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The Award Winning

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo

THE JEWISH JOURNAL OF WNY

Buffalo, Israel & the Jewish World

July 2014 | Tammuz -Av 5774



18 Reasons to Believe in the Future

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What's Inside... July 2014

Editor's Note

This month's cover story features 18 statements by 18 notable young men and women. I am proud to say that all of these young people—the 2014 graduates of the Bureau of Jewish Education's High School of Jewish Studies—are the faces of our Jewish future. Whether they come back to Buffalo after college, or they move elsewhere, these kids are proud Jews who know who they are, have their heads planted firmly on their shoulders, and represent our Buffalo Jewish community beautifully.

I have had the pleasure of knowing a few of them since they were little children—Emily and Simon. And it has been a joy to see them grow into such impressive grown-ups! I highly recommend you read all of the messages written by these young men and women. This is one place you can definitely see your UJF Dollars at work through the Jewish educational programs afforded them in their lives. I'm very proud of all of them, their teachers, their schools, their synagogues and this community. You can be, too!

Western New York is in bloom this month, and July is the most glorious. You may know that when I'm not hanging out in the Jewish community, I'm either in my garden or looking at other gardens. Take the opportunity to go on some Garden Walks (p. 12) this month. And if you are in the neighborhood during Garden Walk Buffalo, stop by my garden. I'll save you a glass of ice tea.



Photo Credit: Linda Gellman

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover

The High School of Jewish Studies 2014 Graduating class on the evening of their graduation. TOP ROW, from left: Jacqueline Oestreicher, Isaac Molzen, Jacob Dubin, Jonathan Weisbrot, Simon Honig, Nathin Gellin, Zachary Richheimer, Kayla Yellen. MIDDLE ROW: Aliza Berger, Emily Cohen, Madelaine Hamilton, Rachel Snitzer, Anna Pressman, Alexis Ashton. BOTTOM ROW: Isabella Kaplan, Emily Pawlowski, Rachel Adel, Leah Finkelstein. Photo by Jill R. Komm.

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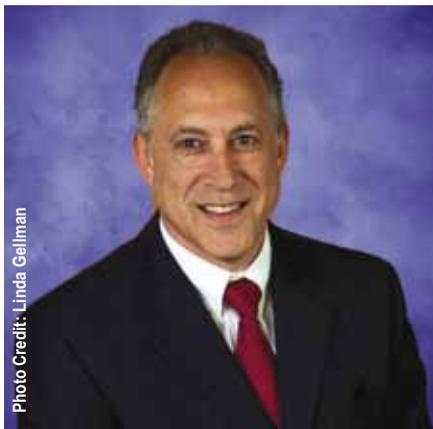
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Publisher's Column

Michael D. Wise



One of the quiet but important roles the Jewish Federation plays in our community is the care and upkeep of eight Jewish cemeteries. All these cemeteries had previously been run by cemetery societies and synagogues that ceased to operate. Over time, the leadership of these groups could no longer maintain the cemeteries and in many cases ran out of money. Some of this was, in part, due to few new burials as well as inadequate perpetual care funds. Thus, the Federation formed

the Jewish Federation Cemetery Corporation to take care of the maintenance and upkeep of these important communal institutions. When we assumed ownership, in many cases the cemetery was in poor condition, stones toppled over, overgrowth of weeds, etc. Today an active Cemetery Board, chaired by Jerry Carrel and staffed by Federation CFO Debbie Pivarsi, is doing amazing work to restore these institutions into the respectable condition we all expect from a Jewish cemetery. We are talking about the final resting place for our relatives and close family.

Fortunately, through the State of New York, we are also working to obtain funds to repair headstones that are in danger of toppling over. They do not provide funding for those stones already toppled. The Cemetery Corporation is now actively fundraising to provide support to help repair and restore our cemeteries into proper condition. We have a long way to go and will continue to take on new cemeteries and leadership of these groups when they can no longer continue the important work they do for our community.

I urge you to support our Cemetery appeal with your generous giving to the Federation's UJF Campaign, as well as the annual campaign of the Cemetery Corporation. We owe it to those who have built our great community and passed away. Jewish law teaches us that among the first things we must build when we start a new Jewish community is a cemetery, connoting the great importance that it has in a Jewish community. We have come a very long way in creating beautiful cemeteries for our loved ones and I hope you will join in continuing the work to make our cemeteries something of which we can all be proud.

President's Column

David Desmon



It is always exciting to see the progress we are making in building up our Jewish Community. Recently, I had the privilege of participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new addition to the Ohr Temimim School. This expansion was brought on by increasing enrollment, as the day school now exceeds 100 students. The Federation helped in the funding of the new space so there could be enough classrooms and other spaces for students. Saluted at the event were the school's biggest supporters such as Penny and Charlie Shuman and

their family, as well as Susan and Arthur Gellman and their family. We also salute Rabbi Shanowitz and his team on their success.

In addition, the Jewish Community Center held festivities at the new Camp Centerland to celebrate and thank Marilyn Shuman and her family for their million dollar gift at the special dedication of the campgrounds, now known as the Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds. A festive celebration on Father's Day was held as a large crowd got the chance to see firsthand the new and improved campground as it got ready for its second season on the property behind the JCC and Weinberg Campus in Getzville. There will be a lot of campers at Centerland this summer, and they will have a fantastic time at camp going on the new Zip line, playing baseball or gaga, and swimming, among other programs organized by the camping staff. There have been numerous additions for this season with even more planned in the future. I hope you all have had the chance to see the facilities!

These events and others make me realize that we are fortunate to have many wonderful people in our community who are able to generously donate to causes that are important to them and to their families. There are many opportunities throughout the community-- including all of our agencies and synagogues-- where we all can make a difference, both now and in the future. Soon, we will make a concerted effort to raise endowment funds to help insure our future as well as make certain community projects come alive. This is a way for all of us to make a difference in making Jewish Buffalo an even better place for all of us, as we look to an exciting future. Let us know if you need more specific information. Enjoy the summer and think seriously about how you can make a difference.

Thank you for your generous support to the Jewish Federation and the 2014 United Jewish Fund Campaign.

We will publish the Honor Roll thanking all donors to the 2014 campaign again this year at our Community Kickoff Dinner and in the *Jewish Journal of WNY*. Your name will appear exactly as it did last year unless otherwise requested. Should you wish to make any changes, please contact our Campaign Director, Randi Morkisz at rmorkisz@jfedbflo.com or 204-2245. Your gift helps so many here in Buffalo, in Israel and throughout the world! Thank you!

18 Reasons to Believe in the Future!

The following four pages are the thoughts and beliefs of the 18 members of the graduating class of the High School for Jewish Studies. After reading them, we hope you will agree that there are not only 18 reasons to believe in the Jewish future, but there are also 18 reasons to be proud of these students, as well!



Zachary Richeimer

As I've transitioned from my earliest days of childhood into an adult (technically), my Jewish education has played an integral role in shaping not only who I am today, but who I will be in the future. When I was just three years old, my family moved to Buffalo, NY from Milwaukee, WI as a result of a new job my Dad had been offered here. At four years old, I became enrolled in the preschool program at Kadimah School of Buffalo.

As I progressed through my years at Kadimah, some aspects of myself, as well as my environment, stayed the same, but many things changed. Whether it was Kadimah moving from Temple Shaarey Zedek to its own home, or me going from elementary school into the role of running the school store (affectionately called Kadimart), there was always one aspect that held constant - and still holds true to this day. That aspect is the abundant opportunities that are available within the Jewish community.

Judaism being as small (relatively) as it is has many opportunities that may not hold true for other religions. For example, it creates opportunities to find a connection with other people of the same religion easily, and it also gave, and continues to give me opportunities to excel as a leader and role model for others.

At Kadimah, with a fairly small population, I was able to act as a leader within the student council, which allowed me to develop into a leader in high school, as well as President of FBLA, the largest student organization at Williamsville East. If not for the leadership experience I was able to gain at Kadimah, I'm not sure being President of FBLA and starting my own business would have been possible.

I've been grateful to have had the opportunity to strengthen my Jewish foundation at the High School for Jewish Studies, which has allowed me in turn to meet new people and stay in touch with old friends.



Kayla Yellen

Judaism has always been more than just a religion for me. It has played a more than significant role in my life and has shaped the person I am today. My favorite thing about being Jewish besides the food is the community. It all started in Kadimah preschool and has evolved into camp, youth group, Jewish cultural awareness club, Hebrew High, and countless memories with my Jewish friends.

One of my favorite Jewish memories is the Hebrew High college trip to New York City that I took part in my junior year. Besides learning that subways give me serious motion sickness, this trip made me realize how important Jewish values are to me, and how much I love hanging out with my Jewish friends. Before this trip, I did not consider a Jewish population as an important factor in choosing which college I wanted to attend. However, visiting campus Hillels, speaking with Jewish college students, eating bagels, and being surrounded by my Jewish friends on this trip made me realize how much I truly value the Jewish community. I also attribute this passion for the Jewish community to my Wednesday nights at Hebrew High. No matter how stressful a week I am having, I can always look forward to "feelings check-ins," seeing all my friends, and of course driving my teachers crazy. I will never forget the amazing experiences I have had through Confirmation class and JCI. I am so thankful for all these great memories, and I know that no matter where I go or what I do in my life, Judaism will always be a part of me.



Jacqueline Oestreicher

To me, being Jewish isn't just a set of beliefs and moral guidelines; being Jewish means that I am part of a greater community. Impacting me, more than anything else, are the

relationships that I have established by participating in various Jewish programs including JCC preschool, TBZ religious school, Camp Centerland day camp, Camp Lakeland, Camp Seneca Lake and Kutz overnight camps, Havaya Israel Experience, Hebrew High and NFTY. Because of my involvement in this greater Jewish community, I could be stranded in any state of the country and know that I have a place to stay. I love making instant connections with other Jewish teens by playing Jewish Geography.

Another opportunity being Jewish has afforded me, is the ability to take on leadership roles. As the NFTY-NEL Regional President, I have been privileged to work with so many outstanding people and develop myself as an individual. Being Jewish has become such a big part of my life, and I am so grateful for it.



Jonathan Weisbrot

As I have travelled through the many years of my Jewish education, I feel I have progressed in many ways. We are all fortunate to come from families where Judaism is at the core of our existence. I began my formal Jewish education in Mishpachah at age three. This Jewish education reinforced my knowledge of the various holidays and traditions. As the years passed, we began to learn Hebrew and chant prayers. We studied Mitzvot, performed Mitzvot, and applied the message of "doing for others" to our lives.

My Bar Mitzvah preparation gave me the opportunity to study the Torah at an intense level, and deliver a D'Var Torah that helped me apply the lessons of the Torah to my daily life. In my D'Var Torah, I spoke of the impact that my family background had on my Jewish identity. The Holocaust has severely affected my family. Through this pain, we grow as human beings and, I am committed, as a third generation Holocaust survivor, to deliver the message to "Never be a bystander, and always be an upstander." My education has solidified my strong family background.

My Jewish education, post-Bar Mitzvah, was at a more philosophical level. This education gave me the time to look for answers to complicated issues in my secular life, and find meaning through the teachings of Judaism. I will treasure the formal and informal education I have received through Hebrew High and the lasting friendships that have developed through the years.

A very meaningful aspect of Hebrew High has been the JCI trip. At this conference we had the outstanding opportunity to lobby for real issues to a representative of Senator Gillibrand. This experience gave us the opportunity to answer complicated issues, that we hold passion for, with solutions that hold Jewish ideals. We also executed Mitzvot by bringing utilities to homeless people and had intriguing conversations with them. JCI gave me the tools and the ability to realize that I can make a difference in the world, and achieve my personal goal of striving for justice, with kindness and empathy simultaneously.

I am a proud Jew who is committed to keeping the customs and traditions of Judaism alive and meaningful. I realize that my path through Jewish education has shaped me religiously, morally, philosophically, and has given me the tools to confidently go into the world as a Jewish young adult.



Isaac Molzen

Now that my graduation from Hebrew High has arrived, and I look back at the past four years and the many experiences I have had, I realize the importance of this journey and the effect it has had and will continue to have on me as I continue my Jewish life.

The education I received was invaluable and never boring. Classes were kept interesting and current, and it never felt like "school." This year especially, I was able to communicate and express myself amongst my other classmates about real-

life Jewish topics and our plans for college and our future. It helped to have a forum that allowed me the opportunity to discuss important issues with my peers. I feel like I have gained a much more meaningful connection with the people here than at my public high school. I've found a new perspective on what it means to share Jewish roots, ethnicity and religion. That realization was strengthened even more when I had the opportunity to go to Israel with my family for the very first time. I was surprised to feel such a strong sense of belonging to a place I had never been.

Even though Hebrew High is now over, the memories I have, the lessons I've learned, and the friends I've made, will remain with me forever.



Rachel Adel

My Jewish education started at the age of three in Mishpacha at Temple Beth El. However, I started attending temple services when I was a baby, so that is really when my Jewish education and Jewish life started. If I never started attending Hebrew School and Temple at such a young age, I would never have seen the importance of it. Therefore, I wouldn't have wanted my Judaism to play such an integral role in my life, but thankfully I do and it is. Because I go to a school that has less than ten Jewish students in attendance,

going to Hebrew school reinforced my Judaism and its importance even though none of my secular school friends share the same faith as me. Going to Hebrew High was an amazing experience for me because this could have been the time in my life where I gave up my Jewish life as I have other activities I could have partaken in. But, I chose to continue and that reinforced the fact that I want to live a Jewish life for the rest of my life. When it came time for the college search, one of my biggest criteria was the presence of a Hillel program on campus. This is because I have been fortunate enough to have a Jewish education for almost my whole life. I plan on continuing to attend services while in college, at Hillel, and after I graduate I intend to lead a Jewish life by attending Temple services as often as I can, practicing customs, and celebrating the holidays. When I have children someday, they will accompany me to temple, they will engage in the customs, they will celebrate the holidays, and they will have a Jewish education, so hopefully they will feel the same way as I do in regards to the benefit of my Jewish education.

Judaism has made me the person I am today because of the importance of mitzvot and compassion for others. I have become an avid volunteer, although not always through Temple-related activities, and that is completely attributed to my Bat Mitzvah mitzvah project. My mitzvah project was a volunteer project and thanks to that, as well, I am the volunteer and compassionate person I am today.

My Jewish education and the Jewish teachings have shaped me into the person I am today and I plan on continuing to follow my Jewish faith for the rest of my life.



Lexi Ashton

Not only is it important to attend religious school, but for me it is important to surround myself with other Jewish individuals. This being said, Hebrew High is a chance to talk with other Jews in the community, a chance I do not usually have many other days of the week. Unlike my high school, at religious school there are people I can relate to without feeling separate or a minority. Hebrew High and Sunday school were my opportunities to "fit in" and be able to talk to other people about the same views and who share similar backgrounds. I hope to take these experiences with

me as I move onto a collegiate experience.

I realize that I am a part of a dwindling population, as a grandchild of a living Holocaust survivor. It is important for me to embrace my Judaism, celebrate my heritage and be proud of my religion. As I move forward, I plan on joining a Jewish organization or club on campus to keep the Jewish pride I have with me throughout my life. I want to sustain my Jewish identity at a time when many of my peers seem to disassociate themselves from behaviors that appear different than others. Assimilation has long been an ever tightening knot for minorities. I know I live among many

different kinds of people, but there is a warm feeling I get out of surrounding myself with my own kind.

My experience at Hebrew High was learning not only about other Jews, but perhaps mostly learning about my Jewish self.



Jacob Dubin

When I think back on my Jewish education, my first memory is of Temple Beth Am Nursery School when I was just two years old. I remember singing, playing with my friends, making all sorts of crafts and celebrating Jewish holidays. There, I made many friends whom I still see today at Hebrew High.

From Nursery School, my Jewish education continued at Kadimah School as a kindergartner. At Kadimah, my days were split between secular studies and Judaic studies. My Jewish studies involved reading, writing, and speaking Hebrew, learning prayers, Jewish history, culture and tradition. My eight years at Kadimah gave me a great foundation for my Jewish identity along with a lot of great memories

At age 12, I began studying for my Bar Mitzvah with Cantor Spindler. Learning the Haftorah and reading from the Torah was a great accomplishment. Even now, when I am asked to chant from the Torah, it gives me a lot of pride in doing so.

Attending Hebrew High, Temple youth groups and volunteering at Geshel School has helped in my Jewish education. These allowed me to get involved within the Jewish community.

Most of my childhood has revolved around my Judaism, and a great deal of it has been the history of my Mother's family. My Grandfather who is 98 tells us of the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust and the terrible hardships he endured in order to survive. Unfortunately, most of my Mother's relatives perished in the concentration camps leaving my Mother with very little family. That is why family is so important to me. Hopefully, their legacy that they left behind will continue with my brothers and me, continuing to practice the traditions of our faith. I hope to instill in my family someday what was instilled in me.



Simon Honig

A solid constant in my life thus far has been my Jewish education and experiences. My Jewish community has modeled the behavior of working and being together in easy and tough times, and I can truthfully say that my decision-making process has stemmed from my Jewish morals and values. Before acting, I think of others, and how my actions will affect them. Judaism is a way of learning from the past, enjoying the present, and hoping for the future. Holidays, Shabbat services, and music are an integral part of my life in the past, today, and hopefully in the future, making me

who I am. Music has probably been the biggest factor, and most extensive connection to Judaism that I have had. When I play drums for services, whether for Shabbat or a holiday, I feel my strongest connection. This activity has a monumental importance to me, because Judaism is as large a part of my life as music. One helps the other blossom. In my life, without one, you cannot have the other. The first point in my life that I really was introduced to music was going to temple every Friday. Judaism was a first taste of music and I wouldn't have it any other way.



Anna Pressman

Luckily growing up I attended Kadimah School, Centerland, Lakeland and Hebrew High. These Jewish experiences improved my life. The countless trips such as JCI or camp overnights helped me see more than just the Buffalo Jewish community. The model Seders, Purim carnivals and all the excitement around the Jewish holidays helped me appreciate them and understand their importance. Community service opportunities such as going to Vive La

Casa opened my eyes to the world around me and allowed all of us to bond and work together towards a common goal. One of the best things my Jewish education has brought me is my friends. I've known for five years now that no matter what on Wednesday nights I would have a chance to relax and catch up with my friends. No matter what activities we were doing or what we were learning, we always made the best of it and had fun. I'm excited for college next year and can't wait to get involved with the Jewish community there. I hope to create even more wonderful memories and have even more great experiences in the Jewish community at my college this fall.



Aliza Berger

Since before preschool, I was raised at Shir Shalom, then Temple Beth Am. I met some of the people who have influenced me most. I have found that most of my closest friends are those who I share a Jewish connection with. To me, it's a superior bond unlike any other because we know that no matter what, we have something that is significant, a link that is indestructible. Though it was only preschool that brought us together, Sunday school is what kept us together. During the years we were "forced" to go to religious school we shared experiences and new understandings of what

Judaism meant to us collectively and individually. Those memories will always make up a large part of my childhood and hold relevance in my life. They make Judaism an experience rather than a religion. They make it possible for me to keep my connection to Judaism, no matter where I am or what I am doing. Though my formal education here has come to an end, I know that my education has not ended. Judaism has values and principles that are integrated into our daily lives that make it possible to find a path even when you're not searching. As I journey into the future, I will take the values my parents instilled in me and search for the values that I have yet to see.



Emily Pawlowski

Being a part of Judaism has brought me closer to my family who I otherwise wouldn't be able to see. I have family in many parts of the country and having different Jewish events/milestones has brought me closer to them. I rarely get to spend time with my aunt and uncle from San Francisco, but they are able to come up for Bat-Mitzvahs and occasionally for the High-Holidays. They come up for about a week at a time, and we spend time with them. We have Shabbat dinner and other holiday dinners together. I also have family from Maryland that I only get to see during Bat-Mitzvahs. Without these

Jewish milestones, I wouldn't be able to see them.

Judaism has also provided me opportunities I wouldn't otherwise have had access to. One of these is JCI. JCI gave allowed me to go and lobby and see how the legislative system works first-hand. I also did community service in areas I normally wouldn't have known of and saw another side of homelessness. I met some people who are homeless and learned about their experiences.

Judaism has not only helped me get closer to my family, but also explore the world around me in a friendly environment. The experiences I have had I value, and I use what I have learned in my everyday life.



Rachel Snitzer

There are countless Jewish experiences that have shaped my Jewish identity. However, there was a decision made one day, six years ago, that is responsible for my continued Jewish learning and experience today. That was my decision to go to camp. Camp George was where I found myself, and my place in the Jewish faith. At camp I was surrounded by new friends that were completely different from me, but we had in common our Judaism. This commonality was a bond that proved to be unbreakable. The people that I love are the

people that I met at camp.

Together, we got to experience Judaism in a way that we couldn't at home. It was like having another world, a secret world that was ours. Year to year, nothing changed. Friendships, personalities, and our Jewish identities were all the same as before.

I learned more about myself and about my Judaism each summer. Camp is the reason that I will continue to be Jewish for the rest of my life, it is why I am who I am, and it is why I am graduating from the High School of Jewish Studies.

I did not share one specific experience, but how could I? In one word I can describe my Judaism: Camp.



Isabella Kaplan

Being Jewish is not just a title I wear around my neck like my Star of David pendant, it's part of me and it's part of my future. Although, there were many days I felt it was just that. As a child of endless after-school-activities and advanced classes, Shabbat or going to temple was often thrown aside with a promise that we would get to it next week. High School was a Sea of Stress, and my love of Judaism may have drowned in its strenuous currents if it wasn't for my Jewish Education. Hebrew High was the highlight of my week. It allowed me to forget my infinite to-do-list and just laugh

with my friends. Hebrew High also brought Judaism to life. Judaism wasn't simply cold letters or pages of a book – it was 3-D. The cooking, the art classes and women and history classes created depth and produced a strong connection that will last me the rest of my life.

In a few months I will be starting a new chapter of my life, and being me, I know my college schedule will fill with many new activities, obligations, and stress. And yet, also being me, I know Judaism will not be left behind. I plan to join the Hillel at my future college, and I hope to travel to Israel through study abroad. I know Judaism will be a part of me for the rest of my life because Hebrew High has given me a form of Judaism that is not an obligation but a joy.



Madelaine Hamilton

I attended Kadimah, a private Jewish day school, with the same group of twelve kids until fourth grade. Half the day consisted of Jewish studies and Hebrew language. Jewish values, including the importance of a lifetime quest for knowledge and respect for one another, were reinforced by the teachers and by the nature of the environment. We were encouraged to ask questions without inhibition, which cemented my natural curiosity. My day school education also provided a solid base of knowledge about Western religion, which I feel every well-rounded adult should have.

My family attends a Reconstructionist synagogue. This branch of Judaism emphasizes the importance of looking at religion and prayer both spiritually and intellectually, to respect the traditions of the past in a modern context, and to question things that you do not understand or appear not to be right. This attitude has helped shape my personal views of religion, and my approach to life in general.

As a child at Temple Sinai, the intimate environment allowed me to take on leadership roles at a very young age. I was also able to participate as an active member of Shabbat services and discussion groups, and my opinions were viewed as equal in value to those of the adults.

These experiences created a strong base on which I was able to venture to a larger public middle and high school and remain a leader in the school community. In continuing my Jewish education, Hebrew High has served to keep me in touch with my Jewish friends and Hebrew skills. It has provided a much-needed weekly refuge from daily stresses. My Jewish community has always served as a second family, which – like my real family – has aided in preparing me for challenges I will face in the outside world.



Leah Finkelstein

My Jewish experiences have shaped my life in many ways. From Jewish trips, to Friday night services, to summer camp, Judaism has connected me with so many different people. I like to think of my Jewish friends as a type of family. Many of the people graduating with me now, I have known almost all of my life. From Hebrew School, camp, temple, mutual friends, or in most cases, a combination of these, my peers and I have grown closer every step of the way. Judaism is what keeps this diverse group of individuals together. We all participate in different activities and attend different schools, but we all put it aside once we step into Gordo's classroom on Wednesday nights. Last year, when we took the JCI trip to Washington D.C., I was incredibly nervous. This was my first time legitimately going somewhere with people who weren't my family. However, around our fourth attempt to take the same picture with all of our pillow-pets, I realized that although I wasn't genetically related to anyone in the group, they were my family. We were loud, annoying, and taking way too many pictures, but I never felt alone. That's probably the thing I am most grateful for. No matter how long it's been since we've spoken, I never feel out of place with any of my Jewish peers. My Jewish peers have taught me more about myself than any other group of people. These friendships will stay with me through college and I know that, without my Jewish friends, I would not be the person I am today.



Nathan Gellin

In my life, there have been a multitude of Jewish events and experiences that have shaped my life. The set of experiences that have shaped me the most are the NFTY-NEL events that I have gone to since the beginning of 9th grade.

The people in NFTY-NEL are some of the best and friendliest people I have ever met. It really is something special that can't be matched. The people at NFTY helped me come out of my shell and meet so many new friends.

At my first event, I was basically alone aside from a few friends that came with me from Buffalo. The first person I was introduced to threw me into a conversation with someone who was also in the same situation as me. We connected immediately and we are still friends today. Everyone in NFTY is always there for support and help. At my last event, one of my friends told me "Even though you are quiet for a lot of the time, you always have something meaningful to say and you are always heard." I had never been told that by anyone before. It opened my eyes to how great the community is.

In addition, NFTY has showed me new ways to learn and study Judaism. The programs that we do at the conventions allow us to connect with our peers and learn new things about Judaism. The services that are produced by the regional Religious and Cultural Vice President are creative and inspires us to go out and do something in the world. At the Social Action event once a year, we volunteer at one of many places in the area where the event is held.

NFTY was such a great experience for me in so many ways. The best of those being that it helped me learn how to communicate with people and how to better connect with my Jewish self.



Emily Cohen

If you had asked me how I felt about being Jewish when I was seven, I would have most likely shrugged my shoulders and promptly stated that I would rather have a Christmas tree. If you had asked me to go to temple when I was seven, I would have most likely stamped my feet and spent the service running through the halls. And every Sunday when I was seven and I was dragged to Sunday School, I can say with confidence that I complained the whole car ride there.

If you now asked me at 17 years old how I felt about being Jewish I would smile and tell you that being Jewish is one of the most important

parts of my identity. Judaism has provided me with a belief, a cool fact about myself to tell strangers, and a family.

I do not think I can single out one experience as the most important in my Jewish life so far. Instead it is a culmination of everything I have learned and seen up to this point. Working at Sunday School has helped me learn what responsibility is. Hebrew High has given me a new perspective on all things Jewish and has provided me with some pretty great friends. Going to temple (sometimes) has given me a chance to stop at the end of every week, take a deep breath, and relax. And, last but not least, every Seder, Purim carnival, and Channukah party helped me learn how to not just be part of a community, but how to be part of a family. My Jewish education and experiences have helped me grow, and I am assured that they will keep doing that for the rest of my life.

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Steven & Ellen Weiss to chair 2015 United Jewish Fund General Campaign and Women's Philanthropy



David M. Desmon, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, has announced the appointment of Steven J. Weiss, who will continue as chair the 2015 United Jewish Fund General Campaign and Ellen R. Weiss, who will continue as chair of the 2015 United Jewish Fund Women's Philanthropy.

Reflecting on the last two years, Steven Weiss said "We have agreed to stay for a third year in order to see through to completion several of the key initiatives that have been started over the last couple of years. We and the professional campaign staff have worked to raise the bar and increase the level of giving to

bring in the funds to help pay for the needs within our Western New York Jewish community. At the end of the day, it is the coordinated effort on the part of our terrific staff, volunteers (particularly the Cabinet) who give so much of their time, as well as all of the donors, and of course our awesome agencies who deliver the programs and services so well."

"Everyone knows we each have an obligation as members of the Jewish community

to abide by the responsibility to take care of our own, and to donate financial resources within the community. It is so rewarding to see people step-up and do more and give more, which validates the work of our agencies and the commitment to and connection with the people in our community." Weiss said.

When asked about any new initiatives and goals for the upcoming campaign, Weiss responded. "In addition to increased gifts, we have expanded our donor base and we need to continue to do so," he added. "We started our corporate campaign and we hope the fruits of this effort will be seen at the kick-off dinner in September." he continued.

Ellen Weiss looked back on 2014 with great satisfaction. "We've been at this for two years and as Women's Philanthropy Chair I am most proud of the level of increased participation in programming through the Women's connection group and the 'New Leaders group' that has continued to donate both time and financial resources since returning from Israel in November of 2012! Steven is more bottom line-oriented, and of course the community needs to raise money for all of the services we provide, but the programming Federation does on its own and in collaboration with other agencies is building relationships that will last a long time and will build capacity into the future. I have enjoyed working with so many dedicated volunteers and our professional staff," she continued.

"Steven and I have really enjoyed our time serving the community and will certainly look back on our last year in our roles with the campaign fondly," she concluded.

Ellen and Steven Weiss have been married for more than 22 years and have two teenage daughters.



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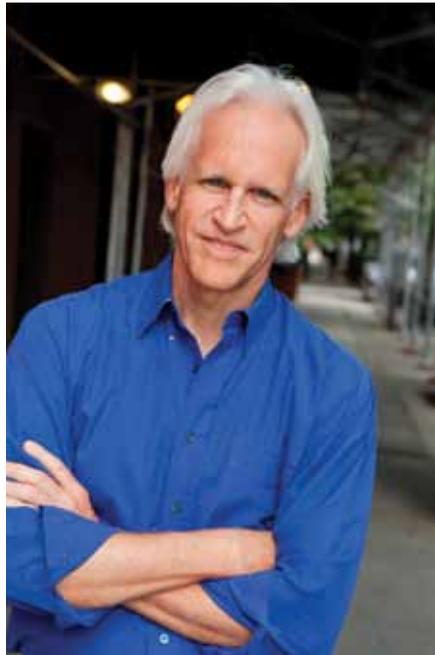
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We will publish the Honor Roll thanking all donors to the 2014 campaign again this year at our Community Kickoff Dinner and in the *Jewish Journal of WNY*.

Your name will appear exactly as it did last year unless otherwise requested.

Should you wish to make any changes, please contact our Campaign Director, Randi Morkisz at rmorkisz@jfedbflo.com or 204-2245. Your UJF gift helps so many here in Buffalo, in Israel and throughout the world! Thank you!

Monumental Event TO FEATURE "MONUMENTS MAN" ROBERT EDEL AT 2015 UJF DINNER SEPTEMBER 29



The Monumental Event in the Buffalo Jewish Community is finally revealed! The UJF Campaign is proud to announce that *The Monuments Men* author, Robert Edsel, will speak at the 2015 UJF Campaign Community Kick-Off Dinner Monday evening, September 29 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. The impact of both Edsel's book and the subsequent film have catapulted the issue of "stolen" art from WWII back into the headlines, and the Buffalo Jewish Federation is very pleased to be able to sponsor this event.

Maxine and Steven Awner are Dinner Chairs with Joni and Sam Shatkin as Vice Chairs. The event is open to all those who make a primary individual minimum \$100 gift to the 2015 UJF

Campaign, chaired this year by Steven J. Weiss and Ellen R. Weiss.

In addition, a special showing of the film *The Monuments Men* will take place Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm at the Dipson Amherst Theatre for those who are attending the dinner and have paid for the event. The event will be free to attend, but you must call for reserved tickets. George Clooney wrote, directed and stars in the film adaptation of *The Monuments Men*, which hit theaters to rave reviews in February 2014. The film features an all-star cast including Clooney, Matt Damon, Cate Blanchett, Bill Murray, and Bob Balaban.

Robert Edsel, a former nationally ranked tennis player and pioneering oilman, is recognized today as one of the world's foremost advocates for art preservation. While living in Florence, he developed a great passion for art and architecture and became curious as to how so many of the monuments and great works of art survived the thefts and devastation of World War II. What began as a question evolved into an impassioned journey to unravel the secrets and heroics of the Monuments Men, the unsung heroes who saved the world's greatest art and cultural treasures for the benefit of civilization. Edsel has dedicated the last ten years of his life to the meticulous research of these cultural heroes, which culminated in Edsel's New York Times best-selling book, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*.

Tickets for the Kick-Off Dinner are \$75. Go to www.jfedbflo.com to register and pay there or call the Federation at 716-204-2241 to register by credit card on the phone. If you have questions about the dinner, call Campaign Director Randi Morkisz at 716-204-2245.

OF NOTE:

The beautiful cover photo of the bronze bust of Ida Maza from the June 2014 issue of *Jewish Journal of WNY* was taken by Linda Gellman of CLICK.

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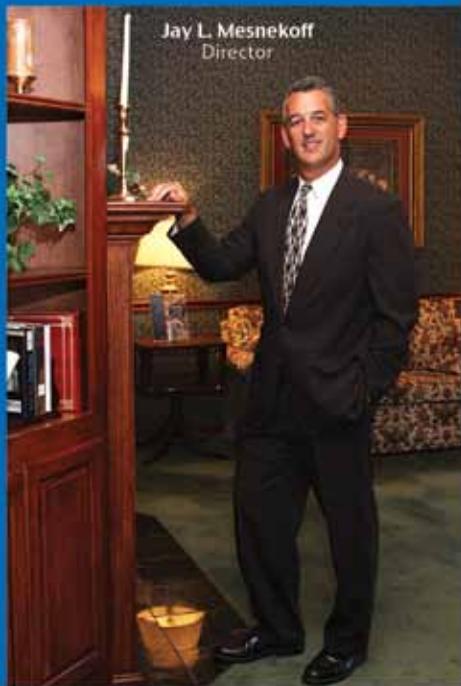
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3 WNY Girls Donate Hair for Mitzvah

Three Western New York girls donated to Children with Hair Loss (CWHL) in support of friends or family members that have been affected by illness causing hair loss. They are Perryn Field- Grade 5 at Transit Middle School, Abby Block-Grade 6 at Transit Middle School and Emma Isenberg- Grade 5 at Mill Middle School.

CWHL opened in September 2000. After researching, we didn't find any other organizations that were giving human hair replacements to children at no cost. CWHL's mission and goals were to never charge a family at a time when they need the most help. After years of intense fund raising, CWHL was able to purchase their first building in 2005. The headquarters resides in South Rockwood, Michigan in an old renovated fire station. Originally, CWHL's focus was on children fighting cancer, until we found out that there were a lot of other reasons why children lost hair including Alopecia, burns, Trichotillomania and other rare diseases and disorders. To this day, Children With Hair Loss has never charged a child. Currently, we provide a customized human hair replacement and care kit to over 300 children a year.

Children With Hair Loss was created as a resource for **ALL CHILDREN** who have medically-related hair loss. It is its mission to empower these children to become whole again by making hair replacement available to those who may be financially challenged and might otherwise not have a means of obtaining the hair they want and need.

Its goal is to assist as many of these children as possible in changing their lives by improving their outlook and empowering them with a degree of self-confidence that will allow them to face the world with renewed self-esteem.



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Abby - After



Emma - Before



Emma - After



Perryn - Before



Perryn - After

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5 Things You Can Do IN JULY TO REPAIR THE WORLD

1 Celebrate the 4th of July this year by thinking about what freedoms you cherish and remembering that freedom isn't free. Read more about this favorite holiday at <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence-Day.shtml>

2 Brush up your Shakespeare! Make plans to see Shakespeare in Delaware Park this summer. *Henry V* runs through July 13, directed by Saul Elkin. Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 pm. *Comedy of Errors* runs July 24- August 17. Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 pm. www.Shakespeareindelawarepark.org

3 Walk, volunteer or donate to Congregation Shir Shalom's sponsored Walk-Off Hunger Saturday, July 26 to benefit the Food Bank of WNY. Check-in starts at 10:00 am and the walk begins at 11:00 am at Island Park in Williamsville. www.foodbankwny.org Read the article on p. 22

4 Enjoy more than just a little Taste of Buffalo, one of the largest food festivals in the U.S. It takes place July 12 & 13 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm on Delaware Avenue between Chippewa St and Niagara Square. Proceeds from this yummy event go to local charities as well as to scholarships to students attending college and studying food and hospitality. www.tasteofbuffalo.com

5 You can work on your swing as you help kids who need it. Kids Escaping Drugs Gala & Golf Tournament is July 15 & 15 at Brookfield Country Club. Got to www.ked.org for more information.

Temple Beth Tzedek Healing Center

Nachamu, the healing group for those coping with the loss of a loved one recently completed its 6 week session. We were honored to provide support and guidance to not only members of Temple Beth Tzedek but also members of our Jewish community in general.

We will begin a new support group on July 12 at 4 pm dedicated to those members of our community who are caregivers for a family member or friend. This group includes those caring for an elderly or ill spouse, significant other, parent or other relative as well as those caring for a child or sibling who has special needs. We recognize the tremendous impact this caregiving has on families and want to offer comfort, support and advice in a safe, confidential, Jewish environment. We also recognize the importance of self-care in facing different life challenges and will provide information on how to better care for oneself as part of an overall life plan.

These sessions which last about one hour are free of charge and held at Temple Beth Tzedek on Thursday afternoons at 4 pm. Please call the temple office at 838 3232 for further information. We welcome all members of our community and look forward to helping to bring Nachamu to those in need.

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◆ Bonnie would also like to thank Bari Spokane and Beth Joseph for being her outstanding Buyer's Agents and for helping to take her business to another level.

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Delicious Vegetables!

By Robin Kurss

Summer is here and with it Farmers Markets are teeming with delicious fruits and vegetables. One of my favorite ways to highlight these lovely ingredients is in a galette.

Ratatouille Galette

Dough:

- 2 ½ c flour
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, cubed and frozen
- 1 T sugar
- 1 t salt
- ½ t pepper
- 1 T chives, chopped
- 6-8 T ice water

Filling:

- 3 T olive oil
- 1 yellow squash, cubed
- 1 zucchini, cubed
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 c mushrooms, sliced
- 1 red pepper, cubed
- 1 c eggplant, cubed
- 3 T tomato paste
- 1 T balsamic vinegar
- 1 T brown sugar (optional)
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 oz goat or feta cheese, crumbled
- 3 T parsley and 2 T basil, chopped
- 1 egg + 1 T water, beaten for egg wash

Combine flour, sugar, salt, pepper and chives in bowl of food processor. Add butter and pulse till dough is balled into the size of peas. Add water slowly, just until the dough forms a ball. Place in plastic wrap, flatten to a disc and put in fridge for at least 30 minutes.

Roll into a 13 inch disc, place on a greased baking sheet and put back in fridge until ready to use.

Heat oil in sauté pan and sauté garlic, squash, zucchini, onion, mushrooms, pepper and eggplant until soft. Add tomato paste, balsamic, brown sugar, parsley and basil till incorporated. Let cool to room temperature.

Mound filling on top of dough, leaving a 2 inch border all around. Press edges up and around outer mound of veggies. Crimp edges to stay put. Sprinkle with the cheese and brush dough with egg wash. Bake at 400 for 20 minutes until dough is golden and filling is bubbly.

Enjoy.



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Western New York is just brimming with flowers and vegetables and other flora this month. The National Garden Festival is in full swing (www.nationalgardenfestival.com) and people are opening up their gardens for you to come and take a look. Of note is the Samuel P. Capen Walk (July 12) in the University District, The Town of Amherst Garden Walk July 12. The Snyder-CleveHill Garden Walk July 13, The Williamsville Garden Walk July 19 and the Buffalo Garden Walk (www.gardenwalkbuffalo.com) July 26 & 27. Most gardens are open from 10am- 4 pm. You can pick up a Garden Walk Buffalo magazine in Talking Leaves bookstore or the Lexington Coop, or Lockwood's Greenhouses in Hamburg.

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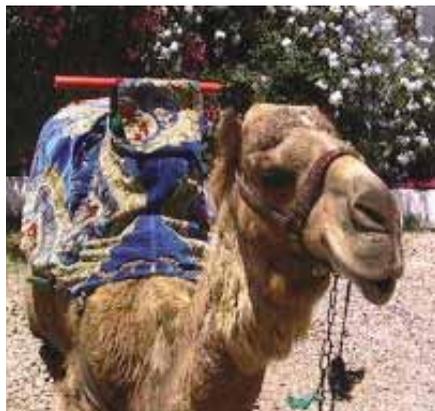
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- Fez Jewish Cemetery
- Guided visit through the Melleh (Jewish Quarter) of Fez
- Old walled city and Kasbah des Oudayas
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For more information, please contact Mike Wise at 716-204-2240 or mike@jfedbflo.com



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Rabbi's Column | RABBI ALEX LAZARUS-KLEIN



The middle drawer of our dining room hutch is filled with *kippot*. There are big Bucharian *kippot* (a Sephardic variety that covers the entire head), *kippot srugot* or knitted *kippot* brought in from places like Guatemala and Israel. There are the Bar or Bat Mitzvah *kippot* we have collected over the years, wedding *kippot* including five or six of the *kippot* we gave out at our wedding, and there are playful *kippot* like a small Buffalo Sabres *kippah* someone gave me when I first arrived in Buffalo, and my son Boaz's Buzz Lightyear *kippah* a friend made for us. All in

all there are some thirty *kippot* in the drawer, each belonging to one of the family members in our household.

When I choose a *kippah* for the day, I try to choose the perfect one that fits my clothing, the events of the day, and my mood at the time. It serves not only as a testament to my Jewish faith, but also reminds me that I am not alone. In that way, a *kippah* is almost like an extra friend that is by my side supporting and gently advising me over the course of a day.

In my role as rabbi, I wear a lot of *kippot*. My primary *kippah* is with Congregation Shir Shalom, but I also serve many of our local boards in the Jewish community and

beyond. Sometimes, I feel like Bartholomew Cubbins of Dr. Seuss fame, who, every time he took off his hat, would find another in its place.

One of my favorite *kippot* is with the Buffalo Board of Rabbis, or as we call it the BBOR. For the past two years, I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as the president of this fine collection of our area rabbis. While small in number - there are currently only five of us - we play a vital role in Buffalo's Jewish life. In addition to being one of the primary contacts in the event of a crisis, we plan many joint activities like our *Slichot* and *Leil Tikkun Shavuot* services, and act as the rabbinic voice on all of our area Jewish organizations. Mostly though, we just like to be together.

In our once-a-month Friday morning meetings, we study Torah, listen to communal concerns, and build camaraderie. Sometimes laughing, sometimes crying, and always supporting one another as only another colleague can. We are Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox rabbis. And, while not every rabbi in Buffalo feels comfortable on our board, we do represent a broad base of the Buffalo Jewish community.

This July, I am moving on as President of the BBOR, and handing the reigns over to the very capable hands of my colleague and friend Rabbi Perry Netter of Temple Beth Tzedek. I know he will do an outstanding job representing our group, and fighting to make our Jewish community the strongest community it can be. To Rabbi Netter, I wish him *B'hatzlachah*, lots of luck and lots of *mazel*, and may he have as much fun wearing this particular *kippah*, as I have had wearing mine.

B'Shalom

Remembering the Founder of Garden Walk Buffalo:

MARVIN LUNENFELD | By Arlan Peters



The late Marvin Lunenfeld and his wife, Gail McCarthy.

When my friend Marvin died in November 2012, he left us an important legacy. Marvin Lunenfeld had a long, distinguished career as a university professor. He was the author of numerous historical works and received awards for his scholarship. I and many others in the Elmwood Village knew him as a good friend and neighbor. He was an outspoken advocate for

causes he supported in the community.

But his greatest gift to his community was Garden Walk Buffalo. Marvin and his wife, Gail, first conceived the idea in 1995. They persuaded some neighbors in the Norwood-Utica area to join them in opening their gardens to the public for two days, and in late July, 29 backyard gardens were available for viewing. Even with almost no funding and limited publicity, the turnout was impressive.

Each year, the number of participating gardens grew at a surprising rate. After four years, more than 100 were taking part. As the numbers rose, so did the work of organizing and coordinating the event. Marvin directed the volunteers who had agreed to help. We met regularly in Marvin and Gail's living room. Seated in a circle, we would be told the tasks that needed to be done in the next few days and weeks. Marvin did a lot of the work himself, but like any good teacher, he was also skillful at getting the most from those around him.

On a number of points he was insistent: any gardener in the designated area who wanted to enter could do so; there should be no judging of gardens and no prizes given; participating gardeners were directed not to sell items to visitors. Visitors were to be treated as guests and there should be no charge to attend. In Marvin's words, "Garden Walk encourages beautification of neighborhoods, helps improve our urban environment and proudly affirms our sense of community." This philosophy has guided the Garden Walk throughout its history.

In 2000, Marvin announced he was stepping down. I was one of three persuaded to take on his duties. With considerable apprehension and uncertainty, we accepted the challenge. Marvin delivered to us all his records and materials: three floppy discs, two banners and a collection of green plastic chairs for visitors to rest on. Somehow, with the help of an unbelievably dedicated team of volunteers and hundreds of gardeners, Garden Walk survived and continued to grow.

New leadership succeeded us in 2006 and has taken us far beyond our early expectations. Last year, nearly 400 gardens were on display. Tens of thousands of visitors now attend each year from all over the United States and other countries. More than a dozen other garden tours have taken root in Western New York communities, and the National Garden Festival has turned gardening into a summer-long event in Buffalo and has made us a garden destination.

Sadly, Marvin suffered a severe stroke in 2003 and became physically impaired. He and Gail moved to Florida, but he continued to have a keen interest in the Garden Walk. Each year after the event had taken place, I called him to report. He would ask questions about it and at the end of the conversation always said the same thing: "You folks are doing a wonderful job."

For his gift, the inspired vision and determined leadership that gave us Garden Walk Buffalo, we owe Marvin Lunenfeld an enormous debt of gratitude.

This article first appeared in the Buffalo News in February 2013 and is reprinted with the author's permission.

“HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE”

Presented as a Joint Session to the National Labor Relations Board- Region 3- Buffalo and Albany, and Region 6- Pittsburgh.

Holocaust Survivor, Dr. Sol Messenger shared his experiences with us on Thursday, May 1st for a Special Emphasis program in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Week (April 27th – May 4th).

We were treated to Dr. Messenger's first-hand account of Jewish life in Europe in the days leading up to, and during World War II. It was a unique and intimate view of history seen through the eyes of a young boy. As you can imagine, his memories are quite vivid, and his stories are very personal and full of interesting details and tangents.

Dr. Messenger was an incredibly engaging speaker, and left a lasting impression on our audience. It was a wonderful opportunity for us.

Special thanks to Dr. Messenger, Patricia Wideman, Region 3's Special Emphasis Coordinator, and Barbara Keough for arranging this program with the help of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

You can see Dr. Messenger's story for yourself on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSuctRZaHic as part of the archive of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute.



Bernard Schenker, Sandy Saader, Barbara Keough, Dr. Sol Messenger and Rhonda Pley at the local NLRB.

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Weinberg Campus Celebrates | HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Weinberg Campus recently celebrated two residents who are Holocaust survivors. Anna Post and Rosa Ber were honored for their strength and prosperities after enduring horrific life events. Both Anna and Rosa used to reside in Florida, but have moved back to Buffalo to be with family.

Anna Post is originally from Poland.

At the young age of 14, she was captured and imprisoned in Auschwitz. Anna is an incredibly strong woman who survived and lived to raise an amazing family. Anna has one son and one late daughter. She is now 92 years young.

Rosa Ber is originally from Latvia. She was imprisoned when she was only 16 years old. Even though Rosa has been through terrible struggles in life,

she is always seen around Weinberg with an upbeat and positive attitude. Rosa lived her life for her family and for her art. Rosa has some incredible pieces of her own art hanging in her apartment. She is now 88 years young with two sons.

Both of these strong women spoke at Weinberg's memorial service. They spoke of their struggles and their

triumphs, and brought many to tears.

Weinberg Campus is a thoughtfully and uniquely designed residential community focused on providing a continually innovative approach to senior living, enabling area seniors to enjoy a healthy, independent, and engaged lifestyle. Located in Getzville, Weinberg Campus provides a variety of living options and customizable care programs to meet the needs of seniors living throughout the Western New York community.

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Anna Post during candle ceremony



Rosa Ber during the candle ceremony.

Where in JBFL0 ?

Where is this found in Western New York? The first 5 people to correctly identify the location will win a \$10 lunch to the JCC's Tel Aviv Café. E-mail your answers to egoldstein@jfedbflo.com.



Last Month's Photo

Last month's photo was the cornerstone for Temple Beth El in Niagara Falls. This month's winners are Herm Engel, Jacque Marcus and Dr. Larry Boxer.

Nickel City Jews | YOUNG JEWISH BUFFALO

Nickel City Jews is a communal platform for bringing together the people and events that make up Jewish Life in Buffalo for young people. We want to help make Jewish Buffalo a vibrant place to call home for young people in their 20s, 30s and very early 40s. Nickel City Jews' mission is to create ongoing and varied programs that facilitate engagement of Jewish young people with each other and with Jewish experiences. This program is a partnership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, Hillel of Greater Buffalo, the Bureau of Jewish Education's Derek Jewlander Group, PJ Library, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County, and many other agencies.

Want to get connected? Meet with someone from the Nickel City Jews team to learn more about why we love Buffalo and get information about upcoming events and activities.

Meet the Nickel City Jews Staff Team:

- Miriam Abramovich: General Inquiries, Social Action Programming
Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo
mabramovich@jfedbflo.com | 716-204-2247
- Jill Komm: Programming for Young Professionals Bureau of Jewish Education
jill@bjebuffalo.org | 716-204-5380
- Laura Hemlock: Programming for recent college Grads and Grad Students
Hillel of Greater Buffalo shalom@hillelofbuffalo.org | 716-645-8787
- Juliet Glaser: Programming for Families with Young Children | PJ Library
pjlibrary@bjebuffalo.org

Nickel City Jews presents

Summer Soirée

for recent college grads & young professionals

Saturday, July 19th, 8:00 pm

10 Landing Creek Court
in Williamsville

- OPEN BAR
- Music • Swimming • Noshs

FREE!
Must be 21+ to attend, adult-only evening!

RSVP encouraged, Miriam Abramovich
at (716) 204-2247, mabramovich@jfedbflo.com.

Nickel City Jews presents

PARTY at the POOL

for families with young children!

Friday, July 25th
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat service for all at 6:00 pm

JCC Benderson Outdoor Pool

- Music, games, & time at the pool!
- PJ Library Tie-Dye (RSVP for a free PJ Library tee shirt to tie-dye)
- Ice cream sundae bar • Bounce house

FREE
(event includes ice cream bar and entrance to the pool, dietary laws observed)

RSVP encouraged - Miriam Abramovich at (716) 204-2247, mabramovich@jfedbflo.com.



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“Death Cafe” | A LIVELY CONVERSATION ABOUT DEATH

The Jewish Community Center’s involvement with the “Death Cafe” program, began last Fall, inspired by an article that appeared in the front page of the *New York Times* a little more than a year ago

Checking out the “Death Cafe” website, we learn that the first one, based on an idea by two 19th Century Austrian Sociologists, occurred in England in 2010 with the objective “to increase our awareness of death with the view of helping people make the most of their lives.” This is not a grief support or therapy session!

Facilitated by local therapist Andre Toth, the JCC has so far run two different groups; each group consists of six 1 1/2 hour sessions. To insure that all individual concerns are addressed, the facilitator asks participants to write topics of interest. These include, in no particular order:

- Why is death such a taboo topic? Why is there such a discomfort when we hear somebody talk about it? How do our feelings about death inform our lives? What would it be like if we came with an expiration date? Will talking about death decrease our fear of it? Why?
- What type of legacy would we like to leave? How would we like to be remembered? What would be left unsaid/undone if death came suddenly?
- What does it mean not to exist? Can we even imagine the idea of nothingness? How would we describe it? Spirituality. Life after death?
- What would we like to do before we die? Any regrets about having worked too hard or not having devoted enough time to what’s really important or not having lived more in accordance with our values rather than trying to meet other peoples’ expectations?
- How could we prepare our children for our death? Living will, death proxy. What are our earliest memories about our own awareness of death?
- How do we feel about assisted suicide. Could we do it for a loved one?
- Would it be easier or more difficult to die after a well lived life?
- How would we prefer to die: suddenly or with time to prepare?
- What are the positive and negative consequences of denial of death?

Additionally, the group was given a number of assignments. These included writing one’s own obituary and making a list of all the euphemisms we have for “death”. According to this group, there are 23.

One of the exercises was to divide one’s life into chapters, talk about the major events that characterized each chapter and discuss wishes for the next, which for many of us may be the epilogue.

At the end of the sixth session, participants were asked to evaluate the degree to which the group was or was not helpful. The responses were very positive. Here are some snippets:

“ I loved the honest conversations because they stimulated ideas, thoughts and actions.”

“This group was a gift.”

“Loved, loved, loved this.”

“I only have positive comments regarding this experience. I will miss the stimulation of our conversations.”

Ultimately, all agreed with Woody Allen, who, when asked how he felt about death replied: “I’m against it.” The next group will start in the Fall. If interested, call Karla Wiseman at the JCC at 716-204-2257.

**Thank You for your UJF
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Ohr Temimim School Opens New Building

In a season of ribbon cuttings, the ribbon was cut on the beautiful new addition to Ohr Temimim School in June. Charlie & Penny Shuman and their family and Arthur & Susan Gellman and their family, as well as the Jewish Federation and others were honored for their efforts to bring about the beautiful new school building.



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www.chabadbuffalo.com
 Rabbi Moshe Gurary- Director

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 Dr. Richard A. Cohen, Director

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Jill Hamilton - President
www.shirshalombuffalo.org

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www.congregationhavurah.org
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<http://ohrtzion.org/kot>

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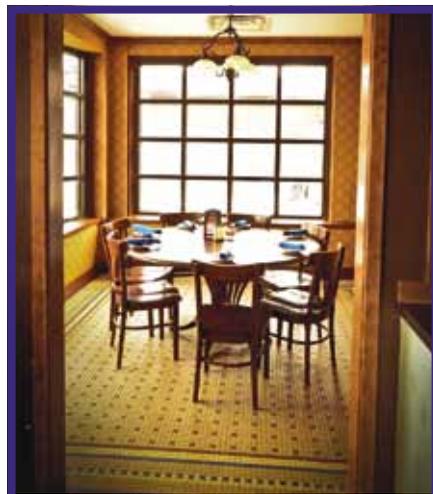
By Bruce Corris

It started in 2008. Gary Bluestein knew there had to be something they could do. Something that would unite the two organizations that meant so much to him. His friend and fellow longtime Temple Beth Am member, Ralph Kushner, had gotten him involved with the Food Bank of WNY, and now he was serving on both boards. The temple had supported the Food Bank in many ways for many years, including its very successful High Holiday Food Drive, but Gary wanted to do more.

Another temple board member, Todd Sugarman, suggested a walkathon. And that's how Walk Off Hunger began. The goal was small. Raise a couple thousand dollars. But they exceeded that in a big way, raising just shy of \$25,000 that first year. And fundraising has gone up from there. In its first six years, Walk Off Hunger has raised more than \$300,000--enough to provide more than 1.6 million meals for Western New Yorkers in need.

"We can't thank Gary enough for everything he's done for the Food Bank", said Marylou Borowiak, Food Bank president and CEO. "He's made a difference in so many people's lives". Other Congregation Shir Shalom members have also made a difference. Hundreds have taken part in the walk over the years, including Jennie Pohl, who has raised more money in pledges than any other walker, and at the age of 94, is already getting pledges for this year.

(Note by the author: I had the honor of overseeing the walk a couple of years, and Jennie was always my secret weapon. Who could say no to her?) In 2012, the walk moved to Island Park and Calvary Episcopal Church joined as co-host. This year's Walk off Hunger will be held Saturday July 26th. Check-in begins at 10:00 am and the walk begins at 11:00. To register, go to www.foodbankwny.org



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Walk Off Hunger founder Gary Bluestein thanks the walkers



All-time pledge leader Jennie Pohl is walking again this year at the age of 94

New Worship Elements At Shir Shalom |

By Peter Simon

Accommodating differences in worship practice was thought to be the biggest challenge facing Congregation Shir Shalom when it formed two years ago from the merger of Temple Beth Am and Temple Sinai. Instead, a thoughtful, top-to-bottom review of religious practices has resulted in a richer, more diverse and coherent menu of prayer opportunities. At the same time, the broad-based decision-making process is widely viewed as a major boost in giving Shir Shalom a fresh new identity and fostering the spirit of "oneness" that was a cornerstone of the merger process.

"I honestly can't believe how well it has gone," said David Berghash, who helped craft a series of changes while Vice President of Worship. "It's a result of well-intentioned people working together, and using common sense and flexibility throughout."

The refinements include the purchase of 700 copies of *Mishkan HaNefesh* (*Tabernacle of the Soul*), a new Reform High Holiday prayer book that will be ready for full use in 2015. Smaller portions of the book will be included at Shir Shalom's services this year.

Mishkan HaNefesh was recommended from a variety of possible prayer books by a sub-committee of the Ritual and Liturgy Committee that included Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, Cantor Sharon Colbert and congregants David Berghash, Marina Finkelstein, Jay Mesnekoff, Kathryn Gordon, Rella Corris, Adrienne Crandall and Marlene Glickman. The recommendation was approved by the full committee and the Board of Trustees, and a contribution from the Sisterhood helped with the purchase.

The new book is creative, offers a variety of different service options and includes transliteration for most of the Hebrew portions, said Rabbi Lazarus-Klein. In addition, he said, it reflects a new, unified approach, rather than using books that were inherited from Beth Am and Sinai. "I think it will add to that growing sense of oneness," he added.

Along the same lines, a committee led by congregant Suzette Stringer is in the process of putting together a prayer book for Sabbath and holiday services that will be unique to Congregation Shir Shalom, but be built around elements of existing prayer books. The committee hopes to finish its work sometime after the High Holidays.

In another effort to offer diverse worship opportunities, two distinctly different services will be offered this year on Rosh Hashanah. The early service will be more traditional, and include major contributions from a professional choir, Cantor Colbert said. The second service will include musical participation from congregants and incorporate popular music not traditionally employed in holiday services.

TBT's USY names new officers

The new officers of Temple Beth Tzedek's USY (United Synagogue Youth) got together recently for brunch and their installation at the home of Leah and Jeff Blum. Pictured are Aaron Blum, Israel affairs VP; Lauren Wallenfels, Communications VP; Leah Kramer, Membership VP; Molly Brownstein, Pre-USY VP; Joey Kramer-President; Erin Lippa, Tikken Olam VP; and Robyn Lippa- Religious Education VP. Missing from photo is Ethan Milich Social Action VP.



Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Hosts

35th Annual Merrill Molien Haven House Scholarship Luncheon Tuesday, July 15, Noon

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Join us for an interesting speaker and a delicious lunch and our fabulous basket auction. All proceeds to benefit an educational scholarship for victims of domestic violence. Want to help us help Haven House? Here's how:

* Join us and bring friends. All are welcome to join! Tables for eight may be reserved.

* Bring an item or items from the Haven House Wish List. Even if you are unable to attend the luncheon, we welcome donations for Haven House. Donations of items are needed for children, women and supplies for the shelter. To see the list, go to www.tbz.org or call the Temple office at 836-6565.

Reservations are required by Tuesday, July 8, so call the Temple office at 836-6565 for more information!

Outdoor Shabbat Evening Service

Followed by BBQ dinner

Friday, July 18 - 6 PM

Temple Beth Zion's Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

The Service will take place outdoors (weather permitting, of course). Reservations are required for the BBQ dinner.

Call 836-6565 no later than Friday, May 11 to place your dinner reservation.

Temple Beth Zion Families "Just Do It"

Temple Beth Zion's Religious School families 'Just Do It', by putting their learning into Mitzvah action. Throughout the year, parents asked about how they could get involved and put Jewish learning to work. On Sunday, May 4, more than 20 families participated in three different off-site projects; volunteering at the SPCA, visiting the residents at ElderWood and cleaning up and planting at the Japanese Gardens with the Olmsted Conservancy. They learned what Zerizut means firsthand!

Dr. Samuel and Joan Ellis Shatkin Memorial Outdoor Classroom is built

Ground has been broken and construction is underway at the Temple Beth Zion Broder Center for the Dr. Samuel and Joan Ellis Shatkin Memorial Outdoor Classroom. Through their generosity, Todd and Leslie Shatkin, and Samuel and Joni Shatkin, along with their children, are building an outdoor classroom in memory of their parents, Dr. Samuel Shatkin and Joan Ellis Shatkin. Hands-on lessons on planting and the care of plants, animals and the environment are already envisioned. The garden will also be a spot for reflection, introspection and developing a greater understanding of our relationships with each other, our world and with G-d.

The Shatkin family has been a part of Temple Beth Zion for generations, and they have always been willing to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. From the initial discussions and planning to groundbreaking and beyond, Leslie and Todd, Samuel and Joni have worked tirelessly to see this beautiful space transformed for the children and families of TBZ's Play And Learn School (PALS).

In the photos, Todd and Sam Shatkin dig in to begin the work. Shira Goldberg walks the PALS four-year-old students through the work in progress.



Tikkun Olam @ TBZ

Torah Restoration at Temple Beth Zion

Temple Beth Zion Religious School students had the opportunity to watch a Torah scribe make repairs to the Sefer Torah. Rabbi Adam Scheldt also demonstrated Torah repair to PALS students in the four-year-old class.



TBZ Confirmation Class 2014



Photo by Marty Kerker

Amy Feldman, Bryan Garson, Jennifer Kingsley, Andrew Oestreicher, Alexis Boehnlein with Rabbi Adam Scheldt, Rabbi Gary Pokras and Cantor Penny Myers.



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Temple Beth El/ Niagara Falls

Temple Beth El in Niagara Falls celebrated its 150th birthday this past Shavuot. Members of the synagogue gathered after joint services with Congregation Havurah, Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Zion to celebrate.



ABOVE: Larry Itzkowitz Stands next to his 1944 Temple Beth El Confirmation class photo.

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The Food Bank of WNY services approximately **330** member agencies such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and group homes in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties.

Monthly, through our member agencies, approximately **99,000** individuals, including **43,000** children and **8,600** seniors receive food and non-food essentials.

The Food Bank of WNY has many impactful programs:

- Five are dedicated to children - *BackPack Program, Baby Needs Program, Kids in the Kitchen, The Puppet Show and Banking on Wellness*
- *The Garden Project* - families and individuals are encouraged to adopt a plot and are walked through the growing process all season long.
- *Food Express Trucks* - fresh foods, produce, dairy and bread are delivered daily throughout the year to clients at member agencies
- *Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables* - a NYS initiative that increases consumption of fruits and vegetables through nutrition workshops and recipe demonstrations.

Register for Walk Off Hunger
at <http://www.foodbankwny.org/>



Island Park, Main Street, Williamsville

July 26th, 2014 11am

Hosted by Calvary Episcopal Church and Congregation Shir Shalom
Join us for the 7th Annual Walk Off Hunger

Taking steps together to fight hunger in the community.

100% of the proceeds benefit the Food Bank of Western New York



Let the JCC be the Center of your Community

NEW! Garden Walk & Wine Tasting with Sally Cunningham

Look for dates coming soon!



Adult Slow Pitch Softball League

Includes league shirts and trophies to the winning team. For information contact Rob Taylor at 204-2254, rtaylor@jccbuffalo.org.

\$550/team (min 7 players)
11am, 12:30pm, 2pm
(75 min games)



NEW! Ai Chi

A water-based strengthening and relaxation class that integrates mental, physical and spiritual energy. Performed in shoulder-deep water using breathing and slow, broad movements of the arms, legs and torso. Class size is limited, contact Patricia Simonson at 204-2073, pattysimonson@jccbuffalo.org for details.

Weinberg Water Therapy Pool
June 3-July 22 Tuesdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm
Instructor: Betsy Hare
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Pesach at Chabad - A Home Away From Home

By Keren Baruch

Many UB students traveled home for Passover this spring to celebrate the holiday. Those who could not leave the Buffalo community during Passover were not missing a home, though. Rather, they found that sense of family, celebration and rejoicing at the Chabad house, at UB's North Campus on North Forest Rd. Hosting approximately 350 students and other members of the Buffalo community, the Chabad House created a homey atmosphere for those who stayed in the Queen City for Passover this year.

Each year at UB I worry that I may not have as good a holiday as I would at home. Though many of my more religious friends travel home for the holidays, I'm unsure as to whether I'm making a mistake by staying in Buffalo eight hours from my family.

And each year, the Chabad house diminishes my worries. I may not have had my blood family there, but I felt a sense of family and unity while sitting at the table. Singing songs like "Dayenu" with my friends and dipping my pinky finger into my wine with 200 other students, made me feel a different sense of home.

Holidays in Buffalo inspire me in a different way – I always leave the doors of the Chabad feeling welcomed, with a new insight to my religion and past. And though sometimes it's hard to spend a holiday away from my parents' home-cooked meals and powerful love, I wouldn't trade the holidays I've experienced at the Chabad for anything.

I have the rest of my life to celebrate with my blood relatives. I may never get the chance to celebrate my Judaism with a room of 200 friends and acquaintances again. My Chabad family has served me well these past four years – I am appreciative of that on this holiday.



Kadimah's Winners at the Invention Convention

On Sunday May 4, 2014 Kadimah students participated in the 12th Annual WNY Invention Convention. The Western New York Invention Convention's mission is to promote creative thinking and encourage scientific problem solving skills. The convention judges choose 20 top inventions from the 135 entries that were submitted by 16 area schools. We are pleased to announce that this year, 7 students from Kadimah took top honors. They were:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Caleb Senick | Won Inventor of the Year for his Invention the Gluten-X |
| Macy Halim | Invention: The Sea Salt |
| Dylan Levine | Invention: The Automatic Horse Feeder |
| Jordan Richheimer: | Invention: Simple Shower |
| Anna Ablove | Invention: Cord Saver |
| Ben Sanders | Invention: Guitar Guru |
| Miriam Klein | Invention: The Key Magnet |

Congratulations on a job well done!



Left to Right
 Front row: Macy Halim, Caleb Senick, Anna Ablove, Jordan Richheimer
 Second row: Dylan Levine, Ben Sanders, Miriam Klein



Behind every resident, a team.

There are lots of places one can spend their golden years.
 But only one truly feels like home.



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Rabbi Heschel Greenberg has been publishing original essays on the weekly Torah portion for the last 18 years.

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A Season Of Mussar

A Journey In Ethical Living

Alan Morinis, the founder and director of the Mussar Institute, writes: "Mussar is an illuminating, approachable, and highly practical set of teachings for cultivating personal growth and spiritual realization in the midst of day-to-day life." He goes on to say: "Life comes with a series of tests – often in relationships with those we love the most. These tests try us. They also reveal the places where we have the potential to grow. The Jewish tradition of Mussar offers wisdom and tools for facing and making the most of life's challenges."

This very special study program will be offered by the Adult Department of the Bureau of Jewish Education, in collaboration with Temple Beth Zion's Lifelong Learning Department. We are fortunate to have two highly trained Mussar facilitators in our community: Evie Weinstein and Susan Schwartz.

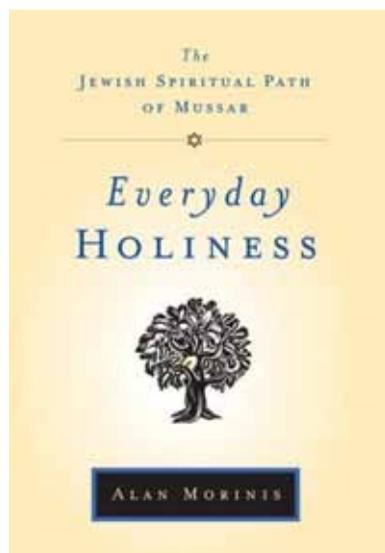
A "Season of Mussar" is a 13 week program that will guide participants in active engagement with Mussar, as a spiritual tradition and discipline. It will be divided into three segments: a Mussar overview; an encounter with your inner "traits" (humility, generosity, compassion and truth) and Simple steps to create a routine of Mussar practice.

A DAYTIME course, taught by Evie Weinstein, will be held on Seven (7) Wednesdays from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM at the Jewish Community Center on North Forest Road. An EVENING course, taught by Susan Schwartz, will be held on Seven (7) Wednesdays from 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM at Temple Beth Zion's Broder Center on Sweet Home Road in Amherst.

BOTH courses will take place on the following dates: October 1 and 22, November 5 and 19, December 3 and 17, and January 7, 2015. In between the seven formal class meetings, students will participate in guided study with their "chevruta"-- study partner.

The cost for either the day or evening class is \$125 and will include weekly study materials. Limited scholarships are available and no one will be turned away. The course is open to the community and class size must be a minimum of 8 students and a maximum of 12 participants.

For information or to register, please email Ethel Melzer: ethel@bjebuffalo.org or call the Bureau of Jewish Education office at 204-5380.



Jewish Neighborhood Memories

By Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D.

In many of my talks, I focus on looking for images of specific neighborhoods and streetscapes in order to expand the documentary record. Often, I will talk about the East Side where a large Eastern European Jewish community blossomed across a network of interlinked streets from the 1880s. This downtown area is still vividly remembered by community members today, even as many of the buildings and synagogues are gone, and a smaller number are transplanted into the suburbs in different forms. One of the main arteries of the Jewish East Side until the 1930s was William Street, which was packed with shops of every service and description; grocers, tobacconists, shoe stores, tailors, delis and much more. Indeed the community on the East Side was there for long enough that, over time, the Hebrew names of synagogues were dropped in favor of American names after the street on which each *shul* was located including Clinton Street, Pine Street, Pratt Street, Big Hickory, Little Hickory, Jefferson and Fillmore Avenue shuls.

Other synagogues retained their Yiddish inflected Hebrew names such as *Anshe Sokolovka*, and *Anshe Emes* (People of Truth) as a statement of former belonging or their founder's aspirations, but they were in the minority. Given the diversity and size of the "community of communities" on the East Side, other institutions also dotted the neighborhood, including the Talmud Torah, Zion House, Jewish Community Building as well as the Arbeiter Ring (Workman's Circle) and numerous Jewish women's groups, Jewish cultural and fraternal groups, *landsmanschaften* or hometown associations, credit unions, boy scout troops and various Jewish sports groups.

Given this breadth, recreating the East Side in pictorial form might seem a simple task, yet when I came to compile the book *Jewish Community of Greater Buffalo*, published last year, I was struck by the dearth of images for this once thriving Jewish area. It is hard to believe, but only a handful of synagogue images have survived, and most of those were taken when the buildings became churches. If you have photographs (inside or out) of these shuls or indeed any other business or organization mentioned - you hold a treasure and I'd love to hear from you!

Although we often focus on the East Side, the need to document other parts of Jewish Buffalo is just as necessary. The Humboldt Parkway and Hertel Avenue area lack images of their synagogues, when they were synagogues (and not as churches as they are now). And with the exception of Temple Emanu-el, very few images of Rabbis and Presidents have survived for these Temples. While this article focuses on photographs, the need for documents and memorabilia is just as acute in these neighborhoods, as well as in areas where only a sole Jewish institution now stands, for example, historic photographs relating to Beth Abraham on Elmwood Avenue. All of these areas are still in our living memory, and some are even in our weekly experience. Through combined community action, we can cumulatively recreate a cityscape that includes Jewish landmarks that enables community members to hold memories not just in our hearts but also in our hands.

Please contact me if you can help: Chana Revell Kotzin, Director, Jewish Buffalo Archives Project, or would like to discuss a particular donation at 716-204-5388. You can also email archivesproject@bjebuffalo.org. You can also visit the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project at 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068, however as this a part-time position, and there are times when I am working offsite, it is always best to make an appointment to avoid disappointment.



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BJE Honors Evie Weinstein at 86th Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, May 21, the Bureau of Jewish Education held its 86th Annual Meeting and honored outgoing Executive Director, Evie Weinstein. Evie has worked at the BJE for the last 16 years and the greater Jewish community for 23 years.



BJE Staff: Chana Kotzin, Kat McKinney, Mindy Ponivas, Jill Komm, Evie Weinstein, Ethel Melzer, Rose Metzler, Bette Davidson



Camp Friends: Frank Altman, Nancy Sterman, Betsy Abramson



Current BJE President, Charlotte Gendler and Immediate Past President, Howard Benatovich



Cantor Mark Horowitz delivered a beautiful keynote speech

PJ Library Tips for Summer Fun

Summer is here! Last month, many PJ Library families said goodbye to school and hello to summer vacation. For many children, the transition from school to summer is filled with excitement and anticipation of summer activities to come. But it can also be a difficult transition as children say *shalom chaverim* (goodbye friends) to school friends, as well as leave the security of a school week routine.

PJ Library offers many resources to parents to help make this transition go more smoothly. Visit www.pjlibrary.org and read articles on the blog about creating a “sunny summer transition.” Tips like talking with your children about what your family’s summer plans are, as well as creating a family calendar of events, can help children ease into summer vacation. Making sure to remember school friends by arranging play dates can also ease some of the challenges around saying goodbye to school friends. Sending an email or writing a letter or drawing a picture to send can also be ways to help your children feel connected to school friends.

Another concern parents share is how to help their children retain and reinforce the lessons and skills learned in school for next year. Along with the fabulous PJ Library books being sent to your child each month to continue reading over the summer, PJ’s website offers resources and tools to include academics in your summer plans. Fun activities can encourage children to keep up their writing, reading and other studies throughout the summer.

As the PJ Library program in Buffalo enters its second year, we are striving to offer even more resources and tools for families and the community that go beyond the books. PJ Library’s website and blog, as well as our local community’s Facebook page, offer many articles and resources that are useful for parents and grandparents, as well as educators and community organizations. The beginning of summer is the perfect time to spend a few minutes to check out these resources and see how they can help your family have a super summer!

PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, including interfaith families, LGBT families, and families with special needs. If you have a question about how your children can receive PJ Library books for free every month, joining our mailing list, or would like to talk with us about how we can accommodate your family and children at our programs, please contact Juliet Glaser at pjlibrary@bjebuffalo.org or 716-204-5380. Please visit our Facebook page to keep up to date on PJ Happenings: www.facebook.com/PJLibraryBuffalo.



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Jewish Federation Apartments

Hadassah hosted a wonderful party for the tenants at the Jewish Federation Apartments. Members brought baked goods, prizes and enjoyed socializing with the apartment residents. Nick Franko provided entertainment on the piano which was so appreciated by all.



Hadassah members pictured above:

Standing (L to R): Marlene Katzel, Sima Lewis, Nancy Greenberg, Rhonda Wise, Marion Greenberg

Seated (L to R): Ann Kellman, Janice Gelfand, Elaine Kellick, Selma Leondar

Not in photo: Frima Ackerhalt, Rose Weisbrot, Barbara Mollot, and Rena Rose



Pictured above: Left to Right:

Rena Rose, Marion Greenberg, Susan May, Rose Weisbrot and Frima Ackerhalt

A Strategic Business Plan for Kadimah

This is a modified version of the remarks delivered by Kadimah School's co-presidents, Jonathan Epstein and Marc Brown, at the May 19 public forum to unveil Kadimah's new strategic plan.

Welcome to tonight's special public presentation of Kadimah School of Buffalo's new strategic plan. We appreciate all of you joining us here and taking the time from your busy schedules and families to hear about the future of our community Jewish day school.

Our community here in Western New York has been a major supporter of and partner with Kadimah for decades, and it's important to us to have you on board with our new strategic plan and initiatives to restore Kadimah's central role in our community. For a Jewish day school without the support of the community cannot survive. But equally so, a community without a Jewish day school also faces a bleak future.

Indeed, that gets to the heart of who and what we are. Kadimah was, is, and will be a forward-thinking, community Jewish day school, with a deep history and rich legacy. Our job, simply put, is to provide the highest-quality education in both general and Judaic studies to students from across the entire spectrum of the Jewish community in Western New York. Whether you are Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform, unaffiliated or secular, this is your home. This is your school. Our goal is not to teach students what to think or believe, but how to think and learn, and how to thrive in any environment, whether public high school, private high school or yeshiva, in any college or university, and in their chosen careers. We are teaching the youth of today's generation, but developing the leaders of tomorrow's Jewish community.

For over 55 years, Kadimah's award-winning and dedicated faculty have taught our advanced dual curriculum to Jewish students from throughout Western New York, from our young nursery children to our mature eighth graders. We are committed to quality and success, as demonstrated not only by the track record of our graduates in high school, but also by the achievements of our accomplished alumni in their chosen careers. That will not change, but will only get better.

What you are about to hear about stems from a seven-month strategic planning process, in which Kadimah's Strategic Planning Committee and Board, in conjunction with our outside consultants from Wellspring Consulting, thoroughly analyzed our model, our operations, our image and perception, and our financial condition; evaluated various actions or alternatives; and developed a road map that is achievable, sustainable, data-driven and fully supported by our Board and Head of School, Einav Symons.

The process involved interviews and surveys, an examination of our finances, a review of demographics, extensive data analysis and modeling, research into best practices at other schools around the country, and many hours of deliberations by our Board of Trustees. We went into this process with open minds, determined to find a workable solution but willing to make necessary changes.

What we found is that those changes, while significant for Kadimah, are not about a wholesale rethinking of what we are (that is, we are still a community Jewish day school focused on academic excellence), but rather a radical reshaping of how we do business. And we do recognize, and must recognize, that we are a business.

Essentially, our plan centers around best practices in such areas as financial management, fundraising, educational quality, marketing and branding, and governance. It focuses on two core areas – a dedication to academic excellence and community relevance, and a commitment to solidify our financial footing and operations – with seven targeted goals.

It relies on demonstrating high academic quality to our students and parents, tight fiscal responsibility to the community, and complete accountability to our donors.

And it demands that we establish and show the true value of Kadimah for all to see, understand and believe, so that no longer will anyone ask why someone attends Kadimah but instead asks why they don't.

We look forward to working with the entire Jewish community, both within the school and outside, to achieve our goals, strengthen our school, and drive Western New York forward into the future.

Karen Goodman
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July 4

Independence Day Celebrated.

July 8

Hadassah Lunch on India. 11:30 am
Tandoori Restaurant- 7740 Transit Road.
\$18. RSVP to Marlene Katzel

July 15

TBZ Sisterhood's annual Haven House luncheon. 12 Noon. *TBZ's Broder Center.* Call 716-836-6565 for more information.

July 19

Nickel City Jews Soiree- 8:00 pm.
10 Landing Creek Ct., Williamsville. Call Miriam Abramovich at 716-204-2243 or mabramovich@jfedbflo.com

July 25

Nickel City Jews Party at the Pool- 4-7 pm. *JCC pool.* FREE! RSVP to Miriam Abramovich at 716-204-2243 or mabramovich@jfedbflo.com

July 26

- Walk Off Hunger- *Island Park- Main Street in Williamsville.* 11:00 am www.foodbankwny.org
- PJ Library- Joanie Leeds Concert & 4pm BBQ. *Congregation Shir Shalom*

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Send Happy New Year
wishes, this Rosh Hashana,
in the September issue.

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BJCL closes 13th Year of Mitzvahs!

The 13th year of the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy has ended with the closing of the school year. Volunteers from this Jewish Federation program, chaired by Carin Greenfield and Amy Heumann continue to read to students in Grades 4 down through pre-school at Highgate Heights School # 80 in Buffalo. This amazing mitzvah project, which not only enables Buffalo Public School children to read better also donates several books each year to every single student in the school.

The Book Drive, chaired by the tireless Amy Heumann, gives 2-3 book away to each child in the school several times a year. Most of these books are donated. If you would like to be a volunteer reader, or would like to donate new or gently used children's books, call Ellen Goldstein at 716-204-2243 or egoldstein@jfedbflo.com.



Ellen Capell reading at to children at P.S. # 80



Marian Lustig helps a new friend



Dr. Eduardo Heumann reads to two children as Amy Heumann listens



Mary Ann Budin shares some reading time with a student

HRC Students' Trip to Washington

The Holocaust Resource Center's Distant Learning classes have returned from their spring trip to Washington, D.C. where they toured and spent time at the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum (USHMM). The students attending the trip have taken a semester-long Holocaust course elective that culminates with this optional day trip to Washington.

There were 36 high school students and chaperones along with course instructor Clayton Adams and HRC Executive Sandy Saada on the May 13th trip. Travelers were from the following high schools: Falconer, Maple Grove-Bemus Point, Westfield, Pioneer, Gowanda and Frewsburg.

A generous private grant from the family of Violet Fabian funded most of the student portion of the trip and will do so again next spring in Violet's memory. Mrs. Fabian, a survivor of Aushwitz and Bergen Belsen passed away in November, 2012. She was devoted to the educational mission of the HRC of Buffalo and particularly valued the distance learning course. A card with a photo of Violet Fabian, and a bit of her history was given to each participant on the trip.



Westfield school at MLK memorial.



The whole group in front of USHMM prior to entering.



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Summer Months Can Be A Challenge For People With An Eating Disorder



Shedding winter layers for more revealing warm weather clothes can be a trigger for people with a diagnosed or undiagnosed eating disorder. Summer celebrations that center on high calorie foods like potato and macaroni salad, chips and dip, ice cream and midway menus may also be challenging. “We have specific interventions to help people attend picnics, to traverse their way around the different foods that are available during the summer without triggering their eating disorder,” JFS Buffalo Renee Fearon, LCSW-R said. “People have to write down what’s going to be available and what they decide is going to be comfortable for them to eat. If they write out a menu plan going into the event and stick to the plan they have much better results.”

Fearon, who has been an eating disorder specialist for six years, said Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County (JFS Buffalo) offers non-intensive outpatient care, which includes diagnosis and counseling, for people of all ages. “The numbers of people who come in to receive treatment are not indicative of how many people have an eating disorder. So much of it is undiagnosed. Like any other addiction, so many people are not seeking help,” she explained.

Esther Altman, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist whose Manhattan practice specializes in the treatment of eating disorders, writes at www.myjewishlearning.com that in Western societies thinness has become synonymous with both beauty and success. In the Jewish community, she continues, anorexia and bulimia are most prevalent within upwardly mobile demographic groups, and are amongst the most emotionally and physically

devastating disorders affecting young Jewish women. She also suggests that “Jewish rituals and festivals, so intertwined with food and lavish meals, may interact with the problem of eating disorders.”

“Data from Israel indicates that body preoccupations are also a pervasive worry among Israeli adolescent girls,” Altmann writes. “For example, in one study of weight concerns among high school girls in Israel, 74 percent of 10th grade girls reported having dieted at some point and 47 percent of the girls reported being on a diet at the time of the study. Yet only 12 percent of the girls were actually overweight.”

Fearon advised that men and women are equally susceptible to developing an eating disorder that may be triggered by obsessions about body image. Symptoms vary by disorder and may include restriction of caloric intake, careful counting and measuring of food, and multiple forms of purging, among others. “Men and boys don’t want to take off their shirts at the beach because they don’t look like ‘Ken’ as much as girls and women don’t want to go to the beach because they don’t look like ‘Barbie,’” she said. Seniors are also at risk for developing eating disorders, which can be triggered by depression, medical conditions and medications, and limited mobility, among other things.

“A number of seniors on my client list haven’t had an eating disorder their whole life. Sometimes they are told by their doctor to lose weight, and they develop an eating disorder trying to do it,” Fearon said. Ultimately, she maintained that learning to manage an eating disorder is learning to love yourself. “I teach people how to love themselves, and everything



JFS Buffalo is a Lifeline for People with Eating Disorders
[And the families who love them.]



a lifeline for all

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www.jfsbuffalo.org

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else kind of falls into place.”

For more information about counseling and treatment for eating disorders, or to make an appointment, call Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County at 716-883-1914, or visit www.jfsbuffalo.org. JFS Buffalo accepts most forms of insurance.

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JULY at the JCC

REMINDERS, IDEAS, and IMPORTANT DATES for the MONTH



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1 SMALL GROUP INTERVAL TRAINING now thru Sept. 5 Tues/Thurs 8:30 am-9:30 am	2 K'tzat Ivrit -"A Little Hebrew". Ongoing 1:00 pm FREE and open to all	3 LIMUD Wendy Martin "Overview of Child Protective Services"	4 Cycle in the water on a hydrorider	5 Did you know that children from 12 - 24 months can join our Early Childcare Center?
6 Has your team tried our ropes challenge course?	7 Adult Swim Club 8:15 – 9:15pm (H)	8 Tai Chi 10:30-11:30 AM (H)	9 Art Reception student art show and reception. Students of Russell Ram. July 9 7:00 pm-9:00 pm	10 LIMUD Sally Cunningham on Gardening, and a preview of an upcoming Garden trip	11 Zumba® 9:00-10:00 AM (B)	12 Au-Some Swimmers 12:30 – 1:30pm. Please put Autism Speaks logo
13 Adult Slow Pitch Softball League Basic league starts today	14 New Yorker Magazine Discussion Group 7:00 pm-8:30 pm FREE (H)	15 Hydrorider class 5:45-6:30 AM (B)	16 Child Group Swim Lessons 3:00 – 4:30pm (H) 	17 National Ice Cream Day	18 Hydro Stretch & Balance 11:30-12:00 PM (H)	19 New BODYPUMP choreography begins today
20 Sunday Fundays 1:30 pm- 5:00 pm with DJ Spazman Spins	21 Global "Hug Your Kid" Day	22 "The World Today" discussion group 1:00pm FREE and open to all	23 DIVA by DIVA Join us for WNY's longest running show now in its 16th year! 7:30pm \$20 (includes VIP reception)	24 Limud-Speakers & Events Speaker, music or a film. 10:30am FREE and open to all	25 Double Threat 6-7am (H)	26 PJ Library & Joanie Leeds Concert 4:00 pm BBQ, Shir Shalom Shabbat service
27 Water Muscles 10:30 – 11:30am (H)	28 New Yorker Magazine Discussion Group 7:00 pm-8:30pm FREE (B)	29 National Lasagna Day	30 Save 10% on early bird JRT subscription for 2014-15! Great gift idea too!	31	(B) Benderson Family Building in Getzville (H) Holland Family Building in Buffalo * Starting at noon. One per person.	

JCC Holland Family Building to Offer New Adult Programming for Fall, 2014

“Call it Zumba for the mind,” says Sheila Shapiro, program developer, in describing the new adult classes beginning in September at the JCC Holland Family Building. These courses are designed to exercise and stretch the mind in an informal, small group setting. Courses beginning the week of September 8th include *Reading Aloud: Bringing Short Stories to Life* (Mondays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm), *Aging: The Journey of Your Lifetime* (Mondays, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm), *Western Civ Revisited: The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles* (Tuesdays, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm), *Let’s Do Lunch: Restaurant Reviews* (1st Tuesdays monthly, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm), *Co-housing: Alternative Choices for Aging in Place* (Nov 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, 10:30 am-12:00 pm), *What’s Your Take: Events in the News* (Wednesdays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm), *Scrabble Club: Make Words not War* (Thursdays, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm) and *the New Yorker Magazine Discussion Group* (Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:00 pm).

Each group has one or two facilitators who, according to Shapiro, “direct traffic” rather than teach. “When a group of mature people sit around a table and discuss current events or a short story or the plays of Sophocles, they bring with them such an incredible amount of experience and knowledge; their interest and life experiences drive the conversation.” The small group format invites active participation and the sharing of ideas. Facilitators include Regina Grol, Athalie Joy, Toby Laping, Julie Lewitzky, Ed Steinfeld, Keith Elkins, Peter Gold, Liz Clark, Barbara Mierzwa and Sheila Shapiro. The facilitators are all volunteers who are willing to take a leadership role because they love the idea of shared learning. “We want to continue to expand course offerings. People who are interested in facilitating and developing other groups are encouraged to contact me,” says Shapiro.

To date, the *New Yorker Magazine* Discussion Group, led by facilitators Peter Gold and Liz Clark, is the only adult course taught at the Holland Building. Participants meet every Thursday morning to discuss selected articles, poetry, fiction and cartoons in each issue. There is a wonderful exchange of ideas, often punctuated by laughter in these discussions. As one of the participants said recently, “I’ve been reading the *New Yorker* for years...by myself...and being in the discussion group has made it a much richer experience. It’s really exciting to explore a subject and get more points of view than just my own.”

A complete listing of courses is available in the lobbies of both the JCC Benderson and Holland buildings and in the *JCC Connection* online. Because these courses are designed for small groups, class sizes are limited and pre-registration is encouraged. There is a small fee for each course with a discount offered to JCC members. For information and pre-registration, call Sheila Shapiro at 886-3172 or email sshapiro@jccbuffalo.org.



JRT – Comedy Tonight!

A gala fundraiser for the Jewish Repertory Theatre. Featuring Improv comedy by the ComedySportz players. What is ComedySportz?

It’s fast-paced, family-friendly improvisational comedy, played as a sport. Two teams take turns making up scenes, playing games and singing songs – and the audience votes on which team they like the best. It’s all presided over by a referee, who keeps things moving, calls the ComedySportz fouls and takes suggestions shouted out by the audience before each game.

Event includes:

Improvisational comedy show and delicious cocktail food and drinks to support the Jewish Repertory Theatre at the JCC.

Wednesday, September 17, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
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New Professor for IJTH at UB



Dr. Noam Pines

The University of Buffalo’s Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage is pleased to announce the appointment of Noam Pines, PhD, to the tenure-track position of Assistant Professor in the IJTH starting August 2014. Professor Pines did his graduate work in the Department of Comparative Literature at Stanford University. His PhD dissertation is on the topic of “The Poetics of Dehumanization in Modern Jewish Literature.” He received his MA in literature and BA in history and philosophy from Tel-Aviv University, Israel. Presently an Israeli citizen and

native Hebrew speaker, Noam is fluent in English, German and Yiddish. In fall 2014 he will be teaching JDS225 “Modern Jewish Thought” and JDS237 “History of Israel and Zionism.” He will be coming to Buffalo with his wife Sarah Pines, PhD, and their two children.

Richard Cohen, Director of the IJTH, said “we are very happy that Dr. Pines is coming to Buffalo to become the fifth full-time faculty member of the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage. Having reached this threshold we are hoping to soon officially become a full-fledged Department of Jewish Thought at UB. Given the high quality and originality of his scholarly work and his love of teaching, I expect Dr. Pines to be a great new addition to Jewish Studies at UB, raising our profile in the university, in Buffalo, and nationally.”

“I look forward to coming to Buffalo because the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage presents an opportunity for me to work in a unique academic environment,” Dr. Pines said. “Today, scholarship in the field of Jewish Studies primarily takes place in departments such as Comparative Literature or Near Eastern Studies, but at the IJTH I will be able to work with other scholars in an academic environment entirely dedicated to the field of Jewish Studies. When I moved from Israel to the US, this was precisely the academic environment that I envisioned myself working in. Thus, joining the IJTH is a fulfillment of a long-awaited dream.”

Jewish Repertory Theatre presents:

A Season of Humor

Old Jews Telling Jokes - By Peter Gethers and Daniel Okrent
October 23 – November 16, 2014

“If a Jewish husband states his opinion while alone in the woods, is he still wrong?”

Think you've heard every old Jewish joke in the book? Think again! It's Borscht Belt in this 90-minute joke fest that touches on birth, courtship, marriage, death and those little annoyances in between (like doctors and rabbis). This show, inspired by a popular website, and turned into a popular Off Broadway hit, will keep you smiling with memorable, laugh-out-loud moments. If you've ever had a mother, visited a doctor or walked into a bar with a priest, a rabbi and a frog, you'll enjoy this kosher pickle barrel full of wit, history and humor.

Beau Jest - By James Sherman | February 5 – March 1, 2015

Sarah is a nice Jewish girl with a problem: her parents want her married to a nice Jewish boy. They have never met her boyfriend, a WASP executive named Chris Kringle. She tells them she is dating a Jewish doctor and they insist on meeting him. She plans a dinner party and, over the heated protests of Chris, employs an escort service to send her a Jewish date to pose as Dr. Steinberg. Instead, Bob Schroeder, arrives, an aspiring actor who agrees to perform the impersonation. Happily, he is extremely convincing in the role and Sarah's parents are enraptured. Soon, even Sarah falls for Bob.

The Odd Couple - By Neil Simon | April 23 – May 17, 2015

This classic comedy opens as a group of men assemble for a card game in the apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. If the mess in Oscar's home is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Unger who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed and none too tense, Felix seems almost suicidal. As the action unfolds, Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean-freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as *The Odd Couple* is born.

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Our Case for Jewish Camp

By Racheli Taub and Chaya Mushka Greenberg



6th and 7th grade Ohr Temimim students get exercise in the school's new gym.

It's summer time and most kids have vacation. Don't get us wrong, our parents love us, but we're sure they would love it if we wouldn't spend our time: 1). Playing on electronics, 2). Making messes, and 3). Being couch potatoes and not getting exercise. But they also don't want us to be unsupervised or not learning anything. SO...

Dear Parents: We have a solution for you: Jewish camps!

Most any day camp or sleep-away camp solves those problems, but Jewish camps offer more! We have both attended the same Jewish day camp in Buffalo (Camp Gan Israel) and separate overnight camps in Montreal and the Poconos. Spending summers at camp has definitely helped

our spiritual growth, strengthened our Jewish identities, and encouraged us to do things connected to Judaism that we had never done before. Also, camp gives kids a chance to thrive in a larger Jewish environment than most of us get to experience here in Buffalo. Being in a Jewish camp teaches us Torah values in a lively 24/7 setting, unlike school, which is more structured.

Jewish camp has definitely been proven as the proper way to get children connected to their Jewish roots. We return from camp each year feeling like stronger Jews. Overnight camp gives us the experience of living with other girls, teaches us how to socialize with other people, and we have made many new friends for life. Campers get out of their comfort zones and learn about new places and things. Camp has helped our personal growth. Camp encouraged us to memorize the Jewish calendar dates, observe Shabbat with zeal, and much, much, more.

One of our most memorable times was when we had a Shabbaton and were encouraged to say *Psalms of David* with an incentive: whoever participated would get a Slurpee! (One of us got an extra-large for saying the whole book!) Also, we learned about Jewish weddings and the three weeks of mourning for the destruction of the *Beit Hamikdash* (Holy Temple).

Dear Parents: Take our word for it: You have the ability to give your children an experience of a lifetime! Send them to Jewish summer camp!

Ohr Temimim students Racheli Taub and Chaya Mushka Greenberg (both 12) will be entering 8th and 7th grades, respectively, after returning from Jewish camp this summer.

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THE JEWISH
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Music with Miss Rivky

The Jewish Discovery Center hosted a large group of mothers, babies, toddlers and preschoolers in Rivky Greenberg's music classes this spring, many of whom attended for the first time! The children, ages 0 to 6, learned about spring, Tzedakah, Mother's Day, happy feelings, numbers, farm animals, Mezuzah and road safety. The highlight was the Pre-Shavuot music class, where the children sang and moved to fun Shavuot songs, danced with the precious gift we received-- the Torah, learned to count to ten for the Ten Commandments, shook their ice cream shakers and enjoyed cheesecake and ice cream, as is it customary to have dairy food on Shavuot. For more information on the upcoming summer and fall schedules or to join the mailing list, please contact Rivky at (716) 906-8890 or log on to www.musicwithrivky.com



Miss Rivky loved welcoming Stacie Greenfield Stone and her 5 month old, Allison to the music class.



Three generations enjoyed music class- Lauren Klenosky, her son Judah and Grandma Claire



Donatella Oppenheimer loved attending Miss Rivky's music class for the first time with her son Ethan. Pictured here with Mr. Happy when learning about happy feelings.



Jessica Grubea, Rebecca Greene, Rivky Greenberg and Merredith Levin enjoyed a mama moment after the class.



Racheli Greenberg, Aviva Weisman and Abby Weisman played "Miss Rivky" at the end of class.



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JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES CALENDAR—JULY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Class Locations: 757 Hopkins Rd. 212 Exeter Rd. 2700 N. Forest </div>	1 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM	2 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM Prayer class 7:30 PM	3 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM 'Let My People Know' Time-Warner Cable	4 Parsha Discussion @ Weinberg Campus Library 1:00 PM	5 Beyond the Letter of the Law 6:00 PM
6		7 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM Chassidic Thought 8:30 PM	8 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM	9 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM Prayer class 7:30 PM	10 Talmud 6:00 AM Talmud 10:15 AM 'Let My People Know' Time-Warner Cable	11 Parsha Discussion @ Weinberg Campus Library 1:00 PM
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Honor the memory of your loved ones on the solemn day of Yom Kippur by placing their names on the Yartzeit list in the September issue.

**Call Cindy Oppenheimer at
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Learn About India With Hadassah July 8

Learn about Jewish life in India--while enjoying an authentic (and delicious!) Indian buffet including many vegetarian dishes with Buffalo Hadassah. Our hostess and speaker is Rita Subharwal. Rita was born in India, her mother was from Iraq, and her father was an Indian soldier in the British army. She also lived in Israel before coming to the United States.

Don't miss hearing this fascinating

woman. Bring your friends and significant others. The luncheon will be at Tandoori Indian Restaurant, 7740 Transit Rd. (near Sheridan) at 11:30 July 8, 2014. Please get your reservations in early because seating is limited. Send your check for \$18 to Marlene Katzel 503 Linwood Ave. Buffalo, N.Y. Please include phone number and/or email address.

Kadimah School Siddur Ceremony

Young Kadimah School students received their first Siddur (prayerbook) this spring at a special ceremony.



ABOVE: Teachers participating in the Siddur ceremony were from left, Orna McNamara, Naomi Cowan, Rebecca Laufgraben and student Nadev Netter.



Part of the Siddur ceremony featured students singing and carrying their version of the Ten Commandments.



RIGHT: Kadimah students holding their very own prayerbooks at the Siddur ceremony

Lag B'Omer in Buffalo

More than 70 young Jews from all walks of Buffalo Life joined together to celebrate Lag B'Omer together with a Havdalah service. Guests enjoyed a traditional Lag B'Omer bonfire with desserts, drinks and live music. The event was held at the home of Pinny and Sonia Young and co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo.

Guests ranged from local Buffalo residents to new Israeli immigrants to graduate students brought by Chabad of Buffalo.



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Jennifer Kingsley
Andrew Oestreicher

Hanna Pawlowski



You bring such spirituality and joy to your davening! We are proud of you as we celebrate your Bat Mitzvah and look forward

to your continued participation in services at Temple.

The Pawlowski Family



Emily Pawlowski

We know you treasure your friends and experiences at HSJS and are proud that you continued your Jewish education!

The Pawlowski Family

Mazel Tov Hebrew High 2014 Graduating Class

Rachel Adel
Alexis Ashton
Aliza Berger
Emily Cohen
Jacob Dubin
Leah Finkelstein
Nathan Gellin
Madeline Hamilton
Simon Honig

Isabella Kaplan
Isaac Molzen
Jacqueline Oestreicher
Emily Pawlowski
Anna Pressman
Zachary Richheimer
Rachel Snitzer
Jonathan Weisbrot
Kayla Yellen



Susan and David Oestreicher



Liat Pardo, daughter of Susan Goldberg Schwartz and Itay Pardo, and Joshua Notaro, son of Lisa Klein and James Notaro, are pleased to announce their marriage on May 25, 2014 at Temple Beth Zion. Rabbi Adam Scheldt officiated at the ceremony. A private reception was held at the Lafayette Hotel immediately following the ceremony.

Photo courtesy of Nancy J. Parisi.



Jacqueline Oestreicher, daughter of Susan Freed-Oestreicher and David Oestreicher, recently graduated from Williamsville North High School. She was actively involved in Temple Beth Zion's Youth Group, TBaZY and North America's Reform Jewish Youth movement, NFTY serving as president of the Northeast Lakes Region. Jacqueline was president of WNHS Class of 2014, co-captain of the varsity tennis team and competed twice at the international DECA career conference. She will be attending Washington University in St. Louis - Olin School of Business.

Cindy and Randy Oppenheimer of Amherst, New York are happy to announce the recent engagement of their son, Jacob Aaron Oppenheimer to his childhood friend, Florence Leah Grazi, daughter of Eileen and Ken Grazi of Scarsdale, NY. Jacob graduated from the University of Denver in 2004, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is a Dental Sales Manager for Stratasys, an industry leader in 3D printing technology, with corporate headquarters in the USA and Israel. Florence graduated from Syracuse University in 2004, majoring in Surface Pattern Design, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She is currently a Designer and Stylist for Kravet Inc. in NYC, a distributor of decorative fabrics and furnishings to the interior design industry. Her proud maternal grandparents are Tibby and Ira Baren of Jericho, NY. The late Florence and Raymond Grazi of Jericho, NY are her paternal grandparents. Jacob is the grandson of the late Sondra and Bennett Oppenheimer of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and the late Joan and Sam Shatkin of Amherst, New York. Florence and Jacob currently reside in New York City.



Sarah Pawlowski

We are very proud that you continued your Jewish education and did such a beautiful job davening at Confirmation services.

The Pawlowski Family

Not The Last word

Don't Judge a Book (Club) by its cover: A tribute to Linda Brodsky

By Vickie Rubin

About eight years ago (maybe longer), I was in a meeting with a well respected, local and internationally known physician and we were talking about books recently read. She said to me, "one day I'm going to start a book club and I hope you will join." I remember my mother-in-law was always involved in a book club, and although my mother-in-law is no longer alive, her book club has lived on for more than 49 years! So, for me, the idea of a book club was somewhat appealing.

Two years later my friend called to say, "I am starting the book club – meet at my house on this date and we will commence." I was very nervous that first meeting. The members who sat around the table are all highly accomplished women who are well-known in the community, and many are known nationally. OK, I admit it I was really intimidated! And then, the first book for our light summer reading was a Charles Dickens 1017 page book-360,947 words! I went home to my husband to tell him that not only was I back in AP English, but I also had summer reading!

Our book club was no ordinary book club! It was extremely well structured. We met at the same house (our founder's) each meeting; we had a minute taker (our founder), and after the second meeting when nobody ate, we eliminated food and snacks from our meeting. Our book club lasted two hours (to the dot) with stimulating, mind expanding book discussions. And we had a name: The Busy Women's Book Club (BWBC). No name spoke more truth!

Each meeting, we would each find our seats – we always gravitated towards the same chairs. Lisa and I in the big comfy seats, others on the couch, and still others in straight back chairs. Our leader always sat in the fireplace hearth with computer on her lap. Our first order of business was to go around the room and talk about something that happened in our lives since the



Vickie Rubin

last meeting. Yes, it was added to the minutes, unless of course we use the words "off the record." After our chit-chat, we started the book discussion. The person who suggested the book became the leader for that gathering, although clearly this group has a lot of leaders and by the end of the session we all had the floor! Our founder always kept us in check, especially if we started to do more chit-chat than book-chat. The breadth of our discussions was vast and not only covered the book, but also historical components and other related topics. We didn't always agree if the book was good, bad, worth our time, funny, or inspiring. However that, in fact, is what made our discussion so exciting – and we often went off into tangents, but our leader would bring us back – every time.

Each year, we have a movie and meal night. This is when I found out, to my delight, that the favorite movie of our founder was "Legally Blond." I will admit, I love "Legally Blond" because it is funny, romantic and clever – but our leader liked "Legally Blond" because it exemplified the Third Wave of Feminism. Yes, I had to look it up, and so will you – no freebies in this article.

Over the course of years, we became



The late Dr. Linda Brodsky

a solid group; meeting month after month learning about each other's lives and families, sharing our happiness and sorrows. We were not only book club members, we also became friends.

Tragedy struck our book club founder this past September. She suffered a traumatic and ultimately fatal head injury. She was in the hospital for over five months. Book Club rallied around our friend and leader, Dr. Linda Brodsky, and her family. We brought meals to the family; we visited each and every week and sometimes numerous times per week for many months along with other community members, friends and family. We cried together and prayed together. We incorporated the community in our prayers. Our group continued to meet through the fall and early winter, but now we were meeting in Linda's hospital room, talking about family and books with the hope that Linda was hearing our discussion, our prayers and feeling our love. And we certainly were not the only ones praying for Linda's recovery. The community as a whole prayed for Dr. Linda Brodsky. She was loved, admired and respected not only locally but nationally and internationally. But to us, she was our beloved friend.

One never knows what tomorrow

will bring. Who knew that this group of women, mostly strangers to each other at first, would form such a tight bond? Book clubs are so much more than a monthly meeting; the past few months have demonstrated the power of our group, the strength of women and the connection that we all need to exist fully. We all miss Linda terribly and in her honor, we decided that we will continue to meet.

Recently, we held the first book club meeting without Linda. It was in a new home and we had some great snacks (new traditions). We spent the first hour chit-chatting, until I reminded everyone that Linda was looking down at us, telling us to move it along and discuss the book already!

I am so thankful for meeting Dr Linda Brodsky all those years ago, and for Linda connecting me to our BWBC group! Thank you Linda for all you have done for all us! You will never be forgotten.

Epilogue: The night I walked into the first book discussion meeting all those years ago, I came with hat in hand and had to admit in front of everyone that I did not read the 1017 page Dickens tome over my summer vacation! They still kept me in the group!

Vickie Rubin, M.S. Ed. is the Director of the Early Childhood Direction Center, part of Kaleida Health and Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. She has 16 years' experience working with parents and professionals as well as presenting workshops on a variety of topics, which relate to servicing young children with special needs and working with families.

Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy



Chair Carin Greenfield thanks volunteers for another great year



Some of the volunteers gathered together at Carin Greenfield's home for lunch

TBZ @ Buffalo Pride Parade



Rabbi Pokras with Carol Speser, Holly Baum and a friend

TBZ @ Buffalo Pride Parade



Angelo Caico, Rachel Jackson, Rabbi Scheldt and an assortment of children



The TBZ group getting ready to march



TBZ Past president Ken Rogers (waving) with Holly Baum, Miriam and Zeld Abramovich, Susan Schwartz and others

TBZ @ Buffalo Pride Parade



Zelda and Miriam Abramovich.



TBZ Rabbis Adam Scheldt and Gary Pokras

UJF Women



Susan Braun, Janet Desmon and Beth Joseph

UJF Women's Closing Brunch



Marge Nobel and Sandy Rifkin



UJF Chair Ellen Weiss, Julie Kweller, Dana Lewis, Judy Babat, Bonnie Clement, Cookie Levin, Faygie Fox and Susan Braun



Faygie Fox and Brenda Fox

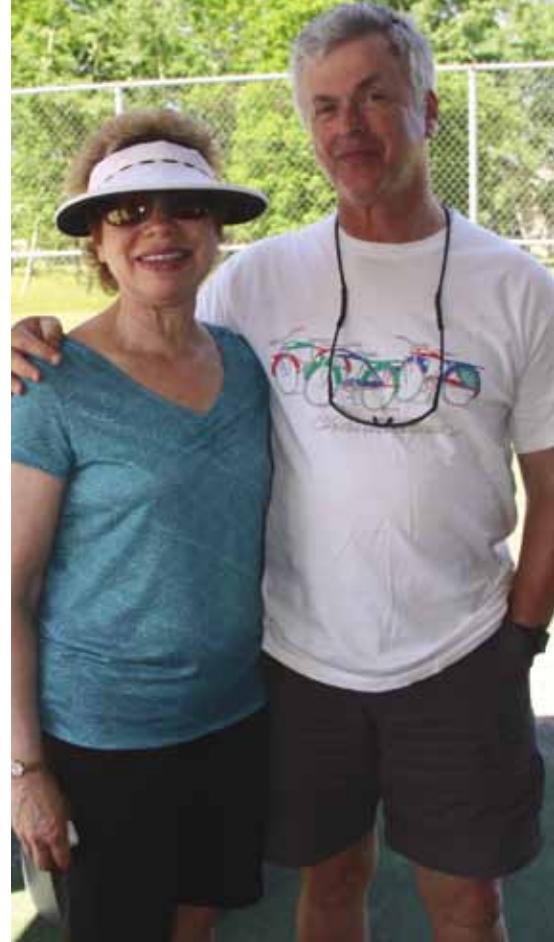
JCC Annual Meeting and Irv Shuman Campgrounds Opening



Cantor Irwin Gelman gives the invocation



JCC Executive Director Rick Zakalik offers a report on the JCC



Joan and David Alexander

JCC Annual Meeting and Irv Shuman Campgrounds Opening



Marilyn Shuman speaks on behalf of her family about the late Irv Shuman



Ralph Kushner with this year's Ralph Kushner Volunteer Service Award Winners Michael Silverman and Arlyne Lepie for the work with the Buffalo Jewish Film Festival.

JCC Annual Meeting and Irv Shuman Campgrounds Opening



Marilyn Shuman cuts the ribbon on the new Irving M. Shuman Campgrounds



Hannah Weinberg and Ann Virag

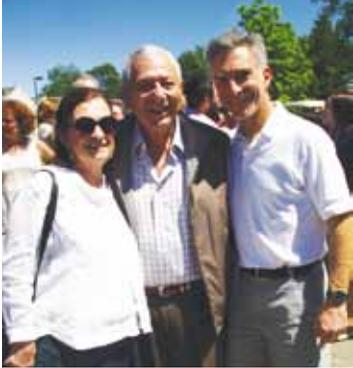


JCC President Gretchen Gross readies her camera for a shot of the ribbon Cutting Ceremony



(Rear) David Miller, James Shuman, (front) Catherine Miller, Charlotte Harkavy, Leah Kramer and Marilyn Shuman

JCC Annual Meeting and Irv Shuman Campgrounds Opening



Penny, Charlie and Ken Shuman



Irv Shuman's brothers Hy and Charlie Shuman



Shuman family members at the ceremony.



JCC President Gretchen Gross, Jewish Federation President David Desmon and Federation VP Leslie Shuman Kramer

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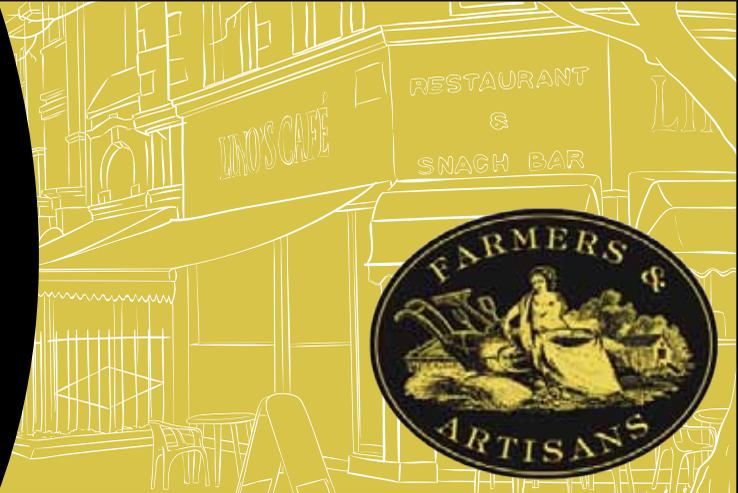
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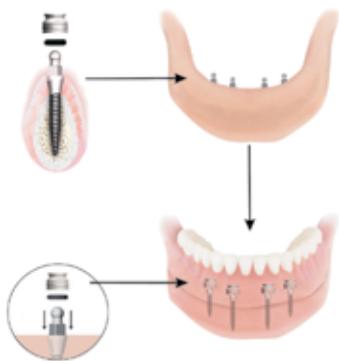
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