ON THE COVER:
Hundreds attend a local interfaith vigil for the Tree of Life victims. See page 19.

INSIDE:
A family tradition begins when a torah is purchased for a bat mitzvah.
see page 22

Local community connections to Squirrel Hill.
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Commentary

Musings with Mary Lou

Defining Family

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Family: “Parents and their children; relatives; lineage; group of related things.”

Mishpokheh: “Family, clan; people like oneself with whom one feels naturally at home.

Sometimes used to refer to one’s friends and allies.”

For some of you, you have just learned your first Yiddish word. It is a very important word in this day and age. I have found there are many groups to which I refer as family. Immediate family: my kids and granddaughter, of course. Then we have those first cousins of which I once had 15, I think, and now have three. Second and third cousins, I can’t really count anymore. They’re too spread out over this beautiful country of ours, and unfortunately, since our mothers and fathers are no longer with us, the young ones are not really interested in remaining close.

When I wrote the column about my mother’s family, all seven siblings, I sent out emails and letters to all those I was able to find. Regrettably, I never heard from any of them. However, since I have had my DNA results, I found two new ones. But that’s another story. Now, as far as my husband Alvin’s family, it is a great group and we still remain close. That makes me very happy.

But there are other groups I call family who are not related by blood, but by circumstances and interests. For instance, the Jewish Community Center is one. We are a very diverse group, but we can pull together when we need to. This is a family that works together with basically one end in mind, the continuation of the Center and its goals. This was reflected in those of us who volunteered to assist Temple El Emeth in the beautiful memorial service for those so brutally murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Jewish and non-Jewish banded together and helped to make this sad function run very smoothly. I love working at the JCC because it has given me the opportunity to meet and know many people - staff and members - who have all enriched my life in one way or another.

One Jewish community organization known locally as JCRC or CRC. (There are approximately 120 JCRCs around the country – the Jewish Community Relations Council known locally as JCRC or CRC. (There are approximately 120 JCRCs around the country – tied together through the Jewish Council for Public Affairs). Often working with other Jewish organizations (ADL, AJCommittee, National Council of Jewish Women, etc.) and working in close partnership with Jewish federations, JCRCs pro-actively reach out to key Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, LGBTQ, Labor, African-American, Latino, Asian leaders and public officials to build long-lasting relationships focused around common concerns.

This vigilant required a village – so many Jewish institutions working together - and at the same time because many in our community do not quite get what JCRCs do (we are not so good at the elevator pitch when we explain why we need to go to another coalition meeting), it is worth connecting the dots. Over the years there has been support in the Jewish community for this bread-and-butter work, but also many questions: where is the tangible impact from this work, do these communities stand up for the Jews as we do for them, and why do we need to be at these tables? It should not take a tragedy to answer these questions. At the same time, that visual of key leaders from many different communities crowded on bimahs across the land should be permanently etched in our minds. To everyone who attended a vigil and felt lifted up and supported by our non-Jewish friends, neighbors and leaders, one plea – please recognize that the work of relationship building is more important than ever. It too is part of what makes our community – and other minority communities – secure. It means that when other communities need us we must show up and that through our relationship building and engagement on

Where Did All the Non-Jewish Leaders Come From at Our Vigils?

By Rabbi Doug Kahn

Dozens of interfaith vigils were held in communities and on college campuses around the country to mourn the 11 Jews murdered at Shabbat services in Pittsburgh and to proclaim “no more hate.” They were organized on short notice with synagogues, Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs), federations, JCCs, JFCS’s, Hillels and many other Jewish institutions cooperating and working around the clock in response to the Saturday morning massacre that sent shock waves through our community and beyond. At many venues, the crowds overflowed into the streets largely due to a massive turnout from the wider community. All told, based on initial reports from colleagues around the country, well over 100,000 people came together from coast to coast. One of the most visible and powerful components of the vigils – the tremendous response of non-Jewish leaders – was largely connected to one of the least visible activities in the Jewish community: JCRCs’ daily work building relationships beyond our community.

Indeed, a common ingredient this past weekend was the heartening picture of top Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist, Protestant, Hindu, African-American, Latino and Asian leaders standing side by side public officials and Jewish community leaders to signal wall-to-wall condemnation of anti-Semitism in the strongest terms and to join with us in our hour of need – with powerful words and prayers of solidarity and solace. And they brought their community members with them. It is hard to describe what this outpouring has meant to us as Jews. We are vigilant about our security because of the lessons of our history. Yet we were never fully prepared emotionally for such a day to arrive in our country, as tragically it did on Shabbat morning at Tree of Life Congregation. Vulnerable and violated as a community, we were immediately embraced and surrounded with love and friendship.

Where did they all come from – the countless public officials, religious and ethnic leaders and members of so many different faith and ethnic communities who participated in the vigils and stood with us in an unforgettable demonstration of love, solidarity and shared mourning in the aftermath of the slaughter.

Some had relationships with local rabbis. Others just came on their own – wanting to show up, to stand up, to say “enough” and demonstrate true leadership against hate. And for many non-Jewish community leaders who dropped everything to mourn with the Jewish community, the magnet was years of relationship building. Active Jewish participation around civic, interfaith and inter-ethnic coalition tables is what has led to the forging of enduring relationships and developing an ear for each community’s concerns. This was our hour of need and there was no hesitation. None.

One Jewish community organization focuses on that relationship-building day in and day out across the country – the Jewish Community Relations Council known locally as JCRC or CRC. (There are approximately 120 JCRCs around the country – tied together through the Jewish Council for Public Affairs). Often working with other Jewish organizations (ADL, AJCommittee, National Council of Jewish Women, etc.) and working in close partnership with Jewish federations, JCRCs pro-actively reach out to key Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, LGBTQ, Labor, African-American, Latino, Asian leaders and public officials to build long-lasting relationships focused around common concerns.

This vigilant required a village –
Multi-faith Group From Israel Shares Their Vision of Hope and Inclusiveness

By Nancy Burnett
Partnership2Gether chair, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Partnership2Gether Community Engagement co-chair, U.S.

A breath of fresh air came to the Youngstown community the first week of November - bringing a much needed message of hope and tranquility.

As our community reeled from the tragedy in Pittsburgh, and as we awaited the results of a deeply divided election season, 12 quiet, unassuming women visited and shared with us their vision of hope and inclusiveness for the future.

Women Leading a Dialogue is a program sponsored by Partnership2Gether and funded under the umbrella of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. The women came from the Western Galilee in the north of Israel, an area in which Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze are forging their own pathway to peaceful co-existence.

While in Youngstown, the women interacted with Akiva students and JCC staff; visited YSU; met with local area clergy; and met with the Gems of the Valley, a women’s philanthropic organization. On Nov. 5, they met with 80 JCC guests, culminating in a “friendship circle” of all participants joined in the singing of “Imagine.”

Women Leading a Dialogue is composed of 24 women, 12 of whom came to Youngstown. They, in equal numbers, represent the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faiths. Their backgrounds are also diverse: teachers, business owners, office managers, engineers, students. They shared their stories and displayed their friendships, sharing that, after a year of working together, they consider each other family.

Although each of the women lives in the Western Galilee area of northern Israel, an area about the size of Trumbull County, they lead very different lives: they speak different

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December 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the January issue.

Submissions may be edited for length and/or clarity. The JJMM does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

Happy Hanukkah from the staff of the Jewish Journal!

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Hope continued on page 21
A Typical Jewish December 25
By Neil Yutkin
Ohev Tzedek Co-president

The growth of Christmas in America has long presented a problem for Jewish Americans. What do we do on a day when everything (almost) is closed, and TV is a mixture of specials and reruns of those specials, and then of course reruns of the same Christmas movies? I mean, how many times can you watch “It's a Wonderful Life” until it does not seem so wonderful anymore?

So, in the late fifties and the early sixties a pattern developed. It seemed that the only restaurants open were the Chinese ones, and the only entertainment was the movie theaters. And that developed into a typical Jewish Christmas.

At Ohev Tzedek Temple, we began a few years ago to, as we do with most other traditions, put our own spin on this day. First, we began with choosing one or two classic movies to show at the shul on Dec. 25, and because you have to serve popcorn at a movie added fresh popcorn. This was followed by a trip to the Chinese Buffet down Glenwood Avenue for the second half of the tradition. Unfortunately, that experience turned out less than stellar, so we decided to make our own Kosher Chinese meal at the temple, which worked just fine.

Our typical menu for that day is General Tzo’s chicken, egg rolls, fried rice, stir fried tofu and vegetables, and Szechuan green beans. And to make it healthier, we purchased an air fryer.

Through chance at first, we also developed another tradition. The movies shown on that day honor a recently deceased famous Jewish comedy artist. This year we will be featuring Neil Simon, although Stan Lee ran a close second.

Also this year, we have decided to open the event beyond just Temple members. The schedule generally runs with the first movie beginning at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and then the second part of the double feature. For those interested, please call the office by no later than Dec. 14 to make reservations.

### Rodef Sholom Calendar

- **Dec. 1**
  - 10 a.m. Tot Shabbat in Wilkoff Library

- **Dec. 9**
  - 5:30 p.m. Community-Wide Hanukkah Party at Congregation Rodef Sholom
  - Community-wide joint Hanukkah celebration with the area temples.
  - Nationally-renowned Jewish singer/songwriter Sheldon Low will perform.
  - Included will be a gourmet salad bar and homemade latkes. There is no charge for the event, but please RSVP by calling 330.744.5001 by Dec. 5.

- **Dec. 14**
  - 6 p.m. Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel

- **Dec. 21**
  - 6 p.m. Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel

- **Dec. 24**
  - Office closes at noon

- **Dec. 25**
  - Office closed

- **Dec. 28**
  - 6 p.m. Lay-led Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel

- **Dec. 31**
  - Office closes at noon

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### Light In A Time of Darkness

Rabbi Frank Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

Hanukkah commemorates the ancient struggle of the Maccabees to overcome the evil Antiochus and the Syrian Greeks, who sought to stamp out Judaism in Palestine in the second century BCE. Greatly outnumbered by enemy forces, Judah and his brave warriors, by a true miracle, recaptured the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which Antiochus had desecrated. There was only a small jar of oil recovered in the wreckage, enough to light the seven-branched menorah in the Temple for just one day. But by virtue of a second miracle, the menorah burned for eight days and eight nights. Hanukkah is a joyous holiday which celebrates the survival of Judaism and the right which Jews have not simply to be tolerated or accepted into the mainstream society wherever we may live, but to be embraced and appreciated for who and what we are - a God-loving people that believes in improving, and ultimately perfecting, the world through righteous action and good deeds, or mitzvot.

Sadly at this time, the Jewish world is still grieving over the tragedy which took place at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27. Thirteen precious lives were extinguished in an instant, like a snuffed out candle, committed by a deranged, maniacal misfit who perpetrated the worst incident of anti-Semitism in the 350-year history of the American Jewish community. This man was not mentally ill, but acted out of sheer hate. His goal was solely to kill Jews. In a season of light and miracles, this horrendous act of violence still darkens the horizon.

This unspeakable horror is more than a lone wolf acting in isolation. It represents a growing segment of American society which has become emboldened over the past couple of years in expressing their vicious and hate-filled views, not only against Jews, but Blacks, Muslims, Hispanics, immigrants, gays, lesbians, transgendered individuals and any OTHER who is perceived as a threat to their vision of white supremacy in America. Call it anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, or homophobia, these ultra-right wing nationalists represent the worst segment and ugliest underbelly of our culture. No, this isn’t Judea in 165 BCE or Nazi Germany in the 1930’s and 40’s, or 19th century Russia in which the Czars ordered pogroms carried out against the shetl Jews - but it does indicate a serious threat to our Jewish community which must be dealt with in the severest way possible. I believe that nothing less than the death penalty should be punishment for the unconscionable crime of murdering Jews praying in a synagogue, which has shattered the last vestige of peace and security that exists in our country, which is tragically filled with mass shootings almost on a daily basis.

In the aftermath of this shocking event, the comfort and support received from friends and neighbors, along with other faith communities, has made a huge difference. I’d like to share with you a sympathy card I received in the mail in the days following the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting:

Dear Rabbi and Mrs. Muller and Temple Family:

Dick and I are so very sorry that one evil person could cause such misery and sadness to people we care about. How very senseless!

Please know we are with you and your family and Temple family at this sad time.

In loving kindness, JoAnn and Dick Creed and Family

This card, and so many others like it, along with letters, emails, and social media posts, have shined some light into the darkness and given our people hope for a brighter future.

As we gaze into the Hanukkah lights this year, let us re dedicate ourselves to fighting the scourge of anti-Semitism and other forms of hate, wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads. Let peace, understanding and friendship replace violence, fear and discord. Darlene joins me in wishing everyone a safe and Happy Hanukkah!
El Emeth Calendar

Dec. 1
Hanukkah Kiddush Luncheon following Shabbat morning services. December birthdays will also be celebrated. Please call the office to RSVP for lunch.

Dec. 3
Kids Hannukah Happening - There will be music, a variety of Chanukah crafts for all ages, latkes and Hanukkah cookies. Parents, please RSVP to the Temple office by November 29 for your children. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 5
Jewish Christian Dialogue - Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the lecture beginning at 1 p.m. This year’s theme is “Is There a G-d? Why should we believe and talk with G-d?” The movie “The G-d Partnership vs. The G-d Delusion” will be shown featuring Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks debating Professor Richard Dawkins, on the topic “Has Science Replaced Religion?” All are welcome to attend.

Dec. 8
Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle at the Synagogue from 7 until 10 p.m. An open bar, hors d’oeuvres and dessert buffet will be featured along with entertainment by Jim Loboy. Tickets are $150 for two people, which entitles the ticket holder to one chance at winning the $3,000 grand prize as well as several smaller ones. Tickets may be purchased at the Synagogue up to the night of the event.

Dec. 11
El Emeth Sisterhood’s monthly meeting will take place Tuesday, Dec. 11 at the Synagogue. The open board meeting is at 10:45 a.m. with lunch at noon. This month’s program will feature Lori Cook, safety advisor of AAA East Central /NE Ohio region. She will give a presentation on safety information for senior drivers. Cost of the lunch for members is $12 and $15 for non-members. Reservations for lunch may be made by calling the Temple office by Dec. 7.

Dec. 17
Shmoozing with Shmulik will be held at Levy Gardens this month. Join Sam Kooperman and friends for some fun in Yiddish from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Cake and coffee will be served. Please note change of location for this program, this month only.

Daily Minyans are held Sunday through Friday at 5:45 p.m. Saturday afternoon Minyan times in December are as follows: Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 5 p.m.; Dec. 29 at 5:15 p.m.

Shabbat morning services are at 9:30 a.m.

Temple El Emeth

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Pinning Ceremony Honors Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens Veterans

Veterans from Heritage Manor and Levy Gardens were honored in a “We Honor Veterans” pinning ceremony at Heritage Manor Nov. 9.

“On behalf of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the staff at Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens and Jewish Family Services I would like to express our appreciation for the sacrifices you’ve made serving our country,” said Cristal Vincent, human services CEO. “We understand that many of you left behind jobs, families, friends and other important parts of your life when you were deployed. We also understand that the wars you served in brought you back as different people than you were before you served. We recognize that the rights we have today are directly connected to your service and we are grateful. Hopefully, that gratitude is expressed by how well we serve you today. It is our privilege and honor to care for each one of you and we thank you for your sacrifice and service.”

Veterans were presented with a pin, small flags and a certificate. The event included musical performances and refreshments.

“We Honor Veterans” is a national hospice provider awareness campaign conducted by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Representatives from Disabled American Veterans helped honor 38 veterans. The event was sponsored by Hospice of the Valley.

JFS Outreach Coordinator Brings Hanukkah to Seniors

Holidays can be a lonely time for many seniors. Many live alone and don’t have family nearby. To help combat that for members of the local community, Shai Erez, Jewish Family Services outreach coordinator, will be visiting them with Hanukkah baskets.

Included in the baskets will be a menorah, candles and gelt.

“This is just to make sure everybody who wants to celebrate Hanukkah has the means to celebrate,” Erez said. “I call it spiritual support.”

Akiva Academy honor society students helped pack the baskets and wrote a personal note to include in each.

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Art Class Offered to Levy Gardens Tenants

Levy Gardens tenants painted fall landscapes in an art class in November. Local artist Kathryn Infante provided canvas, paints, and paintbrushes. She gave instruction on how to paint the fall scene, but participants were free to paint whatever they liked.

“This is just meant to be fun,” Infante said. “No matter what we’re doing in creativity class together once a month I will always bring in a suggestion. As creative individuals, you take it from there and do anything you want. There is no wrong in original art. We’re all creative.”

Infante will offer an art class to tenants monthly.

Levy Gardens Driver Prepares Annual Dinner for Tenants

Years ago, Levy Gardens driver Phil Mazzocco began making a gnocci and meatball dinner for tenants. It has become an annual tradition. He recently recruited nurse Kristen Nye to help prepare the meal. “The tenants love it,” said Sara Miller, Levy Gardens director. Pictured are Mazzocco (left) and Nye.

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Heritage Manor Assistant Director of Nursing to Retire in January

By Elise Skolnick

Being a nurse is an important part of Jacci Stiver’s life. It’s been her career for nearly 44 years, 20 of them in long-term care. So when she retires in January, it will be a big change.

“It was my job and everything else fluctuated around that,” Stiver said. “Work has always been number one. That’s the way I was raised.”

She’s spent the last six years at Heritage Manor as assistant director of nursing, and loves the work.

“I like working with the geriatric population,” she said.

Some people are there for rehab, and leave quickly. For others, “it’s their last chapter,” she said.

“And they’ve done so much for us,” she added. “Many of them are veterans. They’ve all done something in society to make our lives better, and I just feel that they deserve some really tender loving care.”

CEO Cristal Vincent said, “Jacci has been invaluable to me as our assistant director of nursing. She is very knowledgeable regarding nursing issues and she represents Heritage Manor with a professional demeanor. She understands Heritage Manor’s expectations of providing excellent care and has the residents’ best interest at heart. I will miss her greatly.”

Stiver will miss the interaction with the residents.

“There are some that are just so close to my heart,” she said. “There are some I’m really going to miss. It’s kind of a cliché, but they do become like family.”

It’s time to retire, though, she said.

“I’m scared, but ready,” she added.

She, and her husband Gary, plan to spend two months in Florida following her retirement.

“So I thought that’ll be a kind of nice way to break into it,” she said.

She will spend time reading and quilting. She knows she will want to find more than that to do in retirement, “but I think I want to get bored first,” she said. She will also spend time with her two children and two grandchildren.

Long-time Social Worker Shares Her Experiences at JFS

By Elise Skolnick

As a social worker, Vivian Fantauzzi’s favorite part of her job at Jewish Family Services is interacting with her clients and trying to help them solve their problems.

“It’s a partnership,” she said. “I don’t have a magic wand. They have to do the hard work because they’re only with me for an hour a week. They have to go home and deal with trying to work on, for example, changing some of the negative thoughts that aren’t accurate, or whatever kinds of things we’ve discussed.”

Therapy can help people solve problems that are keeping them from enjoying their life, she said. It can also help deal with serious mental health issues that require a combination of talk therapy and medication.

“I think getting therapy is a sign of strength,” she said. “I wish more people would understand that having mental health issues is not a character flaw. It’s an illness like anything else. You break your leg, you go to the doctor. You have diabetes, you go to the doctor. When you have depression, anxiety, whatever, go get help like you would for anything else.”

In her 38 years at JFS, Fantauzzi has had a variety of responsibilities. She was involved with the Russian resettlement program when it first started, was a human sexuality instructor, and as a co-structor oversaw social work students as they did their required field work. She worked with most of the area Holocaust survivors, calling it an honor. As JFS interim director, she discovered she prefers one-on-one counseling over administrative work.

“Vivian, with her wealth of experience as a counselor and for the amount of time she has dedicated to Jewish Family Services, has positively impacted so many individuals through her work,” said Ken Bielecki, JFS director. “Also, she has been a great support to all the staff that have transitioned into new roles at JFS over the last two years. She’s knowledgeable, has a good sense of humor, and is an overall affable person.”

There have been many changes in the years she’s worked for JFS. Originally, the offices were in the Jewish Community Center. Eventually, the current office was built an addition to Heritage Manor.

“We have our own separate entrance,” she said. “That works better for confidentiality.”

At one time, Fantauzzi was at JFS full time, but these days she works two days a week. She and her husband have two daughters and five grandchildren, all of whom live in this area.

“I am really blessed that they live here because on some of the weekdays that I’m not at JFS I babysit my grandchildren and that’s a real joy,” she said.
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Liptalk: With Your Help, Federation Agencies Can Work Together to Benefit Families

A Message from Andy Lipkin
Federation Executive Vice-President

Each December, like clockwork, I call Mr. Schwartz* to make an appointment for lunch to talk about what’s new with the Federation and its agencies. At this same time, I ask for his pledge to the Annual Campaign. When I call Mr. Schwartz, my conversation goes something like this: “Well, it’s that time of the year, the one day of the year that we ask for your donation, while the other 364 days a year we talk about how we can spend our community dollars.”

Each year, as I recount the many new programs and services offered by the Federation, Mr. Schwartz has shared with me his concern for an older sibling. As a brother and guardian, he had become increasingly concerned for her safety in the area where she lived. He also was seeking a more normal sibling relationship with her, not a guardian relationship where he had to count every penny she spent. Over the years, I told him about our assisted living residence, Levy Gardens, and the guardianship program offered by Jewish Family Services.

About a year and a half ago, his sibling visited Levy Gardens, but was happy in her current living setting, and was uncomfortable with any change in her life. About six months ago, management of the building she lived in announced they were closing, and gave tenants a 30-day notice to move. There was no choice; it was time to find another place to live.

So, she moved to Levy Gardens, and couldn’t be happier. She interacts with many of the other tenants, where previously she was a shut-in, and now participates in many of the activities at Levy Gardens. She even attends programs at the JCC, with transportation provided by Levy Gardens.

Having made the move to Levy Gardens for his sister, Mr. Schwartz wanted to learn more about the guardianship program sponsored by JFS. For those who don’t know, JFS has 33 guardianships in the community, consisting of clients who are Jewish and non-Jewish. I knew this could help him restore the kind of relationship he was seeking with his sister. Mr. Schwartz is currently working with JFS to move his sister’s guardianship to the agency.

I love sharing this story because it is true. It shows how we, the Federation, through your generosity to the Annual Campaign, have made life better for these two siblings. This story also shows how multiple agencies of the Federation work together.

Just imagine, there are many more stories like this locally, regionally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide, that are made possible by you when you give generously to the Annual Campaign. No matter what your level of giving, thank you, and remember, you will probably never know the people who benefit by your generosity.

If you would like to share a story with me about how Federation made a difference in your life, for your family, or for someone you know, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

*Name has been changed

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December 2018
The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
Akiva Students Honor Veterans

Akiva Academy honored 25 veterans Nov. 12. Parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins of Akiva students who are currently serving in the military or who are a veteran of any war or conflict were recognized.

“The grandfather of one of our students came to the office to thank me for the program and shared with me that he was in Vietnam in ’65 and ’66 but never attended a Veterans Day program until today,” Kathy Mioni, principal, said. “He said he had struggled with his memories of his time there, and just couldn’t do it. With tears in his eyes he shared with me how much he enjoyed our program.”

The event, held in the Jewish Community Center’s multi-purpose room, included readings and musical performances by Akiva students.

Youngstown State University

Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies

Study-abroad Program Planned

The Holocaust and Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe Students are invited to register for a three-week study-abroad program in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany (May 12 – June 3, 2019), which is the core component of an online summer course at YSU taught by Dr. Jacob Labendz. In addition to summer tuition and fees, there will be a significantly reduced program fee of $3,000, thanks to the generosity of the Thomases Family Endowment and the YSU College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Interested students should contact Dr. Labendz. A non-refundable deposit is due by Jan. 26.

Seeking Graduate Students to Teach Hebrew

YSU is soliciting applications from prospective graduate students who will pursue a master’s degree in English, while teaching introductory courses in Hebrew language. The position comes with a scholarship and stipend. Contact Dr. Labendz for more information.

Jewish students and students interested in pursuing Jewish studies at YSU should contact the Office of Financial Aid. There are a number of scholarships for which they may qualify.

Contact Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, director of YSU’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, at 330.941.1603 or jlabendz@ysu.edu with any questions or to be placed on an electronic mailing list.
Sivan Ya’ari Uses Technology To Save Lives in African Villages

By Nancy Burnett
Partnership2Gether chair, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Partnership2Gether Community Engagement co-chair, U.S.

“Anyone who saves a life is as if he saved an entire world.” (Talmud, Mishnah, Sanhedrin, 4:5)

Never has this axiom been more relevant than when applied to Sivan Ya’ari, the founder of Innovation Africa. From humble beginnings, she is on a mission to repair the world - a mission she shared with a Jewish Community Center audience in November.

Innovation Africa is a New York based non-profit founded by Ya’ari that brings Israeli-based solar, agricultural, and water technology to African villages. In the last ten years, her work has impacted over a million lives in Africa.

Born in Israel, raised in France, and educated in the United States, Ya’ari earned her master’s degree in International Energy Management and Policy at Columbia University. She has received multiple awards from the United Nations and was named one of the “50 Most Influential women in Israel” by Forbes magazine. Currently living in Tel Aviv with her husband and three children, she shares her story and her passion with audiences around the world.

Ya’ari first traveled to Africa at the age of 20 while working for a jeans factory. There she saw millions of people without electricity or clean water and was determined to find a way to help them.

As a student at Columbia University, she raised enough funding to return to Africa and install a fledgling solar system in a Tanzanian village. That initial success led her to found Innovation Africa in 2008, an organization that now operates in eight African countries.

Ya’ari sees some of the most impact through the organization’s water program. Access to water has led to the building of medical clinics, schools, and cottage industries.

“I think the best return on investment is when we provide water to a village because once you do that, you break the cycle of poverty in the sense that the children and women no longer have to search for water,” she said. “Children now are going to school to get an education, people are healthier. You have people getting better nutrition because they can grow food all year round with access to water.”

New Course Could Help With Stress, Anxiety and Disappointment

Where do we turn when our lives are filled with stress, anxiety, and disappointment? One possible avenue of relief is offered by the study of Mussar, a Jewish ethical, educational, and cultural movement developed in the 19th Century in Lithuania.

The Hebrew term Mussar, meaning moral conduct/instruction, comes from the book of Proverbs and is referenced 51 times in the Torah. Mussar is a spiritual practice which stresses balance and provides instructions for living a meaningful life by cultivating inner virtues.

By focusing on universal soul traits such as truth, humility, wisdom, awareness, anger, jealousy, desire, and patience, the Mussar course focuses on 13 character traits and explores personal pathways to enriching day-to-day interactions with others.

The JCC, as part of its adult educational programming, is offering a Mussar course beginning in January. Check the Jewish Community Center program guide for course times and information.

Happy Hanukkah
From the Judaica Shop At Temple El Emeth

We are your one stop holiday shop! Stop in to see all we have to offer.
Call for an appointment at 330.759.1429
**PERFORMING ARTS**

**Liz Rubino Studios**
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Liz Rubino at 330.509.0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com.

Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. Voice lessons are conducted primarily online.

**Voice Lessons:**
Regular Lessons | 55 mins
Cost: $49/Member | $65/Non Member
Junior Lessons | 30 mins
Cost: $30/Member | $45/Non Member

To register call the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**JCC School of Dance**
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Eri Raib-Ptichkin at 330.333.2219 or jccschoolofdance@jewishyoungstown.org

**Parent & Me Program**
AGES 4 MONTHS - 4 YEARS
**Bitty Babies (4 months to pre-walking)**
This class introduces gross motor skills to babies with the interaction of a caregiver.
Session II: Nov. 5 - Dec. 3 | Mondays 5:30-6:00 p.m.

**Music & Movement (18-36 months)**
A class that focuses on parent led activities that build coordination, listening skills, and social awareness.
Session II: Nov. 6 - Dec. 4 | Tuesdays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

**Dance Discovery (Ages 3-4)**
Parents participate while children use their minds and bodies to move to a variety of song styles.
Session II: Nov. 7 - Dec. 5 | Weds 5:30-6:15 p.m.

**Creative Movement Program**
AGES 4-6
**Creative Movement I (Ages 4-5)**
This class explores beginning ballet and tap dance principles.
Sept. 24 - Dec. 10 | Mondays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

**Creative Movement II (Ages 5-6)**
This class continues to explore beginning ballet and tap principles to build balance, coordination, and confidence.
Sept. 24 - Dec. 10 | Mondays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

**Mini Program**
AGES 6-7
**Mini Tap (Ages 6-7)**
This class expands upon tap skills learned in the Creative Movement Program.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 4:00-4:30 p.m.

**Mini Ballet (Ages 6-7)**
This class expands upon ballet skills learned in the Creative Movement Program.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.

**Mini Tumbling (Ages 6-7)**
Learn the beginning principles of jazz dance and tumbling in a safe and controlled environment.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 5:00-5:30 p.m.

**Dance Curriculum Program**
AGES 7-18
**DC I: Tap (Ages 7-10)**
Students learn the percussive dance style known as tap.
Session I: Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

**DC I: Ballet (Ages 7-10)**
A class that emphasizes the basic principles of ballet and challenges students to remember patterns and choreography.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

**DC I: Jazz (Ages 7-10)**
This class teaches the art of classic jazz dancing.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

**DC I/II: Acro (Ages 7-13)**
This class introduces students to basic tumbling and acrobatic stretches and exercises.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

**DC I/II: Beginner Baton (Ages 7-13)**
This class introduces the art of baton twirling to beginner level students.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

**DC I/II: Intermediate Baton (Ages 7-13)**
This class expands upon basic baton skills. Students will also learn more complex patterns and choreography.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 7 | Fridays 6:15-7:00 p.m.

**DC II: Tap (Ages 10-13)**
A class for the experienced dance student to build upon basic principles and steps.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 7 | Fridays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

**DC II: Ballet (Ages 10-13)**
A class that builds upon principles of ballet movements and body positions.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 7 | Fridays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

**DC II: Jazz (Ages 10-13)**
A class for dance student to continue learning the principles of classic jazz dancing.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 10 | Fridays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

**DC III: Technique (Ages 13-18)**
A class designed for students with dance experience looking to maintain and improve their movement quality for high school level dance or majorette teams.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

**DC III: Baton (Ages 13-18)**
A class designed for high school students with twirling experience looking to maintain and improve their skills for majorette teams and/or tryouts.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.

**DC III: Tap (Ages 13-18)**
A class designed for high school students with extensive tap experience looking to improve their technique in speed and sound quality.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 8:00-8:45 p.m.

**DC III: Musical Theater Tap (Ages 13-18)**
A class created for high school theater students to hone their craft by improving their tap dance technique, rhythm, and style.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

**DC III: Musical Theater Jazz (Ages 13-18)**
A class created for high school students looking to gain an edge at theater auditions by improving their overall dance technique.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.

**Adult Dance Program**
AGES 18+

**Adult Tap I**
A class designed for adults to stay fit and active while learning how to create rhythms with their feet. Class is taught at a beginner to intermediate level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 2:45-3:30 p.m.

**Adult Ballet I**
This class is designed for adults to improve strength, posture, and balance. Class is taught at a beginner level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 2:00-2:45 p.m.
Adult Tap II
We’ll explore the percussive dance style known as tap. Class is taught at an intermediate level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Adult Ballet II
This class introduces the basic principles of ballet and is taught at an advanced beginner to intermediate level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.

For more information and pricing visit jccyoungstown.org

JCC School of Music
This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC!

Instructor Led Fitness
Students will build motor skills and learn teamwork through a variety of physical activities guided by a certified group fitness instructor.

New Infant & Toddler Playground
We are excited to announce the completion of our new Infant & Toddler Playground. This unique playspace is the only one of its kind in our region and is designed to meet the developmental needs of children ages six months to five years.

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!

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Pickleball Play Schedule
A paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.
Tuesday & Thursday: 4:30–7:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Open Gym Youth Basketball
Children ages five and up can join us for kid-friendly basketball time in our gym. Bring your own ball, or borrow one of ours.
Date: Fridays
Time: 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Wallyball
A fantastic way to get in shape and have fun! Play in our racquetball court. Equipment is provided.
Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Fridays: 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Racquetball
A great way to make friends and stay in shape. Call or visit the JCC Welcome Desk to reserve your court. Equipment not provided.

Ping-Pong
Want to play ping-pong with your friends? The JCC ping-pong table is now in the lower level Multi-Purpose Room. Paddles and balls are provided.

Taekwondo
Master Tom Ritchie is a Kukkiwon Certified 5th Degree Black Belt. He has been teaching Olympic style Taekwondo for over a decade. Taekwondo can help you increase focus, burn off excess energy, improve coordination, and build confidence. We are offering two classes.

Li’l Dragons (Ages: 5-8)
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 5:00-5:45 p.m.
Location: Akiva Classroom
Cost: $75/Member per month | $97/Non Member per month
All TKD (Ages: 9 and up)
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Location: Akiva Classroom
Cost: $97/Member per month | $129/Non Member per month
Uniform Cost: $45 | Sign up for 6 months and receive a free uniform!
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Mamanet
The Mamanet league is the largest social-sports project in Israel specifically targeting mothers. Join other women and mothers in an engaging, modified version of volleyball. Mamanet promotes exercise and fitness, education, sports, professional networking, and is a great chance to build community with other women. Our JCC is working to begin the area’s first Mamanet league and is looking for interested participants.

Open Gym
Date: Mondays, December 3, 10, 17
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium
Women of all ages welcome
Free and open to everyone

continued on next page
Cardio Line Dancing
This non-stop line dancing class will touch on the latest dances and the classics. You'll have so much fun you won't even realize you're getting a great workout.
Date: Monday & Wednesday
Time: 4:30 - 5:25 p.m.

Gentle Chair Yoga
A gentle approach to yoga for those who can't work on the floor. Learn the basic principles of proper alignment using classical poses to lengthen and strengthen the body.
Date: Tuesday & Thursday
Time: 9:00 - 9:55 a.m.

AQUATICS

Learn-To-Swim: Ages 3+
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors.
Level 1: Basic swimming skills will be taught such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.
Level 2: Children will learn arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.
Level 3: Children will focus on breaststroke, butterfly, and diving while refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.
Level 4: Children will continue to refine the four stroke techniques.

Date: Saturdays
Time: 8:55 - 9:25 a.m., 10:05 - 10:35 a.m
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

Private Swim Lessons
Swimmers of any age or level can benefit from private swim lessons. Learn to swim or improve your skills with one of our certified swim instructors. Private lessons are also great for triathletes.
Four 30-minute lessons
Cost: $82/Member | $110/Non Member

Fall Swim Team
We are part of the Splash Swim League. Daily attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged.
Practices are held Monday - Thursday
Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Session 1: November 26 – January 4
Cost: $75/Member | $150/Non Member
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Water Women
This free class is designed for women with little or no swimming ability. Participants will learn the skills needed to feel safe in the water. Lessons will be limited to 12 women per session. This program is funded by Chemical Bank.
Date: Saturdays
Time: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
Session 3: December 1 – January 5
Register at jccyoungstown.org/waterwomen

After School Family Fun in the Pool: Rave in the Waves
Join us at the pool for a glow stick party.
Date: Friday, December 21
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Cost: Free/Member | $5/Non Member
Register at jccyoungstown.org

CULTURAL ARTS

The Balance of Religion and Democracy in Israel
Israel is a Western Democracy and is also the only Jewish state in the world. From the beginning, there has been a constant debate among its citizens as to how much Jewish religion should be integrated into the state’s laws. Our Israeli educator, Gon Erez, will discuss the history of this issue and how it affects the Jewish state in the world.
Date: Thursday, December 13
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Monday, December 10 at jccyoungstown.org or with the Bursar at 330.746.3250 ext. 195

For more information on cultural arts programs, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org
Volunteer Opportunities
Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council
330.746.3250 ext. 123
Swilschek@jewishyoungstown.org

Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry
The CHUM Food Pantry aims to feed families in Liberty Township that are in need of extra assistance. Since first starting in 2016, the pantry now feeds over 70+ families. Volunteers will help distribute food and make guests feel welcome during their visit.
**Date:** Dec. 7
**Time:** 9:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
**Location:** 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

**SENIOR OUTREACH**
If you or someone you know is over 60 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact Senior Outreach Coordinator Shai Erez at 330.550.5995 or serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

**RENTALS**
For more information or to book a rental contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

**Multi-Purpose Room**
Equipped with an overhead motorized projection theater screen, state-of-the-art audio/visual system, movable module stage, and commercial kitchen. Catering packages are available for up to 250 guests.

**Adult Lounge**
Accommodates 50 guests. An in-house kosher caterer is available.

**Meeting Rooms**
Our small conference room seats up to 10 guests, while our boardroom seats 35 and is equipped with a built-in projector and screen.

**Gymnasium**
Our full size gymnasium is equipped with six regulation height basketball hoops, bleacher seating and a dividing curtain.

**Cost:** $50/hr

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**Pool Party**
Enjoy time in our full size indoor heated pool and one hour in the party room.
**Cost:** $165/Members | $220/Non Member
$50/hr for additional time
15 people per lifeguard and $25/additional lifeguard

**Under the Sea Splish Splash Mermaid Bash**
Experience swimming and storytelling with the JCC Mermaid in our pool and enjoy time in our party room.
**Cost:** $225/Members | $281/Non Member
Pricing includes: One hour in the pool and one hour in the party room

**Game Time-Birthday Bash**
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium then enjoy time in our party room.
**Cost:** $150/Member | $188/Non Member
Pricing includes: One hour in our gymnasium and one hour in our private party room.
$50/hr for additional time in the gymnasium

**New* Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room**
Create new memories and easily entertain your guests when you host your next birthday party, meeting, retreat, or educational seminar. This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. The open room feel offers multiple room configurations. In-house catering is available.
**Cost:** $50/hour Member | $63/hour Non Member

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The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery

**Current Exhibit: Accumulate**
October 25 – December 13

**About the Exhibition:**
Accumulate is an exhibition of recent works by Aislinn Janek exploring how memories are created, stored, and altered over time, as well as how these mental happenings manifest themselves in our daily lives. I am actively engaging in methods that represent the ideas of daily habits, repetition, and the accumulation of those habits.

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**CELEBRATE HANUKKAH**
With Gifts of Israel Bonds

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*This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing. For full details, contact the listed address with investing in Israel bonds. Member FINRA*
Federation

Local Donations Fund Rescue ATV in Western Galilee

An all-terrain vehicle has been added to the United Hatzalah of Israel fleet. This vehicle is based in the Western Galilee.

Major funding for the ATV was provided by the Thomases Family Fund of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, B’nai Brith, ZOA, the Frances and Lillian Schermer Charitable Trusts, Divyoria Foundation and many generous local family foundations and community members, collectively called the Greater Youngstown Friends of United Hatzalah.

United Hatzalah of Israel is a volunteer emergency medical service organization that provides fast and free emergency medical first response throughout Israel. More than 5,000 volunteers respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The ATV is built to traverse off-road trails, climb steps, wade through several feet of water, maneuver through sand, and more. It can transport two to three medics, carries a full complement of emergency medical equipment and includes a portable stretcher.

“The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is a proud partner on this project,” said Andrew Lipkin, executive vice-president. “In 2017, the Thomases Family Endowment gave a grant adding up to a third of the amount needed for this life-saving piece of equipment. Irwin Thomases, the donor and namesake of the endowment, would kvell if he knew that gift inspired other philanthropists in the community to come forward. He would be proud of how Youngstown came together to support our Partnership region in Israel.”

United Hatzalah of Israel is able to deploy any of 5,000 highly trained volunteer medics in three minutes or less on average, and in just 90 seconds in major cities. Volunteer medics drop whatever they are doing to respond immediately. When a call comes in for help, anywhere in Israel, United Hatzalah dispatch is able to locate up to five medics who can respond in seconds, greatly increasing patient response and recovery rates. The service is free.

Scholarship Funds Available For Local Teens

The Sandra Lippy Scholarship Fund for Young Adults was created in 1994 through gifts given in commemoration of Sandra’s bat mitzvah. The fund assists teens, age 14 and older, in participating in the March of the Living, summer programs in Israel, and Jewish leadership camps/programs.

Jewish continuity and the communal experience is very important to Lippy, who herself studied at an ulpan in Israel. She hopes that, in some small way, this fund will help open the eyes and hearts of young people in the Valley and inspire them to step up to the plate and provide the leadership necessary to maintain a vibrant Jewish community.

Applications are due Dec. 22 and are available by contacting Lisa Long, financial resource development director, at 330.746.3250 ext 175 or llong@jewishyoungstown.org.

The ATV carries a full complement of emergency medical equipment including a portable stretcher.

This ATV can be deployed quickly in an emergency. It was funded by local donations, including a grant from the Thomases Family Endowment.
Federation

Shooting at Pittsburgh Synagogue Hits Close to Home for Some in Mahoning and Shenango Valleys

By Elise Skolnick

Squirrel Hill, a section of Pittsburgh, is just 75 miles from Youngstown. Many people in the regional Jewish community have a connection to that area. They were greatly impacted by the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue on Oct. 27.

Ronna Marlin grew up in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, next door to Rose Mallinger, the oldest victim of the tragedy. Ronna remembers walking to Sunday school and Hebrew school.

"In those days you could walk," she said. "It was free. You didn't have to worry about anything."

Ronna and her husband, Rick, were married at Tree of Life.

"My connection with Tree of Life came about when we got married and we lived in Pittsburgh for a couple years," Rick said.

Both have been in the building many times, and had a personal connection through Mallinger and her daughter, Andrea Wedner, who was hurt in the shooting.

The couple attended Mallinger’s funeral. There were about 2,000 people in attendance.

"Everybody was hurting. Everybody was aching," Ronna said.

Neither can remember how they found out about the shooting.

"I probably blanked it out," Rick said. "But after finding out, it didn't take long for their network of friends and family to begin tracking each other down, making sure everyone was safe."

Alvin Weisberg didn't learn of the shooting until late in the day that Saturday.

"I was in Baltimore at the time, visiting my child who lives there, and we keep shabbos so I wouldn't have heard during the course of the day," he said. "But after shabbos I turned my phone on and it was one phone call after the next."

Born and raised in Squirrel Hill, Weisberg still spends a lot of time there. He no longer has family in Pittsburgh, but his wife does. They also have friends who live there. Since he was out of town, many friends assumed he was in Pittsburgh.

"I had to respond to a bunch of people about that," he said.

If it weren't for the trip to Baltimore, he would have been in Pittsburgh the day of the shooting.

His parents, both deceased, were Holocaust survivors, and their friends were the many other survivors in Pittsburgh. Some attend services at Tree of Life.

"And surely my parents would have known them," he said.

Originally from Youngstown, Annie Hendricks now lives in Pittsburgh. She moved there for college and stayed after graduating. She is a first responder, but was not on duty at the time of the shooting.

"I don't have a huge connection to Squirrel Hill, but know the area well," she said.

A friend told her about the shooting.

"After, I was amazed at how well everyone came together to help those in need," she said.

Laura Silverman grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, but attended school in Squirrel Hill for first through eighth grades. During high school, she attended Hebrew school there. She also spent holidays with relatives in that neighborhood. Her aunt and uncle are members of Tree of Life, but were not there at the time of the shooting.

"I went to school there so I probably spent more time in Squirrel Hill than the suburbs," she said.

Silverman still spends a lot of time in Squirrel Hill. She was on her way there the day of the shooting, to visit a sick relative. A text from her mother alerted her to the shooting.

"The whole thing is a little surreal," she said. "I love Squirrel Hill. If we lived in Pittsburgh that's where I'd want to live."

It was also difficult explaining the shooting to her 11-year-old twins.

"It's the first time we really had to explain something like that," she said. "We couldn't really hide it. I mean, it was affecting our family. And it was all over."

Seeing people come together at events like the vigil held in Youngstown helped, she said.

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Shabbat to be Together
DEC. 8th

The Balance of Religion and Democracy in Israel

Lunch & Learn

Date: Thursday, December 13th
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room

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December 2018 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine 17
Federation Holocaust Educational Specialist Discusses Figures in Painting at Butler

By Elise Skolnick

Peter Maier’s exhibit “Legends,” on display at the Butler Institute of American Art, includes a three-paneled piece that depicts Steven Spielberg, Elie Wiesel and Oskar Schindler.

In late October, Federation Holocaust Educational Specialist Jesse McClain gave a presentation on the three men.

Each person’s choice of a legend will be different than another’s, McClain pointed out.

“When [Maier] looks at the Holocaust, he saw those three individuals, who certainly deserve to stand out,” he said. “But I can see other ones that also deserve to stand out.

“They are beautiful works of art,” he added.

McClain shared famous quotes by the men, and a little about their lives.

“What do they have in common?” he said. “Well, they’re all men. They’re all prominent in their field. And they’re all prominent in the field of the Holocaust. That’s it. After that, there’s not much similarities between them.”

Elie Wiesel was a phenomenal man, McClain said.

“He truly was the conscience of the world,” he said.

Steven Spielberg felt Schindler’s List was his most important film, McClain said. After purchasing the rights to the book, he waited a few years to make it.

“He said he had to have the right time and the right moment to make the film because he knew its impact would be so great,” he said.

Oskar Schindler saved lives, McClain said.

“His goal was to make money. Period,” he said. “He went into Poland to make money. And he made money. But he ended up using all the money he made to buy lives.”

Philanthropic Funds Enable Donors to Benefit from Charitable Donations

Philanthropic Funds are playing an increasingly important role in helping donors continue to benefit from their charitable donations. With the increase in the standard deduction it is much harder for most people to realize the same tax benefit they’ve gotten from charitable tax deductions in the past.

Funds can be opened with the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation with an initial contribution of $10,000 or more. The fund is then professionally managed and invested by the Federation for future growth. Contributions can be sent to charities out of the fund’s assets at any time.

By “bunching” several years of charitable donations into a single gift, donors can realize the tax benefits from itemized deductions while also maintaining the freedom to make donations over time as they see fit.

For more information, contact Lisa Long, financial resource development director, at 330.746.3250 ext 175 or llong@jewishyoungstown.org

Happy Hannukah!
Hundreds Attend Vigil at Temple El Emeth to Honor the Tree of Life Synagogue Victims

Editor’s note: Read about community members’ personal connections to the Tree of Life tragedy on page 17.

Hundreds of people of many different faiths filled Temple El Emeth Nov. 1 to help honor the victims of the mass shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

“Even in this dark time, not all is lost,” Federation President Rick Marlin told those gathered. “We’re so heartened by the showing of support here today from all of you, as well as the many messages and prayers we have received too numerous to mention.”

The event, sponsored by the Federation and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Youngstown, included various faith leaders sharing their thoughts about the tragedy and vowing to support the Jewish community. Candles were lit for the 11 individuals who lost their lives in the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in U.S. history. A few words were said about each victim. A regular daily prayer service was held just prior to the vigil.

Hundreds gathered at Temple El Emeth for a vigil for the Tree of Life mass shooting victims.

Francine Yarwood (left) and Neil Yutkin light a candle in memory of Joyce Feinberg, a victim of the mass shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue.

Various faith leaders from the community attended a vigil at Temple El Emeth to show their support for the Jewish community following the mass shooting in Pittsburgh. Pictured is Acharya Dr. Sudhakar Rao, who represented the Hindu community.
Bernice Ruth (Rothenberg) Simon
Tragically, on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018. Beloved wife of the late Sylvan Simon; beloved mother of Michelle Simon Weis, Marc A. (Machi) Simon, Michael (Robin) Simon and the late Martin E. Simon; sister of Betty Nathan Shulman, the late Meyer Rothenberg; &quot;Bobie&quot; to Joshua, Lauren, Marissa, Tyler, Malone and McKenzie; also survived by nieces and nephews. Services were at RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL, INC., 5509 Centre Avenue, Shadyside. Interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Best Wishes for a Happy Hanukkah

Vigils, from page 2

issues of vital concern to other communities, our non-Jewish friends will know when their presence and voices in our midst will make a difference.

It is also a plea for more Jewish community leaders to respond to calls to join in key coalitional tables where the relationships are forged. Indeed, this is a time to say thank you to our non-Jewish friends and to redouble our relationship-building efforts.

Sometimes quotes from Pirke Avot can sound clichéd. But it is worth rereading Hillel’s famous dictum in light of the response to Pittsburgh. “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” It is almost as if Hillel was writing the mission statement for JCRCs – and our community.

Rabbi Doug Kahn is the Executive Director Emeritus of the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco and founder of Broad Tent Consulting.

Editor’s note: “The vigil for the Tree of Life victims held in Youngstown would not have been as successful without the ongoing work of the local JCRC,” said Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation JCRC director of community relations/government affairs. “It consistently works to maintain good relations with public officials and leaders in the progressive community. These relationships also help deal with BDS issues and anti-Semitism that masquerades as anti-Zionism.”
languages, observe different religions, and celebrate different holidays and traditions. Yet, it is their commonalities on which they focus. They each have families and jobs; they each shop and cook; they are each tired at the end of their day.

The group gathers twice a month to learn leadership skills, plan community projects, and to just talk and share their lives with each other. The only topic they do not discuss is politics.

They have learned to celebrate their differences, to respect each other, and to agree to disagree peacefully. Those are the lessons they brought to us in Youngstown and the message they carry with them daily in their homeland of Israel.

A delegation of women from Israel visited Youngstown to share their stories.

A Burial and Unveiling for a Synagogue Congregation

By Alanna E. Cooper

Synagogue congregations, much like living organisms, are born, flourish, decline, and die. But it’s not often that congregations self-consciously acknowledge when they are at the end of that life cycle. The 125-year-old Jewish community in New Castle, Pennsylvania has.

Almost one year ago, members of Temple Hadar Israel closed the doors of their building, disbanded, and held a burial service for the sacred objects that they were not able to pass on to others.

I recently attended the unveiling, where a modest salisbury pink granite gravestone was revealed. Each of those gathered for the short service placed a stone upon the etched words, which read, “Final burial of books and artifacts of Temple Hadar Israel.”

During the years and months that the congregation carefully and deliberately prepared for their synagogue’s closing, they worked hard to find new homes for their ceremonial possessions. Their ten Torah scrolls were donated to congregations across the world. Many of the yahrtzeit plaques were given to family members of the deceased. And the magnificent Lions of Judah sculpture that once stood above their Holy Ark was given to Congregation B’nai Abraham in Butler, Pennsylvania, which raised funds to refurbish the historic piece, and mount it in their sanctuary. Today, the lions watch over B’nai Abraham congregants, reminding them that they are now part of New Castle’s Jewish legacy.

Despite efforts to find new owners for all their community items, the closing down of many small congregations across the rust belt, combined with a general glut of material culture, has meant that new homes could not be found for every-thing. Some books, prayer shawls, dedicatory plaques, and yahrtzeit plaques were simply orphaned. Rather than simply throwing these out, the congregation took solace from the Jewish tradition of burial, as a respectful way to dispose of honored, sacred items.

While burial of holy books is a prevalent Jewish practice, installing a gravestone to mark the spot, and holding an unveiling for it is not. Rabbi Howard Stein who conducted the service in New Castle, and Sam Berstine, who served as the congregation’s last president and who organized the service, both told me that they had never heard of any synagogue holding such an event. But it offered the group a sense of closure. “We hold unveilings for our parents who are buried here in this cemetery, we thought we should do it for our congregation as well. We did it out of respect” Bernstine explained.

The event was also a way to gather together the city’s few Jews – many of whom have joined other congregations in Youngstown and Pittsburgh – who no longer have a regular opportunity to meet. With quivering lips, and a tissue to catch her tears, Sybil Epstein – one of the elders who grew up in New Castle – explained, “When we are gone, and people come here to the cemetery to visit their ancestors, they will see this marker here. And they will know that we were a group that really cared, and mattered.”

A delegation of women from Israel visited Youngstown to share their stories.

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Yetta Gluck’s Bat Mitzvah Shaped A Family Tradition

By Elise Skolnick

Growing up in New Castle, Pa. in the 1950s, Yetta (Ginsburg) Gluck was the only girl in her Hebrew class. “I was interested in it and Rabbi definitely encouraged me,” she said.

After a few years, she approached the rabbi, Dr. Iwan J. Gruen. “I said to the rabbi, ‘Well, am I going to have a bar mitzvah like the boys?’” He said he would think about it. He discovered that congregations in larger cities were beginning to have bat mitzvahs, and told her if she was willing to study, he would train her and she could have one. “It took a rabbi who was willing to make that effort to research,” Gluck said. “He was very much ahead of his time. He really was. He was an amazing man.”

As the day approached, her parents, Dr. Philip and Rose Ginsburg, became concerned she wouldn’t be able to handle the congregation’s large torahs. They decided to purchase a smaller torah for her to use. “It was just a little bit smaller, not quite as overpowering as some of the really large ones,” Gluck said.

Following her bat mitzvah, Gluck’s parents donated the torah to Temple Israel for future bar and bat mitzvahs. Eventually, Temple Israel and the other synagogue in New Castle, Tifferith Israel, merged to become Hadar Israel. “So it went along with the merger and it was a torah for the merged congregation,” Gluck said.

When Hadar Israel closed its doors, Gluck worked with that congregation to have the torah moved to her synagogue, Rodef Sholom. Over the years since Gluck’s bat mitzvah, many Gluck family members have used the torah for their bar and bat mitzvahs.

Her sister’s four children read from it at Temple Israel. And it was borrowed for her own children’s services at Rodef Sholom. Now, Gluck’s grandchildren are using it. Her grandson, Aaron Gluck, borrowed it for his bar mitzvah in Delaware in 2011. Her granddaughter, Hailey Pinkus, will use it in Arizona this month. “She’s all excited about it,” Gluck said. Gluck shared her mementos, including a photo album with bar mitzvah printed across the front because bat mitzvahs weren’t common at the time, with her granddaughter. “So now she thinks of me as somewhat of trailblazer,” Gluck laughed.

Yetta Gluck was the first girl in her temple to have a bar mitzvah. Reading from the torah she used has become a tradition for family bar and bat mitzvahs.

This month, for her bat mitzvah, Hailey Pinkus will read from the torah her grandmother used for hers 64 years ago.

For his bar mitzvah, Aaron Gluck used the same torah his grandmother used for her bat mitzvah.
In Holland, One of the World’s Most Expensive Hanukkah Menorahs Hides in Plain Sight

By Cnaan Liphshiz

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Nothing about the appearance of object MB02280 at this city’s Jewish Historical Museum suggests it is the capital’s priciest Hanukkah menorah, worth more than the average local price of a duplex home.

Shaped like the body of a violin, it is only 16 inches tall. Its base cradles eight detachable oil cups intended to function as candles on Hanukkah, when Jews light candles to commemorate a 167 BCE revolt against the Greeks. They are set against the menorah’s smooth, reflective surface, whose edges boast elaborate rococo relief.

But for all its charms, the Nieuwenhuys menorah - its creator was the non-Jewish silversmith Harmannus Nieuwenhuys - doesn’t stand out from the other menorahs on display next to it at the museum. Far from the oldest one there, the menorah certainly doesn’t look like it’s worth its estimated price of $450,000.

The Nieuwenhuys menorah can hide in plain sight because its worth owes “more to its story than to its physical characteristics,” said Irene Faber, the museum’s collections curator.

Made in 1751 for an unidentified Jewish patron, the Nieuwenhuys menorah’s story encapsulates the checkered history of Dutch Jewry. And it is tied to the country’s royal family, as well as a Jewish war hero who gave his life for his country and his name to one of its most cherished tourist attractions.

The price tag of the Nieuwenhuys menorah, which does not have an official name, is roughly known because a very similar menorah made by the same silversmith fetched an unprecedented $441,000 at a 2016 auction. A collector who remained anonymous clinched it at the end of an unexpected bidding war that made international news. It was initially expected to fetch no more than $15,000.

Another reason for the more vigorous bidding: The menorah came from the collection of the Maduros, a well-known Portuguese Jewish family that produced one of Holland’s most celebrated war heroes. The Nazis murdered George Maduro at the Dachau concentration camp after they caught him smuggling downed British pilots back home.

In 1952, his parents built in his memory one of Holland’s must-see tourist attractions: the Madurodam, a miniature city.

“I imagine the connection to the Maduro family drove up the price,” said Nathan Bouscher, the director of the Corinphila Auctions house south of Amsterdam, which has handled items connected with famous Dutch Jews.

The Jewish Historical Museum has no intention of selling the Nieuwenhuys, Faber said, although it could attract even more spectacular bids owing to its provenance: It was bought by the late queen of the Netherlands, Wilhelmina, as a gift for her mother and given to the museum by her grandson, King Willem-Alexander.

“We don’t know who commissioned the work, but from the reputation of the artist and the amount of labor it took, it was probably a wealthy Jewish family, perhaps of Sephardic descent,” Faber told JTA last week at the museum.

At the center of the object is a round network of arabesque-like decorations “that probably contains the owner’s initials in a monogram,” Faber said, “but we haven’t been able to decipher it. It’s a riddle.”

The monogram was one of several techniques that Nieuwenhuys and other Christian silversmiths in the Netherlands had developed for their rich Jewish clients.

Before the 19th century, no Jews were allowed to smith silver in the Netherlands because they were excluded from the Dutch silversmiths guilds, which were abolished in the 1800s.

“This exclusion was beneficial [to the guild] because it kept out competition, but it meant that Christian smiths needed to become experts at making Jewish religious artifacts like this menorah,” Faber said.

Whoever owned the menorah no longer possessed it by 1907, when Queen Wilhelmina bought it for an unknown price at an auction to give it as a gift to her mother, Princess Emma.

This purchase may appear inconsequential to a contemporary observer, but its significance becomes evident when examined against the backdrop of institutionalized anti-Semitism among other European royal houses and governments.

The German Emperor Wilhelm II, a contemporary of Wilhelmina, was a passionate anti-Semite who famously said in 1925 that “Jews and mosquitoes are a nuisance that humankind must get rid of some way or another,” adding “I believe the best way is Gas.”

Belgium’s King Leopold III was more politically correct, stating magnuminously in 1942 that he has “no personal animosity” toward Jews, but declaring them nonetheless “a danger” to his country. He raised no objections when the Germans and their collaborators began deporting Belgian Jews to their deaths.

But in the Netherlands, where thousands of Jews found haven after fleeing the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition of the 16th century, royals not only refrained from such statements but were genuinely “interested in other faiths, including the Jewish one,” Faber said.

Wilhelmina’s gifting of a menorah to her mother “isn’t strange for her,” Faber said. “I imagine she found it fun, something to talk about with her mother, to see together how it works.” After all, “Jews have always been under the protection of the Royal House.”

Except, that is, during the years 1940-45, when Queen Wilhelmina and the Royal House fled to the United Kingdom. Wilhelmina mentioned the suffering of her Jewish subjects only three times in her radio speeches to the Dutch people during five years of exile.

Whereas before the war “Jews always sought the Royal House,” during and after it appeared Wilhelmina didn’t think too much about the Jews, Faber said. This was “a stain” on relations between Dutch Jews and the Royal House, which underwent a “rupture.”

But this was gradually healed in the postwar years.

The fact that King Willem-Alexander, Wilhelmina’s great-grandson, in 2012 gave the Nieuwenhuys menorah on an open-ended loan to the Jewish museum on its 90th anniversary “symbolizes the healing of the rupture,” Faber said.
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