

The Award Winning

Happy Thanksgiving!

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of The Buffalo Jewish Federation

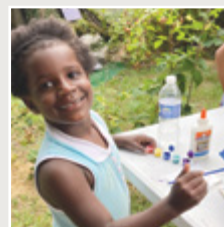
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NOVEMBER 2022 | HESHVAN- KISLEV 5783



GRATITUDE

Jewish Buffalo Gives Back!



LOOK:
PJ Connections
(4)



INSIDE:
Heart & Soul
(14)



DON'T MISS:
Maccabiah in Israel
(18)

November 2022

Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

As the calendar moves into November, I'm finding myself thinking more and more about gratitude, what it means to be grateful as a person and as a community. Even questioning what is there to be grateful for in an era fraught with such difficulty and loss?

Why be grateful? Very simply: an attitude of gratitude makes you appreciate life, those around you, and your world. It makes you happier and it enables you to contribute to your world in ways that make a difference.

Jewish Federation Educator Susan Goldberg Schwartz shares her perspective on embracing gratitude (see page 3) as a prelude to Thanksgiving later this month. She tells us in her essay that Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (z"l) said "giving thanks is beneficial to the body and soul. It contributes to both happiness and health." JFS Volunteer Services Manager Sierra Johnston (see page 15) agrees, as she also reflects on Thanksgiving and on the events of this past year, such as the May 14 Tops shooting and the immigrant influx into Buffalo and the US.

Make sure you see the story and ad (page 2) about the combined Buffalo Jewish Federation/Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies in-person joint annual meeting December 7th and please make plans for attending as Howard Rosenhoch, Jim Biltekoff and Rabbi Sara Rich are honored.

And finally, don't forget to vote November 8. Don't miss your opportunity to exercise one of the most important rights we as Americans enjoy. Check out the JCRC ad on page 8, and go to the website at buffalojewishfederation.org/vote if you have questions or need help.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve our beautiful Buffalo Jewish Community, and wish you and your loved ones a Thanksgiving filled with love, food and, of course, Buffalo Bills football.

Ellen Goldstein

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Jewish Buffalo gives back in so many ways. Pictured are volunteers from the following organizations clockwise from upper left: Reverse Taschlich - Jewish Federation; TBZ and JFS - Resettlement; Dignity Grows - Jewish Federation; TBT - Vaccination Clinic; Reverse Taschlich - Jewish Federation; (top) TBZ - Resettlement; (bottom) TBT - Vaccination Clinic; Dignity Grows - Jewish Federation. Thank you!

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What Makes an Engaged Federation Volunteer?

I mentioned in my August article that we were starting the Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF) Board of Governors nomination process for 2023. This important work is now complete and I want to share with you the process and provide some insight into the volunteer leadership of the organization.

I served as Nominating Chair and worked with an excellent Committee comprised of Corey Auerbach, Marc Brown, Brenda Feldstein, Marina Finkelstein, Cheryl Stein, Ezra Rich, Kim Yonaty, and staffed by Miriam Abramovich, our Chief Experience Officer. Our task was to nominate 4 candidates to succeed current Board members reaching the end of their terms: Hadar Borden, Brenda Feldstein, Nina Lukin, and Cheryl Stein. I want to express our deepest gratitude for these four leaders for their exemplary Board service and am very happy to report that each will remain engaged in other ongoing BJF activities.

The Committee's first task was to identify Board needs by creating a profile of an active and engaged Board participant. Specifically, we identified 3 interrelated areas, including (1) Desire to actively engage in Jewish Buffalo (2) Capacity and desire to give time and expertise and (3) Philanthropic investment. For purposes of selecting Board candidates, our committee felt that



Shelly Yellen

all three of these areas are of equal weighting. Interestingly, there are many examples of very effective Board members that have met at least one of the three criteria although also acknowledged that the "ideal" board member excels in all. With this in mind, we

identified very qualified volunteers and we are pleased to announce that Kirstie Henry, Jim Kramer, and Blaine Schwartz will be presented for approval as our newest Board candidates at our Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. We look forward to our second year holding this event together with the Annual Meeting of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies (read more on page 2).

The current BJF Officer terms also end this December and I am very happy to announce the following candidates will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting: Margery Bryen – President, Marc Brown – Vice President, Rise' Kulick – Vice President, Shawn Frier – Treasurer, and Cheryl Stein – Secretary. Much appreciation is extended to Ellen Weiss, our outgoing secretary, who also recently received the prestigious national Kipnis Wilson Friedland Award for her local and national community work and philanthropy.

Ellen will be honored later this year at the International Lion of Judah conference in Phoenix.

Also, I want to congratulate Ezra Rich and Alan Rosenhoch, two very active Jewish Buffalo volunteers who will be honored for receiving *Buffalo Business First's* 40 Under 40 award. Ezra and Alan, I know your families are so proud and the BJF will be there to celebrate you at the award ceremony on November 10th.

Finally, the October Buffalo Israel Experience 2022 trip is "in the books" and participants will have many amazing stories and reflections to share in the coming months. There are many other experiences planned, including an upcoming Bourbon Trail trip to Kentucky (page 16) in December and a United Arab Emirates trip to Dubai and Abu Dhabi in February. **For more details on BJF Experience offerings, please visit buffalojewishfederation.org or contact Miriam at miriam@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

As I always end, please contact me with your thoughts at shelly@buffalojewishfederation.org. With much gratitude to our donors and volunteers!

From our home to yours,
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bountiful and joyous
Thanksgiving.

The Board of Governors and Professional Team
of the Buffalo Jewish Federation

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Award Ceremony and BJJ/FJP Annual Meetings 12/7 at CSS



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For the second year, Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF) and Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies (FJP) will join together for their annual business meetings and award ceremony on Wednesday, December 7. The program will be held in-person at Congregation Shir Shalom beginning with wine and cheese at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program and a dessert reception. Live-streaming will also be available.

During the 119th BJJ Annual Meeting, Margery Bryen will be installed as new President succeeding Shelly Yellen, and at the 112th FJP Annual Meeting, Daniel Kester will be installed as President succeeding Jonathan Schechter. Both organizations will also thank departing board members and welcome the newest class of leaders to their respective boards.

Among the highlights of the gathering, will be a presentation of three prestigious awards. Federation will present the Ann

Holland Cohn Community Leadership Award to Jim Biltekoff and the Judith & Daniel Kantor Professional Service Award to Rabbi Sara Rich, Executive Director of Hillel at Buffalo. This Cohn award was established 6 years ago to celebrate a person, couple or family who leads with courage and determination and has made a significant impact in the greater Buffalo community. The previous award winners were: Larry Levite (z"l), Deborah Goldman, Lana Benatovich

and Gale Burstein. The Kantor award is bestowed upon a current Jewish professional working in Jewish Buffalo who exemplifies the highest level of dedication to the agency or organization and helps to strengthen the vibrancy and health of Jewish Buffalo.

FJP will present the 2022 Endowment Leadership Award to Howard Rosenhoch in recognition of his commitment to *LIFE & LEGACY®* at Buffalo as well his long-standing efforts to strengthen and support Jewish Buffalo. The Endowment Leadership Award is the Foundation's highest honor and is awarded in recognition of extraordinary service, generosity, and commitment to the Buffalo Jewish community.

To register for the event, please go to: bit.ly/celebratejewishbuffalo2022. For questions, please email Joan Kwiatkowski: joan@buffalojewishfederation.org

Please join us as we celebrate Jewish Buffalo
for the
**Award Ceremony & Annual Meetings
of**

Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies
&
Buffalo Jewish Federation

Wednesday, December 7 | 5:30 pm

Congregation Shir Shalom
4660 Sheridan Dr., Buffalo, NY 14221

Live Streaming Available

5:30 pm wine & cheese

6:00 pm program followed by
dessert & coffee

RSVP:

bit.ly/celebratejewishbuffalo2022

Featuring:

Foundation Endowment Leadership Award

Howard Rosenhoch

The Ann Holland Cohn Community Leadership Award

Jim Biltekoff

The Judith & Daniel Kantor Professional Service Award

Rabbi Sara Rich

Annual Business Meetings & Election of Officers



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BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION

Counting your Blessings and Expressing Gratitude

BY SUSAN SCHWARTZ

I start every day with a morning ritual. I open the shades of my bedroom window and look out at the new day. No matter the season, I take a few moments to pause in awe and wonder. I am grateful for every day.



There is a Jewish tradition of saying 100 blessings each day. Jews have blessings for everything. We wake up and recite *Modeh Ani* (giving thanks for waking up), we say a blessing for 'wiping sleep from our eyes, slumber from our eyelids'. We recite a blessing when seeing beautiful objects, a rainbow or a sunset, for tasting a new fruit and for travelling safely. There is even a blessing for the simplest of bodily functions. The value placed on blessings and giving thanks is central to Jewish life.

"Blessings over food and aspects of nature make us conscious of saying everyday gratitude and creates a structure for thanks" notes Erica Brown, Director of the Mayberg Center for Jewish Education and Leadership at the George Washington University. The obligation of reciting 100 daily blessings suggests that by living a life immersed in gratitude, your connection to the world is strengthened.

How do we define gratitude? Gratitude is 'a strong feeling of appreciation to

someone or something for what the person has done to help you' from the Cambridge dictionary, or 'the state of being grateful: THANKFULNESS' from Merriam-Webster.com. The Jewish practice of Mussar takes the idea of gratitude further. The Hebrew translation often used for gratitude, *Hakarat hatov*, literally says *recognize the good* and give thanks. The Mussar scholars teach that the first aspect of gratitude is recognizing that good was done to you. The second aspect is to feel and express your appreciation for that good. When we open ourselves up to see and acknowledge the good that surrounds us and that others are constantly doing for us, our natural response will be to express gratitude.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (z"l) wrote, "giving thanks is beneficial to the body and the soul. It contributes to both happiness and health." This has been confirmed by recent studies which have shown how living a life with gratitude can have a positive impact on one's wellbeing. Rabbi Sacks continued, "It is also a self-fulfilling attitude: the more we celebrate the good, the more good we discover that is worthy of celebration...It takes focused attention to become aware of how much we have to be grateful for."

On Thanksgiving, we gather with family and friends to share our gratitude. Instead of just one day a year, perhaps this Thanksgiving will start your daily gratitude practice. It only takes a moment each day to open your eyes, count your blessings and express gratitude for all that you have.

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO A GRATITUDE PRACTICE

1. Begin your day by setting positive intentions, "Today is going to be a good day."
2. Keep a Gratitude journal. Take time daily to write about your blessings, benefits, and good things you enjoy.
3. Share your gratitude. Smile, say thank you more, and write letters of thanks.
4. Use your senses. Through touch, sight, smell, taste, and hearing, we appreciate what it means to be human.
5. End your day by recalling 3 Good Things, so that that last thing before sleep makes you smile.

*The Dalai Lama wrote,
"Instead of wanting more, give thanks for the blessings you already have."*

Susan Schwartz is a Jewish Educator at LiNK Jewish Buffalo.

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Grant Supports PJ Library's Multicultural Connections

PJ Library of Buffalo has been awarded grant funding from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to support a new Buffalo initiative, *Inspiring Multicultural Connections*. The Grinspoon Foundation is investing these funds in Buffalo to build and strengthen partnerships with other cultural and faith-based organizations. Grant funds will be used to raise the visibility of a vibrant Jewish community, create opportunities for families of different faiths and cultures to have a shared experience, and to prepare parents to discuss antisemitism with their children through age-appropriate resources. In addition to Buffalo, PJ Library programs in Minneapolis and Pittsburgh are also recipients of an Inspiring Multicultural Connections grant.

In the coming months, PJ Library will be working closely with Buffalo's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), and other local organizations on efforts including a workshop/conference experience about antisemitism designed for PJ Library/PJ Our Way parents, plus a cultural ambassador program with local public schools.



Connecting People
to Jewish Life



"We are immensely grateful to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for this grant award," cites Miriam Abramovich, Federation's Chief Experience Officer, "It is both a recognition of our current efforts in this space and a boost to further our work. We are deeply committed to supporting and prepare families with young children to recognize, process and



confront antisemitism, and to share the vibrancy of Jewish life and culture with friends and neighbors across Buffalo."

PJ Library is funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, the Golden and Goldman Philanthropic Fund and Altman Dental. Through PJ Library,

families build their own home libraries of Jewish-themed children's books, enhancing and enriching their Jewish home lives. **For more information about PJ Library or this grant contact: robin@buffalojewishfederation.org.**

PJ Library & PJ OUR WAY

GET YOUR HANUKKAH ON!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 4:30 - 6:30 PM

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Sukkot at Group Home



Incoming FJP President Daniel Kester and volunteers from Hillel of Buffalo built a Sukkah at the Jewish Women's Group Home in Amherst Sunday, October 9th, continuing a long-standing tradition organized by LiNK Jewish Buffalo's Belonging Initiative. Two of the Home's residents joined the volunteers, enjoying the Sukkah.



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Facilitated by: Mike Steklof, Ed.D.

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Thursdays | 7:00 – 9:00pm

December 8, 15, 22, January 5, 12, & 19

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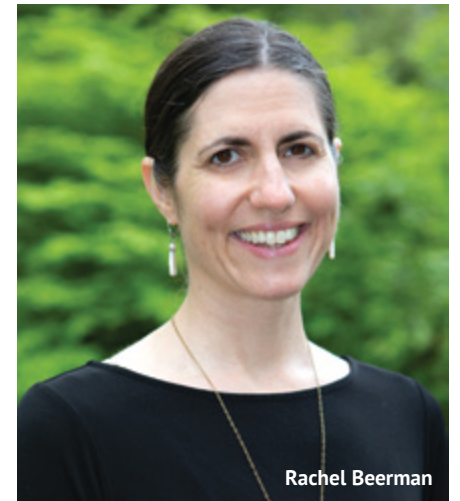
SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 | 8 - 11 PM



JCRC Grows with New Staff

JCRC is pleased to announce that Rachel Beerman, who has spent the last year as the JCRC's Racial Justice Coordinator, is expanding her role as JCRC's Manager. She will continue her work around Racial Justice but will also support other JCRC initiatives, such as the legislative forum and communicating with the community through the JCRC Connections.

Before joining the Buffalo JCRC, Rachel spent her career in education, primarily teaching in intentionally diverse schools in Buffalo and Brooklyn. She is originally from Buffalo and believes strongly in helping Buffalo thrive by ensuring that all Buffalonians have access to equitable resources and opportunities to succeed. In addition, Rachel will continue to look for opportunities to build relationships across lines of differences, such as the successfully guided East Side Garden Walk. Rachel is excited to be able to grow with the JCRC and further the mission to create a more civil and caring community here in Buffalo.



Rachel Beerman

Additionally, Sam Lukin Johnson is JCRC's new high school Intern. Sam is



Sam Lukin Johnson

currently a junior at Amherst Central High School where he is very involved in the music department, playing viola in the Symphony Orchestra and the extracurricular orchestra, Sinfonia. He is the president of the Quiz Bowl Club at Amherst and went to the National History Bowl competition in Washington D.C. as a sophomore. As an active member of Amherst High School's Spanish Club, Sam was inducted into the Spanish Honors Society. Outside of school, he is a member of the Amherst Youth Consortium and the principal violist in the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra.

JCRC is grateful to The Golden Goldman Philanthropic Fund, The George Gellman Philanthropic Fund, and West Herr Automotive for their generous support and belief in creating a more civil and caring community.

The November 8th General Election is coming!

Are you registered to vote?

For more info, visit: buffalojewishfederation.org/vote

Early Voting:

Sat. October 29 - Sun. November 6

Monday - Friday: noon - 9 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

On election day:

Tues. November 8: 6 AM - 9 PM

Find your polling location:
elections.erie.gov/VSearch2



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATE

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



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

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

RSVP at 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



BUFFALO JEWISH
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BY MANDY WEISS

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.

In mid-September, after participating in the P2G Summit in Budapest with our Buffalo delegation, I had the unique opportunity to join Partnership2Gether professional colleagues from 6 other

consortium communities to continue on to Israel and experience our Partnership in the Western Galilee for myself. Having been to Israel many times, including living there on two separate occasions as well as leading several Birthright trips, this time was different.

From morning until we dropped from exhaustion each night, we met people from our partnership organizations, visited NGO's, had conversations with individuals from different programs, and of course, made new friends. There were many highlights, namely:

Visiting the Partnership Center and meeting with all the Partnership staff for the first time;

Touring the Galilee Medical Center after hearing so much about it and



P2G Western Galilee Partnership leaders in Israel

experiencing the state-of-the-art underground hospital;

Sharing an evening of home hospitality and open dialogue with an Arab Israeli family in Arab El Aramshe, an Arab village right along the Lebanon border;

Meeting with the President of the Western Galilee College, Professor Nissim Ben David;

A tour and visit to the Urban Kibbutz in Akko;

Open conversation about what it means to be Jewish in America and in Israel with participants of the Sliding Dors program for Second Generation (2G) family members of Holocaust Survivors;

A visit to Kibbutz Yehiam to meet and hear from Ukrainian and Russian refugees who have recently

made Aliyah and been welcomed with open arms by the kibbutz.

Thank you to the Partnership staff, my Buffalo Jewish Federation colleagues and my family and friends for making this opportunity to experience the power of the Partnership possible! I hope to be able to share more about my experience and be able to make more opportunities like this possible for everyone!

Mandy Weiss is the Director of HRC Operations, Planning & Overseas for the Buffalo Jewish Federation.



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Ron Spigelman, conductor

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Sat Nov 19, 7:30pm

Ron Spigelman, conductor
Mamma mia, here we go again! Relive the 1970s in all its gold lamé glory with one of the world's most popular ABBA tribute shows, **Arrival from Sweden** performing *Dancing Queen, Take A Chance, SOS, Money Money Money, Waterloo*, and more.



Fri Nov 4, 10:30am

Sat Nov 5, 7:30pm
Bradley Thachuk, conductor
Set your watch back 100 years to the time of dimly lit cabarets, jazzy favorites, and the roaring 20s in all its decadence. Post-concert, the party continues with our own speakeasy entertainment!



Sat Nov 12, 7:30pm

Sun Nov 13, 2:30pm
JoAnn Falletta, conductor
Asier Polo, cello
Spain's preeminent cellist performs Elgar's soaring Cello Concerto while Kodály's *Hary Janos Suite* tells the tale of a day-dreaming soldier. The program includes works by William Walton and Florent Schmitt.



Thu Dec 8, 7:30pm

Bradley Thachuk, conductor
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The annual Lion of Judah/Pomegranate luncheon took place on September 22, 2022 at the home of Hannah Weinberg. Carolyn Gitlin, JFNA's National Women's Philanthropy Chair spoke about the impact of women's philanthropy and her recent trips to Poland and Ethiopia. *For more information about Lion of Judah and Pomegranate giving societies for women, contact Assistant Executive Director, Randi Morkisz at randi@buffalojewishfederation.org or call 716-463-5051.*



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— Talmud (Ta'anis 23b)

**Total Legacy Commitments
Received: 232**
**Total Number of Donors:
129**
**Total dollar amount:
\$8,335,014**
Through 9/22/22



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

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

For more information, please contact Linda Barat, LIFE & LEGACY® Coordinator for the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at linda@jewishphilanthropies.org or 716-204-2259.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

TEMPLE BETH ZION

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

L'dor v'dor – From Generation to Generation. From preschool, through religious school to B'nai Mitzvah, weddings, births, and funerals, Temple Beth Zion (TBZ) is the social and spiritual home for so many meaningful moments in the lives of many individuals.

TBZ's core values include celebrating diversity and being a place where ALL

are welcome, *Tikkun Olam*, Jewish education for children and adults alike, and recognizing that we are all walking our own spiritual path together. As Western New York's oldest and largest Reform congregation, many are committed to the preservation of the Temple's heritage and embrace the sense of belonging that comes from honoring ancient traditions balanced with modern values.

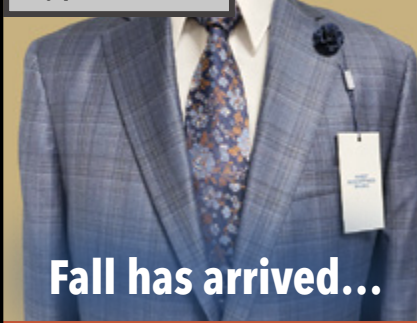
The legacy donors of TBZ are those who recognize that through the ups and downs of life, people need the synagogue as a place of connection to celebrate, mourn, learn, and gather together – from generation to generation: *L'dor v'dor*.

For any questions about Temple Beth Zion and how you can leave your legacy with the synagogue, please contact Temple Executive Director Jeff Clark at jeff@tbz.org.

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

- Buffalo Jewish Federation
- Center for Jewish Life
- Congregation Shir Shalom
- Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies
- Hillel of Buffalo
- Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
- Jewish Discovery Center
- Jewish Family Services of Western New York
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Let's Talk Turkey!

BY RABBI-CANTOR PENNY S. MYERS

Hebrew is a wonderful, efficient and simultaneously a complicated language for many in the diaspora to master. While I don't claim to be the best Hebraic scholar given the complexities of the language's grammar, I do enjoy learning, teaching, speaking, writing and yes, *davening* (praying) in Hebrew.

Our *lashon kodesh*, Holy Tongue (read: language) is made up of *shoreshim* (roots) of two or three letters. Words containing the same letter roots often form words that are not even remotely connected.

For example, the same shoresh (ה.ד.) for **הודו** (*Hodu*) is how we say 'we give thanks', it also means turkey (the bird, not the country). And, when spelled **הודו** but pronounced as HO-du, it translates to the country of India. I suppose one could surmise that on Thanksgiving, **הודו** (*Hodu*), we eat **הודו** (*Hodu*), which are indeed connected, but India? That is a whole different *megillah* and yes, I mean this in the literal sense.

In *Megillat Esther*, famously known as the only part of our TaNaKh that doesn't have *Hashem's* name in it, the



Rabbi-Cantor Penny S. Myers

very first chapter uses the Biblical word for India: *Hodu*. However, the etymology of Esther's Biblical Hebrew derives from the Persian word *Hindu* and like most adaptations from and to other

languages, a letter is often dropped. In this case it is the letter נ (nun) as shown in the text below:

Megillat Esther 1:1
וְהָיָה בְּיָמֵי אֲחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ הָאֶשְׁוֶרֶשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהִדּוּ
וְעַד-כּוּשׁ שֶׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה׃

Translation: *In the days of Ahasuerus, that Ahasuerus, he who had reigned over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Nubia.*

As one can see, Hebrew *can be and is fun* to learn. Consider this my Thanksgiving wish for all of you. May you all be grateful for learning, loving, and living. And may your Thanksgiving celebration, whatever traditions you partake in provide you with peace.

Best wishes for *Chag HaHodayah!*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy *Hodu*!

Rabbi-Cantor Penny S. Myers is the Chairperson of Great Lakes and Rivers Region of Cantors Assembly



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Remembering Service Men and Women

BY CHANA R. KOTZIN, PH.D.

In a slim booklet there is a big story: the story of the nearly 2,000 Buffalo Jewish men and women who served during WWII from 1941 to 1945. The nine-page listing is in tiny type to save paper, but each page holds more than 200 names. The names include familiar ones of long-connected Buffalonians as well as new arrivals. As you turn each page and scan the names, it feels like you are reading an extended family tree, one with both deep roots and newer branches. It includes refugees who came in the 1930s and then returned to Europe to serve, including the names of Kurt Jacobs and Kurt Klein, whose biographies you can read on the Jewish Buffalo History Center website.

Other familiar names trace back to the East and West Sides of Buffalo and North Buffalo connected with well-known businesses and professional roles. At least fifty of the service names are women who served in various capacities in different branches of military service. The listing was the work of a team of volunteer women associated with the Jewish Federation for Social Service, a forerunner of the Buffalo Jewish Federation. Working in temporary facilities at 588 Munroe, the Army and Navy Committee of the Bureau of War Records was an initiative that helped compile records of war service for posterity. Published in September 1945, just a few months after the conclusion of the war it remains the most comprehensive listing of Jewish WWII service, even as the compilers acknowledge there were likely to be omissions.

As we observe Veterans Day this month, the booklet and the names within its pages, reminds us of the breadth of service that came from across Jewish Buffalo. **You can find this booklet in the Buffalo Jewish Federation extended profile section under the agencies tab on the Jewish Buffalo History Center website at jewishbuffalohistory.org/agencies/buffalo-jewish-federation/.**

Another individual who kept the memory of earlier military service alive and in the forefront of memory within her own times was Sadie Strauss Rayner Altman. A community campaigner across a range of fields, her contributions to broader Buffalo civic life as well as Jewish communal life were significant. Although born to wealth, consolidated through marriage to a scion of the Buffalo Jewish community, Altman used her position to aid others and support civic minded efforts in her adopted city. Originally born in Baltimore in 1860 to Henry and Wilhelmina Strauss, Sadie was educated as a teen in Germany. Widowed just two years after her marriage to George W. Rayner and with their young daughter, she met Henry Altman in Europe. They married a few years later and created a blended family adding two more children to their extended family.

Sadie Altman began her social service work in Buffalo in areas that were considered an extension of the domestic realm in relief projects that supported children, women and families. Her first efforts were through the Sisterhood of Zion and Daughters of the Star, both Temple Beth Zion initiatives to create and support a settlement style house of the East Side of Buffalo for incoming Jewish immigrants. This home met several needs. It provided access to English lessons and helped women learn skills they could apply to the working world. It also provided educational activities for children that countered the



Front Cover, Jewish Federation of Social Service, Honor Roll of Servicemen and Servicewomen, 1945, Courtesy of the Cofeld Judaic Museum, TBZ, Buffalo, NY.

work of the Christian missionaries who offered similar free services but with an overarching purpose of conversion.

Through her work at Zion House, she became involved with other Buffalo Jewish women involved in the Buffalo Charity Organization Society. She became president of the Federation of Women's Clubs, and supported the Newsboys' and Bootblacks' Home. This organization was created to aid orphaned and abandoned boys who were selling newspapers and shining shoes to survive on the streets. It later developed into the Buffalo Children's Aid Society, and eventually Child and Family Services of Buffalo.

Notably, it was aid to serviceman and service women of WWI that focused her civic activities in the early twentieth century. She served on the draft board, the Red Cross, and Liberty Loan campaigns.



Sadie Altman. Courtesy of the Buffalo History Museum, C92-02, IV G, Box 1, Folder 2, Altman, Sadie

With a women's group, she supported enlisted men at Fort Porter when it was reactivated in 1917, as well as at the end of the war when it became U.S. General Hospital 4 for returning wounded. After WWI, she worked on a memorial committee of the American Legion. She represented local groups at the unveiling of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery and supported the compilation of a history of Buffalo and Erie County in World War I that can be read online.

To discover further names on the Honor Roll and to read more about Sadie Altman, visit the the Jewish Buffalo History Center website at: jewishbuffalohistory.org.

Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D., is the coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo History Center website.

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Rus Devorah (Darcy) Wallen - 917-584-0440 • TELLFund@gmail.com

Join us for any or all of these fun activities.
The day is broken into three parts.
Come back and forth, join us for one activity or just the Finale!

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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COMMUNITY

A Woman's Work Of Heart & Soul #2!

After two plus years, The TELL Fund is hosting an in-person day of musical inspiration and entertainment for women of all ages and faiths on Sunday, November 27 at the JCC's Benderson Building. A *Woman's Work of Heart and Soul #2* will include drumming circles, sing-alongs, and jam sessions, culminating with the illustrious Karen Drucker – remotely from San Francisco – sharing her fascinating and inspiring songs and stories. Our grand finale will feature our local “Heart & Soul Singers.”



Rus Devorah Wallen

To volunteer or to join the “Heart & Soul Singers” Finale please fill out this short questionnaire bit.ly/heartsoul2. No musical training is necessary for any part of the program. With an \$18.00 admission, you are able to come in and out all day as you please. Thanks to **Nechoma Okunov** and BK Gourmet, kosher, healthy refreshments will be available during our breaks.

Meet some of our performers:

MIRELE ROSENBERGER

Musical Director - Brooklyn

Mirele, with a BS in Music from Hunter College, is a pianist, composer and arranger, mother, and grandmother. A musician par excellence, her virtuosity and broad repertoire make her extremely versatile. Classically trained, she is comfortable with jazz, classical, pop, rock, and other genres.

CAROLYN ZIMMERMAN

Drum4Health - Buffalo

Carolyn founder of “Drum4Health” in Buffalo is a drummer, educator, and healer. She conducts drumming circles to build community, self-esteem, creativity, and a sense of wellbeing. With her instruments, she will facilitate our drumming circle as well as be our stage drummer! <http://www.drum4health.net>

KOHAHA HOWARD

Emerging Vibrant Woman Practice - Buffalo

Kohava is a Certified Jungian Life Coach and holistic practitioner of various healing arts. She has been a holistic nurse for 37 years and blends her therapeutic modalities and expertise to help women grow and evolve to attain their highest potential with their unique inner strengths. She will introduce us to “NOGA® Dance.” <https://emergingvibrantwoman.com>

CHAVI RAPPAPORT

Soloist/Singer - Toronto, Ontario

Music has always been a deep soul experience for Chavi who has had a passion for singing since early childhood and loves inspiring others through music, the “language of the soul.” An educator for many years, she currently performs professionally and recently launched her brand, “Ashira by Chavi™,” along with her first single to be released soon: ashirabychavi@gmail.com

KAREN DRUCKER

Performer and Entertainer - San Francisco

Karen's message is all about healing and love – whether singing one of her positive messages or sharing funny, inspiring, and heart opening stories. Karen's hundreds of songs are used around the world to help people heal and deal with illness, loss, and other challenges. She makes a difference by using her music to open hearts by sharing a message of hope, acceptance, and love. www.KarenDrucker.com.

For more information, or to get involved, please contact Rus Devorah Wallen 917-584-0440 or Cynthia Oppenheimer 716-308-4843. And please consider supporting the TELL Fund's cultural and educational events for the Jewish community by donating here <https://bit.ly/TELLHEARTSOUL2>.

A Season for Gratitude & Reflection

BY: SIERRA S. JOHNSTON, CVA

Fall in WNY is well underway and I couldn't be happier! This is my favorite time of year because it gives us permission to slow down and express our gratitude. From the Autumnal Equinox and second harvest to Sukkot to Thanksgiving, people all over the world are turning inward to focus on their families and friends; the seeds they've sown (both literally and figuratively), and all of the abundance they have in this life that many of us take for granted throughout the rest of the year.

As I reflect on the past year, I find myself feeling extremely grateful for the JFS community of volunteers and supporters. It's been another challenging year to say the least-- from the war in Ukraine and local tragedies to the expansion of our volunteer program into Niagara Falls and implementation of our Refugee Sponsorship programming. In the midst of crisis, it can be difficult to see the light, but as I sit today and reflect on the past year, it is illuminated by each challenge as each were met with beacons of light in the form of community members who were ready to show up and take action to ease the pain of others. As an example, countless of you have showed up to our info sessions of Ukrainian sponsorship and signed up to volunteer as part of a Circle of Care for a refugee family.

And, when the tragic TOPS shooting took place in May, I was overwhelmed by the amount of JFS volunteers who reached out asking how and where they could help. Licensed mental health counselors showed up to volunteer their skills with those affected and I watched the JFS volunteer force re-direct themselves to hand out food on Buffalo's East Side. As we've inched our way into Niagara Falls this year, we've been met with endless support from community members at Naz716, Heart, Love & Soul, and First Presbyterian Church who are ready and willing to start collecting household items and setting up homes for refugees. So many of our friends and community partners, including Temple Beth Zion and the Holocaust Resource Center, have reached out to support our Refugee Sponsorship efforts to be paired



Sierra S. Johnston

long-term with a refugee family, helping them settle into their new home. This is only a small portion of my gratitude list for this year!

One thing that makes working with volunteers so special to me is watching the ways in which they become fulfilled by giving back. Often times, when I thank a volunteer for their time, I am met with "No, thank YOU." People volunteer for a multitude of reasons, but the most common thing I hear is that people help because at one point in their life, someone helped them, and now that they have the capacity to help someone else. As we continue to ring in the darker months of the year, let us continue to reach inside ourselves and reflect on all that we've received, and let this inspire us to be moved to give back in the coming year, in all the ways we feel called to. In the meantime, enjoy this season and know that you are all on our Gratitude list at JFS this year!

Sierra S. Johnston is Jewish Family Services Manager of Volunteer Services and a Certified Volunteer Administrator.



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Linda Barat Joins FJP Team

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies (FJP) recently welcomed Linda Barat to its professional development team as *LIFE & LEGACY® @ Buffalo* Coordinator/Client Relations Manager. Linda returned to Buffalo from the New York City area after working and volunteering for numerous Jewish non-profit organizations and raising her family there. Linda quickly dove into volunteering in the community, working with Kosher Meals on Wheels, Jewish Family Services of Western New York, Shea's Performing Arts Center and serving on the board of Kehillat Ohr Zion (KOT).

"I'm so glad to be back home and excited about the opportunity to serve the Buffalo Jewish community, especially at the Foundation," Linda remarked. In her new Foundation role, Linda is the lead contact and liaison between FJP, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and our local participating agencies and organizations. In addition,



Linda Barat

she is responsible for developing client awareness, engagement strategies, and managing individual relationships with current and prospective clients in Jewish Buffalo.

You can contact Linda at linda@jewishphilanthropies.org or 716-204-2259.



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WNY Jews Score Big in Intl. Maccabiah

This past summer, the World Maccabiah Games were held in Israel, delayed by one year because of Covid. Our Western New York Jewish community was represented by Simon Honig (Rugby), Sam Iorio (Men's Basketball), Laurel Oliver (Masters Tennis), and Lauren Levy (Swimming). Lauren's parents Cindy and Dr. Elad Levy co-chaired the US Maccabi team, as well. Simon won a Bronze medal, and Sam and Lauren both won Gold medals. The following two stories are about Simon Honig's and Sam Iorio's experiences during this year's Games. Mazel Tov to all the Western New York Maccabiah athletes. You make us very proud!

Spotlight: Simon Honig

BY ELI HONIG

Simon Honig, a member of the Buffalo Rugby Club and the University of Buffalo School of Law Class of 2023, represented the WNY community at the 2021/2022 Maccabi World Games held this past July in Israel. This is the world's largest Jewish athletic competition held every four years, with participation by over 10,000 athletes, representing more than 75 countries and 40 sports. Maccabi USA is comprised of athletes with Jewish heritage that compete in the World Maccabiah Games, and through their participation foster Jewish identity, strengthen Jewish bonds, and create a heightened awareness of Israel.

Simon, an avid athlete since a young age, is

the youngest child of me and my wife, Miriam Treger Honig. We live in Williamsville. He started playing rugby at SUNY Geneseo when he was recruited by a good friend, who just happened to be the rugby team captain. A year or so later, another friend made Simon aware of the Maccabi USA, and the magic began.

While rugby as a sport is not always the most popular or easily understood, it has its origins dating back to about the mid 1800's at Rugby School in Rugby, Warwickshire, England. Rugby

has been characterized as a "gentlemen's sport" based on the highly disciplined play form and rules, and is ranked as the world's 9th most popular sport, just ahead of American football.



Simon Honig & Joe Goldbloom in Israel.

Hard work and a newfound passion for the sport has driven Simon to heightened levels of competition, spring boarding him after college to the Buffalo Rugby Club, the Niagara Rugby Club (Niagara Falls, Canada), then finding himself being named on the 2019 Toronto Arrows Development A Squad, playing in the Eastern Collegiate All-Americans competition held in New York. Simon most often plays the Fly-half position and is the primary kicker on the team.

Simon's inspiration to keep advancing himself comes from his deep passion of the game, his competitive drive, and his love of Judaism. Simon's Maccabi USA road began with multiple yearly trainings and gatherings across the US since 2016. Simon played in tournaments in Las Vegas, Nevada and over the last couple years delayed by COVID, team tryouts became increasingly competitive. While never forgetting his introduction to rugby in college, Simon returned the favor by contacting his longtime friend and college Rugby team captain Joe Goldbloom, who is from Westchester and resides in Denver, and urged him to try out for the Maccabi USA Men's Rugby team by joining Simon in an open selection combine in Houston, Texas in September 2021. This was an opportunity to train, play games, and a chance to bond with Jewish competitors from all over the US.

Maccabi USA Men's Rugby Team is led by Coach Taylor Howden, who just finished the MLR (Major League Rugby) season as a coach with New Orleans Gold. Howden is from Auckland NZ and has had a vast and impressive playing career that includes five years of professional rugby in the USA. At the close of the Houston combine, Simon was among the first group of eight named to the 2021 team.

The 2021 games were held in Israel in July 14th-25th, 2022 (delayed a year by COVID). The US Delegation (1400 American Jewish athletes) visited many parts of the country, including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Yad Vashem. Maccabi USA also includes a community service component to the Maccabiah Games as the group participated in activities at a senior center.



Simon on the rugby field.

The US Men's Team had fierce competition from Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, and Israeli Teams, and managed to bring home the Bronze Medal in the Rugby 7's competition. When asked about the experience and opportunity of the Maccabiah games, Simon responded: "It was an experience of a lifetime. I left for Israel knowing maybe 60% of the squad and within a week of being there I knew I had joined a larger family and had brothers for life. Being able to use the first week to travel the country and connect with my heritage was awesome. The rugby itself was grueling as expected but pushed me harder than I've ever been pushed before. The complete experience was particularly special to have the support

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of my family, including my parents, brother, sister, and soon to be sister-in-law in Israel supporting me at the games, as well as Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld and Michele Hope at the opening ceremonies, who watched me grow up, as well as guided me through my Bar Mitzvah years at Temple Beth Zion. It's a trip I will never forget."

This year's opening ceremonies for the "Jewish Olympics" were held in Jerusalem's 35,000 seat Teddy Stadium, complete with appearances from US President Joe Biden, Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and Prime Minister Yair Lapid, as well as performances by Israel's biggest stars. Plenty of *ruach* (spirit) was in the air, including light displays, fireworks, and music celebrated the more than 10,000 athletes and staff from 70 countries as they marched into the stadium, proudly representing their home countries and cities, but most of all it was the sense of Jewish pride, identity, and unity of the Jewish people that captivated the stadium as you could feel the electric energy in the air, and the cheering crowds in the packed stadium.

Eli Honig is the President of Data-Serv Technologies, LLC and the proud father of Simon, Lucas and Galen. He is married to miriam treger.

Spotlight: Sam Iorio

BY LORNE OPLER

What do you get when you cross a star athlete with a young Jew dedicated to making a difference? You get big talent on the basketball court and a big heart in the Jewish community. In other words, you get a *mensch* like Sam Iorio.

Now in his second season playing basketball with the Niagara University Purple Eagles, Sam's passion for the brown ball is matched by his passion for his faith, made all the more impressive because Judaism was not part of Sam's first few years of life in his hometown of Allentown, PA. Indeed, Sam's exploration of and ultimate identification with his faith, can be seen as a microcosm for Judaism itself. The sages remind us in the book of *Pirkei Avot* (*Ethics of Our Fathers*), "Do not separate yourself from the community." And that is exactly how Sam lives his life – proudly identifying as a Jew both on and off the court.

But to fully grasp Sam's remarkable story and his own personal odyssey of Jewish self-discovery and self-pride, for this we have to thank his mom, Donna Iorio, whose own yearning for an authentic expression of her spiritual needs led her to explore Judaism and ultimately to conversion both for herself and Sam.

"I grew up Catholic, but always felt I was different. I was curious about things and always asked a lot of questions about faith as I grew up," she says. Which is what she ultimately found so comforting, so real and personally relatable about Judaism. "In discovering my Jewish faith, I learned I could ask questions, about anything. I didn't have to do things by rote or just accept things without questioning."

It's that sense of curiosity that she clearly passed down to Sam, who increasingly began to embrace his mom's pathway of Jewish self-discovery as he matured.



Sam Iorio in Israel.

"I was converted (to Judaism) at the age of seven, so I was too young to really know what that was all about," Sam states. "As I got older, it was confusing to me. I used to ask myself, 'Why am I Jewish? What's going on here?' I had a Bar Mitzvah but in middle school I avoided publicizing my Jewish identity at all costs, as I was not around a lot of Jewish kids."

It was not until Sam began going to a Jewish sleepover summer camp, where he began to see his Jewish identity in a different light. "I was with Jewish kids who embraced their Judaism. That's when I started accepting my faith," Sam acknowledged. And that's what planted the seeds for his emerging Jewish pride.

Not surprisingly, it involved basketball. Accepting an invitation to play for Team USA in the 2019 Maccabi Europe Games, Sam's participation proved much more than just an opportunity to showcase his talent on the hardwood; much more than just the honor of being on a gold medal winning team. It exposed Sam, for the first time, to high caliber athletic teams made up entirely of fellow Jews. Never before had Sam been part of, let alone heard of, such a reality. The experience imbued Sam with an even greater sense of Jewish pride which

only a few years earlier, he tried to hide.

Connections are everything; in work, in sports, in life. And connections are what next led Sam to a destination that not only took his level of play to new heights, but his devotion to our faith as well. What began in Maccabi Europe as a singular Jewish sporting experience for Sam, culminated in his appearance in the 2022 World Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he and his teammates repeated their European triumph by capturing the gold medal in basketball. But the thrill of another gold medal was equally matched by the thrill Sam felt for being in the Jewish homeland.

"It was special and humbling. I had a lot to be thankful for," he reflected on his experience in Israel. "Playing on an all Jewish team, you're representing the Jewish people. It was an extra weight I felt on my shoulders." A weight that Sam is proud to carry.

The Israel experience augmented Sam's equal devotion to Judaism and basketball, helping him crystallize how he plans to integrate both his passions. "Judaism for me is about being a good person and leading by example," he says. "I would like to be a role model for Jewish kids. As a high-level

Jewish athlete with professional basketball as my goal, I want to show Jewish kids that they can do both and be both."



Sam playing basketball for Niagara University.

The Torah, in the Book of Leviticus (19:18) obligates us with the words "Ve-a-havta le-rey-echa ka-mo-cha." We know this as "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself." With Sam's goal of making a difference in the world, Sam is living and practicing the essence of Judaism one jump shot, one dribble, one slam dunk at a time.

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

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Jewish Buffalo Renews Pledge to “Remember” with Restoration of Monument to Holocaust Victims

BY EZRA N. RICH

Fifty years after its sacred dedication, the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation initiated the restoration of the communal Holocaust monument at the Old B'rith Shalom Cemetery at Pine Ridge Heritage Boulevard in Cheektowaga. The project was led by dedicated *pro bono* work by the Leon Komm & Son Monument Company, a four-generation institution serving the Buffalo community for nearly 90 years. The work was completed in time for the annual memorial service at the monument on Oct. 2.

The sacred site was designated in 1946 and was dedicated in 1972 with a marble-arched monument. The original project was led by Alexander Bialys, a Holocaust Survivor who came to Buffalo in 1946, bringing with him remnants from the Holocaust that were interred at the cemetery.

The dedication was held Sept. 17, 1972, during the High Holiday season's traditional *Kever Avot V'Imahot* (visiting the graves of loved ones). Rabbi Herman Horowitz of Temple Beth El, Rabbi Robert Bronstein of Temple Shaarey Zedek, and Rabbi Leonard M. Buchen of Cong. Ahavas

Achim-Lubavitz delivered remarks, and Cantor Bernard Savitz of Shaarey Zedek led the memorial prayers.

“We gather more for the living than for the dead,” Rabbi Horowitz said that day, according to the Buffalo Jewish History Center archive. “A true monument exists to develop a sense of remembrance in the new generation so the goal of obliteration, sought by the murderers of the past, will not be accomplished.”

The Holocaust monument is located within one of nine Jewish cemeteries owned and maintained by the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation. This nonprofit



entity is managed by Deborah Pivarsi, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Shared Services at Buffalo Jewish Federation in collaboration with President Charlotte E. Gendler, herself an accomplished Federation executive, now retired.

According to Michael J. Komm, Co-Owner of Leon Komm & Son, the Holocaust memorial had been compromised in recent years due to adjacent tree roots that had been interfering with the footing. Upon their services being requested, his company carefully took apart the five-piece monument and took it to their studio for cleaning and they replaced the foundation. Their small footprint/high-capacity crane was needed to reassemble the aged monument without damaging nearby monuments, given the age and close spacing of plots at the cemetery.

“The Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation deeply acknowledges the extensive work generously donated by Leon and Michael Komm and Breton Brothers in rehabbing the Holocaust Memorial site,” said Charlotte Gendler. “The Memorial itself was gently disassembled to allow

for a new foundation to be poured which will steady the Memorial for years to come. New landscaping may be added next Spring. This Memorial site is precious to our community as a remembrance of an evil period in our history.”

“It’s a privilege to be able to offer our studio’s services to such a meaningful cause,” Mr. Komm said, reflecting on the work. “Thank you for the opportunity to give back to Jewish Buffalo.” The monument is an important community asset, one that especially resonates with the Holocaust Resource Center.

“In our Jewish tradition, it is customary to visit the graves of loved ones between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. However, there are no individual graves for those we lost in the Shoah, so our restored Memorial provides a sacred space to mourn the memories of those lost,” said Wendy Weisbrot, Chairwoman of the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) and herself a second-generation Holocaust Survivor. “HRC is grateful to Michael Komm and the Buffalo Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation for their support in sustaining our historic monument that is grounded in traditions like *Kever V'Imahot* and is a source of peace for our Survivors and their descendants.”

Ezra N. Rich, Marketing Communications Manager at Uniland Development Company, proudly serves on the boards of Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Tzedek. He recently was a group leader on Federation's Buffalo Israel Experience II trip and will be honored this month by Buffalo Business First as a 40 Under 40 honoree.



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Expanded Ohel Reopens November 6

On a wintry morning in January of 2020, a small group met at the Jewish Community Center and discussed the possibilities of enlarging the existing Ohel, the final resting place of Rabbi Eliyahu Yosef (Joseph) Rabinowitz in a cemetery on Pine Ridge Heritage Boulevard. There would be hurdles to overcome: the limited space available for an addition; raising the funds for the renovations; abiding by *halacha* and honoring proper traditions, and keeping visitors at bay during construction.

The Jewish Federation Cemetery Board worked via Zoom during the Covid crisis to move the project along, working with architect's drawings, bids, and construction timetables – all presented virtually – to accomplish the restoration.

After almost three years of planning and construction, the Ohel will re-open formally on Sunday November 6th, with a small ceremony at noon, in time for the *Yahrtzeit* of the Rebbe, which occurs this year Monday, November 7th. Within our own Buffalo Jewish community, it is important to celebrate the diversity and breadth amongst ourselves. Please join us!



Poet Paul Nemser featured at CSS Reading Series

BY GUNILLA KESTER

On November 17, from 7-9 p.m., The Buffalo Corner Reading Series welcomes brilliant Jewish American poet Paul Nemser together with Buffalo's own Ansie Baird.

Nemser's third book of poetry, *A Thousand Curves*, recently won the Editor's Choice Award from Red Mountain Press. It is a collection from a lifetime of writing poems. He grew up in Portland, Oregon where he fell in love with poetry while reading in the storage room in back of his family's tool store. His book *Taurus* (2013) won the New American Poetry Prize. A chapbook, *Tales of the Tetragrammaton*, appeared from Mayapple Press in 2014. His poems appear widely in magazines. He lives with his wife Rebecca in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Harborside, Maine.

He describes his Jewish upbringing as a mixture of family, food, language, culture, and music. "I was raised in a Jewish family in Portland, Oregon. My parents worked in my Russian grandparents' tool store, and we lived near each other. My grandparents often took care



Paul Nemser

of me. My grandmother made Jewish food for us every week, and we often ate together. My grandparents told me stories about Jewish life in Russia (now Ukraine)—my grandmother in a *shtetl*, Chernobyl, and my grandfather in a larger city, Ekaterinaslav. They spoke Yiddish to each other and to my parents. I remember riding on my grandfather's wide shoulders as he danced around the *shul* on Simchat Torah. The holiday prayers lodged deep in me; the words and music still stir me."

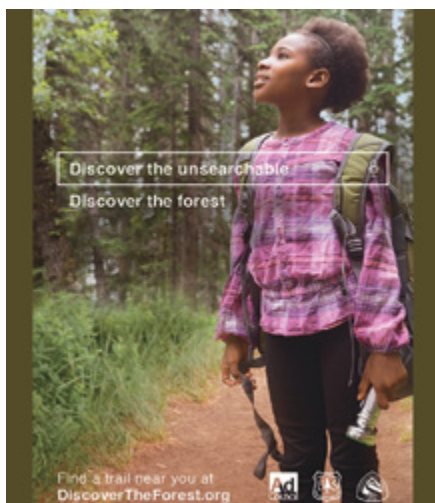
I hope you will join me, and co-host Irene Sipos for a spectacular evening at The Buffalo Corner. **To join the event, please go to www.Shirshalombuffalo.org or contact me at Gunilla@thekesters.net.**

REMEMBRANCE

by
Rebecca Cale Camhi

I stand outside the arched gate
feeling cold as the stone walls on either side,
still unsure if I wish to enter,
uncertain what nightmares still lurk within.
A breeze rustles the leaves of the trees on this side
— there will be no trees on the other side —
a whispered warning?
the long silent cries for mercy?
the desperate screams muffled by thick cinderblock
drowned forever by the deadly hiss snaking through pipes overhead?
This compound, now abandoned, was once populated
by evil intent too incomprehensible for words:
depravity
inhumanity
insanity
all clearly insufficient to describe the misery, the horror
carried out on a daily routine with total precision
like the gears of a giant machine
A shiver worms its way up my spine
as I lift my gaze to the iron lettering arcing above —
ARBEIT MACHT FREI.
Like those before me, I enter one reluctant step at a time
and gaze at the phantom remains of a camp
once teeming with souls
bereft of hope
cowering from guards urging them on at gunpoint,
voices shouting, "*SCHNELL! SCHNELL!*",
amid dogs straining at their leashes
snarling
growling
lunging
with teeth bared, mouths foaming.
Railroad tracks run through the camp
where trains groaned to a stop,

Rebecca Cale Camhi is a retired librarian with a B.A. in English from Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, and a LMS from U.B. Over the past two decades, she has had two novels published (Amazon) and several poems published, as well as a chapbook of poetry.



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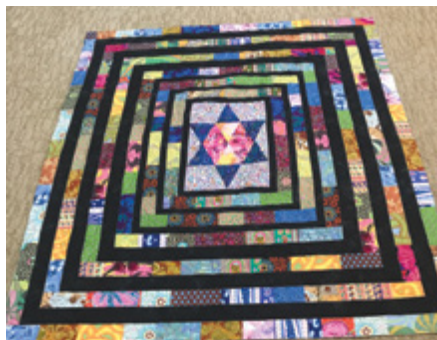
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Stitching Together New Memories at Congregation Shir Shalom

A temple's chuppah can get a lot of use over the years, and eventually it just doesn't look as nice as we need it to be. When Congregation Shir Shalom (CSS) asked longtime member and award-winning quilter Judi Stern if she'd consider making a new chuppah for the Temple, she immediately said yes. After three months of work, she presented CSS with her handiwork which has now been used in numerous weddings.

"It gives me a lot of joy to know these couples are having a wonderful experience under this chuppah," reflects Judi. "And I hope when they look up and see all the colors and decorations, it makes their wedding day even more memorable."

Judi previously made chuppahs for her daughter's and son's weddings. She took up quilting more than 20 years ago when she and her husband Mont lived in West Virginia. It started as a hobby but quickly turned into a passion.



After donating the chuppah to CSS, Judi began thinking what else she could do, and offered to make a quilt for the Women of Shir Shalom to raffle. Several of Judi's previous quilts have been appraised at \$1,500 or more so this will be a great boost to Shir Shalom's fundraising.

"We're so grateful for Judi's contributions to Congregation Shir Shalom," says Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein. "Standing under her chuppah makes performing wedding ceremonies even more special for me."

Yiddish-Themed Shabbaton at Congregation Beth Abraham

Yiddish musician and scholar Yosl Kurland from Colrain, Massachusetts, will be in Buffalo for a weekend of song and prayer with a distinctively Eastern European flavor, November 18-19. The program is sponsored by Congregation Beth Abraham as part of its 100-year anniversary celebration.

Drawing from a vast repertoire of Yiddish poetry, folk, klezmer and liturgical music (including his own compositions), Yosl, with wife Peggy Davis on flute and Aaron Bousel on accordion, will join Cantor Irwin Gelman in leading Shabbat evening services, Friday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Shabbat morning services Saturday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. There will be a kiddush/dessert oneg after services on the 18th and a full kiddush/luncheon after services on the 19th, each followed by a short program of Yiddish music.

Everyone in the Jewish community is invited to join us as we celebrate



our Yiddish heritage at "the little shul on Elmwood" (1073 Elmwood Ave). **For further details on the program and to hear some of Yosl's music, please visit the CBA website at congregationbethabraham.net. To RSVP (required to attend in person), please contact the synagogue at info@congregationbethabraham.net.**

The Sherri and Aubrey Abelson Memorial Fund at CSS

BY SHEILA BERNARD TUCKER

Recently, Congregation Shir Shalom (CSS) Executive Director Joanne Marquisee asked if I would speak with Marjorie and Gary Abelson and share the remarkable history of The Sherri and Aubrey Abelson Memorial Fund with the Buffalo community. I was pleased to do so, and discovered that the Abelsons are founders and major donors of a memorial fund, which is an endowment fund at CSS which has grown out of real-life events that deeply touched the family and encouraged them to find a way to memorialize their loved ones.

This Memorial Fund was created by Gary and Marjorie, in loving memory of their daughter, Sherri, and granddaughter, Aubrey, both tragically taken from our

world at very young ages. The story of the fund was a way for the Abelsons to cope with their tragic losses.

The Memorial Fund was originally



Marjorie and Gary Abelson

named for their talented and beautiful daughter, Sherri, a beautiful, intelligent young woman whose artwork was so

engaging, and whose tragic death at age 27 inspired them to create a memorial fund in her name. The Sherri Abelson Memorial Fund was initially designed to provide Religious School opportunities for children whose families are in financial need, a cause dear to their hearts.

But tragedy struck again when the Abelson's infant granddaughter, Aubrey, born severely premature, sadly only survived three hours. Aubrey's name was then added, and thus the fund was renamed The Sherri and Aubrey Abelson Memorial Fund. As the Abelsons were members of Beth Am for twenty years, their dedication to Congregation Shir Shalom continued and they brought their memorial fund to Shir Shalom, where it remains active today.

After learning the history of the Sherri and Aubrey Abelson Memorial Fund, I am once again reminded that by engaging in acts of Tzedakah, acts of loving kindness, we heal ourselves through helping others. I could not wait to meet the Abelsons and what a better place than our beautiful Friday Night Shabbat Services recently. Our hug said it all. If you would like to contribute to this important educational fund, please contact The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies

Sheila Bernhard Tucker is a member of Congregation Shir Shalom.



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Temple Beth Tzedek Honors Leaders and Embraces Fall Opportunities

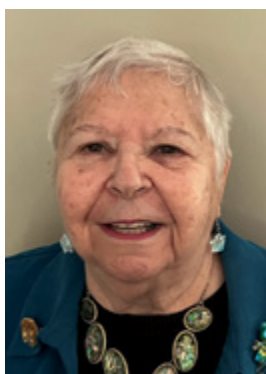


Temple Beth Tzedek enjoyed celebrating two of its most distinguished leaders at Simchat Torah services on Oct. 18.

Cantor Mark Spindler was our *Chatan Torah* (Groom of the Torah). A native of Scranton, PA, Cantor Spindler attended Yeshiva University and is a graduate of the Cantors' Institute. Cantor Spindler served two New Jersey congregations before coming to Temple Shaarey Zedek, in 1985. In addition to leading the congregation both in prayer and as Torah reader, he has been a dedicated teacher to b'nai mitzvah students and adult learners, and an active member of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Cantor Spindler

and his wife, Leona, have a daughter and four grandchildren.

Iris (Rusty) Zackheim was our *Kallah B'reishit* (Bride of Genesis). A native of Staten Island, N.Y., Rusty came to Buffalo to attend Buffalo State College and later received her Master's from the University at Buffalo. She taught in North Tonawanda schools for 36 years. Rusty has been president of Sisterhood/Women's Network of Temple Shaarey Zedek and of the International Northeast Region of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Among Rusty's community interests have been the Girl Scout Council and the Jewish Liberal Arts Club. She and her husband, Joseph, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this summer, have two children and three granddaughters.



Women's Network Brunch: Women's Network will meet on Sunday, November 6 at 10am-12pm for a brunch at TBT featuring a panel on the topic of "What's In and What's Out in the 716." RSVP to Susan Recoon at srecoon@roadrunner.com.

Tot Shabbat: Young families are welcome to join for Tot Shabbats Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 at 10:30am.

Mishpacha (Family): As a new supplement to Community Religious School's monthly Ganeinu preschool program, families with children aged 2-5 and their caregivers are invited to join a Sunday morning program on Nov. 6 at 9:30 am. Sessions are led by Cantorial Intern and Youth Educator, Zahava Fried. Each session is \$18 per child. **To RSVP and for more information, email youthed@btzbuffalo.org.**

Tinok Time: Join other little ones, ages 6 month-4 years old, on Friday, Nov. 11 at 10:15am at TBT for play time, singing, crafts, games and stories with a Jewish twist. **To RSVP and for more information, email youthed@btzbuffalo.org.**



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1» **Vote in the November 8 general election.** The JCRC has resources on its website to help you do just that. *Go to buffalojewishfederation.org/vote to learn more today*, while you still have time to do so, because every vote matters! Early voting is October 29-November 6, and the polls are open Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

2» **Go see the Jewish Repertory Theatre's (JRT's) production of Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* through November 20 at the JRT at the JCC Benderson Building** (dates, times and cost at jewishrepertorytheatre.org). Part of this event includes a discussion of Potok's book November 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the JCC with Einav Symons and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein leading the discussion, and also a free screening of the film November 14 at 7:00 p.m. *Registration at jcbbuffalo.org and click on JRT or Cultural Events. Or call 716-688-4033.*

3» **Commemorate Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. hearing history professor Michael Bryant** discuss that singular event in Jewish history with the Holocaust Resource Center and others at Daemen College's Wick Center. *RSVP to bit.ly/brokenglasshrc.*

4» **Thanksgiving is November 24 this year.** Help those who have just come to this country, as well as others who are suffering from poverty or food insecurity by *donating to Jewish Family Services of WNY at JFSwny.org or by calling 716-886-1914.*

5» **The TELL Fund of Buffalo is holding its 2nd Woman's Work of Heart & Soul Sunday, November 27 from 12:00-9:00 p.m. at the JCC Benderson Building.** Rus Devorah (Darcy) Wallen invites you to this 3-part event of music, healing and soul. Come all day, or for just a few hours. *Contact Rus Devorah at TELLFund@gmail.com, or 917-584-0440. Join the fun at bit.ly/heartsoul2.*

Where in **JB FLO**



Where is this found exactly in Jewish Buffalo?

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

Email your answers to ellen@buffalojewishfederation.org.

From September and October issues, Cheryl Tobias identified the stone with Wolf Blitzer's name that is located on Grand Island at the Western New York Welcome Center on the sidewalk outside.



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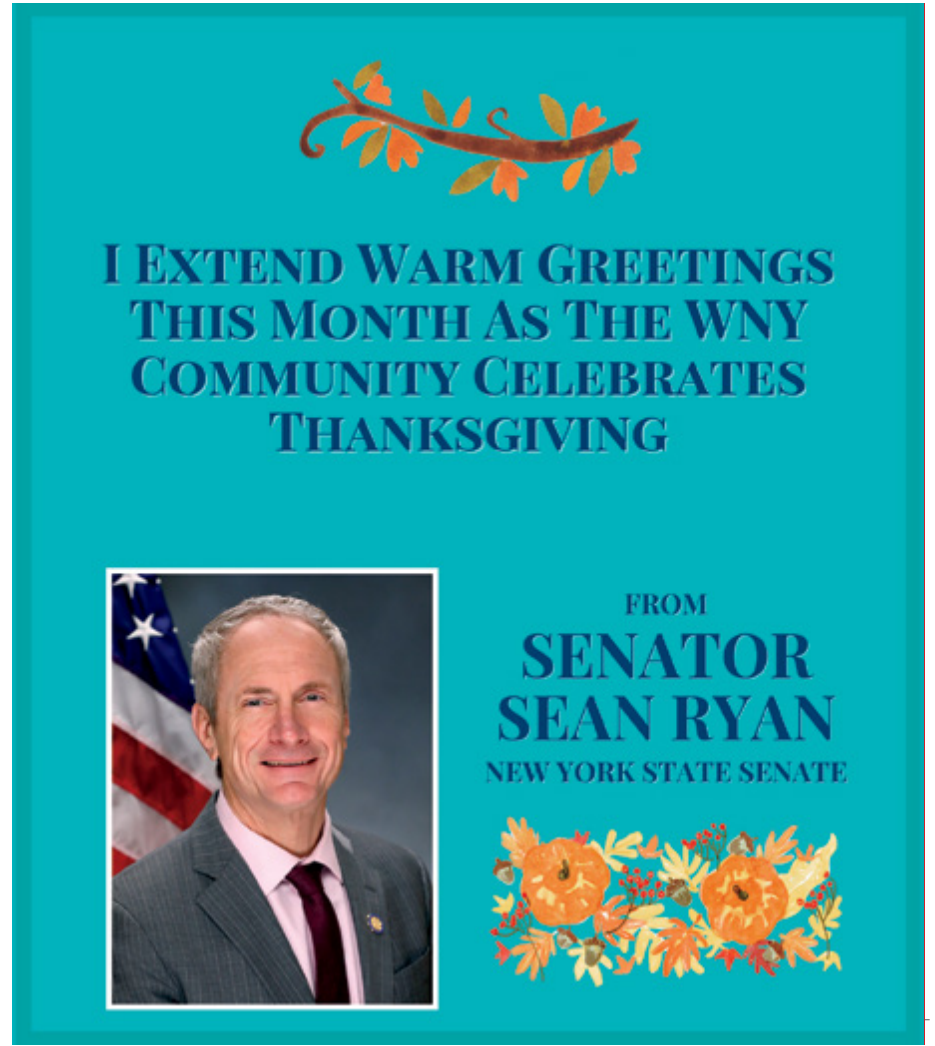
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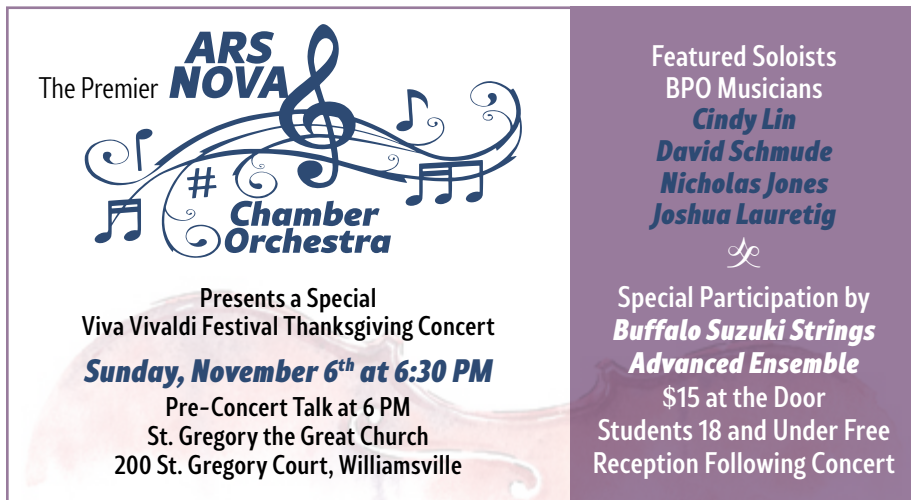
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Reverse Tashlich 5783/2022

On Sunday, October 2, 36 community members gathered at Unity Island Park in Buffalo for Jewish Buffalo's Second Annual Reverse Tashlich, a global annual waterway clean-up event organized by Tampa-based Repair the Sea. Spearheaded by Buffalo Jewish Federation and co-sponsored by Hillel of Buffalo, the JCC and Temple Beth Zion, volunteers collected nearly 40 bags of garbage and recyclables. Save the date for next year's event to take place on Sunday, September 24, 2023!



Kever Avot V'Imahot 5783

On Sunday October 2nd, the community gathered at B'rith Shalom Cemetery to continue the tradition of visiting the graves of loved ones between the holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Organized by the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), the service, known as *Kever Avot V'Imahot* was led by Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum of Temple Beth Tzedek at the community's Holocaust Memorial in the back of the cemetery. Names of the deceased were read by second generation descendants Iris Danzinger and Jeff Blum and third generation descendant Edward Hilfstein.

Wendy Weisbrot, Chair of the HRC, spoke of her memories of attending the memorial service annually with her parents and brother and how grateful she is that the tradition has continued each year. The service ended with everyone placing a stone on the monument. 2nd generation descendant Carol Schmeidler left a stone on the monument from a recent trip to Theresienstadt concentration camp which concluded an emotional service.

HRC is grateful to Charlotte Gendler and Debbie Pivarsi of the Buffalo Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation and Michael Komm, of Leon Komm and Son Monument Company, who generously donated time and materials this summer to repair the aging monument.



What's Happening at CRS

BY EINAV SYMONS

The Community Religious School excitedly opened the door for its second year on September 11 when students were ushered into the building by a canopy of *Talitot*, held by their parents. This year, the Community Religious School more than doubled the number of projected unaffiliated students!

The inclusive and welcoming school policy and program objectives are off to an amazing start. Our September activities included High Holiday program, Zoom Parent Orientation and apple picking, just in time for Rosh Hashanah!



Our 1-on-1 Hebrew tutors for more than 120 children have been meeting and teaching our students remotely. It is wonderful to see parents join their children at Zoom meetings to learn Hebrew alongside their children, thus setting an example, reinforcing skills, and engaging in Jewish learning as a family. This endeavor is made possible by resources from community donors and grants from Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and the Buffalo Jewish Federation.



Tikkun Olam is an important component throughout the school. Better Together has been an important part of the middle School curriculum. In this program, students participate in various learning and inter-generational activities with seniors. The grades 5, 6 and 7 students wrote letters to the seniors, made Sukkah decorations and are going together to see the play *The Chosen* at the JRT. A special in-person brunch for the seniors and teens will take place on November 13.



The *Madrachim*, 26 8th-12th grade students are setting a wonderful example to the younger children. We are also excited that six of them are participating in advanced Jewish studies courses through Brandeis University Better 2 Learn Program and will be travelling to Boston for a 4-day study intensive in December. It is truly an honor to be a part of this amazing and successful community collaboration!

Einav Symons is Director of the Community Religious School.


High Holy Days with Miss Rivky

A large group of moms and children enjoyed an exciting and fun-filled Rosh Hashana and Sukkot experience in Rivky Greenberg's most recent holiday music class! The room was filled with magical energy as the children blew their play Shofars, sang and learned about the Shofar's origin, and enjoyed apples dipped in honey. They also tasted delicious homemade Challah rolls and honey cupcakes for a sweet new year, danced an "Apple Dipped in Honey" macarena, chanted a "Build the Sukkah" song and did a "Lulav Shake" for Sukkot.

"Music with Rivky" is a program of the Jewish Discovery Center. **For more information about upcoming music classes, please visit musicwithrivky.com to sign up for the mailing list or contact Rivky at rivky@musicwithrivky.com or (716) 906-8890.**



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Remembering Douglas H. Baker 1942-2022

This remembrance was compiled by Stephanie Baker Katzman, Karen Baker Levin and Barbara Baker.

Buffalo businessman and emergency medical service pioneer Douglas Baker passed away August 19, 2022 at the age of 79. A man whose energy, dedication and vision created a transportation system that saved countless lives over the past four decades, he was the husband of Barbara Baker, father of Karen (Todd Levin) Baker, Stephanie (Josh) Katzman and the late Todd J. Baker. He was also the brother of Warren Baker (z"l); and grandfather of Taylor, Connor, and Julia Levin, Hadley, Drew and Myles Katzman.

Founder of Mercy Flight Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Baker started his career as an ambulance attendant for the City of Buffalo when he was 13, and delivered his first baby when he was 14. At 19 he bought his first ambulance and founded LaSalle Ambulance Service. It was the experiences of those early years that fueled Doug's passion to improve pre-hospital emergency response and reduce out-of-hospital times for patients, especially high-risk mothers and infants being transferred long distances.

He continued from 1961 to 1995 as owner/ operator and President of LaSalle Ambulance, then went on to pioneer the state's first EMS helicopter service, Mercy Flight, saving thousands of lives since its founding in 1981. Baker had a vision to assist more patients in need and approached several individuals within the healthcare field at the time to jump on board, but due to the immaturity of EMS as a whole, they felt current practices in place were sufficient.

Still, Baker remained dedicated to his mission and found supporters in Sister Sheila Marie Walsh, Dr. Matthew Burke, Dr. James Ehinger, all who shared his dream of providing air medical services to the communities of Western New York. Mercy Flight was established as

the pioneer air-medical service in New York State and one of the first operations like it in the United States. It began operations from one base in Buffalo, 12 hours a day, utilizing one leased 206B Jet Ranger helicopter (N902EH) staffed by two pilots and a handful of paramedics.

Baker also served in the New York Army National Guard from 1962 to 1968. He served on the Erie County Medical Center Board of Directors and Foundation Board, and was a member of the Erie County EMS Advisory Board. He was the recipient of the NYS EMS Council's Harriet C. Weber EMS Leadership Award in 2008 and the Association of Air Medical Services Marriott-Carlson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Margie Ferrentino, formerly Executive Vice President and CFO of Mercy Flight, and now its President said, "With the inception of Mercy Flight in 1981, we've cared for over 200,000 patients, 30,000 of them in the air. To honor Mr. Baker's life would mean to live as he lived, and his motto always was, 'People first. No matter what the circumstance, help people first. We'll figure everything else out later.'" Today because of Baker's dream, an army of pilots, physicians, nurses, paramedics, and administrators work together to ensure that around-



Douglas H. Baker

the-clock medical expertise is available via a fleet of four twin-engine Bell 429 helicopters and dozens of ground ambulances. A fixed-wing aircraft (Lear Jet) is also in place for longer distances.

His motto always was "People first. No matter what the circumstance, help people first. We'll figure everything else out later."

Baker adored the air ambulance service as well as his family, and following his young son Todd Jason Baker's death in 1982 from cancer, he chose to remember his son through the air ambulance. "All of my dad's helicopters have had my brother's initials written on their tails in memory of him: 'TJ,'" said daughter Stephanie Katzman.

Baker's August funeral at Temple Beth Zion was a testimony to the respect and regard his employees, first responders, and many others had for him. Mercy Flight posted on Facebook that Doug Baker will be remembered as "courageous," adding "he was simply a good man that brought untold good to thousands upon thousands of people, not just here in Western New York, but across the globe."

A number of emergency services were on-hand at the funeral to pay their respects to the innovator in medical services, including Buffalo Police and Buffalo Fire, who displayed a giant American flag over the entrance to the cemetery. In addition, a Mercy Flight helicopter

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A man whose energy, dedication and vision created a transportation system that saved countless lives over the past four decades

was on site, flying overhead to honor Baker and his legacy in Western New York medical care.

Veteran Flight Medic with Mercy Flight, Tommy LaBelle, who worked closely with Baker for years said, “we’re talking about a guy that because of him, we have professional paramedics in the City of Buffalo, which has extended out through all of the eight counties of Western New York, and affected hundreds of thousands of lives.” While Baker will forever be remembered for his contributions to the medical care industry in Buffalo, he will also be remembered for his kindness and legendary sense of humor. “Every morning, he was happy to see everybody,” continued LaBelle. “He made a point every day to make sure he got around to everybody in the building

to say hello, to talk to them. Doug was one of those guys that you didn’t work for him, you worked with him. A true friend...And to be very blunt, to even suggest that we are sad over this loss... it is a severe understatement to say we’re gonna miss him.”

Finally, one young aspiring aviator also came to Doug Baker’s funeral service to stand outside and pay his respects. Colin Weaver, 12, of Depew, wore a Mercy Flight baseball cap and t-shirt. He said he has visited the Mercy Flight crew over the years to learn more about aviation and can’t wait to be a pilot someday himself, thanks to the kindness and encouragement of Mr. Baker. His message to the late entrepreneur: “May you have blue skies and hopefully you will have more peace than you do today.”

In Remembrance

The following individuals in our community passed away during the period from September 18-October 16, 2022*. May their memories forever be a blessing, and may their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Hallie Morrison Block | Richard Hirsch |
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IT'S BEHIND US...OR IS IT?

BY HALLIE MORRISON BLOCK

Editor's Note: This first appeared in the February 2020 issue of The Jewish Journal. We are re-running it to honor Hallie Block, who passed away September 22 in Peabody, MA. Hallie was Director of the Temple Beth Zion Nursery School, and later taught kindergarten at Kadimah Academy. She is survived by her children Beth (Dan Sallberg), Linda (Alan Synenki) And Daniel (Susan), five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, and her sister Judith Levinson.

The war was over. It was 1946 or 47. Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini had died ignominious deaths. Japan was busy converting their warrior proclivities into peaceful and high-tech pursuits. We had nothing to fear from Russia. China was an overpopulated and underachieving country. We kids at Lafayette High School in Buffalo said, "Goodbye" to War stamps, ration books, scrap drives and knitting squares for afghans and devoted ourselves to learning the latest Hit Parade songs and seeing every movie that appeared.

Most of us enjoyed our classes but welcomed the diversion of assembly programs: football assemblies, concerts by the school orchestra, and listening to speakers. One day, we gathered in the school's auditorium. Freshmen sat in the horseshoe shaped balcony and we,



Hallie Morrison Block with her newest great-grandchild

the upper classmen, sat downstairs.

The speaker's name was Mr. Aptheker. If I ever knew his background, his first

name or his credentials, I can't think of them at this moment. He started to speak and I started to become very

uncomfortable. He spewed anti-semitic epithets. No one moved. The principal of the school didn't move. The teachers didn't move and the only movement from me was that of my body sinking lower and lower in my seat. It was my first (and last) personal experience with overt anti-semitism.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw him. Sam Shatkin, the only Jewish member of the football team, was walking slowly—very slowly—from the rear of the auditorium toward the stage. As if on cue, every other member of the team fell into line behind him to participate in the slow processional that approached the stage and then climbed the few stairs to stand quietly at stage right front. They simply stood there: didn't move, didn't speak.

Those broad-shouldered boys must have presented a menacing threat, because Aptheker briefly continued his rant and then disappeared, stage left. We students were dismissed and the incident was behind us. It was noted in the newspapers. Our football team, heroes before the incident, became even more heroic.

The following week, there was a new occupant of the stage. Dr. Joseph L. Fink, Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion—my congregation in Buffalo, appeared onstage. Again, I have no recollection of what he said. I just remember that I felt a lot better!

Native Buffalonian Hallie Morrison Block lives at Brooksby Village Senior Living Community in Peabody, Massachusetts. She wrote this piece as part of a "Writers Helping Writers" program. She was married to Irving H. Block, Jr, always called, "Buddy," and moved from their home on Chatham Ave. in Buffalo to Oakbrook Condo in Williamsville after he died. She then moved to Peabody to be near one of her daughters and lives happily in a retirement home. She is blessed with three grown children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She chose teaching as her profession in Buffalo – first at Temple Beth Zion Nursery School and then at Kadimah School.

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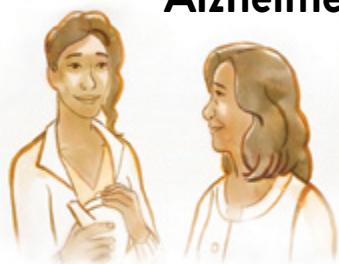
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