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THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

» Celebrate 5782:
A New Year!

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OCTOBER 2021 | TISHRI -HESHVAN 5782

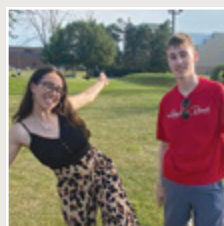
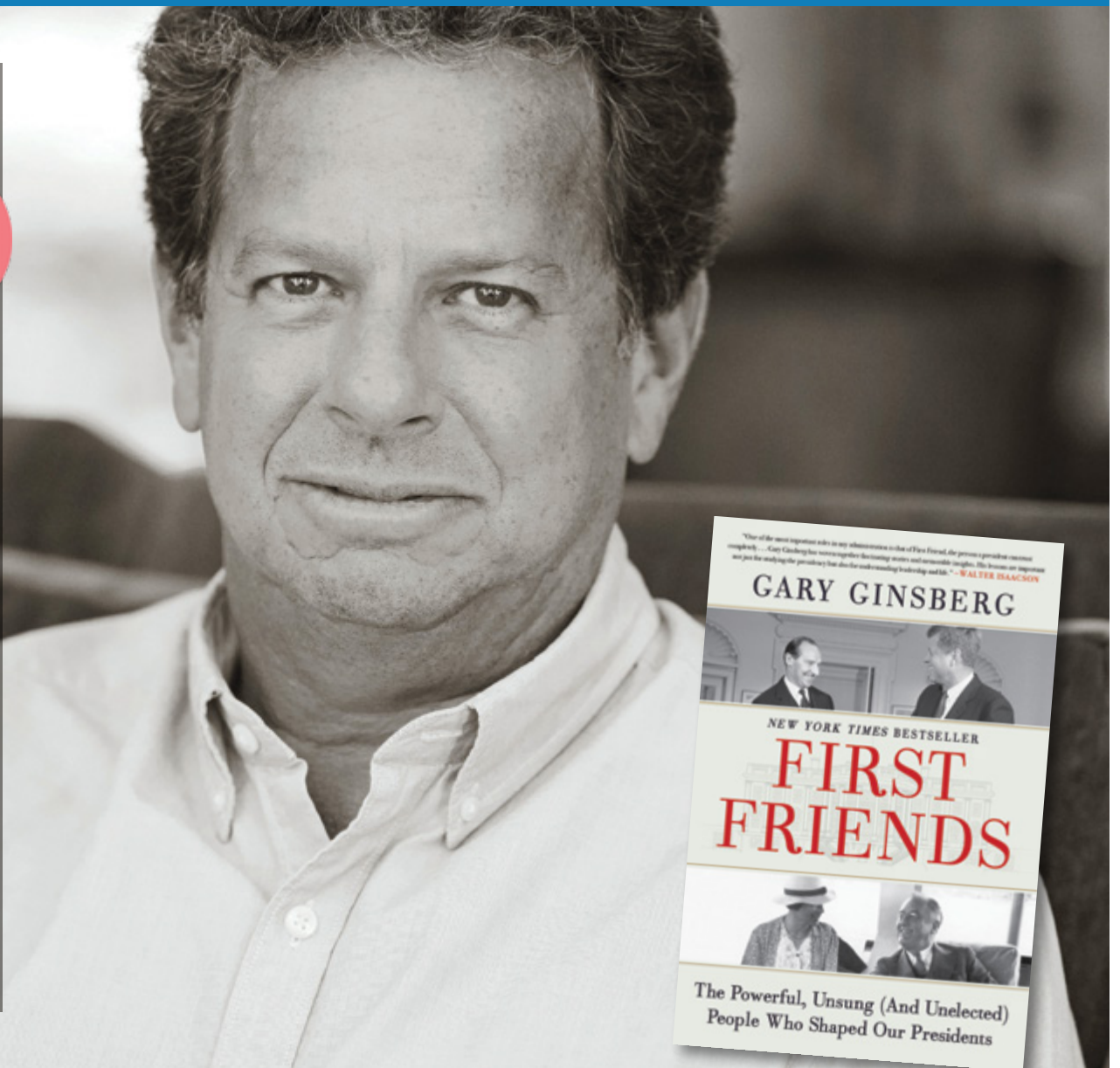
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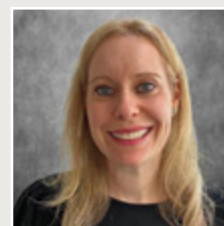
**A Conversation
with
Gary Ginsberg**

**Tuesday,
November 2
7:00 p.m.**

(3)



LOOK:
Hillel's
75th
(13)



INSIDE:
HRC's
New Specialist
(17)



DON'T MISS:
Chabad
Celebrates
(32)

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOV 2ND

INDIA WALTON

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR MAYOR OF BUFFALO



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October 2021

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Have you ever been to any of the Jewish cemeteries on Pine Ridge Road? Eight of the nine cemeteries managed by the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation are located there and are sympolic of a past Jewish Buffalo that continues to thrive. Sometimes I stop and visit the Holy Order of the Living site—the Sokolivker cemetery—where my great grandparents Morris and Edith Carrel are buried, to thank them for what they did for our family, and look at the old stones, the beautiful monuments, the Holocaust Memorial monument nearby and read the names of those Jews who built our city and community many years ago. You now have an opportunity, through a partnership with Explore Buffalo and the Buffalo Jewish Federation, to visit these historic resting places in October (see page 6) to discover remnants of Jewish Buffalo's historic past.

And speaking of the past, native son Gary Ginsberg is coming home to Buffalo November 2 at a fascinating **Made in Buffalo** event to share insights from his new book *First Friends*, about American presidents and their go-to confidants. If you plan to go in person to this event at Temple Beth Tzedek, better reserve your spot soon (see page 3)!

It's autumn in America, and an election day is coming up next month. For whom will you vote in the Buffalo mayoral race and Erie County Sheriff contest? Learn more about the candidates and their views through the JCRC Candidates Forum on pages 10-11.

Don't miss the photos of Reverse Tashlich on page 12, an international event in which Jewish Buffalo brought more than 50 volunteers to pick up trash and clean up part of the Niagara River as a way to begin repairing the world in 5782. And be sure to sign up for the Zoom event October 19 featuring author and educator Vickie Rubin discussing her new book, *Raising Jess: A Story of Hope* (see page 14). This is a powerful story of how love, community and family can pull together to overcome very difficult circumstances. I have read her incredible book, and I recommend you do too, if only to be in awe of the intrepid journey of Vickie and her family, raising her severely disabled daughter, Jess.

Wishing you an awesome start to the New Year 5782! May it be a year of friendship, joyous gatherings and blessings for us all.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Native son Gary Ginsberg returns to discuss his book *First Friends* for **Made in Buffalo's** third installment Tuesday, November 2. Check out the story on page 3.
Cover design by Kim Miers.

3	Made in Buffalo is Back November 2 <i>By Ezra N. Rich</i>
4	Campaign for Jewish Buffalo: Thank You Sponsors!
5	Rabbi's Ohel in Need of Repair
6	Jewish Cemetery Tour October 10, 17
7	JBHC: Jewish Cemeteries
8	CJEL Fall Classes
9	CJEL Teen Events
10-11	JCRC 2021 Candidates' Forum
12	Reverse Tashlich
13	Hillel Kicks Off 75th Year
14	Conversation with Vickie Rubin October 19
15	JFS: Home Health Heroes <i>By Vilona Trachtenberg</i>
17	New Leaders at HRC
18	FJP: Academic Grants
19	FJP Life & Legacy
20	CBA Seeks Memorabilia
21	Rabbi's Column: <i>Rabbi Dr. Pinny Young</i>
22	TBT is Cooking Up Excitement
23	Kadimah Scholars <i>By Hallie Keren</i>
24-25	JCC Cultural Events
26	5 Things You Can Do in October to Repair the World
	Where in Jewish BFLO?
27	<i>Special Advertising Supplement:</i> Dining
28-29	Organizations & Synagogues Listings
30-31	In Remembrance: Dr. Norman Mohl
32-33	Not the Last Word <i>By Justin Weiss</i>

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MADE IN BUFFALO to host Gary Ginsberg on Election Night November 2

BY EZRA N. RICH

The canon of works on the American Presidency is filled with autobiographies of the Commander-in-Chief, the First Lady, and cabinet members. Jewish Buffalo native Gary Ginsberg recently expanded the genre with his inaugural book, *First Friends: The Powerful, Unsung (And Unelected) People Who Shaped Our Presidents*, published by Twelve in the summer of 2021.

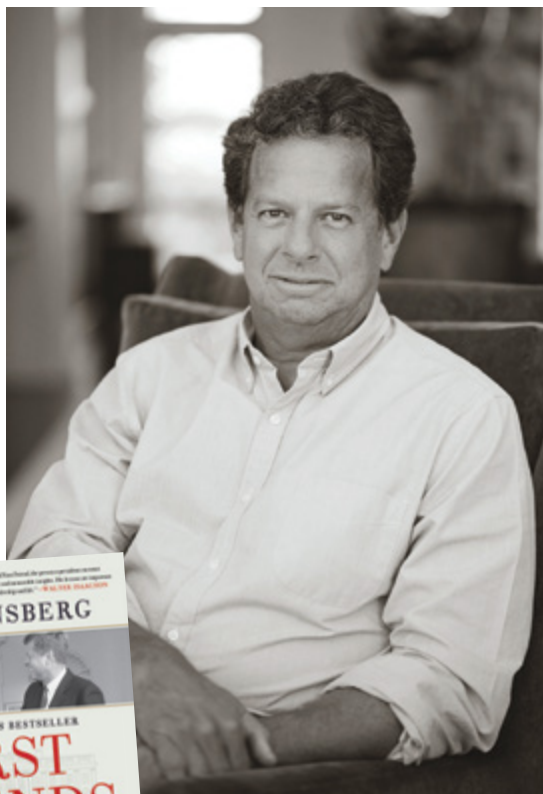
Presidential Potential

The book explores the role close friends have played in the lives of presidents and their decisions throughout American history, a fascinating topic that until now has been largely overlooked. *First Friends* examines friendships that span from Founding Fathers thru Bill Clinton.

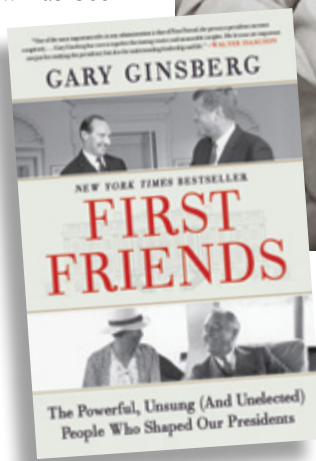
Ginsberg is a uniquely Buffalo individual and will be highlighted at the third **Made In Buffalo** program of the Buffalo Jewish Federation. Since its inaugural event in 2017 with Seth Godin, **Made In Buffalo** is funded by the William & Lenore Godin Made In Buffalo Fund as a way for Jewish Buffalo to engage the larger community by celebrating native Buffalonians who have had a great impact in the broader culture. Buffalo Jewish Federation's **Made In Buffalo** program is chaired by Marjorie Godin Bryen, the Federation's Treasurer.

Buffalo Beginnings

Ginsberg was raised in Buffalo, and as noted in his book, it was a play at Windermere Elementary on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln that ignited his interest in the



Gary Ginsberg and his book



American Presidency. He grew up attending Temple Shaarey Zedek, a predecessor of Temple Beth Tzedek, as the son of Barbara and the late Irwin Ginsberg, to whom the book is dedicated.

An alumnus of Brown University and Columbia Law School, Ginsberg entered the political arena, serving in the Clinton administration at both the White House Counsel's office and the U.S. Department of Justice. He's subsequently had a storied career in media, serving as Senior Editor and legal counsel of *George* magazine with the late John F. Kennedy, Jr., and subsequent executive roles at News Corporation, Time Warner, and SoftBank Group.

Election Night

The Buffalo Jewish Federation will be hosting a conversation with Ginsberg on Election Night, Nov. 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Tzedek (TBT) in Williamsville. Federation Governor and TBT Past President Harvey P. Sanders, a childhood friend of Ginsberg, will introduce our special guest.

"I've known Gary for well over 40 years as our families were members at Temple Shaarey Zedek," noted Sanders. "I have known for a long time that Gary was a great writer because I was on the staff of the Amherst High School newspaper when he was the Editor-in-Chief. I was so thrilled to purchase an advance copy of his book and I couldn't put it down. I am honored to be working on organizing this event."

A Historic Moderator

Ginsberg will be discussing the topic of *First Friends* with Melissa N. Brown, Executive Director of The Buffalo History Museum. As director since 2011, she has inspired



Melissa N. Brown

transformational change at the institution. The Buffalo History Museum tells the community's influential stories of struggle and triumph, feeding Western New York's regional identity and revitalization.

"I'm thrilled to be returning to Buffalo to talk about *First Friends*," said Ginsberg. "It was here where I first developed my fascination with the American presidency and where I got my start working in national politics. In coming home, I'm also reminded of the close friendships I forged here and how they influenced me both in my personal and professional lives. Now imagine applying that impact from our close friendships to the most powerful person on the planet, and how consequential it can be? That's what I have hopefully demonstrated in *First Friends*, and what I look forward to discussing on November 2nd."

The event is free to the public and will abide by CDC Guidelines and is also available via Livestream. Those who make a donation of \$50 or more to the Godin Made In Buffalo Fund will receive an autographed copy of the book at the event. **To RSVP, visit bit.ly/firstfriends716.**

Ezra N. Rich is Marketing Communications Manager at Uniland Development Company and serves on the boards of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, Temple Beth Tzedek, and HBLA.



Presents A Conversation with Gary Ginsberg

For a donation of \$50 or more to the Made in Buffalo Fund, you will receive a signed copy of Ginsberg's book.

**Tuesday, November 2
7:00 p.m.
In person & virtual
Temple Beth Tzedek**

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bit.ly/firstfriends716**

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Rabbi's Ohel in Need of Repair

An Ohel is a structure built around a Jewish grave as a sign of prominence of the deceased. In Buffalo one such Ohel is on Pine Ridge road to the right of the entrance way into B'nai Israel cemetery for Rabbi Eliyahu Yosef (Joseph) Rabinowitz (Z"L).



Rabbi Rabinovitz came to the United States in 1899 from Sokolivka (Justingrad/Yustingrav), now in modern day Ukraine. When he emigrated to America, he first settled on the Lower East Side of New York and ultimately in 1908 moved to Buffalo and headed the Jefferson Street Shul. In addition to his own great genealogy, the Rebbe was the brother-in-law and *chavrusa* (a study partner) of the renowned Rebbe Mordechai Dov Twerski of Hornisteiple.

The current Ohel is in desperate need of repair. "We have begun a project to renovate the existing structure that was built by the Rabbi's devotees following his death in 1910," said Charlotte Gender, Chair of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation. "Our Board has been working with Bob Kasprzak of K 1 Architecture and BRD Construction (the same team that renovated both Jewish Community Center buildings) to develop a plan to extend the existing structure adding an approximate 12'x12'

addition as well as stabilizing the original building."

While it is unclear how old the present structure is, over time it has deteriorated and currently its appearance is shabby and part of the foundation is unstable. The anticipated budget for the project is over \$100,000.

"The Ohel is sacred to certain Chasidim," added Mrs. Gendler, "who believe that the late Rebbe has certain divine powers to intercede in behalf on the living; they come here to the Ohel to pray for such divine interventions."

If you are interested in helping to preserve the Ohel with a contribution, donate online at buffalojewishfederation.org/ohel. Or, you may send a check made payable to: Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, 338 Harris Hill Rd, Suite 108B, Williamsville, NY 14221

For more information or with questions, please contact Debbie Pivarsi: debbie@buffalojewishfederation.org or 716-463-5055.

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EXPLORE BUFFALO Offers Jewish Cemetery Tour, October 10 and 17

BY BRAD HAHN

Explore Buffalo and the Jewish Buffalo History Center are partnering to present a new tour of a unique element of Jewish Buffalo history: the Jewish cemeteries along Pine Ridge Road. The tour will explore themes of migration, movement, and transformation.

Some of the cemeteries visited on the tour will include Old Temple Beth Zion, Holy Order of the Living, Ahavas Achim, and Temple Beth El. These cemeteries, many once cared for by synagogues that no longer exist, remain as part of the Jewish legacy in Western New York. Visiting these cemeteries provides a look at the growth and evolution of Buffalo's Jewish community, as synagogues were formed, grew, and in some cases, merged back together.

This tour will tell the story of Jewish immigrants coming to Buffalo, including the connection between Sokolivka and Buffalo. While there are countless stories to be shared in each cemetery, we have selected a few, highlighting individuals whose monuments can be found in these cemeteries. Some names may be considered well-known, while other names are little known today – yet all mark the graves of individuals with remarkable stories.

As the 90-minute tour progresses through the cemeteries, some of the symbolism and design features found within the cemeteries will be discussed – both on individual monuments, as well as of the cemeteries themselves. This tour will be a unique opportunity to learn more about Buffalo's Jewish community from a new perspective, and we hope you will join us.

The tour will be led by Explore Buffalo docent Sharon Cramer on two Sundays at 11:00 a.m., October 10 and 17. More information and reservations are available at explorebuffalo.org. (See ad on this page.) Please note that capacity is limited and reservations are currently required for all Explore Buffalo tours. For assistance with reservations, contact the Explore Buffalo office at (716) 245-3032. Later this winter, this tour will be part of the virtual series, "Sacred Spaces," which explores the history of multiple religious settings in Western New York.

Sharon F. Cramer, Ph.D., is a member of Congregation Shir Shalom and began serving as a docent following her career as a faculty member at SUNY Buffalo State (1985 – 2011), where she achieved the rank of SUNY Distinguished Service Professor. She is excited to translate the extraordinary research done by Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D.



into the Jewish cemetery tour. "My goal as a docent is to bring alive the unique history and people associated with a site," Dr. Cramer said. She has done so since 2013, not only with Explore Buffalo, but also with the Richardson Complex and Preservation Buffalo Niagara. Her description of the content of the tour at the Pine Ridge cemeteries is "amazing, thought-provoking and silently eloquent reverence for the past."

Brad Hahn is the Founder and Executive Director of Explore Buffalo.

Photo by Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D.



JEWISH CEMETERY TOUR

Sunday October 10th & 17th at 11am

Join us on this 90-minute walking tour of historic Jewish cemeteries along Pine Ridge Road. Learn more and register online at www.explorebuffalo.org.

The Jewish Cemetery Tour is part of Explore Buffalo's Community Cultural Project, presented by Uniland.

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Our Enduring Memories

BY CHANA REVELL KOTZIN, PH.D.

My grandmother's grave lies within a small walled Jewish cemetery in Britain. I remember visiting as a child and the enclosing space felt comforting and safe. As I grew I older, I noticed how almost all of the families names were different from each other. It was rare to find a family grouping and I thought about my grandmother Ruth, alone, far from her family in Israel. It's a different story along Pine Ridge Road in Cheektowaga across the individual Jewish cemeteries that occupy both sides of the road. The lines are not always clear and sometimes one cemetery meanders into another, but it is the family clusters that orientate you to an extended story of generations, of time and place, of living, and remaking. No wonder some of the names for cemetery in Hebrew convey these meanings: *Bet Hayim*, House of Life and *Bet Olam*, House of Eternity.

Jewish cemeteries are also our neighborhood maps, and hold the stories of community connections that continue to resonate with our present. In contrast to the sculptured and landscaped cemeteries of Forest Lawn in the city, whose history is tied with the rural cemetery movement in the mid-nineteenth century, the individual cemeteries on Pine Ridge cleave to their Jewish identity as cultural landscapes, reflecting the histories and stories of immigrants who, with their descendants, fashioned a life in Greater Buffalo from mid-nineteenth century onwards. At one end, we can find the foundation synagogue: Temple Beth El, and at the other, its splinter group: Old Beth Zion, and the precursor to today's Temple Beth Zion.

In between these two cemeteries, you can trace the development of other congregations that have served this community, and track the migrations and mergers in Buffalo from the East Side to North Buffalo and the suburbs. The series of connections appears on the gate posts: Temple Beth David-Ner Israel, next to B'nai Shalom, and further down Ahavas Achim, all of which directly or indirectly connect to Temple Beth El through merger with Temple Shaarey Zedek to form Temple Beth Zedek.

Synagogues are not the only landscapes. Linguistic ones appear side by side: Yiddish and Hebrew, transliterated English into Yiddish, and other languages including Russian, signs of immigration, acculturation and attachment, now bound in stone and steel. Temple cemeteries adjoin other independent Chevra Kadisha (Burial Societies), including the Workman's Circle, a Yiddish cultural and labor-oriented group, whose cemetery is now managed by Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation. Nearby is the private and independent Holy Order



Memorial at Holy Order of the Living

of the Living, with its distinctive brick building. Immediately inside its gates is a memorial to the victims of a terrible pogrom in Russia in 1918, "erected by the Sokelifker Landsleit of Buffalo," as a memorial for their relatives.

Across the road and a short walk, the connections to Sokelifka, albeit from an earlier period, continue at another grave, the Ohel of Rabbi Eliyahu Yosef (Joseph) Rabinowitz, a Chasidic rabbi



Entranceway to Anshe Ames and Workman's Circle Cemeteries, All images by Chana R. Kotzin



Bunshaft family graves at Temple Beth El

who served in Buffalo in the first decade of the twentieth century (see story on page 5). Other individual headstones signal the private space of remembrance. Epitaphs recall traditional marking, and phraseology that indicates that in this space lies a parent or a child "bound up in the bond of eternal life." Here are the stone records of soldiers, Holocaust survivors, founders and leaders,

creators and inventors, healers and teachers, engineers and business founders, artists and writers, and more. Decades of Buffalo Jewish history in one space and thousands of family stories recall the lives of individual strivings, of organizational development, of migration and mergers.

This month, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, the Jewish Buffalo History Center and Explore Buffalo are teaming up to conduct two historical tours along the Pine Ridge Boulevard. To read more about this and how to participate, please check out the special Explore Buffalo article in this issue on page 6. You can also follow up with online exploration at <https://jewishbuffalohistory.org>. *If you have images that relate to any areas of Buffalo Jewish history, you can submit them through the website at <https://jewishbuffalohistory.org> or contact me directly, via email at Chana@buffalojewishfederation.org.*

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





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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 on this page. For more information about any CJEL class or experience, please contact Susan Schwartz at Susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Adult Hebrew (Virtual Classes)

1st Semester: Classes begin October 13, 2021 and run through January 19, 2022

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 - 8:30 p.m. (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 - 10:00 a.m. (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 p.m. — 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

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-monthly 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 women)

WISE AGING: Women 60 years and older – monthly gathering
Dates/time TBD, depending on interest (minimum 8 women)

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>**



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 p.m.

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.



BEING JEWISH

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 you make sense of the people, events, and trends that impact your life on a daily basis. Topics to be discussed include: Sports and Judaism, Elections/Voting, Jewish Food, Social Media and Mental Health.

Cost: \$36 | Open to teens in grades 8 and 9

Wednesdays | 7:00 - 8:30pm

October 20 & 27, November 3, 10 & 17, December 1 & 8

Benderson JCC | Lippman Lounge

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
PLEASE VISIT [BIT.LY/BJTI2021](https://bit.ly/BJTI2021)

Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative is a joint project of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo

TEEN LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP



The Teen Leadership Fellowship is a selective leadership training experience where participants 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 while exploring unique spaces and meeting thought leaders throughout Buffalo.

This program is facilitated by Hadar Borden, Director Blackstone LaunchPad at the University at Buffalo.

Cost: \$380 | Open to teens in grade 10

October 10, November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3, & May 1

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY
PLEASE VISIT [BIT.LY/BJTI2021](https://bit.ly/BJTI2021)

Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative is a joint project of the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo

JCRC 2021 Candidates' Forum

Inspired by core Jewish values, the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) seeks to sustain a more civil and caring community in Western New York and around the world. The JCRC invited candidates running for the Buffalo mayoral and Erie County sheriff seats to offer their views on several issues important to the Jewish Community. Answers from those who responded are printed below. To learn more about voting in Erie County visit buffalojewishfederation.org/vote2021/. Candidate's websites are listed after their remarks.

City of Buffalo Mayor Candidates



Mayor Byron Brown

will feel safer and experience decreased violence by next summer?

As a founding member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, I have worked to implement best practices for reducing gun violence across the City of Buffalo. We have seized more than 15,000 illegal guns from the streets and we have done hundreds of custom notifications – where police and interveners visit the family and friends of people who are at risk of becoming a victim of gun violence. I will continue to advocate for universal background checks, a ban on assault style weapons, and prohibitions on magazines and ammunition.

4) As Mayor of Buffalo, what top four priorities will you address?

My top four priorities are, 1) improving public safety in every neighborhood in the City, 2) providing residents with opportunities to secure better-paying jobs and foster greater upward economic mobility, 3) increasing the amount and quality of affordable, safe, and healthy housing, and 4) continue and expand the programs that have made Buffalo a welcoming city to refugees, especially climate and political refugees, from around the world that are seeking opportunity.

5) What are your views of the needs of Afghanistan refugees and immigrants and what steps would you take to address them in Buffalo?

Buffalo can help address many factors to help ensure a productive transition for the Afghan refugee population. We must provide a safe and nurturing environment so that their community can process the trauma they have experienced, rely on their shared experiences to restore a sense of familiarity despite their displacement, and rebuild their communal identity so they can face the challenges of relocation with greater resiliency. When I created the City of Buffalo Office of New Americans, it was specifically designed to help facilitate those goals and I have asked our Director to formulate and implement a plan to achieve those goals for this new group of arriving immigrants.

For more information on Mayor Byron Brown, go to <https://byronbrown.com/>



India Walton

1) How would you address the increase of hate crimes and antisemitism?

I will support community-based organizations, bystander/upstander intervention trainings, and processes in which survivors, those who have done harm, and their communities all have a voice in how the harm can be repaired and future harm prevented. In the immediate aftermath of incidents of hate violence, I will host town hall meetings and neighborhood safety events to support the targeted community.

2) How will you encourage segregated neighborhoods and community groups to work together to build a stronger Buffalo?

My office will serve as a hub for coalition-building across differences, informed by my time as a union delegate organizing my fellow Registered Nurses, my tenure as the Executive Director of the Fruit Belt Community Land Trust, and my years of organizing and advocacy around economic justice, police accountability, cannabis legalization, and other vital issues.

3) As Mayor, how will you address Buffalo's dramatic increase in gun violence so that impacted neighborhoods will feel safer and experience decreased violence by next summer?

You can read my campaign's comprehensive "Getting Serious about Public Safety" policy agenda on our website. In summary, I

support data-driven, evidence-based programs that proactively address the root causes of violence, rather than merely punishing it after the fact. These include Cure Violence's crisis-intervention model, Advance Peace's cash assistance/ongoing mentorship approach, and the wraparound services of LIFE Camp.

4) As Mayor of Buffalo, what top four priorities will you address?

In addition to public safety, I will prioritize community-led economic development, particularly through the creation of citywide federation of Community Land Trusts; children and family services, including universal pre-K and a "whole child, whole school, whole community" approach to education; lead remediation, a robust "Re-Tree" initiative in East Buffalo, and other vital environmental measures

5) What are your views of the needs of Afghanistan refugees and immigrants and what steps would you take to address them in Buffalo?

I take Buffalo's reputation as the City of Good Neighbors very seriously. After all, immigration and refugee resettlement are responsible for our first population growth in decades. I see my commitment to welcoming as many refugees from Afghanistan as possible as fully in line with the Jewish commandment that "the stranger shall be unto us as one born among us."

For more information on India Walton, go to <https://www.indiawalton.com/>

**Election Day
is November 2.**

Don't forget to vote!

Erie County Sheriff Candidates



Kimberly Beaty

1) How would you address the increase of hate crimes, antisemitism and threat of white supremacy and ensure houses of worship are safe?

Racially and religiously motivated attacks are on the rise across our country. Law enforcement needs to have a stronger working relationship with faith communities, hear their security concerns, strategically deploy resources to address those concerns, and cultivate a strong interfaith dialog so that problems and trends in one community can be identified and addressed before they spill over.

2) What will you do to address the decades old issues in the Holding Center and Correctional Facility?

No amount of policy changes will work if our corrections facilities are chronically understaffed. We need to make sure inmates receive proper medical care and continuity from pre-detention care, including harm reduction for substance abuse. We need to ensure that management is attentive to grievances, carries out protocol to the letter, and holds people accountable for inappropriate, abusive, or unprofessional behavior.

3) As Erie County Sheriff, what top four priorities would you address?

Making sure the Erie County Sheriff's Office works in a disciplined, professional manner all of the way up and down the chain of command.

Addressing the issues at our correctional facilities, including proper staffing and inmate care, for the sake of both the inmates in our custody and our corrections officers.

Expanding community policing and cultivating a two-way dialog with the community to figure out how best to address their needs.

Ensuring that the Sheriff's Office has the resources, labor, and ongoing training necessary to protect and serve all of Erie County.

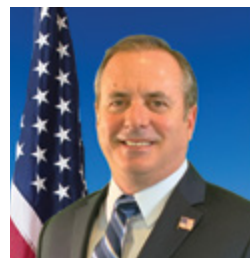
4) What motivates you to be Sheriff in a time of increased distrust of law enforcement?

It is exactly at moments like these that we need good leadership in the Sheriff's Office. Leadership starts at the top. When I was a kid, I saw my parents subjected to abuse at the hands of the police. Instead of harboring a distrust of the institution, I became a police officer so that I could be the change that I wanted to see.

5) What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

I have had a more than three-decade career in law enforcement, working at every level. I am the highest-ranking officer in this race. I am a certified Master Police Instructor and have been trained in law enforcement for more than 20 years. I would be the first woman of color elected Sheriff in NYS. I have the personal values and professional experience to best lead the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

For more information on Kimberly Beaty, go to <https://kimberlybeatyforsheriff.com/>



John Garcia

1) How would you address the increase of hate crimes, antisemitism and threat of white supremacy and ensure houses of worship are safe?

Hate crimes, antisemitism, and white supremacy have no place in Erie County or the United States of America. The Erie County Sheriff's office will work with a multitude of diverse organizations and their leadership, with the goal to keep a close connection to the community and advocate for ways for all people regardless of race, gender, or religious affiliation to come together to understand one another better and build a more prosperous and peaceful community. My office will stay up to date on the latest technology/social media sites being used to spread hate and intercept any conversation or planning to harm individuals or property. If elected, we recognize the crimes of 2021 do not always take a traditional form, and it is imperative that we stay up to date and connected with what is happening in our community.

2) What will you do to address the decades old issues in the Holding Center and Correctional Facility?

If elected Sheriff, I will work with the NYS Commission of Correction to ensure we maintain our accreditation

of both facilities while undergoing a full review of staffing and inmate population levels. With the recent bail reform legislation and the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a unique situation regarding the inmate population and staffing levels. While these are short-term issues, I recognize the current conditions are not permanent, and it is imperative we review conditions to ensure the safety of all individuals in both facilities.

3) As Erie County Sheriff, what top four priorities would you address?

Transform the Erie County Sheriff's Office

Ensure the Public Trust

Stop the Increased Violence

Opioid / Mental Health Crisis

4) What motivates you to be Sheriff in a time of increased distrust of law enforcement?

While some individuals distrust the legal system as a whole, there are many individuals and organizations I have come across that recognize the importance of law and order. As a law enforcement professional my entire career, I have put on the uniform every single day with the same mindset the day I first took my solemn oath, "never betray my integrity, my character, or the public trust." It is an honor to serve and protect, and I know the men and women of the Erie County Sheriff's office feel that way, and it will be our job to remind the public we are here to help those in need and provide protection to those who cannot protect themselves.

5) What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

The combination of my law enforcement career working as a patrol officer, to Commander of the Hostage Negotiation Team, dealing with some of the highest stress situations and challenges, along with my background as a Mental Health Advocate serving on The Mental Health Association Board of Directors and work in private industry as a principal owner of 716Security. This diverse background in management, boots on the ground, and mental health are just some of the experiences that will make me an effective leader of the Erie County Sheriff's office.

For more information on John Garcia, go to <https://garcia4sheriff.com/>



Ted DiNoto

1) How would you address the increase of hate crimes, antisemitism and threat of white supremacy and ensure houses of worship are safe?

Enhance upon existing Intel Units, who will partner with Jewish Community leaders to ensure open communication. I worked and supervised the Amherst Police Community Policing Unit, which identified

criminals, conducted criminal investigation through intelligence gathering and surveillance and ended criminal activity with arrest. This proactive law enforcement approach will be used, in addition to marked patrols monitoring houses of worship.

2) What will you do to address the decades old issues in the Holding Center and Correctional Facility?

Training personnel in procedures, supervision and reinforcing the concepts of leadership and accountability for job performance. Institute my comprehensive Mental Health Assessment Plan at intake, designed to identify at risk prisoners. Those identified will be housed and monitored more closely. Remodeling and restructuring the housing of prisoners, to help ensure the safety of both staff and inmates.

3) As Erie County Sheriff, what top four priorities would you address?

Public safety. Safety for residents at their home and in travels is top priority.

Improve the conditions of the jail by reviewing current policy and procedures, better supervision, training, accountability, and infrastructure improvements

Mental health of the inmates, as well as for our deputies and staff by improving upon moral.

Restoring the public's trust and support.

4) What motivates you to be Sheriff in a time of increased distrust of law enforcement?

Law enforcement is part of my being and I want to provide the same professional service to the residents of Erie County that I have given the residents in the Town of

Amherst for over 30 years. I want to restore the public's trust by partnering with the community for a better, safer and more united Erie County.

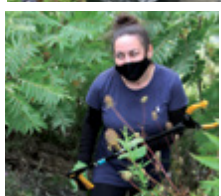
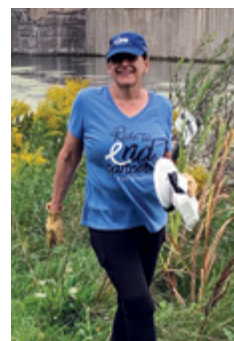
5) What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

I am the only working police lieutenant who is managing the challenges of today; bail reform, increase in crime, violence, and distrust of police, etc. I am an independent candidate, not under the control of a political party boss agenda. I have worked and supervised multiple units within the police department. And I have trained over 1000 officers at the police academy, thereby having built relationships throughout the county that will allow for better cooperation.

For more information on Ted DiNoto, go to <https://dinoto4sheriff.com>

Reverse Tashlich: A Buffalo First

On Sunday, 9/12, more than 50 Jewish Buffalonians gathered together for a Buffalo first: Reverse Tashlich. An international waterway clean-up event, Buffalo joined over 100 communities from 18 countries to gather garbage and debris at Unity Island, Park, located in Buffalo between the Erie Canal and the Niagara River. Chaired by S. Bruce Kohn, the program was spearheaded by Federation and the JCC in partnership with Hillel and several synagogues. *If you're interested in helping plan next year's event, contact Rob Goldberg (rob@buffalojewishfederation.org).*



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Hillel of Buffalo Kicks Off 75th Year Focused on Empowering Students

BY RABBI SARA RICH

Since its birth in 1946 in the dark shadow of the Holocaust, Hillel of Buffalo has been an organization enhancing the Jewish student experience throughout Western New York. For the 2021-2022 academic year, we are focusing on classes, events, Shabbat dinners and personal engagement to help students safely and successfully return to the in-person interactions and friendships which are hallmarks of college life.



Consistent Community

It has been wonderful seeing the joy on the faces of freshmen and upperclassmen alike beginning at the Welcome Back BBQ and subsequent High Holiday services. Freshman Amanda Mondschein has already established Hillel as a home base on campus. She commented, "The connections I have made so far have



made me feel welcome here. Hillel is an inviting place to come to, whether it's to make new friends or do work between classes." Hillel is here to be a consistent presence in students' lives, helping them elevate the highs and soften the lows of their early adulthood.

Experiential Learning

After pivoting to Zoom for learning offerings in the previous academic year, students are once again meeting in-person and masked to learn with our staff in the Jewish Learning Fellowship, a flagship Hillel curriculum, as well as Kol Yisrael, a class which focuses on the diversity and interactions of different sectors of Israeli society.

Student-Driven Programming

Each week, students join for Shabbat services and dinner, as well as a bagel

brunch to schmear and schmooze (munch and chat). We will also be facilitating a range of student-led initiatives around sports, the environment, cooking, music and

much more. Hillel is here to help sharpen students' leadership development skills and provide internship opportunities for hands-on learning.

Hillel's Diamond Anniversary

In addition to Hillel's focus on current students, we look forward to exploring and celebrating the many great chapters of Hillel history in the coming months. Hillel seeks to be a center for Jewish students as well as a bridge to the greater Buffalo Jewish and professional communities.

Better Together

Building off the Federation's Campaign Kick Off, Hillel thanks the Buffalo Jewish Federation for their continued support and partnership, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo for graciously hosting us for High Holy Day services in a larger, safely distanced environment, as well as Jewish Family Services of WNY, and the greater Buffalo community and Hillel alumni network for being sacred partners in fostering Jewish campus life in Buffalo.

Rabbi Sara Rich is Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo and is serving in her fifth academic year in Western New York.



MONTHLY GATHERINGS

FAMILY SHABBAT

Starting October 15

Fridays @ 5:30pm

In-person or Zoom

MY GROWN UP & ME

Starting October 17

Sundays @ 11:00am

In-person or Zoom

@PJLibraryBuffalo

For more information, contact Susan
susan@buffalojewishfederation.org

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CJEL and Women's Philanthropy welcome author Vickie Rubin

Vickie Rubin, local educator, blogger, mother, nana, and wife, who recently published her first book *Raising Jess: A Story of Hope*, will speak to Jewish Buffalo via Zoom on Tuesday, October 19 at 7 p.m, followed by Q & A from viewers. The event is free, and you can purchase your book in advance at Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

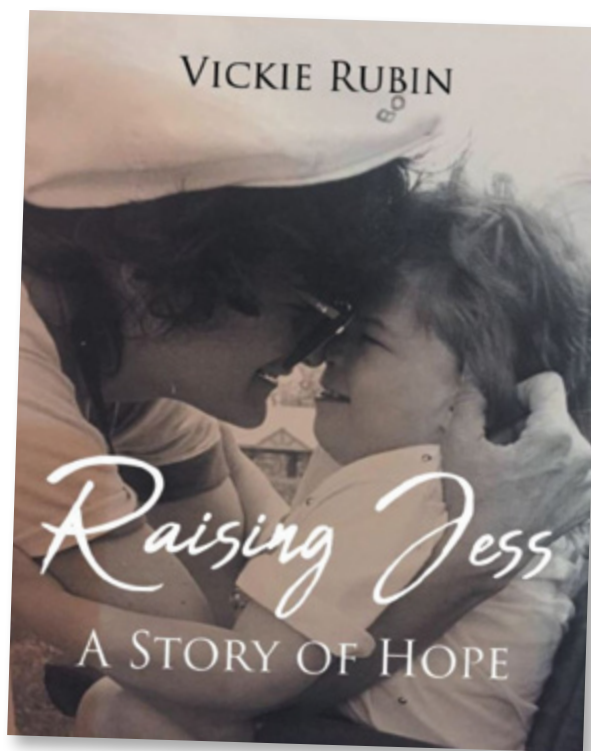
Raising Jess is a powerful story of one family's survival when faced with adversity. Written with compassion, honesty, and humor, it tells of a family changed forever by the birth of a child with special needs and their courageous decision to choose hope.

"I was twenty-four years old and about to deliver my first child. Oh, and I also had the chickenpox." So begins the story of a first-time mom who learns that her infant daughter has severe, multiple disabilities. Facing the challenges of caring for her daughter, marriage struggles, and the question of having more children, Vickie gives a glimpse into the world of her family and transformation while raising Jess. This is beautiful, gripping memoir by a member

of Buffalo's Jewish community who has chosen to give so much back to the community through her work and her life story.

Jessica lives in Buffalo's first Jewish Group Home. The group home received an incredible amount of community support from the Federation and local synagogues.

Vickie Schlanger Rubin was born in Queens, N.Y. and raised in suburban Westbury, Long Island. She



received her BA with honors in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education from the University of

Miami. She earned her Master's degree in Exceptional Education from Buffalo State College, where she was awarded the President's Medal as an Outstanding Graduate Student in Exceptional Education. Prior to writing her book, Vickie was the director of the Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) for Oishei Children's Hospital, Kaleida Health; a New York State Education Department grant-funded program.

Vickie and Mitch Rubin celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary in 2020. They have three children and three grandchildren, and two very active dogs.

Vickie also blogs under "Vickie's Views" <https://vickierubin.com>.

This program is brought to you by CJEL's Belonging Initiative and Federation's Women's Philanthropy. When registering, you will also have the option to make a donation to the Belonging Initiative of CJEL, which works with the Women's Group Home. RSVP by Friday, October 15. You can register online at bit.ly/raisingjess.



Tickets \$30

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OCTOBER 20 at 7:30 pm

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Performing works by Schubert, Shostakovich & Brahms

A Conversation with Vickie Rubin

Author of *Raising Jess: A Story of Hope*

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

7 - 8 PM

Via Zoom

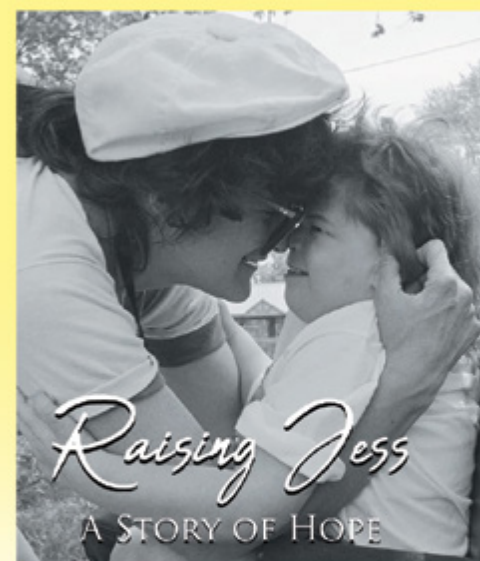
Q & A following discussion

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Amazon or Barnes & Noble

Questions?

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



RSVP by Friday, October 15

Register online at: bit.ly/raisingjess

BELONGING

Women's Philanthropy
BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Health Homes' Heroes

BY VILONA TRACHTENBERG

"If your brother falls low, and his hand falters beside you, then you shall strengthen him – sojourner or resident – and he will live with you," (Leviticus 25:35). This is biblical command that figures prominently through Jewish Family Services' (JFS) Health Homes program.



Sarah Utkin

Sarah Utkin, director of JFS's program, Health Homes, has led this free and volunteer-based program for more than three years. The program streamlines care and improves health and wellbeing for individuals based on their needs. The team helps clients re-apply for food stamps and Medicaid, connects them with medical specialists, and connects clients with transportation, among other critical services. The program works in multiple languages while adapting to help people of different cultures. Although Health Homes requires a qualifying recipient to have medical needs, mental health conditions or trauma, JFS helps with more than just those issues.

With a team of 12 care coordinators, Utkin and her team provide services to 30 - 35 adults and 20 - 30 children each month. These services are provided to many who are formerly incarcerated and are working to get their lives back on track, clients who have recently resettled in Buffalo from other countries, those who have gone through domestic violence issues and others with special needs.

One standout moment for Utkin is when she worked with a client who had recently completed his prison sentence. He had nowhere to go and his family was slow to reconnect with him. His JFS care manager was able to find him stable housing, set him up with Social Services, and even help him rekindle a relationship with his

daughter. As a result of JFS' help, he even wants to start volunteering and giving back to the community.

One of the care coordinators on Utkin's team also knows what it's like to be inspired to give back to the community. Ronald Kemper (name changed for confidentiality) owned his own business for 30 years, but then changed his career path and joined the team at JFS. He felt it was time to help others. He has been with JFS for 1 1/2 years, and specifically works with children ages 2 - 18. As a Lebanese immigrant in the 1980s, he had a family member sponsor him and was given the opportunity to learn English, go back to school, and work on his own.



Kemper makes sure the kids he works with get these opportunities as well. He works to give children the opportunity to go to the YMCA, play sports, and keep busy outside of the house, as well as ensure they maintain their doctors' appointments. Some of the children that Kemper works with grew up in Syria and Iraq and may never have seen a dentist. He makes sure they attend their appointments and helps with transportation, if necessary. "I believe if you show people and you guide them the proper way," said Kemper. "You have to care ... It's not just a job for me ... I'm looking more to help people ... I want to see these kids grow to become good people in this world."

Utkin knows this is more than just a program, because she sees the work her team does and knows they genuinely care about their clients. One of her favorite parts of the job is when she receives phone calls from clients thanking her and the JFS team for their help. "You just breathe, and it's like 'Yes!' Everything we're doing and everything we're pushing really is making a difference."

Zainab Flayh, a care coordinator for the adult program, has been working with JFS for 1 1/2 years. She interacts primarily with the elderly and non-English speaking clients, and has also seen the importance of this work. One of Flayh's clients, who had lost weight rapidly and hadn't worked with a care coordinator previously. Flayh believes her client had been neglected due to having little help navigating the health care system and being unable to keep up with appointments. Flayh's client had

seen multiple primary care doctors, but there had been little follow-up on her case. They then found out she had stage 4 cancer. Flayh helped her client get into Hospice and worked with her to make sure she lived her last days in comfort.

And it was one of the most changing moments of her life. "That impacted me, and the importance of eliminating the gap between what health repair can do and how it translates in terms of services for the client," Flayh said. "There is a need for

[care coordinators] to make sure primary doctors or specialists follow up with the patients ... that space in between is really crucial to ensure good health."

For more information and to support the Health Homes program, visit jfswny.org/programs-and-services.

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



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COMMUNITY

Noam Pines New Chair of UB's Department of Jewish Thought

In mid-August, Dr. Noam Pines succeeded Dr. Sergey Dolgopolski as Chair of the Department of Jewish Thought at UB. "I feel privileged to have served as the chair during the first years of the Department," commented Dr. Dolgopolski, "and I am very confident in my very talented colleague, Professor Noam Pines to lead the department further in advancing its mission of reclaiming and translating the role of Jewish literary, intellectual and religious tradition for broader humanities."

"I am honored to assume the position of Chair of the Department," Dr. Pines commented. "Over the past seven years, I took part in the transformation of the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage into a fully-fledged department with a distinct academic agenda and a robust contribution to the university curriculum. We owe this achievement to the mutual efforts and dedication of donors, faculty, staff, and members of the Buffalo Jewish community."

"As Chair of the Department of Jewish Thought," he added, "My goal for the



coming years is twofold: first, to strengthen the ties between the Department and the Jewish community of Buffalo, and second is to raise the academic profile of the Department both nationally and internationally by

offering UB students more opportunities for academic and professional development such as fellowships, workshops, and study abroad programs. Finally, as the Department already boasts some of the most original and noteworthy scholars in the field, in the coming years I will make efforts to secure further faculty hires and visiting scholar fellowships for promising postgraduate candidates."

Hybrid Hadassah Art Auction, Dignity Grows™ and More

BY PHYLLIS STEINBERG

Buffalo Hadassah has been collecting works of art and planning for its fundraising art auction for more than two years. The pandemic forced us to change the format but finally, with the help of many volunteers, a very successful virtual and in-person art auction took place at the Benderson JCC in late August. Coordinated by Program Chairs Marlene Katzel and Maxine Sellers, with marketing by Elaine Kellick, the work of the entire Hadassah Board made the event a success! Special thanks to our auctioneer, Dr. Mark Finkelstein, the JCC staff, especially Katie Wzontek-Cultural Arts Director, and Jim Mahjoubian-Chief Communications & Technology Officer.



Taking COVID precautions, Hadassah held its first in-person Board meeting recently and made plans for future events, including involvement with Dignity Grows™, a program sponsored by Buffalo Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy, which provides hygiene supplies for those in need. Our next guest speaker, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin, will be speaking on "Violence and Families" via Zoom on October 14. More details will be forthcoming. For information about our programs email mkatzel@me.com

Leaderships Changes at HRC

Wendy Weisbrot New Council Chair

Wendy Weisbrot became HRC's new Council Chair September 1, succeeding Ann Marie Carosella. The HRC is extremely grateful for what Ann Marie accomplished to move the mission of the HRC forward during her two-year term.



Wendy Weisbrot is a second-generation Holocaust survivor born in Buffalo. Her father, Joe Diamond (1929-2017), was a local Holocaust Survivor and active HRC speaker. Wendy recently retired from the Williamsville School District where she taught for 30 years. Human rights, civic literacy, and empathy/equity were always core components in her classroom. Wendy is a member of HRC's Speakers Bureau, served as HRC's Education Chair, Co-Chaired Yom HaShoah, helped to initiate and lead HRC's Descendants of Holocaust Survivors Group, and has been a Board Member of the Academy for Human Rights. She has been a volunteer and leader in the Jewish community for the past 25 years.

The HRC is thrilled to have another outstanding individual lead the organization to new heights. Wendy said, "I am grateful to be following Ann Marie Carosella's dedicated and impactful leadership in my new role as Chair of the HRC. It truly is an honor to work with Elizabeth, Lauren, and our Leadership Council to continue to take the critical mission of the HRC forward."

Meet HRC's Leadership Council:



(From left): Wendy Weisbrot-Chair; Elizabeth Schram-Director; Ann Marie Carosella-Past President; Marnie Cerrato-Social Justice Chair; Vilona Trachtenberg-Community Engagement Chair, and Justin Loeber-Teacher Support Chair. Not pictured: Jeff Blum-Victims, Survivors, and Descendants Chair; Naomi Wiseman Haefner-Education Chair.

Lauren Bloomberg New Program Specialist

The Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) welcomed Lauren Bloomberg to its team last month. Lauren is the granddaughter of a Holocaust Survivor and joins the HRC as program specialist after a long career working in Jewish Education. She received her Honors Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, her Bachelor of Education, and a certificate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from York University in Toronto. Over the past 20 years, she has taught in multiple Jewish schools in Canada and the US, working with children of all ages. Lauren moved to Buffalo in 2008 and lives with her husband Rich, teenagers Marlowe and Reid, and their family dog Buffy.



As Program Specialist, Lauren will coordinate the Speakers Bureau, Student to Student presentations, Descendants of Holocaust Survivors Group, holiday meals to Survivors, and more. She is very passionate about HRC's mission and will be an excellent asset to the organization. Lauren said, "I feel honored to be given this opportunity to work with the HRC, especially as a third-generation descendant who cares deeply about Holocaust education."

Riwchun Emerging Leaders Honor Newest Members



Past winners of the Riwchun Emerging Leadership Award gathered at Hydraulic Hearth in late August to celebrate Alon Kupferman and Ezra Rich, the 2020 and 2021 awardees. Front: Steve Yonaty, Steve Weiss, Ezra Rich, Shelly Yellen, Rick Zakalik and Alon Kupferman. Back: Jonathan Epstein, Peter Weinman, Ken Rogers, Jake Katz, Mike Steklof and Jordan Balsom. Standing: Alan Rosenhoch, Jonathan Schechter and Rob Goldberg.



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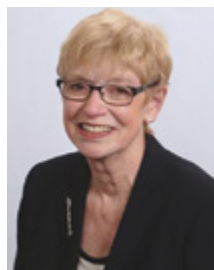
FJP Grants A Record Number of Student Funding Awards

In 2021, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies (FJP) Academic Scholarship and Loan Committee, chaired by Lenore J. Levy, granted a record number of student scholarship and loan applications for the 2021-2022 academic year, awarding 31 scholarships to eligible Jewish students comprised of more than \$77,000 in grants and nearly \$31,000 in interest-free loans.

The Foundation's student scholarship and loan program began more than a century ago through establishment of the Isaac Hoenig Memorial Fund in 1918, and since 2000, the Committee has awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants and \$440,000 in interest-free loans to hundreds of Jewish students who meet the Foundation's eligibility criteria.

Scholarships and loans are derived from the generosity of many individuals, families and organizations in Jewish Buffalo. The legacy of their endowments has enabled the Foundation to gratefully assist students for generations.

Each year, from April 1 through June 1,



Lenore J. Levy



Mindy Birzon Doerfler

prospective student beneficiaries submit applications and supporting documentation to be considered for the upcoming academic year beginning in August or September. In early June, applications are submitted to Jewish Family Services of WNY's Career Services Department for consideration. JFS's career services' professional staff review all applications and interview each qualifying applicant. JFS recommendations are formally presented to the Committee anonymously and ultimately the Committee awards the scholarships, grants and interest-free loans.

"The Committee consists of dedicated volunteers from the Jewish community

who take their responsibility seriously and devote substantial time to the application review and award process," Mrs. Levy explained. "The common threads among candidates are their involvement in the Jewish community and passion for their concentration of study, which is becoming more diverse. The Foundation has supported students through their educational journeys in medicine and law, yet funding has also been awarded to aspiring musicians, dancers and writers. Recipients also study urban planning, gaming, and even prosthesis medical engineering. Our world is a better place with our aspiring graduates earning degrees in speech pathology, teaching, pharmacy and architecture."

"Many of our awarded students have supportive families who are confronted with challenges meeting the increasing costs of higher education," added Committee member Mindy Birzon Doerfler. "Most applicants have substantial debt through traditional student loans; nevertheless, they persevere. It's extremely gratifying to help motivated, promising students in need

achieve their academic goals."

Students' gratitude has been expressed through many thank you notes sent to the Foundation. One student remarked: "With your help, I am able to be less stressed about finances and more focused on my education." Another shared "...the value of this grant cannot be understated" and others mention starting their own legacy: "I hope I can work with The Foundation at some point in the future and can return the kindness in some way."

Various vehicles exist to assist applicants in need of financial support for higher education. For example, students are eligible for Isaac Hoenig Memorial Fund loans, which provide interest-free loans based on a student's scholarship and intent. After graduation, recipients repay their loans within a reasonable time enabling the Fund to loan money to the next generation of students.

Congratulations to all deserving recipients, thank you to our dedicated Committee members and eternal gratitude to our donors who make this possible.

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**“As my forefathers planted
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so I too plant these
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— Talmud (Ta'anis 23b)

Total legacy commitments

received: 13

Total dollar amount: \$930,000

**through August 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 Jewish 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 716-463-5065.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT: Jewish Federation

This month, we are pleased to highlight our partner and other lead organization that helped bring this initiative to Jewish Buffalo, the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

From generation to generation, for nearly 140 years, the Buffalo Jewish Federation has served Buffalo's Jewish Community with care and compassion. Today, we are a national leader as a pioneer in innovating for the Jewish community.

Guided by Jewish values, our focus is on building a thriving, caring and connected Buffalo Jewish community where every Jew and their loved ones are welcomed and where they can be involved in ways to celebrate their own Jewish journey.

We strive to always act with *Kavod* (dignity), *Chesed* (lovingkindness), *Rachamim* (compassion), *Nedivut* (generosity), *Anavah* (humility), *Emet* (truth) and *Achrayut* (responsibility). In public spaces and private homes, Federation provides resources to empower individuals and community agencies to advocate for social justice, serve those in need, support life-long Jewish learning and sustain a vibrant and welcoming community. Every Jew is embraced and Federation is here to connect them to community and



to each other. We provide essential direction, centralized communication, resources, integration, planning and a place where all Jews can belong. We are the keepers of our Jewish community heritage and vision.

For any questions about the Federation, please contact Rob Goldberg at rob@buffalojewishfederation.org or Randi Morkisz at randi@buffalojewishfederation.org.

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
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COMMUNITY

CBA Seeks Memorabilia for Commemorative Video

Congregation Beth Abraham (CBA) will be celebrating its centennial year in 2022! It's a remarkable achievement having overcome the demographic and sociographic challenges facing urban synagogues during this period. Not to go unrecognized is CBA's sister synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, from which Beth Abraham split when it became a legal entity in 1922. The two synagogues lived virtually side-by-side until 1957, when they rejoined as one at 1073 Elmwood Ave.



*Congregation
Beth Abraham*
**100th Anniversary
1922-2022**

Mirroring the City of Buffalo, CBA has staged a revival of its own. The synagogue's rebirth has been led by Cantor Irwin Gelman, dedicated volunteers and a Jewish community that has continued to patronize the "little shul on Elmwood," attending programs/

services and providing much needed financial support. As the Congregation prepares for an eventful year ahead, they are requesting that those in the community with any history of/with Congregations Beth Abraham and/or Beth Israel share photos, newspaper clippings, stories or any other type of memorabilia that may be used for a commemorative video. **Please forward to info@congregationbethabraham.net by October 15.** For additional information about CBA, please go the website at www.congregationbethabraham.net.

KOT Welcomes the New Year

Indoor services are being held once again at Kehillat Ohr Tzion (KOT) with participants wearing masks and maintaining social distance. A Thursday morning minyan has been reinstated and minyanim are always formed when someone is saying kaddish. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were led by Chazzan Jeff Braverman, who has a strong family and emotional attachment to KOT even though he has lived in New Jersey for many years.

Kehillat Ohr Tzion's Social Action Committee has been collecting books throughout the month of Elul to donate to Literacy Volunteers of



Chautauqua County (LVCC). LVCC has been helping to change the lives of local residents who need help learning to read or speak English, pass tests to stay employed, get a GED or speak English.

Rabbi Ori Bergman is offering many on-line classes including a weekly Parsha Conversation, A Letter in the Scroll and To Be a Jew. **For more information about these and other classes email oribergman@gmail.com.**

To advertise in *The Jewish Journal* contact Cynthia Oppenheimer:
716-308-4843 or coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com

B^H Rabbi Dr. Pinny Young: The *Mitzvos* of Sukkos

There is a unique quality to the *mitzvah* of dwelling in a Sukkah that is not found in most other *mitzvos*, in that the physical objects with which the *mitzvah* is performed, the *schach* (roof) as well as the walls, become holy. In other words, not only are the *schach* and walls used for the purpose of a *mitzvah*, they themselves become sacred during the festival of Sukkos.

With regard to the *mitzvah* of the "Four Kinds," we find that there is a more striking relationship with the physical objects with which the *mitzvah* is performed than is to be found regarding other *mitzvos*.

The physical objects with which all the various *mitzvos* are performed are more suited than other matter to being receptacles for G-dliness. The fact that wool is used for *tzitzis* demonstrates its intrinsic loftiness compared to other materials not suitable for *tzitzis*.

The physical objects involved in the "Four Kinds," however, not only possess this innate ability to be used for a *mitzvah*, but clearly demonstrate this capacity.

Our sages explain that the *esrog*, *lulav*, *haddasim* (myrtle) and *aravos* (willow) were specifically included in the "Four Kinds" because they each reflect unity. The branches of the *lulav* are all attached; the *hadas* has three leaves growing from the same stem; *aravos* grow together in clusters, the *esrog* is found on the tree for an entire year, thereby uniting the four climates.

Most other worldly objects exist as separate entities unto themselves. The fact then, that these four kinds share a connection to unity points to the fact that within them is a lessening of corporeality, a byproduct of their abnegation to holiness and G-dliness.

Herein lies both the similarity and the disparity between the *mitzvos* of the sukkah and the "Four Kinds." Both are alike in that they reveal the innate capacity of physical objects to be used in the performance of a *mitzvah*. The difference lies in the fact that the sanctity inherent in the sukkah is directly related to the performance of the *mitzvah*, while the relationship of the four kinds to its commandment is to be seen in the inherent nature of these plants, which makes them uniquely suited for the performance of the *mitzvah*.



Rabbi Dr. Pinny Young skiing with his 10-year-old son, Avremmy.

A sukkah envelops an entire person (indeed, many people), pointing to a degree of sanctity that transcends differences. The "Four Kinds" reflect unity by the very nature of the *mitzvah* requiring the joining together of all four. The difference being that there is never disparity with the sukkah, the "Four Kinds" are indeed separate, but unite for the *mitzvah*.

As we leave the inspirational holiday season behind us and go to the seemingly mundane month of Cheshvan, with no Jewish holidays, the inspiration that we carry with us is clear: the unity of the "Four Kinds", a unity such that even after the kinds remain distinct from each other, emphasizes how the world itself, whose very nature is divergence, becomes united with G-dliness. The entire world is crying out for unity. Let us learn from the "Four Kinds" and realize that true unity is to be found in the coming together of disparate entities to achieve a lasting unity built on the foundation of G-dly principles as set forth in the Torah.

The transcendent unity of the Sukkah can then be revealed when we will all sit in the same dwelling with the revelation of G-dliness at which divergence and separation simply do not exist with the coming of *Moshiach* speedily in our days.

Rabbi Dr. Pinny Young is an Otolaryngologist (ENT) with a practice located in Amherst. Rabbi Dr. Young is also the director of Otolaryngology at the Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and a clinical Associate Professor of ENT at the University at Buffalo Medical School.

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Things Will Be Cooking at Temple Beth Tzedek

As Temple Beth Tzedek continues to enhance its North Forest Road location, the synagogue is performing a complete renovation of the kitchen facilities to create new opportunities for on-site food production, cooking classes, catering, and more. The kitchen is being expanded by several hundred square feet to create dedicated areas for separate milk and meat food preparation along with additional kitchen storage space. The renovation also includes replacing two older restrooms with new ones that are fully accessible and non-gendered. The bathrooms will also be Shomer Shabbat-compliant with all manual systems. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

Special thanks to the TBT House Committee, co-chaired by Beth Kassirer and Edward M. Case, and the Kitchen Sub-Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Blum, for their extensive dedication to this project. Additional kudos to our Women's Network for their generous contribution toward this major facility enhancement.



TBT kitchen under construction

Goldstein Gardening

Please join us via Zoom on October 7 at 8 p.m. for a special presentation on gardening by Ellen S. Goldstein, APR, Editor of *The Jewish Journal of WNY*. Ms. Goldstein and her husband, Mitch Flynn,

are active members of Gardens Buffalo Niagara. Their Elmwood Village garden has been a popular destination on the annual Garden Walk, Open Gardens and published in related publications. **Please email laurence.boxer@gmail.com to attend this free offering.**

Drive-Up Flu Shots

Temple Beth Tzedek will once again be hosting a drive-up flu clinic on the Sunday mornings of Oct. 3 and Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. – noon. This is the second year this important health service will be offered, led by TBT President Marcia H. Goldstein, a registered pharmacist. **Please schedule your time slot by contacting her at 716.432.2963 or cappuccino.marcia@gmail.com.**

Women's Network Outing

The Women's Network of Temple Beth Tzedek will be making a trip to the Aquarium of Niagara in Niagara Falls on October 19. The facility has continued to expand their collection in recent years, including the new additions of the M&T Bank Shark & Ray Bay, as well as expanded space for their Humboldt penguins. There will be carpooling for the event. **Please contact Judith Katzenelson Brownstein for more information at jdkbrown@aol.com.**

UPCOMING DATES FOR CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ AT CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

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Omri Casspi, Kadimah Scholars and Jewish Journeys

BY HALLIE KEREN

The following story about Omri Casspi, the Israeli NBA basketball star, connects to a conversation I had in the car with my daughter, Danielle. She said, “Mom, I’m so excited to go back to Park. It is so different from school in Israel (she attended first and second grade in Israel). There, we just lived being Israeli. We were completely secular and we lived on a *Shomer Tzair Kibbutz*.”

I said, “Yes, it’s true,” because we lived in Israel, but the minute we came to Buffalo, it was so important for me to maintain their Judaism and their Israeli aspects that we could preserve.

She said, “You know, Mom, the best thing you ever did for us is send us to Kadimah. Not only did we learn about Judaism, but also it connected us more to Israel, even though we’re not there.”

I believe that everything we do—Israeli, American, we are all Jews— is to make sure our children know exactly who they are and where they actually come from.

That is the mission of the Kadimah Scholars program at Park. Come and see for yourself, and join us on our Jewish journey together.

This is taken from a *dvar Torah* that I delivered at a recent Board of Trustees meeting:

What did Omri Casspi Tell Me?

By: Sivan Rahav-Meir

“I hope it was an easy fast for all who fasted.”

This was the first sentence spoken by Omri Casspi, among the greatest Israeli basketball players, at his press conference yesterday evening, in which he announced his retirement.

I have nothing to add to all the praises of the world’s elite basketball players who spoke of the professionalism, the humility, and the perseverance of the boy who grew up in Yavneh and made it to the NBA. But I was reminded of when Casspi interviewed me on his podcast and opened our conversation with this surprising statement: “I departed for the United States as an Israeli only, but I returned also as a Jew.”

He explained this transformation as follows:

“Outside of Israel, if you do not create an identity, it will not happen on its own.



I lived in places like Sacramento, Cleveland, and Houston – without a large Jewish community. But at some point, I stopped and said to myself: ‘Wait a minute, what is going on with me?’ I felt a sense of obligation and began thinking: I represent something, but I know nothing about what I represent.”

“For example, I land in Boston, and American Jewish kids are waiting for me there with much excitement and they are staring at me. I represent for them the Jewish nation, the State of Israel, but I am conflicted. After all, if you go outside in Los Angeles on Yom Kippur, it’s just a regular day, traffic as usual. If you do not do

something special on Shabbat, you won’t feel any Shabbat. It’s your responsibility to do something, since you are not in a Jewish country.”

“My wife and I went through this process together, as a family – Friday night dinner, kiddush, tefillin, holidays, community, Jewish education, kosher food. I felt a sense of obligation towards myself and towards the Jewish community. Many Israelis feel this over there, but there are many unfortunately who do not. Only there was I able to understand that I am an emissary of something great. Sometimes you need to go far away in order to come closer, to discover who you really are.”

Wishing you much success, Omri, as you continue in the game of life.

Hallie Keren is president of the Board of Trustees of Kadimah Academy and its Kadimah Scholars at Park School of Buffalo program. She is also the mother of two current and two former Kadimah Scholars students.



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JCC Book and Arts Series Launches this Month

Elaine Barron Mendelow - October 7

This fall, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo is excited to present the **People of the Book** author series as part of their annual Book and Arts program. Beginning this month, the series will kick off with an in-person Book Launch event Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m., in the Maxine and Robert Seller Theater at the JCC Benderson Family Building. Author Elaine Barron Mendelow celebrates the release of her new book *Narrating Diaspora, A Study of Five Contemporary Jewish Auto/Biographies*, with a presentation, book signing, and reception.

Narrating Diaspora focuses on five contemporary Jews whose stories originate in Iraq, China, France, the United States, and Canada. The personal experiences of the Jewish Diaspora are analyzed in the context of their life narratives. Ancient diasporic experiences from *Megillat/Book of Esther* inform the discussion. From their



Elaine Barron Mendelow

birthplaces in Baghdad, Shanghai, Rouen, New York, and Winnipeg, the interviewees all ultimately made their way to South Florida and the Boca Raton Synagogue community, where they recounted their lives in video interviews.

Mendelow graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the State University of Buffalo, where she received her B.A. and M.A. in English. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Studies at Florida Atlantic University. She is a writing

consultant at FAU's University Center for Excellence in Writing. Dr. Mendelow is the Founding Director of Heritage Biography International and is excited to return to Buffalo to present her book to the Community. **Advanced copies of the book can be purchased through the JCC for \$25 by emailing Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org; additionally, books will also be available to purchase at the event.**

Michelle Cameron - October 12

On Tuesday, October 12, the series moves virtual with historical novelist Michelle Cameron in a discussion of her award-winning novel, *Beyond the Ghetto Gates*. Set in 1796-7, it describes a rare happy epoch in Jewish life when Napoleon marched into Italy and demolished the ghetto gates, freeing the Jews who had long been trapped behind them. Based on history unfamiliar to most readers, the novel raises issues that remain pertinent today, including antisemitism, the conflict between assimilation and religious tradition, intermarriage, and the struggle between love and familial duty. *Beyond the Ghetto Gates* was a First Place, Best in Category for the Chanticleer Goethe Awards,



Michelle Cameron

and won the Silver Medal for Historical Fiction in the 2020 Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs). *Kirkus Reviews* calls it "A gripping peek into a bygone Italy, and an astute look at the era's prejudice." The Jewish Book Council said: "In her new historical novel *Beyond the Ghetto Gates*, author Michelle Cameron fashions a story that is both timeless and deeply rooted in the social, political, and religious mores of its time."

Cameron is the author of works of historical fiction and poetry. She lived in Israel for fifteen years (including three weeks in a bomb shelter during the Yom Kippur War) and served as an officer in the Israeli army teaching air force cadets technical English. Michelle is a director of The Writers Circle, a New Jersey-based organization that offers creative writing programs to children, teens, and adults.

To register and view the complete line-up of authors included in the People of the book Author Series, please visit www.jccbuffalo.org or email Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.

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National JCC Book Fair

The JCC is once again partnering with the National JCC Literary Consortium. This wonderful initiative created last fall by the Marcus JCC of Atlanta now includes over 80 participating JCC's across the country, giving access to award-winning author events virtually, allowing participants to zoom in from the comfort of their own homes. This year's line-up includes renowned authors such as David Rubenstein, Mindy Weisel, Michal Bar-Zohar, and many more. Pre-registration is required, and pricing varies per event, with some events offering a book bundle and event ticket. **For more information, visit www.jccbuffalo.org. Questions? Contact Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.**

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Israeli P2G Film Club Opens October 17

The Jewish Community Center, through a partnership with the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Partnership2gether program in the Western Galilee, is excited to promote the P2G's new Film Club. The P2G Film Club is free and open to everyone and will feature classic and contemporary Israeli or Jewish-themed films. Currently, there are four events scheduled for the year. Participants will register for the event and receive a unique link for the film to watch at their leisure before the Zoom event. Then, they will join the Zoom discussion, using a separate link, at the scheduled time featuring a guest speaker and including participants from all over the world. **Registration is required** <https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/event-details/p2g-film-club-sallah-shabati>. **Questions? Email Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.**

Featured Film: Sallah Shabati

(Film Link will be emailed one week before the Zoom event)

Sunday, October 17 at 1 p.m. (EST)
Zoom Discussion with Alon Merom, Photographer, film producer, and director

One of the funniest films to come out of Israel is *Sallah Shabati*. It's a 1964 comedy about the chaos of Israeli immigration and resettlement. This social satire placed the director Ephraim Kishon and producer Menahem Golan among the first Israeli filmmakers to achieve international success. It also introduced actor Chaim Topol (*Fiddler on the Roof*) to audiences worldwide.

The film's name, *Sallah Shabati*, is a play on words; ostensibly a Yemenite Jewish name, it is also intended to evoke the phrase "sorry that I came." In earlier print versions of Kishon's short stories, revised for the film, the character was known as Saadia Shabtai.

The film begins with Sallah Shabati, a Mizrahi Jewish immigrant, arriving with his family in Israel. Upon arrival, he is brought to live in a transit camp. He is



given a broken-down, one-room shack to live with his family and spends the rest of the movie attempting to make enough money to purchase adequate housing. His money-making schemes are often comical and frequently satirize the political and social stereotypes in Israel of the time.

Aging Well at the JCC



This October, the JCC begins the fall session for their Aging Well programs. It's not too late to register and join the fun! Virtual and in-person discussion groups, support groups in partnership with Jewish Family Services, Health and Wellness presentations with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York, the weekly Limud

series, Art Classes, a new monthly movie series, and more. These programs are open to JCC and Community members. All are welcome. **Registration is required for most programs. To view a complete list of classes and programs, please visit www.jccbuffalo.org. Questions? Contact Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.**

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Camille Zamora, soprano
Héctor Del Curto, bandoneón
Be transported by the seductive sounds of the dance of romance... the Tango! Prepare for a night of fiery tango classics and fall in love. ¡Caliente!

Nikki Chooi Plays Brahms
Sat Oct 23, 7:30pm | Sun Oct 24, 2:30pm
JoAnn Falletta, conductor
Mendelssohn's joyful symphony capturing a youthful journey through Italy is paired with a haunting tango by Piazzolla, while BPO concertmaster, **Nikki Chooi**, tackles Brahms' profound violin concerto.

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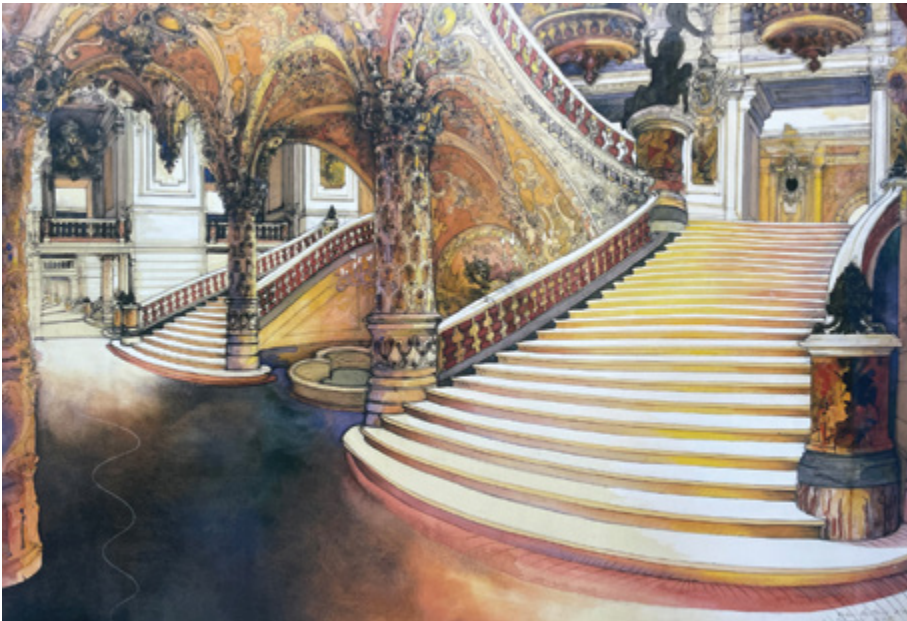
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- Afghani refugees fleeing from the Taliban will be arriving in Buffalo soon, and Jewish Family Services of Western New York will be part of the resettlement group. And you can help! **Make your donation to support their lives in WNY at <https://jfsbuffalo.org>. Click on DONATE at the top.**
- Don't miss "A Conversation with Vickie Rubin," author of *Raising Jess: A Story of Hope*. Tuesday, October 19 from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. Rubin will discuss difficulties and joys of raising her severely handicapped child. Free. Register by October 15 at bit.ly/raisingjess. **For more information, contact Stacey Block at stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org.**
- Join Buffalo Jewish Federation's Made in Buffalo event November 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Tzedek to hear Native Son Gary Ginsberg talk about American Presidents and their First Friends (see page 3). The event is free to the public and will abide by CDC Guidelines as well as be available via Livestream. **To RSVP, go to: bit.ly/firstfriends716.**
- If you're not yet vaccinated against COVID, now is your chance! Free testing and vaccinations for Erie County/ New York State residents are available now! **Call 716-858-2929 to make an appointment. To find a test site near you, go to <http://vornavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.**
- October provides you with an opportunity to learn about the history of some of Buffalo's historic cemeteries. Explore Buffalo is offering a Jewish Cemetery Tour on Pine Ridge Road Sunday, October 10 and Sunday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m. Reservations are required and space is limited! **Go to explorebuffalo.org, or call 716-245-3032 for more information or assistance.**

WHERE IN JBFLO ?



Where is this found in Jewish Buffalo?

The first 5 people to correctly identify the location will be mentioned in next month's *Jewish Journal*.

In August, no one Identified the location of the stained glass window, so you have another chance this month.

Roasted Pumpkin and Farro Salad

BY ROBIN KURSS

Roasted Pumpkin and Farro Salad

Serves 4

Salad Ingredients

- 2 ½ lb pumpkin, or squash if you prefer, peeled, seeded and cut into wedges
- 2 purple onions, each cut into 8 wedges
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 3 Tbsp pomegranate molasses
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Farro, cooked according to package directions, to make 4 cooked cups
- 1 cup cilantro, mint or parsley leaves, chopped
- ½ cup Israeli feta cheese, cubed
- ½ cup dried cherries
- ½ cup walnuts

Dressing Ingredients:

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 3 Tbsp pomegranate molasses
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste



Directions:

Whisk dressing ingredients together. Preheat oven to 400. Place pumpkin and onions on a greased cookie sheet. Drizzle with oil, pomegranate molasses, salt and pepper. Roast for 30-40 minutes until crispy and brown. In a mixing bowl, combine dressing, half of the herbs, dried cherries, nuts and farro, and stir to combine. Place the farro mixture on a serving platter and cover with pumpkin, feta and onions. Sprinkle with remaining herbs and serve warm or at room temperature.

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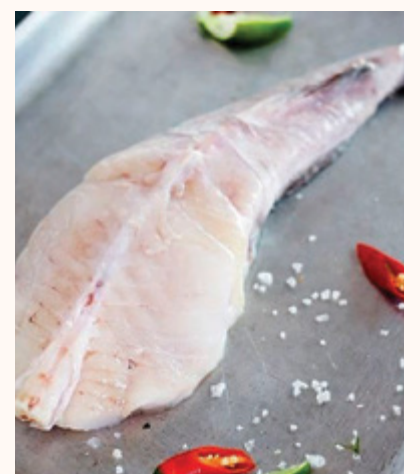
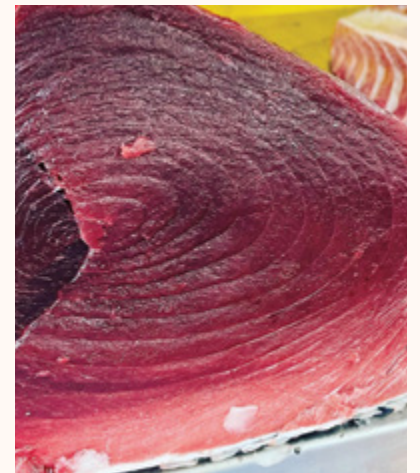
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 Shelly Yellen - President

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 bvkkosher.com
 buffalo@yahoo.com, bvkkosher@gmail.com
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Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning

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 Rabbi Laizer & Chani Labkovski

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 chabadbuffalo.com
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 buffaloahadassah@gmail.com
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IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. Norman D. Mohl 1931-2021

Former professor at the UB School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Norman D. Mohl passed away on February 24th in Sarasota, Florida where he lived since his retirement in 2007. At his core, Norm had a love for life, people, new experiences, history, and teaching. He was known for his abundant sense of humor and set an example for how to treat people with kindness and respect no matter what the circumstances. He lived a bright, full life and his legacy lives on through all he touched.

Norm was born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey, where he attended Fair Lawn High School. He attended college at the University of Buffalo where he earned a D.D.S. degree. After serving as a Dental Officer in the US Navy, he returned to Buffalo to conduct a full-time dental practice that included the treatment of handicapped children. Mohl also began teaching part-time at the University of Buffalo Dental School. He later enrolled in the Graduate School where he earned an M.A. degree and a Ph.D. degree, both in Anatomy from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He subsequently left private practice and joined the University of Buffalo faculty on a full-time basis.

Mohl's career at UB included teaching, research, service, and administration. Among his many activities were teaching both professional and graduate courses and founding a Pain Clinic for Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD) & Orofacial Pain. He chaired the Curriculum Committee where he reorganized the entire D.D.S. curriculum, and also directed three National Institute of Health (NIH)-funded, postdoctoral



Dr. Norman Mohl

research-training programs, served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and founded an M.S. Graduate Program in the Oral Sciences and a multidisciplinary Postgraduate Clinic. Another example of Mohl's creative leadership was his initiation and chairmanship of the new Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, which was formed through the merger of four other departments.

On a national and international level, Mohl was Co-Founder of the Association of University TMD & Orofacial Pain Programs, President of the Neurosciences Group of the International Association of Dental Research, and Co-Chair of three National Educational Conferences on TMD and Orofacial Pain. He also served as consultant to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the Food and Drug Administration, and the American Dental Association. In addition, he served as Visiting Professor at Tel Aviv University in Israel and as a



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member of the Board of Governors.

As an acclaimed educator and researcher, Dr. Mohl authored and co-authored more than 80 articles and book chapters and was the senior editor of the highly regarded, *A Textbook of Occlusion*. He was a sought-after speaker and teacher presenting throughout the United States and Canada as well as in China, Columbia, Egypt, England, France, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Scotland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and Wales. As a result of his professional and academic contributions, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York promoted him to the senior rank of Distinguished Service Professor.

Norm is survived by his wife of 67 years, Eldene Mohl, and his four children, Rabbi Ilana Axel (Mark Axel), Larry Mohl (Carly Miller Mohl), Dan Mohl, and Steve Mohl (Natasha Mohl). He is also survived by his sister, Marilyn Deitchman and he was preceded in death by his brother, Robert Mohl. He was a loving and proud “Saba” to Yonatan Axel, Timna Axel (fiancée Rebecca Ewert), Tahel Axel, Lawson Mohl, and Erden Mohl.

“In Buffalo, Norm was very involved with the local American Jewish Committee (AJC) as speaker at various venues about Israel and how its existence was important to the world and Jews,” said his wife Eldene. “He also spoke at venues about history of Israel and its ancient ownership of the land, was very active speaking locally during the Gulf War, then went to Israel to help board up houses on Kibbutz Negba to safeguard them from gas attacks during that war,” she explained. “He did not return to States until it was almost over.”

Most of this obituary was taken from the *NationalCremation.com* website.



**Muriel Markel Goodman
& Neil Goodman**
passed away in 2020.

We would love you to join us
to celebrate their memory.

Muriel & Neil were the
loving mother & father of
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Noah Goodman.

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In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from August 24-September 20, 2021*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



- Florence Albert**
- Donald Barish**
- Myron Carrel**
- Richard Endler**
- Lenora Fineberg**
- Shirley P. Giallombardo**
- Sally J. Hogg**
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A Home Away From Home: Chabad at 50

BY JUSTIN WEISS

Bruce Braffman spent just one semester at UB, but his experience at Chabad of Buffalo changed his life in ways he could have never imagined. Braffman, who as a student in 1973 and to this day kept kosher and observed Shabbat, said he was unprepared to do so in such a secular environment. Enter Chabad of Buffalo’s Rabbi Noson Gurary, who not only got him a kosher oven and brought him meat from Toronto, but welcomed him into his home like he was his own son.

“Equally important [to the kosher help] was the loving-kindness that Rabbi Gurary showed all of us,” Braffman said on a recent Zoom call commemorating Chabad of Buffalo’s first 50 years. “I only spent one semester in Buffalo before transferring to Yeshiva University, but Rabbi Gurary made a very deep impact on my life.”

Braffman was one of the hundreds of UB alumni who attended Chabad of Buffalo’s virtual 50th anniversary celebrations in mid-August. On Sunday, August 15, dozens of former students and well-wishers from across the United States came together on Zoom to share their memories of Chabad House and reconnect with friends from the past. One week later, on August 22, alumni from Israel reunited over the internet to thank the Gurarys for profoundly impacting their lives.

Rabbi Noson Gurary, who along with his wife, Miriam, established Chabad



Rabbi Noson Gurary in the 1970s

House at 3292 Main Street in 1971, was present on the calls. So too were their sons and their spouses, Rabbi Avrohom and Chani Gurary and Rabbi Moshe and Rivka Gurary.

“Rabbi [Noson] Gurary — you and your entire *mishpacha* (family) walk the walk of *ahavat yisrael* (love of Israel),” Braffman said. “You and your family embody that, not just in your words but in your actions.”

Braffman wasn’t the only former student who expressed appreciation toward the Gurarys for their welcoming and inclusive spirit. Throughout the

Zoom calls, dozens of grateful alumni recounted memories and shared how much their time at Chabad changed them as people.

“Rabbi, thank you so much,” Mashi Choina said. “I’m so proud of my Judaism and the Torah I keep on learning. The Chabad House was the beginning. I didn’t know anything. I was in a family that had Jews, but I didn’t know anything about them. It’s very special to me.”

Chabad is a home-away-from-home for thousands of Jewish students at UB. The organization brings together students



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Chabad House today

of different backgrounds, affiliations and observance levels for a variety of programs and events, including weekly Shabbat dinners, holiday programming, educational classes, social events and free Israel trips. Chabad is the highlight of many students’ weeks, months and in some cases, their entire UB experience.

That was certainly the case for David Lipke. Lipke was a freshman living in UB’s Ellicott Complex in the 1994 when he saw Rabbi Noson Gurary holding a *lulav* and *etrog*, staples of the holiday of Sukkot. Rabbi Gurary asked him if he knew what he was holding. David said yes, it’s a *lulav* and *etrog*. “His eyes lit up,” Lipke said. Rabbi Gurary invited him to a Sukkot bash the next night at the Chabad House. From that moment on, Judaism became a major part of his UB experience. “I was hooked,” Lipke said. “Rabbi Gurary opened his home up to me during Passover, whenever I needed a meal or anything. Just a great family.”

Chabad has had such a profound impact on students that many have leaned on the Gurarys for advice, guidance and assistance for major life cycle events. Rabbi Moshe Gurary says this is all by design. “One theme I think you can see across all these people talking is how they were one single student, but now they are parents and grandparents and leaders of communities,” he said. “The ripple effect you have when you impact one person is something that inspires and shapes their whole future. That was the theme of the whole celebration: ‘Shaping the future, one soul at a time.’”

“It was definitely a home away from home,” Class of 2015 graduate Kevin Sheehan said of Chabad House. “I was living on Long Island at the time [I attended UB], a good eight hours away from home. I just appreciate everything they did for me during my time at UB. I’ll be back for the 75th gathering.”

In the Chabad tradition, a “jubilee” is considered a very large milestone. The

Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, said that the time following a jubilee needs to come with even greater vigor and strength. To that end, on top of the various WhatsApp chats already created for alumni to stay in touch, Rabbi Noson will be launching a weekly class for alumni. “We want to continue this momentum of reconnection,” Rabbi Gurary said. “The relationship we make with our students is not just while they’re here — it lasts way beyond their stay in Buffalo.”

Justin Weiss, a UB junior, is the UB Spectrum Managing Editor



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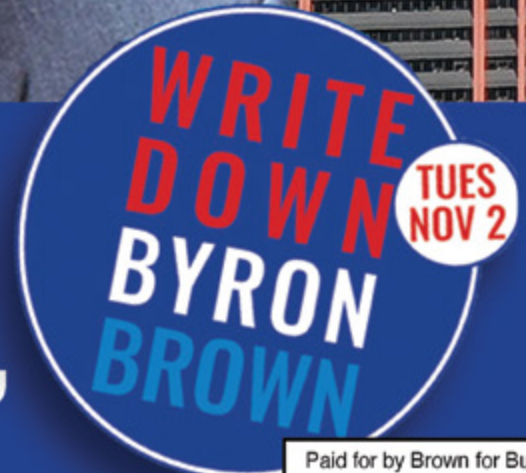
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