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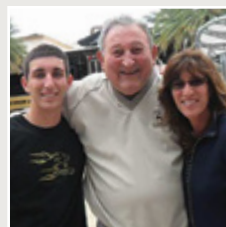
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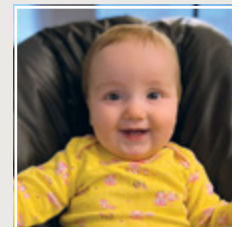
MAY 2022 | NISSAN-IYAR-SIVAN 5782

Celebrating Hillel 75 YEARS of Buffalo

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May 2022

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

May is a month of promise and memory. At least that is how it is for me this year. I yearn for what Gerda Klein, z"l (see page 27) called *Promise of a New Spring*, the title of one of her books for children. I dream of a spring of peace, of joy, of growing flowers and vegetables, of more community events like celebrating Israel and small get-togethers, of life lived to the fullest! Concerts, theatre, lectures, dinners together, planting my summer crops!

And memory is ever-present this month as well. Mother's Day is May 8th, and I remember planting my first garden with my mother, Arlene Goldstein, z"l. We also remember and pay honor to those who died and survived the Holocaust on May 1 with a virtual Yom HaShoah (page 3). As we recall those Survivors who are no longer with us, like dear Gerda, we also remember their legacy and strive to continue their work here on earth. Memorial Day is May 31, and as we see American flags proudly displayed all over our community, we remember that freedom isn't free, and the price paid by many to ensure our gift of freedom.

I look forward in particular to three community events this month: Hillel of Buffalo's 75th anniversary May 12 at UB (see pages 6-7, along with Rabbi Adam Scheldt's reflections on page 8); the JCC's 74th Birthday Party for Israel-Yom Ha'atzmaut May 15 at the JCC's Irving M. Shuman Camp (page 21), and the continuation of the Buffalo Jewish International Film Festival (page 20) with Buffalo's own David Zakalik speaking about Yiddish musicologist Moyshe Geregovky May 19 at the Dipson Amherst Theatre.

And speaking of Israel, if you haven't been there yet, or you haven't been recently, be a part of the Buffalo Israel Experience taking place this October. The trip is still accepting participants (page 11), so sign up today or contact Miriam Abramovich at miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org!

I plan on putting my tomatoes and zucchini in pots this month, along with annuals our neighborhood group plants on several street corners. Included in the floriferous pots will be sunflowers of all kinds. Sunflowers make everyone who sees them smile, and they also serve as a reminder of the on-going tragedy in Ukraine, because that is where many of the world's sunflowers are grown. We can't save the whole world on our own, but we can help by donating, along with others, to save Jews in Ukraine through Jewish Federation's of North America's world-wide campaign (page 4). If you have already donated, thank you. If not, do it and help save a life today! Enjoy the season, and remember to take time to stop and smell the lilacs.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



The Hillel at 75 graphic was designed by Hannah Adams for Hillel of Buffalo. The cover, designed by Kim Miers, includes old photos from the Archives of Hillel of Buffalo. Thanks to Chana Kotzin, Ph.D. for the photos.

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Education Fund Honors Legacy of Avy Sterman

Challenge Grant Seeks to Raise \$50K

Avy Sterman was a proud member of Buffalo's Jewish community over the span of his nearly 100 years of life. He loved his family and celebrating Jewish holidays and festivals together. He also loved learning, being a part of synagogue life, and was fiercely passionate about the impact of Jewish education.

After his death last fall, Avy's family created an endowment fund to continue his legacy by helping to ensure Jewish educational experiences continue to be accessible throughout Jewish Buffalo.

The new **Avy Sterman Jewish Education Fund**, that will benefit programs offered by LiNK Jewish Buffalo, seeks to raise \$100,000 this spring. The Karpati / Sterman family has seeded the fund with a challenge grant of \$50,000; every dollar up to \$50,000 raised from community members like you will be matched dollar for dollar by Avy's family.

Help us make a difference in Jewish Buffalo by honoring Avy's legacy with a gift to the fund. Donations can be made at bit.ly/avystermanfund or by mailing a check to the Buffalo Jewish Federation, 338 Harris Hill Road, St. 108B, Williamsville, NY 14221. If sending a check, please put "Avy Fund" in the memo.



THE AVY STERMAN
JEWISH EDUCATION FUND

Clockwise from left: Avy with daughter Lisa and grandson Kyle; the Karpati/Sterman Family; Avy and his siblings; Avy and his daughter Janet.

TEEN MYSTERY BUS TOUR

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11 am-6 pm

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT MIKE STEKLOF: MIKE@BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG
A Project of LiNK Jewish Buffalo and the JCC



Harold Arlen Exhibition to Open May 25 at the JCC

BY CHANA R. KOTZIN, PH.D.

What makes for a memorable composition? How could so many songs from one composer become a part of the Great American Songbook? In May, as part of Jewish American Heritage Month, we are pleased to launch *An East Side Story: Harold Arlen's Buffalo Roots*, that explores the mix of personal, professional and neighborhood experiences to answer some of those questions. This exhibition will be on display from May 25, opening at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville. An extended web version will also debut at this time at jewishbuffalohistory.org.

A unique set of influences combined to transform Hyman Arluck into Harold Arlen, and to create one of the twentieth century's most prolific melody makers. Harold grew up surrounded by distinctive music on the East Side, in a place of change and a time of opportunity. Before he was ten, it was the daily religious tones of his father he heard combined with his own knowledge as an active singer in the synagogue choir. Within his home setting he was exposed to a different type of music, intimately bound up with his father once more, but from classical sources, as his father performed for the Buffalo Operatic Company as a 1st tenor. For within this same home environment, Hyman trained with two teachers in classical piano, one of whom was actively engaged in



Harold Arluck and Hyman Cheiffetz, *My Gal, My Pal*, 1924. Courtesy of the Benjamin and Dr. Edgar R. Cofeld Judaic Museum, Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, NY.

the founding of what would later become the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

By the time of his *bar mitzvah*, several vital elements were coming together. The first was his own direct experience and participation in two distinct musical heritages. A second was the activity of music as performance – his own, his teachers and that of his father. A third strand was music as a community wide experience, in the neighborhood, on the radio, in the city music halls and public spaces and in purchased records. But it was another piece that transformed each of these and added something new.

Hyman, like many children and teens in his neighborhood, worked from a young age. It was

through this exposure to new forms of music and performance that existed in Buffalo and around the nation that, at an impressionable age and barely out of middle school, Hyman would discover his future path. On the cusp of the Jazz Age, Harold as he now styled himself,



Harold Arluck, c. 1920s. Courtesy of Sam A. Arlen, used with permission of SA Music, LLC.

was in a city that was large enough to be a place of creation, performance and discovery in much broader terms, as music, film and entertainment all transformed in the 1920s. Yet, it was also a city small enough to provide opportunities for an young individual with initiative to create a network of like-minded performing friends and connections that would continue far beyond his Buffalo years, and be instrumental in his future success.

Musicologists, music commentators and listeners have often noted Harold Arlen's special talent as a composer – his timelessness and the creation of a score, that spoke to the individual in a personal, direct way, yet could also capture a mood of the times and move beyond them. His music was and remains beloved by singers and other composers too, where it offers a range to the singer-performer, the knowing touch of an experienced arranger and a composer's voice that was never predictable.

In the 36 years since the death of Harold Arlen, we can look back through a window of change in Buffalo and Buffalo Jewish lives, one that came together in a unique way for one individual but that also transformed several generations of East Side Jews. This period shaped Jewish communal trajectories and individual and family lives going forward, creating a multiplicity of stories from the East Side, as well as creating the unique talent of Harold Arlen.

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



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Yom HaShoah is May 1



On Sunday, March 27, Community Religious School students gathered at Congregation Shir Shalom to sing *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem. Their performance will be featured in this year's Yom HaShoah program, *We are Here*, produced by Brenda Feldstein. The Yom HaShoah program will premiere Sunday, May 1st at 11:00 a.m. over YouTube. **Please register here to receive the link: bit.ly/BuffaloYomHaShoah2022.**

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Beauty from Young Artists

The students at the Jewish Heritage Day School/Ohr Temimim joined forces with Kadimah Scholars at Park for an art show at the JCC where they displayed their impressive works!

Mrs. Yehudis Khanin's classes at the Ohr Temimim school presented work in watercolor, pastel, oil pastel, pen and ink, graphite and charcoal.

Kadimah Scholars had a section in the show featuring a series of collages. A reception was held where the students, parents, and teachers celebrated the accomplishments of the young artists. A special thank you to Katie Wzontek, Moussia Khanin and Sonia Young for organizing the show.



CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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Meaningful Experiences at the Women's and Future Men's Jewish Group Homes

For many years, LiNK Jewish Buffalo has had the privilege of leading monthly gatherings for residents of the Jewish Women's Group Home through a project called "Miriam's Well." During the pandemic, LiNK also began facilitating monthly gatherings for a group of young men (and their families) who are working to create a Jewish Men's Group Home in our community. Educators for LiNK Jewish Buffalo, Rabbi Ori Bergman and Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, facilitate these extraordinarily meaningful programs; together with the home's residents and their families each group gathers to celebrate holidays, learn, and enjoy being in community with one another.

The Jewish Women's Group Home, established in 2007, is a space of kindness, love and soul. Rabbi Ori has found that "the group home is one of the holiest spaces in town, as it is so full of heart. You can't but help feel spiritually uplifted after visiting." A Miriam's Well program typically starts with songs about friendship and loving one's neighbor, followed by giving a bit of *tzedakah* (charity) in boxes that were made at a previous gathering. Together the group has baked *soufganiot* (Chanukkah donuts), *hamentashen* and challah, made groggers, and annually built and spent time in the *Sukkah*. Each month there is song, laughter and good conversation. More than anything, there is deep friendship and time to simply relish each other's company.



Janet Gunner

The program has strengthened the caring support among the families for the young men and has strengthened our sense of belonging as part of Jewish Buffalo.



The Future Men's Group Home, despite not yet having a formal roof under which to gather, still finds ways to connect with meaning and joy, in locations all across Buffalo. Led by Zack Steinberg and Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, monthly gatherings provide an opportunity for these friends and future housemates to celebrate their Jewish heritage and holidays together with song, laughter, and learning. The gatherings have taken place in-person when possible or over Zoom when necessary due to the various stages of the COVID-19

pandemic. However, as they have become more comfortable with one another, Rabbi Adam observed that "the guys love to share recent events in their lives and to request Zack to play various songs by the Beatles, among others."



Vickie Rubin

Our daughter Jessica delights in Rabbi Ori's visits; she shakes her instruments and gleams with joy whenever there are songs. The gatherings are hands-on and there's never a dull moment. Everyone gains something from the monthly events: learning about a holiday, traditional foods, art, music, story-telling, or quiet handholding. We feel blessed for the mitzvah that is Miriam's Well.

Cathy and Larry Skerker

We look forward to our Miriam's Well gatherings as a time to celebrate and explore all things Jewish with our daughters. Rabbi Ori engages us through Torah, song, music, stories, art, food, humor and conversation. We are very grateful to the Federation for sponsoring this program and to Rabbi Ori and his delightful family for their friendship and spiritual leadership.



Rabbi Ori reflects that the Jewish Women's Group Home "is a constant reminder of the value of family and friendship. It's truly a place that embodies the challenge to: *love your neighbor as yourself*. In a recent visit, I walked into the common space only to be greeted by the most expressive smile I've ever received. It was from ear to ear and displayed for me the depth of the teaching to receive every person with a happy countenance."

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for additional friends to participate in Jewish Group Home gatherings. Would you like to learn more, or get connected? Please contact Mike Steklof, Director of Jewish Experience at mike@buffalojewishfederation.org.



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HILLEL OF BUFFALO AT 75

Celebrating Our Jewish Community on Campus

BY EZRA N. RICH

Since its founding in 1946, Hillel of Buffalo has been a haven for the Jewish community on campus at the University at Buffalo and Buffalo State College. While many things have changed in the world of higher education since the dawn of the post-War period, Hillel's fundamental mission is firmly intact.

Mission-Driven

In its initial establishment over the summer of 1946, B'nai B'rith as a Hillel Councillorship, was created, as its expressed purpose stated, to support, "the stimulation and advancement of cultural, social, and religious activity in regard to Judaism, to preserve the priceless Jewish heritage of history and culture that is ours [and] to promote philanthropic and educational endeavors."

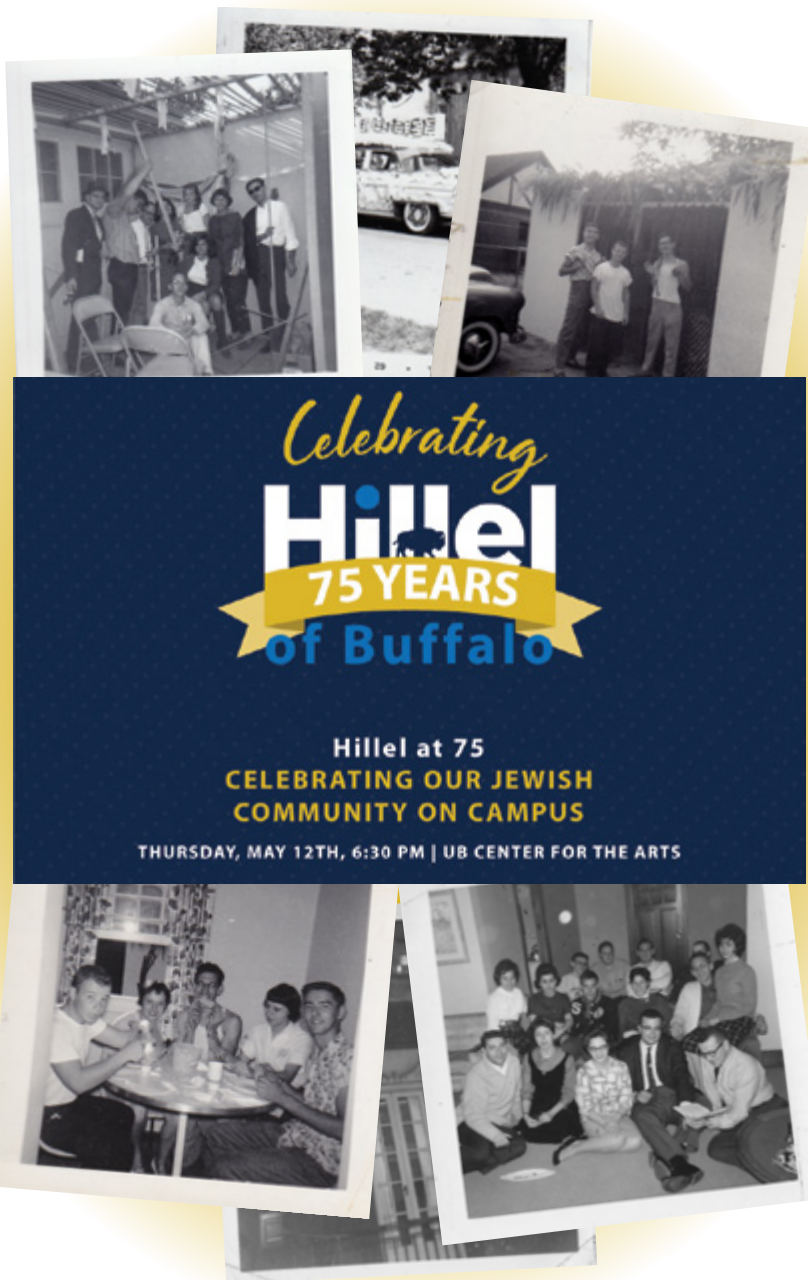
Over the decades, Hillel has played an integral role in the lives of countless students, initially at the University of Buffalo and Buffalo State College, and today at Buffalo's flagship SUNY with support for Jewish college students across the Buffalo Niagara region.

Collaborating with the Community

Upon reviewing Hillel's history, there is a remarkable scope of activity that Hillel has been involved with over the decades, as well as the range of partnerships Hillel has had with the Buffalo Jewish community. Indeed, many of the collaborations that today's Hillel students have access to mirror those of earlier times.

For example, in 1948, Hillel was connecting students with faculty and businesspeople who could help them explore careers of interest to them through a program called "Jews in the Professions." Today, Hillel offers a speed networking night for students with local professionals. During the summer students can participate in a summer internship program where they work in local businesses and non-profits during the week and gather on Fridays for site visits and professional development. In the 1970s, Hillel partnered with Jewish Family Services of WNY to offer mental health support to students. Today, through JFS's Jewish Community Partnership Program, mental health professionals visit Hillel each week to offer wellness programming and connect students with local resources.

Hillel has been a proud Zionist organization since its founding. An early social action drive was to collect clothes and canned food for Holocaust Survivors who settled in the Yishuv (pre-state Israel) after WWII. Today, Hillel hosts a popular class about modern day Israel, staffs Birthright Israel trips where students experience 10 days in Israel, and offers 'Hummus Society' events where students can discuss hot topics related to Israel and contemporary Judaism.



Fostering Belonging

As a proud pluralistic organization, Hillel welcomes students from all streams of Judaism and helps them explore and nurture their individual Jewish journey. The Jewish Learning Fellowship, which is a ten-week curriculum from Hillel International, is popular with students as they explore life's big questions through a range of Jewish sources and have deep discussions about topics ranging from friendship and honesty to relationships and resolving conflict.

Of course, what Jewish organization would be compelling without food! In addition to Shabbat dinner on Friday night, students gather each Monday during the semester for a bagel brunch where they socialize, discuss their academic work, and celebrate community. Hillel's welcoming suite on the first floor of the UB Commons on the North Campus has a lounge and study space where students can schmooze or do their homework in a warm, welcoming environment with a modest serving of nosh.

Measuring Excellence

In recent years, Hillel of Buffalo has been working closely with Buffalo Jewish Federation, local agencies like Jewish Family Services, as well as with colleagues at Hillel International, the Organizational Design Lab, and across the Hillel movement to leverage the best programming, design thinking, and opportunities to students. Hillel's ethos of innovation and collaboration has been immeasurably blessed by our close work with Federation, under the leadership of CEO Rob Goldberg. His vision, enthusiasm, support, and partnership has been invaluable to Hillel and the campus community.

As an active campus Hillel in Hillel International's Measuring Excellence data initiative, Hillel of Buffalo has steadily been reaching more students on campus as well as engaging with them more deeply. Pre-pandemic, Hillel engaged with 400 undergraduate Jewish students as well as 755 unique students, both undergraduate and graduate students from a range of religious and cultural backgrounds. This academic year has seen a tremendous re-embrace of in-person events and deeper levels of engagement with students and Hillel's ability to foster community for them.

From Strength to Strength

Reflecting on Hillel's first 75 years of existence, so many students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members have played key roles in the life of Hillel of Buffalo. Looking ahead, Hillel of Buffalo is excited to strengthen its existing ties to Buffalo's warm Jewish community and Western New York's rising business community and is dedicated to operate in a way that aligns with the mission of the Hillel movement to "envision a world where every student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel." Together, may Hillel of Buffalo and the Jewish community on campus continue to go from strength to strength, from generation to generation.

Ezra N. Rich, marketing communications manager at Uniland Development Company serves on the boards of Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Tzedek. A Hillel husband since May 30, 2011, he is a proud member of the Hillel of Buffalo Impact Society.

Celebrate Hillel at 75 May 12

This month, Hillel of Buffalo will be celebrating our Jewish community on campus with a special evening on Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts. Please join us for an evening to honor our past and toast our bright future. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased along with tribute ads at wizevents.com/hillelofbuffalo2022. Catering by Three Pillars under supervision of the Buffalo Vaad of Kashrut (BVK).

At the celebration, Hillel of Buffalo will be recognizing those who are leading and supporting this growing organization. The honorees are Dr. Jeffrey M. Lackner, Steven J. & Ellen R. Weiss, and Abby Feldman.



Dr. Jeffrey M. Lackner

The Exceptional Leadership Award from Hillel of Buffalo.

Dr. Lackner is Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Behavioral Medicine at the UB Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. He is the immediate past president of Hillel of Buffalo, and in that role, served as a bridge between Hillel and UB's Medical School, launched Hillel's Impact Society, and helped Hillel secure new grants from Hillel International and the Buffalo Jewish Federation to diversify student programming and retain top talent.

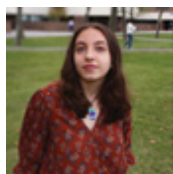


Steven J. & Ellen R. Weiss

The Distinguished Alumni Award from Hillel of Buffalo.

Mr. Weiss is a founding partner of Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP and concentrates his law practice in the areas of affordable housing and community development law and corporate finance transactions. Mr. Weiss received his education at the University at Buffalo School of Management (B.S. 1987, M.B.A. 1988), and UB School of Law (J.D., 1991). He is a past President of Hillel of Buffalo and the Buffalo Jewish Federation, and is a former Board Member of the Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Community Center, and Temple Beth Zion.

Ms. Weiss is a Certified Integrative Health Coach, Master Workplace Wellness Concierge, and Executive Wellness Consultant. She has been collaborating with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Healthy Fitness Family (HFF) Corporate Wellness Consulting and Stressmaster International. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, MBA from the University at Buffalo School of Management, and Certifications from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition and Workplace Wellness Centre of Excellence. Currently Secretary of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Board of Governors, she has served as the Buffalo Jewish Federation's Young Women's Chair, Women's Philanthropy Chair, Engagement Conference Chair, Center for Jewish Engagement & Learning Chair (now known as LiNK), Adult Engagement Chair, Executive Board Member, as well as a Board member of Temple Beth Zion.



Abby Feldman

The Feuerstein Family Tzedakah Award from Hillel of Buffalo.

Ms. Feldman is a sophomore Psychology major double-minoring in Spanish/Health and Human Services at the University at Buffalo, with a passion for community support. As Chair of On-Campus Events and Fundraising for UB's Rotaract Club, she coordinates fundraisers and events that support local Buffalo organizations and future volunteering endeavors as a club. Through her role as Team Leader for Poverty Alleviation's Alternative Break, Ms. Feldman volunteers and connects with organizations all around Buffalo, while educating community members on asset-based community development and volunteering.

Hillel of Buffalo through the Years

1946 Hillel was founded as a part-time Councillorship supported by the local B'nai B'rith, Montefiore Lodge #70, under the leadership of Arthur I. Goldberg and Dorothy Goldberg, for the University of Buffalo (now the University at Buffalo) and Buffalo State Teachers College (now Buffalo State College).

1948 Rabbi Justin Hoffmann appointed First Director of Hillel. Initially Rabbi Hoffman had responsibilities for students in Rochester as well as at Buffalo State Teachers College, and the University of Buffalo, but began a sole focus on Buffalo students with the increasing popularity of Hillel, and a growing postwar Jewish student cohort.

1949 Hillel Foundation established

1960 Supported by the Hillel Foundation, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, and a significant local fundraising campaign, Hillel of Buffalo opened the Arthur I. Goldberg Hillel House at 40 Capen Boulevard in 1960. The Hillel House was near the University of Buffalo campus (now UB South Campus) and served Jewish students at both UB and Buffalo State.

1971 A second Hillel House focused on Buffalo State College students opened at 1209 Elmwood Avenue.

1977 Rabbi Hoffman retired after a storied career and was succeeded by Rabbi Shabtai Wolf.

1979 Rabbi Paul Golomb joined Hillel, succeeding Rabbi Wolf, and oversaw its new governance as it transitioned from a B'nai B'rith advisory committee to a community board under the Buffalo Jewish Federation. Hillel's local geographic reach and center also changed as more students were situated at the emerging UB North Campus in Amherst. Rabbi Golomb divided his time between the Jewish Student Association and the Campus Ministry offices at North Campus, the Hillel House at 40 Capen Boulevard, and Buffalo State College. Additional support staff included Adele Gudovitz, Margery Post and Peggy Kulick.

1986 Rabbi Shay E. Mintz became Hillel's fourth director. Under Rabbi Mintz, Hillel activities expanded to include missions to Israel, internships with Weinberg Campus, and intergroup connections with other student groups, as well as an annual Wasserman conference series.

1996 The Hillel Campus Center for Jewish Life opened on the UB North Campus in Amherst through the fundraising efforts of "Friends of Hillel," and the Buffalo Jewish Federation.


2000 Rabbi Mintz retired from full-time duties, although he continued to lead High Holiday services. During the 2000s, Hillel was led by a number of Executive Directors, including Susan Goldberg, Adeet Handel, Andrea Jacobs, Joe Davis, Laura Hemlock, and Logan Woodard. Over the years from its Campus Center, Hillel students in Buffalo have participated in social welfare projects, special event opportunities, internships, fellowships and an array of programs for shabbat, High Holy days and festivals.

2016 Buffalo Jewish Federation, led by CEO Rob Goldberg, in collaboration with Hillel International and its then CEO, Eric D. Fingerhut, collaborated with local donors and community leaders to revamp Hillel of Buffalo as a model with the potential for Hillel to thrive on a large state college campus.

2017 Rabbi Sara Rich became Executive Director, arriving from Princeton University Hillel. Working closely with the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Hillel International, Hillel expanded its staff with Logan Woodard as Director of Engagement and Alexa Zappia and then Macie Clawson as Springboard Innovation Specialist.

2018 Hillel of Buffalo relocated within the UB Commons to Suite 101B, doubling the size of available space for programming in a highly visible location near Starbucks and SEFCU.

Source: Jewish Buffalo History Center. "Hillel Foundation of Buffalo." Special thanks to Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D., and intern Alexandra Kane for their research. Photo Credit: Hillel of Buffalo Records, University Archives, University at Buffalo Libraries



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BY RABBI ADAM SCHELDT

When I've written this column previously, I have focused on themes of personal growth or inner cultivation. I am a big believer in making the world better and life more beautiful by working to improve ourselves while adding beauty to our souls. This time, however, I'd like to pivot just a bit—to gratitude.

Gratitude is certainly good for the soul. It is, in short, a celebration. To offer gratitude is to honor and celebrate life on either a grand scale or a small one. When we are grateful, we acknowledge and lift up something worthy in our lives. Marking such worthy parts of our human experience, is truly a way of celebrating them. And, in that vein, I would like to celebrate and offer gratitude for my colleague, our community's Hillel Director, Rabbi Sara Rich.

Rabbi Sara Rich

I first met Rabbi Rich during our years at Hebrew Union College. Those many years ago when we were both seminarians, I would never have imagined that she and I would end up in the same city, and that I would be blessed enough to watch her succeed and shine in such amazing ways. (Although to be sure, it is not surprising, given Rabbi Rich's thoughtfulness, intelligence, and impressive leadership ability.)

It's easy for many of us to miss the hard work of a Hillel rabbi. Most of us are not on college campuses, and when we are, we most likely are not inquisitively investigating the details of Jewish life and its organizations. Some of us may remember Hillel experiences that were roughly akin to Shabbat dinners and a few events around holidays. That Hillel experience, however, is far, far from the present universe of Jewish life that Rabbi Rich has built in her nearly 5 years in Buffalo.

Rabbi Adam Scheldt

During her tenure, Sara has transformed Hillel. She has built a strong and generous board, renovated a fantastic and accessible space, raised significant funds, mended and developed sound relationships, built a caring and inspired staff, created valuable intern and learning opportunities for students, and organized, developed, and produced innovative programming that has cultivated a vibrant Jewish life—primarily on the campus of UB.

Her students and staff love and respect her. Her careful leadership has resulted in careful, meaning-filled relationships of value that have empowered not only the students she serves, but also the staff and board members she works with. And it is these relationships that matter most. The careful experiences and meaningful relationships that Rabbi Rich develops and inspires last with students for years and helps to set them on a firm, *and Jewish*, path into their futures.

Perhaps best of all, Rabbi Rich has accomplished all of this while becoming a true Buffalonian, a dear part of the Buffalo Jewish community, and a great mom. As the current head of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors, she has navigated turbulent times and brought about greater collegial learning amongst local Jewish clergy. Whether on campus or in our community, her steady, caring, and careful leadership really cannot be underestimated. I consider myself lucky to count her not only as my colleague but also my friend. In this celebration of the University of Buffalo Hillel's 75th anniversary, I am happy to celebrate and offer immense gratitude for Rabbi Sara Rich.

Rabbi Adam Scheldt is Director of Pastoral Care at Hospice Buffalo.

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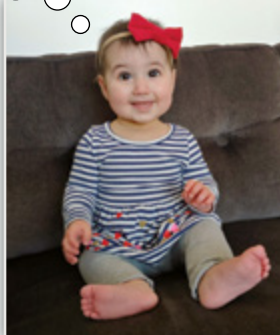
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My name is Molly Casper (I'm named in honor of my late grandmothers...Molly was what my maternal grandmother wanted to name my mom and Marie was my paternal grandmother's name) and I was born on July 9, 2021. My mom and dad are Erin (formerly Zimmerman) and Patrick Casper and my Zayde and Nana are Nathan Zimmerman and Lynn Bass.

I love crawling and pulling myself up to stand. As far as food goes, my favorite is avocado toast which I can eat quite well because I have **two** teeth!!

When it comes to Jewish holidays, I loved Rosh Hashanah and am really looking forward to Passover. My favorite PJ Library book is *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*.

Which do I like better...well grass, of course...the snow is too cold!



My name is Rosalie Grace Schork (my daddy says I'm named after an important person who helped him to be a good person) and I was born on January 6, 2022, which makes me the youngest baby in this group! My mom and dad are Meredith and Christopher Schork and my grandparents are Nancy Schork, Larry and Christine Schork and Richard and Joyce Scheiner. I have THE BEST big brother. His name is Jackson and he is almost 4 years old.



I love trying to roll over and I really love my swing. When it comes to mealtime, I'm on a very strict diet... mom's milk and formula. I can't wait to have chocolate milk like my brother and when I cut some teeth, I'd like to try my mom's yummy latkes! I have only celebrated Purim, but I liked the dressing up part!

My favorite PJ Library book is *Goodnight Bubala*.

You asked "which do you like better-snow, grass, or sand?" Well, I've only experienced snow and mud, and snow again (it's Buffalo). But I like when the sun shines and am excited to feel grass between my toes and sand at the beach this summer!

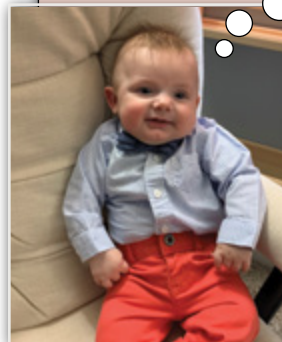
My name is Serafina Nicole Fried, in Hebrew that's *Serafina Margalit*, but everybody calls me Fina. I'm named after my mom's great aunt Pearl and my dad's grandfather Nicolai who was a Holocaust survivor. I was born on June 20, 2021...dad's best Father's Day present EVER! My mom and dad are Zahava and Yaakov Fried. I have THE BEST big sister and her name is Lilah and she's turning 4 this month.



I love to roll from my tummy to my back and over and over to move. I also love bath time with my sister, singing songs with mommy and getting tickled by daddy. I can proudly say that I have **five** teeth! With them, I enjoy chicken matzo ball soup and brisket! My favorite Jewish holiday is Rosh Hashanah because of the music I've heard mommy sing, and apples- because I LOVE applesauce. My favorite PJ Library book is *Naamah and the Ark at Night*.

Snow is a bit too cold for my taste, I haven't felt sand, but I know that grass tastes delicious!

My name is Elliott Jacob Taylor and I was born on September 29, 2021. My mom and dad are Brittany and Rob Taylor and my grandparents are Lori and Armand Morrison. I have two great siblings...Levi who is 3 years old and Ariella who is 2 years old.



I can proudly roll over, when I want to. I love looking at lights, listening to music, and watching my siblings play. Although I have no teeth, I really enjoy bananas which I just started eating this week!

Purim was my favorite Jewish holiday, I had a lot of fun shaking a grogger! My favorite PJ Library book is *Dayenu*!

Most of my life has been spent in the snow, so I guess that is my favorite. But, I am excited to see what grass and sand are all about!

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PJ Library in Buffalo is made possible by The Golden and Goldman Philanthropic Fund, Altman Dental, and the Buffalo Jewish Federation and is led by Chair Rebecca Freedman, Vice Chair Nikki Balsom and LiNK's Director of Jewish Experience, Robin Kurss.

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A Helping Hand to Chabad

BY JUSTIN WEISS

Tony's Tree & Landscaping was called by the Chabad House-Jewish Student Center at UB to help remove trees that were leaning on the pedestrian bridge connecting the University to the Center. The trees were a hazard to the bridge's structure and to the students crossing the bridge. When Tony came by,



he surveyed the safety risk, but the price to take down the massive trees — which requires heavy machinery and a crane to remove — was very substantial.

Enter Tony and his crew, who at a steeply discounted price, trimmed all the trees and branches leaning on the bridge — and took down a few others at no charge.

The Chabad House and the student community at UB are very grateful for the kindness and generosity displayed by Tony's Tree & Landscaping. They hope others can follow in Tony's footsteps and help the Buffalo community.

Justin Weiss is UB Spectrum Editor.

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JCRC Moves Towards Racial Justice

BY RACHEL BEERMAN

Over the past several months, The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) has provided an array of opportunities to educate and engage in events related to racial justice and learning.

For Black History Month, we offered two virtual guided fieldtrips: the first was of our local Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center and the second was the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina. During the Niagara Falls Center tour we learned much from our excellent guide about some of the local history of abolition and how important Niagara Falls was to freedom seekers who made their way to freedom in Canada. At the International Civil Rights Center, our knowledgeable guides not only provided an excellent overview history of the Civil Rights movement, but also shared about the start of the sit-in movement that started in Greensboro's Woolworth's store, where the museum is located.

In March, we hosted a second visual tour of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, and in April a group visited the Albright-Knox Northland Art Gallery for a guided tour of the current "In These Truths" exhibit, which highlights the experience of Black Americans through the work of local and national Black artists.

This month, we will be hosting a virtual tour of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor on June 9th. During this live virtual tour, participants will be able to learn more about many of the historical sites in the corridor



Tour at the Albright-Knox Northland Art Gallery

including the Nash House and the Colored Musicians Club and Jazz Museum. **For more information, contact Audrey Clark at aclark@michiganstreetbuffalo.org.**

All of these events are deepening our understanding of what does it mean to be an American, giving us time for conversation and reflection about important ideas and history and supporting the central value of the Jewish Community Relations Council to create a civil and caring community for all.

Rachel Beerman is Racial Justice Coordinator for the JCRC.

Ohel Construction to begin this Summer

Plans are moving forward to begin the task of renovating the Ohel—holy site of the late Rabbi Joseph Rabinowitz (z"l)—on Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd. While nearly \$150,000 has been raised to date, the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation needs to raise an additional \$30,000 to complete the project. **Please consider donating at buffalojewishfederation.org/cemetery or mailed directly to the Ohel Project, c/o Buffalo Jewish Federation, 338 Harris Hill Road, Suite 108B, Williamsville, NY 14221.** Tzedekah left at the Ohel by visitors is not being used for the renovation.

During construction, the Ohel will be closed. No one will be permitted to visit and/or pray at the Ohel until the renovation is completed. It is critical that this



message reach as many potential travelers as possible. The Cemetery Corporation will be sending such messages to communities who traditionally bring visitors to the gravesite.

We, as a community, are proud to participate and enable this project to move forward. The Cemetery Corporation supports the diversity within our broader Jewish community and welcomes those who come to pay homage to this distinguished Chassidic scholar.

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JFS Launches Jewish Partnership Program

BY MATT STEWART



Jewish Family Services (JFS) has been in operation since 1863. Our doors have always been open to all individuals no matter their background, yet our roots as a social service agency were built on Jewish values and strengthened by the Buffalo Jewish Community.

One of our most critical goals is to support the needs of the Jewish Community. **The Jewish Community Partnership Program** is an innovative model of community-based engagement and service delivery. It aims to enhance the well-being of individuals and families through improved access to social service and mental health needs in a safe and confidential way. Our Jewish history and culture have taught us that only together can we do more; more to mobilize assets within our community, more to promote equity, and more to increase people's control over their health and their lives.

At the program's heart is a specially trained JFS liaison. This liaison works alongside organizational leaders, clergy, volunteers, and synagogue staff to support the needs of their community. This program gives a partner organization unprecedented access to all of JFS's programs and resources through a customized needs assessment and analysis. The liaison assists with goals related to mental health, emotional health, and well-being.

To date, partnerships have been formed with Hillel of Buffalo and Temple Beth Tzedek (TBT), customized to meet the needs of each organization. For example, Hillel has a weekly bagel brunch on campus that provides a safe space for students to talk about the challenges they may be facing on a variety of levels.

"Partnering with JFS provides an extra layer of support for our students," said Hillel of Buffalo Executive Director Rabbi Sara Rich. "They offer students accessible ways to prioritize wellness and to cope with the stressors of college life. We are so appreciative of this partnership and look forward to finding new, creative ways to work together."

At TBT, JFS staff are on site twice a week to help with social and emotional support. And at the request of the Bikur



Matt Stewart

Holim Committee, JFS is coordinating and facilitating sensitivity training for those who volunteer to work with the medically ill and older age population segments of TBT.

"Our synagogue is blessed that JFS is a consistent presence in our building and in our congregation," said Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum. "After two years of lockdowns and isolation, many in our community yearn to restore their health, both physically and mentally. Thankfully, our friends at JFS facilitate necessary and positive support for those who are hurting."

For organizations that may be interested in exploring this new program, contact Matt at: mstewart@jfswny.org or 716-883-1914 ext. 314.

Matt Stewart is the Manager of JFS's Community Care initiatives.

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Center for Jewish Life – Filling in the Gaps

BY LORNE OPLER

“See what’s missing and fill in the gaps.” That nicely sums up the philosophy and focus of the Center for Jewish Life (CJL). “That’s how you start programming,” says the Center’s director, Rabbi Laizer Labkovski. Which is what CJL has been energetically doing since it first opened its doors in Williamsville in 1995. “80% of Jews in Western New York are not affiliated and not receiving any services,” adds Rabbi Labkovski. “We fill in those gaps.” Like that which the Rabbi saw in downtown Buffalo.

While the Northtowns have been served for decades by Rabbi Labkovski and his wife Chani—from adult education, the Chai Hebrew School, to the Kosher Mini Chef series for kids, the “Family Shul” and kosher Meals-on-Wheels of WNY—Rabbi Labkovski recognized that gaps existed in meeting the spiritual needs of unaffiliated Jews in downtown Buffalo and adjacent communities. Welcome the “Center for Jewish Life–Downtown,” the new home for CJL’s expanded programming in the heart of the city. Led by Rabbi Mendy Labkovski, Rabbi Laizer’s son, and by Rabbi Mendy’s wife Chaya Mushka, the dynamic couple has steadily been forging connections with many intown Jewish Buffalonians since the downtown branch opened in 2021. Conveniently located on Lafayette Avenue between Delaware and Main St., CJL-Downtown is strategically positioned to serve Jews in neighbourhoods as diverse as the medical community, Allentown, Hertel Avenue, Elmwood Village and the growing number of urban dwellers stretching from Larkinville through the central business district to Canalside.

In planting the seeds for more Jewish life in such a large



From left: Mrs. Chani and Rabbi Laizer Labkovski, and their eldest son, Rabbi Mendy Labkovski, at Buffalo City Hall.

underserved territory, it’s no surprise that Rabbi Mendy and Chaya Mushka have already had such a positive response from area residents. “People are really happy to see us, there is such an outpouring of love” beams the Rabbi. And from all accounts there an outpouring of interest too. During last year’s High Holidays, CJL-Downtown’s first official event was organizing and leading the traditional Tashlich service performed on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Tashlich is the cathartic ritual where Jews congregate at a lake, river or stream to symbolically toss their sins into the water. From a posting that advertised the service on the Center’s Facebook page, 45 people showed up at the lake in Delaware Park to partake. Rabbi Mendy was floored. Of all the people in attendance, 40 were new faces to him. “The need is so great,” exclaims the Rabbi.

The momentum continued through the early winter culminating in the inaugural lighting of the giant Chanukkah menorah in Niagara Square. And from there, the numbers kept growing. During this year’s Purim celebration in March, CJL-Downtown distributed “Shalach Manos” - the traditional holiday gifts of food and treats to 400 homes in the Elmwood Village/downtown area. The momentum now continues with challah regularly distributed to homes throughout downtown for Shabbat, and with guests from the community regularly attending weekly Shabbat meals at the rabbi’s home.

What makes the CJL-Downtown community so special though is that those who have benefited and received from CJL also give back through CJL. The center’s Chessed Circle is made up of volunteers from the area who are there to support and reach out each other for all occasions through gifts of food and home visits.

With such an emphasis on mutual support, caring and sharing, growing in community and in Jewish pride, the Center for Jewish Life-Downtown clearly is filling the gaps. And with more to come. Rabbi Labkovski is already talking about adding more adult education classes, more outreach and ultimately owning its own building to firmly establish its presence in Buffalo’s city center.

To what does the Rabbi owe this degree of success? To heeding the words of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. As Rabbi Mendy explains, “Growing up, I knew that the Rebbe said to ‘give back to the community...to lighten up Jewish souls.’ My mission is to be that lamplighter.”

Judging from what the Labkovski’s have already accomplished in such a short time,

there should be a lot of bright lights shining in downtown Buffalo in the months and years to come.

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.

CONTACT INFO:

Center for Jewish Life – Downtown

1016 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
Phone: 716-545-6806
Email: info@cjldowntown.com
Website: www.cjldowntown.com

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Albert M. Silverberg Memorial Fund Helps Jewish Buffalo's Frail, Homebound and Isolated



Albert M. Silverberg (z"l) was a talented and dedicated Buffalonian, Vietnam War veteran, and UB alumnus who persevered through a paralyzing medical condition that challenged him from the age of 31.

Mr. Silverberg's passing, at the age of 62 in 2005, was noted by few in our community; however, those who knew him recognized his strength and persistence. Confronted by physical challenges that would have led many to anguish, isolation and depression, he took every opportunity to build a life of self-support and activity.

The son of Henry and Dina Silverberg, Albert became a Bar Mitzvah at Ahavas Achim-Lubavitz Synagogue and as an adult joined Temple Sinai, Young Israel of Greater Buffalo, and Temple B'nai Shalom.



Albert M. Silverberg (z"l)

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at the University of Buffalo and went on to serve in the US Army during the Vietnam War. In 1974, he was stricken with paralysis which confined him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Despite this setback, he developed his abilities in physical fitness, writing and the visual

arts, chess, computer programming, and Hebrew language. Determined to be as self-sufficient as possible, he completed courses in accounting and economics at UB, performing with academic distinction and building a career as an information technology programmer.

Albert lived independently, and a specially adapted vehicle enabled him to travel and participate in athletic competitions for disabled veterans. He also remained active in our Buffalo Jewish community, maintaining memberships at Jewish War Veterans Post 25, the Jewish Discovery Center and various Jewish congregations.

In memory and honor of this valiant man, his friends established the Albert M. Silverberg Fund. Administered by the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies (FJP), the Fund offers grants to agencies and organizations that help homebound persons participate in, or otherwise be connected to, the Buffalo Jewish

community. As examples, the Fund assists Jewish agencies to distribute Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah and other holiday care packages to frail, homebound and isolated individuals (especially during the pandemic); helps Jewish schoolchildren deliver *Mishloach Manot*, festive gifts of food during Purim; and enhances community gatherings at synagogues for individuals with special needs.

"Albert Silverberg's story is inspiring," Irv Levy, FJP's executive director explained. "This Fund exists to improve the quality of residents' lives who are confronted with challenges similar to Albert's and help them connect to the Buffalo Jewish community."

If you are familiar with a frail, homebound or isolated person who wishes to be more connected to our Jewish community, or wish to contribute to the fund, contact Lorne Steinhart, Senior Manager of Client Relations at the Foundation (716.204.1135).

APPLY ONLINE TODAY FOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1

"The scholarship helped make my graduation possible. I was unable to work for two summers due to surgery, and the scholarship helped ease my financial pressures so that I could focus on academics."

"The Foundation's scholarship has been integral to funding my academic career. I'm attending my university of choice to pursue a chemistry degree with a minor in business. I have big plans which would not be possible without the Foundation's generosity."



JEWISHPHILANTHROPIES.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

Kadimah's Event at the Buffalo Zoo, June 20

BY RENEE LEHNER

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! Kadimah's Annual Dinner is coming back. After a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kadimah is proud and delighted to once again host our annual celebration of Jewish day school education, bringing the Jewish Buffalo community back together again with a program that will highlight our new Kadimah Scholars partnership with The Park School of Buffalo and the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

This time, though, the school will be featuring a big twist, as we will be hosting our major fundraising and socializing event at The Buffalo Zoo, in a largely outdoor environment that we hope will be comfortable for all in this COVID era.

Kadimah will be taking over the animal kingdom on Monday, June 20, for an evening of fun, food and festivities for



all ages, starting at 5:30 p.m. Attendees are free to wander the grounds and enjoy everything the Zoo has to offer. Food and drink will be available from stations positioned around the Zoo. And of course, we'll gather for dessert, remarks and a celebration of all our accomplishments during these first three years of our innovative partnership with Park School and the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

As always, Kadimah will also be featuring our annual Calendar Ad Book, with bright and colorful photos of our activities, highlighting our students and teachers, their Jewish learning, and their experiences throughout Park. Besides providing an attractive and valuable

keepsake for use all year, the ad book is a significant part of our fundraising effort. It provides an opportunity for our community to celebrate achievements, and for local businesses to reach hundreds of consumers.

All money raised from our annual dinner and ad book goes directly to our scholarship efforts, helping to ensure that Jewish Buffalo can bridge any gaps between Park's generous financial aid and a family's ability to pay for school. Our mission has always been centered around ensuring that any Jewish child can get a Jewish education, regardless of financial means. We hope that you'll participate this year and help us successfully reach our fundraising goals.

Please like us on Facebook or check out our website at www.kadimah.org for more details on the ad-calendar and the upcoming Kadimah Dinner. We hope to see you there!

Renee Lehner is Administrator of Kadimah Scholars at Park.

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21/22

Elgar Impressions

Formerly Rachmaninoff & Kodály

Sat May 7, 7:30pm | Sun May 8, 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Roman Mekinulov, cello

Elgar's witty and radiant *Enigma Variations* complements a Kodály idyll for chamber orchestra, and the haunting Hebraic Rhapsody for Cello, *Schelomo*.



Reflections on Rachmaninoff

Formerly *Enigma Variations*

Fri May 13, 10:30am | Sat May 14, 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Rachmaninoff's brilliant *Symphonic Dances* anchors a program featuring a nostalgic Kodály symphony and composer David Ludwig's celebratory concerto written for his new wife, violinist Bella Hristova.



Star-Spangled Salute

Fri May 27, 10:30am | Sat May 28, 7:30pm

Bradley Thachuk, conductor

Experience Western New York's premier Memorial Day tradition as the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus joins your BPO in a program filled with inspiring music and red, white, and blue pageantry.



An Evening with Kenny G

Wed Jun 1, 7:30pm

The chart-topping sax legend debuts his iconic blend of R&B, pop, and Latin music over a jazz foundation in this special engagement with your BPO.



Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert

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Fri Jun 3, 7:30pm

Ron Spigelman, conductor



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Presented by Calspan

Sat Jun 4, 7:30pm

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Yom Ha'Atzmaut BBQ

This year, the TBT's Men's Club and Women's Network are co-sponsoring a Yom Ha'Atzmaut BBQ celebration on Wednesday evening, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the synagogue. David Schiller, a veteran of the Israel Defense Forces, will begin the event with a brief memorial service for Israel's fallen soldiers.

The evening will feature kosher meats, falafel, veggies and Israeli beer. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for college students. Guests are encouraged to wear white and blue attire. **RSVP to davidlschiller@gmail.com.** The event is generously sponsored by David L. Schiller, SIOR, and Pyramid Brokerage Company of Buffalo.

Rabbi Isaac Klein Scholar-In-Residence Weekend



TBT is excited to welcome the community back for an in-person scholar weekend, May 20-22, with Frederick E. Greenspahn, Ph.D., Gimelstob Eminent Scholar of Judaic Studies at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Greenspahn has written and edited 16 books, including *An Introduction to Aramaic*, *When Brothers Dwell Together*, *The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible*, as well as several books on interfaith relations. He is currently editor of the NYU Press series *Jewish Studies in the Twenty-First Century*. The overarching theme of Dr. Greenspahn's presentations will be on the changing nature of American Jewry. **Please visit btzbuffalo.org for details.**



TBT Youth

Tinok Time for children ages 6 months-4 years old, featuring singing, crafts, and games with a Jewish twist will be at TBT on May 12 and 26 at 10 a.m. **RSVP to zahava.taylor@gmail.com.**

TBT's USY Gilgool chapter will be having a Havdalah and sleepover on Saturday night, May 21. **Contact Advisor Renee Herman, renee@webeditor.com, for more details.**

TBT will also be having Tot Shabbat and Junior Congregation on Shabbat mornings. **Contact ezrarich@gmail.com for the details.**

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Returns In-Person

One of the hallmarks of Jewish learning in Buffalo, TBT is excited to again offer its Community *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* in-person at the synagogue on Saturday night, June 4th. This year's theme will be *B'Tzelem Elohim* (In the Image of G-d): The Uniqueness of Each Jewish Soul.

Confirmed speakers include:

Keynote Speaker: Cantor Mark Horowitz, JCC Association of North America, at 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Sara Rich, Hillel of Buffalo, at 10:30 p.m.

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, Congregation Shir Shalom, at 11:30 p.m.

Rabbi Ori Bergman, Kehillat Ohr Tzion, at 12:30 a.m.

Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum, Temple Beth Tzedek at 4:00 a.m. followed by TBT's Sunrise Service at 5:00 a.m.

Special thanks to event co-chairs Rachel Anderson and Dr. Bernie Weinstein for continuing this sacred tradition with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors and LiNK Jewish Buffalo. **For more information, please visit www.btzbuffalo.org.**



**“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: 126**

**Total dollar amount:
\$4,945,059**

**through March 31, 2022*



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

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

For more information, please contact Mandy Weiss, LIFE & LEGACY® Coordinator for the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at legacy@jewishphilanthropies.org or 716-463-5065.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF WNY

This month, we are pleased to highlight the Jewish Family Services of WNY (JFS), one of the collaborating partner organizations in the LIFE & LEGACY @ Buffalo initiative.

Led by values of dignity, humility, partnership, and trust, JFS helps individuals and families build healthier, more stable lives. JFS offers critical support for children and adults, including mental and behavior health counseling services, refugee resettlement and post-resettlement assistance, youth and adult care management, parenting and family support.

Maimonides' highest level of giving is to ensure that those they help ultimately can help themselves. JFS provides not a hand-out, but a hand-up to reduce the barriers that prevent people from realizing their full potential.

JFS is built upon a solid foundation, and that foundation needs consistent care and love to support those it seeks to protect. Legacy donors for JFS are people who believe in JFS' mission to serve the most vulnerable. Your legacy gift will ensure that members of our community who need social and behavioral health services are not left behind, that they have somewhere to turn for assistance, that the family of six



jewish family services | wny

from a war-torn region is provided the tools for success as they build a new life in America, or that a Jewish Holocaust Survivor has the mental health care and social support that is critical to their well-being.

For any questions about the JFS and how you can leave your legacy with them, please contact Lauren Maguire at LMaguire@jfswny.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

Buffalo Intl. Jewish Film Festival Adds Special Events

BY RICK KOLLINS

The 37th annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival continues through May with online and in-person screenings and four special events to enhance the Festival experience. This year's lineup includes award-winning films from Israel as well as from Germany, France, Spain, Russia, Argentina, United Kingdom and the U.S.

On May 3, writer and director Tzipi Trope will host a Zoom "Tuesday Talkback" on her acclaimed film *My Dearest Enemy*, a personal drama about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as seen through the eyes of a Palestinian Muslim and an Israeli Jew.

For the second year in a row, the Festival will sponsor a family event at the Transit Drive-In on May 12 for the film *The Raft*, the adventure story of four teenagers sailed from Israel to Cyprus for the World Cup of Soccer. Special activities and music will precede the film.



Dr. Glenn Kurtz, author of the book *Three Minutes in Poland*, will be featured in a pre-recorded interview following the screening of the movie version of his book at the Dipson Amherst Theatre on May 17. The film is based on a home movie shot by Kurtz's grandfather in the Polish shtetl of Nasielsk in 1938, when the Jewish population had no idea of what was to befall them just one year later.

To close out the Festival on May 19, Buffalo native and Klezmer scholar and musician David Zakalik will speak and answer questions about *Song Searcher*, the story of Moyshe Beregovsky, a Ukrainian musicologist who spent 30 years recording and writing about traditional Jewish music despite attempts to undermine Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. Zakalik is editor and co-facilitator of the Beregovsky Reading Circle, an international community of musicians and scholars who read and translate Beregovsky's compositions from their original Yiddish.

Complete Festival information, including schedule, film synopses, trailers, tickets, and instructions for streaming films and special events, is available on the JCC web site at www.jccbuffalo.org. Ticket options include single, flex and all-access passes.

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BUFFALO
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April 28-May 19, 2022

**In-person screenings May 13-19
at Amherst Dipson Theater**

2022 Film Schedule

APRIL 28 – MAY 19, 2022

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 – SATURDAY, APRIL 30

A RADIANT GIRL (STREAMED) **6:00 P.M.**

SUNDAY, MAY 1 – TUESDAY, MAY 3

MY DEAREST ENEMY (STREAMED) **6:00 P.M.**

TUESDAY, MAY 3

TUESDAY TALKBACK: MY DEAREST ENEMY
with Director Tzipi Trope (ZOOM) **7:00 P.M.**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 – FRIDAY, MAY 6

WET DOG (STREAMED) **6:00 P.M.**

SATURDAY, MAY 7 – MONDAY, MAY 9

XUETA ISLAND (STREAMED) **6:00 P.M.**

TUESDAY, MAY 10 – THURSDAY, MAY 12

RED STAR (STREAMED) **6:00 P.M.**

THURSDAY, MAY 12 - TRANSIT DRIVE-IN

THE RAFT 7:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 13 AMHERST THEATER

KISS ME KOSHER 4:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 14 - AMHERST THEATER

HERE WE ARE 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 15 - AMHERST THEATER

FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN 1:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MAY 16 - AMHERST THEATER

HERE WE ARE 4:00 P.M.

KISS ME KOSHER 7:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, MAY 17 - AMHERST THEATER

THREE MINUTES: A LENGTHENING 7:30 P.M.

(Followed by pre-recorded interview with author Glenn Kurtz)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 AMHERST THEATER

IMAGE OF VICTORY 7:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 19 - AMHERST THEATER

SONG SEARCHER 7:30 P.M.

(Followed by a Q&A with Klezmer scholar/musician David Zakalik)

Film synopses, trailers, ticket prices and streaming instructions available at jccbuffalo.org.

For more information,
please contact Katie Wzontek at kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org.

Kleinhans Music Hall Center Stage presents The Ithaca Klezmer Quartet



Sunday, May 22, 3:00 p.m.

Centerstage is one of the most unique and intimate concert settings in town, where the audience is seated on stage with the performers and tickets are extremely limited!

Immerse yourself in the rich melodies of The Ithaca Klezmer Quartet. Hailing from the shores of Lake Cayuga, the group is composed of four friends who have been playing klezmer music for more than a decade. Led by Buffalo native David Zakalik, this quartet will perform old-world and American-style klezmer music, traditional Chassidic melodies, and a few original compositions.

Tickets \$25.00 • KleinhansBuffalo.org (716) 885-5000

The Girl in the Diary

Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto
traveling exhibition is coming to Buffalo!



During the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945, the diary of Rywka Lipsyc, a young orthodox Jewish girl, was discovered by a Soviet doctor. The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto presents powerful excerpts from Rywka's diary while she was in Łódź Ghetto from October 1943 - April 1944. This exhibit also includes expert commentary from historians, doctors and Rabbis.

The exhibition is free and open to the public and will be on display at the

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum

453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201
Open through May 27, 2022

OPENING DAYS AND HOURS:
April and May: Tuesdays-Sundays 11:00 am-4:00 pm • Street parking available



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Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrate Israel's 74th anniversary!

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1» Celebrate Hillel of Buffalo's 75 Anniversary Thursday, May 12 at the UB Center for the Arts. Enjoy food, drink, a silent auction, and a musical performance by students. **Tickets are \$75/per person and can be purchased along with tribute ads at wizevents.com/hillelofbuffalo2022.** Contact rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org for more information.

2» Happy birthday, Israel! Join the Buffalo Jewish Community to celebrate Israel's 74th birthday Sunday, May 15 at the JCC's Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy family activities, a special ceremony, and a musical performance made possible in part by the Buffalo Jewish Federation featuring Israeli artist Rami Feinstein. Food available for purchase. **Questions? Contact Gon Erez: gerez@jccbuffalo.org**

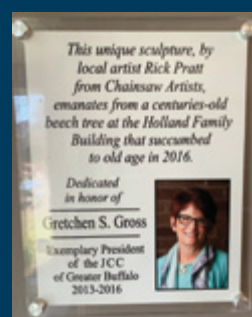
3» Have you always wanted to travel to Israel, or can't wait to go back? Join your Buffalo friends and neighbors in the Buffalo Israel Experience (BIE) II taking place this coming October. Read about it on page 11, and reserve your spot NOW at buffalojewishfederation.org/bie. **For more information, contact Miriam Abramovich at miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

4» Don't miss the HRC's exhibition The Girl in the Diary through May 27 at the Karpeles Museum on Porter Ave in Buffalo (see page 21). **Contact Elizabeth Schram at Elizabeth@buffalojewishfederation.org for more information or to arrange for a guided tour.**

5» Support the people in Ukraine. You can help Jews today by acting NOW! Make a 2022 Ukraine Crisis Fund donation through Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) by going to jfeds.org/CrisisInUkraine or buffalojewishfederation.org and click on the "Crisis in Ukraine" link.

Where in JBFLO

**Where is this found?
in Jewish Buffalo?**



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

Email your answers to
ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org.

For the April issue, **Dan Mink** correctly identified the monument in memory of Holocaust victims and said "this is the monument to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, set back in a grove off of Pine Ridge Road. If the urban legend is correct, my cousin's grandfather, Alex Bialys, was one of the Survivors who brought back soap made from Jews, an unfathomable atrocity, buried under this monument..."

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buffalojewishfederation.org
Rob Goldberg - CEO & Executive Director
Shelly Yellen - President

Buffalo Vaad of Kashrus

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

Center for Jewish Life

Suburbs: 757 Hopkins Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-639-7600
jewishbuffalo.com
Rabbi Laizer & Chani Labkovski
Downtown: 1016 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-545-6806
Rabbi Mendy & Chaya Mushka Labkovski

Chabad House of Buffalo

2450 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068
716-688-1642
chabadbuffalo.com
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Chani Labkovski - Director

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Dr. Noam Pines - Chair

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

Hadassah

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Getzville, NY 14068
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buffalohadassah@gmail.com
Elaine Kellick and Annette Magid - Co-Presidents

Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association

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Getzville, NY 14068
716-204-0542
Judith Katzenelson Brownstein - President

Hillel of Buffalo

Campus Center of Jewish Life
520 Lee Entrance/UB Commons
Suite #101B
W. Amherst, NY 14228
716-616-0083
hillelofbuffalo.org
Rabbi Sara Rich - Director
Marc Adler - President

Holocaust Resource Center

338 Harris Hill Rd. – Suite 108B
Williamsville, NY 14221
hrcbuffalo.org
Elizabeth Schram - Director
Wendy Weisbrot - Chair

Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

Benderson Family Building
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jccbuffalo.org
Mike Rawl - Executive Director
Alon Kupferman - President

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Adam Fogel - Co-Chair
Deborah Goldman - Co-Chair

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Kathleen Haggerty - Property Manager

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Jonathan David Snitzer

1998-2022

Jonathan David Snitzer, a loving son, brother, husband, and loyal friend, passed away on January 28th after a year long battle with a rare and aggressive form of cancer at age 23. He is survived by his wife Sydney Riedel, mother Ellen Rich, father Eric, sisters Rachel and Zoe, brother Elliot, grandfather Carl Snitzer, grandparents Peter and Janet Rich, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. We are honored to share the following eulogy from his father, Dr. Eric Snitzer.

As a little boy, Jonathan loved Harry Potter, video games, snack food, and to be read to at bedtime. He had the cutest skateboarder haircut. He learned how to swim but had an endearing aversion to natural bodies of water.

He loved playing baseball. We spent countless hours playing catch on our front lawn. He played on the same travel team from the age of 8, until his junior year of high school, and he developed into a pretty good pitcher, which also carried over to the high school varsity team. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of the NFL, particularly his beloved Bills. He loved traveling, good food, amusement parks (particularly roller coasters), and downhill skiing. He was not the best dresser, and favored t-shirts, sweat pants and basketball shorts whenever possible.

He was a loving brother, who always had the silliest, most creative nicknames for his siblings. He and Elliot were best buds and slept in the same bed for years. He loved having Rachel as his big sister-confidant and doting on Zoe. He loved laying on the floor cuddling with our dog Indy. He was a bit of a homebody and loved nothing more than just lying on the couch and watching movies and going out to dinner with the family. He loved his double Thanksgiving dinners, first with his in-laws, and again with his numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins, just relaxing and watching football, enjoying great meals, and just being together.

He was very bright. He learned to read before going to preschool, was a Rubik's cube expert, and was always a self-motivated student throughout elementary, middle and high school. He aced his SATs and finished with a 4.0 average as a Biomedical Engineering major at Case Western Reserve University. He was just starting his second semester at the University of Rochester School of Medicine when he received his diagnosis. Although he was only able to complete one semester

of medical school, he received an award as the top student in Gross Anatomy in his class.

He never required any discipline, never needed reminding to do his schoolwork, and never had any significant quarrels with his siblings or friends. The only prodding we ever had to do was to get him prepared for his Bar Mitzvah. He waited until the last minute to fully learn his torah portion, but in the end did a great job. He never really liked going to religious school or services and had a precocious skepticism regarding the existence of God and the necessity of religion. However, in the end, he respected its traditions, particularly its importance in marking life cycle events.

In his sophomore year of high school, Jon met Sydney. What started as a first-ever high school relationship survived through those years, the difficulties of separation during college, and then through the struggles of Jon's illness. Upon receiving his terminal diagnosis, Jon promptly proposed to Sydney. The shining moment of this past year was August 7th when they were married. We take great solace that in his short life he was able to find his soulmate and experience the joy of true love.

Last January, Jon called from school to say that he was experiencing some chest pain. He went to get a chest x-ray the following day, which led to more exams and the subsequent biopsy of a large mass in his chest, a primary mediastinal germ cell tumor. While most germ cell tumors have a pretty good prognosis, the subtype that starts in the chest does not. Following three rounds of in-patient chemotherapy without a significant response, we proceeded to Indiana



*He will truly be forever loved,
always missed,
and never forgotten.*

University, where he underwent a 6-week treatment, which included two cycles of high dose chemotherapy each followed by a bone marrow transplant.

This knocked back the tumor, but not enough for him to qualify for curative surgery. However, it gave him a few months of respite when he felt pretty good, enabling him to enjoy the wedding and do some travelling with Sydney.

Additional outpatient palliative chemo did not help. He returned to Indiana to participate in a clinical trial last October. The trial drug helped at first, but by the third month, the tumor showed further progression. When the study drug was discontinued, the tumor returned with a vengeance, and Jon passed just two weeks later.

During his last few days, at which time he was in extreme pain despite high doses of morphine, Sydney, Rachel, Elliot and Zoe stayed by his side doing whatever was necessary for his care. It was a time of immense sadness, but it was strangely beautiful to see so much love.

Despite his diagnosis, the recurrent disappointments at the failure of his treatments, as well as the persistent pain he experienced, his strength and courage

were inspiring. He was always very appreciative and respectful to all the nurses, physicians and staff involved with his care. He never lost his sweet disposition, delightful sense of humor, or his tremendous love and appreciation for his family and friends, and he never wallowed in self-pity.

The love and pride we have for him is infinite, and his loss something we will never get over. He will truly be forever loved, always missed, and never forgotten.

It was always Jon's wish to help others with his condition, and he and Sydney tried to solicit ideas from his oncologists. With this in mind, Sydney set up the Jonathan Snitzer Memorial Fund on GoFundMe. While its exact purpose is still evolving, it will be used to support a website with information and resources for other young adults and their families dealing with this terrible disease. It will also be used to encourage other patients to participate in clinical trials in hopes of finding new more effective treatments, and a better chance for a cure. **Gratefully appreciated donations can be made at <https://gofund.me/36e5f04e>.**

Gerda Weissmann Klein

1924-2022

Holocaust Survivor and former Buffalonian Gerda Weissmann Klein died April 3 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Born in Poland, Gerda was 15 years old when the Nazis invaded her country. Forced to live in the basement of her childhood home for nearly three years, she and her parents were ultimately moved to a ghetto with other Jews from the town. From there, her parents were deported to Auschwitz. She never saw them, nor her beloved brother again. Gerda spent the next three years in a succession of slave-labor and concentration camps, until forced to walk a 350-mile death march in which 2,000 women were subjected to exposure, starvation, and arbitrary execution. Fewer than 120 survived. Despite such atrocities, Gerda never lost the will to live.

She was liberated in May, 1945 by American soldier Kurt Klein (z"l), whom she married in Paris in 1946. She and her late husband then settled in Buffalo following the War, and raised their family together in Western New York. The Kleins moved to Phoenix, Arizona following Kurt's retirement as a printer to be near their children.

Gerda is survived by her children: Vivian (James) Ullman, Leslie (Roger) Simon, James (Lynn) Klein; her grandchildren Alysa (Adam) Cooper, Julie (Ben) Loftsgaarden, Andrew (Katie) Ullman, Lindsay Ullman, Melissa (David) Barth, Jessica (Adam) Glick, Jennifer (Sam) Lehman, Alexa Klein; and her Chai 18 great grandchildren Elias, Jonas, Tyler, Blake, Maddie, Micah, Kayla, twins



Cole and Levi, Julian, Jake, Brandon, Savannah, Ava, Elsa, twins Stella and Joshua, and Leo.

A private burial was held and her family will honor her life and legacy with a virtual celebration on Sunday, May 1. Details for this special event will be shared on the Citizenship Counts website. ***Donations may be made in Gerda's memory to Citizenship Counts, KAVOD which ensures dignity for Holocaust survivors, or the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo at hrcbuffalo.org.***

A special story about Buffalo's deep connection with Gerda will appear in next month's *Jewish Journal*.

CORRECTION:
In the March issue, Beverly Pierce's name was inadvertently omitted from the 2021 Honor Roll of Donors in the \$100-\$499 category.

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from March 21 - April 17, 2022. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Charles M. Breinin
Doris Epstein
Anni Fierstein
Amy Hahn
Steven L. Janis
Gerda Weissmann Klein
Carol Oleshansky
Lys Esther Revel
Kurt T. Sajda
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"If we inadvertently missed printing the listing of your loved one, please write to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org and we will include the name next month."

THE JEWISH JOURNAL
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(NOT) THE LAST WORD

Israel walking a political tightrope as Russia wages war against Ukraine

BY HAROLD HALPERN

NOTE: This essay originally appeared in *The Sarasota Herald-Tribune* March 5 and is reprinted by permission of the author.

Harold Halpern

I can't remain silent as Russia attacks Ukraine. I have read many columns analyzing the causes of the war, including claimed policy errors of our government after the breakup of the former Soviet Union (FSU) and President Vladimir Putin's insatiable quest to restore the FSU and re-establish Russia as a great power in the world. So, too, have I read much about the potential future effects of this war.

I have had many Zoom sessions with knowledgeable friends, some of whom have served in the diplomatic corps. Whenever we get to sharing thoughts on the causes of the war, my brother Ralph redirects the conversation. The causes of the war, he reminds us, are for the historians. We must deal with the issue of "what should be done now and what are the outcomes we can foresee."

So, I'll adopt that limitation as best as I'm able. President Joseph Biden has made it clear beyond a doubt that the United States will not send military forces of any kind to Ukraine. This has been off the table since Russia's threat to attack was apparent. This limited the deterrent effect of all other actions we may take. This was a political decision, the rationale for which is that Ukraine, not a member of NATO, is not assured we will come

to its defense as we are obligated to for NATO members, including the smaller states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It has been suggested that this is an inadequate justification. One merely need look to South Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, where we aided with strong military forces to save the nations from war and to protect our interests as well as to the two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In Vietnam alone almost 60,000 American military lost their lives.

Our president has avoided discussions of these prior wars

in making this decision to assure Americans, who are tired of distant wars, that we will not have body bags bringing back our dead, which all public polls show is the public's strong point of view. Moreover, he doesn't want to engage in war with Russians for fear of it escalating into a world war. So, this decision also will be left to historians.

President Biden has brought unity in the European Union, in NATO and many countries of the world, to condemn Russia and to invoke serious economic sanctions on Russia, its banks, political leaders, including Putin, and its oligarchs, which will seriously impact its economy. The consensus is that this will, by itself, not deter Russia in its military quest to conquer Ukraine and overturn its democratically elected government.

The consequences, as well as their scope, are uncertain. In the near-term Russian citizens will significantly suffer. Many of their children, husbands, and friends will be killed and wounded. The sanctions have already reduced the value of the ruble, making food and all necessary goods more expensive and reducing their ability to import needed daily items, and the stock market has collapsed. Soon the economy will decline and standard of living seriously impaired.

Tom Friedman of *The New York Times* wrote on March 2, "Every day that Putin refuses to stop we get closer to the gates of hell." Surely that is so for Ukrainians. TV reports graphically show the horror. By the time you read this Russia may have toppled much of Ukraine. The consensus is that Putin will not stop until Ukraine is conquered, and a puppet government installed. Then begin the guerilla actions of the Ukrainians to return to freedom in a broken country.

Europe will suffer as they are dependent on Russian natural gas and petrol. There is not enough in the rest of the world to make up for the loss. Today these items are not sanctioned as the damage to European economies will be greater than the benefit of sanctions.

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The danger is Russia will increase the prices or use it as a political tool. The Europeans will be sitting on a tinder box as there very well might be a renewal of a cold war with Russia. And one must ask, will Russia attack tiny Estonia and/or Latvia and Lithuania, bordering Russia, and test the United States and NATO which are treaty bound under Article 5 to come to their defense?

The world is interconnected, and all will suffer consequences from the war. But let me write a few words about the potential impact on Israel. Israel has positive relations with both Ukraine and Russia. There are 1 million or more Russian-speaking Israelis who largely came from the FSU between 1990 and 1999. This makes a natural affinity with the culture of the two countries.

Israel imports from Ukraine mostly foodstuffs with 50% of its wheat coming from Ukraine. The war and its ensuing consequences will make wheat scarce and more costly. Egypt and Middle East counties will similarly suffer. Additionally, Israel's high-tech firms rely on about 20,000 Ukrainian employees. Their continuing status with Israel is in doubt.

Israel's relations with Russia are more in the geopolitical realm. Russia is filling the American vacuum in the Middle East and is successfully propping up the government of Syria. But at the same time Iran is supporting Hezbollah, a terrorist proxy in the Middle East committed to destroying Israel. Israel regularly bombs military storage facilities and deliveries of weapons coming from Iran to Syria. Russia and Israel have arrangements not to interfere with Israel's missions.

Israel has a tightrope to walk not to offend Russia but at same time join the West in condemnation of an aggressive war. It has tried to stay quiet by providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine but not weapons or armaments. It unenthusiastically joined in the UN's condemnation of Russia but even that angered Putin. He lashed out telling the world he doesn't recognize Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Most important, Israel must maintain excellent relations with the United States, its principal supporter, and be true to its own value of justice. As a small country this is vital for its survival.

Retired Sarasota and former Buffalo attorney Harold Halpern is a board member of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

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