

The Award Winning

» Happy 2022!

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

BUFFALO, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 | TEVET-SHEVAT-ADAR I 5782



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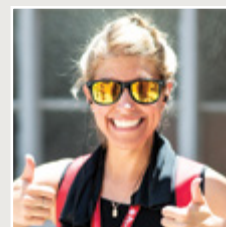
OCTOBER 2022

EMBARK ON A NINE-DAY JOURNEY FULLY IMMERSSED IN
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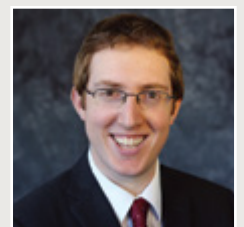
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FROM SYRIA TO AFGHANISTAN

Thursday, Jan 20 | 12pm

Free for all | Virtual

Human Rights and War
Correspondent Efrat Lachter will be speaking about her experience in Afghanistan, where she covered the recent Taliban takeover.

CONCEPT NIGHT: A TASTE OF YEMEN

Thursday, Feb 17 | 6 -7:30pm

\$10 Members | \$15 Guests

Learn about the fascinating history of Yemenite Jews, including their immigration to Israel and the difficulties of assimilation. A traditional Yemenite dinner will be served.

ISRAEL VIRTUAL TOURS

Three Thursdays | 7pm
Jan 27, Feb 24, March 31

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Join experienced tour guide, Itamar Ben-David on a series of virtual tours of Israel and more. He will cover Biblical Nature, The Nabateans: Transformation of Identity, and Esther and Daniel in Persia.

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BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION



January/February 2022

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

Welcome to our January/February double issue! As you page through, you will quickly notice that even though COVID is still with us, there is enormous energy and activity in Jewish Buffalo this winter.

For starters, there are two opportunities for Israel travel in 2022. If you have not yet gone to Israel, or even if you have, THIS is the time to go! The cover and the page 4 story describe the Buffalo Israel Experience II (BIE) in October, and the page 10 story details the Momentum trip for Moms in July.

Super Sunday is February 6 this year and you can volunteer in person or virtually (pages 3, 9) after making your own gift to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo. And we are pleased for the second year to share information about how your dollars are invested with our Impact Report on pages 6-7.

Three events in particular are calling my name this month: The Holocaust Resource Center's *The Girl In the Diary* exhibit at the Karpeles Museum has a grand opening January 27 in time for the UN Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Buffalo Philharmonic and the JCC's Jewish International Film Festival are sponsoring an outstanding film and concert event at Kleinhans Music Hall February 10 (see page 19), and Buffalo's Jewish Day of Learning returns on February 27 at UB, organized by Community Educator Dr. Alex Green.

Read Lorne Opler's piece on the Jewish Discovery Center's new building (page 24), learn about the Women of Young Israel who pray for healing in the community (page 23) and make some time this winter to read Mark Goldman's newest book *City of My Heart: Buffalo, 1967-2020* (pages 36-37). It's a love letter to Buffalo with a special sweet section about the Jewish Community, and Mark shares his passion for the city and its people with us this issue.

As I said before, there's lots of energy in Jewish Buffalo these days, and many joyous events and projects are taking place. The days are getting longer, and possibility is in the air as we begin a new year. Make sure you are part of the Buffalove this winter, and stay well!

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

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The beach in Tel Aviv beckons Buffalonians to Buffalo Israel Experience II this coming October (see page 4). Design by Jill Komm.

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Published by
Buffalo Jewish Federation
338 Harris Hill Rd., Suite 108B
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-463-5050
www.buffalojewishfederation.org



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

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



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



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

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SUBMISSIONS:

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The New Year

As we say hello to year 2022, many of us say goodbye 2021 with mixed feelings. A year once again dominated by COVID, we feel grateful for the rapidly evolving medical treatments, yet remain anxious and uneasy with the uncertainty of this ongoing pandemic. Perhaps there is an argument to be made that we live in the best and worst of times. The advances being made in medicine, technology, social justice, equality, and belonging are helping to improve lives at an unprecedented rate. At the same time, these advances also trigger unintended consequences, challenging our morals, values, and often polarizing our community.

The role of the Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF) continues to evolve as we offer services, programs, and support consistent with our mission to create a vibrant and caring Jewish Buffalo. As we enter the New Year, please join me in welcoming the newest members to our Board of Governors: Corey Auerbach, Kenneth Dauber, Kenneth Shuman, Amélica Ortiz Weinmann, and Laura Wexler (Read more about each of them



Shelly Yellen

on page 5). We look forward to the passion and commitment to community that each will bring to our leadership. Also, a hearty thank you to outgoing Board Member Steve Awner, whose term limit was met at the end of last year. Steve's contributions are much appreciated and we look forward to his continued involvement in BJF and Jewish Buffalo.

Looking back on 2021 from a Federation perspective brings me great satisfaction and excitement for the New Year. The Campaign for Jewish Buffalo has been in

full swing with over 45 new and returning volunteers reaching out to donors. The Dignity Grows™ initiative, that created 500 Totes for distribution in 2021, will continue to engage new participants and provide a vital service. There remains much needed support for Afghan Evacuees and there are still ample opportunities for you to get involved as the number of evacuees coming to Buffalo continues to rise. LiNK Jewish Buffalo, the new name for CJEL, had a banner year and will be hosting a two-day conference in the Spring on the theme of Belonging.

We look forward to Buffalo Israel Experience II where we will spend nine amazing days discovering Israel in October 2022 (see page 4)! The programs and services offered by Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) will continue to strengthen community connections through collaboration across Federation. Elizabeth Schram and Lauren Bloomberg are excited to be working with Council Chair Wendy Weisbrot and her dedicated committee.

If you have not yet visited the Buffalo Jewish History Website – check it out. It is amazing and will continue to grow under the direction of Chana Kotzin. As of November 2021, there were 14,380-page views and over 3,700 visitors (see page 14). The Jewish Community Relations Council's (JCRC) footprint will

continue to grow under the leadership of chair Deborah Goldman and co-chair Adam Fogel. The JCRC priorities center around combating hate and antisemitism, voter engagement, and involvement with legislative priorities. We look forward to the Legislative Breakfast in February with the goal of developing deeper relations with our legislators and sharing our priorities (see page 13). The Racial Justice Sub-Committee, chaired by one of our new Board members, Corey Auerbach, will move into an implementation phase based on the recommendations put forth by the Racial Justice Working Group and approved by the Federation Board this past spring. And so much more.

Our commitment to engagement and participation remains a priority again for this year. There are so many wonderful opportunities to get involved in the diverse community we call Jewish Buffalo. The professional and volunteer leaders know this is critical for success and the call to action is loud. Please reach out as we want to hear your voice and strive to be welcoming with access for all.

Finally, thank you for the honor to serve as Federation President. My wife, Heidi, joins me in wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2022.

SUPER SUNDAY 2022

FEBRUARY 6, 2022 9 AM - VOLUNTEERS GATHER
(IN PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS)

We're all Better Together

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Discover Israel with us on the Buffalo Israel Experience II (BIE) 2022



BY ALAN GELLIN
AND ROBIN RAPHAEL

One of the most important things a Jewish person can do is visit Israel. The Buffalo Jewish Federation is doing its part to make this come true. We were among the 77 people who traveled to Israel in 2018 on Federation's first Buffalo Israel Experience (BIE) for an experience of a lifetime. We are honored to be the co-chairs of this second experience and we encourage you to join us on this trip.

The initial BIE trip provided three program tracks where participants chose activities each day based on their interests. For first-timers to Israel, there were must-see options such as a visit to the top of Masada and floating in the Dead Sea. For those returning to Israel, options included a tasting tour at a *shuk* (market), a visit to a tech company, or a hike on the Israel National trail. Free time was built into the experience for those interested in exploring on their own.

There were also opportunities for the entire group to share experiences together. For example, we celebrated Shabbat, as well as prayed at the Western Wall and in a variety of synagogues. As part of the ongoing partnership between the Federation and the Western Galilee, we ate delicious home-cooked meals hosted in the homes of families in the region. We also supported each other on our visit through Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Center.

Alan Gellin and Robin Raphael, BIE II Chairs

You are invited to spend nine amazing days discovering Israel as part of Buffalo Israel Experience II, the newest version of our extraordinary 2018 trip. From Jerusalem to Tel Aviv to our partner region in the Western Galilee, we will immerse ourselves in Israel's history and culture, explore new ways of creating community and reimagine Jewish identity.

Enjoy a great travel experience in Israel (good food, great accommodations, and top-notch guides) with fellow Buffalonians, who will become dear friends. Tour Operator: Makor Israel



BIE II Co-Chairs Robin Raphael and Alan Gellin

DATES: October 19-28, 2022

*includes travel time – dates subject to change

PRICING:

\$3,500/person LAND ONLY *double occupancy for 8 nights – cost subject to change. Single Supplement cost: \$1,200
Cost is inclusive of all COVID testing performed while on the ground in Israel.

DISCOUNTS:

First 50 Registrants receive a \$500 discount on the total cost of the trip *with paid \$500 deposit, must reside full-time in the greater Buffalo area to qualify.

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COVID INFORMATION: We are hopeful to travel together with ease and in good health in October of 2022. The BIE team will be closely monitoring any changing COVID-19 travel regulations set by the governments of Israel and the US, and we will make necessary adjustments to our itinerary and other elements of the journey as needed. Per the Israeli Ministry of Health, all travelers must be fully vaccinated to enter the country in the 180 days prior to departure from the United States. Detailed information about COVID protocols, trip cancellation, and our comprehensive refund policies can be found under FAQ at www.buffalojewishfederation.org/bie. All information is subject to change.



The 2018 BIE Trip in Jerusalem. Photo by Alan Gellin

Israel is a beautiful and diverse country and there is so much to see and do. While the sites and activities are reasons alone to keep coming back, there is a more compelling reason to join us on this tour. We agreed to co-chair this trip because we believe Israel experiences like BIE help build and strengthen our Buffalo Jewish community. On the initial BIE, we, and others in Jewish Buffalo, met for the first time. Our shared experiences have formed lasting connections that are enriching our Jewish community.

A visit to Israel is a must for every Jewish person. The BIE is highly encouraged for those who have never visited, visited once or even multiple times. We look forward to sharing new experiences with you on the next BIE this October. You won't be disappointed!

For more information contact Miriam Abramovich, Chief Experience Officer at the Buffalo Jewish Federation miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org

Federation Welcomes New Governors

The Buffalo Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome new leaders to its Board of Governors. This year's nominating process was led by Steven Weiss, past president of Federation and included committee members Steve Awner, Marc Brown, Iris Danziger, Brenda Feldstein, Brenda Freedman, Ezra Rich, Cheryl Stein and Kim Yonaty. In addition to the newest governors, the following individuals were reelected to the board: Jeffrey Blum, Iris Danziger, Jake Katz, Merredith Levin and Harvey Sanders. The current officers were also reelected to another one-year team. They include President Shelly Yellen, Vice Presidents Shawn Frier and Risé Kulick, Treasurer Marjorie Bryen, Secretary Ellen Weiss, and Immediate Past President, Leslie Kramer.

Corey Auerbach

Corey is *pro bono* partner with Barclay Damon LLP facilitating *pro bono* activities with community partners including Say Yes to Education and the Bar Association of Erie County. He also is co-chair of the firm's Land Use & Zoning Practice Area, overseeing the work of 13 attorneys. Corey was a past member of the Jewish Community Relations Council's Racial Justice Task Force and is the current chair of the Racial Justice Subcommittee (JEDI program). Corey is also a new member of Federation's Campaign Cabinet. Corey and his spouse, Meg, have three children and reside in North Buffalo.



Ken Dauber

New to the Federation Board, Ken is an active member at Young Israel of Greater Buffalo. He is a Professor of English at University at Buffalo, specializing in American literature. He was instrumental in founding UB's Department of Jewish Thought and served as its interim Director. Ken and his spouse, Antoinette, are the parents of three grown children.



Ken Shuman

Native Buffalonian Ken Shuman returns to the Federation Board after a brief hiatus. After graduating from Michigan State in 1982, Ken worked in New York City until 1987. He then returned to Buffalo to work in his family business, Shuman Plastics, and in 2008, was named its President. Ken and his spouse, Amy, have two grown children and a St. Bernard named Luna (who joins Ken each day at the office). He is grateful to have served on various Jewish agency boards with many talented and passionate leaders. In his spare time, Ken enjoys any activity that's human-powered and preferably outdoors!



Amélida Ortiz Weinmann

Amélida has been an active leader in the Jewish community, having served as co-chair of Super Sunday and is currently recruitment chair for the International Lion of Judah Conference. She is also a Trustee at Temple Beth Zion, where she was co-chair of the Kol Nidre fundraising campaign, the Alternative High Holiday Service and Luncheon Committee. She is currently co-chair of the Ritual Committee.



Outside of the Jewish Community, Amélida is a current board member of the Hispanic Women's League, where she has actively co-chaired the scholarship fundraising dinner and the book club committees. She was also a founding board member of the Greater Buffalo Community Foundation Cultures of Legacy Giving Initiative. Amélida lives in North Buffalo with her spouse, Peter. They have four children, two in college and two in high school.

Laura Cooper Wexler

Laura is a Special Education teacher at Bornhava, an early childhood center for children with developmental disabilities. She previously worked for Buffalo Hearing and Speech. Laura earned her B.S. in Exceptional Education and Master's in Creative Studies from Buffalo State College, SUNY. She is an active member in the Jewish community, most recently as a participant on the Momentum Israel trip. She lives in Williamsville with her spouse, Scott, who she met at Camp Lakeland 21 years ago, along with their son Zachary, daughter Lyssa, and two dogs Harry and Lou.



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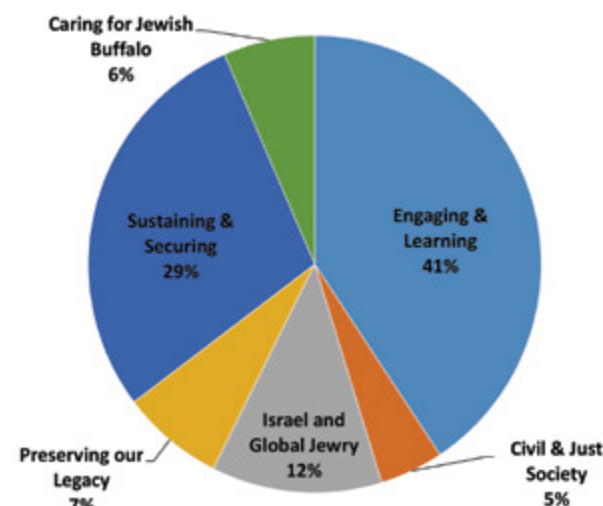
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Making An Impact: 2022

The Buffalo Jewish Federation provides an array of services and programming aligned with six Community Impact Areas:

- Jewish Experience, Engagement and Learning
- Caring for Jewish Buffalo
- Promoting a Civil and Just Society
- Connection to Israel and Global Jewry
- Preserving our Legacy
- Sustaining and Securing our Community

In crafting Federation's operating budget and determining grants for our local and overseas partners, Federation's leadership connects the resources we raise from nearly 1,500 donors to each impact area so that we and our partners can build a more connected, caring and vibrant community in Buffalo and around the world.



Local Impact

Through a system of community partner agencies and synagogues, we seek to gather every age and segment of our community to strengthen Jewish life and care for one another. Our campaign grants within the Federation umbrella (such as support for *The Jewish Journal* and the Holocaust Resource Center) as well as local partner grants provide an array of program touch points from cultural arts through the JCC, engagement, experiences and student leadership development for Jewish college students at Chabad and Hillel, Jewish day school education at Ohr Temimim and for Kadimah Scholars at Park School.

Global Impact

Federation also provides grants for organizations that support Jews in need outside of our region. Overseas Partner Grants are provided to our three historic partners, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and World ORT.

Combined Impact

Federation dollars constantly and consistently meet the needs of our Jewish family, no matter how far-reaching and no matter where they may be, and when combining the campaign grants to support Federation programs and activities and grants made to our local and overseas partners, the total grant funds awarded for 2022 is \$2,200,950. Above is a chart that indicates the overall impact of campaign dollars including a breakdown of partner grants by impact area and a list of all the organizations receiving a partner grant in each impact area (listed in order from largest to smallest).

Jewish Experience, Engagement and Learning

Nurture relationships that connect, engage, and enrich all Jews and their loved ones and those exploring Judaism.

Promote community engagement through activities, experiences and learning. Amplify the work of and promote collaboration between traditional institutions and innovative Jewish groups, including synagogues, minyans, agencies, schools and affinity groups.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$925,200):

- LiNK Jewish Buffalo
- JCC of Greater Buffalo
- Hillel of Buffalo
- The Park School/Kadimah Scholars
- Ohr Temimim Jewish Heritage Day School
- Chabad of Buffalo
- Holocaust Resource Center

Caring for Jewish Buffalo

Ensure that care and support is available for Jews and their loved ones facing financial, emotional, physical or spiritual needs.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$123,750):

- Jewish Family Service of WNY

Promoting a Civil and Just Society

Cultivate and foster meaningful and collaborative relationships with other faith and ethnic groups and cultural communities with the goal of educating, advocating and building a more civil and just society. Combat hate, antisemitism and discrimination in all forms; teach the lessons of the Holocaust through effective education and programming; highlight Upstanders as role models; and provide support to individuals and communities in times of crisis.

PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$130,000):

- JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council)
- Holocaust Resource Center
- Hillel of Buffalo



Connection to Israel and Global Jewry

Advocate on behalf of, and develop connections to, the State of Israel and the Jewish people around the world.

PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$268,000):

- The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- Partnership 2Gether Western Galilee Central Area Consortium (P2G)
- World ORT
- Hillel of Buffalo



Preserving our Legacy

Celebrate and honor our rich heritage, collective history and enduring faith by curating and promoting Jewish wisdom, cultural arts, history, communal celebrations and memorials.

PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$241,000):

- Public Relations (*Jewish Journal* and *My Jewish Buffalo*)
- Jewish Buffalo History Center
- Cemetery Corporation
- Holocaust Resource Center
- Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association (HBLA)



Sustaining and Securing our Community

Create and strengthen the structure necessary to support a strong and vibrant Jewish Buffalo. Cultivate investments to support the current and long term financial and facility needs of the entire community. Develop human capital to ensure innovative and responsive leadership by both professional and volunteer leaders. Foster collaboration and partnership among community partners through convening, planning, and shared services to optimize our collective resources. Lastly, invest in security measures and coordinate with all levels of law enforcement to enhance the safety and well-being of Jewish Buffalo at places of worship and community gathering.



PARTNER GRANTS (totaling \$513,000):

- Fundraising
- Security
- Talent & Leadership
- Planning



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LiNK Jewish Buffalo welcomes new chairs: Brenda Feldstein and Marni Marciano



Connecting People
to Jewish Life

In early 2020, LiNK Jewish Buffalo (formally known as CJEL—the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning) launched its Volunteer Leadership Council, bringing together representatives from all areas of LiNK's work: PJ Library, PJ Our Way/Middle School Engagement, Teen Engagement, Nickel City Jews, Adult Engagement, and Belonging. Meeting quarterly, this talented group of leaders works together with the LiNK professional team in pursuit of a vision that all Jews, their friends and partners of other faiths, and those exploring Judaism, have access to Jewish living and learning experiences that help them thrive.

This month, LiNK welcomes two new leaders and celebrates them as they step into new roles: Brenda Feldstein, LiNK Chair and Marni Marciano, LiNK Vice Chair. Both leaders bring with them a deep commitment to Jewish engagement and community building, and a passion for contributing to a thriving Jewish Buffalo. And neither are newcomers to LiNK, as Brenda has spent the last two years as PJ Our Way Chair working to build and grow Middle School Engagement efforts, and Marni has done the same in her role as PJ Library Chair. Sheri Rodman and Robin Raphael have finished their terms as part of the LiNK Leadership Council. We are grateful to Robin Raphael for her three years of service, where she oversaw and launched our community-wide Belonging Initiative. Most recently as LiNK Chair, Sheri Rodman oversaw the creation of and systems that support LiNK. Sheri and Robin will be missed, but we look forward to continued connection and we thank them for their tireless and gifted leadership.



Marni Marciano (l) and Brenda Feldstein (r) are excited to lead LiNK Jewish Buffalo this year

BRENDA FELDSTEIN, LiNK Chair

Brenda Feldstein, a video producer and journalist originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil, is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors from Poland. In Brazil, Brenda worked as a reporter and news anchor for a Jewish TV news and entertainment show. In the US, she earned an MBA from the University at Buffalo and founded **A Special Story**, a production company where she uses her storytelling passion to produce documentaries and photographs. Brenda serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Buffalo Jewish Federation and is a member of the Camp Centerland Committee. She was the Federation's 2020 Emerging Leadership Award

recipient. Brenda is married to Eric and has two children, Eli (13), and Gabi (11). Brenda's interests include reading (historical fiction and magical realism), watching documentaries, traveling to national parks, and nature photography. Brenda is thrilled to join LiNK as the new Chair, and she is excited to continue to bring meaningful connections and engagement with Jewish Buffalo and beyond.

MARNI MARCIANO, LiNK Vice Chair

Marni Marciano was born and raised in Buffalo and is honored to be giving back to the Jewish community where she grew up. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Marni came back to Buffalo after college and began her professional career. She's currently a Family Access

Manager for Biogen and has worked in the pharmaceutical and biotech space for more than 15 years. Marni and her husband, Armand, have 6-year-old twins, Max and Sylvie, who are first graders at Maple East. In her spare time, Marni enjoys being with family and friends, traveling, cooking, entertaining and rooting for the Buffalo Bills. The Marcianos are members of Kehillat Ohr Tzion and their children attend the Community Religious School and Camp Centerland. Marni looks forward to continuing to partner with the incredible LiNK team of volunteers and professionals.

Meet the LiNK Leadership Council

Brenda Feldstein, Chair

Marni Marciano, Vice Chair

Rebecca Freedman, PJ Library Chair

***Nikki Balsom**, PJ Library Vice Chair

Sharon Nisengard, PJ Our Way/

Middle School Engagement Chair

***Leah Hughes**, PJ Our Way/Middle

School Engagement Vice Chair

Hadar Borden, Teen Engagement Chair

Donna Levy, Teen Engagement

Vice Chair

Shiri Kester, Nickel City Jews Chair

Mark Faber, Nickel City Jews Vice Chair

***Eric Niles**, Nickel City Jews Vice Chair

Ellen Weiss, Adult Engagement Chair

Kirstie Henry, Belonging Chair

**New to LiNK Leadership council*

To learn more about the work of LiNK Jewish Buffalo, contact Miriam Abramovich, Chief Experience Officer at the Buffalo Jewish Federation miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org

Rental Apartments Now Available

The Gates Circle lifestyle – including priority access to more care—is now within your reach! Our new rental option means no buy-in fee or long-term commitment.

Apartment availability is limited to four units. Contact us today!

In-person and virtual tours are by appointment.

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www.OneGatesCircle.org



Super Sunday Returns on February 6!

Join us on February 6, either in person or virtually, when we come together to support Jewish Buffalo on Super Sunday. Volunteers will have the option to join us in person for a nosh and a worker training session at 9 a.m. at the Benderson JCC, or if preferred, they can pick up their worker packet in advance and participate via Zoom. Once worker training is completed, all volunteers will make their calls from the comfort of their own homes.

Merredith and Ken Levin are excited to serve as Super Sunday chairs again this year, as together we all work towards raising our goal of \$50,000! "We are thrilled to be a part of the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo again this year!" said the Levins. "Each organization that the Buffalo Jewish Federation touches and supports is near and dear to our hearts. In a difficult year like we've all experienced, supporting one another is key. We're so lucky to be a part of a thriving Jewish Buffalo and are excited to work towards making our hometown and our surrounding communities better, all together."



The Levin Family, from left: Archie, Parker, Kenny, Merredith, and Charlie

YES, I WANT TO VOLUNTEER!

That's easy! If you make a gift to the Campaign for Jewish Buffalo, you are eligible to volunteer. First, we need you need to register at bit.ly/2022SUPERSUNDAY and select whether you want to make phone calls for the Campaign or make Thank You

calls to community members. Next, you need to let us know if you will be joining us for the worker training in person or virtually. If you choose to participate virtually, please let us know which day you will pick up your packet at the Benderson JCC in Getzville (Friday, February 4, 10 a.m. – Noon or Sunday, February 6, 8 - 9 a.m.).

WHAT IS THE FEBRUARY 6 SCHEDULE?

The day begins at 9 a.m. at the Benderson JCC with a nosh for our volunteers that participate in person. Then, our Zoom session will start for our virtual volunteers so everyone can enjoy a Welcome and Worker Training session. If you selected to join virtually, you will get the Zoom link the week of Super Sunday to join from home at 9:30 a.m. Afterwards, you will go home to make your calls, submitting your results and pledges through our online form. Randi Morkisz and Stacey Block will be available by phone 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for Super Sunday support.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You can register online at bit.ly/2022SUPERSUNDAY or call Stacey Block at 716-463-5053 or e-mail Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org and you will get a volunteer confirmation form.

Honor Roll in March 2022

The Buffalo Jewish Federation will publish the annual Honor Roll in the March issue of *The Jewish Journal* thanking our donors. All names will appear exactly as they did last year unless otherwise requested.

Should you wish to make any changes, or have any questions, please contact Assistant Executive Director Randi Morkisz at Randi@buffalojewishfederation.org or 716-463-5051.

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

FIRST TIME CAMPER INCENTIVE GRANTS



[BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG/CAMPER-INCENTIVE-GRANTS](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/camper-incentive-grants)



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

716.463.5065

- **ADULT HEBREW - BEGINNER**
WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 - 7:00PM
- **ADULT HEBREW - INTERMEDIATE**
WEDNESDAYS, 7:15 - 8:15PM
- **ADULT HEBREW - ADVANCED PRAYER**
WEDNESDAYS, 7:45 - 8:45PM
- **ADULT HEBREW - CONVERSATIONAL**
TUESDAYS, 7:30 - 8:30PM
- **INTRO TO JUDAISM**
WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 8:30PM

REGISTER ONLINE AT
[BIT.LY/LINKADULTSPRING2022](https://bit.ly/linkadultspring2022)

For more information,
contact Susan Schwartz at
Susan@buffalojewishfederation.org

Presenting the next chapter in our story. CJEL is now LiNK Jewish Buffalo.

SAVE THE DATE

**belonging
conference**

**Sunday & Monday
April 24 - 25, 2022**

GATHER, GROW, LEARN AND BUILD

There are many people within Jewish Buffalo who've historically been minimized, marginalized, ignored, or even excluded from Jewish spaces.... let's work together to ensure that this no longer occurs.

Gather together in person and hear from thought leaders to develop shared language, skills, and action plans to create a Jewish Buffalo where all can feel a true sense of belonging.

For current volunteer and professional leaders of Jewish agencies and congregations and for individuals who want to lead or create using Jewish values.

Made possible through the generosity of the Weiss Family Philanthropic Fund and the estate of Ruth Axelrod.

For more information, contact Mike Steklof, mike@buffalojewishfederation.org

Recharge Your Soul: Buffalo Moms Israel Trip July 2022

Buffalo Jewish Federation is excited to again be a part of the Momentum Year-Long Journey that includes an 8- day experience in Israel July 4-11, 2022. Momentum empowers women to connect to Jewish values, engage with Israel, take action and foster unity without uniformity.



**RECHARGE
YOUR SOUL:
A JOURNEY
TO BECOMING
YOUR BEST SELF**



Once the skies open up, refresh your spirit with a meaningful experience in Israel.

YOUR YEAR-LONG JOURNEY WITH MOMENTUM INCLUDES 8 DAYS IN ISRAEL JULY 4-11, 2022

JOIN WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
for a revitalizing year of self-exploration, unforgettable experiences in Israel, and inspiring Jewish learning.

ENJOY EMPOWERING JEWISH CLASSES
led by world-class speakers and Israeli thought-leaders.

EXPLORE AMAZING PLACES
spiritual Tsfat, dynamic Tel Aviv, Masada's desert magic, Shabbat in Jerusalem, and many more unique experiences.

DISCOVER HOW TO CONNECT DEEPER
with yourself, your family, and your community.

APPLY NOW

*Free Trip**

*Trips will be designed with Covid modifications.

Working in partnership with:
Ministry of Diaspora Affairs
Creating a common Jewish future

MomentumUnlimited.org | #JewishWomen

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

If you are a Jewish mother with children under the age of 18, you are invited to join women from all over the world for unforgettable experiences in Israel where you will explore the Jewish homeland, take in inspiring Jewish wisdom, and join a global Jewish sisterhood. Back home, you'll have the opportunity to channel your energy and passion personally, professionally, and communally, as you continue your journey through educational and leadership programs.

Take the first step by applying today at www.MomentumUnlimited.org/journey. Space is limited and some restrictions apply. For more information, please contact Stacey Block | 716-463-5053 | Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org

To all the people who help us meet the challenges of these extraordinary times, we want to say **THANK YOU**

THANK YOU for helping LiNK Jewish Buffalo (formerly known as CJEL) offer over **40** one-time programs, **16** semester-long deep Jewish learning experiences, and **5** ongoing monthly gatherings this year - reaching over **300** Jewish adults, children and teens through **2,800** points of connection.

THANK YOU for helping your Jewish Community Relations Council **build solid partnerships** with other ethnic, racial, and religious communities, **educate and engage** more WNY voters, create a comprehensive **racial justice** resource webpage, and **combat hate and antisemitism**.

THANK YOU for helping support **local Holocaust Survivors** with holiday meals, phone calls, transportation assistance, and technology support, and providing **resources and opportunities** for WNY students and teachers to learn about the Holocaust and **fight antisemitism**.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY FEDERATION EXISTS

This past year has reminded us all that the programs and institutions that form the very fabric of our Jewish community must be collectively supported in ordinary times, so they are there in extraordinary times.



Thanks to YOU, a challenging year did not get the best of us. It brought out the best in all of us.

BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

ENSURING A ROBUST, CARING & CONNECTED 21ST CENTURY JEWISH BUFFALO

HRC Delivers Hanukkah Joy



On the last night of Hanukkah, members of the Descendants Group and Leadership Council of the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) delivered 60 meals to local Holocaust Survivors and other community members in need. The meals were prepared by the Center for Jewish Life (CJL) and included chicken, vegetables, latkes, donuts, a menorah and candles. The special Hanukkah package was enthusiastically received and the joy brought to the faces and hearts of all made the last night of the Festival a wonderful memory for everyone.

For more information about volunteering with the HRC, please email Lauren Bloomberg at lauren@buffalojewishfederation.org. For more information about delivering Kosher Meals on Wheels, please email Rabbi Lazier Labkovski at info@JewishBuffalo.com.

The Girl in the Diary Exhibition Comes to Buffalo

The Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) is among several groups that are bringing *The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto* traveling exhibition to Western New York. Buffalo is the 3rd city in the United States to host this exhibition. It presents powerful excerpts from Rywka Lipszyc's diary, as well as expert commentary from historians, doctors, psychologists and rabbis that help us to understand the context of that time. The exhibit will also include historical artifacts and documents from WNY Holocaust Survivors.

The exhibition is free and open to the public and will be on display at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum (453 Porter Avenue) from January through May 2022. A grand opening event will be held on UN Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. featuring Jakub



Nowakowski, Exhibition Curator and Director of the Galicia Jewish Museum located in Kraków.

In 1945, a Soviet doctor discovered Rywka Lipszyc's diary in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp when it was liberated. More than 60 years later, the diary traveled to the United States, where it was translated from Polish into English, supplemented with commentaries and published into book form.

Rywka Lipszyc was a young, Orthodox Jewish girl born in 1929 in Łódź, Poland who wrote in a diary while she was in the Łódź Ghetto between October 1943 and April 1944. Below is an excerpt from February 11, 1944:

... It's Friday again. Time goes by so fast. And for what? Do we know? What's waiting for us in the future? I'm asking this question with both fear and youthful curiosity. We have an answer to this, great answer: God and the Torah. Father God and Mother Torah! They are our parents! Omnipotent, Omniscient, Eternal!!! It's so powerful!!! In front of this I'm just a little creature that can hardly be seen through the microscope. Oh, I'm laughing at the entire world – I, a poor Jewish girl from the ghetto – I, who don't know what will happen to me tomorrow ... I'm laughing at the entire world because I have a support, a great support: my Faith, because I believe! Thanks to it I'm stronger, richer and more worthy than others ... God. I'm so grateful to you!!!

"The exhibit offers the perspective of an Orthodox girl whose devotion to God and faith is very visible throughout the entire diary," said Nowakowski. "Although Rywka lost her siblings and parents, she

still said she was thankful for being Jewish. The diary shows that the longing of Rywka and many others was for Palestine, for a new home."

HRC is grateful to the following organizations who have made the exhibition possible: The Galicia Jewish Museum, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, The Koret Foundation, Daemen College's Center for Polish Studies, and the Rose H. and Leonard H. Frank Cultural Arts Fund.

The Girl in the Diary Exhibit

OPENING DAYS AND HOURS:

January and February:

Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

March, April and May: Tuesdays-Sundays from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

If you would like to schedule a guided tour for a school group, or if you or your family members would like to loan artifacts to be part of this exhibit, please contact Elizabeth Schram at elizabeth@buffalojewishfederation.org.

Teachers of students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to schedule a guided tour. Resources and lesson plans to supplement the visit can be found here: bit.ly/teaching-the-diary.

2022 Arts & Writing Contest

FOR WNY STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 - 12

ANTISEMITISM IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

WHERE HAVE I SEEN OR EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITISM?

WHY DOES ANTISEMITISM STILL EXIST?

WHAT CAN I DO PERSONALLY AND/OR WE DO AS A COMMUNITY TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM?

HOW DOES ANTISEMITISM THREATEN A SOCIETY THAT DOES NOT ADDRESS IT?

"ANTISEMITISM IS A CERTAIN PERCEPTION OF JEWS, WHICH MAY BE EXPRESSED AS HATRED TOWARD JEWS. RHETORICAL AND PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM ARE DIRECTED TOWARD JEWISH OR NON-JEWISH INDIVIDUALS AND/OR THEIR PROPERTY, TOWARD JEWISH COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND RELIGIOUS FACILITIES." - INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

[HRCBUFFALO.ORG/ARTSANDWRITING](https://hrcbuffalo.org/artsandwriting)

JCRC 2022 Priority: Building Legislative Relationships and Knowledge

As the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) enters its 4th year, it is building awareness and understanding of legislative issues affecting communities where Jewish community members live and thrive. Advocating for civic issues is in alignment with core Jewish values. Chair Deborah Goldman and incoming co-chair Adam Fogel held a “Conversation about New York State Social Justice Bills” in mid-November, in which Adam explained several bills impacting: justice and equity, voter rights, language access and environment.

To better understand COVID-19’s impact on WNY’s labor and job market, the JCRC presented a December panel discussion moderated by Richard Lipsitz (WNY Area Labor Federation president emeritus). Panelists included: Peter DeJesus (WNY Area Labor Federation president,) Dr. Joelle Leclaire, (Buffalo State College, Economics/Finance), and Dr. Russell Weaver (Cornell University ILR Buffalo-CO-Lab, researcher).



In addition, the JCRC has been meeting with local and state legislators to introduce our work and priorities. Recent meetings have been held with City of Buffalo South District Council Member Christopher Scanlon, NYS Assembly Members Jon Rivera (D-149) and Karen McMahon (D-146.).



Clockwise: Building legislative relationships via Zoom; Assembly Member Karen McMahon; Meeting with Buffalo City Council Member Christopher Scanlon.



Finally, the JCRC is planning its first New York State Legislative Breakfast in February, with the Western New York State delegation invited to the event.

JCRC Giving Back

Yan Liu, Sierra Johnston and Robin Kashyap deliver hand sanitizer to Buffalo United for Afghan Refugees. Reminded that we too were strangers in a strange land, the JCRC linked Yan Liu, a member of the Multicultural Women’s Group and founder of Bridges from Borders, to Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees. Yan, seen to the right with Sierra Johnston and Robin Kashyap, arranged for the donation of ten boxes of hand sanitizer to Jewish Family Services of WNY. **Find out how you can help: www.wnyrac.org.**



Racial Justice Resources

ENGAGE IN RACIAL JUSTICE

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. ACT.

Lo Ta’amod al dam rey’echa – “Do not stand idly by.” The Federation’s JCRC believes in making our voices heard on issues of vital importance to the Jewish community and the communities in which Jews live. One of these issues is racial justice. We have updated our Engage in Racial Justice Resources webpage to include new books, articles, movies, podcasts, and action items. Also included is a new section dedicated to Jews of Color and a section highlighting the work the JCRC is doing surrounding racial justice. You’ll find it at buffalojewishfederation.org/racial-justice/

If you would like to learn more about our work, or reach out to get involved, please contact Rachel Beerman, Racial Justice Coordinator at rachel@buffalojewishfederation.org.

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



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The Worlds around William Street

BY CHANA R. KOTZIN, PH.D.

The East Side neighborhood remains an evocative part of Buffalo Jewish memories and stories for many people. For just over forty years, the thoroughfares of William, Jefferson, Clinton, Pine, Hickory, Spring, and Fillmore were Jewish commercial and organizational centers. Once immigration was reduced to all but a trickle by federal legislation in 1924, the East Side underwent further transitions as younger and older Jews began to relocate to the West Side, Humboldt, and North Buffalo for new forms of social and congregational life. Despite this, the neighborhood continued as a commercial and community center into the 1940s.



Steinhart's Restaurant, William Street, Courtesy of Phyllis Steinhart Butin.

Looking back from 2021, the vitality of this area over the decades is astounding. The sheer range of commercial, religious and cultural opportunities alongside residential networks, made for a community sensibility that has only been rivaled by Hertel Avenue since. Waves of new immigrants to Buffalo followed a path east to the other side of Michigan Avenue. The older existing Jewish community had congregated around Pearl and Elm Streets and Niagara Square where the homes of Temple Beth El and Temple Beth Zion stood from the 1890s to 1912 close to the center of Buffalo. Those communities' new homes now occupied select sites on Delaware and Richmond Avenues far away. For Eastern European newcomers in contrast, the worlds of William Street and Jefferson, Clinton and Hickory became their main arteries of life on the East Side. Reading the pages of the *American Hebrew and Jewish Messenger* in the earliest years of the twentieth century you are transported into the unfolding development of this hub and we seek to expand that by creating a richly illustrated virtual exhibition of the East Side with your help.

By the turn of the twentieth century, three quarters of all Jews in Buffalo lived in the William street area bordered by Michigan, Eagle, Jefferson and Broadway. Just a decade earlier, and at the end of the first waves of several terrible pogroms in Russia (now Ukraine), some 1,900 Jews had made their way to Buffalo, which up until 1879 was home

to only 1500 Jewish families. Over the decade 1900 to 1910, however, Eastern European Jewish immigrants from Russia and current day Ukraine and Poland and their children born here, expanded to around 10,000 so that by 1910, this new group had become the majority of Jews living in Buffalo. One of the visible landscape markers of this growth were new synagogues, most of which we have some documentation that you can explore at jewishbuffalohistory.org/synagogues/.

The vitality of the East Side was not just the synagogues that dotted its streets. There were other ecosystems of connection and culture that lay beyond the shul door. The first of these types of connectors were organizations that provided particular services. The Talmud Torah, later known as the Buffalo Hebrew School, was located on Hickory in a two-story brick building that had a large hall. This space was a popular meeting place for younger East Siders and on different nights provided spaces for literary, Zionist and social groups to meet. (Please contact us if you have memorabilia and images to share on the website). For example, in 1908 the B'nai Zion current affairs group of around 25 girls was active as was the Jewish Endeavor Society which raised funds for an independent Fresh Air summer camp that provided the model for the Jewish Fresh Air Camp. The Talmud Torah was funded via door to door collections, and membership dues (which were \$3 per annum) as well as a tax on



Banquet of the Ustingrader Unterstutzung Verein in 1930, Courtesy of Ferne Mittleman (z"l).

chickens slaughtered by authorized *shochetim*. At one time, two hundred boys attended in split shifts from 3:30-7:30 p.m., while a similar number of girls attended the Sunday school. We are seeking images of the school – inside or out – and class photographs or other items connected to the Talmud Torah and its later incarnation as the Buffalo Hebrew School.

The Talmud Torah also provided space for an office of the *Gemilut Chasidim*, also known as the Hebrew Loan Association and later as the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association. It was founded by a group of far sighted men on the East Side who wanted to help prevent indebtedness when disaster struck by providing small loans from as little as \$15 to as much as \$25. In 1908 they had a treasury of more than \$2,000, over 300 members, and approximately \$3,000 in outstanding loans. We are keen to trace photographs of all of the founding group that included Jacob Rosing, Morris Diamond, Morris Balber, Harry Harriton, Aaron Cohen, Isaac Feldberg, Morris Shapiro, and Enoch Shulgasser. To learn more, check the entry on the website, jewishbuffalohistory.org/organizations/hbla/ where you can see an image of Sol Rubenstein in whose home on William Street in 1897, the association was founded.

Often associations connected by tight networks of family, friends and associates were *Landsmannshaftn*, or home town associations. One such group that played a significant role in the expansion of Jewish Buffalo, especially from 1918, were the Sokelifkers. After survivors fled pogroms in Yustingrad (in present day Ukraine), they were welcomed by an existing community of relatives who had settled earlier from around 1906. As Sokelifkers (note: there are multiple spelling variants of this town) they established a dense and interrelated network

through three direct organizations: Holy Order of the Living, a Chevra Kadisha and cemetery, the *Ustingrader Unterstutzung Verein* (Benevolent Society), created in 1913 as well as the Spring Street Shul (for which we are still seeking an image). Many Buffalo Jewish names (with varying spellings for the different branches) including Ablove, Berleant, Berkun, Carrel, Criden, Chernoff, Dozoretz, Gelman, Kahn, Liberman, Rekoon, Rovner, Shuman and Wagner are still familiar names within the broader community today. Descendants have written books, published family trees, held reunions, and become leaders in a variety of organizations. Nashelkers form another Buffalo hometown grouping that we have very limited materials, and for which we seek images and family stories.

Lastly, we are hoping to building a reservoir of materials about Jewish commercial life in Buffalo that documents the East Side as part of a recognition that much of that fabric has gone but that this activity was a vital part of the East Side. By going to a new section on the website at jewishbuffalohistory.org/seeking-sources/ you can see just a few of the hundreds of names that helped give the flavor of one particular road: William Street.

If you have images for any of these businesses or others on the East Side, please contact Chana@buffalojewishfederation.org. Our thanks to current contributors and we look forward to including your stories too.

Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D., is the coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo HistoryCenter website, which you can find at jewishbuffalohistory.org.

KOT Happenings

BY PHYLLIS STEINBERG

Kehilat Ohr Tzion recently celebrated the B'nai Mitzvot of two of our members. Benjamin Philip Marks was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah surrounded by family and friends and he first put on tefillin the previous Thursday. Both events were very special to Ben and his family. Following Shabbat services all the guests received a boxed Kiddush lunch and the celebration continued in the evening with Havdalah and a delightful kid friendly meal. Talula Enis became a Bat Mitzvah in an unique service in a huge tent in the Enis backyard where Talula read her Tora portion and chanted the Haftarah. Most of the service was led by women. Following the service there was a kiddush lunch served in the tent. Since KOT is a small, close-knit community, both these simchas were especially meaningful to everyone in our shul.



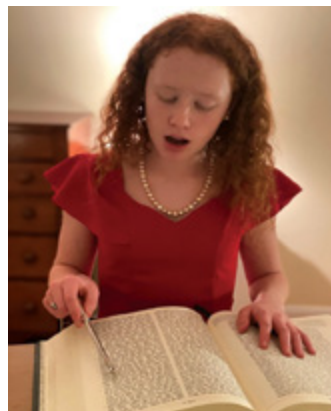
Benjamin Philip Marks

These simchas brought much happiness to the members of KOT, to all the families and to their many guests. Such celebrations always take a lot of planning and during COVID times even more so.

In other exciting KOT news, Shabbat morning programming for children is once again taking place twice a month from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.. Zahava Fried, a certified teacher with a beautiful voice and a great deal of experience working with young children, will be teaching stories and songs that will bring joy to the children

and their parents. Snacks will also be served.

Many learning opportunities continue on Zoom with Rabbi Ori Bergman. There is also a Beit Midrash that meets in person on Sunday evenings at KOT to examine and discuss various points of Halacha by reading sources in the Talmud and modern authorities. **For more information about this class and other learning options email oribergman@gmail.com.**



Talula Enis

Ohr Temimim Student Data Experts and Naturalists



Rivah Munitz, Deborah Brown, and Shira Katan displaying 2021 NYS Junior Naturalist Badge

The fourth and fifth grade girls in Mrs. Bolles' class at Ohr Temimim School earned the 2021 New York State Junior Naturalist badge. The badge requirements are designed to connect children to nature with a specific focus on New York State and were developed through a partnership between the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Students participated in a nature walk, read about nature in New York State, and completed journal activities.

The students are also conducting a data analysis project as part of the 2022 Great Lakes Data Jam, made possible through a New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grant awarded by the New York Sea Grant in partnership with the DEC. Students will identify trends in the data provided, and complete a scientific report, as well as creating a way to express the data finding to a larger audience.



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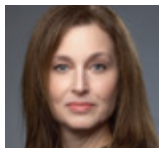
Foundation For Jewish Philanthropies Elects Officers and Welcomes New Board Members

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies (FJP) is pleased to announce the elected Executive Committee for its Board of Trustees effective January 1, 2022: Jonathan D. Schechter, President; Alison R. Keane and Peter Allen Weinmann, Vice Presidents, Craig Small, Secretary and Daniel J. Kester, Treasurer. FJP is also pleased to welcome Bruce Levine, Jordana Maisel, Sanath Rajapakse, Melissa Stevener, and Rick Steinberg to the organization's Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022.

Jonathan D. Schechter is a Partner with the law firm of Gross Shuman, where his practice is focused on business consulting, corporate law, commercial real estate, estates and trusts, taxation, and cross-border planning. Jonathan is actively engaged in the Jewish community and has served as a volunteer and Board member with many non-profit organizations including Jewish Community Center, Buffalo Jewish Federation, Menorah Campus, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, and many others.



Alison R. Keane has served as a community volunteer for almost three decades. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Burchfield Penney Art Center and has been a board member at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Elmwood Franklin School, Western New York Women's Foundation as well as a temple trustee at Beth El in Chappaqua, NY and Temple Beth Zion. Alison specializes in fundraising, events, and collaborative problem solving. She received a BA in government at Cornell University.



Peter Allen Weinmann is Managing Attorney of the law firm of Wolfgang & Weinmann where he focuses his practice on representing corporate, industrial, and high-end residential taxpayers in challenging their tax assessments. He is also past president of the American Jewish Committee, Buffalo/Niagara Chapter; former Governor of the Buffalo Jewish Federation; past Trustee, Temple Beth Zion; past member, Development Committee, Roswell Park Cancer Center.



Craig Z. Small is founder of the Small Law Firm, where focuses his practice on personal injury and elder abuse. He is an active member of the Jewish Community serving on the board and as Treasurer of American Jewish Committee and is a member of Shir Shalom.



Daniel J. Kester, Ph.D. is a retired materials scientist. He earned his B.A. from Grinnell College and M.S. and Ph.D. from Penn State University. He is currently on the boards of Jewish Family Services, Congregation Shir Shalom where he is Men's Group president, the Holocaust Resource Center, and the Schoerke Foundation which supports education in West Africa.



Bruce Levine is President of 3D Development Group LLC, a multifaceted development and asset management firm that provides NYS public housing authorities, non-profit housing and social service agencies with technical assistance in a wide range of service areas. He has served on the Board of the Mel Ott Little League, the Board of the NYS Association for Affordable Housing and is a past President of Jewish Federation Apartments.



Jordana Maisel is a professor at the University at Buffalo's Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Director of Research for the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access. She serves



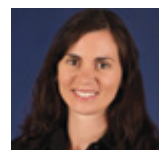
as a Board Member for the Amherst Senior Center and the Self-Advocacy Network of WNY. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree at Cornell and her Masters and Doctorate degrees at UB. Among her accomplishments are published research papers, reports and books on inclusive design.

Sanath Rajapakse is a partner at Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. managing their Risk Advisory Services



practice. He earned his Bachelor of Science at Empire State College and focuses on Enterprise Risk Management, Process and Controls Optimization, Systems Selection, Cybersecurity, Regulatory Compliance, and Project Management services. He is designated as a Registered Practitioner by the CMMC-AB to deliver Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification services and is an Information Systems Auditor.

Melissa Stevener is an equity partner at Brock, Schechter & Polakoff, LLP. She is Treasurer of



Friends of Knox Farm Park starting January 2022. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting at SUNY Geneseo, and enjoys coaching soccer.

Richard "Rick" Steinberg is the Executive Residence in Leadership at the University at



Buffalo School of Management and is principal at RAS Change Consulting LLC. He has served on Boards including The Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation and the Jewish Community Center, where he is currently the Chair of the Personnel Committee. He earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh and his Masters and PhD degrees in Organizational Psychology at Michigan State University. He previously spent 35 years working in Human Resources, most recently as Vice President of Human Resources for Columbus McKinnon Corp.

Scholarship opportunities available for Jewish Teens and College Students for Israel travel in Summer 2022!

SPECIAL EXTENDED DEADLINE THIS YEAR ONLY!

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Questions? Email: scholarships@jewishphilanthropies.org

Buffalo Day of Jewish Learning: Sunday, February 27, 2022

Please join the Buffalo Jewish community for the 2022 Buffalo Day of Jewish Learning on Sunday, February 27. Hosted by Dr. Alex Green, Buffalo Jewish Community Educator, this event will be a celebration of local Jewish talent for all who love to learn.

You will have your choice of sessions led by a rich array of speakers who will be sharing their expertise in business, academia, religious practice, music history, mindfulness and spirituality, theatre, and more. Among the topics that you can explore are:

What does it mean to be Jewish in Western New York?

How can I run a successful business without compromising my Jewish values?

How has Jewish music and culture evolved in the last century?

How can we inspire our children to carry on meaningful Jewish lives?

You will have access to local well-known figures such as Rabbi Ori Bergman; Gon Erez; Zahava Fried; Prof. Drew Kahn; Sharon Levite; Barbara Macks; Prof. Noam Pines; Rabbi Sara Rich; Rabbi Adam



Dr. Alex Green



Barbara Macks



Sharon Levite



Dr. Mike Stekloff



Prof. Noam Pines



Rus Devorah Wallen

Rosenbaum; Dr. Mike Stekloff; Rus Devorah Wallen, LCSW; Prof. Alexandra Zirkle; and students from Hillel of Buffalo and Kadimah Scholars at Park.

For the full immersive experience, join us in person at the Center for

Tomorrow on the North Campus of the University at Buffalo from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For those who will not be able to attend in person, there will be a special track online on Zoom. Kosher lunch is included and fully BVK supervised for those who attend in person.

The Buffalo Jewish Day of Learning is the first public project of the Home/Hub Partnership between the Buffalo Jewish Community and UB's College of Arts and Sciences. The Home/Hub Partnership seeks to draw on the academic resources of the university to address critical issues facing the Jewish community while presenting opportunities to enhance Jewish life on campus and throughout Jewish Buffalo. Many thanks to the Buffalo Jewish Federation, the UB College of Arts and Sciences at the University at Buffalo, Hillel of Buffalo, Amherst Memorial Chapel, and the TELL Fund for sponsoring this event.

The full schedule and registration will be available online at buffalojewishfederation.org/day-of-jewish-learning-2022/. The subsidized registration fee is \$18 for community members and free for students. For more information, contact Dr. Alex Green at agreen6@buffalo.edu.



Gift to the Community Recital

Sunday, Jan 30 at 3 pm

Steven Banks, saxophone

Mary Seaton Room, Kleinhans Music Hall

Program includes works by Creston, Brahms & Banks

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The Gift to the Community Recital Series is made possible through a grant from the Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation.

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Winter Journey

Thu Feb 10, 6pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

A powerful multimedia event presenting the haunting 90-minute film *Winter Journey*, starring legendary Swiss actor, Bruno Ganz, and based on *Performance Today* host Martin Goldsmith's book, *The Inextinguishable Symphony: A True Story of Music and Love in Nazi Germany*. The evening features a Q&A with Goldsmith and Maestro JoAnn Falletta, with light refreshments, followed by the BPO performance of Danish composer Carl Nielsen's iconoclastic *Symphony No. 4, "The Inextinguishable."*

In collaboration with the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival.



21317

Call (716) 885 5000 or visit bpo.org

Volunteers Make It Happen

BY SIERRA JOHNSTON

At Jewish Family Services (JFS), our work is heavily guided by Jewish values. We believe in the dignity and inherent worth of every individual at every stage of life, and work to address their needs as a whole person.

When we learned of the crisis in Afghanistan, we knew we needed to act quickly. Buffalo, the 4th most common city for refugees to be resettled, was sure to open its doors to many of those being evacuated from their homes. After joining forces with Catholic Charities, Journeys End, the International Institute of Buffalo and Jericho Road Community Health Center, we formed Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees. JFS took the lead in several initiatives, including managing Volunteers and In Kind Donations, which focused on housing preparation.

The Volunteer & In Kind Donation Committee began recruiting teams of 10 or more volunteers to form "Welcome Home Teams." These teams work together to collect the items needed to fill one apartment and then set up the apartment together before a family moves in. We also recruited volunteer movers to help transport large items, as well as volunteer donation sorters and organizers. We released a list of priority donation needs that centered



Sierra Johnston (right) with a volunteer from Trocaire College gathered cleaning items and housing necessities to prepare an apartment for a new family.

around items evacuees would need while staying in temporary housing such as toiletries and linens.

The outpouring of community support has been inspiring. Schools, churches, synagogues, and individuals have hosted in-kind donation drives. And our phones light up each day with calls from community members asking us what we needed and how they could help. Within two weeks of releasing our volunteer opportunities, we had more

than 300 people express interest to help! Since then, 30+ Welcome Home Teams have formed; 50+ people have assisted with sorting, organizing, and transporting donations; and 50+ groups and individuals have hosted in-kind donation drives.

In addition, we have been incredibly touched by the generous financial support for this important work. Led by the Federation and Foundation, the Buffalo Jewish community alone raised almost \$50,000 in a match campaign in under 2 weeks this past October. These dollars will help pay for initial securities including housing, food, hygiene and basic necessities, as well as legal fees to aid in asylum applications.

To date, approximately 20 families have been transitioned from temporary housing into fully furnished apartments. We are expecting to continue resettling evacuee families through March of 2022.

If you would like to learn more, please contact us at 716.883.1914 x331 or visit wnyrac.org for the most up-to-date information.

Sierra Johnston is the Volunteer Services Manager at Jewish Family Services of Western New York.

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BPO and Jewish Film Festival Host Special Event at Kleinhans February 10

BY RICK KOLLINS

Like many Jews, Martin Goldsmith hardly related to his religious and cultural heritage until he began researching his family history some 30 years ago. Now Goldsmith, best known as a classical music producer, director and host on National Public Radio and Sirius XM, is central to an acclaimed biography and movie that will be featured at a special dinnertime event sponsored by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival at Kleinhans Music Hall on Thursday, February 10.

The program will include a showing of the movie *Winter Journey*, a Q&A session with Goldsmith and BPO Conductor JoAnn Falletta, and a performance of Carl Nielson's *Inextinguishable Symphony*, which inspired the title of Goldsmith's book.

Now 69 and living outside Washington, D.C., Goldsmith grew up in St. Louis and Cleveland, where his mother Rosemarie was a violist in the symphony orchestras. Goldsmith's father Gunther was a classical flutist but gave up performing in 1946.

Goldsmith's book *The Inextinguishable Symphony: A True Story of Music and Love in Nazi Germany* and the movie *Winter Journey* follow Rosemarie and Gunther as members of the Judischer Kulturbund (Jewish Cultural Federation), the organization created in 1933 by propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels to segregate Jewish performers and audiences in all areas of cultural life in Nazi Germany.

Gunther Goldschmidt was 22 when he met 18-year-old Rosemarie Gumpert at the Frankfurt Kulturbund Orchestra in 1935. Although Gunther managed to leave Nazi Germany for Sweden in 1938, he returned six months later to marry Rosemarie and stayed until a U.S. sponsor helped the couple escape in 1941. Initially, Rosemarie worked as a domestic and Gunther reconditioned zippers for reuse during World War II before the couple got positions with symphony orchestras in Baltimore, Pittsburgh and New Orleans, and eventually settled in St. Louis, where Martin and his older brother Peter were born.



Winter Journey with the BPO and BIJFF

February 10, 2022
Kleinhans Music Hall

Program Schedule

5:00- 5:45 p.m. VIP BIJFF
wine reception

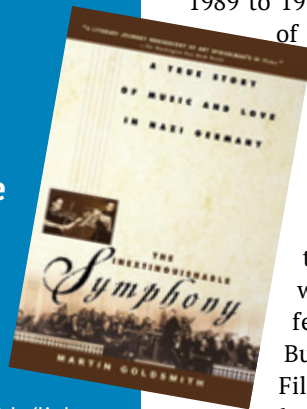
6:00-7:30 p.m. Film
screening

7:30-8:00 p.m. Break /
Q&A with Martin Goldsmith (light
refreshments served in the Mary
Seaton Room)

8:00-8:30p.m. BPO performance

To Purchase tickets: [https://bpo.org/
event/winter-journey/](https://bpo.org/event/winter-journey/)

Special Discount Code: JCCWINTER
Registration with code Includes
access to VIP BIJFF wine reception.



Goldsmith believes his father disassociated from Judaism because of the persecution he had faced in Germany. As Martin told an interviewer: "The Third Reich strengthened the faith of some, but also destroyed a number of people's faith. My father fit into the latter category, saying that 'Hitler decided I was a Jew'." He also speculated that his father may have given up music as an "act of penance" when in 1945 "he put away his flute and took a job selling furniture in a department store. My father always said that we were 'of Jewish background', but I wasn't raised as a Jew, and didn't attend my first Seder

until I was 16 when I had Jewish friends in Cleveland."

Goldsmith said his search into his Jewish background was mostly triggered by a visit with his father in 1992 to Gunther's hometown of Oldenburg and the Holocaust Memorial Museum there. "That began my process of asking questions and looking for answers," he said. In 2008 at age 55, Goldsmith studied for and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins University, Goldsmith served as a radio host and musical producer in Cleveland and Washington from 1971 to 1987 before joining NPR, where he hosted the popular show *Performance Today* from 1989 to 1999. Since retiring as director of classical music for Sirius XM in 2018, he continues to be heard weekends on *Symphony Hall*.

His biography *The Inextinguishable Symphony* was published in 2000 and the movie *Winter Journey* was released in 2019 and featured at last year's Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival. The film is a docudrama directed by Academy Award nominee Andres Ostergaard of Denmark and stars legendary Swiss actor Bruno Ganz in the last performance before his passing. Ganz portrays Gunther Goldschmidt being interviewed by Martin, who actually plays himself, although only his voice is heard on the soundtrack.

Ms. Falletta explained that the February 10 program resulted from discussions she had with Goldsmith after *Winter Journey* was released. Falletta had met Martin through his brother Peter, longtime program director at WNED-FM, Buffalo's Classical radio station. "Martin and I came up with the idea of combining the film with the Nielson symphony since this work was a tribute to the human spirit, and ironically was the last piece that Martin's parents played with the Kulturbund," Falletta said.

Tickets for the program and a VIP wine reception and light dinner can be purchased for \$20 on the JCC web site at jccbuffalo.org.

Rick Kollins is a member of the Film Festival Committee.

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COMMUNITY

JCC Virtual Cooking Series with Chef Marshall Goldstein



Back by popular demand following a successful winter series in 2021, Chef Marshall Goldstein offers monthly live cooking demos and recipes. Each class will feature a different recipe created by Chef Marshall. The recipes will be sent in advance so you can cook along if you like.

Chef Marshall has an Associate's degree from Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, South Carolina, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. Since graduating from Johnson and Wales in 1992, Chef Marshall has gone on to work in many facets of the culinary world. He was featured on a local Food show in the Toledo area called "Let's Eat Toledo" and has been written up in multiple newspapers over the many years. He currently has worked for the last 14 years as an award-winning Executive Chef in the Healthcare industry.

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom. 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, and 4/6.
Events are Free and Open to the Public. Registration is required at www.jccbuffalo.org.

JCC, HRC and the BPO Special Events

On Friday, January 14, the JCC offers an event package including transportation, lunch, and concert tickets to see the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) perform *New World Symphony*, with renowned conductor Teddy Abrams at Kleinhans Music Hall. The *New World Symphony* program includes evocative musical narration from young Anne Frank's hopes and visions for the future to her sobering final moments, composed by former BPO Music Director Michael Tilson-Thomas. Antonin Dvořák's well-known ovation for North America is included in the program, with its gorgeous melodies inspired by African-American spirituals and Native American music.

The bus will leave the JCC Benderson Family Building at 9:00 a.m., and guests can enjoy coffee and donuts pre-concert. Following the concert, guests will return to the Benderson Family Building to enjoy a catered lunch by Buffalo Kosher Gourmet. All are welcome to join. JCC members receive a 25% discount. Space is limited. **To purchase tickets, which are \$72.00 | JCC members or \$96.00 | guests, visit jccbuffalo.org.**



SPECIAL PRE-CONCERT EVENT - Join the JCC and Holocaust Resource Center as they host a special pre-concert conversation with conductor Teddy Abrams and BPO cellist Robbie Hausmann **Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Maxine and Robert Seller Theater at the **JCC Benderson Family Building**. Abrams and Hausmann **will be** in discussion with Wendy Weisbrot, President of the Holocaust Resource Center, and will share their involvement with the *New World Symphony* program and take questions from the audience. **Questions? Contact Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.**

CORRECTION

Last issue's story about poet Paul Nemser's visit to Buffalo was written by Gunilla Kester. It did not include her name as the author of the story.



**“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: 83**
Total dollar amount:
\$3,900,243

**through November 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 or 716-463-5065.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

HILLEL OF BUFFALO

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

“When you get involved with Hillel, you make lifetime friendships.” - Blake Lobel, '21

Hillel of Buffalo is a hub of Jewish student life on campus. Students of all different backgrounds, beliefs, and identities are made to feel at home when they come to Hillel. Our community consists of students of all backgrounds, from those who were raised going to synagogue every week to those who are discovering their Jewish identity for the first time. Each student is valued for who they are, and at Hillel they find friendship and belonging.

“As a leader in Hillel, I connect with people I wouldn't have otherwise met. I feel I can make an impact in ways that matter to me and to my peers.” - Alexandra Vool, '22

Throughout their time in college, students engage in Jewish life in ways that they never dreamed were possible. They learn that they not only belong in the Jewish community, but that they can be leaders, too. Students are empowered to lead Passover seders, Shabbat services, and social justice initiatives. Hillel of Buffalo also helps students make a difference in our local community, as we connect them with local internships and volunteer opportunities that strengthen Jewish Buffalo.

“Hillel provided a sense of comfort and community. I was welcomed with open arms.” - Jacob Klieger '21

Hillel of Buffalo improves the lives of students by giving them access to the wisdom of the Jewish tradition and the joy of Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Students find mentors in Hillel staff members who can support them and guide

them through the challenges of this tumultuous time in their lives. Hillel partners with the university to ensure that students feel safe on campus and comfortable expressing their Jewish identity.

“I am inspired to make a legacy gift to Hillel of Buffalo, because to strengthen even one student is to ensure our Jewish future.” - Dr. Iris Danziger, Board member

Our legacy donors are individuals just like you who understand the importance of offering students life-changing experiences at a critical time in their transition to adulthood. Students who participate in Hillel gain a sense of Jewish authenticity and pride. They carry forward the desire to stay involved and contribute to the Jewish community and to society.

Your legacy gift today will ensure that for as long as Jewish students go to college, Hillel will be there to support them. **For any questions about Hillel of Buffalo, please contact Rabbi Sara Rich at rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org.**

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

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

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

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Tu B'shvat and Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BY RABBI SHARON L. SOBEL

On January 17th, the observances of the Jewish festival of *Tu B'shvat* (the "birthday of the trees" – similar to Arbor Day) and the day for commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day coincide.

At first glance, the two observances appear to have nothing in common: *Tu B'shvat* celebrates nature, the day the first almond blossoms appear in the land of Israel. In its more contemporary setting, *Tu B'shvat* is about climate change. It gives us an opportunity to focus on our relationship with the environment, our connection to God and how these two are inextricably intertwined. On MLK Day, we commemorate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: the great civil rights leader, social justice activist, pastor, preacher, husband, father, scholar, orator and dreamer.

This same week, it is also no coincidence that the Jewish people has just finished reading the section of the



Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel

Book of Exodus where the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. So how are *Tu B'shvat*, the observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day and the story of our people's struggle for freedom all related?

It was a long, hard road for our people to find their way from Egypt to the Promised Land of Israel. A road fraught with disappointment, frustration and setbacks. Yet, on this road, our people, the Jewish people, was born. Our nation found its path toward building a covenantal relationship with God. We discovered some of the greatest eternal truths that still guide us today, thousands of years later.

Many peoples have experienced struggles of slavery, oppression and bondage. Many people have had to walk that same road our people did so many years ago. As we are all too well aware, the struggles are still not over.

The Jewish people's story of oppression and redemption strongly resonates with the lessons taught by Dr. King. He often spoke with a prophetic voice echoing those biblical values, morals and ideals. He fought for what was just, right and fair. Many rabbis and ministers, priests and good people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds walked along side him. His message still cries out to

us today, in our broken, hurting world.

Our relationship with the environment and with nature, teaches us that there is always hope for the future. *Tu B'shvat* in particular reminds us that we are blessed with what we have today because of those who planted seeds before us. These seeds can be the literal seeds for food, or the symbolic seeds of justice, peace, harmony and hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often spoke about those seeds of justice; he tried to grow a field of hope. He caused the sun to shine on a forest of dreams for so many people, creating a positive environment of potential and opportunity, just as the Israelites saw their potential of opportunity as they marched on their journey toward the Promised Land.

So today we affirm our pursuit of justice, as well as our commitment to protect our environment. As the Rev. Dr. King, Jr. taught, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." (Birmingham, Alabama, April 16, 1963).

This is my prayer for these dual observances: "Let violence be gone; let the day come soon when evil shall give way to goodness, when war shall be forgotten, hunger be no more, and all at last shall live in freedom." As the prophet Micah reminds us: Then all shall sit under their vines and fig trees and none shall make them afraid. (Micah 4:4)

Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel is the Interim Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion.

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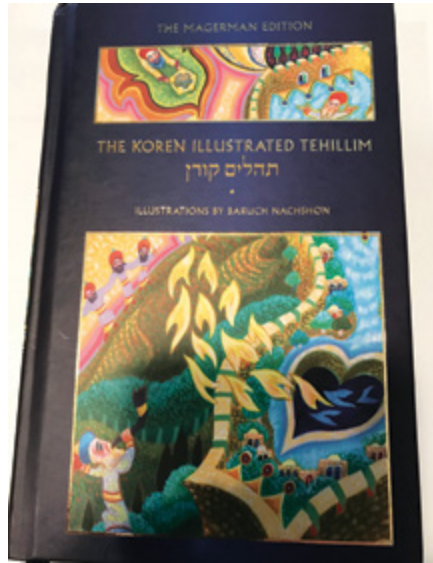
Young Israel Women Pray for the Sick

BY ANTOINETTE DAUBER

Since medieval times and earlier, Jews have recited Psalms in times of illness. The psalms, *Tehillim* in Hebrew, are pleas and supplications, mostly written by King David in times of his distress. According to a midrash, God told David that his 'songs' were more beloved to Him than all the sacrifices King Solomon, David's son, offered when he built the Holy Temple. The specific practice of reciting psalms for an illness was already known to Maimonides (1138 - 1204). He discusses the custom and concludes that it is the right thing to do.

For almost 20 years, the women of Young Israel have been upholding this tradition in a monthly meeting, open to all Jewish women. We meet on the first Monday evening after Rosh Chodesh (the beginning of the Hebrew month marked on all Jewish calendars). In a concession to COVID, our meetings are now by conference call, rather than in person.

In order to cover the entire Book of Psalms, Marsha Goldberg and Arlene Merowitz, our coordinators, divide up the volume and assign each participant a section to read independently prior to our phone call. We each read the verses quietly to ourselves either in Hebrew or in English or toggling between the two. At 8:15, when we've all finished our assignments, we dial in and Naomi Cowen reads the beautiful prayer, 'Yehi Ratzon' ("May it be Your will"): "Direct us to Your service, open our hearts to the study of Your Torah and send complete healing to the sick..." At this



point, Naomi reads all of the names that were previously sent to her, and each participant in turn is invited to say the names of those she is praying for. Frequently, our meetings end with a few words of Torah prepared by Sara Heimowitz.

We are happy to pray for you or your loved one, if you send us the name. As is traditional in times of sickness, the Hebrew name is given along with the Hebrew name of the mother, for example, Chaim ben Rivka or Devora bat Miriam. If a Hebrew name is not available or if we are praying for a non-Jew, we say the English first and last names.

To send in a name or for more information, email Info.YIbuffalo@gmail.com and put Tehillim in the subject line.

Antoinette Dauber is a member of Young Israel and its Women's Tehillim group.

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If interested, please email Gon Erez, Chief Program Officer, gerez@jccbuffalo.org, or call 716-204-2259
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Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo

Maccabi Games Site

Jewish Discovery Center's New Home

BY LORNE OPLER

If you grew up in Buffalo (or Southern Ontario like me) during the 60's, 70's and even into the 80's, chances are you were in front of the TV set at 3:30 p.m. every weekday after school... just in time to hear the announcer say, "From Central Command - Somewhere in the Niagara Frontier...It's the Commander Tom Show!" Commander Tom (played by WKBW Channel 7's "The Weather Outside Man," and Lockport native Tom Jolls) and his cast of puppets - Dustmop, Matty, Cecily Fripple and her evil sister Cecile "Cici" Fripple - entertained us with an hour of stories and laughs and reruns of "The Adventures of Superman" and later "The Flintstones."

One of the things I remember most from the show was Commander Tom's efforts to enlist his viewers to become "Good Deed Doers," showcasing a "Good Deed Doer of the Day." I don't know why Commander Tom's campaign to promote good deeds left a lasting impression on me, but it did. Maybe because those were the very same values that I was being taught at the very same time in my Hebrew school in Toronto. Learning to perform *mitzvot* or "good deeds" was as integral a part of my Jewish education as was watching The Commander Tom Show after school.

Perhaps that's why Buffalo's Jewish Discovery Center resonates with me too, because of its equal focus on promoting, educating and inspiring Jews to practice *mitzvot*, good deeds, and random acts of kindness. And with the Discovery Center's recent purchase of a bigger facility on Maple Road, the institution will not only have many more opportunities to teach Jews about the importance of performing good deeds, but just as many opportunities to enhance its array of Jewish educational, social and spiritual programming across Western New York.



Rabbi Yehoshua Greenberg, Rabbi Heschel Greenberg and Rabbi Levi Greenberg in front of the new Jewish Discovery Center building at 831 Maple Road in Williamsville

"By having our own place, we now have more room to serve more people with expanded offerings," explains Rabbi Heschel Greenberg, Director and Senior Rabbi of the Jewish Discovery Center. "A good example is our very popular musical enrichment program called "Jewish Music and Movement" for moms and children ages 6 months to 6 years, run by my daughter-in-law, Rivky Greenberg. Our previous location couldn't accommodate all the moms and tots. But in our Maple Road location, we will be able to welcome more moms, more kids and make more music to strengthen and nurture the mother and child relationship." Rebecca Shaw of East Amherst is one of those many moms. "My four-year-old loves the music class," she says. "And Rivky is lovely...and lively."

Indeed, strengthening relationships and nurturing bonds with Western New York Jews is at the heart of the Discovery Center's focus, and the new facility will provide the added space to offer more classes through its Institute of Jewish Studies. With over 50 years of dedication to Buffalo's Jewish community and as the city's longest serving Rabbi, Greenberg is excited by the move which will deepen the Institute's capacity to offer more courses and more workshops for more people. "Currently, we teach about 100 different Jewish topics, and with the new space, we will be able to grow our educational offerings," beams Rabbi Greenberg.

And that's not all that is growing at the new Discovery Center. A new and larger kitchen means a greater capacity to create festive meals for community members and share the joys of kosher cooking; whether

it's teaching Western New Yorkers how to bake challahs for Shabbat or providing "Taste of Shabbat" food packages for anybody who wishes to experience a sampling of authentic Shabbat foods in the comforts of their homes. A new, enlarged recording studio means that more lectures can be taped and shared with people near and far who cannot attend Rabbi Greenberg's workshops in person. And a larger parking lot means outdoor services and events under a canopied tent can take place which, during COVID-19 for example, has been especially important to ensure and prioritize the health and safety of congregants.

That's one reason why Melinda Saran of Amherst enjoys being a part of the Center. "I felt safe with outdoor services," she said. But it's more than just the feeling of safety that brings Melinda back. "It's the people. The Rabbi and his wife are so warm and kind and the Sunday morning classes are wonderful; authoritative yet approachable. They accept people of all levels of belief and knowledge."

Dr. Allen Morganstein seconds those sentiments. "From Rabbi Greenberg, I learned what it is to be Jew; to take pride in being a Jew and to have the knowledge about Judaism that I did not have when I was young," says the retired child and adolescent psychiatrist. "In my younger years, I was attracted to the Chinese philosophy of Daoism for its softness and beauty. Today, I realize that Judaism has these same qualities...in spades, and I don't have to go outside my own religion to find them," he adds.

And in the end, that is the fundamental message that the Jewish Discovery Center aims to get across; an accessible, welcoming, and non-judgmental Judaism where everyone is welcome regardless of their level of observance, practice or belief.

And while the Commander Tom Show may no longer be championing "good deed doers" today, the Jewish Discovery Center is not only doing good deeds every day, but with its new, permanent home on Maple Road, it is creating a vibrant new space where more good deeds, more education, and more opportunities to make a difference in the lives of Jewish Buffalonians will happen every day.

Lorne Opler is an adjunct Professor of Fitness and Health Promotion at Fleming College in Peterborough, Ontario. A member of Congregation Beth Abraham, he formerly lived in Buffalo.



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Hillel of Buffalo and Stop the Bleed



BY LOGAN WOODARD

Pikuach Nefesh is the Jewish value of saving a life. Being prepared and knowing how to respond in an emergency situation is a powerful way to observe the principles of *Pikuach Nefesh*. Hillel of Buffalo recently hosted a **Stop the Bleed** and medical training led by Hillel Board Member, Dr. Iris Danziger, and Skylar Bard, a UB freshman and EMT. Participating students were trained on how to apply a tourniquet and how to administer Narcan.

Dr. Danziger and Skylar shared their experiences in the field and supervised students in their training. **Stop the Bleed** is a training course that teaches participants how to safely apply a tourniquet in the event of serious injury as a result of an accident or shooting. Dr. Danziger explained that “an injury or accident can happen anywhere and if it

involves bleeding it can be deadly. The **Stop the Bleed** course allows anyone to gain the skills necessary to go from being a shocked bystander to an immediate responder.”

After the **Stop the Bleed** training, participants were trained on administering Narcan by a staff member from the Erie County Department of Health. Participants learned about the extent of the opioid crisis and how it impacts our community. Dr. Danziger emphasized the importance of “having greater access to naloxone (Narcan) and how it can be used to save lives.” Most of the participants were nursing and public health students who wanted to learn new and relevant skills. Students walked away with crucial knowledge and resources to prepare them to act in emergency situations

Logan Woodard is the Director of Engagement at Hillel of Buffalo

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If you participated in this class before the pandemic or if you would like to join us now, everyone is welcome. The cost is \$180. Participants need to be members of Congregation Shir Shalom.

If you have any questions about the class, please contact Rabbi Alex Lazarus at lazarusklein@yahoo.com. If you would like to register, please contact Joanne Marquisee at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.



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Temple Beth Tzedek Events

Lecture Series

Temple Beth Tzedek's upcoming guest lecture series features two dynamic synagogue members and community leaders, Dr. Lisa Benson and the Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin.

On Thursday, January 6 at 8:00 p.m., Dr. Benson will discuss: "Hey Doc... What's Acupuncture All About?" A medical acupuncturist practicing in Amherst, Dr. Benson is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Medical Acupuncture. She earned her M.D. at UB Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and her B.A. from Binghamton University.

On Thursday, February 3, at 8:00 p.m., Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin will present: "Tales from the Vault: Stories of Cases from the DA's Office and Family Court." A trailblazer in addressing family violence and child abuse issues, Judge Bloch Rodwin served in the Erie County District Attorney's office for 23 years, including leading its Domestic Violence Bureau for a dozen years. In 2008, she was elected to serve as a Family Court judge where



Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin

she specialized in Child Abuse and Neglect, Family Violence and Custody/Visitation cases until her retirement from the bench in 2020. She is an alumna of the University at Buffalo School of Law and Rutgers University.

Tot Shabbat

Temple Beth Tzedek will be hosting Tot Shabbat services at 10:30 a.m. on the Shabbat mornings of January 8 and 22, as well as February 12 and 26. Junior Congregation services will be held on January 29, February 5 and 19. There also will be supervised access to the TBT Play Room on the Shabbat mornings when there isn't a youth service.

Women's Network

TBT's Women's Network will be hosting Sisterhood Shabbat January 15 featuring guest speaker Rabbi Sara Rich, a Women's Network member and Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo. Women's Network will also be hosting a Tu B'Shevat event at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, January 16.

Men's Club

The TBT Men's Club will be participating in the World-Wide Wrap Sunday morning, February 13. Last year, the Men's Club was pleased to work with Rabbi Rosenbaum to involve religious school students in the program and that is being assessed with the Community Religious School.

The World-Wide Wrap is a global initiative of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs in partnership with the Women's League for Conservative Judaism and Women of the Wall to unite for gender inclusive Jewish prayer and to raise awareness about the mitzvah of Tefillin (phylacteries).

Things Are Cooking at Temple Beth Tzedek

Entering 2022, Temple Beth Tzedek is nearing completion of its expanded and renovated kosher kitchen. The kitchen is being expanded by several hundred square feet to create dedicated areas for separate milk and meat food preparation along with additional kitchen storage space.



The renovation also includes replacing two older restrooms with new ones that are fully accessible and non-gendered. The bathrooms will also be Shomer Shabbat compliant with all manual systems. Sutton Architecture is the architect of record with Picone Construction Corp. serving as construction manager.



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This month we are excited to announce that our Partnership has a new director, Jonny Whine, who began his new position in December.



Originally from London, Jonny made Aliyah twenty years ago at age 25. He lived with his Israeli wife, Michal, in Jerusalem for 9

years. For most of his professional career he worked in Experiential Jewish Education with a variety of organizations in Israel and around the world.

Eleven years ago, he, his wife and three children (ages 15, 14 and 9), moved to Kibbutz Hannaton in the Galilee to be part of a small group of young families who were dedicated to saving the almost bankrupt kibbutz. After helping to bring the kibbutz back to success, Jonny studied and worked as a graphic designer and most recently served as Director of the Carmiel branch of 'Kol Ami - The Jewish Peoplehood Leadership Academy', run by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). In his spare time, Jonny likes to run and mountain bike in the beautiful Galilee countryside and develop his carpentry hobby.

We wish Jonny much success and look forward to working with him in his new role in the Partnership! **For more information or any questions, please contact Mandy Weiss at mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

UPCOMING P2G PROGRAMS

These programs are open to everyone; pre-registration is required.

Sunday, January 16 @ 1:30 p.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Gathering–

featuring Alayna Altman, JOFEE (Jewish Outdoor, Food and Environmental Education) Director at Louisville's JCC & a Learn2Gether Session

Sunday, February 6 @ 1:00 p.m.

Virtual P2G Book Club

P2G Book Club hosts quarterly gatherings with book enthusiasts from Israel, USA, and Budapest. Before each gathering, the club members read a joint book and share it in a dedicated WhatsApp group.

Kaddish to an Unborn Child by Imre Kertész

RSVP: rebrand.ly/P2G_Book

Sunday, February 20 @ 1:00 p.m.

Virtual P2G Film Club

P2G Film Club hosts quarterly gatherings with film enthusiasts from Israel, USA, and Budapest. Before each meeting, the club members view a film independently and then gather on zoom for a guest speaker and film discussion.

Film: The Testament

Talkback discussion with the film's creator and director, Amichai Greenberg.

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



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- 1»** Don't miss the HRC's exhibition *The Girl in the Diary* January through May at the Karpeles Museum on Porter Ave in Buffalo (see page 12). You're invited to the Opening event which will mark the UN's International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27 at 6:00 p.m. **Contact Elizabeth Schram at Elizabeth@buffalojewishfederation.org for more information.**
- 2»** **Super Sunday is February 6** (see page 9). To volunteer at the in-person event that morning or virtually, **register online at bit.ly/2022SUPERSUNDAY or contact Stacey Block at stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org.**
- 3»** **Take a Winter Journey with the BPO and the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival** (see page 19) at Kleinhans Music Hall February 10 as you watch the film, *Winter Journey*, hear from author Martin Goldsmith, and listen to *The Inextinguishable Symphony* played by the BPO and conducted by JoAnne Falletta, which was inspired by Goldsmith's book about his family's struggle during the Holocaust.
- 4»** **Spend Sunday, February 27 with friends at the Buffalo Day of Jewish Learning** (see page 17). Hosted by Dr. Alex Green, Buffalo Community Jewish Educator, you can immerse yourself at the in-person UB event, or virtually. **For the full schedule and registration, go to buffalojewishfederation.org/day-of-jewish-learning-2022/.**
- 5»** Have you always wanted to travel to Israel, or can't wait to go back? **Join you Buffalo friends and neighbors in the Buffalo Israel Experience (BIE) II taking place this coming October.** Read about it on page 4, and reserve your spot NOW at buffalojewishfederation.org/bie. **For more information, contact Miriam Abramovich at miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

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In December, **Cheryl Tobias** correctly identified the Lit City flag on Washington Street that featured the late Buffalo-born playwright/author/composer Liz Swados.



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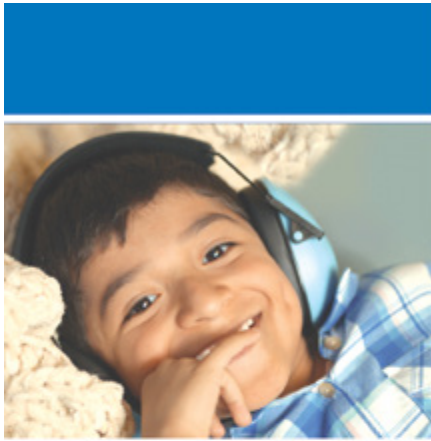
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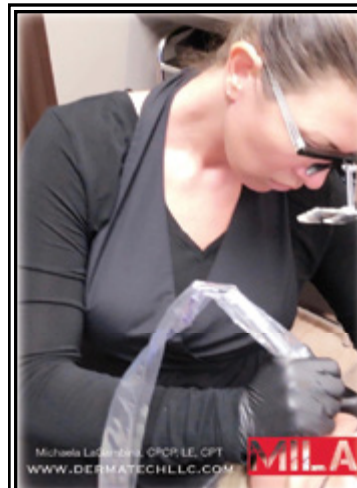
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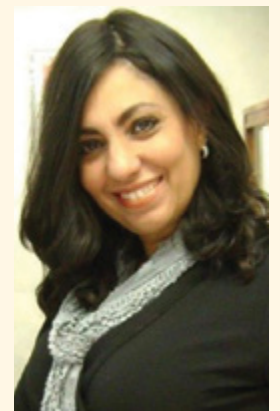
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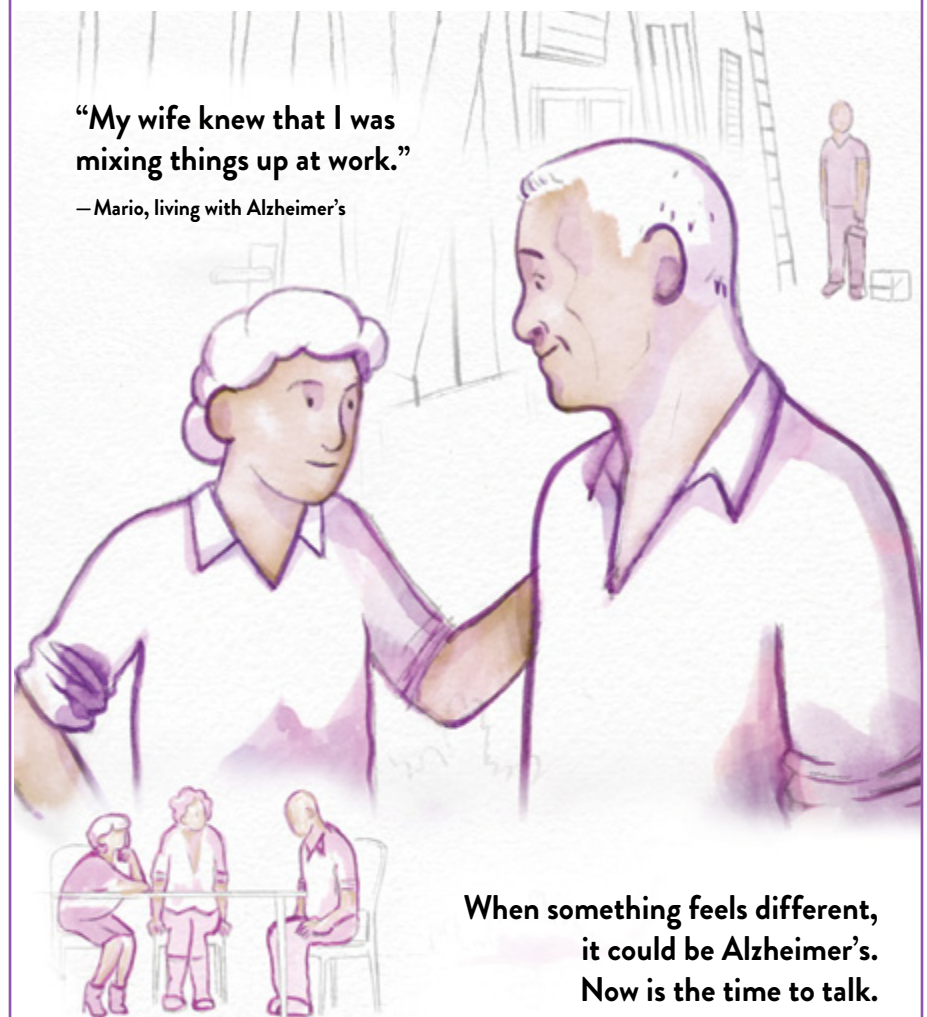
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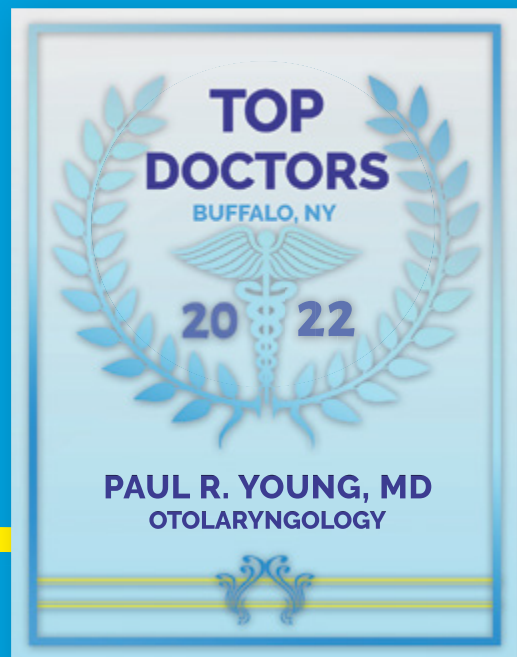
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Originally from Kenmore, Gary S. Cohen and his wife Mina had a beautiful home and life together, in Denver, Colorado. Gary died at the age of 66 on November 26, 2021. Mina, their nieces and nephews, his sister Debra Kay Cohen of Miami, Florida survive him. Gary's natural charm, good nature and generosity served him well both socially and in his businesses. He was handsome and fit. He loved dogs and had a mandatory doggie day care at one of his offices for his employees.



GARY S. COHEN

We are proud to know that there are many people thriving because of his dedication to suffering and recovering addicts. His parents Harry and Sylvia, as well as his brother Fred predeceased him. They are all missed by family and friends.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Charlie Garfinkel 1939-2021

Legendary Western New York racquet athlete and USA Racquetball Hall of Famer Charlie Garfinkle died November 14 at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife, Leslie and his adult children Bradley and Adina. A memorial service was held November 21 at Temple Beth Zion. In his memory, we are honored to reprint this DIFFERENCE MAKER article about Charlie, with permission of his wife and the author, that ran in the January 2018 issue of *The Jewish Journal*.

Charlie Garfinkel: Still the "Great" Gar

BY ROB GOLDBERG

He tells me that he's no longer the "Great Gar," but at this stage of his life, simply "The Gar." He even displays the nickname on his patented white turtleneck and Nike training jacket. His persona since the early 70's, this tennis, squash and racquetball champion, is iconic, funny, and in a word: a winner.

Charlie Garfinkel is legendary, a true difference maker in our community and in the sport he loves most- racquetball. Charlie is arguably the greatest all around local racquet star to have ever competed in our community. He is the author of two books: *Racquetball the Easy Way* and *Racquetball for the Serious Player* and winner of over 150 tournaments in his career. A 2003 article in the *Buffalo Jewish Review* recounts his rise to fame: "Garfinkel burst onto the national racquetball scene by defeating the legendary Charlie Brumfield in Salt Lake City in 1970. He rose to a number 5 ranking on the pro tour, and defeated national champions



such Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Bill Schmidtke, and Davey Bledsoe." A current senior racquetball champion in Virginia, Scott Brown, told me that Garfinkel was one of the players he followed, someone he read about when he started his career. "He was among the early pioneers and a heady guy who inspired my game."

Donn Esmonde of *The Buffalo News* once wrote of the Gar: "He is many things: A comedy act, a self-promotional juggernaut, a

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sly and shameless psyche artist and - oh yes – an uncompromising competitor.” I asked Charlie to expound on the source of his competitive spirit. “I always had something to prove,” he begins. “I was a shy kid, gangly at 6’5”. And I had a very tough childhood. My family had little money, no car – we grew up over a deli in North Buffalo. And as a result I always had something to prove to others.” I remarked that he has quite a chip on his shoulder. He piped back: “You bet I do! I knew that I could compete with anyone,” he explains. “I had a mindset. A confidence. I was always totally focused, even when playing a practice set my goal was always to win.”

“He is many things: A comedy act, a self-promotional juggernaut, a sly and shameless psyche artist and - oh yes – an uncompromising competitor.”

The Gar is also a humorist. An admirer of Don Rickles, he is king of the one-liner. “Once I get going,” he told me, “I can’t stop!” he winks. Perhaps humor is a defense mechanism or maybe just his way of getting attention, but it is a central part of the way Charlie has been a success both on and off the court as he brought his humor and competitive drive to his teaching career as well. “I loved teaching; it was made for me. My competitive nature was alive in my teaching – I was thorough and loved presenting to the kids in an engaging way.”

When we talked about his Jewish values, he welled up with tears. “I believe in being a good person, a fair player. I wanted to prove to others that Jews can be great athletes, too.” When I asked him what he would tell his parents if they were alive today, he paused and then said: “I would tell them that I knew that money was tight and you did the

best that you could. I knew that you loved me even though you didn’t always show it. But I made it. I’m a good person. I was a success. I married a great woman and I’m happy.”

I asked Gar about his wife, Leslie, and he again became emotional. “I was very lucky to have met Leslie. She was a cross between Elizabeth Taylor and Joan Collins! But most of all, she made me a better person.” He told me that he and Leslie are proud members of Temple Beth Zion and deliver Meals on Wheels each week. He is grateful to Leslie for introducing him to the Meals on Wheels opportunity. “It gives me a wonderful feeling of seeing the smiling faces of

people we deliver to.” When considering the physical changes associated with aging, aging with grace is especially hard for athletes, particularly in the sports at which Charlie excelled. “I’m not the ‘great’ Gar anymore after 2 knee replacements and a hip replacement. I’m just the Gar,” he sighs, stooping just slightly. There is sadness in his eyes for, like other great athletes, Charlie misses the game that shaped his identity and gave him purpose. And perhaps it is humor that helps Charlie to endure the aches and pains, the longing for the court and the head-to-head competition. But after spending hours together, while he claims that he is no longer “great,” I would beg to differ. In my book, Charlie Garfinkel is still the “Great Gar.”

Rob Goldberg is the CEO of Buffalo Jewish Federation.

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from November 15- December 19*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



- Alvin Bendes
- Judith Berman
- Arthur Bloom
- Sydney Cole
- Jennifer Crysler
- Gretchen Gross
- Semyon Kramer
- Marvin Siegel
- Peter Simon
- Erica L. Weber
- Harold Wolkind

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

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More Buffalove

BY MARK GOLDMAN

Years after I had moved here, years after I had created a home, a family and a career here, my mother Tillie, a New York City-centric person if ever there was one, insisted to all her City friends that “No...Mark will be home after the weekend.” The idea, let alone the reality that any one in our family would move out of the city, let alone to Buffalo, New York, was a thought that could occur no easier to her than to the character in that iconic Steinberg cartoon for whom every place west of the Hudson was Kansas.

And yet, here I was...through the late '60s, into the '70s, eighties, 'nineties and well into the 21st century. firmly planted, wedded really, to Buffalo. How that happened, the path that I took that enabled me to create a whole, new and full life in a whole, new and totally different place, is the story that I tell in my newest book *City of My Heart: Buffalo, 1967-2020*.

Without realizing it, I had absorbed the ancient advice of the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah who, following the destruction of the first Temple in Jerusalem by the

Babylonians in the sixth century BC and “the captivity” that followed it, urged his uprooted fellow Hebrews to commit to their new home in Babylon. “Build houses and settle down,” he said, “... plant gardens...marry and have sons and daughters...” And finally, “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you....Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

I made studying the history of Buffalo my life's work, producing a doctoral dissertation, countless articles, several



Mark Goldman

film documentaries and five or more books all dealing with different aspects of Buffalo's history. But I was not content to live in the past and, heeding Jeremiah, I embraced the challenges of the city's present.

Times were tough when I started my civic engagement in the 1970s, a time when factories, newspapers, stores and whole commercial districts shut down as tens of thousands of people were leaving the city. By then I had children and more than anything I wanted them to live in a vital, healthy and thriving community, a place where parks and public places mattered, a place where schools and neighborhoods thrived, a place where history and heritage mattered for they, more than the vague and unfilled promises of a “Renaissance”, are the real foundation for a stable future.

So, I rolled up my sleeves and joined a

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Star Trek v. Star Wars
Sat Jan 29, 7:30pm
John Morris Russell, conductor
Are you a Trekkie or a Jedi? Experience the original orchestral scores and many of the “backstage” stories of these popular sci-fi franchises, plus other iconic film and television adventure themes.



Beethoven & Rachmaninoff
Fri Feb 4, 10:30am | Sat Feb 5, 7:30pm
David Alan Miller, conductor
The kaleidoscope of Rachmaninoff's colorful, flamboyant *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* is paired with Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony* that he called “one of the happiest products of my poor talents.” The energy continues with Jessie Montgomery's multicultural rhythms of New York City's frenetic pace, *Coincident Dances*.



A Chris Botti Valentine
Sat Feb 12, 7:30pm
Chris Botti, trumpet
Botti is back for a sweet Valentine serenade! The master trumpeter and composer is one of the most brilliant and inspiring forces on the contemporary music scene, and a Buffalo fan favorite! The annual Sweetheart Dance returns following the concert.



Classical Fireworks
Fri Feb 18, 10:30am
Sat Feb 19, 7:30pm
JoAnn Falletta, conductor
Stewart Goodyear, piano
Enescu's ebullient and lively folk sounds of *Rumanian Rhapsody No. 1* juxtapose the driving, dramatic Piano Concerto of Rochester, NY native Adolphus Hailstork. Tchaikovsky's supercharged Fourth Symphony rounds out a brilliantly energetic program.



BPO Kids
Tales from the Movies
Sun Feb 13, 2:30pm
Jaman E. Dunn, conductor
This imaginative concert includes music from *Toy Story*, *Aladdin*, *Star Wars*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, and more. Dress up as your favorite character!



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small handful of others who in those most troubling years had faith in themselves and in their community, people who like me believed that we could and should “fix this place.” Among the highlights of my work during those years were my efforts along with those of Joan Bozer, Joanie Kahn and Councilmember “Bill” Hoyt and others to preserve and protect Delaware Park. It was the work that we did in the ‘70s and ‘80s that led in the ‘90s to the creation of the Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy.

There’s more: an entire chapter on South Buffalo and the ties that tie the people there to their neighborhood; a chapter on North Buffalo and Central Park and the role of faith, family and youth baseball there; a chapter on our family’s lasting contribution to the revival of downtown, The Calumet Arts Café, and a chapter as well on how a handful of us in the early 21st century redefined the notion of waterfront development.

And then there is a chapter on my experience on creating a Jewish identity in Buffalo. Living a Jewish life in Buffalo was far more complicated and challenging than doing so in New York where everybody, even the 6’ tall blonde guys with blue eyes, were, or so I thought, Jewish. Here the choices that I made were more premeditated and conscious and in a chapter in the book called “Next Year in Jerusalem: What? Creating a Jewish identity in Buffalo,” I outline those efforts.

While the bulk of my professional life and my life as a community member was focused on the past, present and future of Buffalo, in my private life I gave much consideration to my Jewish identity. I had always been interested in Jewish history, the larger, global patterns as well as the more specific aspects of Jewish community life and it was in Buffalo that I found an outlet for those interests. As a volunteer at the JCC I

started a weekly discussion group which led in the late ‘80s to a documentary history of Buffalo’s Jewish community. Then, as the migration of Soviet Jews to Buffalo accelerated I, along with many others in our community, did what we could to facilitate the transition of yet another generation of Jewish refugees to yet another new world. I was particularly proud of the work that I did with Janice Freedman of Jewish Family Services to host a first-ever Seder for members of the recently arrived Soviet Jews.

Again, inspired whether or not by Jeremiah, I was making conscious choices that were strengthening my community and in the process solidifying my ties to it. Jeremiah was right. Embrace your new home. Unravel its past, improve its present, plan for its future. Jump in. Get dirty. Live, learn, love. Over the course of the more than half a century that I have lived in Buffalo, Jeremiah’s advice has been generously realized and abundantly fulfilled. My commitment to this place, to Buffalo, has led not only to my own personal transformation but to the transformation of the city itself.

My book, *City of My Heart, Buffalo, 1967-2020* is available at all local bookstores and on Amazon.

Mark Goldman is the author of seven books on Buffalo, including a children’s book called Max Meets The Mayor in which he recounts his visit with this grandson Max to meet Mayor Byron Brown. He is currently working on devising ways to engage the people of Buffalo in a project that will meaningfully commemorate the imminent bicentennial of the completion of the Erie Canal.

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