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THE JEWISH JOURNAL OF WNY

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo

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MAY 2016 | NISAN-IYAR 5776

Buffalo in Israel • Israel in Buffalo May 15

(P.4)



DON'T MISS:
WEINBERG
NEW CEO
(P.9)



INSIDE:
MARILYN SHUMAN
HONORED
(P.10)



LOOK:
A VISIT TO
EASTERN EUROPE
(P.28)

Buffalo Spree
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Editor's Note



Ellen Goldstein, Editor

During this beautiful month of May, we will commemorate the Holocaust, remember how we as Jews went from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, pay tribute to all the brave Israeli soldiers and citizens who died fighting for our beloved Israel, and celebrate Israel's 68th birthday. That's quite a lot of communal observance and it spans the human range of emotions from profound sadness to sheer joy!

Traditional Jews begin to count the Omer, a biblical measure of grain beginning on the second night of Passover—which would have been April 23. The counting is intended to remind us of the link between Passover, which commemorates the Exodus, and Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah and this year begins the evening of June 11. It reminds us that the redemption from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah.

So we enter May already counting the Omer. In Buffalo, we will commemorate Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day as a community on May 1 at Temple Beth Zion with an original and moving film about 6 local Holocaust Survivors. Yom Hazikaron—celebrated the evening of May 10 at Temple Beth Tzedek—will memorialize the Israelis who died fighting for Israel since 1948. Then, on May 15 (see pages 4-5) we will enjoy an Israeli birthday party—fun for the whole family—at the JCC in the morning and afternoon, then glory in the success of Israel, Israelis in Buffalo and Buffalonians in Israel at special party in the evening at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Garden sponsored by Israel Bonds.

Please join us—the Buffalo Jewish Community—this month as we remember where we came from, celebrate who

we are, and continue—TOGETHER—to create the future, hand in hand, one day, one step, one Jew at a time.

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover



Israel Bond courtesy of Dr. Sam and Miriam Abramovich. Photos (from left) show 43North Winner Daniel Shani, Larry Rubin and Stuart Angert; Lital & Dan Metchnik; Some of the members of the Jewish Federation's 2012 New Leadership Mission to Israel; Danny Weissberg, Evie Weinstein, Devora Mason and David Schiller; Niagara University swimmer Daniel Ronen. Photo collage by Kim Miers.

3	Message from the President: <i>Howard Rosenhoch</i>
4-5	Celebrating Israel @ 68: Buffalo in Israel + Israel in Buffalo
6	What's New at Weinberg Campus <i>by Kenneth Rogers</i>
7	Ellen Weiss Named to National Women's Board
8	Lead with Jewish Values <i>by Susan Goldberg Schwartz</i>
9	Robert Mayer named Weinberg President/CEO
10	Mazel Tov! Marilyn Shuman Honored in Florida
11	Andrew Oestreicher Named to National NFTY Board
12	Essen 'N Fressn: Mother's Day Salad <i>by Robin Kurss</i>
14	AIPAC Conference: Buffalo Delegation
15	The Rabbi's Column: <i>Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein</i>
16	A Letter from Leon Komm
17	5 Things you can do to repair the world in May
	Where in Jewish Bflo?
18-19	Honor Thy Mother
20-21	Agencies & Synagogues
22-25	Synagogue Happenings
26	May Calendar
27	Honor your Mother with a Gift to the Federation Cemetery Corp.
28-39	Agency Events
41-43	Jews in the News
44	Not The Last Word: <i>Lauren Wallenfels</i>

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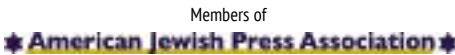
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Howard Rosenhoch

President, Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo



The Buffalo Jewish community was blessed to be visited by Alan Morinis at the end of March for a three-day scholar in residence program. Alan is the Dean of the Mussar Institute. Some of you might be familiar with the age old Jewish practice of Mussar. For those of us who are not, I'll quote Alan's brief description from his book, *Everyday Holiness*:

"Mussar is a path of spiritual self-development. It means working on yourself, but not for the sake of your self. By refining and elevating your inner life and nourishing the soul, you clarify your inner light and thus become a lamp shedding light into the world."

Among the Strategic Priorities, Federation adopted in 2014, some might say at the top of the list, is the "obsession" with developing human capital to give the Jewish community a continuous pipeline of talented leadership. It was with this goal in mind that we invited Alan

Morinis to Buffalo, to teach and train in the art of self-reflection and improvement to develop traits found in our most effective leaders. Alan held sessions with Federation's staff, Executive Committee and Past Presidents, the professional leadership of our community's Jewish organizations and synagogues, the Bureau of Jewish Education's Educators' Council, and many others.

Connected with our concentration on developing human capital and under Rob Goldberg's leadership as Federation's new CEO, we have put together a Leadership Think Tank, and organized a leadership study course in the Mussar tradition called Lead with Jewish Values. The Leadership Think Tank is comprised of a dynamic and diverse group of individuals that is meeting regularly. The Think Tank will soon be reporting out to Federation's Board of Governors, our agencies and synagogues and the community at large the strategies and tactics recommended for continuous leadership development. The members of the Think Tank had a valuable session with Alan Morinis, which will imbue their work with the Jewish values we seek in our leaders.

As our scholar in residence, Alan kicked off our Lead with

Jewish Values course. We invited each Jewish organization and synagogue to nominate two of its volunteer board members to participate in this program. Twenty of us are enrolled, meeting as a group on a bi-weekly basis through August studying and practicing Mussar and developing and refining our individual traits of humility, honor, generosity, trust, patience and gratitude, among others. The course is being administered by Evie Weinstein, Federation's Coordinator of Talent and Leadership Development, and facilitated by Susan Goldberg Schwartz, TBZ's Director of Lifelong Learning. Evie and Susan were trained by Alan a number of years ago as Mussar facilitators. I am privileged to be among the Lead with Jewish Values class participants. From my experience thus far, I am confident that our boards of directors will see direct and significant benefits as their members grow in Jewish values and Mussar practices.

The highlight and culmination of Alan's scholar in residence visit was a program called "What if Everyone Read the Same Book," with program oversight from a committee chaired by Cantor Mark Horowitz.

Well over 100 people signed up and participated. Each of us was asked to buy and read in advance *Climbing Jacob's Ladder*, Alan's autobiographical life story which led him to learn of, study and finally teach Mussar. The lecture and workshop that evening was incredibly well attended and received. I believe that program, and Alan's entire scholar in residence visit, will have strong positive and lasting impacts on our community.

We are grateful to Alan Morinis for

spending his valuable time with, and imparting his tremendous knowledge of Mussar to, all of us here in Buffalo. Although remote in distance, Alan's presence continues with the twenty of us in the Lead with Jewish Values class. We share his curriculum missives each week as we study, practice and learn a new trait of personal well-being.

As we begin to count the Omer during the seven weeks from Passover to Shavuot and the celebration of our receipt of Torah at Mount Sinai from the Almighty, let's look forward to some of the events we will share in May. On Sunday May 1 at 1 pm, we'll gather as a community for Yom Hashoah at Temple Beth Zion on Delaware Avenue to commemorate and honor the victims of the Nazi Holocaust and to reassert that never again will we allow such genocide to occur. Yom Hazikaron falls on May 10. Temple Beth Tzedek will host our community at 7:30 that evening as we honor those who sacrificed so much for the founding and preservation of the State of Israel. As always, Yom Hazikaron gives way to the celebration of Israel Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut. Come with your family to the JCC Benderson Building on Sunday afternoon, May 15 from 11:30 to 2:30 to experience Israel right here in Buffalo. That evening we'll hold an Israel Bonds festival and adult party at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in South Buffalo, where we'll showcase Buffalo businesses doing business in and with Israel and Israeli companies. Tickets are only \$18, so sign up right away, as tickets are going fast. As always, check Federations calendar page at jfedbflo.com for all of the latest happenings.

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Campaign Kick-Off Dinner

Monday, Sept. 26, 2016

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Buffalo Celebrates Israel at 68

Come join us as we celebrate Israel's Birthday and transform the JCC into a "Little Bit of Israel". Israel 68 promises to be a fun-filled family day of activities, programs and events. Israel 68 is a collaborative program of the JCC, Jewish Federation, BJE and The Weinberg Campus and is made possible by the generous support of the Jewish Federation.

Sunday, May 15 11:30^{am}-3:30^{pm}

You won't want to miss:

- **11:30-2:30^{pm} Activities - JCC Benderson Family Building/Getzville**
 - Face painting • Bounce house • GaGa • Story telling
 - Singing • Cookie decorating • Craft projects
 - Movie: "Above & Beyond"
 - Israeli food (available for purchase)
 - Goldie & Moshe Monzon (highly acclaimed Israeli artist) will be selling their tapestries, handmade jewelry, Judaic items and various artwork
- **2:45-3:30^{pm} Concert by the Kol Rina Choir Weinberg Campus**



Celebrate Israel's 68th Birthday May 15!

If you could see the entire Israel Bond pictured on the front cover of the JJWNY, you would notice the late Prime Minister Golda Meir's signature inscribed on the page. She proudly added her name to this financial instrument that has helped the Land of Israel grow in so many ways and it continues to grow 68 years later.

This year, the Buffalo Jewish Community is fortunate to participate in two Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations on May 15. The morning event (described on the left side of this page) begins at 11:30 am at the JCC/Benderson Building and is a family-friendly, fun celebration of Israel.

Then, at 2:45 pm- 3:30 pm, the Jewish Community's choir—Kol Rina—will present a concert at Weinberg Campus, which is open to the community.

The day continues at an exciting Israel Bonds event at 6:00 pm at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens at 2665 South Park Avenue in South Buffalo, celebrating Israel at 68. The event, featuring kosher drinks and hors d'oeuvres, will showcase Israeli businesses doing business in Buffalo and U.S. companies doing business in Israel. Some of the companies featured or presenting their products are the following:

- Naot Shoes with Hook's Shoes
- Nestle with Osem Foods
- Netafim Drip Irrigations systems
- Noris Medical/ Evolution Dental



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- Teva Pharmaceuticals and UBMD Neurology
- Kimberly Clark
- Voiceitt/Talkitt - a 43North Winner from Tel Aviv
- Cushman & Wakefield/Pyramid Brokerage Company

Rich Kellman is Master of Ceremonies at this event at which Israel Bonds has arranged for Sgt. Benjamin Anthony (IDF.Res.) to speak. He is a combat veteran and reservist in the Israel Defense Forces. Specializing as a heavy machine gunner, Sgt. Anthony has taken a full and front line role in several of Israel's most recent campaigns to defend its citizens in the face of New Age terrorist activity. He has served in large operations both within and beyond

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Israel's borders. Since his release from full-time service, Sgt. Anthony has established an organizations—Our Soldiers Speak—a non-profit non-governmental body that has as its one clear goal “bringing the proud truth of Israel’s soldiers from the front lines of combat to the English-speaking world.” Sgt. Anthony has spoken about Israel around the world, and is pleased to bring his story to Buffalo. The event is kosher with catering by Obviously Avi, and dietary laws will be observed.

The community committee members for this event include people from all synagogues, Hadassah, Jewish Federation, Hillel, UB, Nickel City Jews and other members of the community. Beverly and David Schiller are co-chairpersons. Marty Kerker is the technical and creative producer, and Rich Kellman is MC.

“The purpose of this event is to showcase the economic connections between Buffalo and Israel which are present in our daily lives,” said David

Schiller, Co-Chairperson of the event with his wife, Beverly. “That’s why this is different. Every day we use medical technology, drugs and pharmacologic products, cell phone technology, clothing, household products and so much else that is produced, designed or invented in Israel. And today in Buffalo we have Israelis such as Dr. Bianca Weinstock-Guttman of UBMD Neurology and Danny Weissberg from Voiceitt/Talkitt, a 43North Winner from Tel Aviv, with us this year in Buffalo. There is a wonderful partnership going on here between Buffalo and Israel and we want our community to know about it,” he added.

Event sponsors are Arthur Gellman & Jonathan Gellman, Cushman & Wakefield/Pyramid Brokerage David Schiller & Ben Schiller. Reservations are \$18 per person, payable in advance to the Development Corporation for Israel, c/o Ayelet Weiss, 1866-A Reistertown Road, Baltimore, MD. Or call 443-471-2785 or ayelet.weiss@israelbonds.com.



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What's New at Weinberg Campus

By Kenneth Rogers, Board Chair

Finding and retaining the right leadership to take Weinberg Campus through the challenges of a transitional period has been one of our board's top priorities in 2016. It turns out that the search for our new President and CEO did not have to extend too far. I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has elected Robert Mayer as the new President and CEO of Weinberg Campus. The Search Committee, led by Jonathan Schechter, established a set of criteria for our new CEO and Bob more than fit the bill. For those who don't know Bob, he has been with Weinberg Campus since 1995 as the Vice President-Finance and CFO. He has been the main leader in developing campus financial strategies and managing financial resources to ensure achievement of our business plans and objectives. Bob has worked very closely with our board, financial advisors, and banks to ensure that our finances withstood the scrutiny of regulators and auditors. He has also been instrumental in developing and structuring the financial arrangements with Fallon Health Weinberg as referenced in the accompanying *Jewish Journal* article.

Going forward, Bob has stated that his major priorities are continuing the measurable improvement in quality that is already underway, addressing occupancy issues in the apartments, maintaining relations with financial partners, supporting the campus sale

process, and supporting the Weinberg management group in their efforts to improve processes and resident relations.

"There are so many little things that we can be doing to invest in service and quality; those little things add up to a



Kenneth Rogers

great experience for both residents and employees. That's what I want to see. I want the whole community to see that we are not only up and running, but also better than ever."

Bob will continue to wear the CFO hat, at least for the foreseeable future.

Wherever I go in the Jewish community, people ask me how the sale process is progressing. While I am not at liberty to divulge anything confidential, I can tell you that we are more than pleased with the interest expressed thus far. Many organizations are looking over the various background materials. Some are preparing to come to the campus to "kick the tires" before making formal bids. If anything, the process is ahead of schedule. However, even if we identify a potential buyer this summer there will be at least a year of legal, financial, and regulatory vetting before any sale can take place.

As we move forward over the next few months you will see more advertising aimed at filling up some of our open apartments in Forest Creek and Meadows. These are wonderful living arrangements for individuals who are independent but requiring or desiring some level of assistance. There is no up-front fee, and a variety of services available, should they be needed. Check us out!

The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo invites you to the

Yom HaShoah 2016 Commemoration

REMEMBER

DATE: Sunday May 1, 2016 Nisan 23, 5776
TIME: 1:00pm
LOCATION: Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue

"Premiere of a film featuring six Buffalo Holocaust Survivors"
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Temple Beth Zion JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER BUFFALO Holocaust Resource Center

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יהי זכרם ברוך Yom Hazikaron

Join us for the remembrance day of the
Israeli fallen soldiers & victims of terrorism
Tuesday May 10th, 2016 at 7:30pm
Temple Beth Tzedek, 621 Getzville Rd Amherst
Program is free and open to the community
For more information contact: lital@jfedbflo.com or call 704-5420

Ellen Weiss Named to National Women's Philanthropy Board

Buffalo Jewish Community leader Ellen Weiss has been named a member of the prestigious Jewish Federations of North America's National Women's Philanthropy Board. Federation's Women's Philanthropy engages Jewish women in the fulfilling work of making the world a better place. In every community, the members build and support Jewish life for today and for generations to come.

Ellen Weiss has been a longtime Jewish community volunteer as well as a Jewish communal worker. As a volunteer, she has been part of the Federation's Women's Philanthropy team for many years. She currently is past president of Buffalo's Women's Philanthropy team, serves on the Federation's Executive Committee and Board of Directors, is a member of the Leadership Task Force, and chairs the Buffalo Delegation to the International Lion of Judah Conference.

She co-chaired the 2012 New Leadership Mission to Israel with her husband, Steven, co-chaired the first Women of Distinction luncheon, was past Chair and Vice Chair of the Young Women's Division of the UJF Campaign as well as Benefactors Chair, Super Sunday Chair, Leadership Power educational series Chair. She and her husband were also Chairs and Vice Chairs of the UJF Community Kick-Off Dinner.

Mrs. Weiss served as a Board of Directors member for the Bureau of Jewish Education, and she and her husband are graduates of its Melton Mini School adult education program. She is also a former Board of Directors



Ellen Weiss

member of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. She served on the JCC's Camp Lakeland Committee and is a member of the Camp Seneca Lake committee. In the general community, Mrs. Weiss serves as Cheerleading Booster Club President at Williamsville East High School, and is on the executive board as well as a representative to the Williamsville East PTSA.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mrs. Weiss holds an MBA from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Management. She is a recipient of Federation's Ruth and Milton Kahn Young Leadership Award Winner

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Bringing Mussar Wisdom to our Community Leaders

By Susan Goldberg Schwartz

The Buffalo Jewish community has begun a spiritual journey, of sorts, to become a community with leaders who lead with deep hearts and caring souls. As Howard Rosenhoch writes in his president's column, we were blessed this past March to have had multiple opportunities to meet and learn with Alan Morinis, Dean and founder of The Mussar Institute. We are also fortunate to be able to bring the Institute's Lead with Jewish Values (LWJV) program to our community that has begun to engage 20 community volunteer leaders from our synagogues and local Jewish agencies to deepen their personal and spiritual selves. These include: Temple Beth Tzedek, Kehilat Ohr Tzion, Jewish Federation, Bureau of Jewish Education, Jewish Community Center, Hebrew Benevolent Free Loan Association, Jewish Family Service, Holocaust Resource Center, Congregation Shir Shalom and Kadimah. I am honored to be working alongside Evie Weinstein in guiding these



The committee which brought Alan Morinis Scholar-In-Residence program to Buffalo included (from left) Susan Goldberg Schwartz, Lisa Wallenfels, Cheryl Stein, Alan Morinis, Patty Adler, Shira Goldberg, Ethel Melzer, Chair Mark Horowitz, Federation Professional Evie Weinstein, Joni Shatkin and Robin Raphael.

dedicated leaders on the Mussar path.

According to Alan Morinis, the ultimate goal of LWJV is for leaders to learn and practice in the way of Mussar in order that they become a more effective, more fulfilled, more valued partner of the many people with whom they serve as a volunteer.

Volunteer leaders are essential to our community's ability to achieve its goal of building a more vibrant and caring Jewish

Buffalo. We know that Jewish organizations run most effectively when the volunteer leadership function with a shared set of Jewish values. LWJV uses the Jewish tradition of Mussar to guide the character and values development that can radically change the culture and operations of a volunteer-led organization.

Each two weeks, the participants in LWJV will focus on one middah or soul trait;

among them patience, humility, honor, and gratitude. In addition to required readings, the participants will meet in the large group for an in-depth conversation. During the 2nd week, each participant will meet with a chevruta/study partner to look at additional texts. In addition to study, a very important Mussar principle says that it takes practice to create personal change. The practice component is made up of three daily practices: recitation of a reminder phrase, a specific task/activity and lastly, keeping a daily journal.

Buffalo is the 2nd Jewish community to bring LWJV to its volunteer leaders, following the footsteps of leaders in Kansas City. We have only had our first two va'ad (group) meetings and I have already heard the participants express how their personal lives and volunteer experiences have already been impacted by the Mussar teachings and practice. Our hope is that not only will they all become more effective leaders, but find greater fulfillment in the volunteer work that they do.

Looking for something fun?



Interested in being involved in creating a Winter 2018 Jewish Cultural Festival?

**Come to a meeting at the
Niagara Falls Convention Center
Wednesday, June 1 6:00 PM
for meeting • food • music!**

Questions? Email rgoldberg@jfedbflo.com

PJ Library's Harold Grinspoon in Buffalo



PJ Library Program Officer Beth Grafman and Harold Grinspoon from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in Springfield, MA, visited Buffalo in April to hear our PJ Stories and to help Buffalo expand our program.



Harold Grinspoon, founder and funder of PJ Library was in Buffalo to meet with members of our community. He is seen here with community members who shared their stories of how PJ Library has changed the Jewish lives of their families. From left, Christina Akers, Mr. Grinspoon, Jessica Grubea, Nina Lukin, PJ Library in Buffalo Director Mandy Weiss and Buffalo PJ Chair Stacie Stone.

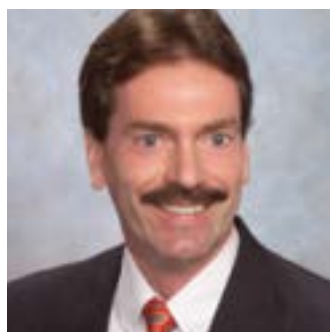
Weinberg Campus Names Robert Mayer President/CEO

The Weinberg Campus board of directors today named CFO Robert T. Mayer the new president and CEO of the 100-acre, elder-care complex in Getzville. He succeeds David Dunkelman, who served in the post for 30 years before retiring in February.

Mayer served Weinberg Campus as vice president of finance and CFO since 1995. He assisted in developing and implementing a strategy to diversify its reimbursement sources by creating new facilities and services that significantly reduced reliance on government funding. The strategy included designing, building and opening three facilities consisting of 283 apartment units. He was instrumental in securing grant funding and developing 150 units of HUD Section 202 housing and also was involved in developing the first Managed Long-Term Care Program in Western New York.

Mayer has a B.S. from Canisius College and an MBA from the University of Rochester. He is a Certified Aging Services Professional, a 2010 graduate of the LeadingAge Leadership Academy and a 2015 graduate of the Community Health Foundation Health Leadership Fellows program.

He is also credited with significantly improving overall efficiency, reducing costs and establishing



Robert T. Mayer

management reporting systems at Weinberg Campus by upgrading and automating numerous financial, administrative and operational functions. The implementation of these changes has been a key component in the dramatic turnaround of its financial position.

Under his leadership, Weinberg also restructured \$39.5 million of tax exempt bond financing which resulted in present cash flow value savings in excess of \$2

million. "I am so honored to be selected for this post," Mayer said. "I've spent a lot of time with the Weinberg Campus family and I am looking forward to seeing the campus grow and continue to be a leader in elder care for this region. We're looking forward to welcoming new residents who will benefit from our array of services."

Mayer's biggest challenge will be leading Weinberg on a new course forward as it explores options aimed at securing the facility's future and continuing its mission. Weinberg, with a \$33 million annual operating budget, has about 500 employees and more than a dozen active programs serving the elderly. Weinberg Campus, which originated in Buffalo almost 100 years ago, was the first rental community in Erie County with a continuum of care option and no upfront entrance fee. The campus serves about 750 residents and clients.

Weinberg is seeking ways to address the needs of the region's seniors within the context of rapid changes in the health-care industry, the economics and demographics of the Western New York community, and

the need for greater integration of services among health-care systems and networks. Weinberg's board and executive leadership emphasized that while it explores strategic options to secure its future, residents and families will see no change and should not be concerned about potential operational alterations or possible asset sales.

The non-profit organization's board hired an investment banker in January to advise it concerning its strategic options, including but not limited to the sale of part or all of the campus. Built as a model of senior care over the last 20 years, Weinberg offers senior apartments, adult home and assisted living, skilled nursing, homecare, respite services, rehabilitation, managed long-term care, adult day programs and low-income housing.

Mayer, who lives in Amherst, is also board chairman of People, Inc.; board treasurer for LeadingAge New York, a board member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation- WNY Chapter and a member of the Leadership Buffalo Class of 2005.



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Photograph by Luka Copping.

Marilyn Shuman Honored by Sarasota Jewish National Fund

Marilyn Shuman was recently honored by the Jewish National Fund of South Florida with its Guardian of Israel and Lifetime Achievement Awards at a dinner in March in Sarasota, Florida. Anne Virag was Dinner co-chair, and Joan and Michael Cohen, Sandra Rifkin and Hannah and Norman Weinberg were members of the Awards Dinner committee.



Jim Shuman, Anne Virag, Marilyn Shuman, Cathy Miller and Leslie Kramer

In honoring Marilyn, this is what was written about her in the program: "Marilyn is a native and longstanding resident of Buffalo, NY. Professionally, she was the Program Director of the JCC's Senior Adult Department and a property manager at MCS Management for 20 years. Her past philanthropic

commitments include serving as Vice President of the Buffalo Jewish Federation and the Buffalo JCC, Chair of the UJF Women's Division as well as the first woman to serve as General Chair of the UJF Campaign. Together with her late husband, Irving, she received a number of awards in Buffalo, including

the AJC Community Relations Award and the Nathan Benderson Community Leadership Award, and was also honored by Israel Bonds. In 2014, Marilyn received the national Kipnis-Wilson/ Friedland award from Women's Philanthropies of North America. Marilyn is the proud mother of four children and grandmother to nine grandchildren.

Marilyn Shuman and her four adult children—current General Campaign Chair Leslie Shuman Kramer, Catherine Shuman Miller, Diane Shuman Harkavy and James Shuman—dedicated \$1,000,000 for the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds at Camp Centerland several years ago in memory of their late husband and father. In addition, Marilyn and her late husband, Irving Shuman, led several Missions to Israel from Buffalo in the 1980s and 90s including a very successful Ecumenical Mission. Devoted to Israel, the Shumans created the Irv and Marilyn Shuman Playground in Sderot, when that town was Buffalo's Project Renewal sister community.

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HEBREW HIGH GRADUATION AND BJE ANNUAL MEETING MAY 4

The 70th Graduation Ceremony of Hebrew High and the 88th Annual Meeting of the Bureau of Jewish Education will take place Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the JCC (2640 North Forest Road in Getzville).

Our 10 graduates include: Alexis Boehnlein, Veronica Borzynski, Michael Dubin, Amy Feldman, Jennifer Kingsley, Ethan Milich, Faith Miller, Andrew Oestreicher, Emily Pressman and David Yellen. Elections of officers and board of directors of the BJE will also take place.

This event is free and open to the community. A kosher dessert reception will follow. For more info, please contact Mindy Ponivas at mindy@bjebuffalo.org or 204-5380.

Andrew Oestreicher to serve on NFTY National Board



Andrew Oestreicher, a 17-year old graduating Senior at Williamsville North High School, was recently elected to serve as the next national Membership Vice President of NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth). NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. The position to which he was elected, along with the five other North American board members, is the highest level of youth leadership that exists in the NFTY organization. He is a member of Temple Beth Zion, and spent his high school years with TBZ's Youth Group, TBaZY. Andrew has been involved with NFTY for four years, and will be attending its Kutz Camp this summer.

He was a member of Leadership Buffalo's Youth Leadership Class of 2014, and an Amherst Youth Court member.

He is the son of Susan Freed-Oestreicher and David Oestreicher, and the grandson of Leonard and Ellen Freed and the late Judith and Joseph Oestreicher.

"Throughout the next sixteen months I will partner with URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) staff working towards achieving the stated goals of my platform, which include creating a seamless transition in our movement, and extending the sense of community offered beyond high school programming. The six North American Board members are also responsible for planning, promoting and leading NFTY Convention (NC)."

The NFTY North American Board is an elected group of six leaders. The positions are generally held by incoming university Freshman who extend their NFTY tenure as North American leaders. Being a NFTY North American Board member is an incredible honor that comes with many responsibilities and duties, mainly as the head of their respective Networks. As a unit, the Board works to both maintain and progress the movement from generation to generation.

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Mother's Day Salad

By Robin Kurss

This is one of the most beautiful salads ever! Great for a Mother's Day Brunch or any other meal, this can be made ahead. It tastes even better the next day.

Beet and Israeli Couscous Salad

2 c cooked Israeli Couscous
 2 beets, cooked or 1 can whole beets, drained and cut into 1/2 " dice
 1/4 c parsley, chopped
 1/4 c mint, chopped
 1/4 c slivered almonds
 1/4 c olive oil
 2 Tbsp orange juice
 Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all together in a large bowl.

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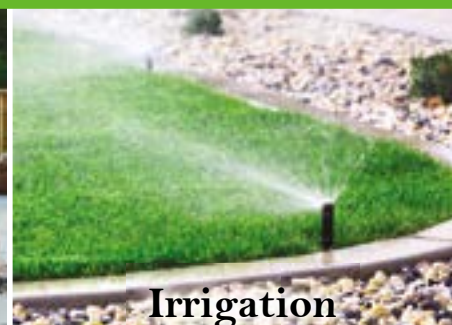
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Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein: On Yom Hazikaron

This May is a month filled with Jewish holidays. From Yom Hashoah—our Holocaust memorial, Yom Ha'atzmaut—Israel Independence Day, Lag B'Omer—a day for picnics and bonfires, and the regular counting of the Omer that will occur daily until Shavuot in early June. One of my favorites is the little appreciated holiday of Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, which we will commemorate in Buffalo this year as a community on May 10 at Temple Beth Tzedek at 7:30 pm.

Established in 1951 by David Ben Gurion, Yom Hazikaron is officially "The Day of Remembrance for the Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism." Ben Gurion wanted to separate out the joy of Yom Ha'atzmaut from the sadness of the many Israelis lost in the War of Independence. It is marked by two long sirens, one at 8 PM at the very beginning of the holiday and one at 11 AM the next morning. The sirens go off throughout the country, encouraging everyone to stop whatever they are doing and stand in silence. During the minute the siren is sounded, all traffic stops with people standing by their cars in the highway, classes of school children stop their lessons, and life is suspended. Israel being a small country there is hardly a citizen who has not suffered a significant loss in one Israel's many wars.

Having been in Israel several times on Yom Hazikaron, I can attest to the power of this short, relatively simple ritual. Like a universal fire alarm it is a chilling reminder of the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made to create and protect our Jewish state. For me, it is also a testament to the importance of taking time to pause and reflect on things that are important to us.

We live in a busy, hectic world, which seems to increase in speed every year. Judaism has always understood that people need breaks. Shabbat is the best example of this, a day each week where even God is supposed to rest. But, there are countless other examples on the Jewish calendar.

The Torah itself is filled with many different types of pauses. They are not on the page itself,

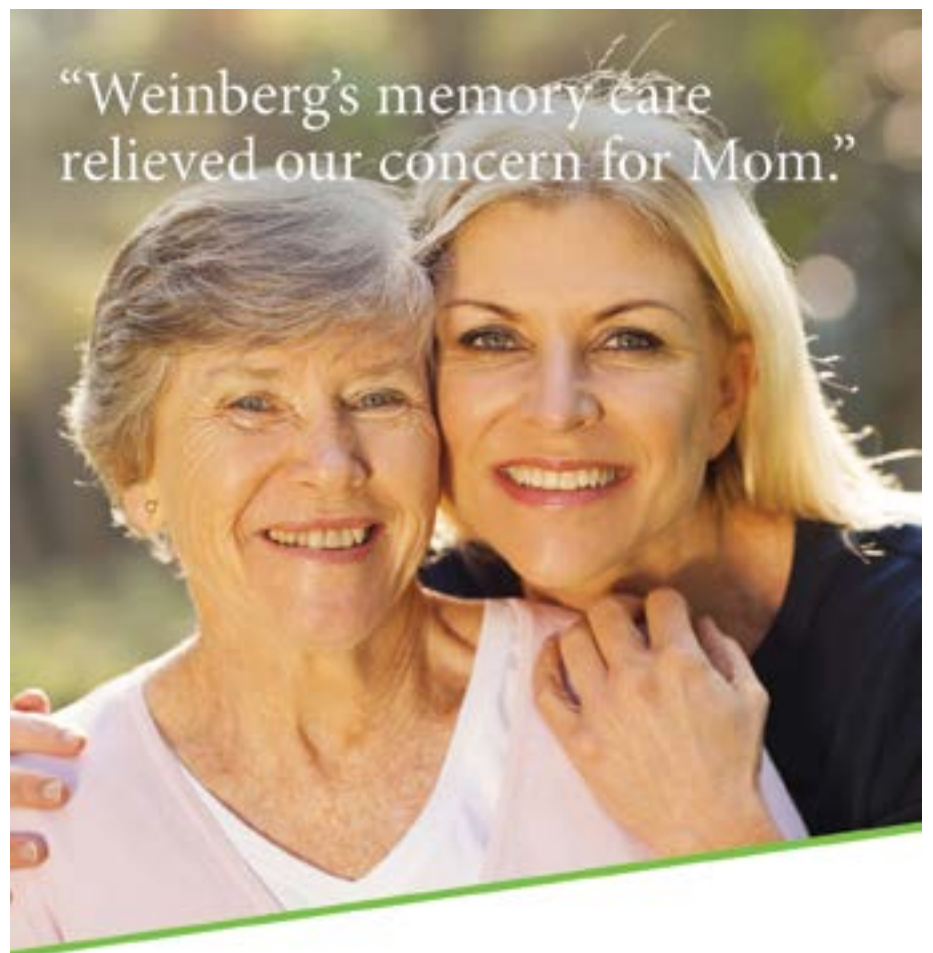


Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein

as our Torah scrolls include no punctuation or vowels, but they are embedded in the traditional trope marks used to recite Torah. These ancient notations given to us by the Masoretes between the 7th and 11th Centuries have many ways to embellish and enhance the text.

There are the longer pauses like the *sof pasuch*, which resembles a colon, and functions as a period at the end of a verse, and the *etnachtah*, a wishbone looking marking, that functions as a comma. But there are a series of other types of markers, some elaborate and rare like the *shalsholet*, as squiggly line above the word, that only occurs four times, and some discreet like the *zakef katon*, that occurs in almost every verse signaling a mini pause. Each of these markings not only helps us dramatize the story, but allows us to breathe.

We pause to remember, we pause to celebrate, and we pause just to recognize how very grateful we are to be alive. B'Shalom.



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I look forward to seeing you soon at happy occasions.

- Leon R. Komm



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- 1» Remember the past to inform the future.** Don't miss Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration Sunday, May 1 at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue. *Free and open to the community.*
- 2» Books for Kids.** Donate one or more new or gently used children's books to the Jewish Federation's Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy program. Amy Heumann, Carin Greenfield and other volunteers will distribute them to Buffalo Public School #80 children. *Bring them to the Jewish Federation office or email egoldstein@jfedbflo.com*
- 3» This Mother's Day, make a donation in memory of your mother or grandmother** to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation. This organization oversees many of the old Jewish cemeteries in Buffalo, and is working to repair headstones that have fallen or crumbled and are damaged. *Go to www.jfedbflo.com, scroll down and click on "Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation." Or call 716-204-2246.*
- 4» Mother's Day Down on the Farm** is hosted by Kelkenberg Farm of Clarence to benefit the Food Bank of WNY. Families visiting the farm will meet all of our newborn animals and their moms. Hug a baby goat or lamb. There will be many opportunities for great photos and memories. Children will have pony rides, and the whole family will enjoy a horse drawn hayride. Refreshments will be available. Sunday, May 8, 2016, 10:00 am -3:00 pm. Admission is \$8 per person or \$30 per family of 4. Additional charge for refreshments and rope making. No reservations necessary. Rain or shine! *For more info, visit www.kelkenbergfarm.com, call 716-741-4862 or email Charlene@kelkenbergfarm.com. Kelkenberg Farm of Clarence, 9270 Wolcott Rd., Clarence Center, NY 14032*
- 5» Hospice Memorial Walk.** On Sunday, May 22, thousands will gather at Canalside in downtown Buffalo to Walk for Hospice Buffalo celebrating 20 years in 2016. *See more at: http://hfwny.convio.net/site/TR/Events/General?fr_id=1040&pg=entry#sthash.*

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Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.

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Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-688-4033 | FAX 716-688-3572

Richard Zakalik- Executive Director
Gretchen Gross - President
Holland Family Building
787 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
TEL 716-886-3145 | FAX 716-886-1367
www.jccbuffalo.org

Jewish Discovery Center

757 Hopkins Road
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212 Exeter Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221 (office)
TEL: 716-639-7600
TEL: 716-632-0467
Rabbi Heschel Greenberg
Rabbi Laizer Labkovski
www.jewishdiscovery.org

Jewish Family Service Of Buffalo And Erie County

70 Barker Street
Buffalo, NY 14209
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www.jfsbuffalo.org
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www.jewishfederationapartments.org
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Kathleen Haggerty- Property Manager

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1085 Eggert Road
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TEL 716-836-6903 | FAX 716-837-7322
www.kadimah.org
Einav Symons- Head of School
Jonathan Epstein- President

Ohr Temimim School

411 John James Audubon Parkway
W. Amherst, NY 14228
TEL 716-568-0226 | FAX 716-636-1899
www.ohrtemimimschool.com
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Weinberg Campus

2700 North Forest Road
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www.weinbergcampus.org
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Yad B'Yad

A program of the Bureau of Jewish Education
TEL 716-204-5380 / FAX 716-688-3572
www.yadbyad.org
Cindy Komm- Chair

Western New York Synagogues and Temples

Chabad House of Buffalo (unaffiliated)

2450 North. Forest Rd,
Getzville, NY 14068
TEL 716-688-1642
www.chabadbuffalo.com

Congregation Beth Abraham

(Conservative)
1073 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
www.congregationbethabraham.net

Congregation B'nai Shalom

(Conservative)
1641 North Forest Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221
TEL 716-689-8203
office@bnaishalombuffalo.org
www.bnaishalombuffalo.org

Congregation Hesed Abraham

215 Hall Ave
Jamestown, NY 14701
Rabbi Allen Podet
TEL 716-484-1800

Congregation Shir Shalom

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

Congregation Havurah

6320 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221
Bernard Schenkler, President
Annette Pinder, Membership Chair
TEL 716-689-2256
www.congregationhavurah.org
info@congregationhavurah.org

Kehillat Ohr Tzion (Modern Orthodox)

879 Hopkins Rd
Williamsville, NY 14221
Email: jstrosberg@ohrtzion.org
Rabbi Joshua Strosberg
Cheryl Stein- President
http://ohrtzion.org/kot

Kneset Center (Orthodox)

500 Starin Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214
TEL 716-832-5063
Rabbi Shmaryahu Charitonow
www.chabad.org

Jewish Federation Apartments Himmel Family Chapel

(Unaffiliated)
275 Essjay Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
Pinkhos Blitshteyn- President
Rabbi Daniel Shuman

Saranac Synagogue

(Orthodox)
Rabbi Nesanel Cadle
President - Shmuel Rashkin
Vice President - Reuven Alt
Gabbai David Kunkel
85 Saranac Avenue
Buffalo New York 14216
TEL 716 876 1284
www.SaranacSynagogue.org

Temple Beth Tzedek

(Conservative)
621 Getzville Road
Amherst, NY 14226
Rabbi Perry Netter
Cantor Mark Spindler
Harvey Brenner - Executive Director
Leon Komm - President
TEL 716- 838-3232
www.btzbuffalo.org

Temple Beth Zion

(Reform)
Sanctuary: 805 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
Religious School and Offices:
700 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, NY 14226
Rabbi Gary Pokras- Sr. Rabbi
Rabbi Adam Scheldt- Asst. Rabbi
Cantor Penny Myers
Mark Criden - Executive Director
Warren Clark - President
TEL 716-836-6565
www.tbz.org

Temple Beth El

(Reform)
720 Ashland Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
Cantorial Soloist Barry Rose
Robert Duell- President
TEL 716-282-2717
www.niagarafallstemple.com

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Williamsville, NY 14221
Rabbi Heschel Greenberg
Rabbi Laizer Labkovski
716-639-7600

Young Israel of Greater Buffalo

(Orthodox)
105 Maple Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
Richard G. Berger- President
TEL 716-634-0212
www.yibuffalo.org

Barbara Oliver Jewelry first opened shop in September of 2004. On opening day our shop had a single showcase (a repurposed pink cosmetic display) and 43 pieces of jewelry. We didn't even dare call it a Grand Opening for fear of being charged with misleading advertising. To make things even more interesting, we decided to skip having a storefront, and located to the 3rd floor of an office building. Starting up a jewelry store in Buffalo, NY back in 2004 took a little chutzpah, but we were convinced that people who appreciate fine jewelry would embrace the intimacy of our location, and the value of real expertise and quality.



We remain, after 13 wonderful years, on the third floor of the same office building, although we've had to knock down the walls a few times to expand. Business is good, and for that, we can only thank our friends and customers who continue to make the trek to our slightly out of the way jewelry oasis.

We do everything you would expect from a traditional jeweler; repairs, appraisals, custom design, stock sales, etc. But the secret sauce of our business is the unwavering focus on our customers. My father, Jerry, always told me that the key to business success is building trust, and that it was the foundation of a long term customer relationship. And he was right. We know that when we treat customers fairly and truthfully and consistently deliver on our commitment to real value and quality, they'll come back. It's like instant karma.

We hope you'll stop by and meet us. Bring your jewelry, we'll get the schmutz off and polish it up for free. If you need to replace a watch battery, we'll do that as well.

"Because a trusted jeweler is worth her weight in gold"



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Attention Snowbirds!

Due to postal regulations, the *Jewish Journal of Western New York* will no longer be forwarded to "temporary change" addresses. If you plan to be away from your permanent address and will have your first class mail forwarded to your temporary address and would like to continue to receive the *Jewish Journal* over the winter or the summer, please call Nadine Ryback at 716-204-2248 to give us your "temporary" address. Thank you!

June 4 Cantor's Concert at Shir Shalom to Welcome Cantor Frank!

By Peter Simon

Cantor Arlene Frank, eager to learn as much as possible about Congregation Shir Shalom before she becomes the Temple's Cantor on July 1st, will lead an evening of music there at 7:00 p.m. on June 4th. The broad-ranging Havdalah Service and Concert will include a duet with Cantor Sharon Colbert, the current Shir Shalom Cantor; a traditional Yiddish piece; liturgical music; instrumental back-up by Michael Frank, the new Cantor's husband, and participation by other local Cantors.

But while the evening promises moving and entertaining music, Cantor Frank emphasizes instead the opportunity for her and Shir Shalom congregants to get acquainted at a reception following the concert. She hopes to come away with a better understanding of the culture -- both musically and otherwise -- of her new congregation.

That's why she's informally calling the



Cantor Arlene Frank

evening "The Big Schmooze." "There's going to be a lot going on," Cantor Frank said. "I think we're going to have a blast." The concert will be held at Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY. It is free of charge and open to the public.

Cantor Colbert, who agreed to delay her retirement by a year last year while a Search Committee sought a new Cantor, was

equally gracious about the concert focusing on her successor. "It's a thrill for me to work with the incoming Cantor and share my knowledge of the Congregation," she said. "I'm looking forward to sharing this wonderful evening with her."

The creation of Congregation Shir Shalom through the merger of Temples Beth Am and Sinai in 2012 gave the synagogue "a new heart and a new spirit," Cantor Colbert wrote in Shir Shalom's newsletter. "We all did that together, and it wasn't easy. I am proud that I could join hands with y'all to make the courageous leap into those deep waters."

Cantors Colbert and Frank will team up for a "very lively rendition" of the "Yismechu" prayer, Cantor Frank said. In addition, she plans to perform other liturgical pieces, songs about Jerusalem and a Yiddish production number called "The Old Gypsy."

After 13 years at a synagogue 22 miles north of Manhattan, Cantor Frank signed a five-year contract with Shir Shalom several months ago. Shir Shalom Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein also agreed to a new five-year contract, solidifying the Reform and Reconstructionist congregation's clergy team through June of 2021.

Temple Beth Tzedek Gala June 5

Temple Beth Tzedek will be holding its gala honoring Kimberly Jones on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at the synagogue. Kimberly has been serving Temple Beth Tzedek and one of its predecessor synagogues, Temple Shaarey Zedek, as its administrative assistant for 30 years. She now serves a dual role as the assistant to Rabbi Perry Netter. Kim has been and will continue to be an integral part of the shul. She is an indispensable source of information and knowledge about all the activities and events at the synagogue. To reach a milestone like this is very rare and deserves to be honored.



The gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres to be followed by dinner and dancing at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a silent auction going on throughout the evening. The theme of the evening is "Kimberly Jones, Our Anchor for 30 Years", which will highlight Kim's love of boating.

Also, as part of the celebration, we will be assembling a tribute book which will include greetings and ads which will be put together as a remembrance book for Kim and for all the guests. The choices include a one line message for \$36, quarter page ad for \$75, half page ad for \$140, full page ad for \$225 or an inside cover for \$300. For more information concerning the Tribute Book, please contact Linda Boxer at 390-6861 who is chairing this subcommittee.

Chairing the entire gala is Andrew Gewurz, a vice president at Temple Beth Tzedek. He has a large and very capable committee helping him to make this a success for Kim and for Temple Beth Tzedek.

For information about the gala or to order tickets for \$75 (silver level), \$125 (gold level), or \$175 (platinum level), please contact the Temple Beth Tzedek office at 838-3232 and ask for Harvey Brenner, the executive director or Michele Lynch.

Temple Beth Zion Annual Religious School Mother's Day Flower Sale

Sunday, May 8
9 a.m. to noon

Broder Center Parking Lot,
700 Sweet Home Road

Come for Annuals,
perennials and hanging
baskets. Cash-and-carry.

Leslie Garfinkel to be Honored by Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood

Long-time and diverse volunteerism will be acknowledged when Leslie Garfinkel receives the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood's Nancy J. Borins Woman of the Year Award. It will be presented Friday, May 6 at the annual Sisterhood Sabbath Service at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue.

Leslie has been involved with Sisterhood, Temple Beth Zion and the Jewish community for many years. Among the many worthwhile activities she has done include chairing the TBZ Caring Community Committee, preparing Chanukah and Purim baskets for Temple members and visiting people in hospitals and nursing homes. She also organizes December 25 volunteering at Friends of the Night People, organized and served breakfast and lunch for Mitzvah Day for many years and has been in charge of the Oneg Shabbat for Woman of the Year.

She is currently involved with many of those activities while being a Sunday School teacher and librarian at Temple and packing and delivering Kosher Meals on Wheels every Tuesday and Friday.



Leslie Garfinkel

A Dental Hygienist for many years, she still managed to be involved in the community and lend a hand whenever needed. Leslie is married to Charlie Garfinkel and has managed to pass on her dedication to her two wonderful children, Bradley and Adina, as well as her loving nieces, Heather and Morgan. In her spare time (if she has any), she enjoys reading, knitting and spending time with family.

TBZ's PALS Preschool Accepting Applications for September



The PALS Preschool has opened registration for the coming school year. New this year is availability of full-time care, from 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday - Friday for all age children, who are enrolled in our Core program. The Core program meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for our 3 & 4 year olds (preschoolers) and Tuesday/

Thursday from 9 a.m. – noon for our 2 year olds (Toddlers). Families can add additional PALS days and/or afternoons, and arrive as early as 7:30 am.

Please contact Melissa Milch-Klein at pals@tbz.org or 836-6565 x 139 for a tour, registration information, tuition fees and forms. Tuition assistance is available on an individual basis.

SAVE THE DATE Anne Bernstein Memorial Shabbat Speaker Series Saturday, May 28, 2016

Congregation Shir Shalom
4660 Sheridan Drive

12:00: Complimentary Lunch • 12:30: Speaker

Elinor Weiss will speak about
"The Demonization of Israel - Truth or Consequences."
The Programs is free and open to the community. RSVP to 633-8877.

Team up with Teen Scene!

*By Melissa Schreiber,
Program Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education*

We need your help! All 8-12 graders are invited to team up with the Buffalo Jewish Teen Scene. The BJE is looking for teens interested in being a part of a team to help plan, execute and develop our Buffalo Jewish Teen Scene programs. Teens will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, make new friends and be a part of the Jewish Community. This month we are planning to host an overnight "Lock-In" at the Jewish Community Center with games, swimming, and much more. **If you have any interest please contact Melissa Schreiber at melissa@bjebuffalo.org or 716-204-5380. We hope to hear from you!**



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Beth Tzedek Keshar/Outstretched Arm hosted Model Seder

On Sunday morning, April 3, 2016, the Temple Beth Tzedek Keshar/Outstretched Arm Program together with the Gesher School held the annual spirited Passover Model Seder. Even the spring snow and ice did not dampen spirits for more than 100 people gathered around a very large Seder table to listen as the Gesher students asked the Four Questions and then began immediately (as is our tradition) to give some answers. With the sweet and sharp tastes of Charoses and horseradish on the tips of our tongues, we sang Chad Gad Yah and other Seder favorites at the tops of our lungs.

Outstretched Arm is the Inclusion program of Temple Beth Tzedek, the purpose of which is to insure that there are opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the rich



Rachel Anderson and Tina Ribakove preparing for the Model Seder.

spiritual life of our Jewish community. Volunteers of all ages host these events to insure that TBT is a caring and inclusive Jewish community. Many adult guests with special needs from all over Western New York (some traveling 2 hours or more to get to TBT) along with caretakers and family members, came to share this taste of Seder traditions.

Furthermore, the Gesher students had invited their grandparents and special friends to sing, eat and kvell as the

students took responsibility for the majority of the Model Seder activities. The Seder unfolded under the expert direction of Gesher School principal, Einav Symons, with the leadership of Rabbi Perry Netter and the strong voice of Cantor Mark Spindler. We know that by sharing our important Passover Seder traditions, we connect with our past as we make our future. **For more information on the Temple Beth Tzedek Keshar/Outstretched Arm Program for Jews with special needs, please contact program cochairmen--Sharla Bleichfeld and Rachel Anderson or the office at TBT (716) 838-3232.**

Congregation Beth Abraham Launches 2016 Jewish Speakers Program

Congregation Beth Abraham, already recognized for its spirited, musical Kabbalat Shabbat services, recently introduced an additional dimension—its Jewish Speakers Program. The series kicked off April 15 with guest speakers Lital and Dan Metchnik, community Shlichah and Hillel director, respectively. They spoke to the congregation and Hillel guests on the subject of Tikkun Olam. Consistent with the topic, congregants contributed items to Food Gnomes of Buffalo, collected by Hillel volunteers. Continuing through the High Holidays, the upcoming slate of speakers promises to be sometimes informative, sometimes provocative, sometimes inspirational, and always interesting. They will be given the floor to speak of their topic of choice relevant to the Jewish experience, area of expertise, and/or that week's Torah portion. Through September the schedule includes:

May 20

**The Honorable Lisa Bloch Rodwin,
Erie Co. Family Court Judge**

June 17

Rick Zakalik, JCC Executive Director

July 22

**Professor Marla Segol, UB Institute
of Jewish Thought and Heritage**

September 16

**Howard Wolf, author and UB
Professor Emeritus of English**

Temple Beth Tzedek Proudly Presents a Series on Mental Health

Co-sponsored by Jewish Family Services and TBT Social Action Committee

Our opening program features Marlene Schillinger who is the CEO of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County New York since 1995. Ms. Schillinger has dedicated her professional career to working in the nonprofit arena. She believes that "All are entitled to live with dignity and respect. All are entitled to live without fear of pain" (Eli Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate).

Ms. Schillinger has taken a lead in advocating and supporting the development of integrated physical, behavioral and spiritual health care models based on the needs and wishes of the people served. Ms. Schillinger is proud to be involved in an agency that has been a service provider since 1862.

Much of Ms. Schillinger's work has focused on mental health and wellness. She

became particularly focused on prevention and awareness when she became one of the first Mental Health First Aid Instructors in Erie County. She is an advocate for ensuring that culturally appropriate Mental Health First Aid training is available to all members of the community.

Originally from Bayside, Queens, Ms. Schillinger attended the State University at Buffalo and completed her Bachelor's



Marlene Schillinger

degree in 1974 with a degree in English and Education. She returned to the University and received a Master's in Education in 1977.

Ms. Schillinger is an active member of the Jewish and non-Jewish community and participates on many committees and boards.

Our Program will begin with a delicious brunch at 10:00 a.m. followed by our keynote speaker Marlene Schillinger. After her presentation Marlene will conduct a question and answer session. This program is open to the community. Reservations are a must and the deadline for reservations is April 26th. Prepaid reservations are \$10 per person. Payment on the day of the event will be \$12.

**Send check to: Temple Beth Tzedek,
621 Getzville Rd. Amherst NY 14226.
Tel: 716-838-3232. Rachel Anderson Social
Action Chair.**



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TBZ Sisterhood Donors Luncheon to Feature Vintage Fashions

Sunday, May 22
Ramada Hotel,
2402 North Forest Road

Join us for A Trip Through Time at the Annual Donors Brunch. The show will feature vintage fashions from the Theodore Roosevelt House. Be with us as representatives show us styles from various eras and the clothing worn from the inside to the outside.

The cost per person for brunch and the fashion show is \$38. Reservations are required by May 12. Send your check, made out to TBZ Sisterhood, to: Sharon Nadler, 120 Fennec Lane, East Amherst, NY 14051. Please also include your phone number and e-mail address.

Pride in June at Temple Beth Zion

Temple Beth Zion is very excited to celebrate diversity by honoring LGBTQ Pride during the month of June. The Kulanu Pride Shabbat Service will be held on Friday, June 3 at 6 PM at 805 Delaware Avenue. Kulanu ("all of us" in Hebrew) is a group of people working to ensure that Temple Beth Zion continues to be a warm, welcoming and supportive home for LGBTQ members.

On Sunday, June 5, a contingent from Temple Beth Zion will participate in the Pride Parade and Festival. Once again, TBZ will march with our B'tzelem Elohim float and banners. Please make plans now to spend a fun and uplifting day with us.

More details for the Pride weekend will be available in next month's issue. If you are interested in learning more, you can contact TBZ at 836-6565 or email socialaction@tbz.org.

Beth Zion Summer Celebration

Summer is just around the corner, so mark your calendar for the **Temple Beth Zion Summer Celebration, Monday, August 8 at the Transit Valley Country Club.**

Set aside all or part of the day and plan to lunch, wine tour or golf, or just come for a delicious dinner and lively auctions. All proceeds from this event benefit all educational programming at TBZ. For more information, call Julie Feldman at 836-6565.

Don't miss the premier social event of the summer!

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 BY FREDERICK KNOTT
 APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 22

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ONSTAGE IN 2016

WAIT UNTIL DARK
 Written by Frederick Knott
 April 29 through
 May 22

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MAC ATTACK

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a disease of the macula, the area of the retina responsible for sharp central vision. Symptoms include blurry or fuzzy vision, darkness in the central portion of the visual field, and wavy lines that should appear straight. There are two types of the disease. About 90 percent of all cases are "dry" AMD, in which the light-sensitive cells in the macula slowly break down to cause gradual loss of central vision. "Wet" AMD occurs when fragile new blood vessels behind the retina leak blood and fluid under the macula, causing rapid deterioration of central vision. Wet AMD is treated with lasers or injected medication, while dry AMD can be treated with specific vitamins and minerals. People with AMD may have difficulty with



daily tasks that require fine vision such as reading, dialing a phone, driving, and recognizing faces. If you have these symptoms, please call the Legarreta Eye Center at 716-633-2203. Our practice is based on the philosophy of providing high quality eye care. We offer the latest technology and therapies for diagnosing and treating age-related macular degeneration.

P.S. While no treatment is currently available to reverse dry macular degeneration, the disease is usually slowly progressive, and taking high-dose antioxidants and zinc can delay and possibly prevent intermediate AMD from progressing to severe vision loss.

www.LegarretaEyeCenter.com

CALENDAR

May Events



May 1

Yom Hashoah

11 am-1 pm:

program for students and parents.

1 pm: Original film

"We Remember."

Temple Beth Zion.

805 Delaware Ave. Free.

Open to the community.

Call HRCB at 716-624-9535.

May 15

Institute for Jewish Studies classes begin.

757 Hopkins Road in Williamsville.

10:00 am and 11:00 am. Fee.

Call Rabbi Yehoshua Greenberg.

400-1550.

Israel Bonds/Yom Ha'atzmaut

Cocktail reception

6 pm-8 pm. Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens.

\$18. RSVP to

ayelet.weiss@israelbonds.com.

For more information contact

443-471-2785.

May 4

Hebrew High Graduation & BJE

Annual Meeting

6:30 pm. JCC/ Benderson. FREE.

Call 204-5381 for reservations.

May 5-12

Buffalo International

Jewish Film Festival

Amherst Dipson Theatre.

3500 Main Street.

www.bijff.com.

May 6

TBZ Sisterhood Shabbat

7:00 pm. 805 Delaware Ave.

May 10

Yom Hazikaron

7:30 pm. Temple Beth Tzedek. Free.

May 15

Yom Ha'atzmaut

Family and children's program.

11:00 am @ JCC/Benderson.

688-4033.

May 20

CBA Shabbat and Speaker Judge

Lisa Rodwin. 6:30 pm

May 22

TBZ Sisterhood Donors Luncheon

Ramada Hotel. Call 836-6565 for reservations.

May 25

Nickel City Jews Lag B'Omer Bonfire

Call Miriam @ 204-2247 for reservation or mabramovich @ jfedbflo.com.

May 26

Lag B'Omer celebrated

May 28

Anne Bernstein Memorial Lecture
at Congregation Shir Shalom.

12:00 noon. Elinor Weiss.

Call 633-8877 for reservations.

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Honor your Mother and Grandmother this month with a gift to the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation

By Jessica Thorpe

The flight had been delayed for two hours – and then cancelled completely. In the end, Dalia and her family waited six hours to board their plane. When they finally arrived, everyone was tired. But together, the family had navigated the trying day well. Dalia's husband Seth had kept Dorah, 6, and Kara, 9, happily entertained during the long airport wait, and she had time to bond with 13-year-old Joel over serious talk about video games, school... and girls.

The family gathering that year was among the best Dalia remembered since she had been young. The children played happily with their cousins, and at each meal the table seemed laden only with favorite foods. After offering the prayers, the elders told the stories Dalia had loved as a child. Only now, instead of Great Uncle Aaron, her grandmother Bubbe Ora told every detail about the perilous journey of Savta Golda and Sabba Aviel from the Old World to America. When she came to the part where they descended the ship hand in hand, safe in New York, all three of Dalia's children now smiled brightly.

Despite the bad start, the trip was happy and memorable: But it was the last time Bubbe Ora would lead the family's storytelling tradition. Years later, home again for another gathering, Dalia and her family turn their car into the cemetery where Savta Golda, Sabba Aviel – and now Bubbe Ora – are laid to rest.

Piling out of the car, Kara takes



Dorah's hand as they walk ahead toward the stone monument etched with the names of their great, great grandparents Savta and Aviel – and a smaller one close by inscribed with the name of their great grandmother Ora and great grandfather Mordechai. "I am glad we always come here," Dorah tells her mother Dalia, now standing beside her two daughters. "I will always come here. It makes our family feel blessed forever." Behind them, Joel turns to his father: "It's like Bubbe Ora always said, Dad," he says quietly. "What we keep in memory is ours forever."



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*This message is dedicated to those who miss
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*The Ultimate 'Renaissance Woman' was, our mother, Joan Ellis Shatkin, o.b.m.
Capable in so many ways, she excelled in leadership, public speaking, creative writing, promotional advertising, community building and giving of herself to others. Her elegance, intelligence, devotion, unconditional love and support for her family and community, has influenced all those who loved her. Not only does her family feel the void; the legacy that she left behind has spread to community organizations and individuals in Buffalo and nationwide. May she look down from her lofty, well-earned abode, and shine blessings and receive nachas from her friends and family.
We miss you mom.*

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A Visit to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia

By Daniel Kester

“Jerusalem of the North.” That was what Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, was called before the Holocaust wiped out almost all of its Jewish population. It was considered the center of Judaism in Europe. Can any remnants of the vibrant Jewish life that once existed there still be found? I wanted to know.

Early last October, I set out to visit the three Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. I was interested in seeing a part of Europe that I had never visited, one visited by very few Americans, and also to experience a place where so much Jewish life had once existed and where much of the Holocaust had taken place.

The three Baltic States have similar histories. All had been swallowed up by the Russian Empire by the 1700’s, not becoming independent until after the 20th century Russian Revolution and the end of World War I. However, independence was short lived as they became part of the Soviet Union after World War II. With the fall of Communism in Europe, they all regained their independence, being the first Soviet republics to break away from the USSR, in 1990 and 1991.

My first stop was Estonia, the northernmost of the three countries. Estonia never had a large Jewish population, so I did not visit any Jewish sites. I did, however, spend a day in a national park by the sea, walking in the forests.

From Estonia I drove to Riga, the capital of Latvia, and the largest city in the three Baltic countries. Latvia had a large Jewish population before the war. Riga is well known for its early 20th century *Jugendstil*



and *Art Nouveau* architecture: buildings with flowery, ornate facades full of sculpted people and animals. It was in Riga where I saw my first Holocaust site of the trip: the ruins of the Great Choral Synagogue of Riga. In Riga, after the arrival of the German army, Jews were herded into the synagogue which was then set on fire. As many as 300 people were burned to death there. This killing was done not by the Germans, but by the Latvians.

After the repression of the Soviet occupation, many Latvians and Lithuanians viewed the invading Germans as liberators, and, encouraged by the Germans, took their fury out on both Communist officials and Jews, with pogroms and killings occurring throughout both countries. Much of the genocide of the Jews in these countries was done by Latvians and Lithuanians.

Hitler’s “Final Solution,” the wholesale murder of the Jewish people, began in



Top: Tallim, Estonia

Below: Ruins of Great Choral Synagogue in Riga

Lithuania. After Germany and the Soviet Union (who were allied at the time) invaded and occupied Poland in September 1939, much sporadic killing of Polish Jews (and also non-Jews) occurred. But mass killings didn’t begin until June 1941, with “Operation Barbarossa,” when Germany invaded its former ally, the Soviet Union and those areas occupied by the Soviets. Mobile groups of police and soldiers known as *Einsatzgruppen* followed the invading German army. Their job was to kill Jews and Communists through shooting. Typically, the Jews of a village or town or city would be rounded up and marched to the edge of town, where they would be forced to dig large graves. They were made to line up at the edges of these graves and the *Einsatzgruppen* would shoot them. Their bodies would fall into the graves, and the next group of victims would be lined up to be shot. The first of these mass killings took place in Lithuania; soon they were happening in Latvia, Belarus and Ukraine (including at Babi Yar where 34,000 Jews were murdered).

On the edge of Riga, I visited two of these killing sites, Rumbula and Bikernieki, both now memorials. Rumbula was the site where most of the Jewish residents of Riga were killed, at least 25,000 during a three-day period in November-December, 1941. The Jews of Germany were initially sent to other countries, in order to make Germany *Judenrein* (Jew-free). Riga was one place where many of them were sent. Initially imprisoned in the Riga ghetto, they were soon marched to the forest of Bikernieki to be killed. The main memorial there is surrounded by markers with the names of the German cities from which the murdered Jews came. The recently-built memorial has been largely funded by those cities. Coming from a German-Jewish family, and knowing that several of my murdered relatives had been sent to Riga, I wandered through the memorial, seeing the names of the cities where they had lived. In the hills surrounding the memorial are the actual graves that have been identified, all well marked. There are 30-40 of these graves; each one containing hundreds and hundreds of bodies, 40,000 in total.

From Riga, I continued south to Lithuania. For several years I had been reluctant to visit Lithuania. Post-Soviet Lithuania has not done well in coming to terms with its role in the Holocaust. The Jews of Lithuania had the highest death rate of any country, with 95% of its Jews murdered. Many Lithuanians collaborated in the killings. I had often heard it said that “when it came to anti-Semitism, the Lithuanians were the worst.” The post-Soviet government had honored several Holocaust perpetrators, celebrating them as heroes for being anti-Soviet fighters, and naming streets after them. They even prosecuted Holocaust survivors for “war crimes” for fighting as anti-Nazi partisans (for more about this, see defendinghistory.com). I read that little had been done to remember or honor the Jews who once lived in Lithuania. Despite this, I wanted to see the country. It had, after all, been one of the most important centers of Judaism in the world.

My visit began in Kaunas (Kovno in Yiddish), Lithuania’s second largest city. There I visited the Synagogue, where I saw a small Sukkah standing outside (my trip took place during Sukkot). Particularly interesting to me was going through the



area of the former Jewish ghetto. Many of the old wooden houses there were pre-war, and gave me a feel of what Jewish life would have been like before WWII.

In Kaunas. I also visited the home of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara. While many of us are familiar with Raoul Wallenberg and Oscar Schindler, the story of Sugihara is less well known. He was the Japanese Consul in Kaunas during World War II. Seeing what was happening to the Jews, he wanted to help them by issuing Japanese transit visas. The visas would allow them to travel via the trans-Siberian railroad to Japan, and then on to other countries. He requested permission from the Japanese Foreign Ministry to issue the visas; not wanting to offend their ally Germany, the Ministry denied him permission. Defying orders, he issued them anyway. It is estimated that he saved 6000 Jews.

My final stop was Lithuania's capital, Vilnius (Vilna). On the outskirts of Vilnius, I visited one more mass-killing site, Paneriai. Before the German invasion, the Soviets had dug large pits which were to be used for oil storage. The Nazis used these as murder sites and mass graves for the Jews of Vilnius. It is estimated that 70,000 to 100,000 people were killed there by the Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators: mostly Jews, but also Soviet POWs, Polish intellectuals, and Communist officials.

Altogether, around one million Jewish men, women and children were killed by the *Einsatzgruppen* in places like Paneriai. By early 1942, the Nazi leadership decided that this method of killing was too inhumane. Inhumane not for the victims, but for the police and soldiers who did the shooting: it was decided that it was too psychologically stressful for them. Other killing methods were tried, leading to the gas chambers of Treblinka, Auschwitz, and the other death camps.

In the city of Vilnius, I found surprisingly much which memorializes its Jewish history and the 45% of the pre-war population that was Jewish. There are numerous Jewish



Former Jewish ghetto in Kaunas, Lithuania

museums, and the site of the wartime Ghetto in the center of the old city is well marked. Monuments mark important Jewish sites. At the home of the Vilna Gaon, one of the most important Rabbis in European history, there is a memorial bust of him. The one synagogue not destroyed by the Germans is not only in good condition, but still in use.

As I was driving through Vilnius, trying to navigate the maze of one way streets in the old part of town, I suddenly noticed a large tent covered with branches by the side of the road. "That looks like a Sukkah," I thought as I pulled over to take a closer look. I was greeted by a young man wearing a *kippah*. He confirmed that it was a Sukkah, and pointed out the Jewish Community Center across the street. He asked me if I wanted to say a blessing, then handed me a *Lulav* and I said the *Shehecheyanu* and *Lulav* blessing and waved the *Lulav* (special branches used on Sukkot). He said he was originally American, but had come to Vilnius with his father, a Chabad Rabbi, several years earlier. He invited me to Erev Simchat Torah services the following night. The next evening I arrived at the Center and took part in a service, which was followed by freely flowing vodka, and that most traditional of Jewish foods: sushi! I spoke to some of the people there and was told that a few thousand Jews now live in Vilnius, and they are using both the Central Synagogue and the Community Center. After all the sadness and destruction I had seen on this trip, it was reassuring to see that despite the best efforts of the Nazis, Judaism has managed to survive, even in Vilnius.

Daniel Kester will be speaking about his trip and showing photos from it on Sunday morning, May 15 at 9:15 am at Congregation Shir Shalom and again on Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville as part of the JCC Books and Arts Fair. Both events are free and open to the public and are co-sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Buffalo.



Mass graves at Bikernieki, outside Riga



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JCC 50th Annual Book & Arts Fair Celebrates a Half Century of Arts and Culture

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo celebrates its 50th year of offering the community a Book and Arts Fair with a series of cultural arts events that take place May – June, 2016. Events include:

Milton Ehrenberg, Buffalo-born and raised photographer who will be exhibiting his retrospective titled, *Views from my Camera*, May 1 – June 30, in the Bunis Family Art Gallery, located on the second floor of Jewish Community Center, 2640 North Forest Road.

On Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m., Dan Kester will present an audio/visual: Visit to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, based on his recent travels. Kester will be presenting photographs from the trip and talking about the Jewish history of the area. (See pages 28-29

SECRETS OF JEWISH LOVE AND MARRIAGE: IMMERSION OF MIND, BODY AND SOUL.

May 22, Trés Auraé Spa
7:30pm



Join renowned speaker, Goldie Plotkin for an inspirational evening for women, followed by delicious “spa themed” refreshments! Each guest will receive a “swag bag” compliments of Tres Aurae spa.

This event is free of charge and open to the community.

For further info: Call Shoshana Laub 716.688.6566 or email brochaleahg@gmail.com.



David Zakalik



Lauren Belfer

about the trip). Kester’s presentation takes place in the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre in the JCC at 2640 North Forest Road and will include an audience Q & A, followed by a reception, sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and the Jewish Genealogy Society of Buffalo. This event is free of charge.

On Sunday, May 22, 10:30 a.m., an event for families with young children will be hosted by PJ Library, at Talking Leaves Books, 951 Elmwood Ave. This free 1-hour program, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, features a PJ Library story time about tzedakah (helping others), an art project and a hands-on tzedakah project. For more information contact Mandy Weiss at mweiss@jfedbflo.com or 716-241-4221.

On Wednesday, June 1, the JCC presents *My Son, the Tribute: David Zakalik sings the music of Allan Sherman*. In this rollicking one-man show, David Zakalik belts his way through Allan Sherman’s repertoire. This sometimes racy, always funny retrospective of the “Overweight Sensation’s” meteoric career, features rediscovered early parodies, beloved classics, forgotten gems, and a few reimagined numbers. The event takes place in the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, JCC, Benderson Building,

7:30-8:30 p.m., followed by a dessert reception, sponsored by the Lillian Schwartz Fund at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased at either JCC Building or by calling 204-2084.

Back by popular demand, Rabbi Heschel Greenberg will talk about his new book, *Light From the Future – Volume 2*, Thursday, June 2, 7:30 p.m. in the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre at the JCC. *Light from the Future* is a collection of essays written on the weekly Torah portion during the year 2014-2015. Tickets are \$10 and scholarships are available upon request.

Buffalo born author Lauren Belfer returns to her hometown to talk about her newest book, *And After the Fire*, Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., in the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, at the JCC. The unexpected discovery of a shocking *Meisterwerk* is the inspiration behind this *New York Times* bestselling author’s atmospheric, enthrallingly suspenseful novel. Tickets for this event, sponsored by the Tanya Ganson Memorial Fund are \$10. Dessert reception as well as book signings and sales to follow Q&A with the author.

The JCC Book & Arts Fair is open to everyone. All JCC events will include receptions, as well as book sales and signings for author events. Tickets for events may be purchased at the door, or prior to events at either JCC member services desk. The JCC Book & Arts Fair is a program of the JCC Cultural Arts Program, which is supported by M & T Bank, The Louis S. & Molly B. Wolk Foundation, The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, and Talking Leaves Books. For more info, contact jhalpern@jccbuffalo.org or call 716-204-2255.

LOVE IN JEWISH THOUGHT & TRADITION SERIES CONTINUES MAY 18



Professor Noam Pines

The final lecture in the series on “LOVE – AN EXPLORATION OF LOVE IN JEWISH THOUGHT AND TRADITION” will take place Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM in the Lippman Lounge at the Jewish Community Center on North Forest Road –Professor Noam Pines will speak on “Love of Zion: The First Hebrew Novel.”

This most enlightening and enriching community lecture series has already featured four of the five major faculty members who make up the new Department of Jewish Thought at the University of Buffalo. Professors Marla Segol, Sergey Dolgopolski, Alex Green and Department Director Richard Cohen have all spoken to our community. Our speaker on May 18, Professor Noam Pines, comes to Buffalo from Stanford University and does his research in the area of poetry and poetics; literature and theology; modernism in Hebrew, German, Yiddish and English; and animals in literature. He has finished the manuscript of his first book: “The Infrahuman: Animal Poetics in Modern Jewish Literature,” and is currently working on his second, “Saturn: A Jewish Poetic Figure.”

All the lectures are free and open to the community. They have become a popular window into the University of Buffalo’s Department of Jewish Thought and the scholarship it offers to those who wish to participate in the excellent course material it offers. Plans are underway to continue the collaboration between the Bureau of Jewish Education and the university to offer another series during the next program year.

For questions or to let us know you are coming – please contact Ethel Melzer, Director of Adult Education at the BJE at ethel@bjebuffalo.org – or call the BJE office at 204-5380.

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HBLA Life Member Plaques Can Be Claimed Until June 1st!

They're flying off the shelves—figuratively, of course. Since Buffalo's Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association (HBLA) began informing the community (April *JWNY*- p. 37) that over 400 bronze plaques honoring its life members are available to be claimed, dozens of individuals have responded and have taken home plaques bearing their own names or those of loved ones.



Edward Schwartz and his daughter Sophie picking up grandfather/great grandfather Edward Schwartz's plaque.

Several heartwarming stories have already emerged. One plaque was claimed by a family friend and presented to a bride on her wedding day. It bore the name of the bride's grandfather, for whom she was named. The name on another plaque matched the name of the claimant—a grandson claiming the plaque of his grandfather in whose memory he

was named. He brought his young daughter with him, sharing the experience with yet another generation of his family. And another person who claimed the plaques of his father and grandfather, marked the occasion by becoming a life member himself, carrying on the family legacy. These are just a few of the stories that illustrate the personal significance of life membership in an organization that has been part of Buffalo's Jewish heritage for more than 100 years.

Although it is not too late to claim your plaque or that of a family member, time is growing short. Plaques will be available to be claimed until June 1st by calling the HBLA office at (716) 204-0542 or by sending an email to info@wnyhbla.org. Please include your name, address, phone number, and the plaque(s) you wish to claim. You will be contacted promptly.

A complete list of the names on HBLA plaques can be found in April's Jewish Journal or on the HBLA website, www.wnyhbla.org.

HADASSAH HEART-HEALTHY EVENT MAY 18

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in women in the United States and Israel. The Buffalo Hadassah Chapter, in keeping with one of the primary goals of Hadassah International, will be holding an educational event about heart disease in women.

A heart healthy luncheon will take place on Wednesday, May 18 at Transit Valley Country Club at 11:00 am. The guest speaker will be Dr. Joanne Cobler, a renowned cardiologist, who is involved with various issues surrounding women and heart disease. She is a frequent lecturer on this topic as well as a spokesperson for the Go Red for Women Campaign of the American Heart Association.

The luncheon will be an informative and enjoyable event. In addition to the guest speaker, there will be a fashion



show with Hadassah women modeling clothes from Chico's. There will also be handouts with factual information about prevention. The chairpersons, who have been working for months planning this very important program, are Nancy Greenberg and Vanessa Myers. The cost of the event is a donation of \$40 to Buffalo Hadassah. The program is open to the community. Reservations and inquiries can be made to Mickey Savit 839-5444.

JDC CLASSES BEGIN ON SUNDAY, MAY 15



Rabbi Heschel Greenberg

The Institute for Jewish Studies announces two new courses for the spring season of this year.

Course A: "JEWISH HISTORY: FROM THE PROPHETS TO THE SAGES"

The decline and destruction of the First Commonwealth marked the beginning of the end of the era of biblical prophecy. The Jews were driven into Persian exile and Jewish society faced its most serious challenge. Miraculously, the Jewish people emerged from the abyss and began a glorious period of creativity and growth. They returned to Israel, rebuilt the Holy Temple, and started an age of scholarship that would soon result in the monumental masterwork known as the Talmud. In this course we will examine and study this pivotal era of Jewish history and its powerful and pervasive impact on Jewish life today.

Course B: TALMUDIC DEBATES: AN ENLIGHTENING AND FASCINATING TOUR OF THE TALMUDIC DEBATE

The Talmud is renowned for its sharp intellectual argumentation and analysis. The fascinating debates contained within the Talmud have shaped and honed the Jewish mind. The scope of issues debated in the Talmud is rich and diverse. Topics range from religion, morality, and spirituality to law, culture, and science. The debaters include fellow Talmudists and Greek wise men. This course will focus upon some of the moral and spiritual wisdom contained within the Talmud. We'll see how the debates of old, and the ways they were settled, not only still resonate but can inform our contemporary world.

Both one-hour courses start Sunday, May 15, and continue for six Sundays through Sunday, June 26 (no classes on Sunday, June 12). Course A — 'Jewish

History: From the Prophets to the Sages' will be held at 10:00 AM and Course B — 'Talmudic Debates: An Enlightening and Fascinating Tour of the Talmudic Debate' will be held at 11:00 AM. This course (Course B) will be also be offered on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM

All classes will be held at the Jewish Discovery Center, 757 Hopkins Road in Williamsville.

The Institute for Jewish Studies is completing 18 years of quality adult Jewish education. Close to 1,000 people from all backgrounds and affiliations have benefited from almost 100 different courses in that time. The Institute's programs operate in a non-judgmental environment and are conducted with utmost respect in the belief that every Jewish adult is capable and deserving of learning the rich heritage of the Jewish people. Institute courses are designed to provide an overview of Jewish history, culture, thought, and tradition. All are urged to participate in this mind enhancing experience.

The courses are taught by Rabbis Heschel and Yehoshua Greenberg. Students will receive CDs of each weekly lesson.

The fee is \$40 per course. You are encouraged to bring a spouse or friend along for free or to split the cost. If you are not able to afford the total amount, you may give any other amount that you can afford. No one will be turned away due to a lack of funds. Special offer: High school and college student can join free of charge.

To receive a brochure, further information, registration material, or to be a sponsor please contact Rabbi Yehoshua Greenberg at 400-1550, or email: yehoshua.greenberg@gmail.com, or log on to www.JewishDiscovery.org.



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THE JCC'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM EARNS NATIONAL NAEYC ACCREDITATION

Program among the top in the nation by earning accreditation

The JCC of Greater Buffalo's Early Childhood program located in Getzville has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Stephanie Katzman, Early Childhood Director of the JCC.

"NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our high-quality program have teachers who create engaging classrooms, enhance relationships with their parents and families, and develop rich experiences for their students." Our early childhood program promotes children's social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth through a multi-sensory approach to teaching. We believe children learn best in a program that emphasizes creative expression through "hands-on" experiences while becoming confident, independent and respectful members of their classroom community.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, the JCC of Greater Buffalo's Early Childhood Center went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 25 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Nearly 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs.

"It's a lengthy and rigorous process to achieve NAEYC Accreditation, and The JCC of Greater Buffalo's Early Childhood Center should be commended for seeking high standards," said Rhian Evans Allvin, executive director of NAEYC. "Caring for children is not 'rocket science' – it's brain science. Studies prove that the brain



connections made in the first few years of life set a child's path for success in school and in life. That's why quality educators are so crucial. For parents and caregivers of young children who are searching for a high-quality early learning experience, the JCC of Greater Buffalo's Early Childhood Center NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that it offers a high-quality education in a nurturing and stimulating environment."

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the Association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to using the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

The NAEYC Accreditation system was created to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers, and other early education programs. To earn NAEYC Accreditation, a program must meet each of the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period.

Genealogy News & Notes from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Buffalo

By Kathi Freudenheim, President

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Buffalo (JGSB) has been busy assisting researchers, planning events, holding classes, and keeping up with current genealogical technologies and innovations. On March 6th and 13th the JGSB held two hands-on classes at the JCC Benderson Building for Hadassah members.

The participants came with a genealogy program on their computer or tablet, and Bernie Zysman instructed them on how to navigate several free websites containing vital records. As Bernie was instructing the class, individuals were assisted by experienced coaches. After the first session, the participants were able to continue their searches at home. The second session was a work session to assist the researchers with any problems they had and to help them utilize the various websites.

Organizing your work and keeping records of each ancestor or person on your family tree is much easier when you use a genealogy program. We recommend trying one of the free versions of a program to see how it works and whether or not it fits your needs. If it does not meet your expectations, you can download another free version and transfer (export) your files/work to the new application. There are other free versions of genealogy software programs; some are more complex than others. Some researchers like to upgrade to the premium paid version, but usually only after trying out the standard or basic free version. RootsMagic Essentials (<http://www.rootsmagic.com/Try/>) and Legacy8.0 Standard (<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/DownloadLegacy.asp>) were chosen for these classes because they appear to be easier to navigate for beginners.

Several of the participants found relatives in U.S. Censuses or City Directories despite spelling inconsistencies. We cannot emphasize



Bernie Zysman speaking to the genealogy group

enough that the spelling of names is not always correct. In fact, many times, names as we know them are transcribed incorrectly. So be aware and open to trying variations. Our relatives weren't worried about spelling, only how it sounded. Remember to say the name out loud to yourself, like your relative spoke it, possibly with a Yiddish or foreign accent. Now what does it sound like to you and what ways can it be spelled? Also, listings of family members may be found on JewishGen databases (www.jewishgen.org/databases) or FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org).

The JGSB is actively involved in JOWBR's mission to document the graves of all Jews around the world. We have volunteers that photograph Jewish graves in local cemeteries and then put the information from the photographs into a spreadsheet, and send the spreadsheet and photos to JOWBR. We are always looking for interested parties to assist us in taking photos at the cemeteries from April through October, when there is no inclement weather.

This month JGSB member, Daniel Kester will be speaking about his recent trip to Eastern Europe. He visited Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. There will be slides of pictures from the various sites he visited along with a very informative talk. He is speaking at Congregation Shir Shalom on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 9:15AM and on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the JCC Benderson Building at 7:00PM. The HRC and the JGSB are co-sponsoring these two events.

We invite you to contact the JGSB at jewishgenbuffalo@gmail.com to volunteer for our JOWBR project, for assistance or for information on membership.

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Delaware or Benderson location of the Jewish Community Center.

31ST BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

May 6-12
at Amherst Dipson Theatre

The 31st annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival will present 10 award winning and critically acclaimed films from around the world including Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States, May 6 – 12, at the Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street, Buffalo.

Saturday, May 7 features a festival opening deli dinner cocktail party followed by the screening of "Deli Man," which includes stories of iconic delis such as Katz's, 2nd Avenue Deli, Nate 'n Al, Carnegie, and features Larry King, Jerry Seinfeld, and Alan Dershowitz.

Also of note, following the Sunday, May 8, 3 p.m. screening of "Gett: The Trial of Viviane Ansa-lem," a panel discussion with three



Deli Man

local rabbis will comment on the film which documents the marriage laws for Jews in Israel, where there is neither civil marriage nor civil divorce and where only rabbis can legitimate a marriage or its dissolution.

For schedules, films trailers and tickets to all events, visit www.bijff.com. Tickets may also be purchased at either JCC Member Services Desks.

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Saving the Legacy of Orphaned Judaica Looted by the Nazis

By Dr. Chana Kotzin

In the last few years, blockbuster movie stories of the work of art historians and curators-turned-soldiers who saved priceless works of European heritage, or the individual struggles of a survivor-descendant to recover his or her family's art collections looted by the Nazis, have filled the silver screen in the form of *Monuments Men* and *The Woman in Gold*. Given the high profile of their creators, these pieces of art and sculptures and their cultural meaning for Western heritage as well as the individual stories of the men and woman who struggled for their safety and return, it is easy to forget that these are the minority outcomes of such efforts. While much art (and by extension – culture) was salvaged after the War, and a number of families have recovered their property, many more remain unresolved.

An allied story that is less often told is that the Nazi's extinguishing of lives during the Holocaust included despoliation of not just priceless art, but a whole range of items, including household objects, as well as Hebraica (books) and Judaica (religious items) for both economic gain and cultural genocide. Millions of possessions were collected and stockpiled, even when they had little apparent direct value to the Reich. In the case of Judaica, while some were made by artisans and highly revered, the majority represented a modest everyday expression of Judaism in the home and in synagogue communities across Germany and Eastern Europe. Although we think of Nazi record keeping as meticulous, it was utilized carefully in certain areas, and not others, and not always in expected ways.

In the case of everyday ritual objects which were less valued, their provenance (who they belonged to, which community they came from) was rarely recorded and their connection to family and community, and the practice of Jewish life was divorced from hundreds of thousands of individual items. Once their owners were gone, this was another act of erasure, as Judaica—intimately an expression of Jewish life—was severed from those who used it or created it.

So what happened to these Jewish religious objects, which, after the conclusion of the War, lacked identifiable owners, yet represented individuals, families and communities, perhaps whole ones, extinguished by the Nazis and their



Top: Spice Box, undated.

Bottom: Wimpel of Jurgen Meibergen, 1920

accomplices? Classified as "heirless" by the Allied Forces that discovered them, these caches of Torah adornments (like *rimonim*-torah finials and home based Judaica like chanukiot-among other items) were transferred to an American organization called Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (JCR), and this is how Buffalo enters the story.

In 1950, a small number of Judaica items were sent to the Bureau of Jewish Education here in Buffalo with the charge to provide Judaica for the use of new communities in the safety of the United States. For many years, the Judaica provided teachers with tools for the education of generations of Jews in the specific function and meaning of these ritual objects. Their connection to the Nazi atrocities remained, signified by special tags, indicating their secondary provenance, but few knew of their connection to this specific part of Jewish history. Recently, a survey of Judaica disbursed under Jewish Cultural Reconstruction revived local institutional

interest in their connection to the JCR program. As they are increasingly fragile, a plan has been put in place with the Cofeld Judaic Museum at Temple Beth Zion, where they will reside on permanent loan, but be given an opportunity for display on an annual basis, beginning with Yom HaShoah this year on May 1st.

In addition, as part of a multi-year project, The Buffalo Jewish Archives Project is researching three of the items – the wimple cloths (circumcision records), which we may be able to trace back to individuals as early research has indicated, and in that way, bring back the names and communities of some of these items. Please come and view this temporary exhibition in May and learn more about Jewish Cultural Reconstruction in Buffalo through the Bureau of Jewish Education. For more information you can email Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D. at archivesproject@bjebuffalo.org or call 716-204-5388.

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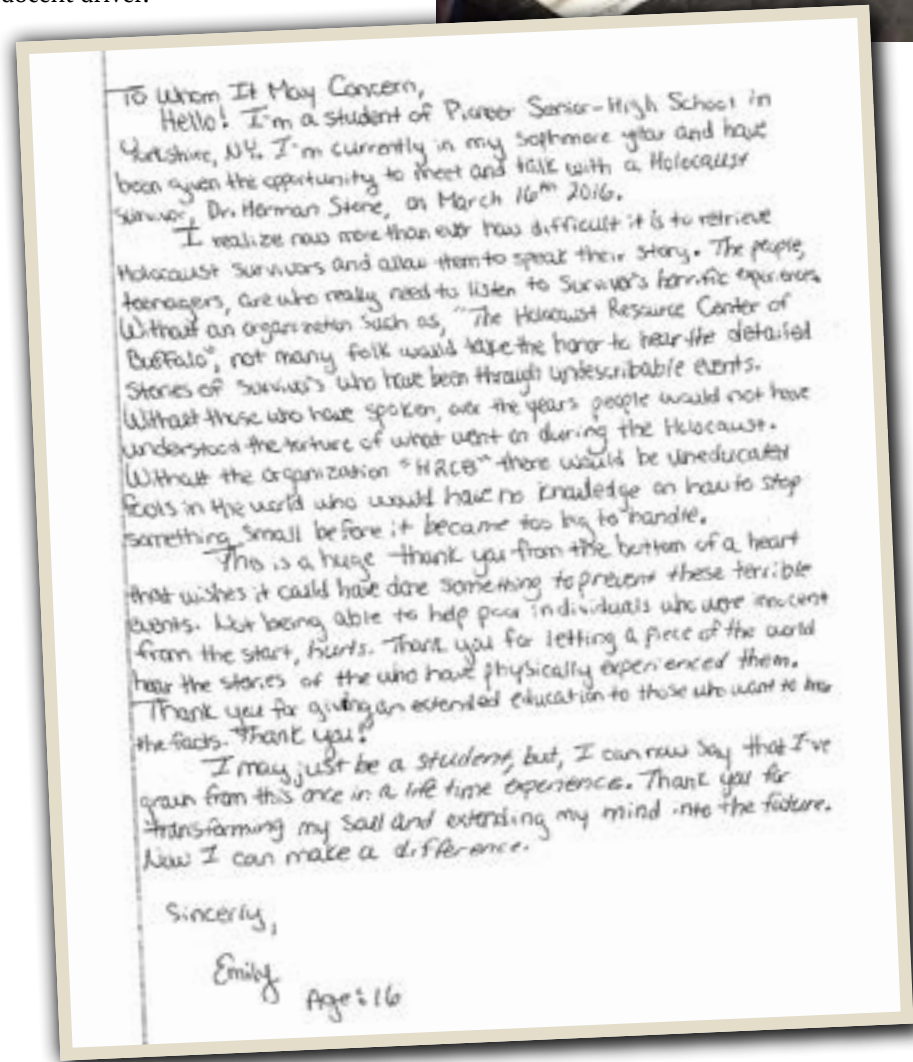
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HRC Impacting Student's Lives

If you ever wonder about the impact of all the wonderful work **The Holocaust Resource Center** accomplishes, read this letter from a 16 year old Pioneer High School student in Yorkshire, NY. Here is evidence of how our work changes lives. Many thanks to Dr. Herman Stone who travelled to tell his story and to Marilyn Toth who was his docent driver.



2 IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENTS FROM THE HRC

A professional opportunity for the Medical & Legal communities of Buffalo

Medical Ethics & the Holocaust

Thursday, May 5 5:30-8:00 pm
Temple Beth Zion- 805 Delaware Ave



This program will explore the corruption of medical ethics in Nazi Germany, the foundations for Modern-day understandings of informed consent in the Nuremberg Trials, and current issues of informed consent and patients' rights, including euthanasia and the Human Genome Project.

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A LIGHT DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED FROM 5-5:30. Reservations required at www.hrcbuffalo.org

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS:

A Conference on Holocaust, Human Rights, & Social Justice Education for Catholic School Teachers

Thursday, May 19th, 2016; 4-8PM
Nardin Academy, 135 Cleveland Avenue, Buffalo, NY

This program will explore the importance of the Holocaust, its relevance, and how to best connect it to the lives of your students today. Featuring the human rights defenders of the nationally-recognized **Speak Truth to Power** program, the purpose of the event is to not only learn about how to teach the history of the Holocaust, but to empower your students with the confidence and know-how to repair the world. John Heffernan, Director, Speak Truth to Power Program, Washington, D.C and Sophia Vaffer Local Holocaust Survivor and Human Rights Educator



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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY: *My Body My Image: Eating Disorders and the Jewish Community*

Believe it or not, an eating disorder is about more than wanting to be thin. At its core, an eating disorder is an attempt to control self-destiny when someone believes they have little or no control over their life. While women and girls are more commonly affected, millions of men and boys also battle all forms of the illness, which can become life threatening.



"It's just as difficult to be Ken as it is Barbie. The media, movies and, most recently, the Internet contribute to the dominant cultural dictate of an unrealistic female and male body type," says Renée Fearon, LCSW-R Psychiatric Social Worker at JFS. "As it is with females, personal factors such as genetic predisposition also make males susceptible to body dysmorphic intrusive thoughts."

In addition to anorexia and bulimia, more than 25 million people struggle with binge eating disorder, often a precursor to obesity, according to "Reclaiming the Body: Anorexia and Bulimia in the Jewish Community," an article by clinical psychologist Judith Ruskay Rabinor, Ph.D. on the Orthodox Union web site (www.ou.org).

"While they occur throughout the lifecycle, onset is most often in adolescence when teens and young adults are faced with a host of new physiological changes, cognitive demands and social and emotional pressures. Ultimately these disorders have more to do with coping with one's thoughts and feelings than with one's body," Rabinor writes.

Temimah Zucker knows this well: She developed anorexia nervosa at 18. The youngest of three children, she had never been away from home when she left Teaneck, NJ to attend college in Queens, New York, and had difficulty coping with new independence and responsibilities.

Within a matter of months, Zucker began restricting what she ate as a way to "take control." Her weight dropped and she became irritable and withdrawn: By the time her parents convinced her to see a doctor she was on the verge of slipping into a coma.

Now 24 and in full recovery, her journey has been featured in *The Huffington Post*, *Glamour Magazine* and the *Buffalo Jewish Review*, among other media sources. As a graduate of Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Zucker champions the need to address the rise of eating disorders within the Jewish community, which she says is difficult because of a lack of awareness and also denial.

"When I mention my work to people in my community, they generally respond with, 'Ok, I have an eating disorder, I eat too much!' or 'Is this an actual issue here?'" These kinds of things can prevent people from feeling comfortable talking about their struggles, and from seeking out help," she told *The New York Jewish Week* in May 2015.

The occurrence of eating disorders is estimated to be significantly higher within all Jewish denominations or movements than in the general U.S. population. "The Jewish community is not immune to various diet and health misconceptions, pressure to be thin, and biological and environmental factors that contribute to the rising number of eating disorders,

anorexia nervosa and binge eating disorder," according to "Eating Disorders in the Jewish Community", an article posted at www.nationaleatingdisorders.org.

Rabinor notes that, "feeling fat is the norm for the majority of American women when compared to images of ultra-thin models who are tall blond lean and lanky." While many religions and cultures have rituals involving large family meals, Shabbat meals and Holiday gatherings are cornerstones of community identity.

"With any orthodox religion, it's difficult, but not impossible, to work toward eating disorder recovery within dietary requirements (Kosher) and the feasting and fasting of Holy days, holidays and religious observances when the goal of health and life remain in sight," Fearon advises.

Zucker believes education and acknowledgment are the keys to helping her community better understand and meet the challenge of facing an eating disorder. She shares this message and her personal journey at schools, synagogues and community centers and has founded Tikvah V'Chizuk, Hebrew for "hope and strength," a support group for Jews and their loved ones coping with eating disorders.

"JFS is proud to offer comprehensive outpatient counseling and therapy for individuals who need help diagnosing and managing an eating disorder and maintaining a healthy lifestyle," JFS President and CEO Marlene Schillinger says.

"We are even more proud to have the skill and perspective to provide cultural and faith-based help for individuals and families in the Jewish Community who may be struggling to overcome stigma and begin the healing and recovery process."

JFS also helps to connect clients and their families to inpatient care if and when it becomes medically necessary.

Jewish Family Service is located at 70 Barker Street, Buffalo, NY 14209: To make an appointment, or for more information about counseling and treatment for an eating disorder or other mental health concerns, call 716-883-1914. Visit us online at www.jfsbuffalo.org



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PASSOVER MUSIC WITH MISS RIVKY!

A large group of moms and children, many new to the group, enjoyed an exciting and fun-filled Passover experience in Rivky Greenberg's pre-Passover music class! The room was filled with laughs and joyous shouts of children, while Miss Rivky acted out the story of Baby Moses, Pharaoh and the Jews in Egypt through props, tools, dress up and song. The children learned about the various shapes of matzah, the Seder Plate, the Hagadah, the Ten Plagues, danced to the famous Dayeinu song and learned a new Passover version of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Each family received a box of handmade Shmurah Matzah to enjoy at the Seders. "Music with Rivky" is a program of the Jewish Discovery Center and held at the Amherst JCC. For more information about upcoming music classes, please log on to www.musicwithrivky.com to sign up for the mailing list or contact Rivky at atrivky@musicwithrivky.com or (716) 906-8890.



The large and awesome group at the Pre-Passover music class



Charlotte and her mom, Stacy, loved music class



Penelope showing the children the first of the Plagues, when water turned into blood.



Miss Rivky singing while showing the children a round handmade Shmurah Matzah



The children with their moms displaying some Passover items



The children built cities in Egypt and Miss Rivky, dressed up as King Pharaoh, destroyed them all!

"Shhhh! Don't wake up sweet Baby Moses in the basket!"



Three generations of the Brooks (& Galley) families enjoying music class!



Ethan with his mom Donatella dressed up as King Pharaoh

Rebecca, with daughters Isabelle and Evelyn, loved their first Music with Rivky experience.

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Mussar in Jewish Buffalo



Alan Morinis at Congregation Shir Shalom



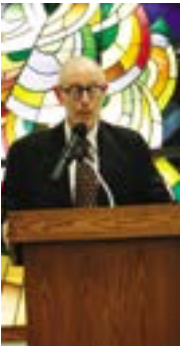
Shir Shalom members with Alan Morinis following his lecture



"If Everyone Read The Same Book" program committee members



Linda Steinhorn, Dr. Regina Grol and Melania Puius



Cantor Mark Horowitz at Temple Beth Tzedek introducing Alan Morinis

Mussar in Jewish Buffalo



Alan Morinis speaking about his book, *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* at Temple Beth Tzedek



Leslie Shuman Kramer and Cantor Mark Horowitz



Dr. Larry and Linda Boxer



Lisa Wallenfels and Cheryl Stein



Meeting at the Federation offices with Alan Morinis were Cheryl Stein, Dr. Harvey Arbesman, Howard Rosenhoch, Alan Morinis, Larry Rubin and Dr. Gil Wolfe.

Foundation and Federation in Florida



AJC West Coast Florida Chair Anne Virag speaking at a recent event in Sarasota



Joan Cohen and Debby Cohen



Susan Halpern, Hannah Weinberg, Joan Cohen and Sharon Miller



Hannah Weinberg and Anne Virag



Marilyn Shuman, Dr. Len Katz and Judy Katz



Sandy Rifkin and Harold Halpern



David Feurstein and Jodi Bloom



Ilene Fleischmann and Dr. Michael Cohen



Holly Levy and Sylvia Rosen

National Federation for Just Communities Honors Larry Levite



Barbara Baker, Sharon Levite, Doug Baker and honoree Larry Levite



Arnie Kahn, Jim Biltekoff, Dr. Howard Benatovich, Buffalo Spree's Barbara Macks and Joanie Kahn



Marnie Benatovich Cerrato, NFJC President Lana Benatovich and Barbara Macks



Rachel Kranitz McPhee, Joanne Biltekoff and Patty Gelman

National Federation for Just Communities Honors Larry Levite



Ken and Amy Friedman and Linda and Hugh Russ



Catherine Schweitzer and Sarah Gelman Carney



Jim Biltekoff introduces Larry Levite at the event



Larry Levite hugs Jim Biltekoff after the introduction



Larry Levite thanks the NFJC and the assembled group for attending



Rabbi Gary Pokras gives the invocation at the end of the NFJC Awards Dinner

NFJC Honors Larry Levite



Pam Jacobs Vogt and Linda Kahn



Peter and Ilene Fleischmann

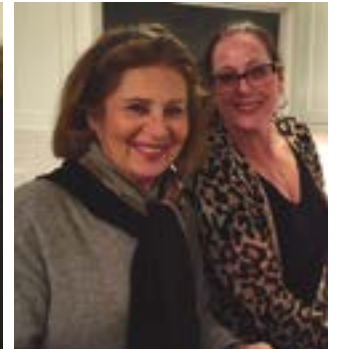
Passover Cooking with JDC and Jessica Altman



Ellen Steinfeld, Elinor Weiss and Judy Epstein at the Passover cooking class



Community women gathered at JDC for the class



Viola Sterman and Carrie Rittenhouse

Passover Cooking with JDC and Jessica Altman



Enjoying the evening together



Having fun learning healthy Pesach dishes



Learning about healthy Pesach cooking



Cooking teacher and health & nutrition expert Jessica Altman (left) with friends



(from Left) Carrie Rittenhouse, Rivky Greenberg, Jessica Altman, Brocha-Leah Greenberg, Rivky Gurary and Sonia Gelman.



Purim Across Jewish Buffalo



(NOT) THE LAST WORD

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH A Memoir Of Ezra Schwartz

By Lauren Wallenfels

First appeared as a blog in Lifestyle on Nov 20, 2015.



Lauren Wallenfels

How many times does an action need to repeatedly happen before something finally gives? When is enough enough? On Thursday, November 19, 2015, I lost a close friend. Being a conservative Jew, I was highly involved in the Conservative youth organization, United Synagogue Youth, otherwise known as the organization your parents send you to find your future spouse. Being a part of this organization allowed me the opportunity to do many things. One of these opportunities was to embark on a cross country summer trip by bus. On this trip, I created memories that will last me a lifetime, but more importantly, friendships that will last me a lifetime. On this trip I was given the opportunity to befriend an amazing individual. His name

was Ezra Schwartz. Ezra was someone who always knew how to put a smile on your face. He could make you laugh when you were down; he was there for you in times of need. He was a friend, and a good one at that.

Over Summer 2013, I got to know Ezra. At the beginning of our six-week journey he was a stranger. By the end of the month and a half as we said our goodbyes, I knew that he was someone who had made an impact on my life, whether it was big or small. Ezra was someone that I wanted to make sure I stayed in touch with after we departed. Long distance friendships are difficult. Sometimes you grow apart and other times it is out of sight out of mind, as sad as that is. Ezra never failed to remain in contact with me. It was nice to catch up with him from time to time and check in on each other.

This last year, as most seniors left high school to head on to college, Ezra took a different path. He chose to take a gap year in Israel at a yeshiva in Beit Shemesh. During his time in Israel, Ezra and I still remained in contact from time to time. That contact ended when his life was taken by a Palestinian terrorist, while he was on his way to give food to Lone Soldiers in Gush Etzion, an area south of



Lauren Wallenfels and Ezra Schwartz OBM, closing banquet, USY on Wheels summer 2013.

Jerusalem.

Upon hearing the news of my friend's death, I was in disbelief. I didn't think that it could possibly be Ezra. There had to be a misunderstanding. I kept checking reports only to find that an eighteen-year-old American had died, but I thought what are the odds that it would be Ezra? How could it be my friend? It wasn't a reality until I saw a single post on his Facebook wall. It was a message from a friend saying how much he would be missed. At this moment, I lost it. I had lost a great friend.

As a frequent follower of Israel's well-being, I constantly see reports about attacks that take place there. The crazy thing is, and as sad as it is, this is something that happens every day there, but you never expect it to be someone you know.

I am not sharing my friend's story for sympathy. I am sharing it for awareness. People need to know that this happens in Israel on a daily basis. This is every day for some people, and it needs to end. When will people realize that they are not going to get anywhere by killing person after person? It needs to end. I want peace, not only for Israel, but also for the world, and I pray that someday it will be achieved.

R.I.P to my dear friend, Ezra Schwartz. Your big personality, heart and charisma will be greatly missed.

Lauren Wallenfels is a freshman at Michigan State University. She is the daughter of Lisa and George Wallenfels.



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