

The Award Winning

# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

» Happy Thanksgiving 2021!  
Happy Hanukkah 5782!

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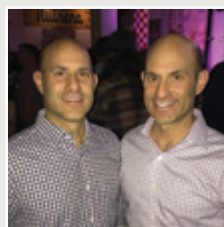
NOVEMBER 2021 | CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5782

**LiNK**  
Jewish Buffalo

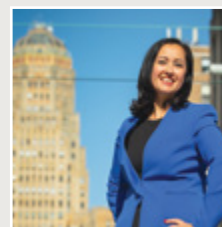
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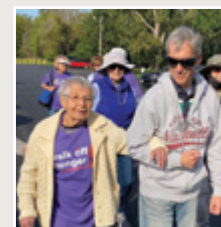
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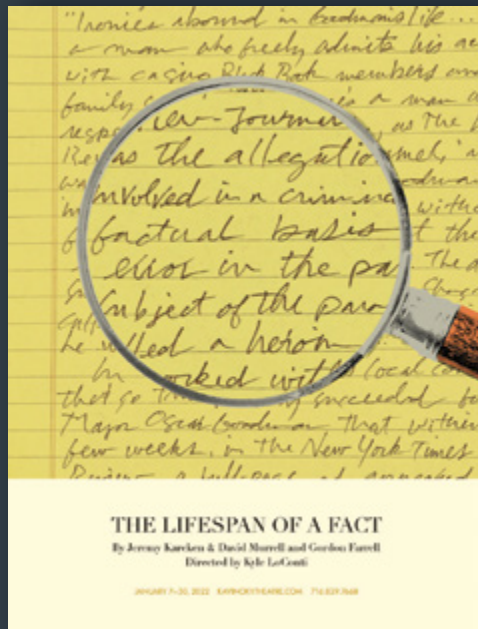


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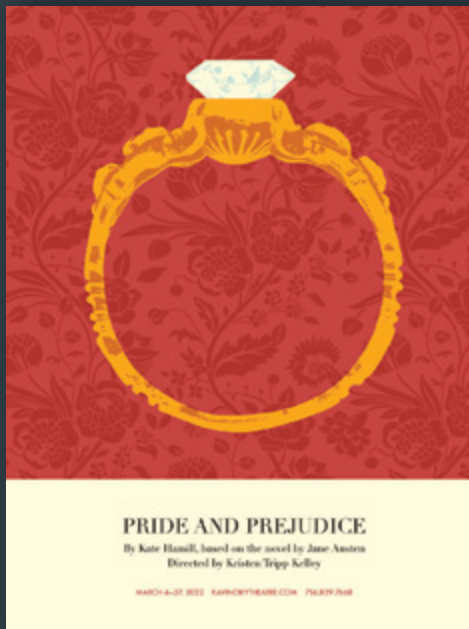


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Walk Off Hunger  
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# November 2021

## Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

**Thanksgiving and Hanukkah all in the same week!** That's what we can look forward to later this month. I love Thanksgiving, (this year on Thursday, November 25), when my family will be together, thankfully, and enjoy eating and arguing about whether pumpkin pie or apple pie is the bee's knees. Then starting Sunday, November 28, together we can discuss what we are thankful for AND what we are rededicating ourselves to this year, as well as how much we love eating latkes and lighting Hanukkah candles.

Speaking of rededication, make sure you read the cover story (page 7) on how the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) has evolved into LiNK Jewish Buffalo, connecting people to Jewish Life—a new name and logo, but the same dedication to nurturing relationships, building thriving Jewish learning and living experiences, and developing and growing the Belonging initiative.

This issue is also filled with wonderous stories, programs and events, like the fascinating **Made in Buffalo** event November 2 with Gary Ginsberg about American presidents and their best friends (page 5); this year's *Kristallnacht* commemoration (November 9) and its connection to the group of American soldiers known as the Ritchie Boys (pages 9 and 11); David Kaplan's devotion to his late friend, Dr. Stephen Goldstein, through the fund-raising 11-Day Power Play this month (page 10); and the Afghani evacuees coming to Buffalo, JFS's involvement and the opportunity each one of us has to help the newcomers thrive in Buffalo (page 22).

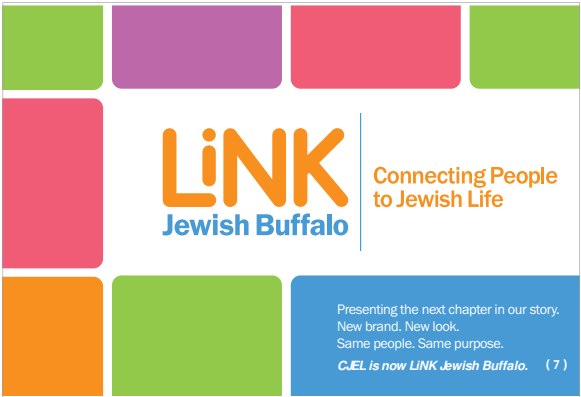
Because Thanksgiving and Hanukkah are both on our doorstep, we have to celebrate by eating! Robin Kurss has deliciously offered three yummy treats to accompany us as we nosh our way through November.

I am grateful for our Buffalo Jewish Community and the Buffalo Jewish Federation and all of you! **Warm wishes from me and my family to you and yours**

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

**for a Thanksgiving and Hanukkah filled with joy, friends, possibilities and FOOD!**

## On The Cover



**LiNK Jewish Buffalo** is the evolution of CJEL, which has grown and expanded its original construction. The new logo was created by a team from Telesco Creative Group and Buffalo Jewish Federation. *Cover design by Greg Meadows, Telesco Creative Group.*

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# Working Together

BY SHELLY YELLEN

Last year, we celebrated Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover and other holidays in the midst of a global pandemic. Seders were limited to immediate family and we worshipped at services streaming through our computers. This year many of us elected to celebrate the High Holy Days in person and we are fortunate that many aspects of our normal lives have returned. While the devastating impact of the COVID-19 is not yet over, the vaccine has made a tremendous, life-saving difference. Of course, living with an ongoing public health threat creates uncertainty and can make life difficult.

Just think about how your daily decisions are impacted by the pandemic. We now do scenario planning for basic tasks and contingency planning for scheduling activities a few months out. The dramatic shortage of workers and supplies is forcing businesses to change schedules on a daily basis. The impact on our community is tremendous as it becomes more difficult and expensive to deliver services to the many individuals who depend on the support of our Jewish agencies and organizations.

Yet despite the challenges and the ease of blaming inaction on the impact



Shelly Yellen

of the virus, we have seen how working together has allowed us to continue to achieve our mission of creating a vibrant and caring Jewish Buffalo. The bond between the Buffalo Jewish Federation, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, numerous agencies, synagogues, and other community organizations has only strengthened and demonstrates to all that we are one community and successfully able to work through any crisis. Thanks to the commitment of many individuals, including the many

donors to our Annual Campaign, we are able to take care of our most vulnerable and yet build a vibrant and cohesive Jewish life for now and the future.

As many of you are aware, Jewish Family Services of Western New York (JFS) offers critical health and human services and specifically addresses the needs of the Jewish community through their Jewish Community Care program. We are fortunate to have this program led by Matt Stewart, Jewish Community Care Manager.

Another important need in our community is refugee resettlement and JFS is currently preparing to assist over 350 Afghan evacuees that will shortly arrive in Buffalo. Buffalo is only one of 19 cities in the United States designated to accept immigrants on special visas. JFS team members are currently in Virginia and Texas helping to process these refugees, who have fled Afghanistan in fear from the Taliban takeover. As of now, these evacuees will receive minimal public assistance, if any. JFS is part of the Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees coalition with Catholic Charities of Buffalo, The International Institute of Buffalo, Jericho Road Community Health Care, and Journey's End Refugee Services. We are proud that

JFS is taking the lead in a \$750,000 campaign to raise funds to welcome and support the evacuees as they transition to self-sufficiency in WNY. The funds will be used to pay for housing and basic needs, for the donation of goods and time, as well as for advocacy. We are grateful to JFS CEO Molly Carr and Board Chair Blaine Schwartz for leading this effort. (Read more about the effort on page 22.)

To support JFS and their community partners, the BJF Board of Governors has voted to allocate funds as part of a matching donor campaign. In addition, we are grateful to Irv Levy, Jonathan Schechter, and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies Board who have also agreed to include funds in the campaign match, just the latest example of how our community working together makes us all better. **To make a gift to support our fundraising effort, go to the following link: [tfaforms.com/4937803](https://tfaforms.com/4937803).**

With that in mind, I want to offer my gratitude to our donors for your generous support and commitment to Jewish life. May this be a time of peace and prosperity and a year of meaning, growth, and joy for all. **Please contact me with your thoughts at [shelly@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:shelly@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

## BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Best wishes for a *Happy Thanksgiving*  
and a *Joyous Hanukkah Festival*

From the Board of Governors and the Professional Staff of the Buffalo Jewish Federation

# 2022 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH BUFFALO VIRTUAL KICK OFF EVENT

## Better Together

### WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER: HILLEL OF BUFFALO PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Buffalo Jewish Federation shared the story of how Jewish Buffalo is *Better Together* at the virtual Community Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Kick Off Event. Federation is proud of the relationships that have been built over the years and knows that our community is more caring, connected and vibrant than ever before.

One of the important community partnerships is with **Hillel of Buffalo**. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo is able to provide financial support that directly impacts how Hillel engages college students so they can create more ways to celebrate their Jewishness (read more about Hillel on page 23). Even more than that, it provides a community of colleagues, opportunities for professional and personal development for staff, and a deeper connection to Jewish Buffalo.

This past summer, Hillel offered an internship program where students had the opportunity to network, develop personal connections, and learn about the Buffalo community. They prepared case studies and visited with local businesses and organizations as part of the experiential component of the program. When visiting the West Side Bazaar they learned about Buffalo's unique diversity and the work Jewish Family Services of Western New York does with refugee resettlement.



**Hillel of Buffalo is just one of the vital partnerships that was featured at the Kick Off Event.**

**To learn more about what makes Jewish Buffalo Better Together you can watch the Community Kick Off Event by going to:**  
**[bit.ly/WATCHBETTERTOGETHER](https://bit.ly/WATCHBETTERTOGETHER)**

**» READY TO MAKE YOUR DONATION TO THE 2022 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH BUFFALO?**

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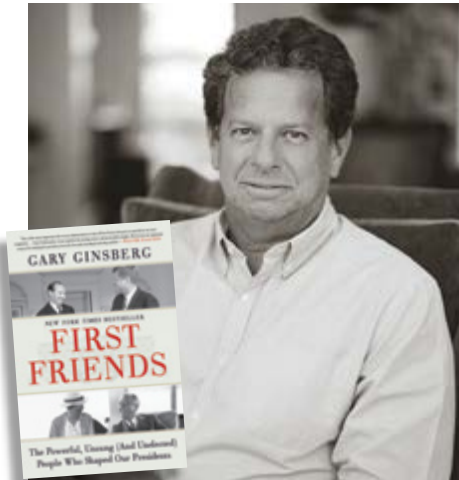


## Election Night with Gary Ginsberg

The Buffalo Jewish Federation's **Made in Buffalo** program will host "A Conversation with Gary Ginsberg" Election Night, Tuesday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Tzedek (TBT) in Williamsville. The event will also be live-streamed.

Ginsberg will be in conversation with Melissa N. Brown, Executive Director of the Buffalo History Museum, discussing his inaugural book, *First Friends: The Powerful, Unsung (And Unelected) People Who Shaped Our Presidents*. The book examines the friendships influential individuals had with American presidents from Founding Fathers to Bill Clinton.

This will be the third **Made in Buffalo** program since its inception in 2017 with Seth Godin. **Made in Buffalo** is funded by The William & Lenore 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 on the broader culture.

The event is free to the public and will abide by CDC guidelines. Those who make a donation of \$50 or more to the Godin Fund will receive an autographed copy of the book at the event. **To RSVP, visit [bit.ly/firstfriends716](http://bit.ly/firstfriends716).**

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# Nickel City Jews: Leadership Spotlight on Shiri Kester



For the last seven years, Nickel City Jews (NCJ) has been Jewish Buffalo's signature platform for engaging young Jewish adults through friendship, Jewish learning and leadership. Over these years, NCJ has been stewarded by many talented, professional and volunteer leaders. These individuals have collectively shaped and pushed forward the scope of work and purpose, keeping Nickel City Jews relevant and meaningful to those who choose to engage either once or in a more on-going capacity.

In January, Shiri Kester will begin her third year as Chair of NCJ. During



Shiri Kester

her first year, she oversaw the organizational transformation during COVID; designing and hosting a multitude of virtual and in-person events, spending dozens of hours speaking with young adults from across Jewish Buffalo, and working to ensure individuals felt connected in ways that were comfortable and meaningful. In her second year, Shiri continued to lead as COVID evolved and NCJ was able to resume hosting events in parks, bars, and people's homes. In addition, two virtual Mussar learning experiences were held under her leadership engaging more young adults in the study of Mussar. During this time, Shiri also served as a coach for the

Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) Changemaker Fellowship program, spending four weeks in 2020 mentoring young adults from across North America. Professionally, Shiri is an English Teacher at Williamsville North High School.

Shiri works closely with Nickel City Jews Vice Chair, Mark Faber, and incoming Vice Chair Eric Niles and in partnership with CJEL Professional Mike Steklof. Nickel City Jews has evolved during COVID, however the mission remains intact: providing opportunities for Jewish living and learning with a fundamental commitment to building and nurturing relationships.

## What's happened in the past year



### Touchpoints

In the past year, NCJ has had over 500 touchpoints with individuals in Jewish Buffalo.

### New to Buffalo

In the past year, Jewish Buffalo welcomed 15 new young adults who have relocated to Buffalo for school, new jobs or to be closer to family.

### Learning Experiences

During the past year, 12 emerging leaders participated in Mussar learning experiences and 10 emerging leaders met with Rabbi Ori Bergman monthly to learn more about Judaism through conversation.

**Want to connect?** We would love to get to know you over Zoom, coffee, lunch or a drink – we will come to you!

**Contact Mike Steklof at 716-463-5061 or [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

### MY GROWN UP & ME

Sunday, November 14 @ 11 AM  
Jewish Community Center  
787 Delaware Ave  
Buffalo

### SHABBAT SHAFAMILY

Saturday, November 20 @ 10:30 AM  
Temple Beth Tzedek  
1641 N. Forest Rd  
Williamsville

@PJLibraryBuffalo

For more information, contact Susan  
[susan@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:susan@buffalojewishfederation.org)



# CJEL is now LiNK Jewish Buffalo!

## LiNK Jewish Buffalo

Connecting People  
to Jewish Life

BY MIRIAM ABRAMOVICH

Over the last three years, the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning (CJEL) has been deeply focused on nurturing relationships, building thriving Jewish learning and living experiences, and developing and growing the *Belonging* initiative. In this time, and despite COVID 19, projects have flourished, leadership has been engaged on all levels of community, and engagement with individuals and families has soared. Just last year, CJEL ran 27 ongoing learning experiences and 46 one-time events/gatherings. Our team connected with hundreds of individuals, and logged over 3,500 points of connection.

All along, one of CJEL's guiding values has been *hazon* (innovation). We strive to be forward-thinking and to evolve along with the needs and interests of those we serve, always working to ensure that Jewish life and Jewish ideas are relevant and meaningful. This November, just over three years after CJEL first came into existence, we are proud to take the next step in our evolution as we launch our new name

and brand, one that fully reflects who we are and what we do: **LiNK Jewish Buffalo: connecting people to Jewish life.**

Our team of leaders worked with the professionals at Telesco Creative Group to design a new brand that evoked not only who we are today, but who we strive to be in the future. **LiNK Jewish Buffalo's** vision is for all Jews, their friends and life partners, and those exploring Judaism to have access to Jewish living and learning experiences that help them thrive; and to welcome all regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability.

You will see in our new brand a small *i*, which represents you, the individual, who is always at the center of our work. The soft and rounded letters evoke an openness, a feeling of being surrounded by others (friends, community, the Jewish calendar, our ancestors) – and *b'tzelem elokim* – another one of our guiding values, that underscores how

everyone has something of value to contribute and everyone has the right to belong. Our brand colors are warm and vibrant, and we hope conjure a sense of curiosity, an invitation to explore, ask questions and engage.

What has not changed — our mission, vision, and purpose: to serve you and your families through PJ Library, PJ Our Way/Middle School Engagement, the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative (in partnership with the JCC), Nickel City Jews, Adult Engagement and Learning, Women and Men Gathering, and Buffalo Israel Experience.

**To learn more about the work of LiNK Jewish Buffalo, or to get connected, contact Miriam Abramovich at [miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

*Miriam Abramovich is Chief Experience Officer at the Buffalo Jewish Federation.*



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Sat Oct 30, 7:30pm  
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A spooky night of fiendish, funny, and fabulous Broadway favorites from shows such as *Sweeney Todd*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Wicked*.



**Grieg Piano Concerto**  
Fri Nov 5, 10:30am | Sat Nov 6, 7:30pm  
**JoAnn Falletta, conductor**  
**Joyce Yang, piano**  
Joyce Yang performs the beguiling and brilliant keyboard flourishes of Grieg's only piano concerto, while the 18th century inspired both Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony* and Stravinsky's witty *Pulcinella Suite*.



**Whitney Houston: The Greatest Love of All**  
Sat Nov 13, 7:30pm  
**Bradley Thachuk, conductor**  
Join your BPO and powerhouse singer **Amanda Cole** for this tribute to Whitney's greatest hits, including *How Will I Know*, *Where Do Broken Hearts Go*, *I Will Always Love You*, and more.



**Gershwin & Barber**  
Sat Nov 20, 7:30pm | Sun Nov 21, 2:30pm  
**Keith Lockhart, conductor**  
Virtuoso **Philippe Quint** debuts with the BPO on Barber's romantic and reflective violin concerto, while Gabriela Frank's homage to her heritage was distinctly influenced by Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances*. The program concludes with Gershwin's iconic love letter to the City of Light.



**Elf™ in Concert**  
Film with Live Orchestra  
Fri Dec 3, 7:30pm  
**John Debney, conductor**  
Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. This holiday season relive this heartwarming holiday classic on a giant screen as every note of John Debney's wonderful score is played live to picture in: *Elf™ in Concert*!



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**Vanessa Williams**  
Tue Dec 7, 7:30pm  
**Ron Spigelman, conductor**  
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Temple Beth Zion and Temple Beth Tzedek are coordinating their Judaica shop sales days so the Jewish community can go from one Judaica Shop to the other for Hanukkah needs.

Doors open at special times so parents can bring their children in to shop and buy gifts for their family.

*Please find our ad on page 32 for dates and times the shops are open.*

**Wishing members, families,  
friends and  
the Jewish community a  
happy, healthy Hanukkah.**

### COMMUNITY

# Dignity Grows Expands Partnerships



Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy (WP) is excited to announce two new partnerships for Dignity Grows™ Buffalo. Haven House and Compass House have joined Jewish Family Services of Western New York as the newest distribution partners of Dignity Grows™ personal hygiene essential bags. On Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, Women's Philanthropy held a drive-through packing party as part of this



year's Community Kick Off Event. More than 100 individuals stopped by to help pack bags that were provided to the three partner agencies.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help pack the bags and to those who donated as part of their Kick Off registration. Their generosity and time will have a direct impact on our neighbors in need. *For more information or to volunteer to help with Dignity Grows™, contact Stacey Block at [stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org) or 716-463-5053, or visit the [DignityGrows.org](http://DignityGrows.org) website. To donate directly to the Buffalo Chapter, go to [bit.ly/DIGNITYGROWSBFLO](http://bit.ly/DIGNITYGROWSBFLO).*



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## SCHUMANN QUARTET

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Hosted by Gil Wolfe,  
General Campaign Chair  
2022 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo

**Register at  
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Photographer Bill Wippert has been covering sports and life in WNY for over 45 years as the Team Photographer of the Buffalo Bills and Sabres, and with the Buffalo News.

**Join us as Bill chats about his career, the photos  
and the stories & personalities behind them.**

**Be entered into a raffle for an iconic sports picture  
with a minimum donation of \$20 to Dignity Grows.**



# The Ritchie Boys

BY CHANA REVELL KOTZIN, PH.D

**During WWII a secret corps of men with language skills and intelligence training were deployed to Europe and other theaters of war to defeat Nazism. Known as the “Ritchie Boys” after the name of their training camp in Maryland, their efforts helped bring about the end of the war. A particular subset of this 10,000 strong group were former German-Jewish refugees, many of whom had fled Germany in the 1930s, only later to return as Americans soldiers. For them the war was very personal; they knew the nature of the regime they hoped to help defeat first hand. Some survived, liberated camps and returned to the United States, while others never made it back.**

We will remember their service and recall their stories when Dr. Beverley Eddy joins us virtually November 9 to discuss the legacy of the Ritchie Boys (see page 11). Buffalo has direct ties to this history through Kurt Jacobs, Stephan Lewy and Kurt Klein. Kurt Jacobs was born Kurt Jacobsohn in Berlin, Germany in November 1909 and studied law, but had to work in clothing and manufacturing because of increasing state sponsored antisemitism. In 1936, at the age of 26, he managed to emigrate to Buffalo through the aid of his aunt, Cecilia Boasberg. He brought his mother, Bertha, to Buffalo in August 1939, but his father, Jakob, did not receive his papers in time and died on September 15, 1942 in Terezín (Theresienstadt) then within German occupied Czechoslovakia.

A few months later, on November 13, 1942, Kurt volunteered for military service and as a native German speaker was selected for work in military intelligence at Camp Ritchie. There he was trained in interrogation techniques and intelligence collecting and then assigned to the 106th Infantry Division, as part of a special Interrogation of Prisoner of War (IPW) team. In 1944, several hundred soldiers of the 106th were captured by a German division commanded by Curt Bruns. On learning that Kurt Jacobs and another American soldier, Murray Zapler, were Jews, Bruns ordered their execution. In February 1945 along with notification of her husband’s death, Rosalind Pohl Jacobs, was informed that he had been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. Kurt Jacobs is interred at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, in Liège, Belgium and a permanent yahrzeit is maintained for him at Temple Beth Zion. To learn more about Kurt and help us honor his memory further, you can read his biographical entry on the Jewish Buffalo History Center website at [jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org).

Stephan Lewy, who eventually settled in Buffalo, NY, was part of a contingent of Ritchie Boys who opened Buchenwald concentration camp, seeing first-hand the



**Kurt Jacobs Grave Marker, Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, Belgium, Photograph courtesy of Franky and Robbe Meers.**

horrors of antisemitic Nazi policies towards Jews. Now in his 90s, Stephan has made his testimony available through the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and his archives are available online through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Stephen was born in 1925 in Berlin and his life changed after his mother died when he was just six years old. Eventually Stephan’s father, who worked as a tobacco retailer, placed Stephan in an orphanage,

although he remained in contact with him. As a boy, Stephan experienced violence first-hand from members of the Hitler Youth. Yet, when his father remarried and he returned to his home, he was not safe either. On the night that would become known as *Kristallnacht*, Stephan and other Jewish children were forced into a synagogue and the gas line was cut with the hope that they would all perish, but they managed to survive by breaking out through a window.

After this event, Stephan’s father tried to get the whole family out of Germany, but initially only Stephan was able to leave. He joined a group of children that made their way to France. When the Germans invaded France, the group moved several more times ending up in the village of Chabannes in Vichy France. While there, Stephan discovered that his parents had managed to get to the United States. After many months, he received paperwork for passage to New York where

Ritchie in the early 1940s. Born in 1920 in Walldorf, Germany, he was the youngest of three children of Alice and Ludwig Klein. Due to rising antisemitism, Kurt left school early and trained as a printer, and after that job was ended because he was Jewish, he worked for a tobacco company. Kurt’s older sister, a nurse trainee, had managed to get to Buffalo with the aid of a distant family relative and from there she was able to help Kurt leave in 1937. Despite intensive efforts, they were unable to get their parents out and only much later they learned that their parents were put on a transport to Auschwitz and killed.

In 1942, Kurt joined the army, and was sent to Camp Ritchie for intelligence training, and then attached to the 5th Infantry Division to conduct interrogations of German POWs. In the closing weeks of the war, he was one of a group of soldiers to discover more than 100 Jewish women death-march survivors in Volary, Czechoslovakia, including

**To learn more about the impact of this remarkable group of individuals, hold the date for the talk of Dr. Beverley Eddy on Tuesday, November 9, and check out information on this event on page 11.**

he was met by his parents in June 1942. He joined his parents in Boston initially but then, when he turned 18, he went to Camp Ritchie, recruited because of his German language skills. After the war, he returned to Boston, earned his degree at Northeastern University, passed the CPA exam, then moved to New Hampshire. In 2015, he moved to Buffalo to be with his daughter, Ellen Dubie, and his story has been featured regularly in *The Buffalo News* since 2016.

In May 1945, Kurt Klein met his wife-to-be, Gerda Weissmann, a survivor of a death march, and within a few months, they married. Kurt Klein trained at Camp

Gerda. In Buffalo and later in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Kleins devoted themselves to the mission to fight intolerance and indifference through lectures and writing, film and advocacy. Gerda Weissmann Klein became an internationally renowned author, speaker and Holocaust educator and with Kurt, worked tirelessly to bring hope and healing to communities affected by violence. Kurt died in 2002, and Gerda, now in her 90s, still continues with their mission today.

*Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D., is the coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo History Center, which you can find at [jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org).*





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# Sleep, Eat, Hockey, Repeat: Raising Hope through 11-Day Power Play

BY DAVID KAPLAN

11 days. That is how long 40 local hockey players will be playing a continuous ice hockey game to try and break the World Record and raise more than \$1 million for Roswell Park and other local programs and organizations. It sounds crazy but 22 of the players this year are back from the original event in 2017 to give it another try. Some still have pain in their feet, hands and other body parts, but they are playing again because of what the event means to them. Everyone has been affected by cancer, and everyone has a different story as to why they are playing.

I am one of the players with local ties to the Jewish community who will be back at it for my second shot at this event. I was one of the original skaters and felt I needed to do the event again. Five months before the first event, my mom passed and I almost stepped away. But family and friends convinced me to skate for my mom since she would have loved the event. I ended up skating and did about 100 hours on the ice with my mom's scarf hanging out of my back pants during my shifts.



David Kaplan 11-Day Power Play, 2017

I felt her watching me over the 11 days and knew how proud she would have been of what we accomplished. I also shed many tears during the



Twin brothers Dr. Scott Goldstein and Dr. Stephen Goldstein (z"l)

grueling event, but got a big smile the last few days when I looked in the crowd and saw that it included my dad, who had flown in from Arizona. Dad came at the right time, because mentally I was beat and physically my body was in a ton of pain. To have him there meant so much and helped me finish the event strong. As a group, the players skated over 253 hours while raising more than \$1 million for Roswell Park.

The format will be the same this year, and it will be played exactly like an NHL game. Five

skaters, one sub and a goalie will take the ice for each shift, with the length being 4 hours (4-60 minute periods). After the 4 hours is up, the players either get a 4 or 8 hour break and then go back on the ice again. Sleep, eat, hockey, repeat. All of the skaters have to live at the facility; this year the event will take place outdoors at River Works in mid-November.

I saw a posting last September that the 11-Day event was coming back and returning to the original format. I knew I had to participate again, since I lost a good friend to cancer last year. Dr. Stephen Goldstein lost his 18-month battle against brain cancer, so I wanted to skate in his honor. Together, we attended Camp Centerland, Camp Lakeland and Temple Beth Zion religious school together and had been friends for more than 45 years. And so I reached out to Stephen's twin brother, Scott, who was thrilled that would and could do something like this in Stephen's memory.

"Growing up in Buffalo, we built life-long friendships through our parents, school, summer camp and our synagogue," Scott told me. "My twin brother, Stephen, loved connecting with and helping people throughout his life. He helped family, friends, his patients. The word 'no' was not in his vocabulary. When he got sick with brain cancer, he never complained. He just wanted to go on helping those around him, especially his young children.... when you reached out to let me know you wanted to skate in Stephen's memory, I was blown



Camp Lakeland - Mike Moschel, Michael Carrel, Stephen Goldstein, Scott Goldstein, Michael Applebaum, Andrew Rosen and David Kaplan

away." Scott wasn't surprised by my outreach as we've known each other for over 40 years. "As a doctor myself, I also know all too well the impact of cancer," he shared with me. "I know deep down that every dollar raised helps beat this terrible disease. I am proud to cheer you on as my life-long friend and the entire 11-Day Power Play as we move forward to put cancer on ice," he added.

Josh Altman is another lifelong friend of Stephen's and told me that he was a gift to everyone who knew him—the most kind and compassionate person he'd ever known. "His memory is truly a blessing," Josh explained. "He was gentle, empathetic and just plain cared enormously about people. He wanted everyone to be all good. And he'd go out of his way to make sure it was so."

Jeff Kaufman, Stephen's cousin echoed similar comments, saying Stephen had "a smile that would light up a room. He made everyone around him a better person."

I am honored to skate in Stephen's name this year. I will have my mom's scarf on tied around me again and will include a tribute to Stephen Goldstein on my helmet. Proceeds of the event will support cutting-edge cancer research and wellness programs at Roswell Park, Make-A-Wish WNY, Camp Good Days and Roswell Park and Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program. The event takes place at River Works and starts November 14 and ends Thanksgiving eve. ***If you would like to donate to my page, the link is below or mail a check to the address listed.***

***<https://communityshift.11daypowerplay.com/Davidkaplan>***

***Checks can be made payable to***

***The 11-Day Power Play.***

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*David Kaplan moved back to Buffalo 6 years ago after living in Arizona the previous 17 years. He works in technology for a software company out of Raleigh, NC, and lives with his fiancée and her 2 children in East Amherst.*



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# Kristallnacht Commemoration Highlights Ritchie Boys 11/9

The Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) will present a unique virtual program commemorating Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) on Tuesday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the JCC and Buffalo Jewish Federation, the program will feature a presentation and Q&A with Dr. Beverley Eddy, Professor Emerita of German at Dickinson College, on her latest book, *Ritchie Boy Secrets: How a Force of Immigrants and Refugees Helped Win World War II*.

In June 1942, the U.S. Army began recruiting immigrants, the children of immigrants, refugees, and others with language skills and knowledge of enemy lands and cultures for a special Military Intelligence Training Center (Camp Ritchie) located in the mountains of northern Maryland. Graduates of the



program — known as Ritchie Boys — were sent to both the European and

the Pacific theaters of war.

The Camp Ritchie program trained the men in photo interpretation, terrain analysis, Prisoner of War interrogation, order of battle, psychological warfare, counterintelligence, signal intelligence, mapmaking, and close combat. Twenty percent of the men were refugees from Germany and Austria including Buffalonians Stephan Lewy, Kurt Klein (z"l) and Kurt Jacobs (z"l) (see page 9.)

Dr. Chana Kotzin, Digital Historian and Jewish Buffalo History Center Coordinator, will join Dr. Eddy for the event and will be sharing stories of how Kristallnacht affected these three men and their families, how they sought refuge in the United States, and what it was like to be a Ritchie Boy.

To receive the Zoom link, please register at [bit.ly/buffalokristallnachtprogram2021](https://bit.ly/buffalokristallnachtprogram2021). Questions? Contact Elizabeth Schram at [elizabeth@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:elizabeth@buffalojewishfederation.org).

## Honoring the Six Million

BY LAUREN BLOOMBERG

On Sunday, September 12, members of Jewish Buffalo gathered at the Holocaust Memorial in Old B'rith Shalom Cemetery to honor the Six Million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum of Temple Beth Tzedek led the moving service where Second Generation Holocaust survivors Jeff Blum, Iris Danziger and Beverly Schiller read the names of victims.

Wendy Weisbrot, Holocaust Resource Center Chair and a second-generation Holocaust survivor (2G) explained, "As a 2G, this annual gathering - *Kever Avot V'Imahot* - holds special meaning and a sense of responsibility. This time between Rosh

Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a ritual time for family and community members to visit the gravestones of members of their family. However, there are no individual graves for victims of the Shoah. Thankfully, our community has sponsored this memorial service annually to honor the memory of Holocaust survivors and victims."

"I have distinct memories as a child attending this memorial service annually with my parents and brother," she continued. "My parents and other survivors always commented how grateful they were that this tradition continued yearly. However, they feared that as more and more survivors passed, this tradition would fade. So, words cannot clearly express my gratitude to see that our community has embraced this meaningful tradition."

Holocaust Survivor Bernie Redlich emphasized the importance of us honoring the lives of those who perished, especially since he was the only Holocaust Survivor in attendance.

In addition, Rick Ruberto was recognized for giving both his time and funds to clean up and landscape the memorial. Rick, who is not Jewish, stated, "When I first saw the memorial for myself, I cried. I didn't need to go to Europe to visit former camps, which was something I wanted to do... here I stood, in disbelief, in front of 6 million



2Gs Dr. Iris Danziger and Beverly Schiller

victims, in my own city. I was sad for what it stands for, yet I was elated that I had a memorial I could visit." Rick gave a moving speech at the service and said, "What I am doing now is my gift to the victims and the survivors to hopefully continue their legacy as best I can. I do all of this, not for accolades, but for the 6 million. As long as I live, so will they."

The service ended with everyone placing a stone on the memorial. HRC is grateful to Mitch Steinhorn for providing the materials and to the Buffalo Jewish Federation for continuing this historic and meaningful ceremony.

Lauren Bloomberg is HRC's Program Specialist.



Survivor Bernie Redlich

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# JCRC Report: “State of Hate in Greater Buffalo: A Community Perspective”

BY MARA KOVEN-GELMAN

While hate and antisemitism exist in Greater Buffalo, recent data from multiple sources indicate a relatively low hate crime frequency here, especially when compared with New York City. Additionally, there are over 60 community organizations in the Buffalo-Niagara region dedicated to promoting a civil, just society, and more than 30 are specifically fighting hate.

These were some of the findings in the report “*State of Hate in Greater Buffalo: A Community Perspective*” by Raquel Zohar, a junior at Cornell University studying Industrial Labor Relations. Raquel worked with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) to study hate and antisemitism in Greater Buffalo through her High Road Fellowship, managed by Partnership for Public Good (PPG.)

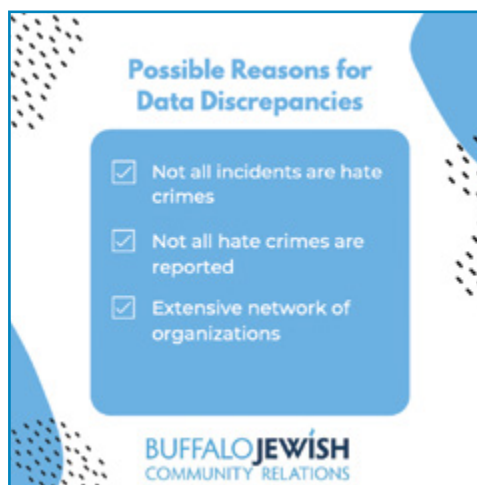
## Lower Hate Crime Reported

From 2016-2019, the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program showed 39 racially and/or ethnically motivated incidents, 4 sexual-oriented discrimination incidents, 2 gender-identity and one religion-related incident. By contrast and incrementally higher, ADL reported that from 2016-2019, there were 5 antisemitic incidents. NYC had 2,281 hate crimes during 2016-2019, which accounted for 64% of all New York State hate crimes. Buffalo-Niagara accounted for 2% of New York State hate crimes.

This past summer and fall, as part of her final project, Raquel gave presentations to the Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), and leaders of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and the Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF) board of governors. Polling the BJF directors before her presentation, Raquel asked, “Do you think there has been an increase in hate and antisemitism in Greater Buffalo in recent years? Seventy percent of directors said “yes.”

In addition to documented quantitative data, Raquel interviewed over 20 Jewish and general community

members and leaders to build a wider picture than what limited numerical data provided. She asked Buffalo community leaders to comment on the low hate crime data. The answers included those seen in the discrepancies graphic on this page.



## Promoting Community

The report discovered that more than 60-community organizations focus on promoting community through bridge-building, and more than 30 organizations specifically have combatting hate in their mission. After revealing that fact, another poll asked BJF directors, “Were you aware of the number of organizations dedicated to promoting civil and just society in Greater Buffalo?” More than 40% of people were not aware of the 60+ organizations working to promote civil and just society. This was consistent with other reasoning and proof there is much work to do to promote community relations.

## Room to Connect

Community leaders interviewed for the report noted that while there is a great number of organizations addressing hate, the vast majority of people outside organizations are not always aware of the bridge-building work. Moreover, community leaders observe that because many individuals do not engage

with community development or anti-hate work, they do not see the work that their communities do together with others.

Reverend Denise Walden of *VOICE Buffalo* shared that “Most hate comes from a place of ignorance and not understanding other folks and where they are coming from.”

To shatter community prejudices, community leaders believe they need to make their inter-community relationships more visible and work more consistently with community partners. This will ensure community members understand the scope of their communities’ relationships with others and how valuable they are to achieving social justice and a better shared society for all. “The more that they see the partnership, the more that it will become part of the norm so it is not

so unusual,” said Rene Petties-Jones, President of the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY. “We do not have to work in silos; we can work together.”



While there are many take-aways from the report, Raquel shared an inspirational quote about building change that seemed to sum it all up:

**“Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”**

– Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (z”l)

Mara Koven Gelman is the Director of The Jewish Community Relations Council. For questions about the report or to receive a copy, please email Mara ([Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org).)

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BUFFALO JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL



# JCRC Around the Community

Deborah Goldman, chair of JCRC joined many community partners to offer greetings in celebration of noted non-violent activist and leader, Mahatma Gandhi. JCRC was invited by Siby Nair, a leader of the Council of Heritage and Arts of India (CHAI).



JCRC Chair Deborah Goldman with Siby Nair, leader of CHAI (left), and Rene Petties Jones, CEO of NFJC of WNY (right)

JCRC was honored to join with many faith leaders to celebrate the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding at an interfaith service held at First Congregation United Church of Christ. Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein spoke on behalf of the Jewish Community, offering wisdom from Rabbi Nachman of Breslov in addressing mental health challenges and stigmas: “Kol Ha’Olam Kulo - The whole entire world is a very narrow bridge and the main thing is to have no fear at all.”



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein (bottom right) was joined by a number of community friends, including Beatrice Singh Arnone (top left), Rev. Craig Pridgen (top right), and Rev. Mark Breeze (bottom left).

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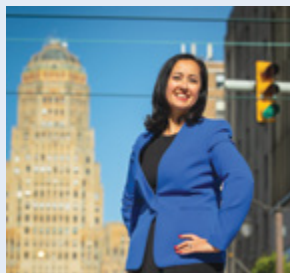


# Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to these six community members who have been recognized for their commitment to the Western New York community.

## Hadar Borden

**Buffalo Business First's 2021 Women of Influence: Community Supporter- Award**



**Hadar Borden**

Hadar Borden is Director of the Blackstone Launchpad and WNY Prosperity Fellowship Program of University of Buffalo. The Women of Influence award recognizes some of Western New York's outstanding women in business, and in particular, the Community Supporter Award recognizes women who go beyond the call to devote time, energy and resources to support their community.

Born in Israel and raised in Rochester, Hadar works at UB where she has helped to grow leaders for WNY through her position as Director of UB's Blackstone Launchpad, which is training young entrepreneurs, and her leadership of the WNY Prosperity Fellowship, also at UB. It currently provides students, alumni, faculty and staff with individualized mentorship and ideation support, as well as seminars and training sessions related to starting and growing a business.

Hadar currently is a member of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors, Amherst Industrial Development Agency and Amherst Development Corp., as well as Secretary of the Tool Library board.

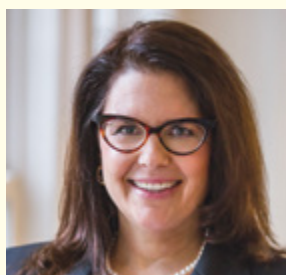
## Judge Brenda Freedman

**Liberty Bell Award from the Bar Association of Erie County**

Elected to the bench in 2016, Hon. Brenda M. Freedman is a New York State, Erie County Family Court Judge who handles virtually all the Juvenile Delinquency and Persons in Need of Supervision ["PINS"] matters in Erie County. Her Liberty Bell Award recognizes community service that has strengthened the American system of freedom under the law.

Judge Freedman was appointed lead judge in the eight counties the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to implement New York's Raise the Age legislation, including responsibilities for judicial and attorney training. Most recently, Judge Freedman launched a Youth in Gangs Prevention Task Force to address some of the most serious activities of our youth.

She is currently a member of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors, a member of the Minority Bar Association, a delegate to the Federation of the Italian-American Societies of WNY, Italian American Police Association, NYS Bar Association, Bar Association of Erie County, Women's Bar Association of Western New York and the Community Foundation's Juvenile Justice Works committee.



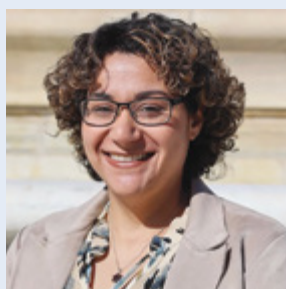
**Judge Brenda Freedman**

## Samantha White

**The Minority Bar Foundation 2021 Legal Service Award**

Samantha White is a Staff Attorney in the Criminal Defense Unit of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. She is one of three attorneys co-chairing the Minority Bar Association of WNY's Criminal Justice Reform Task Force which has addressed head-on many important issues facing our community. The Task Force is responsible for drafting and advocating current legislation, reviewing practices of the police force and any issue within the scope of criminal justice reform.

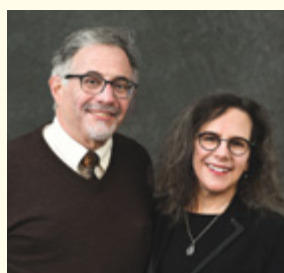
Samantha is a member of Temple Beth Zion and serves on the Jewish Community Relations Council and its Racial Justice Sub-Committee. She also serves on several boards including the UB Institutional Review Board, Minority Bar Association of WNY, Neighborhood Legal Services and Gardens Buffalo Niagara, where she co-chairs the East Side Garden Walk.



**Samantha White**

## Dr. Grant Golden and Deborah Goldman

**National Federation of Just Communities Community Legacy Award**



**Dr. Grant Golden and Deborah Goldman**

Dr. Grant Golden has been practicing Radiology in Buffalo since 1981, for the past 20 years, with Seton Imaging. He has written the scores (and some of the books) for several locally produced musicals. He created the Old Chestnut Film Society and ran it for more than 35 years. He is the volunteer Dramatic Reader at the St Joseph University School, and presently serves on the board of Congregation Beth Abraham.

Deborah Goldman is the chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and is a member of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors. She served as Planned Parenthood of Western and Central New York Board Chair, and in numerous volunteer leadership roles in the Jewish and general Buffalo Community. After serving in local government, Deborah is currently a consultant for behavioral health agencies, counties,

and not-for-profits across New York State.

For a number of years, Goldman and Golden, with the assistance of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, have supported the Massachusetts Avenue Project Mobile Market, the Buffalo Museum of Science Neighborhood Pass, the Erie County Public Library for in-city programming and for their ongoing exhibition: "B is for Book", Buffalo Zoo memberships for families in low-income zip codes, Planned Parenthood of CWNY for clinic renovations, Say Yes for summer programming, and support for theaters and other arts venues, to facilitate programming during the pandemic.

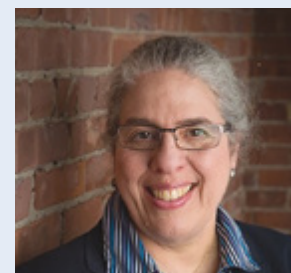
## Samantha White and Anna Marie Richmond

**Bar Association of Erie County Liberty Bell Award**

The Minority Bar Association of WNY Criminal Justice Reform Task force was honored as a whole by the Bar Association of Erie County (BAEC) with the 2021 Liberty Bell Award, the highest honor given at the BAEC Law Day Awards. This honor was shared among a dozen task force members including Samantha White and Anna Marie Richmond.

Since its inception in June of 2020, the Task Force has worked tirelessly to encourage community-based policing through recommendations that have generated results: such as advocating for the passage of Carol's Law; restoring the display of name tags and badge numbers on BPD officers' uniforms and more.

Attorney Anna Marie Richmond is a solo practitioner whose practice is focused on civil rights litigation on behalf of plaintiffs. She has served on Temple Beth Zion's Board, and has chaired numerous Temple committees. She has served as Chair of the BAEC's Federal Practice and Continuing Legal Education Committees and is active on the Federal Practice Committee, the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Human Rights Committee, and the Labor and Employment Committee. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York recognized her service as appointed counsel on behalf of indigent plaintiffs with its annual *Pro Bono* award in 1999 and 2006. She received an award from the ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project in 2019 for her service to the Federal Court's *Pro Se* Assistance Program. In 2020, she received a Special Service Award from the Bar Association of Erie County, and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York honored her with the Hanna S. Cohn *Pro Bono* Award. Ms. Richmond has been recognized by Super Lawyers of Upstate New York in 2019, 2020, and 2021.



**Anne Marie Richmond**



# Hanukkah and Christmas: More than Calendar Closeness

BY RABBI ALAN PODET

**Hanukkah and Christmas seem linked by more than calendar closeness. Both are originally observances of solemn events. For Jews it means the restoration of the Jewish commonwealth and the defeat of pagan oppressive forces, all symbolized in the rededication of the Temple. For many Christians, it means the birth of their Savior, the son of God coming to redeem humankind.**

Somehow these solemn and pious thoughts have devolved for many into parallel festivals of joy and overeating, wonderful parties that often revolve around children, and colorful celebrations. Not to mention parallel gifts to merchants, salespeople, mass entertainment industries, ministers and rabbis, and anyone ready for a celebration



to break the pall of winter cloudiness and cold. Hanukkah has been slow to capitalize on this boon, but is rapidly catching up.

Our historians point out that long before either Hanukkah or Christmas were associated with actual historical events in actual historical nations, the Hanumas/Chrisnukkah period of celebration was firmly established in cultures from Babylonia through ancient Greece and Rome to celebrate national gods and heroes, actual or mythical, with parties, lots of eating and drinking, especially of distilled beverages. Among the ancients, such observances in time were transmogrified into sacred rites, leading to public rituals that had no trouble attracting many devotees pursuing religious enlightenment.

This process of renaming and reinterpreting special days in order to keep the holiday is in most modern religions. It is called syncretism, and so long as we sometimes remember the religious history of the day, there is nothing wrong with it. It is true that after Irving Berlin redefined Christmas as a winter weather observance and various Jewish sources, particularly some religious schools and eager parents, redefined Hanukkah as gift giving and party time—two good examples of syncretism—the historic meanings were regrettably lost for many. I do not regret that or view it with alarm. That is how religions keep up with changing times.

So however you observe the festival, may God bless you and keep you and your family safe.

*Dr. Podet is Rabbi of Congregation Hesed Abraham of Jamestown, NY. You can reach him at apodet@yahoo.com.*

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## Buffalo Hadassah Featured Judge Rodwin

Buffalo Hadassah was pleased to present a special program last month with recently retired Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin. The Judge addressed Family Violence and Family Court during COVID. Throughout her career, Judge Rodwin has worked tirelessly as an advocate for children and families in need. She directed a collaborative with the Department of Social Services which focused on the reduction of minority children placed in foster care and was the founder of NY State's first Domestic Violence Bureau outside of New York City. She has appeared on national television as a domestic violence expert and has received numerous awards for her leadership roles and in her many successful efforts to keep children safe and to prosecute abusers.

Although she has officially retired from her position as Family Court Judge, Judge Rodwin continues to be involved in helping others in many ways including her active participation in Dignity Grows™, a Women's Philanthropy program which supplies hygiene products for those in need (Read more about Dignity Grows™ on page 8.)

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This month we are excited to highlight one of the most notable innovations that comes from the Western Galilee, *Beewise*, a start-up company on Kibbutz Beit HaEmek. Saar Safra, CEO, along with four other founders, developed the world's first robotic beehive. The survival of bees is essential to the world's food chain, as at least 30% of all vegetables, fruits, seeds, and nuts are pollinated by bees. There has been a dramatic decrease in the bee population with up to 35% of the world's bees dying each year. Companies like *Beewise* are working hard to save bees from extinction.



Each robotic beehive is a large solar-powered rechargeable container made up of 6000 tiny cells where up to 2 million bees can store honey. A movable arm in the center of the beehive uses artificial intelligence to continuously care for the bees without human intervention. For example, the robot regulates temperature and humidity, and treats bees against infections. The robot can also extract honey from the hive, and prevents Colony Collapse Disorder, a condition in which bee colonies fail and bees suddenly die. Interestingly, a magnetic structure in the abdomen of a bee helps with navigation. Some scientists speculate that Wi-Fi may cause bees to become disoriented.

*Beewise* has raised 40 million dollars to date and recently expanded to California. Over time, the founders of *Beewise* are hopeful that the cost of their product will come down so that smaller beekeepers and hobbyists can also benefit, and help avert the fate of the honeybee.

*For more information or any questions about Partnership, please contact Mandy Weiss at [mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org) and for more information about Beewise, visit <https://www.beewise.ag/>.*



## HANUKKAH CONCERT

*Starring Guy Mintus*

Join the JCC in partnership with Temple Beth Zion to see Israeli pianist, composer, vocalist, and educator. Guy has the energy of a rock star and a jazz musician's sense of adventure who's unafraid to throw into the mix his native middle-eastern scales and rhythms.



**Sunday, November 28 | 1:00 pm**  
**Temple Beth Zion Sanctuary**

**Tickets \$8 each | Family \$18**



**Jewish Community Center  
of Greater Buffalo**

### Upcoming P2G programs:

**Sunday, November 7th @ 1 p.m.**

**Global Day of Jewish Learning** – The Bonds Between Us. Enjoy a theater workshop with live actors, dealing with the Bonds Between Us, as Jews who live in different parts of the world.

**Sunday, November 21st @ 1 p.m.**

**P2G Book Club**—About Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel "The Slave".  
*For more information, visit <https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/>*



# Big data can help us build flourishing Jewish communities

BY RUTH RASKAS

The following story by Ruth Raskas, Chief Impact and Growth Officer of The Jewish Federations of North America, recently appeared in eJewishPhilanthropy. It highlights Federations' strategy to collect and analyze data to help build flourishing Jewish communities. Buffalo's Federation has been a part of an exciting pilot called "Project Kinneret" that Ruth is leading and notes in the article. **For more information on this effort, email Rob Goldberg (rob@buffalojewishfederation.org).**



When Eric Fingerhut asked me to join his leadership team at JFNA [The Jewish Federations of North America] his message was clear: we should bring more private sector practice into the federation community, and we need to partner with local communities to achieve this. After spending many years working at a Fortune 50 company, I had brought innovation including health technology into local markets across the country; I had worked closely with engineers and data scientists on big data that was foundational for market growth and was excited about the opportunity to bring my experience to the Jewish community. When I joined JFNA as Chief Impact and Growth Officer at the end of 2020, I was warned that I faced an uphill battle: individual communities might be hesitant to work together on data and this is an area where success has been hard to come by. However, I found a different reality: a group of federation executives who were eager to partner to use data, learn from its insights and energized by a multi city partnership that could advance work locally.

We started with a Data Coalition (Project Kinneret) that is a proof of concept [POC], and is a national/local partnership. As we gather de-identified

data from Boston, Atlanta, Memphis, Buffalo and Houston we are building a denominator, using data that represents more than a half-million Jews and more than \$100 million in philanthropy. We are looking at changes in donors, gift sizes, transformation of donors over time, and we are mapping connections to programs so we can better understand and engage individual market customers. The federation executives are co-designing this work – helping to identify trends in our communities that perhaps not surprisingly exist in communities of different sizes and in different areas. We are aggregating this together in technology with an excellent user experience that will enable local markets to both enhance their own data story and understand it in the context of a broader community. All of this is with a goal to drive action – enable local communities to better perform their work and enhance how they serve their local customer base.

And this is the beginning ... there are so many questions to answer – How do we use data to better engage our customers? How should we shift business practice from the data we are seeing? What are the data points for a flourishing community?

## Three learnings from our POC:

**Leaders enable transformation:** The first cohort of the data coalition (Project Kinneret) includes an outstanding group of thoughtful innovators – Marc Baker (Boston), Rob Goldberg (Buffalo), Laura Linder (Memphis), Eric Robbins (Atlanta) and Kari Saratovsky (Houston). This professional leadership is accompanied by an outstanding lay group (Impact and Growth Council), led by Neil Wallack, whose deep expertise in the business and tech world and background as both a local Boston leader and national Jewish leader is shaping this work.

**JFNA is uniquely positioned to take on the project:** We have the ability to: (a) collect data from a broad variety of communities; (b) aggregate that information in a large data lake (Kinneret); (c) organize and normalize that data; (d) derive insights through AI-driven analysis, and (e) share those insights back into the system.

**We need to build our tech talent and capabilities:** We have started hiring from the tech community, but as we build more products to serve the Jewish community we need to expand our professional skills to include more data science, engineering and product management. We have introduced new technology for this project but we need to modernize our digital strategy and tech platforms to build this work. **And if you have expertise in this area and want to join us on this transformative journey, please contact me, ruth.raskas@jewishfederations.org).**

Big Data is a big project, but it's a path through which we can better know our community to improve how we serve it. As the use of technology and data grows across industries, we have a significant opportunity to expand how we use these tools. And, the trends we are learning about living, engaging and giving will help us as we create community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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# Legacy Giving is Meaningful and Enduring



BY LORNE STEINHART

Creating a personal legacy through a planned gift with the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies provides individuals and families with an opportunity to establish permanently endowed funds that provide long-term viability of beneficiary not-for-profit organizations and causes in planful and tax-efficient ways.

To illustrate, in late 2000, Ms. Sara R. Kasnachev passed away. Prior to her death, Sara and her professional advisors worked with the Foundation to create a permanent legacy. She wanted to continue to make a difference in the world well beyond her lifetime.

Sara bequeathed a portion of her real and personal property estate to the Foundation



Lorne Steinhart

to establish The Kasnachev Family Fund that is comprised of two components.

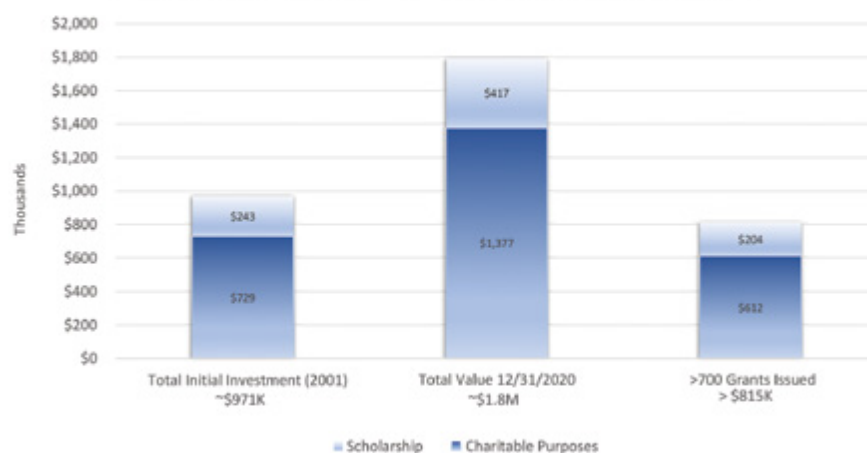
The first, a restricted academic scholarship fund in which 25% of the income derived from her bequest is used annually to provide scholarship assistance for undergraduate education for Jewish students through the Foundation's Academic Scholarship and Financial Assistance program.

The second, a permanently restricted endowment fund wherein the remaining 75% of the income is used annually to disburse grants to not-for-profit organizations for charitable purposes based on the recommendations of Ms. Kasnachev's donor advisors.

The accompanying graph illustrates the time value and impact of prudently investing for the benefit of designated beneficiary organizations, and impacting individuals and families who rely on the organizations' services. All occur in a strategically planned, well implemented and tax-efficient manner.

her." Another of Sara's advisors remarked, "Collaborating with the Foundation, we were able to arrange a full spectrum of lasting giving for Sara." He continued, "more than 20 years ago, we worked with the Foundation. Sara was actively involved with establishing her fund based on her interests and desires for legacy giving, and now the funds' values are greater than the amounts they were when established while more than 700 grant disbursements have occurred to nearly 100 charitable organizations. Most importantly, thousands of individuals' and families' lives have been positively impacted in profound ways."

## Impact of Endowment - Kasnachev Family Fund



"Planned giving gave Sara great fulfillment," one of her donor advisors explained. "In addition to leaving bequests to her loved ones, she was able to give something that grows in value to charitable organizations and causes – thereby assisting and strengthening individuals, families and communities – that meant so much to

To learn about the Foundation's products and services for planned giving – especially through the Life & Legacy® initiative – call Irv Levy or Lorne Steinhart at 716.204.1133.

Lorne Steinhart is the Senior Manager of Client Relations at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

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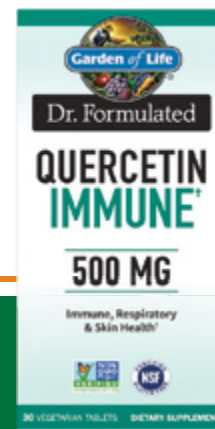
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**“As my forefathers  
planted these carob trees  
for me so I too plant  
these for my children.”**  
– Talmud (Ta’anis 23b)

**Total legacy commitments  
received: 41**  
**Total dollar amount:**  
**\$2,690,000**  
\*through September 30, 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](mailto:legacy@jewishphilanthropies.org) or 716-463-5065.**

## ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

# THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

This month, we are pleased to highlight the Center for Jewish Life, one of the collaborating partner organizations in the LIFE & LEGACY @ Buffalo initiative.

The Center for Jewish Life (CJL) helps satisfy every Jew’s spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. When an individual is hungry, they are there with Kosher Meals on Wheels and the Kosher Food Pantry. When a senior feels isolated, alone, and afraid, they are there with their Congregant Dining Program. When a parent needs help, they are there with their Daycare Program. When a Jew is sick, they are there to visit them in the hospital or nursing home. When a Jew would like to celebrate a holiday or Shabbat, they are there distributing food and holiday items in boxes.

The Center for Jewish Life actively seeks out the lonely, forgotten Jews who struggle with poverty, fear, depression, and isolation. Deeply rooted in the belief that all Jews deserve to be treated with kindness, compassion, dignity and respect, and that we have a responsibility to make the world a spiritually better and safer place for all, they bring community and Judaism to



them, wherever they are. The CJL is a safe place where community members who have real unmet needs can reach out for help and receive it wholeheartedly.

**For any questions about the Center for Jewish Life, please contact Rabbi Laizer Labkovski at [laizerl@gmail.com](mailto:laizerl@gmail.com).**

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

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

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Legacy is what you leave for your loved ones, causes you believe in and your community. A legacy gift to the Jewish community is one that will make a permanent difference to Jewish life after your death.

Your legacy gift becomes a permanent extension of your values and visions by perpetuating those organizations, synagogues and/or programs that you recognize are important to the Buffalo Jewish community.

**Learn more about Life & Legacy® by visiting [jewishphilanthropies.org/life-and-legacy](http://jewishphilanthropies.org/life-and-legacy)**

**BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION**

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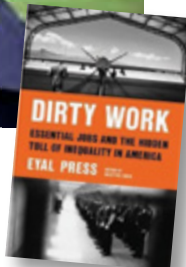


# JCC People of the Book Continues

Continuing in November, the Jewish Community Center is excited to welcome authors Eyal Press and Dr. Howard Wolf as part of the People of the Book Series.



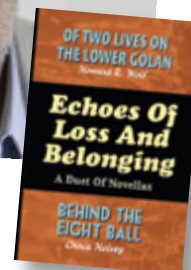
Buffalo native **Eyal Press** is an author and journalist based in New York. The recipient of the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, and Andrew Carnegie fellowship, a Cullman Center fellowship at the New York Public library, and a Puffin Foundation fellowship at Type Media Center, he is a contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*,



and numerous other publications. He is the author of *Beautiful Souls*, *Absolute Convictions*, and the newly released *Dirty Work*, which he will discuss at his virtual author event Thursday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m.

In *Dirty Work*, Press offers a paradigm-shifting view of the moral landscape of contemporary America through the stories of people who perform society's most ethically troubling jobs. As Press shows, we are increasingly shielded and distanced from an array of morally questionable activities that other, less privileged people perform in our name.

The series shifts to an in-person event at the JCC Benderson Family Building with **Dr. Howard Wolf** presenting his newest novella, *Of Two Lives on The Lower Golan*, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. The event will include a book signing and light reception.



Dr. Wolf attended the Horace Mann School in New York City before attending Amherst College, where he earned a B.A. He then went to Columbia, earning his master's and The University of Michigan for his Ph.D. He was a full-time professor at the University at Buffalo's English department for 40 years, from 1967 to 2007. Wolf has lectured throughout the world as an Americanist, creative writer, and literary journalist. One of Buffalo's few Jewish American writers of fiction,

Wolf is widely published, pursuing an interest in personality in memoir form (*Forgive the Father*), the novel (*Broadway Serenade*), drama (*Home at the End of the Day*), and short fiction.

*Of Two Lives on The Lower Golan* is the story of a wondering Jewish American grandfather's journey to Israel. He wants to maintain a close relationship between his daughter—who has made Israel her home now—and her family, especially her firstborn son, David, whom the grandfather helped raise in America when Miriam's first marriage failed. Wolf's novella takes the reader on a miniature epic journey through some of the complexities of life in contemporary Israel—religious orthodoxy, constant apprehension about war with neighboring states, Palestinian rights—without making a political case.

**Registration is required. For more information, visit <https://www.jccbuffalo.org/arts-culture/people-of-the-book/> or contact Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).**

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## New Exhibit by Eta Rottenberg Opens at JCC

Local artist, Eta Rottenberg, will exhibit her multimedia art, *The American Dream & Architectural Studies*, starting November 6 - December 30 at the Levy and Daniel Families Art Gallery at the JCC Holland Family Building, 787 Delaware Ave. Rottenberg graduated with a B.A. in Design from University at Buffalo and studied painting and graphic design at the School of Visual Arts and the Arts Students League in NYC.



The first part of the exhibit, "The American Dream," was inspired by a recent discovery of old family slides the artist's father took between 1950 and 1975. These slides also include images of her parent's visit to Israel and other countries during in the 1950s. Eta transferred these images to canvas. From there, she enhanced certain parts of the pictures by colorizing them with acrylic and watercolor paints. "Through the

transfer process, parts of the images rubbed off, creating a distressed or tarnished appearance." "The American Dream" refers to the artist's father's journey to the United States after World War II. "I realized there was a story behind these images," Eta explained. "My father's journey to America was challenging, yet he persisted and eventually made a new life here. These images reflect a different time and the continuing pursuit of a better life for immigrants and refugees."

The second part of the exhibit, "Architectural Studies," is inspired by the historic and iconic buildings in Buffalo, NY. Like her previous work, Eta has created images reflecting her interest in Buffalo architecture and history.

On Sunday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m., a complimentary reception open to all community members will be held in the Levy and Daniel Families Art Gallery. Participants are invited to tour the gallery, meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments. Additionally, the gallery is free and open to visitors during the JCC business hours. Artwork is for sale, with a portion of sales supporting the JCC Cultural Arts programs.



## Eclectic Israeli Pianist Kicks Off Hanukkah, Sunday 11/28



In partnership with Temple Beth Zion, the Jewish Community Center is excited to kick off the eight days of Hanukkah with a celebratory concert starring Israeli pianist, composer, vocalist, and educator Guy Mintus.

Coming from a mixed heritage of Iraqi, Moroccan and Polish Jews, Guy's music is a meeting point between different rivers of inspiration flowing freely into each other. *The New York Times* said 27 year-old Mintus pours together a mixed brew of influences "...with such ebullient grace that you'd think they all originated in the very same place."

Guy's awards include the "Leonard Bernstein Award" by ASCAP and the Bernstein Family Foundation, and the *Prix du Public* at the Montreux Jazz Festival's solo piano competition. His debut record, "A Home in Between," has been selected as *DownBeat Magazine's* Editor's Pick. His sophomore release, "Connecting the Dots," has been celebrated in concerts throughout the US, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Israel, Turkey, and Kazakhstan. Including a New York CD release concert recommended by *The New York Times*.

The concert will take place in the Temple Beth Zion Sanctuary at 805 Delaware Ave, on Sunday, November 28, the first day of Hanukkah, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Check-in will begin at 12:30 p.m. **Tickets can be purchased on the JCC website at [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org).** Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test will be required, and all participants must wear masks. A special Thank You to miriam treger-honig and Howard Hanna Real Estate Services for their support as a Community Sponsor.

## Celebrating at KOT

The Kehillat Ohr Tzion (KOT) family was happy to celebrate the Simcha Bat of Serafina Nicole Fried on October 3rd with her grandparents as well as many other family members and friends. Each grandparent shared a heartfelt message and Serafina's parents, Zahava and Yachov, spoke beautifully about how they chose Serafina's name. Singing and a delicious buffet luncheon followed.

KOT also celebrated Sukkot at Rabbi Ori and Nora Bergman's house on a beautiful sunny Sunday last month. While



The Fried Family at Serafina's naming



Celebrating Sukkot at the Bergman's

the adults mingled, the children happily played and enjoyed all the activities set up in their yard. Rabbi Bergman was busy at the grill preparing hamburgers and hot dogs as well as vegetarian options. People also visited the Bergman's sukkah and were grateful that this year they were once again able to celebrate the festive holiday of Sukkot together.

While Rabbi Bergman enjoys barbecuing, what he really likes doing is talking to people, getting to know them and sharing his love for Judaism. He is teaching a variety of classes this fall including Hebrew, Midrash and more through KOT and LiNK Jewish Buffalo (formerly CJEL). **For more information about classes, services or activities at KOT email [oribergman@gmail.com](mailto:oribergman@gmail.com)**



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# JFS Prepares for Afghan Evacuee Arrivals



BY VILONA TRACHTENBERG

In August, the Biden administration announced a firm and final withdrawal of the remaining 2,500 US troops from Afghanistan. After 20 years, they believed that the Afghan government and military forces could sustain a stable country, however the reality proved otherwise as the government and its military quickly fell to the



Peter Scott, Vice President of Programs at Jewish Family Services

The funds generated will support housing, food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare. Additionally, JFS will be able to support individuals and families with trauma counseling, as there is an expected need based on the ordeal that many of the evacuees have experienced.

Peter Scott, Vice President of Programs at JFS, was proud to share that the agency sent three staff members to work at US military bases in Texas and Virginia for up to five weeks. These bases are where evacuees arrive, are processed, and then stay until they are relocated to their resettlement destination across the country. "When presented with the opportunity to send staff to support this effort, our agency felt it was important to be present and to support the needs of the Afghan evacuees," Scott said.

JFS is also nationally partnered with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), an organization that works with the US Department of State for refugee resettlement. HIAS approached JFS to partner specifically with Afghan evacuees to help resettle them in Buffalo. Scott and his team knew they'd be able to help and were eager to be part of the process, even though that brought on some new challenges, including how to manage the volume of incoming evacuees while maintaining their high-level of professional services.

The collective is working toward the end goal of resettling 350 Afghan evacuees in Buffalo before the end of March 2022. Once the evacuees arrive in Buffalo, they will be provided with the funding necessary to ensure that each individual has what they need to begin their new life. "Crises like [these] are why we [do what we do]," Scott said. "The challenge is great, but because of our incredible WNY community, and the commitment of our partners, we're meeting the challenge."

**To learn more about JFS' Refugee Services, visit [jfswny.org](http://jfswny.org). To learn more or support Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees, visit [wnyrac.org](http://wnyrac.org).**

*Vilona Trachtenberg works in distribution 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.*

**Taliban within days. The result was a hasty, confusing, and dangerous evacuation of not only US citizens, but of all those Afghans who assisted the US government for the last 20 years, including their families and others who feared persecution and death. Ultimately, more than 125,000 people were evacuated.**

When it was made known that tens of thousands of Afghan evacuees would arrive to the United States, the federal government also let it be known that it would not provide the same level of financial support and services it does with traditional refugees. Evacuees would be processed into the country with a one-time financial support of less than \$1,500 per person. In addition, an evacuee would not qualify to seek employment authorizations for up to six months.

To address an anticipated fall arrival of evacuees to Buffalo, an approved resettlement community, Jewish Family Services of WNY and four additional local refugee agencies have collaborated together to raise the funds necessary to sustain close to 350 new arrivals for several months. With a goal of \$750,000, the group officially launched **Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees** on September 2.

**The Jewish community, led by The Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, is providing a dollar for dollar match to those who wish to contribute to this effort. To make a gift today, go to: [tnaforms.com/4937803](http://tnaforms.com/4937803).**

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# UB Students Share High Holy Day Reflections about Jewish Identity

What does it mean to you to be Jewish? This is the question we pose each year to three students involved with Hillel of Buffalo. We ask them to share their responses in a brief speech delivered to the community during Yom Kippur morning services. This year's students shared beautiful reflections about their Jewish lives before college, what Judaism has meant during the pandemic, and the impact of their college experiences on their Jewish identity.

## Sam Sommers-Thaler UB '22, Biomedical Engineering

For a while I was trying to find the best way to keep a connection to Judaism during college. So, last spring, I threw together some tables in my living room, put on a cheap tablecloth, and scraped together a seder plate. I invited all of my friends, most of whom are not Jewish, and they all came with food and dressed to impress. I was worried that they would think that Passover was lame, but they all bought in 100%, even to the goofy parts. For example, after I explained the premise of the afikoman search, they proceeded to tear apart my kitchen and living room until the matzah was found. They all enjoyed it so much that they are asking me to do it again this year, so I guess I've got a brand-new tradition.

## Sari Arrow UB '23, Psychology

While I have developed professional skills through my involvement as a leader in Hillel, being part of Hillel and



Hillel students participating in Taschlich at UB this past Rosh Hashanah

the Jewish community has given me so much more. Here, I have met some of my best friends. These relationships are unlike any other that I have ever had. It is such a good feeling to know that there is a place to go, where I know that people will be there to listen and help me on my hardest days and be there to celebrate when something amazing happens. I am not just saying that to be sappy. I really mean it because I have been there. College isn't easy and it is an emotional rollercoaster. When I am somewhere so far away from my family on Long Island and I don't know where to turn, Hillel has and will always be there for me. I know that the people that I have met through our beautiful circle here at UB will be lifelong friends.

So, what does being Jewish mean to me? Well, it is all about community; being a part of a supportive community that will push you to be the best version of yourself. A community that will help you find your passion and become a leader. A place to go when you aren't

sure of who you are and what you want to be. Even when I am many miles away from my actual home, being a member of the Jewish community at UB is another place that I like to call my home.

## Galia Wechsler UB '23, History

Growing up my family always observed Shabbat. It came around every week and we marked it as a different day than the rest of the week, through meals with guests, some extra reading time and some time to generally disconnect. Shabbat always came as a blessing in disguise- it may have sometimes been inconvenient to shut off for 25 hours or miss out on social events happening on Saturday, but it forced me to take the time for myself, rest, and enjoy the day. When COVID hit, all that stuff went away. There was no more social calendar and the only thing Shabbat took away was baking sourdough. Every day started to blend together as we lost track of how many days we'd gone without leaving the house. Shabbat was the only thing that remained somewhat the same. I could read or go on a walk or take a really long nap just like I always spent my Saturdays doing. When lighting candles on Friday night I was sure what day it was. In the blur that was those first few months of cover, Shabbat is what anchored my weeks. In a time where everything felt the same, it made me appreciate having one day that was different by design. And it made me appreciate that Judaism gives us things like Shabbat.

# Talking Turkey at CSS and TBZ

Fall is in the air and thoughts turn once again to the annual Turkey Basket Project, an ecumenical project under the leadership of North Presbyterian Church in partnership between Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Zion.

Every year, the project receives more requests for help from different agencies around the area. Last year, the project supported 13 agencies and distributed 475 dinner baskets allowing families to have dinner in their own homes and not have to go to a shelter. Each family receives a frozen turkey, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, stuffing mix, brownie mix as well as fresh potatoes and fresh bread. The greatest need for the project is funds to enable the purchase of turkeys. Please consider a contribution to help support this effort. **Checks should be made out to North Presbyterian Church and mailed to Sharron Frommann at 18 Palmdale Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221. Please send your contributions by November 15th. Gift cards to Tops and/or Wegmans would also be appreciated. If you have questions or concerns contact Sharron at: mommafro457@gmail.com.**



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## Hanukkah Sameach from the Kadimah Scholars at Park



Hanukkah is the time when the Jewish people celebrate the miracle of a tiny amount of oil lasting for eight nights and then our rededication of the Temple after the victory of the Maccabees. We light the candles of the menorah each night and display them in our windows, as an outward expression of celebration and love for our faith and heritage. They serve as a reminder that when the Jewish community stands strong, together as a people, there is nothing that cannot be overcome. This is, at its core, the very mission of the



Kadimah Scholars at Park program – to instill a love for Judaism, for our heritage and traditions, for the Jewish people, and for the land of Israel.

We hope this season brings you peace, blessings, and a reminder of what it means to be proudly Jewish.

## Fall Programming with Temple Beth Tzedek

In addition to Temple Beth Tzedek's ongoing in-person services, the congregation offers a range of digital classes in November.

Of special note, the community is invited to join a **Made in Buffalo** event in partnership with the Buffalo Jewish Federation, the Buffalo History Museum and the Buffalo Presidential Center featuring author Gary Ginsberg November 2 at 7:00 p.m. A native son of Buffalo and TBT's predecessor congregation, Temple Shaarey Zedek, we all are excited to welcome him back to his hometown congregation! **Learn more about this special event at <http://bit.ly/firstfriends716> and see the story on page 5.**

### Riding for a Cause

Mitch Flynn, creator of the Ride for Roswell, the nation's largest charity bike ride, will discuss how the Ride for Roswell survived the pandemic and other historical facts. The Ride for Roswell is a communal cause that has raised millions of dollars for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center since its first ride in the summer of 1996. **Please join Mitch for his virtual presentation on November 4 at 8:00 p.m. by registering via the TBT website.**



Mitch Flynn, creator of the Ride for Roswell

6:15 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at TBT thru December 14.

### Adult Education – Online Jewish Learning

Rabbi Rosenbaum launched his fall Torah classes in October, which continue in November. These classes include:

**“Crossroads of Conservative Judaism”** – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., thru November 17 – An exploration of North American Judaism's Conservative Movement, its history, and challenges. Does its longtime mantra of “tradition and change” still work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

**“Pscintillating Psalms in Services”** – Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. – Exploring the majestic poetry and timelessness of the sacred messages of the Book of Psalms.

**“A Touch of Bavli: Lunchtime Talmud”** – Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. – Study the seventh chapter of the tractate of Berakhot, including the guidelines for the Birkat HaMazon, the Grace After Meals.

**Please visit <https://www.btzbuffalo.org/> to sign up.**

### Binah: Supplemental Education for Our Youth

Students in the Community Religious School and beyond in Kindergarten thru Sixth Grade are invited to Binah, a supplemental Jewish learning experience sponsored by Temple Beth Tzedek and co-taught by Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum and Zahava Fried. The program's fall session is from 4:45-

### Tot Shabbat and Junior Congregation

TBT is proud to expand our youth Shabbat services offerings. We will be hosting Tot Shabbat on the mornings of November 6 and 20 as well as Junior Congregation on November 6, 13, and 20. Both youth services begin at 10:30 a.m. There also will be a Pre-USY program, please contact TBT for the specific date.



Binah: Supplemental Education for Our Youth

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**RSVPs & Questions:**

**[rabbiamjrosenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiamjrosenbaum@gmail.com)**





# Walk Off Hunger Returns to CSS

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Walk Off Hunger returned this year to the site of the first walk—Congregation Shir Shalom (CSS). CSS was one of several meet-up locations for this year's walk, which was split into multiple locations instead of one large event due to COVID precautions.

Dozens of CSS members gathered at the temple on October 2 for the Walk, which benefits FeedMore WNY. Among them was Gail Kushner, whose late husband Ralph founded the Food Bank of WNY. And it wouldn't be Walk Off Hunger without Jennie Pohl, the all-time leading pledge producer for the walk. At age 101, Jennie led the walkers out of the temple parking lot. Since the former Temple Beth Am founded Walk Off Hunger in 2008, it has raised enough money to provide nearly five million meals for Western New Yorkers.



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# Hanukkah Happenings

Below are all the Hanukkah events in Buffalo as we went to press this month. Please check with your agency or synagogue for Hanukkah events, dates and times.

## November 21

### Center for Jewish Life

Kosher Mini Chefs - Pre Hanukkah  
4:00- 4:45 p.m.  
757 Hopkins Rd. in Williamsville

## November 28

### JCC & TBZ Present A Hanukkah Concert with Guy Mintus

1:00 p.m.  
805 Delaware Avenue  
\$8 single tickets, \$18 family ticket

### Center for Jewish Life Community Hanukkah Party

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
757 Hopkins Rd. in Williamsville

### Chabad Grand Menorah Lighting

5:00 p.m.  
Tops International Parking Lot  
• Latkes, donuts, kid's prizes and more

For more information, call 716-688-1642

## December 1

### Hillel of Buffalo

Sufganiyot Social  
12:00 noon  
UB Commons, Suite 101 B

### Jewish Discovery Center Outdoor Hanukkah Celebration

Drive through and enjoy treats and festivities in your car  
6:00 p.m.

831 Maple Road  
Questions? Call Rabbi Yehoshua Greenberg 716-400-1550,  
[Jewishdiscovery.org](http://Jewishdiscovery.org)

## December 2

### Hanukkah Fifth Night

## December 3

### Congregation Shir Shalom

Buffalo Billikah Hanukkah  
7:00 p.m.

4660 Sheridan Drive  
• Communal Menorah Lighting  
• Consecration of our new Religious School students  
• Latke Boxes to Go - Sing your favorite Hanukkah songs  
• Buffalo Bills Menorah Contest -Fifth Night Gift Giving Tzedakah  
RSVP by 11/29/21 to Joanne Marquisee at [joanne.marquisee@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.marquisee@gmail.com)

### Temple Beth Zion

Erev Shabbat Service and 6th Night of Hanukkah  
7:00 p.m.

805 Delaware and via livestream  
• Bring your own *chanukiyah* (Hanukkah menorah) and 7 candles  
• Special Hanukkah treats!  
• Consecration of our 2020 & 2021 new Religious School Students.  
• December birthday or anniversary in December blessings

## December 5

### The Community Religious School

Hanukkah Celebration for students during school  
4660 Sheridan Drive, 14221

### PJ Library & PJ Our Way

Hanukkah Happening in the Parking Lot  
4:00-6:00 p.m.  
TBZ Broder Building parking lot  
Register for free at: [bit.ly/HANUKAHHAPPENING](http://bit.ly/HANUKAHHAPPENING)

### Jewish Teen Initiative

The JTI Hanukkah Party, open to all teens in grades 8-12  
6:30- 8:00 p.m.  
Temple Beth Zion Broder Building  
• Fun games, engaging activities, a live DJ, and much more!  
Contact [ben@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:ben@buffalojewishfederation.org) for info.



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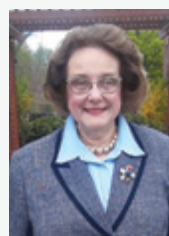
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Wed Nov 17	1–6pm	9:30–11:30 & 1–6pm
Th Nov 18	1–6pm	9:30–11:30 & 1–6pm
Fri Nov 19	11am–3pm	11am–3pm

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Wishing our members, families, friends and the Jewish community a happy, healthy Chanukah.

**Happy  
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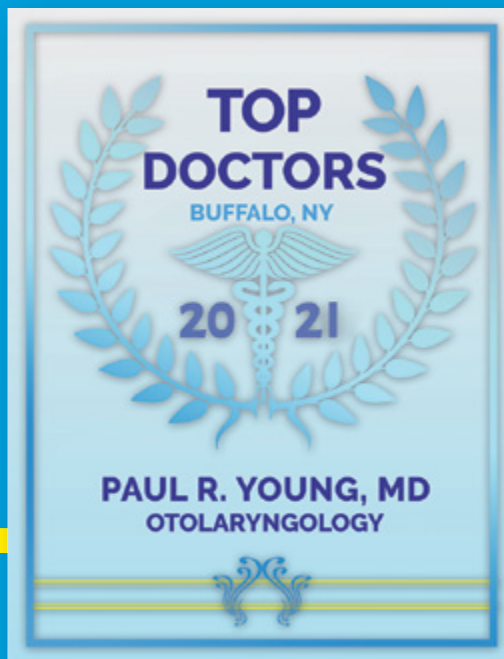
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# Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Hanukkah!

BY ROBIN KURSS

With Thanksgiving and Hanukkah happening within days of each other this month, here are a few yummy treats to help you enjoy both holidays.

## Manischewitz Brisket

We usually have brisket and latkes for Hanukkah dinner...here's a little twist on my old brisket recipe.



### Ingredients

1 6-8 lb. brisket  
Salt and pepper  
1/4 cup schmaltz or olive oil...  
(once a year it's ok!)  
3 red onions, sliced  
5 carrots, peeled and chopped into 2" chunks  
2 cup Manischewitz wine  
2 heads of garlic cut in half cross wise  
3 potatoes, peeled and quartered  
2 quarts beef broth

### Directions

Preheat oven to 300.

In sauté pan, brown salted and peppered brisket in schmaltz or oil till browned on all sides. Place in a large roasting pan and place carrots, potatoes, garlic, wine and broth all around. Bake for 3 hours covered. Cool and refrigerate overnight. Next day, strain liquid and cook on medium about 1/2 hour or until reduced by half. Slice brisket and warm through in 350 oven for 1/2 hour or so. Serve with "gravy" and enjoy!

## Spiced Sweet Potato Bread

It's the time of year for pumpkin everything! This spiced sweet potato bread is something a little different, and yet familiar.

Makes 2 loaves

### Ingredients

1 1/2 cup mashed sweet potatoes (from about 3 potatoes)  
1 cup coconut oil, melted and cooled to room temperature  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 whole eggs plus 2 yolks  
2/3 cup plus 2 tbsp sour cream  
2 tsp vanilla  
2 1/4 cup flour  
2 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 tsp ginger  
1 tsp nutmeg  
3/4 cup dried cranberries, chopped dried apricots or golden raisins (or a combo of all three!)  
1/3 cup sugar for sprinkling top of bread



### Directions

Preheat oven to 350. Grease well, two 8 1/2 x 4 1/2" pans. In a large bowl, whisk the sugars, eggs and coconut oil. Add mashed potatoes, sour cream and vanilla to combine. In a medium bowl, sift the flour, baking soda, salt and spices. Fold dry ingredients into the wet and stir just till combined. Add the dried fruit, divide the batter into the pans and sprinkle the tops generously with the remaining sugar. Bake for 50-55 minutes or until a toothpick comes out dry. These freeze well.

Makes 2 1/2 dozen bars

### Ingredients

*Crust:*

3 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature  
1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
4 cups flour  
1 tsp salt

*Filling:*

8 eggs  
6 cups brown sugar, firmly packed  
1/4 cup bourbon, if you are so inclined!  
6 tbsp butter, melted  
2 tbsp vanilla  
1 cup flour  
1 tsp salt  
2 cups chocolate chips  
2 cups pecan halves or pieces

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 12 x 17 sheet pan.

*For crust:*

Using a beater with the paddle attachment, beat the butter for 1 minute. Add the sugar and beat one more minute. Add the flour and salt and mix on low until just crumbly. Press into bottom of pan and bake for 20 minutes until golden brown.

*For filling:*

Whisk eggs and sugar in a large bowl, stir in bourbon, butter, vanilla, flour and salt. Add chocolate chips and pecans, stir to combine. Pour over crust and bake for 30 minutes. Cool and cut into 3" squares.

These also freeze well.

## Chocolate Pecan Pie Bars

My family loves Pecan Pie. They especially like chocolate pecan pie. It's hard to send a whole pie in the mail, so this year, the out-of-town kids will be getting chocolate pecan pie bars.





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1»

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://www.tfaforms.com/4937803>.**

2»

Join your friends from PJ Library and PJ Our Way for Hanukkah Happening in the Parking Lot, Sunday, December 5 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Zion's Broder Building, 700 Sweet Home Rd. It's ideal for families with kids 12 and under. **Any questions, contact [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org).**

3»

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](http://bit.ly/firstfriends716).**

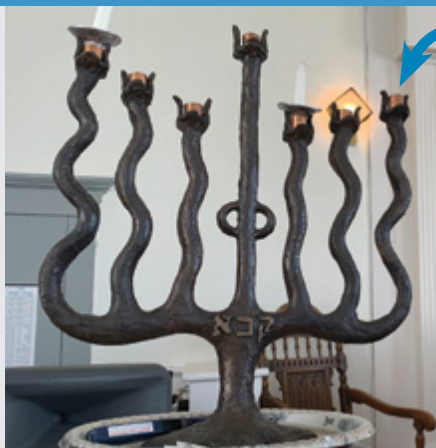
4»

Join Temple Beth Zion, Congregation Shir Shalom and North Presbyterian Church for the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Basket Project. With a goal of feeding nearly 500 families a Thanksgiving dinner this year, help by donating food or cash to the project. **For more information, call or email Sharron Fromann at 634-3495 (after noon) or [mommafro457@gmail.com](mailto:mommafro457@gmail.com). (See page 23).**

5»

The JCC will welcome authors Eyal Press (Virtual event - November 4, 7:00 p.m.) and Dr. Howard Wolf (in-person event-November 18, 7:00 p.m.) as part of the People of the Book Series in November. Registration is required. **For more information, visit <https://www.jccbuffalo.org/arts-culture/people-of-the-book/> or contact Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).**

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## HAPPY CHANUKAH!

As we prepare to light the first candle, may the lights shine brightly in the darkness, reminding us that all it takes is one flame to dispel the darkness of despair, the darkness of hatred, the darkness of injustice, evil, violence - any type of injustice.

Each of us has the ability to be that 'flame' to dispel the darkness in our world, kindling the flames of those around us so this world will be a brighter place for all.

Temple Beth Zion wishes all of you a "Chag Urim Sameach" - A light-filled and Happy Chanukah!

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# Jewish Community Organizations in Western New York

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Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-463-5050  
[BuffaloJewishFederation.org](http://BuffaloJewishFederation.org)  
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director  
Shelly Yellen - President

## Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

49 Barberry Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-534-0230  
[bvkkosher.com](http://bvkkosher.com)  
[buffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:buffalo@yahoo.com), [bvkkosher@gmail.com](mailto:bvkkosher@gmail.com)  
Rabbi Eliezer Marcus - Rabbinic Administrator  
Michael Paskowitz - President

## Center for Jewish Life

*Suburbs:* 757 Hopkins Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-639-7600  
[Jewishbuffalo.com](http://Jewishbuffalo.com)  
Rabbi Laizer & Chani Labkovski  
*Downtown:* 1016 Lafayette Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-545-6806  
Rabbi Mendy & Chaya Mushka Labkovski

## Chabad House of Buffalo

2450 North Forest Road  
Getzville, NY 14068  
716-688-1642  
[chabadbuffalo.com](http://chabadbuffalo.com)  
Rabbi Moshe Gurary

## Chai Early Childhood Center

757 Hopkins Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716 580-4600  
[chainursery.com](http://chainursery.com)  
Chani Labkovski - Director

## Department of Jewish Thought

712 Clemens Hall - University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY 14260  
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[jewish-studies@buffalo.edu](mailto:jewish-studies@buffalo.edu)  
[jewishstudies.buffalo.edu](http://jewishstudies.buffalo.edu)  
Dr. Noam Pines - Chair

## Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

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Getzville, NY 14068  
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[jewishphilanthropies.org](http://jewishphilanthropies.org)  
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## Hadassah

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716-616-0083  
[hillelofbuffalo.org](http://hillelofbuffalo.org)  
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## Holocaust Resource Center

338 Harris Hill Rd. – Suite 108B  
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[hrcbuffalo.org](http://hrcbuffalo.org)  
Elizabeth Schram - Director  
Wendy Weisbrot - Chair

## Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

*Benderson Family Building*  
2640 North Forest Road  
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716-688-4033  
[jccbuffalo.org](http://jccbuffalo.org)  
Mike Rawl - Executive Director  
Alon Kupferman - President

## Holland Family Building

787 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-886-3145  
[jccbuffalo.org](http://jccbuffalo.org)

## Jewish Community Relations Council

338 Harris Hill Rd. – Suite 108B  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
[buffaloJewishFederation.org](http://buffaloJewishFederation.org)  
Mara Koven-Gelman - Director  
Deborah Goldman - Chair

## Jewish Discovery Center

831 Maple Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-632-0467  
[Jewishdiscovery.org](http://Jewishdiscovery.org)  
Rabbi Heschel Greenberg

## Jewish Family Services Of Western New York

70 Barker Street  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-883-1914  
[jfswny.org](http://jfswny.org)  
Molly Short Carr - CEO  
Blaine Schwartz - Chair

## Jewish Federation Apartments

275 Essjay Road  
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716-631-8471  
[jewishfederationapartments.org](http://jewishfederationapartments.org)  
Kathleen Haggerty - Property Manager

## Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation, Inc.

338 Harris Hill Rd. – Suite 108B  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
[buffaloJewishFederation.org](http://buffaloJewishFederation.org)  
716-463-5050  
Deborah Pivarsi- Director  
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## Kadimah

[kadimah.org](http://kadimah.org)  
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Nathan Sull - Publisher  
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### Western New York Synagogues and Temples

#### Chabad House of Buffalo (unaffiliated)

2450 North. Forest Rd,  
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chabadbuffalo.com  
Rabbi Moshe Guray - Director

#### Congregation Beth Abraham (Conservative)

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

#### Congregation Havurah (Reform)

6320 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-689-8059  
congregationhavurah.org  
info@congregationhavurah.org  
Bernard Schenkler - President  
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#### Congregation Shir Shalom

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

#### Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

879 Hopkins Rd  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
ohrtzion.org/kot  
Rabbi Ori Bergman  
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#### Knesset Center (Orthodox)

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Buffalo, NY 14214  
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chabadbuffalo.com  
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#### Saranac Synagogue (Orthodox)

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716-876-1284  
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#### Temple Beth Zion (Reform)

Sanctuary: 805 Delaware Avenue  
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Offices:  
700 Sweet Home Road  
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716-836-6565  
tbz.org  
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Jeff Clark - Executive Director  
David Goldberg - President

#### Temple Beth El (Reform)

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

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

Meeting biweekly at Jamestown, NY  
Lutheran Church  
Rabbi Allen Podet  
President - Joe Gerstel (716-665-2118)  
valprojdg@netsync.net

#### The Family Shul (Unaffiliated)

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

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

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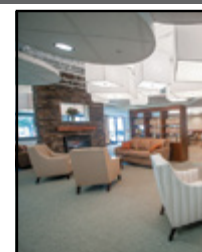
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# Dr. Mindy Paticoff Weinman: 1954-2021

*Most of this obituary was written by Anne Neville of The Buffalo News. It is reprinted with permission of The Buffalo News.*

Dr. Mindy Paticoff Weinman was a skilled, caring dentist who was beloved by both patients in her practice and her students at the University at Buffalo. “She had quite a following of patients,” said her husband and practice partner in Allentown Dental, Dr. David Weinman. “The best part of our job is the people.” He described his wife as gregarious and enthusiastic despite long-standing health challenges.

Dr. Weinman died October 2 in Strong Memorial Hospital after heart surgery. The Amherst resident and member of Congregation Shir Shalom was 67. She also is survived by two daughters, Amy Napolitano and Sara Weinman; two brothers, Gary Paticoff and Dr. Kenneth Paticoff; and four grandchildren.

“She was the most amazing, optimistic human being,” said Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein of Shir Shalom. “She was at every meeting, every volunteer opportunity, every service; she was really the heart of the synagogue. She got a lot out of her life, and I think she counted her blessings,” continued the Rabbi. “Tradition teaches us that one person can transform a family, a community, an entire city. Mindy was such a person, with



Dr. Mindy Paticoff Weinman

overwhelming positive energy, joy and love, she worked every day to make the lives of others better. Often, putting our needs before her own. In nearly four decades of volunteer work, Mindy uplifted our entire Jewish community. As ritual chair, key executive team member, and former president, she was on my speed dial. I am grateful for her kindness and friendship. She will be sorely missed.”

Born Mindy Gwen Paticoff in Brooklyn, she was the first of three children of Henry and Lila Leshaw Paticoff. A 1972 graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School in Dix Hills on Long Island, she was elected senior prom queen and was co-captain of the high-energy Dixettes kickline dance team. She majored in science and psychology at Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls, graduating *cum laude* in 1976.

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Graduating in 1981 from the UB School of Dental Medicine, she won the William A. Tucker Award in 1980 and 1981 and the Richard A. Powell Award for outstanding service, achievement and dedication to the dental school in 1981. A few weeks after graduation, on May 31, 1981, on Long Island, she married David Weinman, a fellow UB Dental School graduate. Dr. Weinman completed a two-year fellowship in general dentistry at Erie County Medical Center from 1981 to 1982, then in 1983 entered private practice with her husband at Allentown Dental on North Street in Buffalo. She continued to see patients there until about a year and a half ago.

**“She was the most amazing, optimistic human being.”**

In 2000, Dr. Weinman became a clinical instructor at the UB Dental School and was still teaching restorative dentistry at the time of her death. Since 1990, she also was a dentist at the Weinberg Campus Rehabilitative Facility.

“She was unable to have a bat mitzvah in her youth, but was thrilled to become bat mitzvah as an adult,” her husband said. “Her Judaism and the temple community was a great source of comfort to her throughout her life and she held numerous positions and received numerous awards,” including the Temple Beth Am President’s Award in 1999. Her husband recalled that one of Dr. Weinman’s friends recently called her “the only person she knew who had 50 best friends.” He said, “Mindy was an unfailingly enthusiastic and outgoing person who could – and did – talk to anyone, it seemed. Sometimes that got

her into trouble, because she wasn’t shy about expressing her opinion, but she usually did it in a way that people accepted because of her exuberant, upbeat attitude.”

Dr. David Weinman added, “If we went to a party, by the time we left, she knew everybody, and I pretty much knew the people I already knew when I got there. Very few people knew of her recurring health challenges because of her “relentless optimism and focus on others,” her husband said. Even during her final hospitalization, one of her doctors said that Dr. Weinman never complained about any tests or treatments.

She enjoyed yoga, playing mahjong with friends, and watching her children and grandchildren play soccer and other sports. The Weinmans traveled internationally many times for softball tournaments in which her husband’s team competed, visiting Italy, Spain, France, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Scotland and Ireland. Dr. Weinman “loved the many friends she made through those activities,” her husband said.

# In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from September 21-October 15, 2021\*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



**Carol Amsterdam  
Sanford Beckman  
Leon Cherbow  
Howard Fogel  
Claire L. Gareleck  
Michael M. Kwiatkowski  
Sheldon (Shell) Macon  
Joan K. Press  
Doris Serota  
Arlene Scherff  
Avrom (Avy) Sterman**

**Dr. Mindy G. Paticoff-Weinman D.D.S.**

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

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## (NOT) THE LAST WORD

# Emptying the Nest

BY CYNTHIA BALDERMAN

Seventeen years ago. That's when my eldest child moved out and on to graduate school and an adult life. Each of my offspring, in turn, matured, bought homes, had families of their own. The shadows of their childhood remain in family pictures; old videotapes and a large collection of stuff.

At first, I was adamant that they remove the remains of their youth, but time and nostalgia softened me and my requests slowed to an annual, half-hearted threat to throw everything out, which I rescinded all too easily.

Their former rooms are crowded with notebooks from high school; old science projects; grant proposals, both accepted and declined; diaries stained by the tears of frustrated adolescents; photos of boyfriends and girlfriends past; stuffed animals covered in dust and worn thin from years of hugging; clothing that weren't stylish in the eighties and aren't now; old tee shirts from B'nai Mitzvot of children I barely remember; seashell collections, the sand long since fallen into the crevices between the floorboards; a Susan B Anthony dollar; coins from Canada and Israel; a discarded pack of 49 playing cards.

For years, I ignored the piles, closed the doors to their former rooms and waited for the magic disappearance to happen. I busied myself with other concerns – caretaking my husband( z"l) and then my grandchildren, attending to clients' concerns, reading every book on my numerous lists.

Finally, I have come to accept reality.

My offspring need a warehouse for their memories and my house is cheaper than a commercial rental. I was left with three options: charge them per square foot, clean out the memorabilia myself, or cajole them into moving it.

Three of them had no problem leaving me to transfer their personalty to the town dump. Two of them, though, are burdened by sentimentality. Not only do they want their possessions but they also need to keep their dad's. He left behind many books – religious texts written in Hebrew that he studied as avidly as he did the medical tomes and journals that fill the shelves. His own articles were numerous and these remain here as well, unintelligible to me but precious to his progeny who want to reach back through time to know his intellect in a way that they could not appreciate during his lifetime.

Dutifully, I drag the old record player and albums into a son's now abandoned closet. He wants these but has no time or energy or interest to move them until some promised future. The books and papers, I pile unto a table in the cellar. A daughter swears she will look through these when she has time and she does, twice, before the more pressing concerns of work and children distract her from this onerous task.

I think of the many familiar things I see when I visit my parents' house. There is the still covered "new" couch purchased a mere fifty years ago, the fading pictures of my brothers and me, children smiling on command of some



Cynthia Balderman

forgotten photographer, the treasured Lladro figurine on the mantle that we knocked over during a game of living room baseball, still glued together and standing tall. Can I truly toss out all of my children's poetry, the notes from their treasured Kadimah school teachers, their little handprints smeared on construction paper? I can and I do, but the grandchildren's fine artwork? These are too precious to throw away. These, I'm saving for the next generation!

*Cynthia is a daughter, mother, sister, oma and lawyer. Her brother sent her the above photo. She has plenty of her grandchildren but none of herself.*

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