

The Award Winning

» Gmar Hatimah Tova!

# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

BUFFALO, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | BUFFALOJEWISHFEDERATION.ORG

OCTOBER 2022 | TISHRI-CHESHVAN 5783

## KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL EXPERIENCE

December 4 - 6, 2022

## BUFFALO ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

October 19 - 28, 2022

BUFFALO JEWISH  
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## CIVIC LEADER ISRAEL TRIP

February 8 - 16, 2023

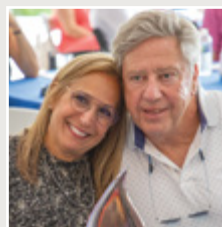
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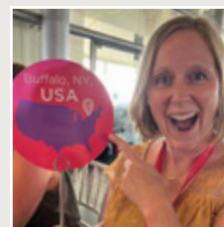
experiences

## JOURNEY TO THE UAE

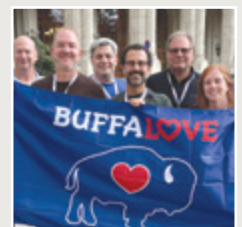
February 1 - 9, 2023



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# October 2022

## Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

We are now midway into the High Holy Day season. Rosh Hashanah has passed and Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret are on the horizon. For me, it has been so fulfilling to celebrate the New Year back in synagogue with my beloved community. Yes, Zoom is a miraculous new option which affords us instant virtual connection, but there is nothing like sitting in temple with family and friends singing and praying together.

So, too, are we back at community events like this year's stellar Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Kick Off (see pages 6 & 7) and the PJ Library end of summer festival and Jewish Teen Initiative retreat (pages 10 & 11). And our cover story (page 1) offers many ways to come together and be "immersed" in our Jewish community outside of Western New York. A Federation-sponsored trip is an awesome way to see the world that you know and the world you are discovering.

Here are my 5 Top Things to Do this autumn:

**VOTE:** The November 8 elections are critical. On page 8, the JCRC lets us all know we MUST REGISTER to vote by October 14 and the website has dates for early voting, absentee voting and much more.

**HELP BUILD COMMUNITY:** Give today to the 2023 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo by calling the Federation at 716-463-5053 or go to [buffalojewishfederation.org/donate](http://buffalojewishfederation.org/donate).

**HELP UKRAINIANS COMING TO BUFFALO:** Donate goods or funds to JFS, or help resettle one family. Contact JFS at [jfswny.org](http://jfswny.org) or call 716-883-1914.

**STUDY:** Check out learning opportunities through LiNK (pages 8-9), Hillel and Kadimah at Park (page 19), the JCC (pages 20-21), synagogues and agencies (pages 24, 26 & 27).

**JOURNEY TOGETHER:** Checkout the travel opportunities with Buffalo Jewish Federation outlined on page 1, and if any appeal to you, sign up and join us today!

Finally, wishing you and your loved ones a *Gmar Hatimah Tova*—may you be written and sealed in the Book of Life—for a safe, healthy and productive year. I look forward to greeting you in person at communal events in the coming months.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

## On The Cover



Images representing four of the five upcoming immersive experiences are displayed this month on the cover. *Graphic designed by Jessica Wittman, Jill Komm and Kim Miers.*

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# Buffalo Dives Headfirst into Shared Experiences

For almost a century, Federations around North America have been stalwarts of Jewish life, raising and distributing funds locally, nationally and overseas. Over the years, a tried-and-true Federation strategy was to engage community leaders through shared travel to see first-hand the impact of their dollars, and to roll up their sleeves to offer support to fellow Jews in need throughout the world. Today, much of Federation's work has evolved and expanded to include community building, designing and deploying opportunities to engage in Jewish learning and living, creating places and spaces of belonging, and in facilitating travel moments with a different purpose — what today we call *immersive experiences*.



Over the next few months, our Federation will be taking Buffalonians on far flung excursions to experience Jewish living and learning in beautiful and sacred destinations spanning the globe. From Israel to Budapest, Chicago to Louisville, Phoenix to Dubai — nearly 150 individuals are set to partake in one of the Immersive Experiences being offered during the next six months.

What is an *Immersive Experience*, you might ask? It is an experience that removes people from their everyday lives for a sustained time period. Jewish immersive experiences can mean different things to different people: they can be about living values, traditions, and history, or experiencing fun, friendship, and renewed family bonds. However, they all include facilitated shared experiences that provide intentional Jewish moments and important unstructured time.



Immersive Experiences, as the name implies, bring together groups of people from varied backgrounds and heritages to dive deeply in shared time in a shared space.

Our Federation ensures that each one of these experiences offered are facilitated by talented local and national professionals so that there is always someone responsible for guiding the content, guarding purposeful and safe space, and helping to make sure a good time is had by all.



When we travel, we discover new things about ourselves, our Judaism, and about the world around us. Immersive travel allows us to dive headfirst into meaningful experiences with fellow Buffalonians who will often become dear friends. A trip with the Buffalo Jewish Federation is unlike any other; one will gain access to exclusive opportunities, incredible local leaders, and a community of adventurous and bright companions — retuning home with deeper connections to Jewish Buffalo.

***There are many opportunities to participate; contact the professionals to the right to learn more about an upcoming Immersive Experience.***



## Upcoming **IMMERSIVE** *experience* Opportunities:

### **BUFFALO ISRAEL EXPERIENCE**

**October 19-28, 2022**

Contact [Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org)

### **KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL EXPERIENCE**

**December 4-6, 2022**

Contact [Mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Mike@buffalojewishfederation.org)

### **INTERNATIONAL LION OF JUDAH CONFERENCE**

**December 11-13, 2022**

Contact [Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Stacey@buffalojewishfederation.org)

### **JOURNEY TO THE UAE**

**February 1-9, 2023**

Contact [Rob@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Rob@buffalojewishfederation.org)

### **BUFFALO JCRC CIVIC LEADER ISRAEL TRIP**

**February 8-16, 2023**

Contact [Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:Mara@buffalojewishfederation.org)



# A Day of Celebration!

BY ALEX EADIE AND LORNE STEINHART



and the Feuerstein family in memory of his parents and in honor of his children.

On Sunday, August 14, more than 100 people attended a special event at Camp Centerland at the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds where David Feuerstein and his family were recognized for making substantial enduring commitments to Jewish Buffalo. At Camp Centerland, the athletic field and ropes course were dedicated in the names of David

In his opening remarks, JCC CEO Michael Rawl expressed gratitude: “We are honored to name the ropes course and the athletic field in David’s and his family’s name as a testament to his generosity, commitment, and care for the JCC and the mission of Camp,” he said. “Many happy children will use these facilities for generations to come, and I can’t think of a better way to make an impact.”

Susan Freed, JCC Past President spoke on behalf of the Board, and Rabbi Sara Rich, JCC Trustee and Executive Director of Hillel of Buffalo, offered a special blessing.



Federation president Shelly Yellen, past JCC president Susan Freed and Life & Legacy co-chair Allison Keane celebrating the first year of the program.



Jodi Bloom and David Feuerstein at the event

David shared, “My family and I wanted to give back to the Buffalo Jewish community and realized supporting Camp Centerland is a special and meaningful way to make a difference. If we can impact one child’s life by providing a richer camp experience, then our involvement will be a success.”

The event continued with a celebration of the first year of *LIFE & LEGACY® at Buffalo*, led by Sheldon Yellen, President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation and Alison Keane, Co-Chair of the *LIFE & LEGACY® at Buffalo* program. The *LIFE & LEGACY® at Buffalo* program

is designed to create a structured, sustainable endowment process and emphasize collaboration resulting in a more united and stronger Jewish community for future generations. Over 200 commitments were made to the program during the first year, amounting to more than \$7.8 million, which helps build 11 participating agencies and organizations’ endowment programs. Each partner agency also received an incentive grant for meeting their benchmarks.



Jessica, Aaron, and David Feuerstein; Jodi, Seth, and Melissa Bloom; and Scott Shanfeld

The event concluded with the Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies’ presentation of its 2021 Endowment Leadership Award to David Feuerstein. Seen as the Foundation’s highest honor, the award is given to an individual in recognition of extraordinary service, generosity, and commitment to the Buffalo Jewish community.

During the award presentation, David’s life-long friend Richard Lipsitz introduced the award winner, emphasizing his upbringing, warmth, and motivation to make a meaningful difference in Jewish Buffalo and the general WNY community.

In his acceptance speech, David remarked: “My family and I embrace our involvement [in the Buffalo Jewish community] as a commitment to enriching the lives of the recipients of services who deservingly benefit from our collective involvement.”

*AlexEadie is the Director of Advancement at the Jewish Community Center and Lorne Steinhart is the Senior Manager of Client Relations at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.*



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# HRC Kristallnacht Event Links 1938 Program with Overt Nazi Policy

On Wednesday, November 9 from 6-7:30 p.m., Michael S. Bryant, Professor of History and Legal Studies at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, will present a talk in commemoration of Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass.” The event will take place in the Wick Social Room (2nd Floor of the Wick Center) at Daemen University, 4380 Main Street in Amherst. Dr. Bryant’s talk is entitled “Malevolent Intentions and the Play of Circumstance: The Pogrom of November 1938 and Hitler’s Plan for the Jews.” To register, please visit [bit.ly/brokenglasshrc](http://bit.ly/brokenglasshrc).

“Hitler’s hostility toward the Jews first appears in a 1919 letter in which he distinguished between pogrom violence and so-called *rational antisemitism*, writes Dr. Bryant. “To achieve a solution to the *Jewish question*, the young Hitler insisted that laws and state policies discriminating against the Jews had to be passed.”

Bryant’s academic work specializes in

the impact of the Holocaust on the law, human rights, German criminal law, and international humanitarian law. In his talk, he will explore the tension between Hitler’s anti-Semitism achieved through law and the deadly violence of pogrom thuggery that culminated in Kristallnacht in November 1938, an event that placed the lives, fates, and fortunes of German Jews completely in the hands of the Nazi government. During Bryant’s talk, he will show a short video of a documentary based on his most recent publication with John Michalczyk and Susan Michalczyk entitled: *Hitler’s Mein Kampf and the Holocaust: A Prelude to Genocide* (Bloomsbury, 2022).

Holocaust Resource Center, powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation, is grateful to the Wise Democracy Fund for making this program possible and to the event’s cosponsors: Robert H. Jackson Center, Global Studies Department at Daemen University, the Jewish Community Center, Academy for Human Rights, and the Anne Frank Project.

## SAVE THE DATE

In Commemoration of Kristallnacht,  
Dr. Michael Bryant will present:



Malevolent Intentions and the Play of Circumstance: the Pogrom of November 1938 and Hitler’s Plan for the Jews

Wednesday, November 9  
6:00 – 7:30pm  
Wick Social Room  
(2nd Floor of the Wick Center)  
at Daemen University  
4380 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226

Michael S. Bryant is a Professor of History and Legal Studies at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI.

**RSVP at [bit.ly/brokenglasshrc](http://bit.ly/brokenglasshrc)**

Made possible through the Wise Democracy Fund and cosponsored by: Holocaust Resource Center, Robert H. Jackson Center, Global Studies Department at Daemen University, JCC, Academy for Human Rights, and the Anne Frank Project



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# Momentum Moms in Israel

BY JILL KOMM

Chief Creative Officer at Buffalo Jewish Federation and 2022 Momentum Trip Leader

This summer, 9 extraordinary women from Buffalo joined me on the Momentum Israel Journey. This diverse group had one common factor - everyone was a mom to a Jewish child under 18 years old. The trip was jam-packed with all the typical Israel tourist attractions, as well as deep learning about what it means to parent a Jewish child. This story spotlights all the women from the trip by sharing a meaningful moment each one experienced in her own words.

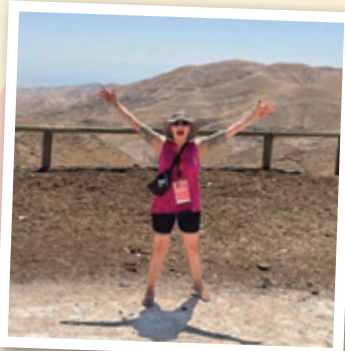


**Allison Wilson**

People have been asking me “how was your trip?” and it seems to be so difficult to answer or put into words. It was emotional, eye-opening, beautiful, challenging... our group kept saying it was “all the feels.” When I signed up to go my mindset was about how great it will be to travel again. I haven’t been on a trip since before I was pregnant with my first child who is now 8, and seeing the world has always been a passion of mine. So, I thought this will be fun to be in a foreign country and pick up some tips on how to incorporate the cultural aspects of Judaism into my home. What actually ended up happening was much more than this: the women in my group

became my friends, confidants, support system, and during the trip... my family. I was free to be myself, ask questions, and learn about Israeli culture but also the backgrounds of the women I live a mile from here at home.

I’ve been to the Kotel two times before in my life: when I was 15 and 21, but going as a 38-year-old mother was different in every way. My view on myself, my goals, my Judaism, and my needs have all changed. A few things kept coming into the forefront of my thoughts: Our Momentum speaker, Nili, mentioned how every year we sit around the table at Passover and say, “Next year in Jerusalem” and there we were, in Jerusalem! And just a few days earlier we had visited Yad Vashem and heard our tour guide talk about how his parents survived the horrors of the Holocaust. While I was standing there waiting for my turn to touch the wall, it didn’t matter that I haven’t gone to Temple in the past year nor that I was still unsure of how much religion or mention of God I want to include in my life or my children’s lives; I was Jewish and at the holiest place on Earth and it was spiritual, breathtaking, amazing, and “all the feels.”



**Melinda Galvin**

The 2022 Momentum trip was an amazing experience. Having time to focus on Jewish values, a connection with Israel and the opportunity to take action was fully packed within this trip! However, the most memorable

thing that I learned is that I belong. Before this trip I questioned if I was “Jewish enough” to convert. Being a Jew by choice, when would I feel that I could actually say I’m Jewish without doubting myself? The Momentum trip showed me I belong. Every mom on the trip was so different, practiced Judaism differently, but yet we were all Jewish. All of us are continually learning and growing and this is all part of our Judaism! I have a new confidence towards my Judaism. It doesn’t matter how others do it; it doesn’t have to be perfect. It just has to be meaningful to me. Even though the trip has come to an end, it was the springboard I needed to courageously pursue my journey through Judaism.



**Jess Sadoff**

There was a picture taken of me on the beach in Tel Aviv, basking in the lights. After all the travel and check-in hoopla, a small group of us who flew in early all got together for dinner and a moonlight stroll. With a full belly of amazing fresh fish, we meandered down the beach, feet in the sand, and I felt like I could breathe for the first time in what felt like forever. This is what Momentum gave to me – time to breathe and remember what it’s like to be me. I am forever grateful.



**Alyssa Strang**

I had an amazing time on our Momentum trip. It was such a gift to be able to have a mental reset, focus on myself, get to know an incredible group of women, and reconnect with my Jewish and Israeli roots. One moment from our trip that really resonates with me is one that seems so “ordinary” in the daily life of an Israeli but was extraordinary to me as an American Jew. On Friday afternoon we had the opportunity to experience the hustle and bustle of the *shuk* in Jerusalem as everyone prepared for Shabbat. Jill and I went into a little wine shop to pick up a bottle for the couple who would be our hosts for Shabbat lunch the next day. As we left the shop, the clerk said, “Shabbat Shalom” and Jill and I returned the sentiment. We walked out of the store I had to stop on the sidewalk for a moment and take in what had just happened. I was in a place where on Friday everyone said “Shabbat Shalom” to each other as easily as (most) people in America say “Merry Christmas” during the month of December. I will never forget that simple moment of how amazing it felt to finally be Jewish in a place where I was the majority instead of the minority.



**Kira Purizhansky**

Having been to Israel in my late teens, 20s and 30s, I knew this trip would be a very different experience because of both the circumstance of the trip and my personal stage in life. But nothing prepared me for such an emotional journey.

There were so many wonderful encounters with people, places, and ideas, but my personal emotional peak was the visit to the Kotel late on Friday night after a beautiful concert, kiddush and dinner. I’ve visited the Kotel many times but never so late on a Friday night when the heat of the day and hustle and bustle of the crowds subside and you can just sit there feeling the energy of this place. The golden wall still warm from the sun, dark blue sky, pigeons sleeping between the stones, bushes growing from the cracks in the wall, it was peaceful and majestic at the same time. The essence of Shabbat was almost tangible around us. And all of us Momentum girls were there existing in absolute harmony; some praying, some talking quietly, some just sitting there enjoying the moment of peace, no rush, no judgement, no commotion. It was an absolutely beautiful moment.





## Nancy Enis

I was far more moved going to the Kotel than I expected to be. I tried to have an open heart and take everything in. As I waited for my turn to stand directly in front of the wall, I could feel the

incredible energy of all the prayers—all the women surrounding me—pouring out their hearts in languages I could not understand or in the silence of their souls. When it was my turn, I placed my hands and forehead on the cold stones. I did not have any plan about what I was going to say, but my mind turned to a pernicious problem that I have struggled with for decades. I silently expressed my wish that this issue would resolve and resumed immersing myself in the sensations of the moment. Then I “heard” IT IS DONE. I lingered a bit longer, enjoying the feeling of those holy stones beneath my fingers, and then I stepped back. My space was immediately filled by another woman, happy to have it. Now I’m home and I agree, “It is done.”



## Lara Star Martini

I am not generally someone who cries easily. Some people cry happy tears and some cry at the drop of a hat - this has never been me. While I am full of emotions, I just don’t express myself like that, certainly not publicly. During the Momentum trip however, I was tearing up at almost every lecture and talk. It didn’t matter if it was uplifting, inspiring, or something sad yet brave. On our third day, we focused on *Shalom Bayit*—Peace & Wholeness in the Home. We talked about our roles as mothers, and what we do daily to maintain *Shalom Bayit*. After, our Buffalo group had a chance to reflect together, and I absolutely lost it. I became a sobbing, weeping mess in front of women I barely knew and did not want to cry in front of. I was so distraught and overwhelmed about motherhood, the constant feelings of failure, the pressure to do it all, and the day-to-day grueling work that it takes to raise a human. I became a fountain of emotions. I can’t explain it, because I barely understood it myself, but I knew it would be ok when these women held space for me, then tried to pick me back up. They saw me, the real me, that almost no one has seen. And it was ok; I was ok. I knew the women around me would make everything ok not just for that week, but when we got home, and for a long time after.



## Christina Akers-Dicenzo

As a mom of young children, my family reads a lot of children’s books. Rabbi Lawrence Kushner and Karen Kushner wrote in their children’s board book, *Where is God?*, about the spaces in our lives where God is found: “God is in the beginning. In the first red ripening tomato, and in cookies fresh from the oven. In the first day of summer, And in the tiny hands of a baby...” The profound idea that God is in our everyday lives, in everyday spaces, while we do everyday things, is something I thought a lot about as each day of the trip passed. God is in the beginning, middle, and end.

Hands down, my favorite part of the Momentum experience was sharing it with 9 amazing Buffalo women. On the first night of our Momentum adventure, the meal was incredibly special, not only because it was one of the best I’ve had in my life, but also because of the new friends I shared it with. For me, it was the start of a new adventure.

I was (and remain) in awe of how well everyone came together for this special trip, supported each other, and created bonds of friendship, and greatly look forward to continuing the Momentum journey with these incredible people.



## Debbie Heller Kallus

The Momentum trip was an incredible experience that I find myself reliving as I tell others about where I was this summer. Never had I been part of a travel group that blended the beauty of *Eretz Israel* with culture and being Jewish.

The daily discussions were relatable and thought-provoking. I would also say some Shabbat inspiration has been ignited for me – and I’m looking forward to making it more central to my family’s lifestyle going forward. If that wasn’t enough, I now have 9 new friends to look forward to seeing throughout the rest of our year-long journey and the years to come.

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# 2023 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo Kick Off Highlights

The 2023 Campaign for Jewish Buffalo kicked off September 14 at the Hyatt in downtown Buffalo, bringing more than 450 individuals together for the first time since 2019! Chaired by Maxine & Steven Awner and Laurie & Ron Sadler, the evening featured a special video tribute to Federation's immediate past president Leslie Shuman Kramer (z"l), and NYT best selling author Bruce Feiler spoke.







Connecting People  
to Jewish Life

# Fall Adult Learning Classes

LiNK Jewish Buffalo offers a variety of semester-long and year-long learning experiences for adults. Details about each class, cohort or learning experience can be found below. For more information contact Susan Schwartz at Susan@buffalojewishfederation.org.

## Adult Hebrew (Virtual Classes)

**1st semester:** Classes run 11/2/22 through 2/1/23

**2nd semester:** Classes run 2/8/23 through 5/10/23

**Location:** Zoom

**Fee:** \$200/for each semester (books purchased separately)

**Instructor:** Zahava Fried

### Beginners

**Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

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

### Intermediate

**Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m.**

This course is to further develop skills for those who already know the Hebrew alphabet and can read several words and phrases. The focus of this course is on Hebrew prayer.

## Intro to Judaism

**Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning 11/2**

**Location:** Mix of zoom and in person sessions

**Fee:** \$118/semester course (books purchased separately)

Facilitated by local clergy and educators, this exceptional course is designed for: individuals interested in conversion, individuals (Jewish and non-Jewish) interested in learning more about Jewish religion and history, and couples of multiple faiths considering marriage. This course will explore the Jewish calendar and life cycles, worship and beliefs, the Bible, Rabbinic literature, antisemitism, the Holocaust, Zionism and the State of Israel.

## Living a Jewish Year

**Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monthly, beginning 10/25**

**Location:** Mix of zoom and in person sessions

**Fee:** \$118/year long course

**Facilitated by:** Susan Goldberg Schwartz

In this year-long program, participants will experience living the Jewish calendar through the celebration of a variety of holidays and festivals. The curriculum is designed to explore and discuss a different Jewish *middah* (character trait) each month, using ancient and modern Jewish texts, stories and simple activities, as a starting point of the conversation.

## Talmud for All

**1st semester:** Classes run 12/8/22 through 1/19/23

**2nd semester:** Classes run 3/2/23 through 3/30/23

**Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Fee:** \$72/semester

**Facilitated by:** Mike Steklof, Ed.D

Learn with us in traditional *chavruta*/learning pairs to explore the Talmud using the SVARA method of study: a system of Talmud study in the original languages (Hebrew and Aramaic without translation), enabling students to *own* the text and the tradition. To participate, all you need is the ability to sound out your *aleph bet*. Our focus will be skill building (learning how to learn) and each week we will spend time with our learning pairs and also unpack the text as a group.

## Women Gathering Cohorts

**Wise Aging** Women 60 years and older – monthly gathering dates/time TBD, depending on interest (minimum 8 women.) Join Susan Schwartz to hear more information on either Wednesday, October 19, 3:00 p.m. or Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. **Email Susan at [susan@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:susan@buffalojewishfederation.org) if you would like to attend.**

**Wise Women** Women who are or soon to be empty nesters – monthly gathering dates/time TBD, depending on interest (minimum 8 women). Join Susan Schwartz to hear more information on either Tuesday or Thursday, October 25 or 27 at 7:30 p.m. **Email Susan at [susan@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:susan@buffalojewishfederation.org) if you would like to attend.**

### Well Circle

**Monthly, 7:30-9:00 p.m., beginning 10/25**

This monthly peer-led Rosh Chodesh gathering connects women to body, soul, and community through wellness learning and Jewish spirituality. This group is designed for women in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

### Mussar for Moms

**Monthly on Mondays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., beginning 11/7**

Mussar for Moms, part of the Women Gathering series, facilitated by Susan Schwartz, will use conversations based on Jewish texts along with contemplative daily practices to set participants on a personal path towards self-discovery and transformation. This program is for women with children aged 0-8.

## Men Gathering Cohort

**Monthly on Thursdays, 8:00-9:30 p.m.**

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

**Register for LiNK ADULT LEARNING EXPERIENCES  
and GATHERING COHORTS  
at [buffalojewishfederation.org/link-gatherings](http://buffalojewishfederation.org/link-gatherings)**

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## Fall Jewish Teen Initiative Gatherings

Offering a series of experiences to help Buffalo's teens (grades 8-12) authentically encounter Judaism. Experiences are designed so that Jewish teens can build their knowledge, self-esteem, leadership and life skills, and shape their identities.

Questions? Contact Mike Steklof at [mike@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mike@buffalojewishfederation.org)

### I Believe, I Care, I Advocate

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Grades 8 & 9

10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14

Fee: \$72

What do you believe in? What do you care about? What do you advocate for? Together we will explore our passions while learning advocacy and public speaking skills to make a real difference in the world.

### Teen Leadership Council

Grades 8-12

Do you want to create WOW experiences for your peers while learning leadership skills? Join teens throughout Jewish Buffalo as together we create this year's teen gatherings in partnership with all are Jewish agencies and synagogues.

### Student to Student Training

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Grades 10-12

11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 1/11

Fee: \$72

Student to Student is a national program where Jewish teens engage their non-Jewish peers and teach them about Judaism. In the fall, participants will be trained to share their personal stories and how to respond to questions about Jewish identity, culture and religious practices before presenting at area schools in the spring. Student to Student participants will learn valuable leadership and public-speaking skills.

Register online at:

[buffalojewishfederation.org/link-gatherings](http://buffalojewishfederation.org/link-gatherings)



## Welcome Sari Arrow, New Teen Engagement Intern



Sari Arrow

Sari Arrow, a senior psychology student at the University of Buffalo, has been appointed Teen Engagement Intern for the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative at LiNK Jewish Buffalo. Sari has been interning at the Federation as part of the Marketing Team since Spring 2021.

Sari is deeply involved with Hillel at UB and has participated in an Alternative Winter Break trip to volunteer in Miami, and was a part of the Jewish Learning Fellowship and the Organizational Design Internship. "Sari is the type of person who immediately gains the trust of those she works with," shared Rabbi Sara Rich, Director of Hillel at UB.

Sari hit the ground running on August 28 at the Teen Retreat at the Park School and instantly connected with teen participants. The focus of Sari's work in this new role will include building relationships with, and building extraordinary experiences for, Jewish teens, as well as growing the Buffalo Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI). JTI offers one-time and ongoing experiences to help Buffalo's teens (Grades 8-12) authentically encounter Judaism. JTI experiences are designed to support Jewish teens in building their knowledge, self-esteem, leadership and life skills, and shape their identities. Sari would love to connect with you or your teen; she can be reached at [sariarro@buffalo.edu](mailto:sariarro@buffalo.edu).



Partnership2Gether (P2G) is a program of The Jewish Agency and The Jewish Federations of North America, promoting people-to-people relationships through a variety of programs. The Western Galilee Partnership connects 17 U.S. communities, of which Buffalo is a member, with Israel's Western Galilee and Budapest, Hungary. Our participation is a joint project powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation in collaboration with the JCC of Greater Buffalo.

Last month, a delegation of individuals from Buffalo traveled to Budapest, Hungary to attend the 2022 Partnership Summit, the first in-person Partnership gathering in over two years and the first Partnership gathering ever to be held in Budapest! Our Buffalo delegation, led by Buffalo Jewish Federation staff member, Mandy Weiss, included Frank Altman, Jeff Blum, Daryl



The Buffalo P2G Cohort in Budapest.

Helfman, Armand and Lori Morrison, Jeff Neu and Mike Rawl.

The Hungarian Jewish community, estimated at between 75,000 and 100,000, is the largest in East Central Europe. Most Hungarian Jews live in the capital, Budapest, which has some 20 working synagogues and a plethora of other Jewish institutions, both religious and cultural. There are also several smaller Jewish communities in provincial cities, with an active religious and cultural life. Despite occasional antisemitic incidents and a neo-Nazi party, Hungarian Jews have every facility to express their Jewish heritage

and religious life. The representative body of Hungarian Jewry is the Federation of the Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ) – an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress.

During our time in Budapest, there were many highlights, namely:

- The Israel Cultural Institute—the world's first and only Israeli cultural institute.
- The Jewish District—it was here that the Jewish people started settling down in the late 18th century.
- The Budapest Jewish University—The Jewish Theological Seminary—University of Jewish Studies, Hungary is a dynamically prospering small university under the auspices of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz). Opened in 1877 as the rabbinical seminary of the neolog movement in Hungary, it is among the oldest institutions in the world training non-Orthodox rabbis and cantors.
- The Budapest Jewish Hospital—MAZSIHISZ Charity Hospital is the only Jewish hospital in Central Europe and was built in 1914. This institution currently has 378 beds and treat an average of 800 patients per year.

We look forward to many more in-person gatherings with our Partnership! **For any programmatic questions, please contact Gon Erez at [GErez@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:GErez@jccbuffalo.org). For any questions about the Consortium or the Leadership Council, please contact Mandy Weiss at [mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:mandy@buffalojewishfederation.org) or visit [westerngalilee.org.il](http://westerngalilee.org.il).**



# PJ Library End of Summer Festival/ Teen Retreat

On Sunday, August 28, LiNK Jewish Buffalo welcomed more than 250 individuals to the Park School for the annual PJ Library End of Summer Festival and Jewish Teen Initiative Retreat. The theme of the summer festival was the first seven days of creation, and participants celebrated the birthday of the world while sampling honey, getting up close and personal with extraordinary birds of prey, learning about vermicomposting and more. Teens participating in the Teen Retreat took part in an Upstander Training in partnership with the Holocaust Resource Center led by Dr. Amanda Nickerson from the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention at UB. They also volunteered at the summer festival, enjoyed a campfire with s'mores and more.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL @ BUFFALO BATTLEGROUND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:30 - 9 PM

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### JERUSALEM QUARTET

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Tickets \$30 / Students Free

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PJ

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SHABBAT SHAFAMILY

Friday, October 14

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Congregation Shir Shalom

4660 Sheridan Dr | Williamsville

The whole family is invited to celebrate Sukkot and Shabbat together with our friends from CSS. We will sing, dance, and read PJ Library stories.

Register



[buffalojewishfederation.org/link-gatherings](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/link-gatherings)

I EXTEND WARM GREETINGS THIS MONTH AS THE WNY COMMUNITY CELEBRATES YOM KIPPUR AND SUKKOT

FROM

SENATOR SEAN RYAN

NEW YORK STATE SENATE





# Hochul's Staff Visit Jewish Buffalo



Community leaders at TBT

The Buffalo Jewish Community was grateful to spend two full days with Eva Wyner, deputy director of Jewish Affairs for NYS Governor Kathy Hochul. Eva Wyner is a third generation Holocaust Survivor, a graduate of Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Her role with the Executive Chamber is to help advocate for the needs of the Jewish community whenever possible. Jenn Dunning, WNY regional representative for Governor Hochul, was able to join Eva for much of the visit, an overall effort by Governor Hochul's constituent staff outreach to engage and learn more about communities across the state. After visiting Buffalo, Eva travelled to Rochester to meet with Jewish leaders there.



With the Hillel team

JCC Buffalo and the Holocaust Resource Center, and a visit to Hillel of Buffalo at UB. Eva also attended the Federation's Premiere Summer Dinner hosted at Shatkin First and chaired by Michele Pozarny and Anne Virag.

After a day of meeting many volunteers, clergy and professional leadership, Jenn, who has also worked for Senator Sean Ryan and Assembly member Karen McMahon was impressed with the breadth of our local Jewish organizations and how well they work together. Eva remarked, "The Buffalo Jewish community is very collaborative and open to sharing in each other's growth."



Café Europa with Survivors

Eva and Jenn's whirlwind tour, facilitated by JCRC, included a tour of Temple Beth Zion at the Delaware location, visiting the Jewish Community Center Benderson building, joining the Café Europa- a social lunch with music for Holocaust Survivors sponsored by



Meeting at the JCC

## DISCOVER WHAT SEM GIRLS LOVE ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL

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## JCRC Visits Stitch Buffalo



Group members visiting the Niagara Street Stitch shop

JCRC's multicultural women's group recently visited Stitch Buffalo, a textile art center committed to empowering refugee and immigrant women through the sale of their handcrafted goods, inspiring creativity and inclusion through community education, and stewarding the environment through the re-use of textile supplies.

Nepali artisans and sisters Tika and Saraswati and Stitch Buffalo board member Cheri taught the group how to make beaded bracelets. Multicultural Group members who participated included Deborah Greitzer, Alessandra Lopez, Martha Malkiewicz, Gail Mitchell, Win Min Thant, Phyllis Steinberg and JCRC director Mara Koven-Gelman.

## HRC & WNED Partner to Discuss New Documentary

BY VILONA TRACHTENBERG

On September 8, The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo (HRC) partnered with WNED PBS for an in-person screening of clips from a new three-part documentary called *The U.S. and the Holocaust* by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein.

The film series focused on the U.S. response to the Holocaust including the issue of whether to welcome refugees to the States. The eye-opening documentary also featured witnesses from the U.S. Army at the time of liberation, as well as testimonies of survivors who reunited with their families, as refugees, when coming to the U.S. The film also highlighted the work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, both working to fund refugees' trips to the U.S.

120 people attended the screening that included a panel discussion led by veteran WBFO news director, Dave Debo and panelists Grigory Shershnevsky, a Holocaust survivor and member of the HRC's speakers bureau, Andy Feldman, a second



Program speakers at WNED

generation Holocaust descendant and lawyer, and Larry Jones and Nancy Rosenbloom, both history professors at Canisius College. The panelists shared their reactions to the documentary and provided their own experiences to the discussion on whether the U.S. could have done more to save Jews from the atrocities of the Holocaust. Grigory and Andy concluded the discussion by sharing their personal Holocaust stories, becoming emotional when recalling how the U.S. saved their families lives and gave their families significant opportunities.

**The November 8th  
General Election is coming!**

**Are you registered to vote?**

**Make sure to register online,  
by mail, or in-person by October 14th.**

For more information on how to register, visit:  
[buffalojewishfederation.org/vote](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/vote)

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

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Led by Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum from Temple Beth Tzedek

**Sunday, October 2**  
**12:00 - 12:30 pm**

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At the Holocaust Memorial



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# Historic Surdam Fund will combat WNY food insecurity



FOUNDATION  
FOR JEWISH  
PHILANTHROPIES

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies announced an extraordinary \$26 million gift bequeathed by the late Anne and Manson Surdam to support three organizations that address poverty and food insecurity in the region. The Surdams' bequest, established as a permanent endowment fund at the Foundation, is named the Anne Alford and Manson Fiske Surdam Charitable Foundation. The fund will generate more than \$1 million in grant disbursements annually in perpetuity. Additional information on the Surdam family and the Anne Alford and Manson Fiske Surdam Charitable Foundation (Fund) is at [jewishphilanthropies.org/surdam](http://jewishphilanthropies.org/surdam).



Irv Levy, Congressman Higgins, Ms. Calhoun, Ms. Ellis, and Joe Heary

The Foundation's announcement was made at a press conference in the Sisterhood Chapel at Temple Beth Zion. Senior Rabbi Brent Gutmann offered welcoming remarks and Irv Levy, Foundation's Executive Director, provided background on the Surdam family and explained the purpose and impact of the Fund. U.S. Representative Brian Higgins offered his congratulations and emphasized the Fund's importance to the community. During the event, leaders of each beneficiary organization provided remarks including Aubrey Calhoun, Executive Director & CEO of Buffalo City Mission; Tara A. Ellis, President & CEO of FeedMore WNY, and Joe Heary, Executive Director of Friends of the Night People.

In keeping with the Surdams' wishes, the Foundation will distribute income from the Fund annually to the three organizations. FeedMore WNY, which is the outgrowth of the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and



The late Manson Surdam and the late Anne Alford

Meals on Wheels of WNY, will receive approximately \$500,000 a year and the Buffalo City Mission and Friends of the Night People will each receive approximately \$250,000 annually.

Irv Levy said, "I believe that this is the largest private philanthropic gift our community has ever received to provide food, shelter and poverty relief. While this is much-needed funding for each organization, there is still significant work to be done in our community to eradicate poverty, hunger and homelessness, and we encourage our community to join Manson and Anne in supporting these impactful organizations now more than ever."

*The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies is honored to serve as the steward of the Surdam's legacy and mission. Contact Lorne Steinhart at [Lorne@Jewishphilanthropies.org](mailto:Lorne@Jewishphilanthropies.org) to learn how the Foundation can preserve your legacy.*

## Hadassah Seminar features Paper Making

Buffalo Hadassah will present a special program November 15 at 2:00 p.m. with Buffalo-born and raised Suzie Tuchman. Suzie will be giving a Zoom interactive presentation on Paper Art, and participants will have the opportunity to create a journal from recycled materials.

Suzie Tuchman is the daughter of Hillel and Annette Magid. As a young woman in college, she was very interested in the sciences and earned a BA in Biology. Years later, when her children were in school, she decided to fulfill a lifelong dream and completed a BFA with a concentration in Print and Paper and ultimately an MFA at Montclair State University. She is a member of the Book Arts Roundtable and serves on the advisory board of the NJ Book Arts Symposium.

In her artwork, she touches on issues of tradition and gender expectations by transforming domestic materials to create playful sculptures, artist books, installations and prints. She also restores well-loved books so their owners can use them for years to come. Suzie, who currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland with her husband, has exhibited her work in galleries and museums in New York, New Jersey and Maryland and has artwork in private collections and in the Special Collection of the Rutgers University Library.

**Don't miss this opportunity to learn from this accomplished artist. Registration is required and the fee is \$10. Email Marlene Katzel at [mkatzel@me.com](mailto:mkatzel@me.com) to register.**



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### Tchaikovsky Piano No. 1

Fri Oct 14, 10:30am  
Sat Oct 15, 7:30pm

Mei-Ann Chen, conductor  
Tony Siqi Yun, piano

An epic musical journey of ages past, *Pétriouchka* tells the tragic tale of a magical street performer and his puppets, and young pianist Tony Siqi Yun tackles Tchaikovsky's majestic First Piano Concerto.



### Celebrating Sondheim

Sat Oct 22, 7:30pm

John Morris Russell, conductor

Join your BPO and a cast of Broadway singers for an evening of Sondheim music and lyrics from shows including *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, *Gypsy*, *Into the Woods*, and *West Side Story*.



### Symphonie Fantastique

Fri Oct 28, 10:30am  
Sat Oct 29, 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor  
Pacho Flores, trumpet

Pacho Flores brings his unique energy and beautiful sound to the jubilant Haydn Concerto, and a new concerto by Mexico's Arturo Márquez. Hector Berlioz's wild romantic journey, *Symphonie Fantastique*, rounds out the program.

22262

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# The Gates of *Teshuva* Never Close

BY RABBI BRENT GUTMANN

I feel privileged to join this community as one of your newest rabbis. The collaboration and collegiality that is present within the Western New York Jewish Community is an inspiration to me. I am so hopeful about our new beginning and that together *T'shuvah* is possible for ourselves, our community, and our world. May we all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life. *G'mar Chatimah Tovah.*

Every rabbi around the globe has been talking about the importance of this season for weeks, for this time is full of majesty and awesomeness. Rosh Hashanah begins our year and Yom Kippur offers us a chance for self-improvement and new resolve to be our best. Our liturgy declares, "*T'shuvah, Tzedakah, and T'filah* temper God's severe decree." *T'filah* means prayer. *Tzedakah* resembles charity but carries a connotation of justice-making. Yet, *T'shuvah* is much more mysterious.

*T'shuvah* can be translated to English as repentance, return, and, curiously, answer, among other things. Experiencing *T'shuvah* involves confessing our wrongdoings, demonstrating penitence for our transgressions, and not repeating our misdeeds. It romanticizes a return to innocence, and, God-willing, relieves us of our doubts of our skills, our abilities and our worth.

Everyone is capable of *T'shuvah* and everyone desires *T'shuvah*, yet achieving it is a great challenge. Our liturgy reminds us that before we are even eligible for divine *T'shuvah* we must seek the pardon of those we have wronged, and even when we manage to repair the breach between ourselves and those individuals, we still struggle for the capacity and the resolve to overcome our urges.

We embrace this opportunity for *T'shuvah* because we know that we are flawed. We know we can be better, more honest, more dedicated, more patient, and more compassionate. We know our fate and our world's fate depends on us. We know we are responsible for one another. So, we devote everything to the task of *T'shuvah* during the Days of Awe; we liturgically dramatize these Days of *T'shuvah*: the sound of the Shofar stirs us, we promote our ancestors' fidelity to draw the Eternal's grace, and on Yom



Rabbi Brent Gutmann

Kippur we recite every imaginable collective sin as we strike our chest in search of *T'shuvah*.

The theme reaches its dramatic climax at the concluding service of Yom Kippur called *Neilah*—literally, referencing the locking of the symbolic Gates of *T'shuvah*. If you've never stayed through the end of Yom Kippur, it is worth the experience. We plead

to the Divine Presence, "Grant us pardon in this hour, as thy gates are closed this night." And we try to squeeze in every last confession as we stand and watch the Holy Ark doors close in conjunction with one final blast of the Shofar.

The catharsis of Sukkot is meant to follow: eating, praying, and sleeping in the Sukkah—of being festive and joyful with our *lulavim* and *etrogim*. But what of those whose efforts at *T'shuvah* were insufficient? What is their hope for redemption? It is taught in the Jerusalem Talmud that although our liturgical calendar has built the tension for weeks, the gates are not yet locked (Rosh Hashanah

4:8). In the book of Isaiah, God says that Israel "will seek Me day [after] day—*yom yom*" (Isaiah 58:2). The repetition of the word, "*yom*" in this verse, meaning "day," is taken as a hint that *Hoshanah Rabbah*, the final day of the Festival of Sukkot is a second Yom Kippur. The gates to *T'shuvah* are still cracked, and there is still a chance for absolution.

There is great irony here. As we emphasize the finality of divine judgement on Yom Kippur through our closing ritual, our tradition teaches there is no real end to our hope for self-betterment. Even if we were to think about the end of Sukkot as the culmination of our season of *T'shuvah* in accordance with this text, the very next day we begin our learning once again at the beginning of the Torah. Even therein we have the chance to start again, and so the Gates of *T'shuvah* never close; New beginnings are perpetually possible.

Rabbi Brent Gutmann is the rabbi at Temple Beth Zion.

## Buffalo's Best wishes you all L'Shana Tovah!

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# Kol HaKavod: Well Done!

We are proud to spotlight members of Jewish Buffalo for their extraordinary accomplishments. Specifically, the Bar Association of Erie County (BAEC) identifies exceptional attorneys and judges in Erie County who have performed outstanding service to the Association, community, and the legal profession. Among those being honored this month are **Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin** of the Erie County Family Court (retired) with the Outstanding Jurist Award; **Joel Daniels**, managing partner of law Office of Joel Daniels, Esq with the Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award; and **Samantha I.V. White**, Staff Attorney at Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo with the Special Service Award. See this page.



## Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin

Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin, recently retired from Erie County Family Court after serving 12 years on the bench, began her legal career in the Erie County District Attorney's office in the mid-1990s. Armed with a fervent goal to advance equity, she was quick to work to undo the inequities she found, no matter how engrained in a community's fabric they were. Thrust into the newly formed Domestic Violence Unit, she was instrumental in changing attitudes that led to major reforms, and she secured highly competitive funding to create the first ever Family Justice Center in Erie County, one of fifteen nationwide.

After doggedly changing an entire system's approach and outlook on domestic violence, Judge Rodwin sought to help another grossly maltreated and vulnerable population, the young clients of the Erie County Family Court. She was elected to Family Court in 2008 and re-elected in 2018. During her tenure as Family Court Judge, Judge Rodwin guided the Judiciary and all stakeholders in dramatic changes to the child welfare legal process in the community. She also played a vital role in the positive changes in attitudes and processes in Erie County Family Court that will continue to improve the outcomes for children and families in Western New York.

## Joel Daniels

Joel Daniels, managing partner of law Office of Joel Daniels, Esq., will receive the Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award, presented to a distinguished practitioner who exemplifies the same sense of civility and decorum that characterized the career of the Association's former president, Charles H. Dougherty. To quote one nominator, "I can think of no other lawyer more deserving of the award than Joel Daniels. He is kind to everyone and has helped scores of litigants including other attorneys in their time of need. He shows all of the qualities that would make Charlie Dougherty proud."



## Melinda Saran

Melinda Saran, Vice Dean for Undergraduate Law Student Affairs at the University of Buffalo School of Law, was awarded the 2021 M. Delores Denman Lady Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Ms. Saran (UB Law '86) helps match students with a wide range of placements from judicial clerkships to traditional legal services like legal aid, to roles as legal navigators for *pro se* litigants. She is also co-chairs of the *Amicus Curiae* Committee of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, which coordinates the review of "friend of the court" briefs to the US Supreme Court and other major appeals courts on important civil rights cases.



## Samantha I.V. White

Samantha I.V. White, Staff Attorney at Legal Aid Bureau, will receive The Special Service Award, presented to an attorney who provides exceptional service to the profession, and has contributed to the good and welfare of the Bar Association of Erie County and its members. Samantha White is an activist. Whether she is representing clients as an attorney at Legal Aid of Buffalo or through one of her volunteer activities, she is someone who gets things done! She is also active in the Minority Bar Association, having co-chaired their Criminal Justice Task Force. In her community, she is involved in organizing to help revitalize East Buffalo, serving as Vice President of the Box Avenue Block Club and co-chair of the East Side Garden Walk. Sam also played a tremendous role in chairing the first ever, extremely successful, Empire State Legal Diversity Career Fair. Living blocks away from the site of the 5/14 shooting, Sam is an important member of the local steering committee of the 5/14 Survivors Fund, and serves on the Temple Beth Zion Board of Trustees.

## Vickie Rubin

Vickie Rubin's book *Raising Jess* was recently recognized by Readers' Favorite in its annual international book award contest. Readers' Favorite announced that *Raising Jess* by Vickie Rubin won the Gold Medal in the Non-Fiction - Memoir category.

The Readers' Favorite International Book Award Contest featured thousands of contestants from over a dozen countries, ranging from new independent authors to NYT best-sellers and celebrities. Readers' Favorite is one of the largest book review and award contest sites on the Internet.

The contest received thousands of entries from all over the world, which were broken down into 140+ genres, and each genre is judged separately, ensuring that books only compete against books of their same genre for a fairer and more accurate competition. They received submissions from independent authors, small publishers, and publishing giants such as Random House, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster, with contestants that range from the first-time, self-published author to New York Times bestsellers like J.A. Jance, James Rollins, and #1 best-selling author Daniel Silva, as well as celebrity authors like Jim Carrey (*Bruce Almighty*), Henry Winkler (*Happy Days*), and Eriq La Salle (*E.R.*, *Coming to America*).

**Learn more about Vickie Rubin and *Raising Jess* at <https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/raising-jess>.**







### Dr. Leonard Katz

Dr. Leonard Katz was recently honored by the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua. Now in its 62<sup>nd</sup> year, The Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua holds a closing banquet at the end of the summer at which it pays tribute to a congregant. This year at the largest banquet ever, Len was the honoree for his service as chair of the Holocaust Education Committee, which has expanded the Chautauqua County high school-

based program in partnership with Chautauqua Lake High School teacher Leigh-Anne Hendrick, a certified Holocaust educator.

The program now reaches out to all the high schools in Chautauqua County, and its teacher education programs have had participants from 6 schools in 4 different school districts. This past year, 47 students and teachers took a weekend bus trip to Washington, DC where they visited the US Holocaust Museum and many other sites in DC.

At the late August banquet after three speakers extolled Dr Katz's accomplishments, he gave his thanks and then announced the creation of The Katz/Hirshberg Families' Writing Prizes for the best high school essays or poems from throughout Chautauqua County, in which the writers describe what they have learned about the Holocaust and how that relates to the world today.



### Rabbi Rayna Grossman

Rabbi Rayna Grossman (they/them) grew up in Buffalo, attended Kadimah Jewish Day School and Temple Sinai, and graduated from Da Vinci High School and University at Buffalo. Her mothers, Jesse Grossman and Linda Franchell, live in North Buffalo.

A 2017 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), Rabbi Grossman returned to RRC this summer to join the faculty and administration as director of field placement. They are playing an integral role in overseeing how rabbis are trained in order to meet the needs of evolving Jewish communities. Rabbi Grossman is implementing a new curriculum designed to more closely link classroom learning with on-the-job training.



### Dr. Andrew Symons

Andrew B. Symons, MD, clinical professor of family medicine in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been elected president of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP), which represents nearly 7,000 physicians, residents and medical students in family medicine across the state. Symons also serves as vice chair for medical student education in the UB Department of Family Medicine. Board certified in family medicine, preventive medicine and addiction medicine, Dr. Symons also provides primary care and addiction medicine services to patients at UBMD Family Medicine in Tonawanda.



To send Mazel Tov wishes, contact  
Cindy Oppenheimer at 716-308-4843,  
[coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com](mailto:coppenheimer@jewishjournalwny.com)

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THE JEWISH JOURNAL



# Innovation and care

BY CHANA R. KOTZIN, PH.D.

Many of the profiles on the Jewish Buffalo History Center (JBHC) highlight particular roles: serviceman, rabbi, academic or other profession. Currently underrepresented are the critical work of volunteers, women or business creators to change a situation and lead the way. Two women with very different backgrounds but with points of connection, Rosa Coplon and Anne Bunis, are the focus of our profiles this month.

Rosa Berman was born in 1855 in Shavl, located in Eastern Europe, then part of the Russian Pale of Settlement, and now a part of Lithuania. In 1878 she married Samuel Coplon, a skilled glazier, and began raising a family in Shavl while working as a fishmonger. She had six children with her husband; four of whom survived. Seeking an escape from endemic antisemitism, the family emigrated to America. Samuel and their son Joseph arrived first in the late 1880's and set up a home and shop in Buffalo. Rosa and their younger children came in the early 1890s. They lived on Mortimer Street, then on Jefferson Avenue, and settled eventually on Broadway in 1900, living above their family business, S. Coplon & Sons Paper Hangings (and) Paints, Oils & Glass. Just over a decade later after

Samuel's death, Rosa and her son David created D. H. Coplon Wallpaper and Paint Company at the same location.

Rosa knew the immigrant experience well. Her entry into America and her subsequent life, however, included her family. The plight of elderly immigrant Jews isolated in the Old Folks Home, struck her, as it did a group of like-minded women, as a lonely life. In her retirement, she wanted to help Jewish elders experience a life that was more supportive, and where familiar language and customs were part of their lives. In this way she became a key member of the Daughters of Israel, a group which operated the Old Folks Home. After a decade of involvement in the planning and opening of a Jewish Old Folks Home, her own life was cut short when she died at



The Sample 50th Anniversary Celebration, L-R Maer, Lou, Anne and David Bunis, NY. Courtesy of David Bunis.



The Sample Dress Shop, 1929, later The Sample, 1631 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Courtesy of David Bunis.



Coplon Paints, Oils and Glass Store, c. 1912, 816 Broadway, Buffalo, NY. Ms 223, David and Minnie Coplon Collection. Permission of the University Archives, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.

home following an accident on October 26, 1920. Family members took up her work, and a Jewish senior's home emerged which bore her name: The Rosa Coplon Old Jewish Folks Home, that ultimately became a part of the Weinberg Campus in Amherst.

In what feels almost like a world apart, but only represented two decades of difference in Jewish Buffalo, Anne Weiner Bunis worked another storefront – but this one was her own – one that she initiated, and then expanded into an extended family business that became a beloved “institution” on Hertel Avenue (and eventually at other sites around Western New York too!). While Rosa was an adult emigre, Anne arrived in Rochester as a six-year old immigrant child. To help her family, she worked as a seamstress at a high-end retailer, B. Forman Co., and built experience for her own career in retailing. After marrying Louis Bunis, they settled in Buffalo and Anne started selling clothing from her porch. She eventually went on buying trips and bought samples to sell to customers, and “The Sample Dress Shop” was born. The shop was so successful within its first year, that her husband quit his job and joined the company, also known as The Sample or The Sample Shop over the years.

Hasia Diner, historian of American

Jewish lives, writes about Jewish businesses and their role as neighborhood anchors, becoming a third space for community connection beyond the more traditional walls of synagogues and Jewish organizations and agencies. On a business premise, a shared experience, often serendipitous, led to an association, which lent itself to communal connection. The Bunis' family created a thriving business, and a communal family institution of a different kind, and through it, also lived committed civic and Jewish communal lives.

*This column provides a small snapshot of this month's profiles. To read more visit our website and discover more: [jewishbuffalohistory.org](http://jewishbuffalohistory.org).*

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

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# Hillel Unifies Jewish Students with Opening Activities

BY RABBI SARA RICH



Standing behind a table at Campus Fest covered in Hillel promotional items and postcards with upcoming events, wearing t-shirts with Buffalo written in Hebrew, and sporting our most welcoming smiles, our team greeted the diverse Jewish students that are entering college this year.

*I was part of USY – a couple of my USY friends are also here at UB.*

*I just finished my army service in Israel and am starting as a 24-year-old freshman.*

*My mom is Ashkenazi and my dad isn't Jewish. I want to learn more about my roots.*

These comments are a sampling of the introductions we received from first year students at UB when we tabled.

Although it is not simple to be an organization that offers programs and opportunities for students of so many different backgrounds and degrees of familiarity with Judaism, the experience of meeting students in the span of three hours who are all deeply committed to Judaism in such different ways underscores how important it is to be present on campus for them.

Our opening activities continued with a Welcome Back BBQ, which was generously sponsored by Robyn Weed and her family in memory of her late mother, Carol Marcus. Members of our Board of Directors were on site setting up, grilling hot dogs, and greeting new students. Close to 100 students gathered from a broad range of Jewish backgrounds. Brandon Meyer, a UB Junior studying Public Health, attended the BBQ with his friends. "I saw a lot of new faces and met students from many different backgrounds that I had never spoken to before," he reflected. "There were good vibes, a friendly atmosphere, and everyone seemed so happy to be there."

We have lots of exciting plans for the year that will continue to cater to the diversity of our students' interests. Some highlights include weekly Monday bagel brunches, musical Shabbat services by the lake, High Holiday services and meals, community service opportunities, Jewish Learning Fellowship classes, and wellness programming in partnership with Jewish Family Services.

Hillel of Buffalo is available for all students in the area, including those who are studying at UB, Buffalo State, Daemen, Canisius and others. We are here to help them navigate college, make new friends, explore their Jewish identities, and grow as Jewish leaders and learners. **For more information about upcoming Hillel activities, please contact me at [rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org](mailto:rabbisara@hillelofbuffalo.org) or call 716-616-0083.**

*Rabbi Sara Rich is beginning her 6<sup>th</sup> year as Director of Hillel of Buffalo.*

# Kadimah Scholars at Park Begins 4<sup>th</sup> Year

It's a new school year in Western New York, and Kadimah Scholars at Park School kicked off with renewed energy and a strengthened program after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kadimah's Board, working in concert with the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Park administration, spent the summer months focused on bringing the unique partnership back to its full potential.

Highlights include new Judaics teachers, a second full-time position, the restoration of collective morning prayers and a supplemental weekly after-school enrichment session, and the return of Kadimah's Torah from storage to a prominent position on Park's campus. Classes began at Park on Sept. 6, with Kadimah Scholars extending from the Pre-K and Montessori rooms to the school's senior class, where Kadimah will graduate its very first 12<sup>th</sup> graders at the end of this academic year.

Michal Shmuel-Lewis returned as the lead Hebrew teacher for Park and Kadimah, while Einav Symons is the new Judaics teacher, with assistance from her daughter, Shira, who is studying education. Both Lewis and Symons will teach at all grade levels during the school day, while Symons will also lead the two afterschool sessions.

Those sessions – held Tuesdays for second through fourth grades and Wednesday for fifth through 12<sup>th</sup> graders – will run from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will focus on age-appropriate studies of the weekly *parasha*. Symons will be partnering with other community educators and rabbis whenever possible, to broaden the students' experiences.

Morning *tefillah* (prayers) will return on Tuesdays and Fridays immediately prior to the start of school, and will be led by veteran Kadimah teacher and parent Renee Herman, with assistance from Kadimah Board members, community rabbis and other volunteers. It will focus on learning and reciting many of the core prayers in an egalitarian fashion, while discussing the meaning of specific prayers and prayer in general, and the role it can play in our lives – including starting the day and ending the week.

Kadimah has also brought back its Torah scroll to the new home in the Judaics classroom, where it will be stored in a glass ark for all the students to see every day, as inspiration for both Jewish learning and doing.

Kadimah's Board of Trustees is also back up to full size, having gained five new members in late August – Christina Akers-DiCenzo, Hallie Cohen, Elizabeth Schram and Samantha White – and Park's director of admissions Jarret Izzo.

Kadimah Scholars offers Hebrew and Judaic Studies within the Park School curriculum and community, combining Kadimah's 60-year legacy of Jewish day school education with Park's century-old tradition of educational excellence. More than 30 children are currently enrolled in the Kadimah program, representing more than 10% of Park students.

**To learn more about the Kadimah Scholars at Park, call (716) 836-6903 or go online to [www.kadimah.org](http://www.kadimah.org). For information about Park and to apply for admission—including for Kadimah—contact Park at (716) 839-1242 or go online to [www.theparkschool.org](http://www.theparkschool.org).**



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# JCC Classes, Trips and Events this Fall!

## Adult Art Workshop

### Brushes and Brunch

Sunday, October 16 – Fall Landscape

Sunday, December 4 – Winter Water Falls

Join us at the Omanut Building at Camp Centerland, JCC Benderson Family Building from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Instructor Deb Meier will lead the group in a step-by-step watercolor piece to take home. Paint supplies are included.

## Tours and Trips



On Thursday, October 20, travel in comfort by motor coach from the JCC Benderson Family Building to be a guest of the Martin family and enjoy a one-hour tour of the gardens, grounds, and first-floor interior of the Main house at the Graycliff Estate. Examine the history of Graycliff, from Wright's design, and the Martin's time on the property, through today, while you explore the spaces used to entertain the family. Additionally, view a special art exhibit *Finding Room*, which is the first collaboration between the Curatorial and Public Art departments to take place outside of the Buffalo Albright Knox Gallery Art Museum campus. Enjoy lunch at SunCliff on the lake.



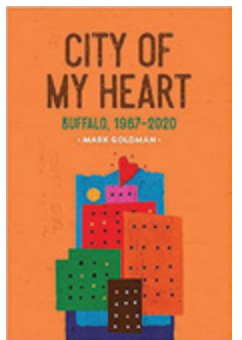
## Tango lessons at the JCC Holland Building

Learn Argentine Tango with Moshe Shulman. Register for a 6-week session 10/24-11/28 at the JCC Holland family Building. Couples and Singles welcome, no experience necessary. **Register at [jccbuffalo.org/schoolofdance/](http://jccbuffalo.org/schoolofdance/).**

## People of the Book Series

Starting in October, the JCC welcomes back the People of the Book Speaker Series, which explores diversity, culture, and Jewish identity through virtual and in-person events! All events begin at 6:30 p.m.

Kicking off the series October 12 at the JCC/Benderson Building is Mark Goldman, local author of *City of My Heart* with an author event, Buffalo-themed reception, and book signing.



Join local author Sandra Block October 26 at Benderson for a discussion on her newest novel *Girl Overboard* and participate in a creative writing workshop with her.



Read the book, screen the film, see the play at the Jewish Repertory Theater, and participate in a panel discussion on *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok November 2 at Benderson.

Additional speakers include Glenn Kurtz, author of *Three Minutes in Poland*, via Zoom on October 19, Dr. Michael Bryant, *Hitler's Mein Kampf and the Holocaust: A Prelude to Genocide for Kristallnacht* November 9 at Daemen University (see page 3), and co-editor of *Warm and Welcoming*, Miriam Steinberg-Egeth via Zoom November 16.

Books for all events will be for sale in the lobby of each JCC location. Purchase books ahead of the event and bring them with you for the author to sign!

**For more information and to register for these programs visit [www.jccbuffalo.org](http://www.jccbuffalo.org) or contact Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).**



## Gift to the Community Recital



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## Call for Jewish Film Lovers

The Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival is celebrating its 38<sup>th</sup> season as one of the first annual festival of its kind in North America, bringing world-class Jewish-themed cinema to the Western New York community. The Festival promises high-quality, seldom seen, but universally acclaimed documentary, short and feature films, and presents special events and talkbacks with guest speakers, with both virtual and in-person screenings. We are looking for new Jewish film enthusiasts to join the committee and assist with prescreening films, film selection, and volunteer work during the Festival. ***If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Cultural Arts Director Katie Wzontek at [kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org](mailto:kwzontek@jccbuffalo.org).***

## Renovated Ohel to be Rededicated on November 6

The Yahrzeit of Rabbi Joseph Rabinowitz will be observed Monday, November 7 and will be especially meaningful this year since Kaddish ***may*** be recited in the renovated Ohel where he is buried. While the completion date may be later than anticipated, we are still considering the possibility of a rededication ceremony on Sunday, November 6 at 11:30 a.m. on the grounds of the B'nai Israel Cemetery, located at the corner of Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd. and Route 33. Everyone is asked to check Status Updates for the Ohel at [buffalojewishfederation.org/ohel](http://buffalojewishfederation.org/ohel).



The original structure is nearly one hundred years old and sorely needed updates and an expanded space. With dedicated funds raised between Buffalo, Brooklyn, Monsey, Toronto, Hamilton, Detroit and other locales – the project has enabled the Buffalo Jewish community to warmly welcome the Rebbe's followers into this renovated Ohel.

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Join us for any or all of these fun activities.  
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### SCHEDULE

12:00-12:45	Registration, Introduction, Mingling, Snacks and Drinks
12:45-1:45	"Drum4Health™ with Carolyn Zimmermann and Kumzitz-Sing-Along
1:45-2:45	NOGA® Dance with Kohava Howard
2:45-3:15	Refreshment Break and Choral Rehearsals
3:15-4:00	Concert with Stage Band and Performers with Mirele Rosenberger
4:00-4:45	Sing-Along and "Dance-Along"
4:45-5:45	Drumming Circle and Jam Session
6:00-7:00	Refreshment Break and Choral Rehearsals
6:45-7:00	Settling into Theater for Concert and Finale
7:00-8:00	"Songs and Stories with Karen Drucker"
8:00-9:00	Finale Choral Performance with "The Heart & Soul Singers" and Closing



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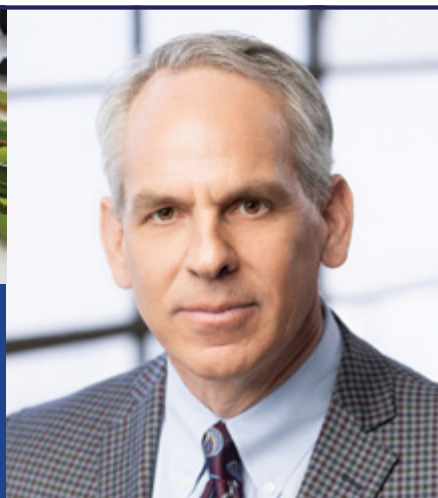
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**1»** Help heal the world and the Great Lakes too this year before Yom Kippur at Reverse Tashlich! It takes place Sunday, October 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Unity Island right on the Niagara River. Please join us by registering online: [repairthesea.org/rt22](https://repairthesea.org/rt22). If you have any questions, please contact Buffalo Jewish Federation CEO Rob Goldberg: [rob@buffalojewishfederation.org](mailto:rob@buffalojewishfederation.org).

**2»** Join the Holocaust Resource Center and Amherst Memorial Chapel to remember the Six Million this year before Yom Kippur. The Kever Avot V'imahot memorial service takes place Sunday, October 2 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Holocaust Memorial monument in the Old B'rith Shalom Cemetery, 588 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd. in Cheektowaga.

**3»** Are you registered to vote in the November general election? If not, you have until October 14 to register by mail, in person or online. The JCRC has resources on its website to help you do just that. Go to [buffalojewishfederation.org/vote](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/vote) to learn more today, while you still have time to do so, because every vote matters!

**4»** Ukrainian families fleeing the bitter war are being resettled in Buffalo by JFS, and you can help! Several types of Volunteer opportunities will be available and funds are also needed. To contribute to support new Ukrainian families, please visit Federation's website [buffalojewishfederation.org/ukraine/](https://buffalojewishfederation.org/ukraine/). For more information about this effort through JFS, please email [lmaguire@jfswny.org](mailto:lmaguire@jfswny.org).

**5»** Join Congregation Shir Shalom and participate in the 15th annual Walk Off Hunger Saturday, October 15 at Buffalo River Fest Park, 294 Ohio Street. Check-in begins at 10:00 a.m., the walk is at 11:00 a.m., and family-friendly festivities will follow. Since its beginning, Walk Off Hunger has become one of FeedMore WNY's largest fundraisers, and has raised enough money to provide millions of meals for Western New Yorkers in need. To learn more about Walk Off Hunger, to sign up or make a donation, go to [feedmorewny.org/walk-off-hunger](https://feedmorewny.org/walk-off-hunger).

## Where in JBFLO



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

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For the September issue, no one was able to identify where this stone with Wolf Blitzer's name is, so we are running it again this month.

Let us know where it is in Western New York!



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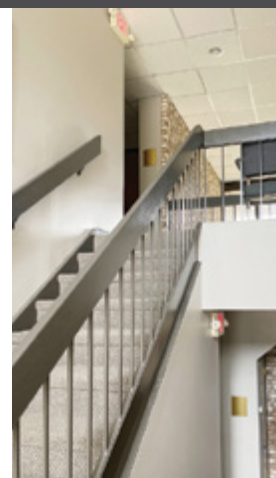
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# Temple Beth Tzedek begins 5783 with gusto!

## Take a Hike

After a reflective morning of Kever Avot (the custom of visiting the graveside of parents or close relatives), the TBT Men's Club will be going on a hike to the Eternal Flame at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 2. Dr. Gil Wolfe, who just completed parts of the Appalachian Trail, will be leading the hike and sharing a range of hiking insights during the trek. **Visit [btzbuffalo.org](http://btzbuffalo.org) for more details.**

## Yom Kippur Youth Service

Children ages 2-10 are welcome to join Temple Beth Tzedek's youth tent on Yom Kippur morning for "Missing the Mark," a unique service from 10:00-11:30 a.m. **RSVP to [youthed@btzbuffalo.org](mailto:youthed@btzbuffalo.org).**

## Sukkot Celebrations

TBT Kesher Inclusion, in collaboration with Congregation Beth Abraham and the Community Religious School, will be hosting an *Outstretched Arm* event for Sukkot on the morning of Sunday, October 9 at TBT (and available via Zoom), for joyful music, an opportunity to visit with friends as well as other special holiday experiences as we decorate the Sukkah. *Outstretched Arm* activities are intended to insure that people of all abilities have opportunities to participate in our beloved Jewish traditions. **For more information and to RSVP, contact the TBT office at 716-838-3232.**

## Open House in the Sukkah

TBT Kesher Inclusion Outstretch Arm will also be hosting an "Open House/Open Sukkah" in the TBT Sukkah on Wednesday, October 12 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Enjoy sitting outside in the beautiful TBT sukkah (weather permitting). **For more information and to RSVP, contact the TBT office at 716-838-3232.**

## Book Talk

The TBT Women's Network will be hosting a book talk on Thursday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Maxine Seller will review the autobiographical novel *Dineh* by Ida Maze, which was recently published in English based on the translation from Yiddish by Yermiyahu Ahron Taub. We are also delighted to welcome retired UB professor Dr. Irving Massey, son of Ida Maze (1893-1962), who will share his reminiscences about his mother.

A lunch will be served preceding the book talk. There is a fee. **Reservations can be made by calling Sharon Jacobs at 716-913-5813.**



## Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah

The TBT Men's Club will kick off 5783 with a tasty kosher steak and scotch celebration in the TBT sukkah on Thursday, October 13. There is a fee for this savory event. **Visit [btzbuffalo.org](http://btzbuffalo.org) for more information.**

## Tot Shabbat

Young families are welcome to join on the Shabbat mornings of October 15 and October 22 at 10:30 a.m. at TBT for a Tot Shabbat service co-led by Ariel Marcus and Aaron Blum.

## Simchat Torah

Please join TBT for a joyous *Simchat Torah Hakafot* beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, October 17 followed by an ice cream party! There will also be festive *Hakafot* the following morning with services beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## Tinok Time

Led by TBT Cantorial Intern and Jewish Educator Zahava Fried, this special program for children ages six months to four years old will be held on October 28 from 10:15-11:30 a.m. at Temple Beth Tzedek. **RSVP to [youthed@btzbuffalo.org](mailto:youthed@btzbuffalo.org).**



## Mishpacha

As a supplement to the Community Religious School's preschool program, *Mishpacha* (family) will launch on October 23 at 9:30 a.m. at TBT for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers. Led by Zahava Fried, there is a modest fee for this program. **Contact [youthed@btzbuffalo.org](mailto:youthed@btzbuffalo.org) to learn more.**



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# Ohr Temimim student wins Silver Trophy at International Championship

For the 7th year, Ohr Temimim School of Buffalo has participated in the International Jewish Knowledge Championship. This worldwide “Chidon” is an optional competition for thousands of Jewish children and requires students to study the 613 Biblical Commandments, or “Mitzvot” in depth. A five-book cycle covers all the material over a 5-year period.

After a long period of rigorous study, students who pass a series of preliminary tests on their respective books are invited to compete at the final Game Show. Finalists from around the world compete against each other for the highly sought after Chidon Champion title, showcasing the extraordinary knowledge that they have acquired. This year, the Game Show was once again held virtually and watched by thousands of families, friends and neighbors worldwide.

The Chidon started in 2014 with just 104 contestants. This year, the program welcomed 6,085 contestants from 35 countries, 43 states and 389 schools, who came together to compete for medal and were all united by one goal: the in-depth study and mastery of the 613 Mitzvot!

Ohr Temimim proudly boasted 17 contestants this year, out of which 3 were finalists: Nessa Grol Norris- 8th Grade, Ruchama Marcus- 6th Grade and Racheli Greenberg- 4th Grade.

“I am so proud of our wonderful students,” said Mrs. Yehudis Lorber, local Chidon coordinator. “The amount of time the girls have invested in studying this curriculum is just amazing! Even during recess, students from older grades could be seen helping the younger ones with material they themselves had covered in previous years.... it is truly heartwarming!”

The students gathered at Ohr Temimim School, where the room was transformed into a magical space, and the stage was set to watch the virtual



Racheli Greenberg with her parents, proudly holding her Silver Trophy after receiving her International award.

Award Ceremony together. The excitement in the air was palpable! The tension rose in the final moments and the crowd went silent as the emcee announced the world trophy winners. Sure enough, small town Buffalo was celebrated on the world stage as 4th Grade Student, Racheli Greenberg, won second place at this Worldwide Chidon Championship, earning the International Silver Trophy Award!

Racheli is the 10-year old daughter of Rabbi Levi and Rivky Greenberg and granddaughter of Rabbi Heschel and Lea Greenberg of Williamsville.

“Mazel Tov, Racheli! What a tremendous accomplishment,” exclaimed her teacher, Mrs. Devorah Munitz. “To go up against the world’s finalists and win is just amazing! May you always continue to bring your parents, teachers and community a lot of *nachas*.”

“A big Mazel Tov goes to Racheli Greenberg for this incredible achievement,” says Rabbi Shmuel Shanowitz, principal of Ohr Temimim School. “Racheli made us all so proud and proved to us just how much a city as small as Buffalo has to offer in terms of quality Jewish education. I can’t adequately express how proud I am of her and of the dedication and achievements of all the students who participated.”

# KOT Happenings

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (KOT), like so many other synagogues and Jewish organizations, took part in Chesed Day on September 11 with a hat and scarf exchange for those in need. This is the second time that KOT held such a program and plan to continue this event every few years.

The High Holy Days were celebrated at KOT with out of town family and friends in attendance as well as with our talented Chazzan Jeff Braverman who comes in from New Jersey every year.



# New Location for 15th Walk Off Hunger



This year is the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Walk Off Hunger. Since the former Temple Beth Am founded the event in 2008, it has become one of FeedMore WNY’s largest fundraisers, and has raised enough money to provide millions of meals for Western New Yorkers in need.

This year, for the first time since before COVID, the walk is once again being held as one large event instead of a series of smaller gatherings. To mark that change and the milestone anniversary, there’s a new location and a new date. This year’s walk will take place Saturday, October 15 at Buffalo River Fest Park, 294 Ohio Street. Check-in begins at 10:00 a.m., the walk is at 11:00 a.m, and family-friendly festivities will follow.

This will be the first walk without longtime Congregation Shir Shalom member Jennie Pohl (z”l), Walk Off Hunger’s all-time leading fundraiser, who died earlier this year at the age of 101. Jennie never missed a walk, and



even well into her 90s, she was usually one of the first to complete the route. FeedMore WNY is planning to honor Jennie at this year’s event.

**To learn more about Walk Off Hunger, or to sign up or donate, go to [feedmorewny.org/walk-off-hunger](https://feedmorewny.org/walk-off-hunger).**



# Perseverance & Resourcefulness

## A Comparison of the Jews' 40 Years in the Desert and Today's Refugee Crisis



BY TODD GEISE

I originally began writing about autumn, harvest, and the rustic nature of a Sukkah. As a mental visual, it is easy to see how this would fit nicely into our changing seasons. While still true, my thoughts took me to a deeper place; a place that involves perseverance and resourcefulness.

I am referring to the 40 years Jews spent traveling through the Sinai desert after departing Egypt and their enslavement. This experience is a reminder that freedom through the millennia does not come with ease, but with trials and a constant need to reflect on history in order to set a future course.

A great deal of our work at Jewish Family Services involves refugees. In the same context as when Jews fled Egypt, refugees today are fleeing a myriad of circumstances including ethnic or religious persecution and war. This parallel is the precise reason the Jewish Community is so supportive of refugees. The Buffalo Jewish Community is no exception.

With more than 28 million refugees in the world, it takes only a bit of thought to consider the perseverance required to live years in refugee camps while the bureaucratic process slowly moves along. Imagine the inner strength required to face each day not knowing what awaits you or your family. Imagine wondering about the next meal, the impacts of weather, or the impacts on one's health and wellbeing. It takes courage and strength to persevere. Jews persevered and so do today's refugees from around the world.

When I began thinking about the Sukkah, I understand its symbolism. But is it just a symbol or something more when comparing to today's refugee environment? Today, Jews construct sukkahs in their back yards, often as a family project, with meaning. Sukkahs are a resourceful and practical solution to an everyday problem involving not only shelter, but one's home.

In our comparison to today's global



Todd Geise

refugee crisis, a sukkah is a partial equivalent to the practical shelters found in refugee camps. Whether a fabric tent or of materials gathered from the environment, these shelters become homes. They provide a gathering place for family and depending on structure, allow openness to the sky or protection from the elements. And regardless of the circumstances, offer a space for celebration despite the circumstances for which they were built.

This Sukkot, as we celebrate the harvest and all that has been provided to sustain us, let us also take a moment to give thought to those who are living just as Jews were living during those 40 years in the Sinai Desert. May they continue to find the perseverance and resourcefulness to get them through this journey.

*Todd Geise is the Director of Marketing at Jewish Family Services of Western New York.*

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Shelly Yellen - President

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[buffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:buffalo@yahoo.com), [bvkkosher@gmail.com](mailto:bvkkosher@gmail.com)  
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### Center for Jewish Life

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[jewishbuffalo.com](http://jewishbuffalo.com)  
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### Holocaust Resource Center

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# Remembering Sylvia Rosen 1919-2022

Buffalo artist and philanthropist Sylvia Rosen passed away on January 6, 2022 at the age of 102. A woman whose generosity and talent had a large impact in Buffalo and Florida, she was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Nathan, who died in 1992. She was the mother of Michael (Donna) Rosen and Judith (Louie) Martina; sister of the late Morton Korn, Harold Korn, Irving Korn and Harriet, grandmother of Nathan, Eric (Pamela) and Anna; and great-grandmother of Liam, Caden and Garrett. The following profile of Mrs. Rosen is courtesy of the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

Sylvia Rosen was a ceramic artist, educator, and philanthropist. Born in Ohio in 1919, she was the daughter and granddaughter of artists, a family heritage that influenced her choice to study Fine Arts at Ohio State University in Columbus. In a 1990 lecture, Mrs. Rosen recalled how she moved from a more general course of study to the medium that would become the central focus of her career: “While an undergraduate ... taking the usual courses of drawing, painting, and sculpturing[sic], I wandered downstairs of Hayes Hall, the fine arts building, to discover a whole new world. There were a number of display cases filled with beautiful ceramics. There were porcelains from China in many colors, celadons from Korea, hand-painted urns from Greece, teapots from Japan, and other ceramics from many other cultures. I was so enthralled that I ventured further into the classrooms to find students working on potters’ wheels, spraying glazing, and loading kilns for firing. This was the beginning of my long-lasting love affair with clay.”

Among Mrs. Rosen’s professors was the noted chemist and potter, Dr. Arthur Baggs. She graduated with a B.S. in education from the university in 1941 and married Nathan Rosen, a lawyer, shortly after that. The young couple moved to Cleveland the same year, where

## *Sylvia Rosen was a ceramic artist, educator, and philanthropist.*

she studied at the Esther & John Sills Ceramic Studio. In 1943 they moved to Buffalo.

Mrs. Rosen’s early attempts to establish a career as a craft artist often proved frustrating. In a 2004 interview, she recalled, “My ceramics were shown two years in a row [1943-44] in the May Show, which is still running to this day, at the Cleveland Museum of Art. There were no categories, no distinctions between crafts and fine art. It was the atmosphere that I was used to. I went to the Albright-Knox [Art Gallery] to see about entering the Western New York Exhibition and was told, ‘We do not take ceramics. Or any other crafts.’ The assumption must have been that we were all making potholders.” Despite such difficulties getting fine art institutions to acknowledge the significance of crafts, Mrs. Rosen persisted, and in 1961 she received a Certificate of Merit for her work in New York Crafts 1961 at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute Utica, N.Y.

From 1963 through 1967, Sylvia Rosen taught at the Creative Craft Center at the University at Buffalo, an organization she helped establish. This was her first position as a teacher of ceramics. She learned about other craft media through the Center—including



Photo by Mark Dellas

## *A woman whose generosity and talent had a large impact in Buffalo and Florida...*

enameling, jewelry making, and weaving—and to other artists and teachers, including enamellist Bill Helwig. During this period, Mrs. Rosen later recalled, “It was no easy thing for a woman to keep house, cook, be a mother, and do what she [wanted] to do.” Aware that her husband would disapprove of her leaving their home to teach, she opted to work at the Center between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., when her husband was always in his own office. “I hired a woman to come in and do the housework. Then before I left to teach, I would put an apple and an onion in the oven and put it on low.” The aroma was a ruse to convince Nathan that she had been maintaining her domestic duties in his absence.

In 1968, Mrs. Rosen began teaching a unique program in ceramics for students at Amherst Senior High School who had poor academic records. She remained at

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## Attention Readers!

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the school until 1970 while also pursuing her M.S. in Education from Buffalo State College, a degree conferred in 1971. For the remainder of the decade, she taught in the college's design department. Her "Workshop in Crafts" class introduced students to hand-built ceramics, frame-woven tapestries, hooked rugs, batik, and other materials.

*“We wanted craft artists to have a museum setting in which to show their work.”*

Nonetheless, the local climate for craftspeople remained dire: “We had the Buffalo Craftsmen from Buffalo State who showed in different venues around the city, sometimes in unused storefronts,” she later recalled. “After they went out in the 70s, craft artists had nowhere to go other than the 100 American Craftsmen,” referring to the annual exhibition at the Kenan Center in nearby Lockport, N.Y. Mrs. Rosen and her husband were frequent world travelers and were very aware that museums in other countries were more hospitable to pottery, jewelry, and related forms. “We wanted craft artists to have a museum setting in which to show their work.”

In 1987, the Rosens founded the Sylvia Rosen Endowment for Fine Arts in the Craft Media at Burchfield-Penney. The endowment has made possible juried biennial craft art exhibitions with field specialists’ purchase awards and craft art lectures. The first exhibition took place at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center in 1988. Since then, Craft Art Western New York has been a significant celebration of the diversity and richness of expression of the region’s craft artists working with clay, fiber, glass, metal, and wood.

Mrs. Rosen’s work has been in many exhibitions over several decades, including the Cleveland Museum of Art (1943); the Buffalo Craftsmen Exhibition (1957-70); the Albright-Knox Members Gallery (1962); Art Today 1967, New York State Council on the Arts, New York State Fair; the Buffalo State College 125th Anniversary Exhibition (1996); the Contemporary New York State Crafts Exhibition (1997); the Ohio State Alumni Reunion Exhibition (1999); New York Collects Buffalo State, Burchfield-Penney Art Center (2004); and Daemen

College (2005). She is in the collections of the Burchfield-Penney; the Arthur E. Baggs Museum at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; and the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University, Alfred, New York. She continued to pursue ceramics study and worked at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida until shortly before her death.

Mrs. Rosen received the Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award in 1991 and the Individual Philanthropic Leadership Award in 2000, both from the Buffalo State College Foundation. She has also received the Endowment Development Award from the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and the National Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Buffalo. In 2009, the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County bestowed the Knox Lifetime Achievement Award on Mrs. Rosen.

In 2012, Mrs. Rosen was designated one of the Burchfield Penney’s first “Living Legacy” artists. In 2013, she received the Nathan Benderson Community Service Award from the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

# In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from August 24, 2022-September 18 2022\*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



Carol Altman  
Sidney Fineberg  
Eugene Finton  
Honi Kurzeja  
Ruth Kushner  
Fay Leader  
Esther Okun  
Lois Olson  
Daniel Serure  
Helen L. Weiser

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



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*- Peter H.*

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## (NOT) THE LAST WORD

# A Cure to the Jewish Pastrami Dilemma

BY ZACH ROSENBLOOM

Three Jews walk into a deli. Each orders a pastrami sandwich. Five opinions are formed. This is what our cuisine struggles to face every day. For a culture with a famously discernible palette and a magical ability to turn something so mundane as matzoh into the manna from heaven - a matzoh ball - we struggle to make that which should be right and just into mediocrity. I am talking about deli meat.

I had the embarrassment of growing up in the culinary wasteland of Toledo, Ohio, where the closest deli oasis was in Ann Arbor, Michigan. That oasis sent from the heavens is called Zingerman's Deli. This is where the acrid scent of pickles wafting through the air signaled that succulent, peppery pastrami was on its way, and was the only time the taste of mustard made sense to my adolescent self. The sandwich was simple, consisting of crusty pumpernickel, tangy mustard, and layer upon layer of mouthwatering pastrami.

The flavor of this sandwich, which could have only been formed by the hands of angels, has become a distant memory. What was, has now been replaced. The acceptance that our prayers were falling on the ears of false idols such as Boar's Head and Acme has become a regular part of our identity. For a people that struggled in the desert for 40 years,



Zach Rosenbloom

fought countless oppressors, spoke up for those unable to find their own voice, why do we not fight to hold on to the tradition of mesmerizing flavors? Why do we who love arguing for the thrill of battle not fight to preserve our flavors of the preserved?

*For people who live to eat,  
we will celebrate  
a resurgence.*

I am proud to say not all is lost. The souls of our ancestors will not weep at the sight of destruction we have caused to our cuisine. There is hope. Even now as I speak many of our own and even more of your culinary allies, have set forth to take on such a task. We will bring back the respect due to our righteous cause. For people who live to eat, we will celebrate a resurgence. We mustn't fight amongst ourselves about the correct width one slices meat, but challenge the flavor one can conjure through artisan curing and daunting trudges through swaths of hickory scented smoke. The artisans have returned. Will we answer the call or accept the darkness that is mass-produced deli melancholy?

As was hammered into us at the anvils of synagogue Sunday school, our future remains in the worthy hands of our children. We must seek

out and aid in the teachings of our deli prophets. Heed my warning! Just as our own traditions have evolved, so shall our delicacies. No longer can we hold back the evolutions of flavor and fusions of new ideas. We must follow our nose, close our eyes and accept that the same doesn't mean better.

Listen to the new era teachers such as The Wandering Cue of New Jersey. Find shelter within the confines of Izzy's Smokehouse in Amsterdam, NY. Do what we are known for. Learn from and be inspired from our past, but allow our trees to flourish and bare new and exotic fruits. We are worldly people who have grown roots all over the globe. Let us infuse what we have learned from our travels. Let us breathe new life into what was lost and reimagine something ignored far too long. Please experiment with Jewish food, learn, and ask questions.

We have an opportunity to capture the flavors of our traditions. We need to find a way to meld our traditions with respect, and infuse some modern funk. Please share the recipes of old with your families. If you have them, share your parent's and grandparent's dishes with your children and their friends. Let them taste those matzo balls and challah. Experiment and indulge your desire for adventure. And please support the artisans in our community seeking to inspire a new generation with honor and creativity.

*Zach Rosenbloom is Chef and Owner of The Bloom and Rose, which specializes in making knishes.*

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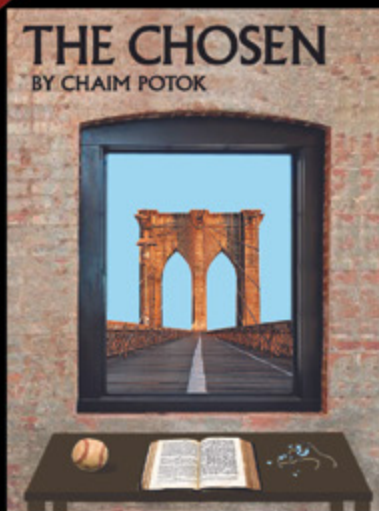




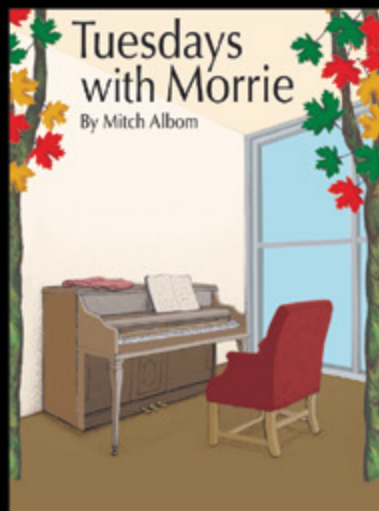
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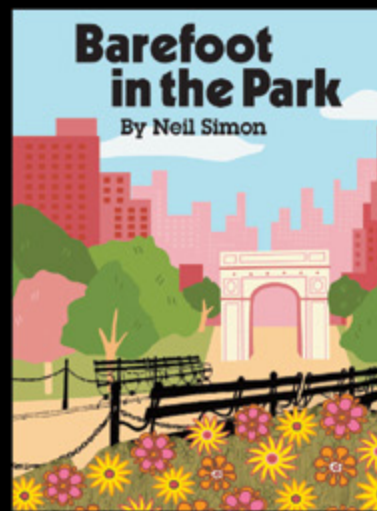
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## Upcoming Programs

### American Jewish Giving and Engagement Lecture



Thursday, November 3

6:30 pm | Benderson Family Building

Join us for a lecture! COVID-19 posed an unprecedented challenge for global society and nonprofit institutions. The role of philanthropy in meeting the pandemic's immediate and long-term needs and sustaining communal engagement has been demonstrated across local and global communities.

### Sukkot Fest



Sunday, October 9

12:00 - 2:30 pm | Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds

All are welcome to join the fun at the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds to celebrate Sukkot. We will have inflatables, games, face painting, food for sale, sukkah decorating, holiday crafts and more.