

**Just because it's
June, June, June!**

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Miss:**
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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

June 2015 | Sivan- Tammuz 5775



**Remembering D-Day
71 Years Later**

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What's Inside... June 2015

Editor's Note

Stealing lyrics from Rogers' & Hammerstein's *Carousel*, the front cover of the *JJWNY* says "Just because it's June! June! June!" Indeed, June is "busting out all over" Buffalo! First, you must know our great news about Rob Goldberg as Jewish Federation's next CEO. And you will also see that Mandy Weiss has joined the Federation as the Director of PJ Library. You may not yet know that Mara Koven-Gelman will soon join the Holocaust Resource Center as its new Director. That's three new people joining Buffalo's organized Jewish community—three people with energy, vision and experience!

As you will see in this edition, the 2016 United Jewish Fund Campaign is gearing up. The Community Kick-off is September 21. But new General Chair Leslie Shuman Kramer and Women's Philanthropy Chair Julie Dressler Weinberg are already hard at work, planning the year out and seeking ways to make the Campaign matter to us all. Because it does! In large and small ways, the United Jewish Fund Campaign is a part of all of our lives, from Israel education, to caring for the needy, to teaching our children about Judaism and how to be mensches, to helping to sponsor the *Jewish Journal of Western New York* every month.

And finally, June is a time of festivity—graduations, agency and synagogue annual meetings, the Jewish International Film Festival and closing gala. There is so much in our part of the world to celebrate this month. And, yes. Because it's June!



Photo Credit: Linda Gellman

Ellen Goldstein - Editor

On The Cover

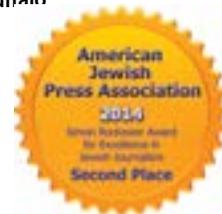
This photo of Jacob Asner's grave was taken by Dan D. Kohane. It was photographed in the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, and honors American troops who died in Europe during World War II.

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Liz Kahn

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President's Column

Howard Rosenhoch



As the month of May gives way to June and the beginning of summer, we have yet another chance to contemplate those timeless transitions that mark our passing from one stage to another. So it is that we've completed once again the story of our journey from the subjugation and degradation of our people's 400 plus years of slavery in Egypt, to their miraculous expulsion from Egypt, their race across the sea and the vanquishing of our enemies, and finally their journey through

the desert to Mount Sinai and the seminal giving of Torah to the Jewish people and the world. We mark this journey every year by counting the Omer, the passage of 49 days from Passover to Shavuot when we celebrate our receipt of Torah, and the beginning of the Jews as both the People of the Book and as a fledgling nation. The amazing thing about such transitions is that, like Tikkun Olam, the command that we repair the world, they are never complete. We work on them day by day, by constantly studying Torah, and learning the intricacies of national existence, both in the land of Israel and in the diaspora.

This may sound like the introduction to a discussion of big picture, world shaking issues of the day facing Israel and the Jewish People. I am reminded, however, of the maxim often recited by one of our great Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives, the late Tip O'Neill, that all politics is local. With that in mind, I am focused on transitions in our Buffalo Jewish Community, particularly the genuine pleasure I took in May announcing the appointment of Rob Goldberg as our next Federation CEO/Executive Director.

In Rob, we have that unique combination of a home town Amherst native who returns to his roots after establishing a national reputation. Rob's has been forged in the trenches of Jewish communal work with Hillel International, at the epicenter of building Jewish community among generations of young people on their first adventure as emerging adults away from home at college, and empowering those young adults to survive and thrive in the hostile political environment that many of our campuses have

become when it comes to issues of Israel, Zionism and Jewish expression. We, Jewish Buffalo, are the beneficiaries of two of Rob's passions – his home town of Buffalo, and the Jewish community from which he sprang. Let's, together, make the most of it.

My use of the word "together" as I closed out the last paragraph was intentional. Rob's tenure as our Federation CEO must necessarily be a partnership. We must partner at every level: CEO, president (yes, that is me), Federation board and staff, agencies, synagogues; and individuals. I suggest that, in the run up to Rob taking official title come August 1, we--each of us--think of how we envision our Jewish Community, and share that vision with someone. In short, let's create Jewish conversation around how we build Jewish Buffalo. In doing so, please review the vision, mission and strategic priorities that Federation adopted this past summer (you'll find them under the "About Us" tab of the Federation's website, www.jfedbflo.com/about-us). As you think about the community, keep in mind that these are organic statements of our overriding goals and aspirations, and roadmaps for getting there, which can benefit from constant community input and critique, which I welcome you to share with me at hrosenhoch@jfedbflo.com.

Enough pontificating for one President's column. What's in order here is a look back and a large set of "thank yous" to the folks who got us to where we are now. First and foremost, thanks to our CEO Search Committee Co-Chairs, Margery Nobel and Michael Weisman. Their tireless work and leadership every step of the way has been nothing short of inspirational. The first step Margy and Mike took, which proved to portend the success of the project, was surrounding themselves with a diverse group of hardworking individuals to sit on the committee. Thanks to each member of the committee, alongside whom I had the pleasure of serving, for putting your heart, soul and precious time into this very intense process. They include David Desmon, Ellen Weiss, Steven Weiss, Leslie Kramer, Ken Shuman, Andy Shaevel, Sonia Young, Pinny Young, Jonathan Schechter, Rabbi Perry Netter, Holly Levy, Amanda Miller Burg, Randy Benderson, Jim Bileteoff and Charlotte Gendler. Our community is in your debt. We are also indebted to our executive search consultants, Debbie Smith and Sandra Leshaw of the Jewish Federations of North America Mandel Center for Leadership and Excellence. Debbie's and Sandra's services were provided as a benefit of our affiliation with JFNA. They used their extensive experience and savvy to guide with a combination of gentle suggestions and firm hands as we wound our way through the process. Debbie and Sandra are consummate professionals and we were fortunate to have their guidance.

Finally, I want to acknowledge with gratitude the work of our Interim Executive Director, Lew Stolzenberg. Since the turn of the new secular year, Lew has provided a stable hand on the rudder and been a trusted and available confidant as we've charted the sometimes rough waters while seeking permanent professional leadership. I look forward to working with Lew over the next few months as we transition towards Rob's assumption of office.

**If you have not yet made your
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Rob Goldberg to lead Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo as CEO

The Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo announced today that it unanimously elected Robert M. Goldberg to serve as its next chief executive officer & executive director, following an extensive four-month national search. Goldberg will take office in August and succeed Lewis Stolzenberg, the current interim executive director.

“Rob is an exceptional leader whose wisdom, collaborative style, and demonstrated commitment to our mission and community make him the ideal choice to lead the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo,” said Howard Rosenhoch, the Federation president. “The powerful combination of his professional talents and his deep knowledge of our Western New York community ensure that our Jewish community will continue to grow, improve, and build upon our core purpose: to develop, acquire and allocate funds and resources for implementing and coordinating community building, nurturing a vibrant and caring Jewish community, and taking care of community needs in Greater Buffalo, Israel and around the world.”

Goldberg currently serves as the vice president for leadership and governance and as interim chief campus officer at Hillel International in Washington, D.C. Goldberg has held senior leadership positions at Hillel International over the last 15 years and is a trusted advisor to Eric D. Fingerhut, Hillel

International’s president and CEO. Goldberg is the executive staff liaison with Hillel International’s extensive network of volunteer leadership and donors, including its Board of Directors and Board of Governors. He has helped cultivate several significant leadership gifts and endowed programs, and, as interim chief campus officer, Goldberg has led the delivery of Hillel International programs that directly serve campus Hillels, including Israel Education and Engagement, the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Experience, Student Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship.

“Rob has been an invaluable asset to Hillel International, instrumental in shaping our vision for the future and understanding how to build excellent Hillels on college campuses across the country and around the world,” Fingerhut said. “His understanding of non-profit management and creative vision will make him an excellent leader for Buffalo’s Jewish community. And he is a true mensch.”

Prior to joining Hillel International, Goldberg was the executive director of St. Louis Hillel at Washington University in St. Louis, MO (1995-2000), as well as the executive director of Temple Beth El, a Reform congregation for more than 1,200 families in Providence, RI (1984-1995). Goldberg earned a bachelor of arts from Brown University and a master’s in business administration from Bryant College.

Goldberg has extensive Federation experience, having served as one of Hillel



Robert M. Goldberg

International’s liaisons with the Jewish Federation of North America and the UJA Federation of New York. He has also worked with numerous Federations across the United States to assist them in re-envisioning and transforming Jewish campus life in their communities, and served as an active volunteer leader at the Jewish Federations in Providence and Buffalo. Goldberg received the Young Leadership Award from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and recently served as one of the co-chairs of the Young Leadership Mission and Leadership Development Program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater

Buffalo. Goldberg has been an active volunteer Federation fundraiser, having served on Campaign Cabinets for both Providence and Buffalo Federations, and recently having served as the co-chair of the Leadership Gifts Division for the 2014-15 Greater Buffalo UJF Campaign.

“I’m absolutely thrilled about Rob Goldberg’s appointment to lead our Jewish Federation’s team as its new CEO & executive director because Rob brings with him a terrific blend of Jewish content and philanthropy, which, quite frankly is what it’s all about,” said Steven J. Weiss, the General Campaign chair for Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo’s UJF Campaign. “Rob has successfully participated both professionally and as a volunteer in a variety of solicitations and he himself has a very giving mindset.”

The Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo adopted a new Strategic Plan in August 2014. An “obsession with attracting and developing human capital” was one of the four primary themes of the Federation’s new Strategic Plan.

Goldberg was selected following an extensive search process which began in January

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with a search committee diversely representing the fabric of the greater Buffalo Jewish community and chaired by Michael Weisman and Margery Nobel, with support from the Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence at JFNA. The search process began with the development of new Position Description and Key Leadership Attributes that were established based on extensive interviews and focus groups with a wide range of volunteer leaders, key donors, and the professional leadership of the Federation's constituent agencies and community synagogues.

Candidates were considered from around the United States and Canada, representing diverse professional backgrounds across the spectrum of private and non-profit secular and Jewish communal organizations. Goldberg was the unanimous choice of the search committee and was elected at the Board of Governors' meeting on May 12.

"Over the course of his almost 20 years with Hillel, Rob has acquired the requisite skills needed to be an effective Federation CEO," Nobel said. "He has been a liaison to key volunteer leaders and philanthropists, he helped transform Hillel both internationally and at campuses around the world, has managed and nurtured staff, helped Hillel International raise over \$25 million dollars annually, and has ensured the delivery of key programs at the foundation of Hillel's mission."

Weisman added "Rob's experience with Hillel International, coupled with his familiarity and appreciation for Western New York, presents an exciting opportunity for the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo. We're fortunate to now have an exceptional national Jewish communal leader who is passionate about our region to serve as our next CEO. Rob will certainly inspire and guide our Jewish community into the years ahead."

Stolzenberg became interim executive director in January upon the resignation of Michael Wise, who left to lead Honeymoon Israel, a new organization that he recently founded.

While working in Washington D.C., Goldberg and his wife Shira, reside in Amherst, NY. Rob and Shira have three adult children; Noa (Los Angeles), Elana (Chicago) and Ari (Buffalo); and are active members of Congregation B'nai Shalom in Williamsville, NY.

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Leslie Shuman Kramer, Julie Dressler Weinberg to Lead 2016 UJF Campaign



Leslie Shuman Kramer



Julie Dressler

Howard Rosenhoch, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, has announced the appointment of Leslie Shuman Kramer as chair of the 2016 United Jewish Fund General Campaign and Julie Dressler Weinberg as chair of the 2016 United Jewish Fund's Women's Philanthropy.

"The 2016 Campaign will be a critical and important year for Federation and its agencies," said Rosenhoch. "I know that because of Leslie and Julie, the Campaign and the needs of those people in Buffalo and all around the world who depend on those funds we raise here Buffalo are in excellent hands. We can all count on their leadership," he added.

Leslie Shuman Kramer has most recently served as Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo and is a member of Jewish Federation

of North America's National Women's Philanthropy Board. An attorney, Mrs. Kramer practiced law in Chicago and Buffalo. She first began traveling to Israel when she was 13 years old, and spent 2 ½ years living there as a young adult. At Federation, in addition to serving as Vice President, she has been a member of the Board of Governors since 2006, is a longtime member of Federation's Planning and Allocations Committee, chaired the Federation's Education Task Force and was a member of the Federation Community Strategic Planning Task Force.

She chaired the 2009 and 2010 UJF Women's Philanthropy Campaign, and has been a longtime member of Women's Philanthropy Cabinet, where she co-chaired a number of divisions, including Lion of Judah. She co-chaired Federation's Leadership Development

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program and the Leadership Power program for women and has served on the Community Relations Committee. Mrs. Kramer co-chaired Buffalo's 2012 New Leadership Mission, was a participant in the Federation's 2008 Menorah Mission, and was a participant in several national missions including the Campaign Chair and Directors Mission, NWP's Machar Mission and several Young Leadership Missions. While in Chicago she was a member of the Chicago Federation Young Leadership Board.

A past volunteer for the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy and Buffalo's Vive La Casa, she was also a member of Amherst Central School District's Board of Education from 2010-2013, previously served as President of the Buffalo Bureau of Jewish Education, was a board member of the former Temple Beth Tzedek and was the temple's education co-chair.

Mrs. Kramer graduated from Cornell University and the University of Buffalo Law School. She was the 2000 Ruth and Milton Kahn Young Leadership Award winner. Mrs. Kramer and her husband have three children and live in Amherst.

Julie Weinberg is a clinical social worker with a private practice. She was Vice Chair of Women's Philanthropy cabinet, past Chair and Vice Chair of Super Sunday, was a member of its Young

Women's team, a Community Kick-Off Dinner table captain, as well as a Chair and Vice Chair of the Women's Philanthropy Pacesetter's Team. She has been a participant in the Federation's Community Leaders program, was a member of the highly successful New Leadership Mission to Israel in 2012, and has served on the Federation's Planning and Allocations committee.

Also a Ruth and Milton Kahn Young Leadership Award winner, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of Jewish Family Service, committee member of Y'ad b'Y'ad, a co-chair of the Temple Beth Zion Kol Nidre Campaign with her husband, Dr. Michael Weinberg, for several years, co-chaired the TBZ membership committee for five years and served on the TBZ Executive board as Vice President, Secretary and Asst. Secretary. She has also served on the boards of the Jewish Community Center and the Bureau of Jewish Education, where she was secretary of its board for several years. In addition, she has served on the Nichols School Parent association.

A graduate of Cleveland Hill High School, Mrs. Weinberg is a cum laude graduate of SUNY/ Albany and holds an MSW from Smith College. She and her husband are parents of two children and are residents of Williamsville.

Kadimah Annual Dinner is June 14

Am Yisrael Chai, and so is The Kadimah School of Buffalo, filled with life and excitement in its preparations for the 2015 Kadimah Annual Dinner. The dinner hosted again this year at Temple Beth Tzedek on Sunday, June 14, will highlight and celebrate Israel and its connection to the school and the Greater Buffalo Jewish community at large. Kadimah is also proud to be honoring Irv and Elaine Weinstein, pinnacles of the community through their generosity and philanthropy, as well as through Irv's many years as one of television's most memorable journalists.

This year's attendees will hear from Shimon Mercer-Wood, Consul for Media Affairs at the Israeli Consulate. Mr. Mercer-Wood has been stationed in New York since March after serving in New Delhi, London and Jerusalem.

He holds a master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics, which he completed after his three year compulsory military service and after spending a year studying at Ma'aleh Gilboa Yeshiva.

Guests will be transported to Israel with Israeli-themed cuisine by Oded Ravenpour of Falafel Bar, all supervised by the Buffalo Va'ad HaKashrut. Kadimah students as young as three will present in both Hebrew and English, showing off Kadimah's outstanding dual-language curriculum and strong core academics. Kadimah is also proud to feature its 7th and 8th grade travellers who recently returned from their own visit to Israel with Head of School Einav Symons and parent volunteers.

Festivities and cocktails begin at 5pm and the event is co-chaired by Shira Brown and Judith Gendler Epstein. To purchase tickets and for more information, please contact the school at 716-836-6903.

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We Pause to Remember

By Dan Kohane

We honor those who fought and died in the Battle of Normandy.

Anybody who has lived through or read about the history of our involvement in World War II knows something about the collective losses suffered by Allies and enemies alike. I want to focus on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, the Allied invasion into France, known as Operation Overlord, which took two years to plan and commenced 71 years ago.

First, let's consider the collective losses. Wherever you look, you see different numbers. Here's one estimate.

The cost of the Normandy campaign was high for both sides. From D-Day to August, 21, 1944 the Allies landed 2,052,299 men in Northern France. The Allies suffered 209,672 casualties from June 6 to the end of August, including 36,976 killed, 153,475 wounded, and 19,221 missing. The British, Canadians, and Poles suffered 16,138 killed, 58,594 wounded, and 9,093 missing, for a total of 83,825 casualties. The Americans suffered 20,838 killed, 94,881 wounded, and 10,128 missing, for a total of 125,847 casualties. German forces in France reported losses of 158,930 men between D-Day and August 14, just before the start of Operation Dragoon in Southern France. In action at the Falaise pocket, 50,000 men were lost, of which 10,000 were killed and 40,000 captured. Estimates of German losses for the Normandy campaign range from 400,000 (200,000 killed or wounded; 200,000 captured) to 450,000 (240,000 killed, wounded, or missing, plus 210,000 captured).

I came to learn about one of these soldiers. He has become a friend of mine.

My wife Chris and I traveled to Paris and a river cruise on the Seine for holiday. It was a beautiful trip with gorgeous and interesting stops along the way to Normandy. Clearly, the tour of the Normandy beaches was the personal highlight.

At the American Cemetery at Normandy, just astride Omaha Beach, we participated in a very moving remembrance ceremony, with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner and Taps and



Omaha Beach Memorial, on the far left of the monument (not visible) is a sign that says, "Here on the 6th June, 1944 Europe was liberated by the heroism of the Allied Forces".

then a minute of silence. We were then given roses to put on one of the 9,386 graves that appear as endless markers to sacrifice. My wife and I walked out into the cemetery, wondering where we should place our roses. That rose made me think about the individual, not only collective sacrifices made by the soldiers because I would have to select one fallen soldier to specially honor.

I came upon a plot, adorned by a Star of David, for one Jacob Asner. I don't know him or anyone who did; all I know is that he gave his life at the Battle of Normandy. Why did I stop at this grave? Perhaps because he was Jewish as I am, and this was one of very few Jewish markers in the cemetery. His first name was Jacob and that is my son's name as well. I suppose it was also because he was from New York. Anyway, I placed the rose at the foot of his grave, a stone on the Star and after a few moments of meditation, I walked away. As I did, I felt I needed to know more and do more. He deserved it. Between census data, military records and information on Ancestry.com his story unfolded.

Who was Jacob Asner? The Family Asner

Jacob was the oldest son of Charles and Rose Asner, both of whom had emigrated from Russia. Charles was a deliveryman for a fruit company and Rose was a homemaker and mother. When I learned that I had placed a rose at the grave of a

man whose mother's name was Rose, I felt that she had also visited him that day.

Jacob was born here in New York, and the family lived in New York City, in Manhattan.

The Asners were crowded into a tenement house located at 25 Jefferson Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Jacob was the oldest of several siblings, all of whom lived in the family apartment when the United States joined WWII in 1941. His siblings included his sister Sarah (20), sister Edith (16), brother Harry (14), sister Marilyn (8), brother Sidney (6) and brother Joseph (later known as "Jerry") (4).

A little bit about Charles Asner – Jacob's father. He was born on August 5, 1891,

in Vilna, Russia. As mentioned, Charles was a deliveryman, working for a fruit seller, Jacob's mother, Rose, predeceased him, passing away on Sept. 2, 1942, 15 months after he enlisted and nine months before he died in combat. Charles had to cope with the loss of his young wife (age 45) and his oldest son within a year.

Enlistment

Jacob was born in 1918 in New York City, attended four years of high school and enlisted on June 16, 1941, at Fort Jay, Governors Island, in New York City.

He was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division whose motto was "29th - Let's Go" and to its 175th Infantry Regiment, Second Battalion, Company F.

A Legacy of Asner Service

Harry Asner, Jacob's younger brother, enlisted in the Navy on August 11, 1943, nine months after his mother died, and was discharged on December 4, 1945. He lived until October 1, 1991. Brother Sidney joined the Navy in 1952. He spent the next 19 years in Navy service, including service in Vietnam. He died, short of his 59th birthday, in 1993. "Jerry," the youngest brother, enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 and served in Korea during that conflict.

The 175th in the Battle of Normandy

Jacob was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, 175th Regiment, Second Battalion, Company F. Jacob and his comrades in the 175th landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus 1, June 7, 1944, arriving at 1230 hours. Machine gun and



Dan Kohane and his wife Chris Naples at Versailles.

small arms fire were encountered on the beach. Four hours later, the remainder of the regiment landed one mile east of Saint Laurent sur Mer.

From D-Day +1 (June 7) until D-Day +8 (June 14), the brave men of the 175th fought valiantly with the mission of crossing the Vire River, attacking Montmartin en Craignes and securing crossing of the Vire et Taute canal against use by panzers. This was only 20 miles southeast of Omaha Beach where they had landed and they were suffering heavy casualties.

On the 14th of June, a new division attack order was issued. The objective: St Lô.

Jacob had only three more days to live.

The US Army Center of Military History, explains:

ST-Lô, capital of the department of Manche, can be used as one symbol for First U.S. Army's victory in a most difficult and bloody phase of the Campaign of Normandy: the "Battle of the Hedgerows," during the first three weeks of July 1944.

Much more was at stake in the Battle of the Hedgerows than possession of a communications center on the Vire River. In June, First Army and British Second Army had won their beachheads and had captured Cherbourg (26 June). Supplies and reinforcements were building up for a powerful offensive, designed to break out of the Normandy pocket and scheduled to be mounted in the First Army zone. But more room and better jump-off positions for the crucial offensive were needed before this blow could be delivered.

June 17, 1943, D-Day +11. Jacob Asner had been in Normandy for 10 long and miserable days, fighting for freedom, fighting for our country, fighting for those who were being oppressed. This was his last day. He and so many of his brothers died in the battle to capture the strategic city of St. Lô.

At 0730 on June 17th, the 1st battalion again moved out in the attack with Hill 108 as its objective. During this advance, Lieutenant Colonel George, the Regimental Commander, was seriously wounded by an enemy hand grenade. At 1045, the battalion was held up by heavy machine gun and machine pistol fire. An enemy counter-attack, launched against the right flank of the 1st battalion, was beaten off by the 2nd battalion.

Jacob made the ultimate sacrifice on

that fateful day in June, as the 2nd battalion joined in the capture of St. Lô. It would fall the next day.

As Martin Blumerson wrote in his review of the Normandy campaign:

In capturing St. Lô the divisions had sustained the high losses that had become typical of the Battle of the Hedgerows. The 35th Division lost over 2,000 men; the 29th Division suffered over 3,000 casualties. On 19 July, in compliance with corps instructions, the 35th Division relieved the 29th, and General Baade deployed his troops across the entire corps front from the Vire River east to the Couvains-Calvaire road.

Jacob Asner was one of those 3,000 casualties, giving his life so that we can live free. His passing and those of his comrades should never be forgotten. He rests now, in the American Cemetery in Normandy, perhaps 20 miles from where he died. The bodies and gravestones of 9,357 Americans will reside there for eternity, and a nation and world are forever indebted to them for their service and sacrifice.

On Memorial Day, and every day,

when you think of those who served and those who died, remember that each one had a life, a family. Each one had dreams. Remember them collectively but never forget them individually.

Jacob Asner, God bless you and those with whom you served. Rest in peace and know that a thankful nation and world will never forget.

Post Script: In a world more connected than ever, I was able to reach out through Facebook to share this story with the Asners and received several heartwarming messages from his family.

Cynthia Asner, Harry's daughter, writes:

"I'm Cynthia Asner, the middle daughter of Harry Asner, Jacob's niece. Being the third daughter, I lacked so much identity growing up. My mother was Catholic, my dad was Jewish. I didn't have a lot of religion or any knowledge of my father's family. So you can imagine the excitement I feel reading about this wealth of information!!! The way you documented Jacob's timeline in Normandy is riveting!! My husband

has been to Normandy, and we were fascinated when we read about his final days. This may be one of the biggest gifts I have ever received. Reading this is so emotional and has brought streams of tears down my face. Thank you so much for picking Jacob's grave to research; you have changed my life and filled in large holes of who I am. I feel the need to have a family reunion this summer where we all can gather pictures and documents, and share what we have on the Asner family. YOU have woken me up!!! And I am so grateful!! I'm hoping we will meet soon."

Take a moment today to say "thank you" and say a prayer for Jacob and all of his colleagues in that war and others, those who survived and those who did not, for their sacrifices so that you and I can live free.

Dan D. Kohane, a Senior Member of the Buffalo headquartered law firm of Hurwitz & Fine, P.C., is a nationally recognized insurance coverage counselor. He teaches Insurance Law as an adjunct professor at the University at Buffalo Law School and heads the firm's Insurance Coverage practice group.

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Lag B'Omer

A Nickel City Jews Lag B'Omer party was held at the home of Dr. Pinny and Mrs. Sonia Gellman Young.

The event was co-sponsored by the JCC, the Jewish Federation and Chabad of Buffalo. Young professionals from all over Western New York enjoyed a baked potato bar, desserts, drinks and—of course—s'mores around the bonfire. Israeli DJ's played Jewish rock music into the night. Dr. Rabbi Pinny Young spoke about the meaning of Lag B'Omer. "It was quite the party! We weren't expecting the overwhelming crowd because the holiday fell on a week night. But the guests just kept coming!" said Caroline Coonly, a committee member for the event.



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Mandy Weiss to direct PJ Library

Mandy Weiss will be joining the Jewish Federation of Buffalo this June as the PJ Library Director. She and her family recently relocated to Buffalo from Chicago where she worked for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago since 2006, most recently serving as the Director of Israel Experience in the Community Outreach and Engagement Department. Beginning in 2001, Mandy worked for four years at the Newberger Hillel Center at the University of Chicago, where she started as the Director of Student Life and then became Assistant Director.

She was born and raised in the Chicago area and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the



University of Maryland in Baltimore, after which she studied at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem for one year.

While Mandy and her family are new to Buffalo, she actually has some family roots here, as her father was born and raised in Kenmore and is a University of Buffalo alum! Mandy, her husband, and their two young children are excited to be a part of the Buffalo Jewish community and look forward to meeting you!

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The Long Goodbye

Rabbi Moshe Taub

I have never been one for goodbyes.

Who is?

Rabbis know all too well the pain of a farewell. It often begins with someone asking to meet with them. Sitting down in the rabbi's office they begin

by saying how much they like the shul, the community, the town, and the rabbi. At that point the rabbi knows where the conversation is going to lead.

They may go on to say that they got hired at a new job, or found the perfect house, or the perfect school but the path will always lead to, "...and we are, sadly, moving away'.

Rabbis always smile and say that while they will be missed, that they must do what is best for them and their family, that they are nothing but happy for them.

Rabbis mean this when they say it. But behind the veneer, behind the smile, another sentiment is brewing. The rabbi's heart is split in two.

Rabbis love their congregants. One cannot sacrifice for a community without that time, sweat and tears resulting in love. While many *rabbanim* are indeed loved back, I would assert that it is not an equal feeling, as love, as I see it, is an actual part of the rabbi's job, if done right.



Rabbi Moshe Taub

So, no matter the valid reason they may give, no matter if I am indeed happy for them, a member leaving rips my heart out, always.

But now the tables have turned.

I recently had to announce that I would be leaving my majestic shul – the community that first took a chance on me some twelve years ago.

I am not disloyal, and in fact will be, thus far, the longest serving rabbi in our shul's history; a history that includes amazing *rabbanim*, *talmidei chachamim* par excellence, who all went on to build a *keser shem tov* for themselves.

With time, I will share with you my new shul and community, but for now I wish to focus on my present one.

The Talmud (Sota 2) gives us a small peak behind the curtain of *hashgacha pratit*.

"Says Rav Yehudah in the name of Rav: At forty days before the creation of child a heavenly voice rings out and she says 'this girl will marry this man, this house will go to this person, this field will go to this person...'"

The gemara concludes that this is only true of one's first marriage, house, etc.

Rashi explains that only the first will be based on *mazel*, as opposed to any future match that will be based, in the main, on one's personal merits. This gives new meaning, perhaps, to what we intend when we say *mazel tov* at a first marriage. It may not be a blessing *per se*, rather a declaration of fact: as if to say, 'I know your groom/bride and let me tell you that your *mazel*, first pronounced at forty days, is indeed good!'

But what if, as one can infer from this gemara that list many significant firsts, our *mazel* dictates all of our momentous firsts? A lawyer their first firm, a doctor their first practice, and, for those that will choose a life in *klei kodesh* (Torah education and study, in all its forms), their first post.

It is not outside the realm of *chazal's* metaphysical truth that a rabbi's first placement is also based on this *mazel*, announced in the infancy of one's existence. What if, then, it was declared decades ago that I would have my first position in Buffalo, New York?

If so, then indeed my *mazel* was and is *tov*.

I will always cherish this community and Young Israel of Buffalo will always be one of the most important factors in my life.

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5 Things You Can Do IN JUNE TO REPAIR THE WORLD

1 **30th Anniversary Closing Night Festival Gala for the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival.** Sunday, June 7 at 6:30pm at the JCC - 2640 North Forest Road. \$36 tickets includes a kosher dinner and the film *Above and Beyond*—available at both JCC buildings and at www.bijff.com

2 **Walk & Run.** Ladies, Join your sisters June 13 in Delaware Park for the 15th annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Go to http://wny.info-komen.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BUF_TR_aboutevent to register or donate to a friend who is walking or running. (Look for *Liz Kahn's story* on page 44 about the Race.)

3 **Get on your Bike! The 20th Annual Ride for Roswell** will take place June 27 to benefit research and patient care at Roswell Park Cancer Center. There are routes for all levels of riders. Sign up to Ride or donate to a rider at <https://rideforroswell.org/>

4 **The newly opened Town Center Food Pantry at the Weinberg Campus** continues to take food and personal hygiene items. A project of Temple Beth Zion and Catholic Charities, you can drop off canned goods to Temple Beth Zion for the new Town Square Food Pantry or go to www.tbz.org and look for “social action” under Community. Or call Rabbi Adam Scheldt at 836-6565.

5 **The Great Lakes Experience Festival** is on June 13th at Memorial Park, Lake Shore Drive in Dunkirk, from 11 am to 5pm. The festival will focus on the environment, ecology of the Great Lakes and the heritage of the region. Enjoy family entertainment, exhibitors and lots of information about science, tourism and recreation. www.thegreatlakesexperience.org. Contact Beth Smeader, 716-545-1700 for more information.

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(Last month's photo of the
“Buffalo loves Israel” sign located
in the JCC lobby was correctly
identified by Mandy Weiss.)



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Israeli Couscous for Summer Picnics!

By Robin Kurss

It's time to cookout and picnic. I'm always looking for a dish that can be eaten at any temperature, is easy to bring along and makes a meal, whether you are a meat eater or a vegetarian. This fits the bill as a side dish or a main dish. Enjoy!

Israeli Couscous Salad

(serves 12 as a side)

Dressing

- ½ c balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp mustard (I like Dijon)
- 1 c olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 Tbsp basil, torn or chopped
- 3 Tbsp parsley, chopped
- 2 Tbsp dill, chopped
- 2 Tbsp mint, chopped
- ½ small red onion, minced



Shake all together in a jar till mixed well. Set aside. Can be made ahead by a day.

Couscous

- 2 zucchini, cut into 1" pieces
- 6 asparagus, trimmed at bottom and cut into 1" pieces
- 1 red pepper, seeded and cut into 1" chunks
- 1 yellow pepper, seeded and cut into 1" chunks

Saute' in 3 Tbsp oil till soft. Season with salt and pepper.

- 16 cherry tomatoes cut in ½
- 1/3 c olives (I like calamata and green mixed)
- 1 lb Israeli Couscous cooked per package instructions.

Drain couscous. In a large bowl, add couscous, sautéed veggies, cherry tomatoes and olives. Gently mix in dressing.

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The 30th annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival – the third longest running festival of its kind in North America – will present 18 award winning and critically acclaimed films from around the world including Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, South Africa, USA and Venezuela.

A closing Festival Gala takes place Sunday, June 7, 6:30 – 9:30 PM featuring a kosher buffet dinner and the closing night film – Above and Beyond.

Films will be shown May 31 – June 7 AT JCC's Maxine and Robert Theatre, 2640 North Forest Road in Getzville, NY. Trailers, schedules and ticket purchasing at www.bijff.com or either JCC location or by calling 716-204-2084.



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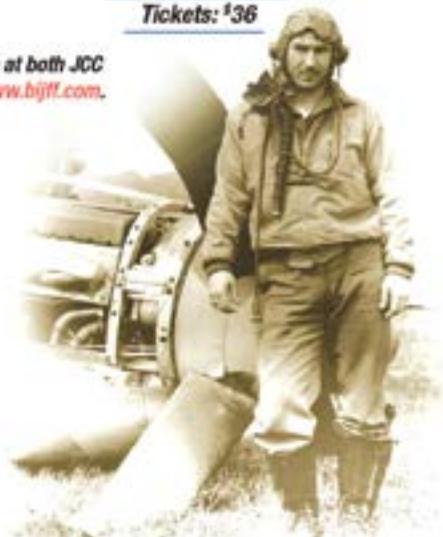
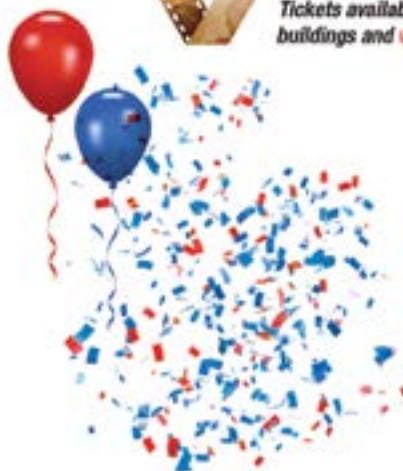
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Jewish Argentina Today

By Dr. Phil Glick

Dr. Drucy Borowitz, my wife, and I traveled to Argentina this past April. We took a Jewish tour of Buenos Aires and spoke with many Argentine Jews. The local Jews are concerned about their President Kirchner and of the anti-Semitism here.

The death of Alberto Nisman, the prosecutor looking into the complicity of the Argentine Government with Iran after the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy and then the 1994 bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish Center has raised many questions. But the government isn't talking and the local population is afraid to press it. Their AMAI (equivalent to our Jewish Federation) and DAIA (equivalent to our ADL) seem afraid



to create too many waves as the blow back could have consequences for the Argentinean Jewish population.

At the Memorial for the victims of the 1994 suicide bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish Center, Drucy and I are pictured with our very passionate local Jewish guide. To the right are a few views of the dynamic sculpture by Israeli artist Yaacov Agam, which depicts various images depending on the angle you are looking at it. The Jewish Center was rebuilt bigger and stronger on the same site.

Earlier that morning, we also visited the memorial to the suicide bombing of the 1992 Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. The embassy was moved from a "peaceful" residential neighborhood to Embassy Row for security reasons, and a memorial built in its place.

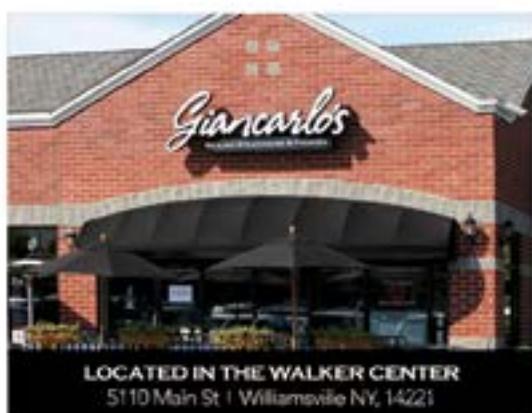
The Holocaust Museum of Argentina was quite emotional. Not only does it depict the Jewish emigration to Argentina for the 100 years leading up to the Holocaust, the nefarious activities of the Germans during the war, but also the post WWII efforts by Israel



(L) Dr. Phil Glick, Dr. Drucy Borowitz and their Argentinean Jewish guide. (Above) The Ya'acov Agam Memorial sculpture (R) The names of those who died in the bombing of the AMIA building in 1994.



and Simon Wiesenthal in hunting down and rounding up (in Argentina) many of the Nazi's responsible (Eichman, Mengele and others) for killing of the 6 Million Jews and millions of other innocents. There is much work still to be done in Argentina for the Jewish community; perhaps American Jews and American Jewish organizations (ADL) need to do some of the heavy lifting?



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God's Gentleman



A Poem by Barbara Holender

This poem was written in memory of my dear father, Israel Dauch.

I wear his battered hat, his bolo tie.
The family album shows my eyes
and mouth are his, his are my crooked fingers
tracing the spidery script of his last letter--
Dearest No. 1 child...

God's gentleman, the rabbi called him,
and quick-witted, a caring man
whose outer and inner selves were one.
The whole congregation saw me nodding,
smiling,
as the words gave my father back to me.

In his name, a Biblical garden
blooms in Arizona. I see my creators
in the cool of the day, walking to and fro.
My father bends to console my mother.
Me too, I say.

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Cantorial Search Committee at CSS - Bittersweet Success

By Peter Simon

The committee charged with finding a new cantor at Congregation Shir Shalom fell short in that regard, but succeeded profoundly in developing young leadership, broadening personal experiences, creating strong ties between congregants who hadn't previously met and underlining the sense of community that is central to the health of a synagogue.

"This committee personally gave me a chance to meet and associate with a fantastic group of congregants who I've seen in passing over the years but never really had a chance to meet and know," said Larry Posses, who contributed valuable organizational and technological skills. "This committee brought diversity to the table, which is required when making a decision like the one we have been tasked with."

Scott Weinstein and Chuck Korn, both businessmen, said that the collective nature of the 11-member committee was initially daunting for them.

"I'm used to being the leader and having the final say," said Weinstein, chief executive officer of a chemical manufacturing firm. "Working in a large group was not easy for me, but in the end I enjoyed the dynamics of it. I know we were one very strong committee and represented the congregation in the highest manner."

Korn had similar concerns. "The process forced me to go beyond my own comfort level," he said. "I met people I probably wouldn't



Members of Congregation Shir Shalom's Cantorial Search Committee have been meeting regularly over the past several months.

have otherwise met and really had an opportunity to share some really personal insights and opinions. I found myself passionate in my opinion at times, but later on, with the passage of time, was glad to have reconsidered. So the process was definitely a plus for me."

The committee brought two cantorial candidates to town for personal interviews, had Skype conversations with 10 other applicants and considered 16 resumes.

In the end, the group decided that while some of the candidates had admirable skills and experience, they fell short of meeting the needs of Shir Shalom.

Instead, Cantor Sharon Colbert, who initially planned to retire on June 30th and return to her home in Texas agreed to remain in her post while the committee continues its search for a new cantor.

Mindy P. Weinman, a past temple President and co-chair of the Search Committee, said Shir Shalom is fortunate that Cantor Colbert is willing to stay on, and that the Search Committee will continue its work with energy and optimism.

"While it would have been nice to have been able to conclude our task by now, I also look forward to continuing our assignment and hope to be able to succeed in our outcome," Dr. Weinman said. "While I am used to being on committees, I continue to be struck by the passion that the members of this particular committee have, and how everyone expressed themselves."

The different approaches that members brought to the committee at first made it hard to reach agreements, said Adrienne Crandall. "I think we started out hearing mostly 'ourselves' and what 'we individually' wanted," Crandall said. "But I think we came closer to actually listening to each other. They say two heads are better than one. Well, 11 heads were better than one for sure. More work, but well worth it."

Vigorous discussion and broad exploration of cantorial candidates was just what he had in mind when he appointed committee members, said Todd



Sugarman, Shir Shalom President and co-chairman of the Search group.

"I wasn't looking for followers," he said. "I was looking for people who have strong opinions and who are willing to see both sides. I feel this group surpassed my expectations."

Betsy Zappia, who prefers to "fly under the radar," joked that she was surprised when Sugarman asked her to join the committee. "For this important task, I had to step forward and join my first search committee," she said. "It's nice that we can agree, disagree and enjoy each other socially."

Micky Farber, a business executive for 15 years, said her work on the committee made her more willing to give consideration to opposing views. "Opinions can change once you are open to fully hearing what someone else has to say," she said. "To me, that's more respectable than just digging in your heels for your own idea."

Barry Radlin, head of the U.S. District Court's Mediation Program, said the committee's frank and direct approach worked. "I felt the ebb and flow of opinions and reactions, presented thoughtfully and respectfully," he said. "I could feel the layers being peeled away for every one of us, usually after processing the comments of others, without interruption and without fear of criticism."

Yet despite all that effort and rapport, the committee chose not to recommend any of the applicants.

"It was frustrating in the sense that we could not find what we all needed, but we didn't settle for someone that may not have worked," said committee member Rob Lederman. "I think a bad hire would have done more damage than a no hire. We all worked through the politics of things and tried to do what was best for the temple and not our own specific needs. That's a task not easily done."

Peter Simon, the author of this piece, was also a member of the Search Committee.

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Shir Shalom Passover Seder



One of the many tables at Congregation Shir Shalom's second seder during Passover



Children were searching for the afikomen



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein with some the children at the seder



Congregation Shir Shalom participated in the national "Passover Across America" project with many other congregations

CBA to Host Joint Kabbalat Service With TBZ

On Friday, June 19, Congregation Beth Abraham will be hosting a joint Kabbalat Shabbat service with Temple Beth Zion. Held annually since 2010, these collaborations offer a special synergy and ruach between clergy, musicians and members of the two synagogues. Services

will take place at CBA's historic shul, 1073 Elmwood Avenue at 6:30 PM, followed by a potluck oneg. As always, the entire community is invited. Look for details on the CBA and TBZ websites: www.congregationbethabraham.net and www.tbz.org.

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Youth Groupers Named to Regional Executive Board

Temple Beth Zion is proud to announce the election of two of our TBaZY youth group members to positions on the 2015-16 Executive Board of the Northeastern Lakes region of the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY-NEL). Current TBaZY Membership Vice President Andrew Oestreicher has been elected NFTY-NEL Membership Vice President. He says, "It is my job to expand the outreach of NFTY-NEL and the Reform movement to new members, and make the organization as welcoming as possible." Current TBaZY President Lexi Boehnlein has been elected Programming Vice President.



Eva Muir

Lexi says she "has been involved with NFTY-NEL since eighth grade. I knew I wanted to help include more people. I have already started working very hard through Facebook Messenger and Skype and can't wait to see what impact my programs will have." A third member

of TBaZY's board, Social Action Vice President Eva Muir, will be serving as Mitzvah Corps Outreach Chair, working with the NFTY-NEL Social Action Network to "increase participation in NFTY Mitzvah Corps, a group of Jewish Reform Youth who focus on social action in their communities and throughout the world." Andrew will also be attending a summer leadership experience at NFTY Kutz Camp in Warwick, New York, while Eva will be joined by TBaZY member Zenobia Fried at NFTY's Mitzvah Corps summer experience in New Orleans, LA. We are so proud of these young people, our Jewish leaders for the future!

TBZ Sisterhood Donors Brunch June 7

Join the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion at its annual Donors buffet brunch and fashion show Sunday, June 7 at 11:00 am at the Ramada Hotel at 2402 North Forest Road in Getzville.

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Inclusion Task Force Meets June 3 @ JCC

The Jewish Community Inclusion Task Force on Individuals with Developmental Disabilities is delighted to announce that Rhonda Frederick, President and Chief Executive Officer of People Inc., will be our speaker at the next general Task Force meeting on Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 pm at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville. Ms. Frederick will be presenting on options for individualized residential alternatives, including approaches for Jewish supported residences that might be viable within the current NYS restrictive environment for new homes.

Ms. Frederick was instrumental in facilitating the creation of the first and only Jewish group home in the Buffalo area, which opened in 2007. People Inc. administers this kosher, Jewish observant home for five remarkable

women in our Jewish community. Ms. Frederick will also share other important updates on services for individuals with developmental disabilities and will provide guidance in response to questions on topics of concern. The Task Force was created to provide an enduring forum for families, rabbis, cantors, Jewish community agency heads, lay leaders and volunteers to work collaboratively to ensure full and seamless lifelong inclusion in all aspects of the Jewish community for individuals with developmental disabilities and to help ensure the well-being of those who are vulnerable and prone to isolation. The Task Force is open to the entire community. Please join us. For more information contact Janet Gunner at 716-536-0454 or janetgunner@gmail.com.

Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy donates books to children

This photo of Amy Heumann, co-chair of the Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy, was taken at the April 16th book giveaway at Buffalo Public School # 80--Highgate Heights. The three children in the photo are kindergartners from the class in which she volunteers. They're each holding one of the three books they took home from the book distribution. The last round of book giveaways for this school year is scheduled in June.

"I love my work with Buffalo Jewish Coalition for Literacy," Mrs. Heumann said. "The time and effort I expend with BJCL is repaid a thousand-fold in the satisfaction I receive each time I work with a kindergartner or watch a child excitedly select a book at one of our book giveaways."

Mrs. Heumann explained that it is a continuing challenge to find new or like-new books to offer to the children at Highgate Heights Elementary School, where our book distributions are held. "I look for attractive books in excellent condition, conveying the message that we value both reading and the recipients themselves. Each child in



Pre-K through 4th grade receives 9 books per year (3 books at each of three book giveaways). We estimate that we donate approximately 2,700 books per year! We hope they will form the nucleus of a small home library," said Amy. If you have any books to donate for children, call Ellen Goldstein at the Jewish Federation at 716-204-2243.



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Registration is now open for the fantastic fun and learning at Temple Beth Zion's Play And Learn School. Summer PALS include weeks beginning July 20, July 27, August 3 and August 10. 3 to 5 year-olds attend on Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. 2 year-olds attend on Tuesday/Thursday from 9 to 11:30 AM.

Call Melissa Milch-Klein at 836-6565, Ext. 139 or email pals@tbz.org for more information. Registration is also available for the 2015-2016 school year.



Spring is here at last and the PALS kids love going on hikes, watching the budding plants and trees and playing together in the Shatkin Outdoor Classroom. Their art project included still-life drawings of the beautiful daffodils growing in the gardens at the Broder Center.



Temple Beth Zion Summer Celebration

Summer is just around the corner, so mark your calendar for the Temple Beth Zion Summer Celebration.

Monday, August 10
Transit Valley Country Club

Deny Adelman and David Goldberg, Co-Chairs

Set aside all or part of the day and plan to lunch, wine tour or golf, or just come for a delicious dinner and lively auctions.

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For more information, call Julie Feldman at 836-6565.

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

Pride at Temple Beth Zion

Temple Beth Zion is very excited to celebrate diversity by honoring LGBT pride during the month of June. Working with a theme of "B'tzelem Elohim, we are all created in God's image," TBZ members are kicking off their Pride celebration by marching in the annual Buffalo Pride parade on Sunday, June 7 - this year, together with Nickel City Jews! If you're interested in joining the group in the parade, details and sign-up can be found at <http://www.tbz.org/community/social-action/>. If you aren't marching but want to show your support, you can find the group at the Pride festival at Canalside both during and after the parade. With thousands in attendance at both the parade and festival it is sure to be an exciting time!

Later in June, TBZ will continue the celebration with their annual Pride Shabbat prayer service. The entire community is welcome to come to Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue at 6 PM on Friday, June 26 at 6 PM for the service. If you are interested in learning more, you can contact TBZ at 836-6565 or email socialaction@tbz.org.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion's Sylvia Morris Theater Bus Trips Presents

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The cost per person is \$150, which includes round-trip bus transportation, play and dinner at Joe Badali's Ristorante. The deadline for reservations is June 15. The bus leaves the TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, at 10:30 AM. **Participants must bring either a passport or an enhanced license to cross the border.*

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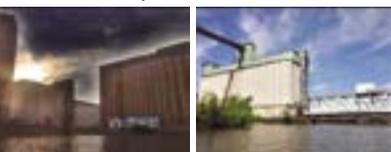
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Hebrew High Celebrates Last Day Of Class

In early May, teens at the High School of Jewish Studies had a wonderful last night of class. The year was filled with meaningful classes such as cooking, yoga, Israeli Culture, Holocaust studies, Jewish theatre and more! We hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all next year for the new and improved Hebrew High! Stay tuned for more details about our new program!

For more information on our school, please contact Jill Komm, Principal, at 716.204.5380 or jill@bjebuffalo.org. Check us out on the web at www.bjebuffalo.org.



Elissa Baum, Grace Florian, Miranda Weiss and Alanna Sadler



Lexi Boehnlein, Julia Helfman, Emily Pressman, Michael Dubin and David Yellen



Hanna Pawlowski, Hanna Linsky, Ayelet Forest, Drew Boehnlein and Jessica Bommer



The senior class enjoying a kosher dinner before their graduation rehearsal with teacher, David Gordon and Principal, Jill Komm



Jordan Richheimer, Aaron Isenberg, Josh Grubea, Hanna Pawlowski, Hannah Maxick with Ari Goldberg (Teacher)



Talia Mekinulov and Ali Kingsley



Rabbi Perry Netter, Seth Blum, Ayelet Forest and Hanna Linsky



Michael Newberger, Josh Schechter, and Hunter Myers

BJE Afternoon Adult Education Class – A Huge Success!

By Ethel Melzer, Director of BJE Adult Education

The name for the recently completed “Under the Microscope” course on “Judaism’s ‘Daughter’ Religions: Christianity & Islam – Origins, Connections and Divergences” came about after several conversations with Rabbi Drorah Setel, who consented to teach the 10-session course in the spring of 2015. Little did we know it would be the fiercest winter in a very long time! The class met on Thursday afternoons at the Jewish Community Center’s Benderson Building from 12:30 – 2:00 PM – a very convenient time for students to purchase some lunch at the Myer’s Café and bring it to class.

Eleven eager students gathered on a weekly basis for 90 minutes to learn about the relationship of Christianity and Islam to Judaism. History and theology were explored and discussed, beginning with the “Second Temple



Pictured are the students who met for the final class in the Bureau office.

Back row, left to right: Kitty Goldman, Phil Brogadir, Cyndy Levy, Kathy Gordon, Ellen Capell, Linda Casterline & Susan Ginsberg. Front row: Left to right – Ethel Melzer, Adult Education Director, Joanne Goldfarb, Rabbi Drorah Setel–Instructor, and Fay Leader. Absent from the class photo: Bob Kapchan and Gail Lewis.

Period” and ending with “Contemporary Issues of both Christianity and Islam.” Plans are underway for future “Under the Microscope” afternoon and evening classes in the fall, after the High Holidays. Please stay tuned and watch for summer announcements to sign up! For more information, contact Ethel Melzer at 204-5380 or ethel@bjebuffalo.org.



May 31

TELL Fund Event for Women.
UB's Center for Tomorrow.
7:00 pm. www.tellfund.org

Through June 7

Buffalo International Jewish
Film Festival
Films shown at the JCC Maxine and
Robert Seller Theatre.
www.bijff.com

June 3

Disabilities Task Force Meeting.
JCC Benderson Building. 7:30pm.
Call Janet Gunner at 716-536-0454

June 4

HRC Annual Meeting
TBT, 621 Getzville Road, Amherst NY.
6:00pm.

June 7

TBZ Sisterhood Donors Brunch.
Ramada Hotel. 11:00am.
Call Susan Nadler at 716-689-4682

June 7

Pride Parade with TBZ & NC.
Meet at 11:00am.
Call 716-836-6565
or socialaction@tbz.org

June 7

Buffalo International Jewish Film
Festival Closing Gala.
JCC Benderson Building. 6:30-8:30pm.
www.bijff.com

June 9

"The J Street Challenge" film at the
JCC Benderson. 7:00 pm. Free

June 14

Kadimah Annual Dinner.
TBT, 621 Getzville Road,
Amherst NY. 5:00pm.
Call 716-836-6903

June 16

Kadimah Annual Meeting.
1085 Eggert Road. 7:00pm.

June 18

JCC Annual Meeting.
JCC Benderson Building. 7:00pm. Free.

June 19

CBA and TBZ Joint Services.
1073 Elmwood Ave. 6:30 pm.

June 23

Kadimah Graduation.
1085 Eggert Road. 6:00pm.

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Yom Hashoah 2015

The Holocaust Resource Center's Yom Hashoah Committee honored six Candle Lighters, as each one in his or her own way "Repairs the World."



Joe Diamond

Before WWII, Joe Diamond and his younger brother and parents lived in Czechoslovakia in the Carpathian Mountains region.

The German Army invaded Czechoslovakia in October 1938. On March 16, 1939, Hungary, an ally of Germany, annexed part of the Carpathian Mountains region and 90% of all Czechoslovakian Jews fled to Hungary. The German Army invaded Hungary in April, 1944 and they intended to kill all the Jews as fast as possible because, according to the Germans, all Hungarian Jews were planning to kill all the Germans living in Hungary. The Jews had to wear yellow stars on their clothing and were put in ghettos. On May 14, 1944, one month after the German occupation, the first cattle train filled with Jews left for Auschwitz. Upon arriving in Auschwitz, Joe was separated from his mother and little brother and they were gassed on the day of their arrival. Joe and his father were put to work. When the Russian Army invaded Poland Joe was sent to Mauthausen and his father to Buchenwald.

Both Joe and his father were liberated by the US Army. When asked how he and the other prisoners reacted when they saw their rescuers, they replied that they thought that "It was a miracle from God." They could not believe that they were free human beings again. They were offered food and Joe remembered that one starving inmate was so thankful that he refused the food because what he really wanted to do was to just touch the

soldier, he wanted to feel that he was free.

Separately, both Joe and his father found transportation to their hometown, but they did not find any surviving relatives. Joe's father stayed in Hungary while Joe immigrated first to England and then to the United States. Joe's journey ended in Buffalo, where he had an uncle. Joe worked as a general contractor.

Joe, HRC Executive Board Member, lights a candle today because he has devoted the last 25 years of his life to telling the stories and teaching the lessons of the Holocaust to thousands of middle school, high school and college students, church groups and other organizations. Joe is a very powerful, effective and inspirational speaker who is the recipient of the Toby Ticktin Back Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education. He connects with his audiences and many are deeply touched by his story. Joe tells them to be "upstanders" not bystanders. Joe has received hundreds of letters from students and others, many of whom have become involved in Human Rights issues after listening to Joe speak. They are thankful to Joe for changing their lives and are ready to help "repair the world."



Frank Tichy

Frank Tichy was 19 years old when, as part of the 11th Armored Division in General George Patton's Third Army, the Division liberated the Mauthausen and Gusen extermination camps near Linz, Austria. Now 90 years old, Mr. Tichy still recalls the smell of death that permeated

the air surrounding the camps 15 miles before they reached them. It is one of the reasons he believes local residents knew what was happening in the camps.

As he and the men of his unit, the 575th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, approached the camps, he learned that the gates had been opened a few days earlier by men of the 41st Tank Battalion, led by Major Charles Sandler, a resident of Buffalo and an acquaintance of Mr. Tichy. In the 1980's, Major Sandler became a member of the Board of Directors of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and spoke to many school groups about his experiences as a liberator.

Mr. Tichy's unit encountered numerous starving, former prisoners – literal walking skeletons, who were leaving the camps. As any normal, decent person would do for other human beings who were starving, the men of Frank's unit gave these former prisoners food consisting of candy bars and k-rations. Unfortunately, the digestive systems of most of the prisoners were unable to process these foods. As a consequence, many of them died. It was not until a few days later that orders came down directing that there was to be no more random feeding of former prisoners.

Mr. Tichy is a life-long resident of the village of Alden. He entered the Army in July 1943, shortly after graduating from Alden High School. He was assigned to the 575th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. The battalion landed in Cherbourg in November 1944 and entered combat in December. They participated in the Battle of the Bulge and helped break the siege of Bastogne. Mr. Tichy saw many terrible things during his military service, but he will never forget the terrible sights he saw as he approached and entered the Mauthausen and Gusen death camps. He can see the horror whenever he closes his eyes.

Mr. Tichy is one of five remaining members of his unit. He lights a candle in honor of those with whom he served and in honor of the 12 million American soldiers and sailors who served in World War II.



Roberta & Richard Handel

Roberta & Richard Handel

have been outstanding members of the Jewish community for many years. Married in 1958, they became active in a myriad of activities culminating in their important work on the Holocaust Resource Center Board. They are being honored today for the many generous contributions they have made to this agency. With their beneficence, the HRC's mission to educate present and future generations about the Holocaust has been elevated and extended beyond what has previously been possible. The Handel's donations have ignited the formation of the Holocaust Resource Center's New Generation Initiative. The New Generation Initiative, which attempts to share the history and lessons of the Holocaust with as many teachers and citizens as possible, has recently introduced new and exciting programs such as a teacher's conference on how to integrate Holocaust studies into their curriculum, a teachers only trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, digitalizing survivors testimony for classroom use, outreach to local student teachers and a continuing education conference for attorneys entitled *Professional Ethics a Democracy: Lessons from the Holocaust*. Conferences for medical professionals and civic professionals are currently in the planning stages.

Roberta and Richard have served on many civic boards through the years and contributed greatly to the fabric of our community. We honor them today with lighting a candle and thank them for giving so much of themselves to make this a better world in which they have NOT been bystanders but have been "upstanders" in every sense.



Grigory Shershnevsky

Grigory was born in Vilna, Lithuania in April 1941. When Grigory was two months old, in June of 1941, the German Army invaded Lithuania and all the Jews were forced to live in the Vilna Ghetto. In November 1941, Grigory's mother smuggled him out of the Ghetto in a janitor's cleaning bucket which she left on the side of a road. The bucket, with Grigory inside, was picked up by a Catholic woman, Alexandra Dhizvyetski, who already had other Jewish children harbored in her home. Lady Alexandra told the Germans that she found Grigory on the steps of the church and the Germans gave her permission to adopt him.

In 1943 the Germans ambushed a group of Jews, among them Grigory's parents, who had escaped the Ghetto. His father survived but his mother did not. His father then joined forces with the underground Polish Partisans with whom he spent the remainder of the war.

Vilna was liberated by the Russian Army in 1944. When Grigory's father found Lady Alexandra he had a difficult time getting his son back as he had become an adoptee. Lady Alexandra raised Grigory like he was her own son. The adoption was ultimately annulled and Grigory lived with his father, but he kept in touch with Lady Alexandra until she passed away in 1964. Lady Alexandra was named "Righteous Among the Nations" at Yad Vashem.

In 1969 Grigory graduated from the University of Lithuania with a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering. Grigory and his wife Riya, immigrated to America in 1980.

Grigory is pursuing the testimonies of Russian Holocaust survivors who are as yet not identified by our Jewish community. He wants to make sure that their testimonies are preserved so they

can be shared with present and future generations.

In 1983, Grigory was the first survivor to be videotaped by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and recently he was digitally recorded by Jim Gang, for the New Generation Initiative educational program, which is sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

We honor Grigory today for his commitment to uncovering the testimonies of Russian immigrants whose stories will be available to enhance Holocaust education.



David Rosenhoch

David Rosenhoch's 25 years have been spent in Buffalo, where he contributes with all his being to the community at large and the Jewish community in particular. Although born with Down Syndrome, he has never let this stop him from doing what he wanted or needed to do. David grew up with his parents and brother Alan, attended Buffalo Public Schools, graduating from Emerson High School of Hospitality in 2009 and the Canisius College YALT (Young Adult Life Transitions) Program in June 2013.

David is a hardworking, driven person. He has always volunteered his time to help others succeed. Throughout his formative years the Jewish community was a mainstay for him. In his D'var Torah at his Bar Mitzvah, in 2004, he talked about his many homes, inspired by the wonderful prayer *Ma Tovvu*, which was part of his parsha.

A primary home for David has been Temple Beth Zion, where he moved through the religious school to be a teenage *madrich* and is now a second grade teaching assistant. He also volunteers in the Play and Learn School (PALS) with the three year olds, who love their "Mr. David."

David does not limit his activities to the Jewish community. He was an active participant in Temple Beth Zion's Mitzvah Day, every year from the age of ten, with a mix of Christians and Muslims. Now he volunteers in the afterschool program at St. Benedict's School with the elementary students.

When David aged out of Cradle Beach Camp at age 16, he went back for the next five years as part of a new program called Apprentice Leaders. It supported former campers with developmental disabilities to give back by helping younger kids enjoy time away from home.

David is quite the sports guy. He started in the SABAH skating program when he was only three. After skating for many years as an athlete, he became a volunteer, helping younger skaters learn to skate and perform in the annual ice show. He now volunteers at three rinks, the Northtown Center, Riverside and with School 84.

Soccer is in David's blood from his British grandfather, so it was no surprise that he joined TOPS (The Outreach Program for Soccer) for young athletes with disabilities. After again aging out as a player, he became a volunteer. He did this so well that in 2013 David was named the New York State West Youth Soccer Association TOPSoccer Volunteer of the Year for the league stretching from Buffalo east to Syracuse and south to Binghamton.

Like most young adults, David was determined to live independently. Working with six friends and their families he moved into his own home in 2013. The young men manage their own affairs with the assistance of an excellent staff from Aspire.

Throughout the four years advocating to move into his own home, David has been a tireless campaigner for expanding housing options for people with developmental disabilities. He testified at two state hearings and has made numerous visits to members of the State Assembly and the State Senate, speaking eloquently and passionately so that others can have the opportunities that he has had.

Asked why he does so much volunteer work, David answered, "People need to think and look around the world to see how they can help."

With the volume of David's volunteer work and commitment to repair the world, David has earned the honor of lighting a candle today.



Emma Wexler

Emma Wexler, daughter of Diane and Lewis Wexler and great-granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Sala and the late Abraham Traub, is a seventh grader at Heim Middle School. Emma always had deep sympathy and concern for others. She has, on numerous occasions, stood up to bullies, stood up for those being bullied and even stood up to teachers treating her fellow students unfairly. She participates in helping the special needs students at her school, volunteers her time to help her teachers correcting papers and tutoring in review sessions, and participating in the SPCA and Spirit Clubs.

Emma is preparing for her Bat Mitzvah in May and selected as her Mitzvah project "Stone's Buddies", a charity operated through Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. "It is a program for children facing life-threatening illnesses that helps them cope with what they are going through, introduces them to other children who are facing similar battles, and helps them remember that every moment of every day is worth living" said Emma. She plans to volunteer at events sponsored by Stone Buddies. Emma creates and sells glass-beaded bracelets to raise funds for this organization and combined with a portion of her bat mitzvah gifts, will purchase toys for the group's play and craft room. Emma stated, "I wanted to do something to help bring smiles to sick children in our community." "Emma is far more detailed, ambitious and self-generated than most others" stated Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein. "Not many seventh graders are as focused and committed as Emma is", and the Rabbi added, "Emma is a Mensch."

Today we honor Emma as a role model among her peers, and a future 21st century leader.

Jewish Family Service Immigrant and Refugee Programs Receive Support

from Nickel City Jews, TBZ PALS, PJ Library, Grassroots Gardens

Nickel City Jews collected toiletries and cleaning supplies, Temple Beth Zion Play And Learn School (PALS) mounted a winter clothing drive, and PJ Library co-sponsored a Barnes & Noble book fair to support the important work of Jewish Family Service

welcoming refugee strangers to Buffalo and Western New York. The generous response of the Jewish community to an ongoing need has been fueled by the passionate dedication of JFS Volunteer and Resource Development Coordinator Lauren Califano.

With a background in both anthropology and public health, she joined Jewish Family Service (JFS) in November 2014. Initially funded through AmeriCorps VISTA, her position is now supported through the Jewish Program Venture Fund, a vehicle that funds unique, new and original programming that is Jewish in nature and helps to enhance the quality of Jewish life.

“I have been thrilled by the chance to learn more about refugees and help a non-profit build capacity,” Califano says. This capacity building most recently includes a grant from Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo to create a community garden this summer that will support the healing process of JFS clients who may benefit from the therapeutic aspects of gardening.

“Jewish Family Service was founded in the late 1800s to support Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, and in the 1980s helped to resettle Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union,” Califano says. “It is wonderful to see the Jewish community today continue to support JFS immigrant and refugee programs and give back to those who are now facing the same difficult transition.”

Jewish Federation of Buffalo Engagement Director Miriam Abramovich defines collaboration with JFS “an essential partnership for both Nickel City Jews and PJ Library.” “The practice of showing kindness to the stranger and giving to those in need are primary Jewish values,” Abramovich explains. “The vulnerable, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, must not be left to fend for themselves. Nickel City Jews and PJ Library are committed to working toward that goal in collaboration with Lauren and JFS.”

The children at TBZ Play And Learn School helped to meet that goal as part of learning about *Gimilut Hasadem* – the gift of loving kindness. “I want all the people



JFS Volunteer and Resource Development Coordinator Lauren Califano (r.) with Chelsea MacCormack, Buffalo Neighborhood Food Project Coordinator from Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo, at the First Annual JFS Refugee Health Fair in April. Grassroots Gardens has provided a grant for Temple Beth Zion and Jewish Family Service to create a community garden at Temple Beth Zion. -- JThorpe photo

who came to Buffalo from faraway places can (sic) have a house and cake,” says three-year-old Arianna Z.: Four-year-old Ethan S. wants “everyone in the world to just love each other.” Throughout the year, TBZ PALS children are also taught to act upon the Mussar character traits of kindness, friendship, generosity, patience and courage.

“During the month of January we learned about the incredible courage many families must have to travel to leave their countries and travel to an unknown land.” Carri Milch, a JFS board member, mentioned the desperate need the refugee resettlement program had for winter clothing and hats and boots. “The children came up with a plan and I contacted Lauren Califano. The PALS students wanted to help the newest members of our Buffalo community, and to establish a bond and relationship with the refugee resettlement program as a whole,” Melissa Milch-Klein, TBZ PALS assistant director says. She credits the children’s families for their generosity in donating both gently used and newly purchased items of clothing, and thanks Lauren and JFS New Americans Director Maria “Apple” Domingo for visiting the class at the end of the drive.

“Our PALS students were so enthusiastic and proud every time they needed another bin to fill, and learned firsthand of the important of the mitzvah they fulfilled,” Milch-Klein says. “We saw a need and wanted to do whatever it took to help others. We believe in connecting and building community and are so proud of the connection and relationship we have built with JFS and its Refugee Resettlement Program.”

Freshman JFS board member Carri Milch says her heart was warmed by the outpouring of help from the TBZ PALS community. Her JFS co-board members, she adds, each exemplify the Jewish faith tenets of giving back, and showing kindness to strangers. “Many of our board members have actually gone to the airport, along with JFS staff, to receive refugees. They have also helped to equip an apartment so that a family or individual coming to Buffalo from a different country can transition to a new life with dignity,” says Milch.

“The root word ‘Tzedakah’ actually means righteousness, justice or fairness. As a volunteer board member, being involved in this organization has helped me to realize that value.”

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Agencies

Chai Friendship Circle

Buffalo's newest initiative, Chai Friendship Circle (CFC), is growing! With many Jewish preteen and teenage volunteers and an expanding number of family participants, CFC is making its mark in the Greater Buffalo Jewish Community. Co-coordinated and facilitated by Rabbi Laizer Labkovski and Keren Green, Chai Friendship Circle welcomes Jewish volunteers to partner with Jewish families with children with various special needs.

CFC promotes inclusion and developing new social skills, friendships and opportunities by inviting volunteers to schedule play date opportunities with their family participants. CFC volunteers ride bikes, play ball, teach, jump on trampolines and cuddle with stuffed animals. The volunteers and families span from all across Buffalo and its Jewish community.

Chai Friendship Circle invites volunteers age ten and above and new family participants to join this exciting opportunity to perform acts of chesed and to form new relationships. CFC is currently working with children with Autism, Down syndrome, ADHD and other various differences and encourages any interested family to contact Keren Green at info@chaifriendshipcircle.com for more information.

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Kadimah Student Wins National Writing Contest

Prize includes \$25,000 for School Scholarship Fund



Kadimah School of Buffalo is proud to announce that one of its graduating middle school students has won a national essay-writing contest that carries not only prestige, but a \$25,000 prize for the school. Eighth-grader **Jordan Richheimer** won first-place nationwide among middle-school students in the 2015 “Better 2 Write” competition.

The contest is part of the Better Together intergenerational grant program, sponsored by a national foundation committed to raising the quality of Jewish education. Kadimah is a beneficiary of the anonymous foundation’s grant, designed to advance educational experiences by encouraging student interactions with seniors in the community.

Richheimer’s essay, entitled “Mr. Cohen,” won praise from judges and topped other submissions with his captivating tale of befriending an elderly neighbor with dementia, who sparked worry and a search when he wandered off on his own one night.

“The winning submissions were of particularly high quality and meaningfulness,” said the foundation’s program officer for education, in an email letter. “The judges remarked upon how

clearly and how positively the Better Together program impacted the students, as reflected in their feelings about seniors, aging, and the mitzvah of caring for the elderly.”

Under the contest rules, students could submit an essay, short story or article of their own original work, based on their participation in the Better Together program or experiences with the elderly outside the program. Topic options included senior citizens, the elderly, growing old or intergenerational experiences.

Submissions were judged on the basis of “originality, writing style and the level to which the work reflects a relationship between the student and senior citizen,” according to the rules.

Richheimer’s prize includes a \$25,000 contribution to Kadimah’s scholarship funds, plus an individual scholarship for him toward summer programs, camps or gap-year studies with sufficient Jewish content.

In all, students from 16 schools across the country participated in the contest, submitting essays in either the middle school or high school category.

Kadimah



Charlie Herman, Michael Sanders, Jane Ablove, Haley Epstein and Norimi Truskinovsky prepared a presentation by learning and singing the song from *The Blue Tattoo* documentary film. Great performance!!



Dr. Kester, a child of Holocaust Survivors, shared his story and experiences with Kadimah middle school students.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRO-ISRAEL & PRO-PEACE?

Please join our community for a screening of one of this year’s most talked about, controversial and provocative films; a documentary about the American Jewish Community and its relationship with Israel. Join the discussion.



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Caroline Glick
of *The Jerusalem Post*

Rabbi Daniel Gordis
of the Shalem College in Jerusalem

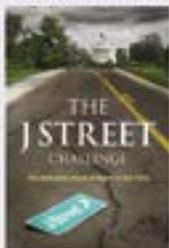
Bret Stephens
Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*

Tuesday, June 9
7:00 pm

Jewish Community Center
Maxine and Robert Sella Theatre
2640 North Forest Road
Getzville, NY 14068

FREE to the community!

An opportunity for conversation and questions with the producer, co-writer and co-director, Ilya Feoktistov, following the film.



Q&A moderated by **Dan Lenard**

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Benderson Family Building Indoor Pool closed for maintenance: September 5-September 12

Join Us For These Events

Opening Weekend Beach Blowout

Saturday, June 13 1:00^{pm}-4:00^{pm}
Bounce House & DJ Spazman Spins

Annual Independence Day Bash

Saturday, July 4 11:00^{pm}-(end of fireworks)
Bounce House, DJ Spazman Spins, Water Slide, Games, & Tie Dye

Sunday Fundays

Sunday, July 19 1:00^{pm}-4:00^{pm}
Sunday, August 9 1:00^{pm}-4:00^{pm}
Bounce House & DJ Spazman Spins

Labor Day Weekend Extravaganza

Sunday, September 6 1:00^{pm}-4:00^{pm}

Sunday, September 13

Last Day for the Grossman Family Outdoor Pool
Pool closes at 3:30^{pm} for Erev Rosh Hashanah

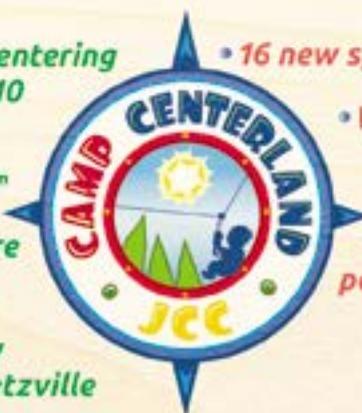
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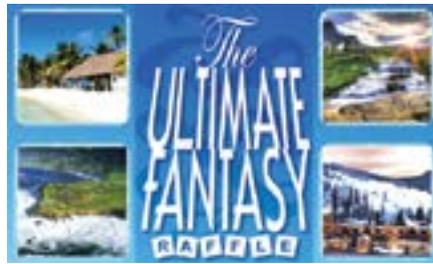
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JCC Annual Meeting June 18

to Include Drawing for Ultimate Fantasy Raffle

At the 67th annual meeting of the Jewish Community Center, 22 lucky winners will be chosen to receive prizes with the grand prize being valued up to \$10,000.00 as a result of buying a winning ticket. When 700 raffle tickets are sold, one-in-thirty tickets will be a lucky winning ticket. This raffle, which is licensed by the Town of Amherst and the NYS Gaming Commission is expected to raise more than \$40,000 for the JCC to be used to benefit the JCC Scholarship Fund. This fund provides financial assistance to individuals and families in need of essential program services. The biggest winner will have the option of receiving \$10,000 in cash or can choose from one of eight options including an ultimate shopping spree, four nights at Pebble Beach, a spa vacation in Arizona or Belize, trips to Monterey and Big Sur or skiing in Vail. The second prize winner will receive a \$5,000 cash award. Twenty additional close-to-home prizes will be awarded. Tickets are on sale for \$100 each or three for \$250.00



at the Member Services desk of both JCC Buildings until June 11th; but will cease to be sold when all 700 tickets have been secured.

This year's meeting which is scheduled for June 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rochwarger Auditorium of the Benderson Family Building will also feature an Annual Report, presentation of awards to staff members achieving milestone anniversaries, and recognition of Sheila Shapiro as the recipient of the Ralph Kushner Volunteer Award and more. Refreshments will follow the meeting. The meeting will be chaired by Joseph Lipsitz, an active leader of the agency.

JCC Receives Generous Donations for Pool & Camp

By the JCC Staff

A wonderful gift from the owners of the former Westwood Country Club has provided the membership of the JCC with comfortable and attractive seating for the William and Shirley Grossman Pool Complex. Mensch Capital Partners generously arranged for the upscale furnishings to be shared with the JCC based on community-minded thinking, which was welcomed by the JCC. Dozens of chairs, lounges and tables will be enjoyed by JCC members for many years. "We are very grateful for the furnishings and hope to see many former Westwood members and their families at our pools this summer and all year long" said Richard Zakalik, JCC Executive Director.

In addition, the bathrooms and changing rooms received a nice facelift this spring. "We're working to upgrade

the entire pool complex and hope to make some major announcements this fall" remarked Julie Kingsley, JCC Aquatics Director. "We've added more Hydro-riders and will expand our class offerings" she added. Member families will be welcomed in mid-June to the transitionally-updated facility.

In addition, work at Camp Centerland will provide campers with two new shelters, convenient traditional bathrooms, expanded paths, more fully grown playing fields and sheltered areas in the woods. To date, more than \$2,000,000 has been invested in Camp Centerland with more to come. There are still openings in a number of weeks for families who may wish to extend their children's camping experience or for kids who would like to explore camp. Contact Lauren Klenosky at 204-2078 for details.

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Yad B'Yad's 3rd Annual Fashion Show

Yad B'Yad had its 3rd Annual Fashion show on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the Park Country Club. Over 150 people attended the lovely brunch, basket giveaway, and show. Fashions were provided by Stein Mart and Tuxedo Junction.

Yad B'Yad is a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education that provides outreach, advocacy and program support to assist

people with disabilities in achieving full participation in Jewish life in Western New York. To join us in our programming, to volunteer, or to receive monthly tidbits, please visit our website at www.yadbyad.org, find us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/yadbyadbuffalo>, or contact Matt Schwartz, Director, at 716.204.5380 or matt@bjebuffalo.org. We look forward to having you!



Gretchen Gross and Drew Boehlein



David Lefkowitz and Leah Silkes



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and Sarah Doueck



Jill Komm, BJE Executive Director with Eric Lehrman and Cindy Komm during the finale



Cindy Komm, YBY Chair provided a welcome speech. Also pictured are Diane Blinkoff from Stein Mart and Rachel Elzufon from WKBW, who was the emcee.



Cantor Penny Myers and David Rosenhoch



Back row L-R: David Lefkowitz, Robin Kurss, Rabbi Adam Scheldt, Cantor Penny Myers, Hope Bongiorno, Safi Netter. Front row L-R: Gretchen Gross, Drew Boehlein, David Rosenhoch, Leah Silkes, Katie Mruk, Sarah Doueck, Eric Lehrman, Jill Komm (missing: Cindy Komm and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein)



Eric Lehrman and Cindy Komm



Rabbi Adam Scheldt and Katie Mruk



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein and Robin Kurss



Leah Silkes, Sarah Doueck, David Rosenhoch, and Cantor Penny Myers during the finale



Hope Bongiorno, Safi Netter, and Robin Kurss during the finale

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Ohr Temimim Students shine at Chess Tourney



pictured: L-R: Menachem Kaganoff, Aharon Leib Munitz, Mendy Greenberg, Michel Dovid Young and DovBer Young with Coach Michael McDuffie.

By Yaakov Berg, Isaac Shuman, and Michael Zingorenko

On Sunday, March 22nd, five students from Ohr Temimim attended a chess tournament in Syracuse, New York. The regional tournament drew over sixty children ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade. Chess amateurs of all ability levels met over the course of an afternoon and played in a series of match-ups to determine who would play in the final rounds. This was the first organized tournament for the Ohr Temimim students who have been enrolled in a chess club for the last three months.

Tournament attendee Mendy Greenberg was initially nervous about the match-ups, but found his groove early on with a six move checkmate. "Once I beat the first person, I knew I was going to have a good day" recalled

Mendy, who finished with a strong record and a top 7 finish. Another player, Michel Young, said that he enjoyed his first tournament experience, and was excited to enter another tournament in the future. DovBer Young, the youngest of the Ohr Temimim chess team, found the hardest part of the tournament to be the waiting between rounds.

Menachem Kaganoff enjoyed the experience, and hopes to be able to make it to the final round to play a game of blitz chess in the future to go along with his top 7 finish in the tournament this year.

The team trophy that the Ohr Temimim group brought home from Syracuse will be displayed in the school for all students to see and admire. Arele Munitz believes that the trophy may inspire other students to take up the game.

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Yom Hashoah Days of Remembrance Commemorations - April 12-19, 2015



At the National Labor Relations Board in Buffalo, Barbara Keough talks with guest speaker Sophia Veffler



Canisius High School students from Rwanda, Viet Nam, Cambodia and elsewhere at the Mayor's Office standing with Sophia Veffler and HRC Co-President Sharon Jacobs



Canisius Students at the candle lighting in the Mayor's Office, as well as Mary Lou Wyrobek, Mayor Byron Brown, Sophia Veffler, Sharon Jacobs, County Executive Mark Polancarz, Howard Rosenhoch, Marilyn Toth, Irwin Gelman and Lew Stolzenberg



County Executive Polancarz and Mayor Brown proclaiming the 2015 Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust in Buffalo and Erie County

Yom Hashoah Days of Remembrance Commemorations - April 12-19, 2015



Lana Benatovich, Howard Rosenhoch and County Executive Mark Polancarz



Buffalo Mayor Byron and Interim Federation Executive Lew Stolzenberg



David Sipos and HRC Board Member Irene Sipos



Lilian Gerstman (center) with religious school students at Shir Shalom after her program



Survivor Joe Diamond, his daughter and son-in-law- Wendy and Aaron Weisbrot, Sophia Veffler and her granddaughter, Sarah Donatelli

Yom Hashoah Days of Remembrance Commemorations - April 12-19, 2015



Sarah Donatelli, granddaughter of Sophia Veffler, plays the violin at Yom Hashoah



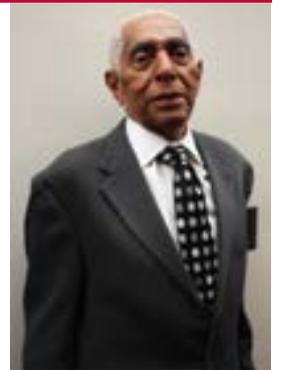
Members of the Jewish War Veterans at Yom Hashoah



Sophia Veffler, event chair, introduced the program and its theme- Liberation



HRC Co-President Sharon Jacobs spoke at the event.



NAACP President Frank Mesiah was among the dignitaries at this year's event

Yom Hashoah Days of Remembrance Commemorations - April 12-19, 2015



Temple Beth Zion's Choir sang at Yom Hashoah



Cantor Sharon Colbert, Cantor Mark Spindler, Cantor Penny Myers and Cantor Irwin Gelman



Candle Lighters Richard and Roberta Handel



High School of Jewish Studies students reading names of some of the Six Million Jews who perished in the Holocaust

Yom Ha'atzmaut



Hillel students selling Israeli candy at the JCC



Chani Labkovski making Israeli crafts with some of her children



Brocha Leah Greenberg and her children enjoying the fun



Art4Israel artists making tee shirts and murals for kids

Yom Ha'atzmaut



Art4Israel brought some very cool artists to Buffalo's JCC



Jessica Altman offered cooking demonstrations



Lori Morrison, Lisa Wallenfels and Adam Field served yummy Israeli lunch



Israeli artists sold their wares



The Strosberg family at Yom Ha'atzmaut

Yom Ha'atzmaut



JCC President Gretchen Gross (left), Amelida Weinmann and her children



JCC staffers Laurie Greenspan and Patty Simonson



Members of the Goodwin Family having fun together



Climbing "Masada" in the JCC gym



The JCC Lobby was a busy place to be on Yom Ha'atzmaut

Yom HaZikaron @ Weinberg Campus



UB Student Ben Baldeman lit a candle for those Israelis who died fighting for Israel.



Federation President Howard Rosenhoch and Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein spoke at the service



Standing to say Kaddish at Weinberg Campus in memory of Israeli soldiers



Cantor Irwin Gelman participated in the Yom HaZikaron service



Kol Rina, the Jewish community choir, sang for the group following the memorial service for Israel.

Philip Burke Opening @ Burchfield-Penney



Deborah Abgott at the Burchfield



Isabell and Alan Posner



Nancy Brock and Scott Goldman



Artist Philip Burke with Sheldon Berlow



Joanie Goldfarb and Mitch Flynn

Philip Burke Opening @ Burchfield-Penney



Alyssa Rabach Anthonie, Gerald Mead and Linda Gellman



Fiber Artist Nancy Belfer

Harley Spiller Book Talk



Deborah Breverman, Harvey Breverman, local author Harley Spiller and Betty Korn at Harley's book talk at Talking Leaves Bookstore. Owner Jonathon Welch in the background.

Dosberg Notable Speaker Series with Abe Haak



Dr. Robert Seller and Dr. Maxine Seller



Susan Koessler and Dr. Gil Wolfe



Shalichah Lital Metchnik, Sharon and Ariel Kostiner, Dr. Pinny Young



Abe Haak (3rd from left) speaks with the Schillers and others

Dosberg Notable Speaker Series with Abe Haak



UB Hillel Students at the Dosberg event, which was held at UB's Center for Tomorrow



Zach Bloom and Hillel students



Some of the lecture attendees and Abe Haak (center) at the event



Federation President Howard Rosenhoch and speaker Abe Haak

Jump 4 Roswell @ Sky Zone Buffalo



Sheryl Martin, Vicki Rubin and Jessica Rubin



Amy Lipsitz, Gregg Lipsitz and Ruth Lipsitz, the founder and creator of Jump4Roswell



Andrea Griebner and Alice Isenberg



Suzie Katz and friends

Jump 4 Roswell



the Isenberg family



Rivky and Rabbi Levi Greenberg



Susan Boyer, Mary Weisel with a friend



A lot of Lipsitz Boys: Max, Joseph, Kate, Brady, Daniel, Rebecca Mesnekoff, Blair Lipsitz and a friend

Sue Nusbaum



Poet Sue Nusbaum sold copies of her new poetry book at the ZONTA Spring Lunch- with Deborah Root.

Jewish/Presbyterian Dialogue



At the Jewish/ Presbyterian program at TBZ were (standing) Rabbi Gary Pokras, Rev. Tom Yorty, Rev. Bill Hennessey, Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein; (seated) Rev. Katharine Henderson, Rabbi Steve Gutow and Cantor Sharon Colbert



In a discussion at Temple Beth Zion for Jewish Federation were JCPA's Rabbi Steve Gutow, chair Peter Allen Weinmann and Rev. Katherine Henderson



The Jewish Federation discussion was a lively event

Israeli Vets in Buffalo



Israeli War Veterans with their Buffalo and Pittsburgh hosts enjoying lunch at Hydraulic Hearth in Larkynville. Next stop Niagara Falls.



Israeli Vets with PALS children at TBZ



Israeli Vets and PALS students with gifts the students made for the Israeli heroes.

Israel Consul in Buffalo



Advisor Andrew Gross from the Consulate, Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York Amie Sagie, Empire State Regional Development President Sam Hoyt and International Investment Programs Director Edward Kowalewski during a visit to Buffalo in May

Not The Last word

Jewish Women's Lives Matter

By Liz Kahn

At 8:30am on June 13, hundreds of Western New Yorkers dressed in pink will join together and parade across a grassy patch next to the Rose Garden in Delaware Park just before the 15th Annual Susan G. Komen Western New York Race for the Cure.

They won't march for politics, not for religion, not against anything nor anyone. They will march for themselves -- to celebrate a victory in a battle they have made over an enemy called Breast Cancer.

Some of those in the Komen Survivor Parade that morning will be Jewish women. Sadly, we're more susceptible to breast cancer, because the "breast cancer genes" known as BRCA1 and BRCA2 are considerably more prevalent among Ashkenazi Jews than the general population. So while breast cancer is not a "Jewish problem" alone, it certainly should be of concern in our Jewish community.

After nearly a year leading the Komen WNY organization as its executive director, it is clear to me how important it is that Jews unite behind this cause and fight this battle together.

Before I begin every work day, I remind myself of this: Every two minutes someone is diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States, and one in eight women will suffer from the disease in my lifetime. For me, this fight is personal. I have lived through it with dear friends and close family -- and I know that breast cancer in some way touched most of the people reading this.

The mission of Susan G. Komen, and



Liz Kahn at this year's Survivor's Luncheon.

the way it is carried out is what makes me most proud and most certain that joining this fight is important to us as Western New Yorkers, as sisters, and as Jewish women. Now, I am not naïve. I am well aware of the national pink backlash, the Planned Parenthood debacle of 2012 (and it was a debacle), and the constant questioning of Komen's (and other charities') sincerity and impact.

But I landed at Komen after working for 25 years as a journalist, and I have done my research. First and foremost, Komen WNY is a locally focused agency. Prevention and early detection are at the core of our local mission.

Other than supporting area breast cancer survivors in whatever way we can, Komen WNY provides no direct services. Instead, 75% of the money raised is granted to specialized organizations in our community that provide life-saving breast health and breast cancer programs for under-served populations. The other 25 percent goes to Komen's National Research Grants program. For the last 34 years, the Susan G. Komen organization has supported virtually every major advance in breast cancer research.

The cash for research is used for research. Because we have outstanding research facilities in our community, millions in Komen National Research Grants have been awarded in the WNY area to Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the University at Buffalo. Therefore, in the last seven years, for every dollar donated to Komen Western New York, more than a dollar is actually spent in Western New York.

There is an extensive process in choosing the local programs funded by Komen WNY. Every four years, with the help of research experts, our

Komen affiliate does a comprehensive study of breast health needs in all eight counties of our service area -- Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.

Last year, Komen's support of education and screening programs reached over 5,000 women. I also have first-hand anecdotal evidence of our successes fighting the disparities in care that exist within a city that is one of the most impoverished in the nation. For example, I have spoken -- through interpreters -- to Hispanic women from Buffalo's West Side who wouldn't have known or understood the need for mammograms if staff from a Komen-funded program hadn't reached out to them, knocking on doors, speaking their language and educating them. Komen grants fund programs that help rural women, as well, assisting in transportation and education around prevention.

We know early detection saves lives, and these programs SAVE LIVES.

There is more. In April, I joined with colleagues at other Komen affiliates from around the country in an Advocacy Summit on Capitol Hill. I met with the staff of our three members of Congress -- Rep. Brian Higgins, Rep. Chris Collins and Rep. Tom Reed, as well as Senators Gillibrand and Schumer. The point? Urging them to fund a federal program that provides screening assistance to under-served populations, and to gain support for a bill that will make the latest and best cancer medicine accessible for those who right now cannot afford it.

The Race for the Cure is a 5K walk, run and a 1-mile Family Fun Run. The gun goes off officially at 10am, but you won't want to miss the parade at 8:30! Meanwhile, registration is easy at www.KomenWNY.org, and raising funds for this cause is more than a Mitzvah, it's an investment of your energy into the future of our people.

Liz Kahn is the Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen Western New York Foundation. She previously was a journalist for 25 years, and serves on the editorial board of the JJWNY.

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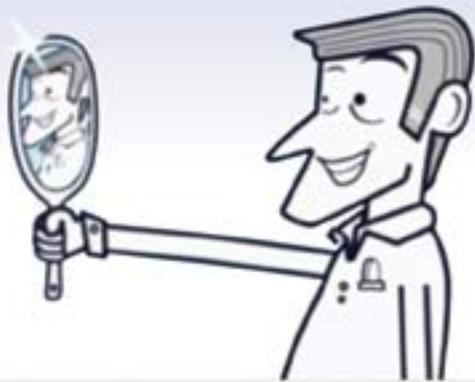


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