and Isaac after the *Akeidah*.

I wonder whether Isaac, at that scary moment on the altar, is looking inwardly rather than outwardly. Perhaps Dr. Borba might have told Isaac, if you look outwardly, you can see your father weeping over what God has commanded him to do. Perhaps if Isaac sees Abraham's tears, he might have understood his father just a bit better, and their relationship might have survived this traumatic event.

And perhaps this is an unstated reason why we read the story of the Akeidah on Rosh Hashanah. The High Holidays provide us with the chance to relearn the lesson of looking both outwardly and inwardly in order to bring about a better year. Our Sages may never have seen a selfie, but they likely would also tell us to periodically turn our lenses around to see the faces of others in addition to our own. May that wish inspire us in the vear to come.

Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum is rabbi at Temple Beth Tzedek and Jewish educator at The Center for Jewish Experience & Learning.



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A Buffalo First: Collecting our Sins in Unique Twist of Ancient Ritual

Reverse Tashlich Held September 12th

BY S. BRUCE KOHRN

It began with the thoughtful musings of environmentally conscious Jewish students at Florida's Eckerd College during the *Rosh Hashanah* ritual of *Tashlich*: "Why are we casting our sins into the ocean," they asked, "when we should be pulling them out?"

Thus, began Reverse Tashlich, a waterway cleanup program seen through a Jewish lens that started with five students in 2016 and has expanded to an international event. It is organized by Tikkun HaYam ("Repair the Sea"), a Jewish marine conservation program founded by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, an avid scuba diver and Executive Director of the Suncoast Hillels in Tampa. This year, 82 teams in 10 countries on six continents have already registered for the program, and the goal is to have 1000 volunteers participate. It will be held September 12, the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Here in Buffalo, eight Jewish organizations, including the JCC, Hillel, and several synagogues, have come together through the efforts of Buffalo Jewish Federation to participate as a new "Jewish Buffalo" team. Rabbi Rosenthal commented on our team approach, saying, "The addition of Jewish Buffalo is very exciting and important for Reverse Tashlich. It represents the first time that a Jewish Federation is bringing together an entire community to be part of the program. Up until now, individual congregations or Hillels have taken part. We are grateful to Federation to use this program as a force to unify the community to raise awareness about the threats to the marine environment and climate change."

Michael Rawl, the JCC's CEO, added, "Reverse Taslich is a perfect program for the Jewish Community Center. It is a way for us to fulfill the Jewish moral imperative to repair the world, while creating an opportunity to build community."



Most Jewish sources trace the custom of *Tashlich* back to the 15th century. For many synagogue communities, it has become a ritual traditionally observed on the first day of Rosh Hashanah when congregants proceed to a body of running water and symbolically cast off their sins. The ceremony includes reading the source passage for the practice, the last verses from the prophet Micah (7:19): "He will take us back in love; He will cover up our iniquities. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

To the students' point at Eckerd College, Jews symbolically cast away our sins by throwing breadcrumbs into the water to begin the New Year with a pure heart. Unfortunately, humans also cast away approximately six to eight million tons of trash every year that ends up in the world's oceans, posing a health and safety risk to marine animals. Much of this garbage is plastic that, on the one hand, is useful for a myriad of consumer and industrial applications and, on the other hand, contains toxic materials that pass through the food chain to humans. Plastic also breaks down very slowly in the environment, and when used in single use, disposable consumer products, often ends up as litter.

At this point, we have all seen the litter on our local waterways, and we have seen the photos of the Great Pacific Ocean's Garbage Patch of plastic waste estimated to be the size of Texas and even as big as Russia. We have also seen the photos of turtles, birds and other marine animals being slowly strangled by six-pack beer can rings around their necks. This human carelessness is a blatant violation of the Jewish ethical principal *Bal Tashchit* ("Do Not Destroy"), a mitzvah in Deuteronomy forbidding the destruction of fruit trees. The concept was expanded in the Talmud to include all forms of senseless damage and waste. Rabbi Rosenthal's *Tikkun HaYam* acts to protect the oceans, waterways, and wildlife and to change our culture of carelessness.

Hillel of Buffalo's Rabbi Sara Rich reminds us that an environmental ethic has been a part of Judaism since the very beginning: "We learn in the story of Adam in the Garden of Eden that humans are placed on Earth 'to work and to protect' the land. This obligation extends to the water, which symbolizes purity and the Torah itself. *Reverse Tashlich* is our community's opportunity to move into our new year with a fresh start for our earth and for ourselves."

In the modern era, too few of us have taken this to heart, which is why having eight WNY Jewish organizations come together for *Reverse Tashlich* holds so much promise. We want this to be the kickoff for a more active and engaged local Jewish community working to protect the environment and climate. This vision resonates with Sara

Schultz, a long-time environmental advocate in Amherst, Chair of the Niagara Chapter of the Sierra Club and a member of the Interfaith Climate Justice Community WNY. She said, "I am so happy to see our Jewish Community engage in the sacred work of caring for creation. 'Water is life,' regardless of where your prayers are sent, so it should be everyone's mission to preserve this precious resource."

Our plan for Reverse Tashlich is to collect litter and garbage at several locations in Amherst along Ellicott Creek, and Unity Park at Black Rock in Buffalo, all of which are part of the Great Lakes ecosystem, the world's largest body of freshwater and a dominant part of the physical and cultural heritage of Western New York and North America. While great strides have been taken to restore the health of the Great Lakes in the last 50 years - to the benefit of both public health and the local economy - there is always work to be done. Keep in mind that since all waterways are ultimately connected to the sea, the work we do here benefits the oceans and marine wildlife everywhere.

On September 12, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Camp Centerland for a light breakfast followed by a short program at noon. Led by ICC staff, teams will then head out to their sites and will conclude with their own Tashlich ceremony. Please join us by registering online repairthesea.org/reversetashlich. In the Team Selection scroll down menu, choose "New York, Buffalo - Jewish Buffalo." All the equipment you will need will be provided. Be sure to wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt to guard against insects and poison ivy; bring bug spray, suntan lotion, and water too (preferably not in a disposable, plastic bottle). Since we will be recording data on the litter we collect, download the Marine Debris Data app beforehand. And if you're a Bills fan, don't forget to record the game!

If you have any questions, please contact Buffalo Jewish Federation CEO Rob Goldberg: rob@buffalojewishfederation.org.

S. Bruce Kohrn of Vision & Grit, LLC, is an expert in environment and sustainability and is the Chair of Buffalo's first Reverse Tashlich effort.

CELEBRATING

the High Holy Days

It's tempting to say that the High Holy Days are "early" this year. This is both accurate and inaccurate; they always take place at the same time on the Hebrew calendar, but it's been a long time since Rosh Hashanah started during Labor Day weekend.

Regardless, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur tend to sneak up on us. Just as we've geared up for another school year and gathered ourselves after another summer, the busiest time of the Jewish year is upon us. How do we make the most of this time, or at least get through it with a sense of understanding and meaning?

We hope that the following content will provide moments of enrichment as we prepare for these special days. For every New Year provides us with a chance to renew our focus, reconnect with our heritage, and reintroduce ourselves to our own souls.

We wish you High Holy Days of sweetness, of meaning, and of togetherness.

The CJEL team: Miriam, Mike, Susan, Ben, Adam, and Ori



SHANA TOVA TIKATEVU 5782

SOUNDING The Shofar

The ritual signifies a wake-up call to get closer to our highest ideals. Here are some ways to do it yourself!

Make sure the hole between your mouth and the instrument is small to seal all the air in.

Consider positioning the shofar by the side of your mouth.

Make your lips vibrate just as you would for blowing a trumpet or bugle.

Blow a small amount of dry air.

Rosh Hashanah





The days leading up to the High Holy Days are prime time for self-introspection. Here are some tips...

High Holy Days CHECK



Learn How to Treat Yourself:

Just because the High Holy Days are a time for introspection doesn't mean we can't savor the sweetness of the season. Enjoy dipping apples in honey; introduce yourself to a new food; allow yourself to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



Raise Your Disposition to Learn:

If it's been a while since you read a Jewish book, listened to a Jewish podcast, or watched a Jewish documentary or fictional film, now's a great time to try. From Morningside Heights to Shtisel to "Can We Talk?", there's new acclaimed Jewish content coming out all the time.



Keep Yourself Accountable:

Whether you keep your calendar online or in a journal, check out hebcal.com to keep track of upcoming holidays, anniversaries of B'nai Mitzvah or yartzeits (anniversaries of loved ones' deaths), or when to light Shabbat candles anywhere in the world.



Find Strength in Difficult Times:

When our days seem chaotic, ritual — be it religious or secular — helps to bring order to our thinking. Books such as Naomi Levy's To Begin Again or meditations from authors like Aryeh Kaplan can offer modern tools with traditional roots to help keep you centered.



Create Goals and Targets:

It's tempting to make a long list of New Year's resolutions (whether for Rosh Hashanah or the secular New Year), but the downside is creating goals that are too numerous and too unrealistic. Consult with places like mindtools. com or jamesclear.com to help temper our expectations.



Stop Procrastinating:

The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are considered prime time to ask for forgiveness of those we may have hurt or offended over the past year. Even if we don't think we've been hurtful, reaching out to people we care about during this time of year can be cathartic and even healing.



Learn a New Perspective:

Even if we're comfortable with our Jewish identity, learning how other Jews explore our heritage might help to refresh our mindset — or enable us to feel more comfortable in what we already do. Regardless, consider spending a little time in a synagogue you've never been to, reading a Jewish article or book that you might otherwise ignore, or even research how Jews in other countries adopt diverse customs for the same Jewish practice. You might be inspired to refresh your Jewish energies.



Think Positively:

"I considered joining the local Optimists' Club, but then I figured, what's the point?" Maybe you're not that negative, but teachings of such Jewish philosophers as Rabbi Nahman of Bratzlav might help. Perhaps take Rabbi Nahman's words to heart: "The world is a very narrow bridge, and the key is to not be afraid."



Leave the Past Behind:

Tashlich or Kapparot are but two ways for us to symbolically rid ourselves of missteps. As tempting as it can be to dwell on what might have been, finding ways to forgive ourselves — rather than waiting for someone else to forgive us - can be the best way to move forward.



...But Don't Forget it Entirely:

On the other hand, being mindful of the days when we weren't our best selves will help us demand better of ourselves. Learning Mussar — either from CJEL or other offerings throughout Buffalo — might be a good way to exercise our ethical muscles.

— Inspired by a to-do list by mind-globe.com

SHOFAR, High Holy Day Ha-Has

Keep the kids laughing during Rosh Hashanah dinner, or any other time during the season!

Why is the shofar so memorable? IT'S FULL OF RAM.

Where did the gymnast sit during High Holy Days services?

ON THE BALANCE BIMAH.

Why does the High Holy Days prayer book say that humans were created "little less than Angels"?

IT DIDN'T WANT TO OFFEND FANS OF THE DODGERS.

After Yom Kippur, why do we bring keys when we break the fast?

SO WE CAN OPEN THE LOX.

What does riding a horse and leading High Holy Days services have in common?

THEY BOTH INVOLVE CANTORING.

Why did last Yom Kippur seem so quick?

WELL, WE FASTED, DIDN'T WE?

Why did the rabbi call out the shofar sounds?

IT'S MORE EFFECTIVE THAN TEXTING.

Why was the rabbi's iPad sticky on Rosh Hashanah?

HE DIPPED HIS APPLE IN HONEY.

Why, during Tashlich, do we pretend our sins are food and then throw it into water, which helps to feed fish?

BECAUSE WE FEEL GILL-TY.

Why do we sound the shofar at the end of Yom Kippur?

BECAUSE WE'VE HAD A BLAST!



Sheena Teva

High Holy Days ית בַּיָמִים נורָאִים

Here are a few common Hebrew terms you might hear during Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. Learn them for the first time, or refresh your memory!



teshuvah

"Returning"— repenting from wrongdoing.

The days leading up to Rosh Hashanah are prime time for teshuvah.

תַפּוּחִים

tapuchim

Apples

What we dip in honey on Rosh Hashanah, to emphasize the sweetness of these special days.

תִּקִיעַה

t'kiah

The main sound (an uninterrupted blast) by a shofar, sounded throughout Rosh Hashanah and the end of Yom Kippur.

מְתוּקָה

m'tukah

Sweet

What the New Year should be in every way we often wish others a good and sweet New Year.

Awe; the feeling we get when amazed.

The High Holy Days are a time when feel closest to the awe of God.



The Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI), a joint project of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning and the JCC of Greater Buffalo, is offering three fall experiences for teens! JTI strives to create unique Jewish gatherings for teens in grades 8-12, providing opportunities to learn, lead, and engage in meaningful experiences. Through these experiences, teens will connect with each other, to Jewish life, and to the greater community.

Please contact Ben Wolfson at ben@buffalojewishfederation.org with any questions or concerns or if cost is a barrier to participation.

Being Jewish

Wednesday Nights 7:00-8:30 pm

Grades 8 & 9 Fee: \$36

JCC Benderson Building - Lippman Lounge: 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10,

11/17, 12/1, 12/8

How has your life changed in 2021? Ben Wolfson and Rabbi Ori Bergman will guide conversations about what it's like to be a teen today and how Judaism can help teens make sense of the people, events, and trends that impact their lives on a daily basis. Open to teens in Grade 8 and 9.

Teen Leadership Fellowship

Sunday Afternoons once a month

Grade 10 Fee: \$380

Various Locations: 10/10, 11/7, 12/5, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1

Teen Leadership Fellowship participants will develop practical skills and gain awareness of Buffalo's history, civic responsibility, race/diversity, and personal potential all through the lens of applied Jewish wisdom. This program is facilitated by Hadar Borden, Director, Blackstone LaunchPad at the University at Buffalo. Open to teens in grade 10. Upon registration, teens will be asked to write a few short personal reflections.

Student to Student

Ongoing experience

Grades 11 & 12

Fee: Free

JCC Benderson Building - Lippman Lounge

Student to Student is a national prosocial program where Jewish teens travel to area high schools to engage with their non-Jewish peers and teach them about Judaism. Participants are trained to both share personal stories and how to respond to questions about Jewish identity, culture, and religious practices. Student to Student participants will learn valuable leadership and public-speaking skills. Open to teens in grades 11 - 12.

ENGAGEMENT Fall Classes

The Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) offers a variety of semester-long and year-long learning experiences for adults. Details about each class, cohort or learning experience being offered can be found below. For more information about any CJEL class or expereince, please contact Susan Schwartz at Susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Adult Hebrew (Virtual Classes)

1st Semester: Classes begin October 13, 2021 and run through January

2nd Semester: Classes begin February 2, 2022 and run through May 4 **Location: Zoom**

Fee: \$175/ for each 12 week semester (books purchased separately)

Beginners

Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m. Instructor: Dr. Yonina Foster

No experience necessary. This basic introductory Hebrew reading course, taught by Yonina Foster, is for beginners interested in learning the Hebrew alphabet, grammar and vocabulary with a focus on reading prayers for Shabbat, synagogue services and traditional blessings.

Intermediate

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Instructor: Dr. Yonina Foster

This intermediate level Hebrew course is to further develop skills for those who already know the Hebrew alphabet and can read several words and phrases. Must have beginning Hebrew and ability to read alef-bet. The focus of this course is on Hebrew prayer.

Advanced Prayer Reading

Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m.

Instructor: Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum

Further develop Hebrew prayer reading skills, so that you are more comfortable reciting prayers in a communal setting. Must have fluent Hebrew reading skills.

NEW

Conversational Hebrew

Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30pm (Virtual Class) 8 Weeks: Oct 10 through Dec 14

Fee: \$118

Instructor: Rabbi Ori Bergman

Location: Zoom

This course is for those with a basic knowledge of Hebrew, looking to get a grasp of using commonly used conversational phrases.

Café Ivrit

First Tuesday of the month, 9:00-10:00am (In Person)

Monthly, October 5 - June 7

Fee: Free Location: TBD

Have you wanted to refresh and improve your spoken Hebrew but haven't had the opportunity to do so? Rabbi Ori will facilitate a monthly conversation in Hebrew over a Kos Kafe!

Intro to Judaism

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. beginning 10/13 Location: Zoom

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

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

Living A Jewish Year

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm - monthly beginning 10/19

Location: Zoom & In Person

Fee: \$72/8-month course (includes books and materials)

This year-long program will guide participants through a substantive Jewish learning experience emphasizing how a celebration of Jewish time can help individuals integrate Judaism into the natural rhythms of their lives.

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

October 19th - Welcome/Honor November 16th - Chanukah/ **Awareness**

December 21st - Shabbat Pt 1/ Gratitude

January 11th - Tu B'Shevat/

Lovingkindness

February 8th - Shabbat Pt 2/ **Holiness**

March 8th - Purim/Enthusiasm

April 5th - Passover/Justice May 10th -Shavuot/Truth

Women Gathering Cohorts

*New and continuing cohorts beginning in October Fee: Free

CJEL

Location: Zoom and In Person

Women gathering together has been a hallmark of Judaism since Biblical times. The first day of the month on the lunar calendar, Rosh Chodesh, is set aside as a sacred time for women to gather, study, tell stories, and share experiences. In each of these small groups, Wise Aging, Wise Women, Mussar for Moms and Well Circle, women will gather to connect with one another through text, joyful conversation, and a commitment to lift one another up.

Beginning Fall 2021:

WELL CIRCLE: Women in their 20s, 30s and 40s - monthly gathering, 7:30 p.m. - first meeting on October 7, 2021

MUSSAR FOR MOMS: Women who are parenting school age children – bi-monthy gathering, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.- first meeting on October 24, 2021

WISE WOMEN: Women who are or soon to be empty nesters - monthly gathering

Dates/time TBD, depending on interest (minimum 8

WISE AGING: Women 60 years and older- monthly

Dates/time TBD, depending on interest (minimum 8

NEW Men Gathering Cohorts

Mussar for Men

Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Monthly: First gathering is October 5 and runs through June 7

Fee: Free

Location: Zoom and In Person

Mussar for Men, facilitated by Rabbi Ori Bergman, will use conversations based on Jewish texts along with contemplative daily practices to set each of us on a personal path towards self-discovery and transformation.

Men Gathering 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Monthly: Oct 21, Dec 2, Jan 6

Fee: Free

Location: In Person TBD

Men Gathering, facilitated by Rob Goldberg, is a monthly opportunity for men ages 30-60 to gather over food and drink for casual conversation about issues and events that matter such as fatherhood, politics, Jewish culture, and antisemitism.

REGISTER FOR Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning ADULT LEARNING EXPERIENCES and GATHERING COHORTS at https://bit.ly/ADULTEXP2021

Dwelling in Company: High Holy Days in Buffalo

BY CHANA REVELL KOTZIN, PH.D.

With summer slipping into fall, the High Holy Days will soon be upon us. Documenting the timelessness and changing ways in which festivals and customs are observed over time are part of the everyday work of the Jewish Buffalo History Center. Coincidentally, in the same document or photograph, another narrative, sometimes a paradigm shift, is also present for us to read or see. Over the last few months, the Center has been engaged in helping both Hillel and Congregation Shir Shalom gear up for a milestone anniversary which includes some of these same moments of change and continuity. Hillel of Buffalo is approaching its 75th anniversary, while Congregation Shir Shalom is approaching its 10th anniversary. Within their stories, each has records that speak to moments of change and to timelessness within their respective identities and missions. And this is where the photograph from Temple Sinai (see the photo on this page) enters our frame.

Within the extended holiday period, after Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the harvest holiday of Sukkot begins. A *sukkah*, or temporary booth is constructed like the one you see pictured in this article, with a roof that allows for us to glimpse the sky and the stars. It is often decorated with symbolic plants and harvest bounty that elevates the experience of meals eaten in the sukkah as part of festival observances. And this

is how timelessness and change come together in one particular image, as a Jewish holiday is observed in the same fashion for centuries, yet also illustrates a moment of change, and the introduction of new traditions.

During the early 1960s when this photograph was taken, almost all public religious observances within the Conservative and traditional streams of Judaism were all male affairs, with the



- All accommodations and meals
- Cultural immersion visit with friends and family of Tour Guide, including eating authentic home-cooked meals in their homes
- Visit historic sites, national park, botanical garden, beaches
- Visit a rural community primary school and interact with kids
- Entrance fees to tourist attractions
- Transportation in air-conditioned var
- Buffalo, NY Tour Guide born and raised in Ghana

Contact: 716-913-9835 or kofi@centeroftheworldtours.com



Temple Sinai, Celebrating Sukkot, early 1960s. L-R: David Busch, Cantor Alan Edwards, Ruth Goldman, Muriel House, Rabbi Gaynor, Edith Goldstein, Shale Freidman and Morris Sobel. Courtesy of Congregation Shir Shalom.

exception of the bat mitzvah, a "new" innovation that for some congregations was adopted albeit in modified form to its male counterpart. This image offers another part of a changing journey for some religious organizations, and unusually, not with a singular figure, but rather an equal number of lay men and women, who are present as members, but also as leaders of the synagogue structure.

The first female synagogue president, Ruth Goldman, stands to the left, and other female leaders "in the wings," stand with her too, Muriel House in the center, and second female president Edith Goldstein to the right. Temple Sinai, founded in 1952 was the first synagogue founded in the suburbs, and it was egalitarian in religious practice from its inception.

As one might predict, it followed that it was also the first synagogue to appoint a female president, a significant decision at the time when women leaders were the head of female auxiliaries or Temple sisterhoods, but not congregations. In total, a record breaking ten female presidents would lead this synagogue. As the first and only Reconstructionist synagogue in Greater Buffalo, active from the 1950s to the 2010s, when it combined with Temple Beth Am, also historically unique, its new entity is also groundbreaking, for Congregation Shir Shalom, is the first joint Reconstructionist-Reform religious

organization. This Temple Sinai image has many narratives. It is beautifully timeless in its observance of a sukkot, marking a joyous moment within the Jewish year, yet also documented a paradigm shift, in this case, women's roles within religious organizational leadership.

How might both these timeless observations and changing moments be documented throughout Hillel's history, particularly critical as an organization that supports the next generation of Jews? While Congregation Shir Shalom has a large cache of historical photographs from its predecessor congregations, Hillel has very few in comparison, especially from the period that reflects the early years when two sites provided a "home away from home" on Elmwood Avenue and at Capen Boulevard. We'd love your help in finding these images, and sharing them on the Jewish Buffalo History Center website while building an historical archive for Hillel. Visit the history pages https://jewishbuffalohistory.org/ organizations/hillel-foundation-ofbuffalo/; https://jewishbuffalohistory. org/synagogues/temple-sinai/ to learn more. If you have images or memorabilia you'd like to share, please contact digital historian and center coordinator, Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D, at chana@ buffalojewishfederation.org.

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

Leadership Gathering Under the Big Top

On a sweltering August afternoon, more than 40 volunteers and professional leaders gathered outside at Congregation Shir Shalom for a monthly leadership meeting. This was the first in-person gathering since the onset of the pandemic. Led by Federation president Shelly Yellen, the event gave leaders an opportunity to socialize and share news of their respective organizations.





Entering 5782 with Temple Beth Tzedek

In addition to a range of High Holy Day services at both the North Forest building and down the road at Camp Centerland-led by Rabbi Rosenbaum, Rabbi Silberschein, Cantor Spindler, and JTS cantorial student Zahava Fried-Temple Beth Tzedek will be hosting special programs during this special time of the New Year.

Machzor Pick-Up

For members who will be praying from their homes via Livestream, Temple Beth Tzedek will be hosting a drive-by for members to pick up Machzorim (prayer books for the High Holy Days) and goodies.

Cooking Presentation

The community is invited to get ready for Rosh Hashanah with a culinary experience taught by Rick Zakalik, a community leader and talented cook, entitled, "Tante Yetta Midda's Stuffed Cabbage: An Homage" via Zoom at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 2.

Sukkot at TBT

In addition to traditional services, the Women's Network is planning a pizza luncheon and the Men's Club is also planning an event in the Sukkah. More details will be announced closer to the holiday.

Simchat Torah Celebration

Please join us for lively Hakafot with the Torah on the evening of September 28 and the morning of September 29.



Joseph Zackheim



Rachel Anderson with Shai Notarius

Mazel Tov

This year, Temple Beth Tzedek will be honoring Joseph Zackheim as Chatan Torah and Rachel Anderson as Kallah B'reishit. Mr. Zackheim and his wife, Iris (Rusty) have been members of the congregation and its predecessor, Temple Shaarey Zedek, for 50 years. He has served in many roles including as Chairman of the Board, over the years. He is still active as a regular at morning minyan, a proofreader of the monthly Shofar newsletter, and collecting receipts from Dash's Market, among other important work.

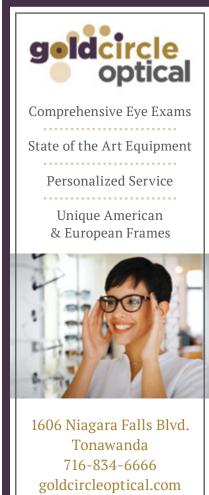
Ms. Anderson is the new President of TBT's active Women's Network. She has been a key leader of the synagogue for over 20 years, including roles as a former Vice President and active committee member with the Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Red Cross blood drives as well as the Friends of the Night and Community Garden projects, among others. Mazel Tov to both of our distinguished honorees!

Drive-By Flu Shots

As a congregation dedicated to the health of its members and the community, TBT will be hosting a drive-thru flu vaccination clinic. This is the second year this important health offering will be offered, led by TBT President Marcia H. Goldstein, a registered pharmacist. (Ms. Goldstein will be volunteering her services at the clinic.) Please check the TBT website for the specific date and time at https://www. btzbuffalo.org/.



Marcia Goldstein giving flu shots last fall





The Evolution of Interfaith Work in Buffalo

BY ROBIN RAPHAEL

Imagine listening in on 100-year-old conversations that shaped interfaith organizations in Western New York. As the Archiving Project Organizer of the Network of Religious Communities (NRC) for over 6 years, I've uncovered a fascinating history of this unique ecumenical organization.

If you are unfamiliar with the NRC at 1272 Delaware Avenue here in Buffalo, its stated purpose is to facilitate communication, cooperation and collaboration as well as to promote justice, peace, and the common good here in Western New York.

Among the critical activities the NRC currently sponsors or facilitates include: an annual Spirituality and Health Education program to educate medical students about the impact of each religion on spiritual and healthcare, a comprehensive hunger initiative, a weekly radio program, and a monthly TV show.

The roots of the NRC date back to the mid-1850s when a group of concerned Protestant clergy and educators sought to bring religion to the children in Western New York who had not received a religious education. Handwritten documents that illustrate this project have now been preserved and digitized and are available on the New York Heritage website at https://cdm16694. contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ p16694coll110/id/2171/rec/1.

As the Jewish project organizer, I was curious to see the interactions between these Protestant organizations and the Jewish community. For example, a women's group called the Buffalo Inter-Church Missionary Union was formed in 1911 with goals to broaden missionary endeavors, encourage united prayer, and stimulate Christian fellowship. These women were actively involved in the community in a variety of ways and engaged in at least one program per year with the Jewish community.

There were, however, also instances of friction. In 1919, a group called the Hebrew Christian Alliance (now called Messianic Jews) approached the Buffalo Federation of Churches for support. The Hebrew Christians were encouraged to hold a conference in Buffalo and the Buffalo Federation of Churches helped organize fundraising for a mortgage for their building.

The Buffalo Federation of Churches at that point created a committee called the Comity Hebrew Mission which also sought to bring Jews into the Protestant



Robin Raphael

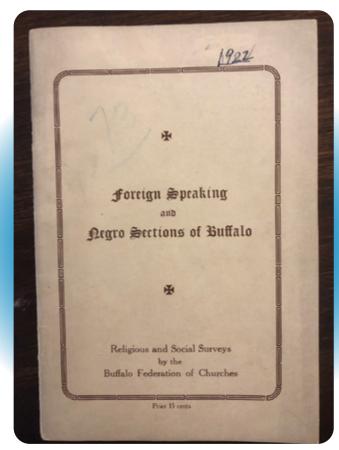
Churches. There appeared to be Jewish community push back against these efforts to convert Jews, which were described in the Federation minutes:

"In view of evident antagonism on the part of the Jews to the Hebrew Christians in our midst, at the request of the Secretary a special policemen has been stationed near the Hebrew Christian Mission to prevent possible and threatened disturbances."

"On the evening of April 2, 1921, (Saturday) about one hundred and fifty Jewish men entered or tried to enter the Hebrew Mission at 280 Hickory Street during a religious service. It proved to be a near-riot and resulted in the arrest of four Jewish young men."

These quotes do not represent the breadth and depth of the accomplishments of this organization, but do provide fascinating perspective to the modern reader. (https://cdm16694. contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ p16694coll110/id/3252/rec/6)

There were also positive interactions between the Buffalo Federation of Churches and the Jewish community. In 1928 the Executive Director of the Buffalo Federation of Churches spoke at Temple Beth Zion. A yearly collaboration existed with the Bishop and Rabbi Joseph L. Fink in the publication of a united call to the citizens of Buffalo for the observance of Thanksgiving. The groups also consulted one another on a long-standing interest to facilitate release time from public schools so that children could attend weekday religious education.



A 1922 book in the NRC archives

One of the most interesting finds was a small pamphlet, Foreign Speaking and Negro Sections of Buffalo, which was a study undertaken by the Religious and Social Surveys Department of the Buffalo Federation of Churches in 1922 (with a price of 15 cents). This study was a result of the city's population growing by an average of 20% every 10 years. The pamphlet described all the immigrant populations in terms of where they lived, what churches/ synagogues they were associated with, and made recommendations such as plans for church expansions and forming an interracial committee as part of the Buffalo Federation of Churches Comity Committee.

Based on the 1920 census, the pamphlet included a pie chart showing that there were 10,000 Negroes; 35,000 Jews; 45,000 Italians; 100,000 Polish; 145,000 Native Born; and 166,775 mixed sections. (The Jews lived in the Polyglot section, the 21st ward, and the Polish section.) The pamphlet also contained a heading called Social and Moral Conditions, which described one section of the city:

"The number of houses of ill-fame in this section is astounding. Many of these places are run by Jewish women

and have both white and Colored girls as inmates. ...There are some instances where Jewish women conduct 'softdrink' saloons in this section and the men are given cards of introductions to the girls who are kept in a better neighborhood of the city."

This article provides a snippet of the 100-year-old interactions between the then Buffalo Federation of Churches and the Jewish Community which much later culminated in the creation of a unique inter-religious organization (one of four in 1975) called the Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries, Inc. (BAMM) that included Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Unitarian-Universalists, Muslims and Black Churches. BAMM worked very closely with the Council of Churches until they merged to form the Network of Religious Communities in 1999.

To read more about these older documents, go to the New York Heritage at https://nyheritage.org/contributors/ network-religious-communities.

To watch NRC interviews go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UC2IRiKPagn4jzVO53sji8Lg/videos.

Robin Raphael is the Network of Religious Communities' Archiving Project Organizer.

High Holy Days Worship

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the changing nature and uncertainty of these times, High Holy Days Worship is subject to change. Please contact the synagogue to be sure of services and times of the High Holy Days and also for Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret information.

Center for Jewish Life 757 Hopkins Rd.

Monday, September 6

7:45 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:45 p.m. Holiday dinner

Tuesday, September 7

10:00 a.m. Morning Services 2:00 p.m. Community lunch 4:00 p.m. Shofar & Tashlich

7:10 p.m. Mincha

8:20 p.m. Evening Services

Wednesday, September 8

10:00 a.m. Morning Services **7:25 p.m.** Mincha 8:20 p.m. Holiday ends

Wednesday, September 15 7:15 p.m. Kol Nidre

Thursday, September 16

10 a.m. Morning Services 12:00 p.m. Yizkor Memorial Service **6:00 p.m.** Afternoon Service 7:00 p.m. Neilah Closing Service

Contact Rabbi Laizer Labkovski at laizerl@gmail for Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret services

Center for Jewish Life (CJL) **Downtown**

1016 Lafayette Ave, Buffalo 14209

Contact Rabbi Mendy Labkovski at mendylabkovski@gmail.com for holiday service information.

Chabad of Buffalo

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

Congregation Beth Abraham 1073 Elmwood Ave.

In-person services this year to those who have been fully vaccinated. All others will be able to participate on Zoom. Guidelines for attending in person and/or participating on Zoom are available on our website.

www.congregationbethabraham.net

Monday, September 6

6:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 7

9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah-Day 1 5:00 p.m. Tashlich (weatherpermitting) at Hoyt Lake

Wednesday, September 8

9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah-Day 2

Wednesday, September 15

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Thursday, September 16

9:30 a.m. Yom Kippur morning Mincha 5:30 p.m. Neilah 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. Shofar blowing

Yom Kippur evening

Congregation Havurah

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

Congregation Shir Shalom 4660 Sheridan Dr.

Saturday, August 28

9:00 p.m. S'lichot at Temple Beth Tzedek

Tuesday, September 7

9:30 a.m. Service One in Sanctuary 11:30 a.m. Service Two in Sanctuary 3:00 p.m. Rosh Hashanah

Family Service (OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY) -CSS Parking Lot

4:00 p.m. Tashlich, nearby from CSS Parking Lot

Wednesday, September 8

10:30 a.m. Second Day Rosh Hashanah Morning Service in person with live stream via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

Wednesday, September 15

7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre Evening Service in person with live stream via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

Thursday, September 16

9:30 a.m. Service One in Sanctuary 11:30 a.m. Service Two in Sanctuary 1:30 p.m. Reflections Under the Tent

3:00 p.m. Yom Kippur

Family Service (OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY)-CSS Parking Lot

4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Healing Service via Zoom Mincha Torah Service in person with live stream via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

6:00 p.m. Yizkor/Neilah Service in

person with live stream via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

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

CSS Parking Lot

Hillel of Buffalo

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur evening will be at Hillel for students only, and Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning will be open to the community. For location and timing, please visit hillelofbuffalo.org.

Kehillat Ohr Tzion

879 Hopkins Rd.

Tuesday, September 7

9:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Wednesday, September 8

9:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Thursday, September 16

9:00 a.m. Yom Kippur Services

For times of Mincha/Maariv and to RSVP, please contact Rabbi Ori at 631-371-4201 or oribergman@ gmail.com

Jewish Discovery Center

831 Maple Road

Monday, September 6

7:30 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Evening (indoor)

Tuesday, September 7

10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Morning Service (indoor)

12:00 p.m. Shofar Service (indoor) **6:00 p.m.** Shofar Service (outdoor

in backyard tent) 8:30 p.m. Evening Service (indoor)

Wednesday, September 8

10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Morning Service (indoor)

6:00 p.m. Shofar Service (outdoor in backyard tent)

Wednesday, September 15

7:15 p.m. Kol Nidre (outdoor in parking lot tent)

Thursday, September 16

10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur morning Service (indoor)

Thursday, September 16 1:00 p.m. approximately

Yizkor Service (indoor)

6:00 p.m. Mincha Service (indoor) 7:00 p.m. Neilah (outdoor in back

yard tent) Break-the Fast (outdoor 8:15 p.m. in backyard tent)

Temple Beth El- Niagara 720 Ashland Ave., Niagara Falls

Tuesday, September 7 10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 15 7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Thursday, September 16 4 p.m.

Mincha, Yizkor and Neilah, (with light break-the-fast meal)

Contact templebethelniagara@gmail. com for any questions.

Temple Beth Tzedek

1641 North Forest Rd.

Traditional services in the sanctuary led by Rabbi Rosenbaum & Cantor Spindler. Abbreviated services will be in the social hall led by Rabbi Silberschein. Artscroll services will be in the Kassirer Minyan Room.

Saturday, August 28

9:00 p.m. Selichot at Temple Beth Tzedek

Monday, September 6

6:00 p.m. Mincha & Ma'ariv Traditional service

Tuesday, September 7

8:30 a.m. Shaharit, Shofar, Torah Reading, Sermon &

Musaf Traditional service

5:30 p.m Tashlich 6:00 p.m Mincha & Ma'ariv

Shaharit, Shofar, Torah 9:30 a.m. Reading, Sermon & Musaf Abbreviated service

Wednesday, September 8

Shaharit, Shofar, Torah 8:30 a.m. Reading, Sermon & Musaf Traditional service

7:30 p.m. Mincha & Ma'ariv 9:30 a.m. Shaharit, Shofar, Torah Reading, Sermon & Musaf Abbreviated service

Wednesday, September 15

6:45 p.m. Mincha Traditional

service

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Thursday, September 16

9:00 a.m. Shaharit, Torah Reading, Israel Bond Appeal,

Yizkor, Sermon & Musaf Traditional service

5:45 p.m. Mincha, followed by Neilah 8:10 p.m. Sounding of Shofar,

followed by Ma'ariv 10:00 a.m. Shaharit, Torah Reading,

Israel Bond Appeal, Yizkor, Sermon & Musaf Abbreviated service

Temple Beth Zion

In person services at Kleinhans Music Hall, 3 Symphony Circle

Masks are required for all indoor services

Monday, September 6

8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah -Kleinhans Music Hall, Main Concert Hall

Tuesday, September 7th

9:00 a.m. Tot Service - Kleinhans Music Hall, Mary Seaton

10:30 a.m. Morning Service -Kleinhans Music Hall,

Main Concert Hall 10:30 a.m. Alternate Service -

Becker Farms Following Morning Services -

Tashlich Hoyt Lake in Delaware Park

Wednesday, September 15

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre - Kleinhans

Music Hall, Main Concert Hall

Thursday, September 16

9:00 a.m. Family Service -Kleinhans Music Hall,

Main Concert Hall Tot Service - Kleinhans 9:30 a.m.

Music Hall, Mary Seaton Room

11:30 a.m. Main Morning Service -Kleinhans Music Hall Main Concert Hall

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Interlude- Choice of Contemplative music/ study session/ meditative walk 3:15 p.m. Afternoon Service -

Main Concert Hall 4:30 p.m. (approximate)

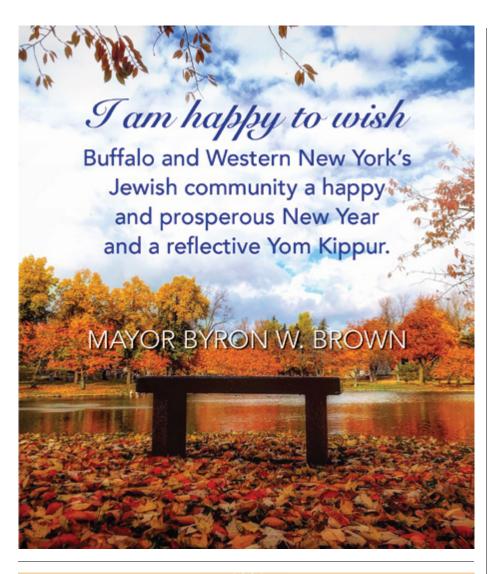
Yizkor/ Neilah Service -Kleinhans Music Hall, Main Concert Hall

Kleinhans Music Hall,

Services will also be streamed. Go to www.tbz.org for more infor-

Temple Hesed Abraham of Jamestown

For High Holy Day services and schedule, please call President Joe Gerstel at 665-2118 or 338-57454.





Starting in October

Ballet

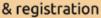
Jazz

Hip Hop

Tap

Ages 3-13

Incredible Dance Instructors Visit www.jccbuffalo.org for information





Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo





This month we are excited to highlight the Parthership2Gether Council of Communities (COC) annual leadership meeting held by zoom earlier this summer. Part of our overseas partner grants support the wide array of programs through our Partnership that connect Buffalonians with Israelis as well as with Americans in other midwestern communities and Jews in Budapest. The COC is the body of professional and volunteer leadership from each of the 19 communities in our Partnership. Coming together virtually for the second year in a row, this group reviewed the existing programs and familiarized themselves with the proposed programs for the upcoming year and approved the budget for 2022. The close to 60 participants, including several from Buffalo, also had the opportunity to discuss three current issues and how they impact the Partnership: Lessons learned from COVID; What does shared

society look like after the riots in Akko, and the renewed wave of antisemitism in the US and Hungary. Insights from these discussions are helping the Partnership move forward in acting and reacting to these phenomena.

The next COC is scheduled to be held right here in Buffalo in the spring of 2022 and we are excited to host! For more information or any questions about Partnership, please contact Mandy Weiss at mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Upcoming P2G programs:

Sunday, September 12th @ 1:00 p.m.

L'chaim for the Hebrew New Year -Join the Partnership to raise a toast in honor of Rosh Hashanah, the Hebrew New Year.

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

Mazel Tov Governor Hochul!



As we go to press (August 24, 2021), New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul is poised to step into the Governor's Mansion in Albany as the first woman governor of New York! We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lieutenant Governor Hochul who has been a great friend to Jewish Buffalo for many years. In the photo above, Kathy joined the Buffalo Jewish Federation on October 18, 2018 for the Community Kick-Off Dinner at the Hyatt Hotel. Seen in the photo are, from left, volunteer leader Jessica Altman, Asst. Executive Director Randi Morkisz, (then) Lieutenant Governor Hochul, (then) Federation President Steven J. Weiss, and CEO Rob Goldberg.



A program of the HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

"As my forefathers planted these carob trees for me so I too plant these for my children."

- Talmud (Ta'anis 23b)

Total legacy commitments received: 5

Total dollar amount: \$650,000

*through July 31, 2021

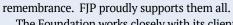
LIFE & LEGACY® is a partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit Jewish synagogues and organizations. Legacy giving ensures that you will be remembered by those who directly benefit from your generosity as well as those who will be inspired by your example for future generations.

In 2021, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, in collaboration with the Buffalo Iewish Federation, was selected to join more than 70 other communities across North America in this Jewish legacy giving initiative. To-date, the initiative has secured **more** than 30,000 permanently endowed commitments amounting to more than \$1 Billion. The four-year LIFE & LEGACY® program provides coaching, training, and resources to ensure that a culture of philanthropy and legacy giving becomes an integral part of the Buffalo Jewish community. Together, the Foundation and Federation are committed to helping secure the future of Jewish Buffalo. Each month, please visit this LIFE & LEGACY® @ Buffalo section to learn about the local agencies and synagogues partnering in this effort.

For more information, please contact Mandy Weiss, LIFE & LEGACY® Coordinator for the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at legacy@ jewishphilanthropies.org or 716-463-

For our first LIFE & LEGACY® @ Buffalo section, we are pleased to highlight one of the lead organizations that brought this initiative to Jewish Buffalo, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

For more than a century, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies has empowered donors to identify and support local Jewish causes and organizations that are important to them so our community can continue to thrive for future generations. Our Jewish community has many resources for learning and growth, health and healing, worship and community, and celebration and



The Foundation works closely with its clients and beneficiary organizations to maintain and strengthen Jewish Buffalo assisting its clients and donors with determining when, where and how their charitable gifts will be directed. The Foundation collaborates with the Buffalo Jewish Federation and our community's agencies and synagogues to identify needs as they arise, including investments in innovation to keep our community forward-thinking. Clients and donors who wish to





Mandy Weiss, Coordinator

support Jewish life in Buffalo can feel confident that their charitable desires are fulfilled through the Foundation.

The Foundation is the home of Tzedakah for Jewish Western NY. As custodians of your gifts to ensure the future of a vibrant Jewish community, FJP will help you create and establish your enduring legacy. For any questions about the Foundation, please contact Lorne Steinhart at lorne@jewishphilanthropies.org or Irv Levy at irv@ jewishphilanthropies.org or call 716-204-1133 to learn more about how Foundation can assist you in carrying out your philanthropic mission and preserving your legacy.

The following organizations are partnering in the LIFE & LEGACY® @ Buffalo collaborative effort:

- **Buffalo Jewish Federation**
- **Center for Jewish Life**
- **Congregation Shir Shalom**
- **Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies**
- Hillel of Buffalo
- **Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo**
- **Jewish Discovery Center**
- **Jewish Family Services of Western New York**
- **Kadimah Scholars**
- Temple Beth Tzedek
- **Temple Beth Zion**



Nichols School OPEN HOUSE **OCTOBER 3, 2021** GRADES 5-12

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

www.nicholsschool.org/fallopenhouse

Multicultural Women's Group meets in-person after COVID-19

BY MARA KOVEN-GELMAN

After 18 months of Zoom meetings, 15 members of the Multicultural Women's Group (powered by JCRC) met in-person in my backyard at the end of July. The members of the group come from diverse religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds but have become friends over the past several years.

Meeting last month was extra special. Was it special because we were finally in-person and welcomed new members who joined during the pandemic? Was it because we were vaccinated, met outside in a beautiful garden (thanks Irwin) and did not have to mask? Alternatively, was it the range of delicious vegetarian food that was created and shared? Israeli falafel and salads, Chinese green onion dumplings, Indian dal and rice and Burmese sweet potato salad were some of the offerings?

Some members felt these gatherings allowed them to be themselves after feeling "othered" throughout their personal/ professional lives. People shared



Yanhong and Martha

openly about the challenges of managing virtual work and children's school and increasing demands from community members in a time of racial and immigrant disparities. "I love that we can talk about these deep and important issues and know that we accept and



Multicultural Women's Group gathering in July

respect one another other," one participant said, summing up the evening perfectly.

This group of women is very active in both the general community as well as their own. Leadership activities include: Family Promise (supporting home insecure families), Kehillat Ohr Tzion Social Action Committee, Burmese Community, East Side Garden Walk and Freedom Wall landscape, Hispanic Women's League, Chinese Club of WNY, Minority Bar Association, NFJC restorative justice healing circles and Jewish Family Service Home Set-Up for newcomers (refugees resettling in Buffalo)

The theme on this balmy evening was baby-naming ceremonies. One member brought a three-generation handcrafted christening gown worn by her father and herself as babies. Another member shared the Sikh custom of bringing the baby to the Gurdwara (Temple) to randomly open the Book of Scripture (Guru Granth Sahib.) The first letter of the verse is the letter used to choose a name. A Jewish member spoke about the child welcoming ceremonies for males (Brit) and females (Simchat Bat).

Several members agree that immigrant parents gave them "Americanized" names to help in assimilation. Some felt that ethnic names, while expressing one's identity, also affect racism in schools and hiring. And yet another person said, "I named my children names from my culture - it is important for me to keep that identity strong."

Mara Koven-Gelman is JCRC Director.

SO CAN YOU.

Rachel Beerman New Racial Justice Coordinator

BY HANNAH GABELNICK

Last month the Buffalo Jewish **Community Relations Council (JCRC)** welcomed Rachel Beerman as their new Racial Justice Coordinator. Rachel will work with the ICRC Racial Justice Sub-Committee, chaired by Corey Auerbach, in order to implement the recommendations put forth by the Racial Justice Working Group and approved by the Buffalo Jewish Federation in January.

These recommendations include offering racial justice workshops and engaging in the Jewish Federation of North America's (JFNA) Jewish/Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Program as an inaugural cohort. Rachel will also be working with CJEL's Belonging Initiative, which is part of the Buffalo JEDI cohort.

Originally from Buffalo, Rachel graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a Bachelor's degree in History. After teaching at Tapestry Charter School, Rachel moved to Brooklyn where she was a founder and middle school social studies teacher at Brooklyn Prospect Charter School. In 2015, Rachel moved back to Buffalo with her husband, Danny



Rachel Beerman

Brink-Washington, with the intention of opening a new, integrated charter school. She wanted to design a social studies curriculum for the school with a focus on anti-bias and diversity where she could bring students together from all backgrounds.

Together with Danny, they have two children. Currently, Rachel is a curriculum designer for Buffalo Commons Charter School, which opens in 2022 for kindergarten and first grade

students. Through a comprehensive, equity focused, school model, Rachel is working to create an educational experience for young people that focuses on history, justice, and ensures a sense of personal belonging. Rachel is so excited to start her position as the JCRC Racial Justice Coordinator. "It speaks to my passion of advancing equity for all," Rachel said. "This is an awesome opportunity, with lots of potential for community growth.

Hannah Gabelnick is a senior at Amherst Central High School and a student intern at Buffalo JCRC.



18 THINGS You Can Do

for the High Holy Days to Repair the World

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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 www.feedmorewny.org. to donate online, volunteer or learn more.

Enable those less fortunate to be able to celebrate by donating canned goods and food to the Town Square Food Pantry at **Weinberg Campus**. It is open Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 to 2:30 and you can drop off your food, personal items like toothpaste, soap, shampoo or other goods!

Join Jews here in Buffalo in Reverse Tashlich Sunday, September 12 as we clean up waterways in Western New York. We'll meet at 11:30 a.m. at Camp Centerland as we gather, then head out to clean up along Ellicott Creek and other waterways in the Buffalo area. This whole family event is free. Register at repairthesea.org/reversetashlich. Then please select "New York, Buffalo-Jewish Buffalo" under team selection.

TBZ's Yom Kippur Food Drive. Temple Beth Zion will hold its traditional Yom Kippur Food Drive for FeedMoreWNY (Formerly the WNY Food Bank) Thursday, September 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Kleinhans Music Hall, coinciding with Yom Kippur services. Please consider donating as much as you can.

Don't miss the Kick-Off of the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo! Join members of your Jewish Community Sunday, September 19 beginning at 7:00 p.m. for a special streamed event. Register at bit. ly/bettertogetherkickoff. See more on page 4 or contact Randi@ buffalojewishfederation.org.

Walk off Hunger. Join your Congregation Shir Shalom friends Saturday, October 2 at 10:00 a.m. to Walk Off Hunger for FeedMoreWNY. This important fundraiser, begun in 2008, helps raise money for meals and food banks all over Western New York. *To walk* with Shir Shalom, contact Bruce Corris at corrisb@hotmail.com or go to www.feedmorewny.org/walk-off-hunger/.

Dignity Grows is a Women's Philanthropy project that empowers **our neighbors** by providing menstrual and hygiene supplies for everyone who needs them. Do you want to help? For as little as \$10, you can impact a neighbor's life for an entire month. Go to bit.ly/DIGNITYGROWSBFLO or contact Stacey Block at stacey@ buffalojewishfederation.org for more information.

Help Buffalonian David Kaplan win the fight against Cancer in Roswell Park's 11 Day Power Play mid-November. He's raising funds in this amazing 11-day endurance test in memory of his late friend, Dr. Stephen Goldstein. *To learn more and to* donate, go to https://communityshift.11daypowerplay.com/ Davidkaplan.

2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Gift. If you have not done so already, make your 2021 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo gift before Rosh Hashanah at www.buffalojewishfederation.org/donate.

It's a mitzvah to remember your loved ones—your parents and grandparents who are no longer living before Rosh Hashanah. Visit their graves if you are able, then make a donation in their memory to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation. Go to www.buffalojewishfederation.org/donate.

Debbie Stern needs a stem cell transplant, and she needs your help! If you are or know anyone between 18-44 years old of European Jewish descent and you are willing to donate, contact Debbie at 716-688-0058 directly or Be The Match at my.bethematch.org bone marrow registry or call 718-853-8400 for a cheek swabbing kit to see if you can be a donor.

Things you can do from the JCRC:

Take the time to learn about Buffalo Black Achievers at www.buffaloblackachievers.org

Visit the Buffalo Freedom Wall on the corner of Michigan Street and East Ferry Street or the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor either virtually or in person at the Michigan Street Baptist Church.

Listen to this podcast Brené with Ibram X. Kendi on "How to Be an Antiracist" at https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brenewith-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist/

Read a fiction novel by a Black American author, perhaps Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin or The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Register to vote by October 8th and learn about the candidates for the November General Election - https://www.vote411.org/

Volunteer for the Election Protection Hotline. Visit https:// protectthevote.net/

Learn about holidays in other faiths. Check out this Multifaith Calendar at https://www.multi-faithcalendar.org

Shana Tova from Kadimah Scholars

Another exciting year of Jewish learning, Hebrew and Judaic Studies awaits at The Park School of Buffalo, thanks to the Kadimah Scholars program.

We have been actively planning for the coming year with hopes for a normal learning environment - or as close to it as possible - after the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the first two years of our innovative program. Now we're

eager to get back to the full potential of what this partnership can offer our students, families and community.

36 students are currently enrolled in Kadimah Scholars, with more pending on a wait list for certain grades because



of the increased interest in the program and Park School overall. That's double the enrollment from where we started two years ago.

Most synagogues in Buffalo are represented among our student body, as well as many unaffiliated families, demonstrating the strength and diversity of Kadimah Scholars, and the attractiveness of our unique combination of secular and Iudaic Studies that has allowed the Kadimah legacy to continue.

The program is unique with the scholars integrated into the larger Park enrollment, taking regular secular classes together with other Park students, while separating for grade-level Hebrew and Judaic Studies, and coming together as a group for prayer and a supplemental afterschool program. Students also participate in Park sports and other activities, while still honoring their Jewish identity and celebrating our Jewish heritage, culture and traditions. And they've been embraced and supported by the Park community.

Currently, anyone who is vaccinated is allowed access to Park's 34-acre campus in Amherst, so that we eagerly look forward to hosting parents, guest speakers and other visitors, as well as special programs like our annual Hanukkah party. We plan to celebrate the High Holy Days on campus, and put up our Sukkah on the Park lawn, just as we did pre-pandemic.

This year, we also are partnering more closely with our community's rabbinic leadership, bringing in rabbis and Jewish educators from across the spectrum to teach our students and

enrich our program. Should COVID-19 conditions change and prevent visitors to campus, this can also be adapted for remote learning if needed, so that our efforts can continue uninterrupted.

We are also continuing to explore ways to evolve and expand our program, which now extends from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade - more extensive than Kadimah has ever been able to offer. New upper-level elective classes and other opportunities are under discussion.

Finally, Kadimah is proudly participating in the Life & Legacy® initiative with the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, to ensure that the flame of Torah continues to burn brightly in the next generation. We are seeking to secure a long-lasting endowment through legacy giving, to guarantee our ability to offer essential financial aid at every income level, so that every Jewish child who wants a Jewish day school education can access one. Please contact LEGACY@ jewishphilanthropies.org if you believe, as we do, that investing in our children is the best way to carry on our traditions and heritage.

Shana Tova U'Metukah and Gmar Chatima Tova!

The Kadimah Family

A Community Service to Remember the Six **Million Jewish Victims of the Holocaust**

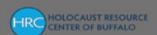
IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITION OF **KEVER AVOT V'IMAHOT**

Led by Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum from Temple Beth Tzedek



Sunday, September 12 10:15am - 10:45am

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Todd Sugarman **Returns** as **CSS President**

BY PETER SIMON



Three years ago, Todd Sugarman handed off the president's gavel at Congregation Shir Shalom to Bruce Corris. This year Corris, after three extremely demanding years as president, handed it back to Todd. Shir Shalom's tag-team presidential duo, very different in style and approach, used their complementary strengths to help keep the Temple vibrant and meaningful during the pandemic.

Sugarman, who was president for five previous years, was elected in July to another two-year term. Corris earned widespread kudos for his central role in holding High Holy day services in a drive-in movie theater, using technology to make temple activities readily available, polling the Congregation on controversial issues and projecting credibility, confidence and kindness.

"It was a very collaborative team effort," Corris said. "Our Temple didn't just survive, it thrived." While serving as a vice president under Corris, Sugarman worked out longterm contracts with the highly-regarded clergy team of Rabbi Lazarus-Klein and Cantor Arlene Frank, negotiated a rental agreement with a day care establishment, and took a lead role in tightening up the Temple's security system. "Nobody knew the role of president better than he did," Corris said. "He worked so hard and did so many things that people weren't aware of. I'm grateful for his partnership and we are all thrilled that he is willing to take on the Presidency again."

Peter Simon is a retired Buffalo News reporter, and was president of Temple Beth Am, the predecessor of Congregation Shir Shalom.



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BY VILONA TRACHTENBERG

"Thank you for helping me. No one has helped me before you."

The effect that Jacob Kaiser's chesed kindness – has on the community through his job as a refugee services caseworker at Jewish Family Services (JFS) is profound. For instance, Kaiser helped coordinate payment for a client's green card services, becoming that client's one hope. And that's just one example of Kaiser's kindness.

Kaiser, 23 of East Aurora, helps refugees from all over the world resettle to Buffalo and begin new lives free of persecution. On a daily basis, the Daemen College social work graduate helps pick up refugees from the airport, provides them hot meals, helps them find housing, connects them to food stamps, and helps find them employment or public assistance. He also manages their basic medical appointments, teaches them to use the bus system, and refers them to English classes, among other minutiae of helping people begin new lives.

The first family he worked with was a family of nine from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They spoke Swahili, and he learned how to communicate with them using hand signals and visual aids when he wasn't able to use an interpreter. Through that experience, he not only broke through challenging barriers, he found his calling.

Kaiser attributes his passion for helping others to his Jewish upbringing. Kaiser's parents were involved with



Jacob Kaiser

People Inc., an organization that helps people with special needs, and they volunteered with nursing home residents, Boy Scouts, and Kiwanis Club, a community service organization that strives to improve the lives of children. Kaiser also volunteered, and he was part of Key Club, the teen version of Kiwanis.

Kaiser notes that the Jewish people have been refugees throughout much of their history - from the Exodus out of Egypt to fleeing oppression in Eastern Europe in the 20th century. His great grandparents fled Russia during the pogroms. "That was very much a part of the Jewish culture," Kaiser said. "Our people were once refugees, who were once fleeing persecution, and it's important that we keep that tradition and that value of helping others who are fleeing persecution."

Kaiser feels blessed to be able to help other people who don't have the means he was privileged to have as a child. "A lot of times, we'll help clients who are struggling to pay for rent or utilities. A lot of times, they're not able to get help from anywhere else," Kaiser said. "It's very humbling when we're able to help them out and they're very grateful for the work we do and the help we're able to give them."

If you would like to support refugee resettlement, please visit www.jfswny.

Vilona Trachtenberg is a distribution coordinator at New Era Cap, a freelance writer, and a community advocate. She was also a Buffalo Niagara Partnership "Spotlight Professional" in 2020.



David Feuerstein receives Foundation's 2021 **Leadership Endowment Award**

The Foundation for Iewish Philanthropies recognizes David Feuerstein with its Leadership **Endowment Award in appreciation** for his tremendous support of Jewish Buffalo.

David has made a leadership commitment to the LIFE & LEGACY® initiative, a four-year collaboration involving the Foundation, the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which will markedly strengthen the Jewish community's legacy giving efforts and benefit the community for generations to come.

David has already made commitments to support the Jewish Community Center, Camp Centerland, Hillel of Buffalo and Jewish Family Services of Western New York's acquisition of a new building in the City of Buffalo's Central Park district, which expands



David Feuerstein

the agency's mental health services for community residents.

At the Jewish Community Center, David has provided generous support for remodeling the Holland Building's main lobby, atrium and corridor inspired by his appreciation of Nathan Benderson for his years of mentorship and friendship.

Given that Foundation's 2021 annual meeting will be held later this year in a virtual format, David's award will be presented at the Foundation's 2022 Annual Meeting at a time when we can gather safely together. In addition, dedication ceremonies at the Jewish Center, Camp Centerland and Jewish Family Services will also be held in 2022.

David was impacted by his parents and extended family and inspired by their strong-held commitment to Tzedekah (righteousness). His parents, Shirley and Irving, espoused and instilled in him, "It doesn't matter what you have in life;

rather, what matters is what you do with what you have in life to make a lasting impact on others' lives."

Further, in the spirit of L'dor V'dor (for all generations, forever), David, Jodi, and David's children (Rachel, Aaron and Jessica) are investing in the Buffalo Jewish community's future to expand, strengthen and preserve it for generations' time.

For information on the ways the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies can assist with creating and preserving your legacy and ensuring a strong future for Jewish Buffalo, visit jewishphilanthropies.org or call Lorne Steinhart or Irv Levy at 716.204.1133.



Hillel's Summer Internship Impacts Buffalo

BY EZRA N. RICH

After an unpreceded academic year and disruption to traditional summer experiences, nine college students had a Buffalo summer to remember as participants in the inaugural Hillel of Buffalo Summer Internship. This pilot program seeks to connect Jewish college students at the University at Buffalo as well as local students who attend school out-of-town with an internship that develops their professional skills alongside a unique exploration of Buffalo's Jewish and business community.

During the eight-week program, students worked with local employers from Monday through Thursday and then spent their Fridays with Hillel staff and their cohort for experiential learning, workshops and discussions on Jewish values as they related to the professional work environment. The program incorporated a range of the region's notable attractions including Niagara Falls and the Underground Railroad Heritage Center, a tour of North Buffalo's Jewish heritage with Explore Buffalo, West Side Bazaar, and in-person visits to 43North, New Era Cap, The Bloom & Rose, Jewish Family Service of WNY, as well as UB's Center for Inclusive Design & Environmental Access and seeing their work in the field at Uniland's Hampton Inn Buffalo-Amherst and Temple Beth Tzedek.

Participating employers included Steel, Roswell Venture Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, JCC of Greater Buffalo, Jewish Family Service of WNY, Temple Beth Zion, and Hillel of Buffalo.

UB senior Sasha Vool interned at Roswell Park. "The opportunity to deeply understand the professional work

environment of my intended field, as well as develop personal relationships with other interns in similar positions, is unmatched," she reflected. "This internship provided the stepping stones that I needed to advance many aspects of my life."

Sharing the Journey

While each student interned with a separate organization, an in-person orientation at Camp Centerland with introductions, team building exercises and Jewish teachings helped the students get to know one another, the Hillel staff, and the goals of the program.

Each Friday began with an assigned student sharing a challenge they were facing at work and a facilitator would help the student and the group assess the issue and the best way to address it. Some of the topics included managing up, having the courage to ask questions and other common issues in the workplace.

Eve Brunswick, who interned at Hillel, remarked "I love that we can discuss the week in a safe space. I have found the case study exercises to be insightful and valuable. Knowing that someone else is experiencing parts of what I am has been very powerful."



Hillel interns during a Buffalo day outing

A Taste of Jewish Buffalo

The group would then visit a notable place, have lunch and a discussion on a topic from a Jewish lens, such as business ethics, inclusion, political advocacy, and Tzedakah/philanthropy. The students benefited from the Jewish Buffalo network of outstanding individuals. Guest speakers included Federation CEO Rob Goldberg and Director of Jewish Experience Mike Steklof, Federation Past President Steven Weiss and current Secretary Ellen Weiss, 43North Board Chair Eric Reich. Rabbi Adam I. Rosenbaum and Kesher Inclusion Committee Chair Janet Gunner of Temple Beth Tzedek, Sierra Johnston of Jewish Family Services of WNY, Vilona Trachtenberg at New Era Caps, Krista Macy of UB's IDeA Center, Howard Cadmus of Sweet Jenny's, Adam Fogel and

Zeneta Everhart from Sen. Tim Kennedy's office, Emily Louis of PUSH Buffalo, and the chefs at The Bloom & Rose.

"As Buffalonians know, Western New York has a range of professional opportunities for students as well as a warm Iewish community and cultural treasures," noted Rabbi Sara Rich, Executive Director, Hillel of Buffalo. "This internship program takes students beyond their familiar campus surroundings and connects them to the local Jewish and business community. It has been a special journey that we look forward to building upon next summer."

EzraN.RichisMarketingCommunications Manager at Uniland Development Co., and proudly serves on the board of Buffalo Jewish Federation, Temple Beth Tzedek and Hebrew Benevolent Loan Assn. of WNY.





Marc Adler is New Hillel President

Marc Adler succeeds Ieff Lackner as President of the Hillel Board of Directors this fall. Marc has most recently served on the board as a Vice President, chaired the nominating committee, led the update of Hillel's by-laws, and offered marketing consulting to staff and students. His involvement with Hillel started in 2016 when Federation CEO Rob Goldberg tapped him and Hadar Borden to co-chair a task force to develop a strategic plan for Hillel. Marc's passion for Hillel builds upon his pedigree as a UB undergraduate and graduate alumnus, an avid UB Bulls athletics fan and a popular adjunct Marketing professor at UB and Daemen College.

Marc's top three priorities for his presidency are: 1) To increase community engagement of the students in internships, volunteering, at synagogues, and in university leadership; 2) To increase student presence on the board and at general Hillel events; and 3) To build a mentorship program for students that focuses upon career paths.

"My focus will be to enhance the entire community experience both on campus and in the greater Buffalo area," he said. "This experience brings me full circle, as the first board I served on 30 years ago was Jewish



Marc Adler

Federation Housing, and Hillel of Buffalo will likely be my final board leadership opportunity. It feels very satisfying to have played a role in the local Jewish community impacting younger and older populations as well as many in between."

Hillel Executive Director Rabbi Sara Rich looks forward to working with Marc in his new role. "I know Marc will put his heart into working with our talented and committed Board of Directors and that the students will benefit from his leadership."

Congregation Shir Shalom Walks the Walk at October 2

BY BRUCE CORRIS



The Shir Shalom Walk Off Hunger Team at a past event

Walk Off Hunger returns to its roots in 2021. Due to COVID precautions, the fundraiser for FeedMore WNY will once again feature meet-up locations throughout Western New York instead of one large event. One of those locations will again be Congregation Shir Shalom where the walk originated. Last year the CSS location was a popular choice, attracting one of the largest gatherings.

The walk at Shir Shalom will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 2nd. This year it will be part of a special Walk Off Hunger Weekend, featuring a kick-off event Friday at the Evans Bank headquarters in Williamsville, an online auction

that will run all weekend, and the opportunity for walkers to choose their own route and walk when they wish. Walk Off Hunger has grown into one of FeedMore's largest fundraisers since it was created by Temple Beth Am in 2008.

FeedMore WNY serves more than 180,000 people throughout Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, and the need for assistance has grown during the pandemic. Last year the organization distributed enough food for 16 million meals, an increase of 4 million from 2019.

To learn more or to sign up for the walk, go to https:// www.feedmorewny.org/walkoff-hunger/.

Bruce Corris is immediate Past President of Congregation Shir Shalom.





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Creating a Team of Respect

BY JIM MAHJOUBIAN

When I began working for the JCC in late April, I connected with the Erie County Summer Youth Employment Program and offered to host youth for six weeks this summer. Teaching and mentoring youth is a big passion of mine. My career began in the classroom by running a high school video production program and giving the students opportunities to succeed well beyond graduation. I then started an all-year-round internship program in Baltimore City Public Schools, which served hundreds of students over eight years. And so I was excited to begin hosting interns in Buffalo.

The goal for the summer was to have our interns build out a more significant presence on social media, work on graphic design, report out on Camp Centerland by taking photos and video, and document various projects happening around the JCC. A new Snack Shack, beach volleyball courts under construction, and a colossal member promotion would keep the interns busy starting on day 1.

When the three interns -Noor, Jafar, and Jonahbegan on July 12, we instantly connected over the excitement of all we had in store for them. But it was our shared interest in each other's culture that formed that first bond. We talked about different countries, food (we all love shawarma), our families, how my brother speaks Arabic, and simply breaking down stereotypes.

Noor and Jafar are Muslim students from Iraq who speak fluent Arabic. They were both somewhat hesitant about working at the JCC. Will they be nice to us? Is our religion going to be a problem?; Is everyone *Jewish there?* Noor said, "At the beginning, I was afraid of working at the JCC due to cultural differences, but on the first day, it was easy to have a good relationship with everyone." adds, "When I first started working at the JCC, I was overthinking and afraid of



Jim, Jafar, and Noor documenting the new volleyball courts. Pic taken by drone.

what they think about my culture and me as a person. As I started moving on, I felt more comfortable with the program and the people there."

As the summer continued, Noor, Jafar, and Jonah flourished. Each day they improved their skills in photography, video, editing, graphic design, social media, and goal setting. Noor looks at her six weeks by revealing, "I learned all about diverse cultures, dealing with new equipment such as the cameras, and learning how to manage social media. My experience here is something to remember, from all the team members being so kind and welcoming, to getting to do something fun every day." Jafar reflects on his experience by saying, "I learned better communication skills and other stuff like photography, editing, and how to manage my time correctly. At the JCC, my experience was fun and joyful. I enjoyed coming and having a good time. Everyone is nice and understanding with one another."

Each day we are given opportunities to build bridges, break down walls, and create a better way forward. To make the spark and unlock someone's potential is the bottom line, especially for our youth. It's our responsibility to help them see what's possible and guide them to success.

Jim Mahjoubian is the Chief Communications & Technology Officer of the Buffalo JCC.

All Things Security

BY SUSAN CASE DEMARI

The early observance of the High Holy Days this month has had many of us turning our attention to planning for our observances in the heart of the summer. With a sense of anticipation and opportunity of returning physically to our places of worship, the joyfulness of celebrating as a community brings with it a gentle reminder of the need for security awareness. We have worked diligently over the last few years to develop Secure Jewish Buffalo and are committed to maintaining a culture that aims for worship without worry by equipping our community with security resources, training and guidance.

Our goal is to empower Jewish Buffalo with the appropriate "tools" needed for planning and preparedness. Safety is more than just about cameras or locks or posting armed security at the front door where we are gathered. We each have a role to play in ensuring the safety, security and resiliency of our community; each of us can do our part in 5782 by committing to be aware of what is happening around us, taking the time to report any incident of concern and adhering to appropriate security measures. Our mantra here in Buffalo remains steadfast: "If you see something, say something, do something!" Whether you attend the trainings being offered within our community (Active Shooter Response, Worship Without Worry and/ or Stop the Bleed) or simply commit to a plan of action should you find yourself in an antisemitic situation, you are contributing to the overall situational awareness needed to keep our community safe.

On behalf of the Buffalo Jewish community, I too have committed to a plan of action that is an essential tool needed for planning and preparedness. As Security Coordinator for the Buffalo Jewish Federation, many of you may not know that I routinely work behind-the-scenes with our partners in law enforcement, to include the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, the NY State Police, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, the Buffalo Police Department, the Town of Amherst Police Department and the University of Buffalo, all in an effort to maintain the quality of response(s) to our security needs. Their unbridled commitment to our safety and security is unparalleled and adds that extra layer needed in our community to assure continued safety year-round; they know where we are, when we come together routinely and/or to celebrate and significantly contribute to the safety of our community's culture year-round and especially during this time of the year.

In addition to law enforcement.

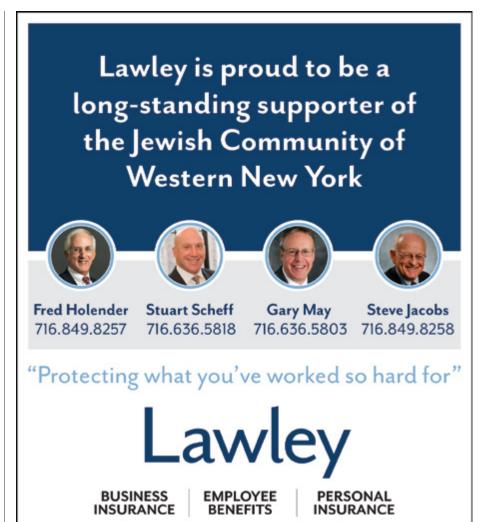


Federation's Community Security Coordinator.

we work very closely with the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish community. SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community. SCN provides us with Security Director Check-In calls weekly where all of us take a few minutes to share best practices, concerns and resource support, as well as additional tools available for security planning.

Yes, antisemitism and hate crimes against the Jewish community are on the rise but none of us should be victimized because of our faith. This is a time for us to be vigilant and aware. Secure Jewish Buffalo's best resource to ensure safety is a vigilant and engaged community. Let's keep working together and having conversations about making informed and best-practice decisions to ensure our safety. Wishing all of you and yours a safe Shana Tova!

Susan Case DeMari is Buffalo Jewish Federation's Community Security Coordinator.





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Back to Live: BPO and BCMS

BY JAN JEZIORO

IT HAS BEEN A LONG, EIGHTEEN MONTHS since the pandemic shut down almost all live audience performances of classical music. Several organizations offered streamed performances, but most will agree that they were no substitute for physically being in the concert hall.

One musician looking forward to performing before a full concert hall is BPO music director IoAnn Falletta. "Our online BPOndemand series last season was successful and it allowed us to program some unusual works, due to the varying safe distancing requirements in effect at different times, which did not require a full orchestra," she says. "It also allowed us to employ some of our best local musicians as soloists, such as Eric Huebner, pianist of the New York Philharmonic. Toward the end of the last season, we also were able to perform a few times before a limited, live audience of several hundred people That experience only whetted our appetites, and I know that the members of the orchestra really want to get back to normal."

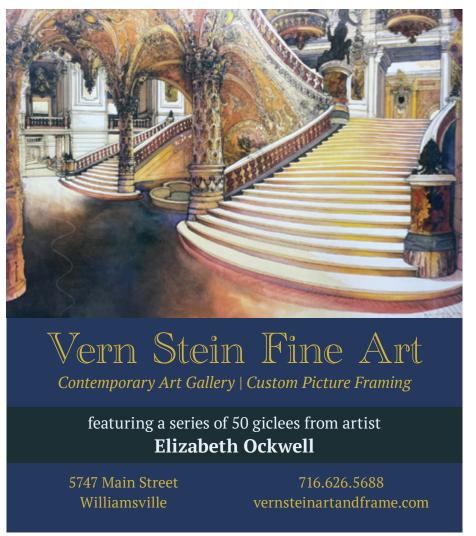
The first pair of BPO classical events includes a morning coffee concert on Friday, September 24 with an evening performance the next day. The concert opens with a world premiere, the lively Bandanna Overture by Daron Hagen. "Bandanna has a real Southwestern feel to it," says Falletta, "and Daron reorchestrated an earlier band version, for full orchestra as a gift to the BPO in its eighty-fifth anniversary season." Guest pianist Fabio Bidini is the soloist in Ravel's magical Concerto in G major, which combines the sounds of American jazz in its outer movements with a Mozartian elegance in its middle Adagio. "We are ending the concert with Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, as a tip of the hat to our disrupted plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth last season," says Falletta.

The venerable Buffalo Chamber Music Society, founded in 1924, found creative ways to continue its mission during the pandemic as artistic director Clem Fleisher explains: "After the March 2020 concert by the Schumann Quartet, we were forced to cancel the rest of the season. As the 20-21 season was already booked, I hopefully moved all the planned concerts in the fall of 2020 to 2021, starting the season in January.

"When it became known that live concerts would not be possible, I found ways to provide music via live streams and previously recorded performances," she continues. "We partnered with the Detroit Chamber Music Society to present a live streamed concert by the Attacca Quartet on July 25 and purchased eleven concerts from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The concerts were available online monthly for one week from September to July. I received many emails from subscribers who were enjoying the concerts and the live intermission interviews at home.

"Subscriptions continue to come in for the new season and we are looking forward to a festive opening concert in the Mary Seaton Room by the Belcea Quartet on October 19.

"All three of our free Gift to the Community performers were scheduled to be on the series last year. I was fortunate that I could reschedule them for the coming season. Violinist Benjamin Baker will open the series on September 19. His program will include sonatas by Copland, Poulenc, and Franck,"



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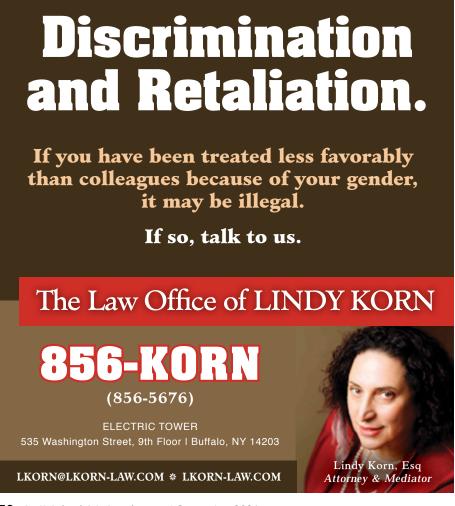
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The JRT in its 19th season

Following a 15-month absence of live shows and programming, The Jewish Repertory Theatre (JRT) is proud to announce a return to the stage for 2021-2022 season, three plays all performed live in-person at the Robert and Maxine Sellers Theatre at the Jewish Community Center Benderson Family Building.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed an unprecedented challenge for the theater as well as theaters around the globe. Through the support of the JRT patrons and subscribers, the JRT was able to pivot to a five-play virtual staged reading format that was viewed in over 45 cities across the US and Canada. The IRT also teamed with ICC Cultural Arts and Moment Magazine for a live world premier Zoom reading of Nancy Kelton's Finding Mr. Rightstein.

The 19th season begins with *Photograph* 51 by Anna Ziegler. This engaging and critically acclaimed play tells the fascinating and little-known true story of Rosalind Franklin, one of the great female scientists of the 20th century, and her quest to map the contours of the DNA molecule. A chorus of physicists relives the chase, revealing the unsung achievements of this trail-blazing, fiercely independent woman. Photograph 51 will be directed by Katie Mallinson and stars Kristen Tripp Kelley as Franklin. The cast will also include Jacob Albarella, Ray Boucher, David Hayes, Dan Torres and Adam Yellen, and runs October 21 -November 14, 2021.

The second production of the season is The Treasurer by Max Posner. This darkly funny, sharply intimate portrait chronicles the strained ties between a son and his aging mother. In the wake of her husband's death, Ida Armstrong is broke, lonely and fading fast. After spending a large chunk of her children's money, her estranged son is forced to take on the role of The Treasurer: an arrangement that becomes untenable the more he questions his devotion to her. A hit in New York City and across the country, this poetic and thought-provoking show explores the bonds and divisions of families later in life. The Treasurer will be directed

by JRT Artistic Director, Saul Elkin and stars John Kreuzer, David Lundy, Darleen Pickering-Hummert and Alex Watts, and runs February 3 - 27, 2022.

The final production is *Modern* Orthodox by Daniel Goldfarb. This hilarious and heartfelt comedy tells the story of Ben Jacobson, an Upper West Side financial consultant ready to propose to his long-time girlfriend Hannah, and Herschel Klein, an Orthodox diamond dealer tasked with selling Ben an engagement ring. After a fateful first meeting Herschel becomes entangled in the lives of Ben and Hannah for better and worse. Initially Ben and Herschel's differing views on their shared religion divides them, but as both men struggle with romantic relationships and faith an unexpected bond is forged between them in their pursuit of love. Modern Orthodox will be directed by Steve Vaughan and stars Zachary Bellus, Genevieve Ellis and Adam Yellen. It runs May 5 - 29, 2022.

All three productions will feature set design by David Dwyer, lighting design by Brian Cavanaugh, sound design by Tom Makar, costume design by Kari Drozd with stage management by KG Gorning. Performance days and times for each production are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

For more information about the JRT, the productions, season subscriptions and tickets, please visit www. jewishrepertorytheatre.org. Tickets are also available at the JRT Box Office: 716-650-7626. New this season all JCC members will receive a 25% discount on season subscriptions and individual tickets. This includes virtual, silver sneakers, and other insurance-based memberships.

Please know that the safety of the audience, actors, and crew are always our number one priority. IRT and The ICC will continue to abide by New York state regulations and safety guidelines to insure a safe, comfortable and enjoyable return to live theater. The Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York is a program of the ICC of Greater Buffalo.

KOT: **Together** Again!

BY PHYLLIS STEINBERG

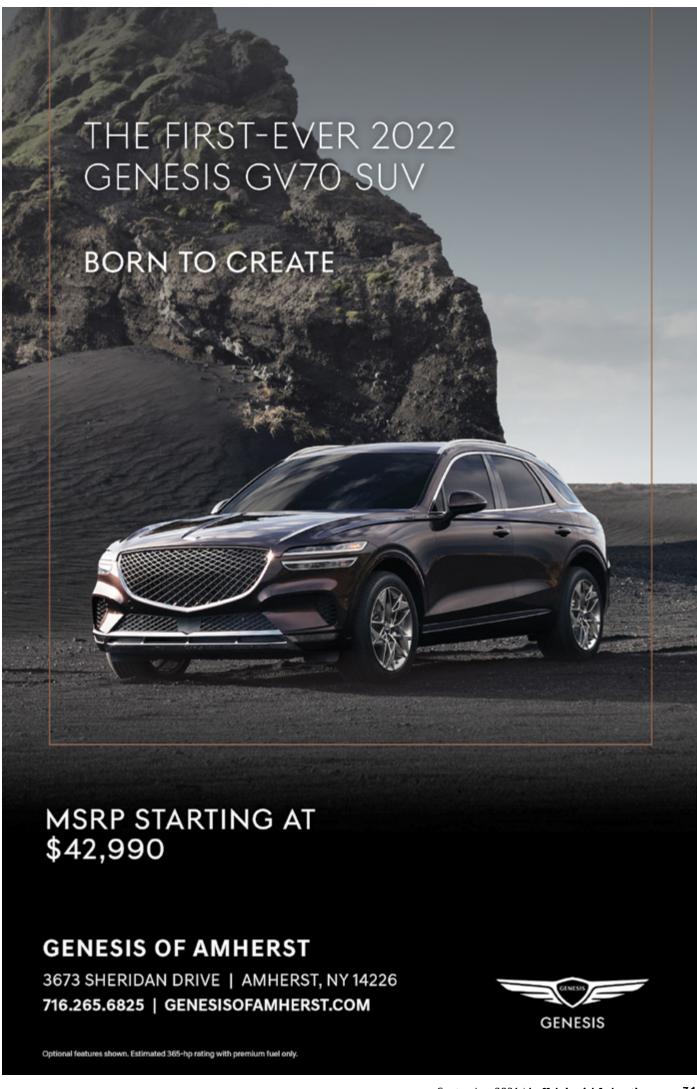
The members of Kehillat Ohr Tzion have always enjoyed spending time together in addition to attendance at synagogue services. A new tradition was added to our regular activities when Rabbi Ori Bergman became our rabbi: a yearly barbecue has been held in Rabbi Ori and Nora's backyard.

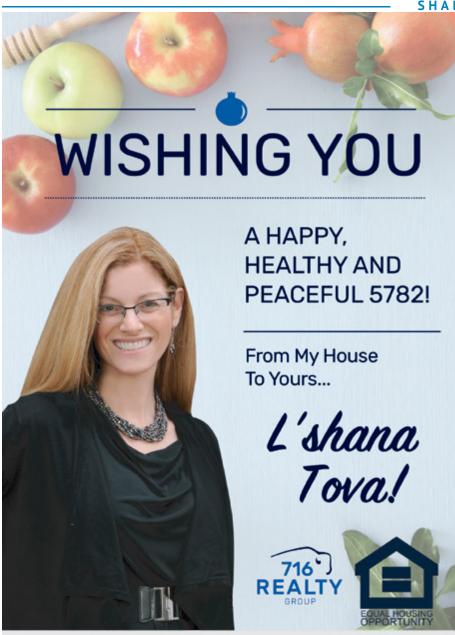


Last year the event was cancelled and this year it had to be moved to KOT because of the rain earlier that day, but when the sun came out tables were set up in the parking lot as well as in the shul. The barbecue has always brought our members, their friends and families, and the community together for a festive event and this was certainly the case on Sunday, August 1.



Rabbi Bergman served as chef and host as he ran between his grill at home and KOT with ever more batches of hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs and chicken. The event was coordinated by Barb Chazen who led a slew of volunteers including Linda Barat, Cheryl Stein, Linda Steinhorn and Beth Weiss. For more information about KOT, contact oribergman@gmail.com.





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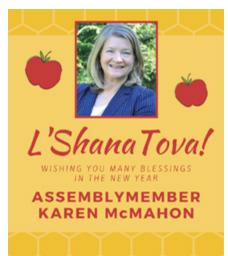
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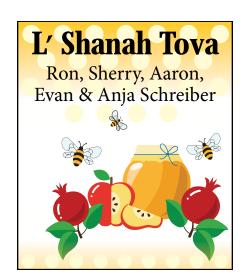








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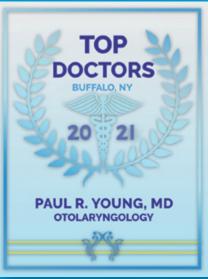
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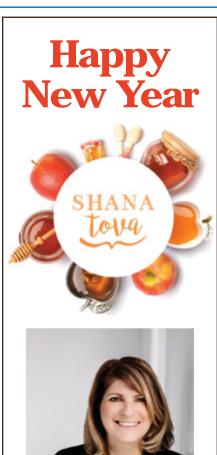


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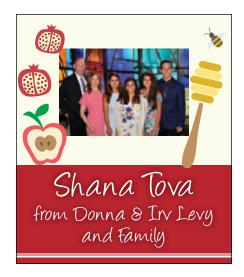


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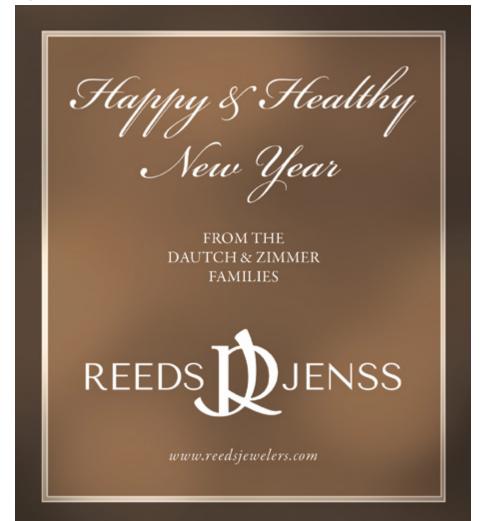




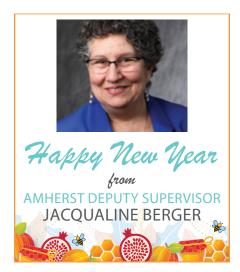
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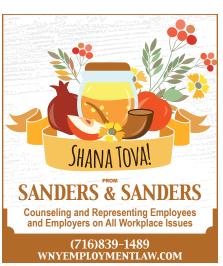
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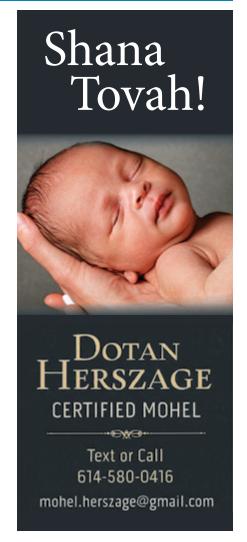


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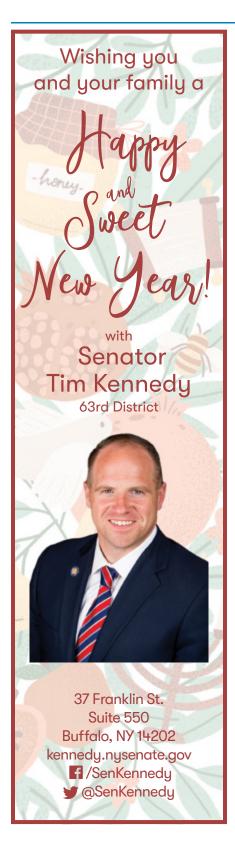
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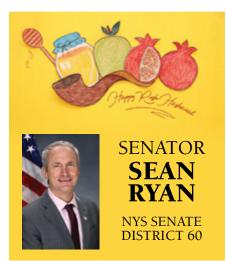
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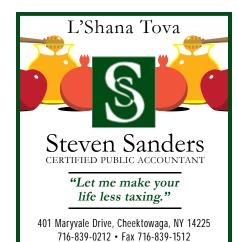
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Bubba's Holiday Stuffed Cabbage

BY ROBIN KURSS

My daughter just asked me what food I make every year around Rosh Hashanah that I could never give up making. It's my Grandma Esther Grossman's stuffed cabbage recipe, baked with instructions thrown in from my Aunt Dolores Grossman...it's a little bit of a "potchky" but so worth it, enjoy and Happy Healthy New Year to all!



Ingredients:

1 head cabbage, frozen 2 lbs ground beef 1 tsp garlic salt 2 eggs 1/2 cup rice, raw

Sauce:

1 can (35 oz) tomato purée Juice of 2 lemons 1/2 cup brown sugar (You can add more or less lemon or brown sugar, our family likes the sweet and sour.)

Directions:

Defrost the cabbage the night before. Separate the leaves. In a bowl, mix beef, salt, eggs, and rice. Place a couple tablespoons on bottom of each leaf. Tuck in the ends and roll up. Place rolls in a large roasting pan. Make sauce by combining ingredients in a bowl. Pour the sauce over the rolls. Cover and bake in a 250 oven overnight

Thank you, Aunt Dolores! This baking tip makes for luscious rolls and you wake up to the best smelling kitchen ever. These freeze well and can be made ahead and reheated before serving too.







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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** 338 Harris Hill Rd. - Suite 108B Williamsville, NY 14221 Miriam Abramovich - Chief Experience Officer Sheri Rodman - Chair

Center for Jewish Life 757 Hopkins Road Williamsville NY 14221 716-639-7600 Jewishbuffalo.com Rabbi Laizer & Chani Labkovski

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

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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 Todd Sugarman- President

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Temple Beth Tzedek (Conservative) 1641 North Forest Road Williamsville, NY 14221 716-838-3232 btzbuffalo.org Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum Cantor Mark Spindler

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Marcia Goldstein - President

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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

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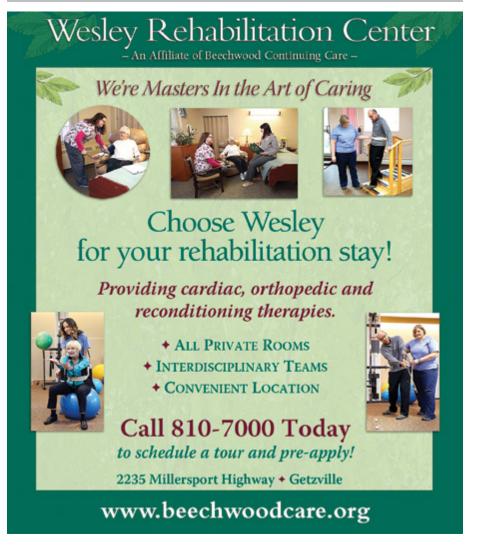
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Howard Hilfstein: 1959-2021

Howard Hilfstein. ieweler. gemologist and 35-year expert in importing and exporting diamonds and colored gemstones, died July 20 at the age of 62 after a long illness. We are honored to share sections of a eulogy given at the funeral July 22 by Brittany Swiderski, Howard's stepdaughter, as well as the poem "Gems" read by Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Congregation Shir Shalom at shabbat services.

I have known Howard all my life, at least all my conscious life anyways. As he often reminded me, he met me when I was about 1, sucking away on a watermelon rind. I do the math now and I realize that Howard was around 34 when I met him. That is 3 years away from where I am now. First of all, that means that I'm getting old. But it also means that I'm starting to reflect on a lot of memories with a newfound perspective.

I reflect on Howard meeting us, his future stepchildren, in the park. We soon became a permanent, but certainly not a simple part of his life. I remember him marrying my mom, and dancing with her at the wedding. I remember how proudly Jewish he was, and that each High Holiday was a chance to share that with us. I remember seeing someone Howard knew everywhere we went, and him always greeting them with a big smile.

I remember how excited he was for Eddie, my brother, to be born, and the work days he took off to spend on his birthday. I remember the nights he stayed up trying to lull my brother, Adin, to sleep. And I remember being 10 years old and boldly taking baby Adin from his arms, to perform my magic 'put crying Adin to sleep' skills and Howard never being mad, but maybe just a little jealous. I remember Howard coming home from trips afar with gifts for us....

I remember him speaking at career day at my elementary school and bringing small stones for us all to take home. I was very proud, and so was he. When I got older, I sent all my friends to him for their engagement rings, because I knew he was the best. Sometimes they would find him before I could even tell them, because as it turns out, everyone knew he was the best. I remember that Howard always needed a cup of Starbucks coffee. And Howard always got me my coffee.

Looking back, I also see Howard at



Howard Hilfstein

restaurants when his back hurt and he couldn't sit in booths, or when the server cleared his food away while he was still eating. If you've had dinner with Howard, you know this drove him absolutely crazy. I see him trying to sleep with his dreaded CPAP machine, and waking up cranky. I see the months Howard spent trying to decide on a leased car. Or the years he spent picking out paint colors for the kitchen. Or the literal decades he spent deciding on blinds. Actually, he never decided on those, the family room just never got blinds because he couldn't find the ones he liked.

I see the struggles he had raising a blended family and the challenges we each presented to him in our own special way. I see the joys of his job and the dismay that came with it too. And I remember the pride when he told me he had worked on Yankees hats decorated with diamonds, and the disappointment when he told me he no longer had projects like that. I see Howard proudly dropping Adin off at college, and I remember the phone call when mom told me Howard was sick.

I never imagined I'd be standing here in front of you today. I never would have wanted to. As the details of how sick he really was unfolded, the feeling of shock remained, but a feeling of anger was layered on. It all felt and feels... unjust. If I had to choose one word to describe this terribly horrendous feeling, it would be unjust. Like something I was supposed to have, feels like it was ripped away from me. Something my mom was supposed to have, my brothers, and so much Howard was supposed to have.

For the past three years we have lived on borrowed time. Howard fought for each and every hour of each and every day. He fought to be here for Eddie's graduation, my orthodontic residency,

the birth of Hudson, and the many moments in between. One thing he was clear on during these last three years is that he wanted to live. And he did, just not in the way he did before. But he lived in the granddad calls, in the small family Seder in his room at the nursing home, and the hugs before it was time to go. He had 25 wonderful years of marriage with my mom, all of which I got to bear witness to.....

While I'm still heartbroken, I am also grateful that I got to have Howard in my life for the time I did, to have learned so much from him, and to continue learning as I replay our memories. When I was disheartened working weekends and evenings in New York at a job I did not love, I thought about what Howard would tell me. While I spend months trying to decide on a new laptop, I think of Howard. And when I overpay for a Pike Place Starbucks, I think of Howard. He would want me to tell you all that life is too short to drink disgusting coffee.

It's okay to be sad, and mad, and to feel that the world is unjust but as the days move forward, don't forget to also be grateful for the time we had.

To Make a Gem

By Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein

fill a pot with water add sugar add more sugar bring to boil add even more sugar attach a string and pull

out will emerge ornate crystals sticky to touch sweet to taste not quite jewels but glorious none the less

to find a gem is another matter for that you need to go deep and deeper still almost to the core itself

with heavy machinery break open rock do not be discouraged buried inside will be treasure

when you find one embedded it will shine without light you will shine without light you will be uplifted lifted up

hold on to these precious gems all of them whether made or found of mineral or sugar life is too short to do otherwise

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from July 19-August 23, 2021* May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Dr. Barbara "Bambii" Brody Michele Davis Howard R. Hilfstein



Jan Katz
Shirley Kravitz
Norma Pearlman
Lorraine Pleskow
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*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.



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(NOT) THE LAST WORD

Hope in the Midst of Violence

BY MIKE RAWL

In July, I attended the JCC Association of North America's Leadership Solidarity Seminar in Israel to support Israelis recently affected by conflict and connect with the region to help drive Israel programming in Buffalo. In a time of increased antisemitism and growing criticism of Israel, we were some of the first visitors since the pandemic began. Over four 12+ hour days, we engaged with national government ministers and diplomats, residents, community leaders, and politicians in areas of recent conflict. I could not have prepared for the experience that unfolded.

We visited the Gaza envelope, the target of 4,000 missile attacks in May. We saw a kindergarten designed as a bomb shelter in one kibbutz because five-year-olds can't make it to safety in the 15 seconds between when the alarm sounds and the rockets fall. Teachers described how the children no longer use the color red in their artwork due to the trauma of the warning system, which verbally announces "red alert." They described how the children are fearful of balloons and kites because they recognized that these items had become weaponized. Despite these conditions, the kibbutz recently donated 250 acres of land to build a hospital, social service center, and an industrial park that will employ over 10,000 Gazans in the name of coexistence.

In the old city of Akko, part of our Federation's Partnership2Gether region, we met victims of recent violence. Meir



JCC in Israel with Nachman Shai, Minister of Diaspora Affairs. Back row left: Gon Erez, Program Director of JCC Buffalo; Center with tie: Minister Nachman Shai; 2nd from right: Mike Rawl, CEO of JCC Buffalo.

and Tamar Davidson, whose hotel and art gallery were destroyed by an Arab mob, have already begun to rebuild. We were the first visitors to the site since mob attacks destroyed every Jewish business in the old city. As Tamar stood before the charred remains of her leatherworking gallery, describing the harrowing moments when she and her husband barely escaped with their guests, she clarified that the attack was not a riot but a pogrom. Despite this, her tone was not of resentment, hate, or revenge, but hope that they must rebuild

as an outpost of peace. Davidson's harrowing tale of violence and resolve represents the Israeli spirit and was emblematic of our entire experience.

We met Oded Revivi, long-time Mayor of the settlement town of Efrat. He shared that one of his most significant challenges was convincing the Israeli government that building a wall between Efrat and their three neighboring Arab villages would be antithetical to Efrat's goals.

We toured community centers in Jerusalem and Nazareth that provided Hebrew classes to Arab women, often in secret and without the knowledge of their husbands, to give them better employment prospects. Lastly, we met members of Israel's historic new coalition government, the first to include an Arab party.

Our visit was a rare glimpse into a world freshly traumatized by violence but steeped in unrelenting hope. From our perspective in America, it's easy to look at Israel with a critical eye. Unsurprisingly, similar feelings are found among people across Israel. However, what Americans don't see is the reality on the ground: that the vast majority of Israelis believe that the only path to peace is coexistence, and for many, coexistence is their daily experience.

Hundreds of generations of Jews across thousands of years would have given anything to have a world in which the Jewish people are strengthened by the freedom and independence of national sovereignty. There is only one Jewish country in the world, and it belongs to all of us. We owe a debt to the generations that came before us, bestowing on us a responsibility to future generations, to leave them a better version of the Jewish world than was left to us. We must continue to engage with Israel to strengthen the ties between us; we are stakeholders in its prosperity, and the more engaged we are now, the more we can help shape its future.

Mike Rawl is CEO of the JCC of Greater Buffalo

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