Dash & Splash 2018
(see pages 23 & 24)

Valley Native Releases Children’s Album,
page 3

Detention Facilities or ‘Concentration Camps’:
Debate on Names
page 6
for their wives as they shop, wearing the cardigans with this little alligator. Then of course, sports shoes are another target for brands, from the little lightning bolt, three slanted stripes, big W and more.

The transition then took place to put these logos on clothes. People were then known by the brand they wore. For a long time, when you were a kid, if you didn’t wear the right logo, you were ostracized from the “in” group. It probably still happens today, but maybe not as much—at least I hope not.

I was a lucky parent. My kids didn’t seem to mind who made their clothes, as long as they liked them and felt good in them. So what does this all have to do with conversations and/or reading? The latest theme seems to be to set our goals to a higher level, with messages such as I have in my pocketbook, “live, love laugh.” I do my best to live right, I love what I buy and try to laugh as my money flies out of my wallet. You get my drift.

Then the patriotic messages on the t-shirts: “make love not war”. Peace is another big one. Funny sayings are next—I even have a rubber spatula that says, “if you can’t stand the heat...” (well, you know the rest).

There is a whole new brand of clothing on TV, and I don’t know if I can say their name, but they have inspirational messages on all their clothes. For instance: “it’s a good day to have a good day,” “live with less, love more,” “good things will come my way,” “unconditional love.” You get my drift. I have a night gown that says “I love coffee, my morning survival device.” Not necessarily true, but cute.

Then we have the wonderful t-shirts that show where we went to college, or where we wish we had gone. Some do have some meaningful messages, but some shouldn’t even have left the closet where they are stored.

I guess what really started this dissertation on communication skills are the new bathroom paper cups that talk to me every morning. “Don’t give up your day dreams,” “Staying in is the New Going Out,” “Do more of what makes you happy.” Have we really reached the point where we are in such shape that we need things to tell us to buck up, that life will get better? What happened to going out to meet life and celebrate each day to the best of our ability and to hopefully share that feeling with someone and help them to celebrate each day as much as possible?

Uplifting messages would be better coming out of our mouths and not from our clothes or things. Okay, my motto: “live and love each day as if it were your last!”
Youth Experiences Influenced Liberty Native’s Newly-Released Album

By Elise Skolnick

Megan Schoenbohm, a Liberty native, released her first full-length album. “Bubba & Boo” is a blend of indie, pop and folk music for children.

Though Schoenbohm (formerly Megan Anderson) now lives in California, she grew up in the Youngstown area. She attended Akiva Academy for kinder-
garten through second grade and then Liberty schools. She graduated from Brookfield High School.

Though “Bubba & Boo” is her first album, music is nothing new to Schoenbohm. She wrote music for adults before switching to children’s music. For the last decade, she taught classes and performed at birthday parties, farmers’ markets, preschools, local fairs, and more.

She wrote the album’s title song three years ago, but it wasn’t until recently she felt the time was right to record.

Schoenbohm says experiences in her youth influenced her music.

“When I look at what I’m doing now with the kids,” she said, “I think back on where I was at that age, you know the camp songs and all the traditions of singing on Shabbat.”

She attended the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown’s preschool and day camps, and was a member of BBYO for many years. She also remembers singing at Heritage Manor, noting that her grandmother and two great-grandmothers were resi-
dents. She was also a member of Rodef Sholom.

“I feel like I grew up at the JCC,” she said. “I feel like so much of my childhood was spent there.”

Writing children’s music came more easily for her than writing for adults, Schoenbohm said.

“Everything just flowed so much easier,” she said. “The ideas, and the melo-
dies, and everything. It came together much more naturally than when I was writ-
ing grown up music.”

Her family was a big part of creating this album. Bubba and Boo are her nicknames for her chil-
dren, and several songs on the album were inspired by them. Her daughter sings a duet with her, and both her daughter and son sing backup on two songs. It was produced in collaboration with her husband, Kevin Schoenbohm, a producer, remixer and media artist.

Her sister-in-law, Shauna Anderson, created the album art. “That's what makes this album so much more spe-
cial,” she said.

Following the album’s release, she is touring Florida, Oregon and California. “Bubba & Boo” is available for digital download via CDBaby, iTunes and Amazon.
The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "The only thing that is constant is change.”

Despite the centuries that have transpired since this statement was initially made, the hidden wisdom behind the word remains true today.

Judaism may be the perfect example of this statement. Due to the nature of our religion, to examine, study, interpret, and reinterpret the halacha and minhags, we tend to make adjustments more often than most religions.

We have proposed a major reworking of the Temple's constitution and by-laws that will be voted on at our annual meeting (which took place on June 27) to help us adapt to our changing Jewish Community. Our new mission statement emphasizes the directions in which our congregation is moving.

"Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah is an egalitarian congregation combining Conservative, Reconstructivist, Reform and Orthodox Judaism. Founded in 1953, our congregation cultivates a rich, vibrant tradition by dedicated spiritual leaders, caring support staff and active congregants. It is our mission to create and provide a dynamic, inclusive and spiritually enriching environment for its members, to cultivate and strengthen the bonds of understanding of our Jewish heritage, to foster meaningful connections for Jewish learning, celebration, social activism, and to help build and sustain a vibrant Jewish community in the greater Youngstown area. We are guided by the Torah and are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and to Jews around the world. Our vision is to foster a spiritual community dedicated to preserving our Jewish heritage while injecting inspiration from current and future generations."

With these words in mind, we are constantly having to look at who we are today, where we came from, and try to adjust our thinking so that we honor both our heritage and the inevitable changes to our congregation and what their needs are.

To attempt to accomplish this, we are forming a policy committee to proactively review topics that address issues that thus far we have only been able to react to when they arise. It will review issues, research them, and make recommendations to the board for approval.

We are encouraging members to give their opinions on what these topics might be before it is necessary to act on them because, as Heraclitus stated (in Greek of course), "The only thing that is constant is change.”

**Upcoming Meetings, Classes & Services**

**SHABBAT SERVICE**
- July 7, 9:45 a.m. - noon*
- July 14, 9:45 a.m. - noon*
- July 21, 9:45 a.m. - noon*
- July 28, 9:45 a.m. - noon*
- August 4, 9:45 a.m. - noon*
- August 11, 9:45 a.m. - noon*
*Followed by Kiddush and Torah Study

**MINYAN SERVICE**
- Every 3rd Thursday, 7:30 a.m.

**ROSH CHODESH**
- June 13 and 14, 6 - 8 p.m.

**BOARD MEETING**
- July 11, 7 p.m. at Ohev Tzedek

**TSIHA B'AV**
- July 21, 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**PSALMS CLASS**
- Mondays, 1:30 p.m. at Ohev Tzedek

**BIRKHOT HASHACHAR**
- Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. at Ohev Tzedek

**Temple El Emeth**

Volunteers are needed for Liberty Food Pantry July distribution. Set up is Thursday evening, July 5 from 7 to 8 p.m. and distribution of food is Friday, July 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call the Synagogue office if you can help and we will pass your name on to the pantry chairs.

**The El Emeth Congregational Annual meeting** will take place at the Synagogue on Tuesday evening, July 10 at 7 p.m. Committee reports will be presented and new officers elected. Phyllis and Art Friedman will be installed as the new presidents. Reservations will follow.

**The 23rd annual Rabbi Samuel Meyer lecture and 5th annual Nostra Aeta** program will take place at the Villa Maria Education Center, in Villa Maria, Pa. on Thursday, July 12 at 7 p.m. Professor Lawrence H. Schiffman will speak on “70 Years of the State of Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls…Do They Matter?” Reservations can be made by calling 724-964-8886.

**Minyan and a Meal** is being planned for Thursday evening, July 19 at the Synagogue. Marcia Levy will present a power point of “Historic Homes in Liberty.” Minyan begins at 5:45 p.m. with the dinner and program immediately following at 6 p.m. Reservations must be made by July 17. The dinner charge for members is $10 and for non-members, $15.

**The Indoor Outdoor Picnic** will be held on Sunday, July 29 at El Emeth. Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with the picnic following at 6 p.m. Guests may eat indoors or outside on the patio. Traditional picnic menu will be served with vegetarian options, too. Daniel Shapira will provide entertainment. There is no charge for members to attend, associate and non-members are $15.

**Daily Minyan** are at 5:45 p.m. including Saturday. Friday morning Minyan is at 7 a.m. and Saturday Shabbat services begin at 9:30 a.m. Rabbi has Basic Judaism study sessions on Saturdays following services and a class on Psalms following the Saturday 5:45 p.m. Minyan.

**Minyan and a Meal at Temple El Emeth**

Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown was the guest speaker at a “Minyan and a Meal” in June at Temple El Emeth. The Mayor discussed various issues facing the city and his hopes for the future. Shown in the photo are from left to right, Rabbi Joseph Schonberger, Mayor Tito Brown, and Co-presidents of El Emeth Harriet and Neil Schor.
Rodef Sholom

Annual Sisterhood Donor Luncheon

A great Sisterhood Donor Luncheon was held recently at the Avalon Inn & Resort in Warren.

“The Most Effective Way To Do It, Is To Do It.” - Amelia Earhart

Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood Members make a Powerful Impact Together. We are truly “Stronger Together.”

From left to right: Margie Levy - Donor Lunch Committee Chair, Sammie Winick - Donor Committee, Kandy Rawl - Sisterhood Vice President/Catering Chair, Marilyn Oyer - Treasurer, Barbara Root - Storyteller, Margaret Ann Jonas - Donor Committee, Phyllis Freedman - Donor Committee, Laurel Chevlen - Donor Committee, Milana Dimenstein - Financial Secretary and Sally Blau - Sisterhood President

Services

Friday, July 6 at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel led by Nancy Burnett

Friday, July 13 at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel

Friday, July 20 at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel

Friday, July 27 at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel led by Stan Bard

Rodef Sholom

Brotherhood: A Night at the Races

Congregation Rodef Sholom Brotherhood: A Night at the Races Saturday, July 21 at 6 p.m. in Strouss Hall. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., Post time for first race 7:15 p.m.

Admission: $25 per person (Sponsor) which includes deli sandwiches, wine, beer and soft drinks, plus you get to sponsor a horse that will run that night.

Sponsors get the right to name their horse and will be listed as a sponsor in the Racing Program.

$20 per person (General Admission) Includes deli sandwiches, wine, beer and soft drinks.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 13. Call the Temple office at 330-744-5001 for information.

How A Biracial Orthodox Rabbi Is Creating A Unique Community

JTA New York

By Josefin Dolsten

Growing up in the Orthodox community of Monsey, New York, as the son of an African-American mother who converted to Judaism and a white Ashkenazi father who became religious later in life, Isaiah Rothstein knows what it’s like not to fit in. The New York hamlet is known for its large Hasidic Jewish population and over 95 percent of its residents are white.

Rothstein, who is light skinned and says he tends to “pass for white,” remembers the unwanted attention he got in school because of his family background.

But the challenges he faced as a child in insular Monsey also motivated Rothstein to help create a different Jewish community for others.

Rothstein, who today identifies as Modern Orthodox and was ordained as a rabbi by Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, founded Union Street Sanctuary in Brooklyn last August. He previously was a co-founder of the Beis Community, a progressive Orthodox community in Washington Heights.

One of Rothstein’s goals is to create an inclusive place for people regardless of their ethnic or racial background, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or other things that could make them feel like outsiders in other Jewish communities.

“Everything about how I was raised led me to my work on some level,” he said over smoothies at a juice bar in Lower Manhattan’s Financial District.

The shared motto of the Union Street Sanctuary and the Beis Community — “All are welcome, always” — exemplifies that commitment.

“When we say it out loud at events, there’s like ‘Yeah, but am I welcome if I’m female?’ Always. ‘Am I welcome if I don’t know if I believe in God?’ Always. ‘Am I welcome if I am a person of color?’ ‘Am I welcome if my gender identity, my sexual identity is [a certain way]?’ Our motto is all are welcome, always,” he said.

Attendees at a recent barbecue event included Jews across the spectrum, from haredi Orthodox to unaffiliated, as well as Jews of varying racial and ethnic backgrounds and ages, he said. The Union Street Sanctuary hosts meet-ups for Jews of color.

“Being welcoming isn’t just what we try to do in our programs, it’s what we are as an organization,” Rothstein said.

In addition to his work at the Union Street Sanctuary, Rothstein also serves as rabbi-in-residence for Be’chol Lashon, an organization that promotes Jewish diversity, and Hazon, a Jewish environmental group. He was invited to attend the ROI Summit, a gathering of young Jewish innovators in Jerusalem in June. He also plays the guitar and sings in Zayah, a musical collective he founded that plays Jewish-inspired rock and reggae.

Rothstein also strives to be inclusive of any rituals performed at events. He will perform kiddush or Havdalah, for example, but then invite anyone else, including women, to make their own blessings afterward. There are different interpretations about women performing such rituals, with most Orthodox Jews believing that a woman cannot fulfill the Jewish legal obligations reserved for men.

Though there may be ritual elements like these at the Union Street Sanctuary, it does not host services and is not intended to replace the function of a synagogue, Rothstein said.

“We see ourselves as filling that gap between social programming devoid of spirituality and religion,” he said. “We want to include our ancestral texts of Judaism, we want to include that spirituality, but we do it in a way that doesn’t do the same things that maybe a synagogue would do.”

He hopes that with Union Street Sanctuary, he can help more Jews find a home. Rothstein felt like an outsider based on his racial background, but said that many others feel similarly for other reasons.

“I think it is something that is rampant in the Jewish world today of people not being able to have a solid sense that they are truly a part of the community,” he said. “It can be based on not just fitting into the classic mold.”
Simmering beneath the heated debate over whether Holocaust references are appropriate in the debate over the Trump administration’s policy of separating migrant families is a question of terminology: Are the shelters where the migrants are housed correctly described as “concentration camps”?

According to a Department of Homeland Security fact sheet, migrant children and parents may be separated when “individuals who are believed to have committed any crime, including illegal entry,” are “referred to the Department of Justice.” DHS then transfers children to the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, where they are held in a “temporary shelter” until a sponsor can be found for the child. Reports suggest these shelters include large centers with dormitory-like accommodations. Meanwhile, the adults are held in what the government calls “detention facilities” pending hearings.

Whether the detention facilities at the border and beyond contain people “confined for reasons of state security, exploitation, or punishment” by Presidential Donald Trump’s “executive decree,” or whether they are “relocation centers for the temporary accommodation” of “displaced persons,” is the debate exercising the editors at Britannica’s scrappier rival, Wikipedia, and also informing the broader political debate.

“These children are not being held without trial,” editor Flamous1 said in the online encyclopedia’s behind-the-page debate. “However, they weren’t taken from their parents from their homes and then imprisoned (ex: Nazi, Japanese situations). They are held, just like any other asylum applicant, until the hearing can be heard.”

Kellyanne Conway, a top adviser to Trump, said on NBC’s “Meet The Press” over the weekend that the intention was simply to facilitate returning the migrants to their countries of origin, not to punish them.

“There are ways to repatriate these people back to their home countries expeditiously,” she said.

Joel Pollak of Breitbart News calls the concentration camp comparisons an abuse of the Holocaust and considers the separation policy humane, not punitive.

“When the U.S. Border Patrol separates children from parents who are arrested, it is to protect the children, and help them, with the intention of reuniting them with their families,” he wrote. “When the guards at death camps like Birkenau separated children, it was to lead them to the gas chambers.”

Much of the debate has been clouded by the conflation of the phenomenon of concentration camps, which predate the Holocaust, and the camps introduced by the Nazis. The key difference is between temporary measures instituted by authoritarian regimes before the Holocaust and the permanent dehumanization of classes of people under the totalitarian Nazi regime.

The camps launched by the Spanish rulers in Cuba in the 1890s -- seen by historians as the first concentration camps -- sought to control a civilian population perceived as sympathetic to insurgents for the duration of an operation aimed at quelling an uprising. The same is true of the camps that the British established in the subsequent decade to control the Boer insurgents in South Africa.

In both those cases, and in subsequent manifestations, concentration camps were inhumane and deadly -- but not permanent. The authorities who established the camps hoped to quell opposition, not to establish a permanent system of imprisoning a designated class of citizen.

The same was true of the initial Nazi concentration camps, which were established shortly after the rise to power of Adolf Hitler in 1933. The first prisoners were “primarily Communists, Social Democrats and other political enemies of Nazism who were seen as being in need of political reeducation,” according to the Holocaust Encyclopedia edited by Walter Laqueur.

The SS assumed control of the camps within a year and by the outbreak of war in 1939, the camps’ mission had shifted: Many had become slave labor camps, housing populations the Nazis considered subhuman, including Poles, Slavs and Jews, and contracting their labor out to the German private sector.

Another tendency is to conflate concentration camp with Nazi death camps, which had a single overriding purpose: the extermination of the Jews.

So are these concentration camps minus the Nazi baggage? Andrea Pitzer, a historian who last year wrote a book “One Long Night,” on the history of concentration camps, believes the designation is accurate in this case.


The SS assumed control of the camps within a year and by the outbreak of war in 1939, the camps’ mission had shifted: Many had become slave labor camps, housing populations the Nazis considered subhuman, including Poles, Slavs and Jews, and contracting their labor out to the German private sector.

Another tendency is to conflate concentration camp with Nazi death camps, which had a single overriding purpose: the extermination of the Jews.

So are these concentration camps minus the Nazi baggage? Andrea Pitzer, a historian who last year wrote a book “One Long Night,” on the history of concentration camps, believes the designation is accurate in this case.

“Yes, of course they're concentration camps,” she said this week on Twitter. “They aren’t the unique subset of death camps that were invented by the Nazis for genocide, or even Arctic Gulag camps built for hard labor. But they’re camps created to punish a whole class of civilians via mass detention without trial.”

Given that the Trump administration said it is seeking an expedited solution, and that displaced persons conventionally spend time in relocation centers, I asked Pitzer to expand on her conclusion that these are indeed concentration camps. She said what was key to her determination was how other Trump officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions and top Trump adviser Stephen Miller, have described the policy as a deterrent.

“We have indications dating back to August that the separation policy was being looked at as a punitive measure -- in the hopes that it would deter entry,” she wrote in an email.

“So we have punitive detention being used against asylum seekers, adults and children alike,” Pitzer said. “It’s a policy that wasn’t in place before under other administrations, and there’s no law requiring it. It wasn’t adopted as an emergency measure to deal with a new problem or a massive influx. People are being deported without their children, which is as punitive a measure as one can imagine. What can you take from people who have nothing? Their children.”

Historians take the long view

Deborah Lipstadt, the Holocaust historian, said it was not helpful to focus on the correct terminology while an event is underway.

“Ten years from now if we’re sitting around analyzing this from a historical point of view, we can make comparisons,” she said in an interview, noting for instance that it took years to precisely define the carnage in Cambodia in the 1970s as a civil war that included a genocide rather than a genocide in and of itself. “I think the comparisons are made too easily and too glibly; the comparisons don’t get us where we need to go.”
Heritage Manor Has New Director of Nursing

Brenda Bergman has joined the staff of Heritage Manor as director of nursing. “Brenda is a conscientious, caring and compassionate nurse,” said Cristal Vincent, CEO of Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens and Jewish Family Services. “She is attentive to our residents, families and employees and it is obvious that she enjoys helping others. She has been a registered nurse for 18 years and has 16 years of experience as a DON. Her knowledge is invaluable and she has brought a level of professionalism to our nursing department which was needed. We are fortunate to have her as our new DON.”

Brenda, who has been a nurse for 18 years, grew up in Salem but moved to the Youngstown area 30 years ago. She worked as a state tested nursing assistant while in nursing school, and has devoted her nursing career to long-term care because she loves the elderly.

“The stories and life experiences they can tell you are fascinating,” she said.

In her role as director of nursing, Brenda oversees the nursing department, ensuring the residents of Heritage Manor are cared for with dignity and respect while also following the state-regulated guidelines.

“My job entails doing everything from answering call lights and providing hands-on-care to attending meetings, staffing and talking to families and doctors,” she said.

Brenda’s favorite part of her job is working with residents. She enjoys putting a smile on their faces.

“Being able to care for someone and helping them or helping a family member through a difficult time is so rewarding,” she said. Brenda and her boyfriend have seven dogs and six cats.

“Animals are my other passion.”

Meet JFS’ Guardianship Manager

Jane Trambley is the guardianship manager at Jewish Family Services. In this position, Jane is responsible for 31 wards, each with a unique set of circumstances.

“My current job is different every day,” Jane said. “One size definitely does not fit all. As the legal guardian, I am responsible for ensuring that each ward has their needs met. On any given day, I might be working on issues with housing or medical care or educational needs or financial concerns. Sometimes it is all of those at once.”

Jane has been a social worker since 1986, and obtained her social work license in 1991. She has worked as a social worker in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania, as well as Ohio. Her early experience was with children and youth, but the bulk of her career has been spent in the health care field as a home health or hospital skilled-care social worker. Prior to joining JFS, she worked for Sharon Regional Health System.

“The guardianship manager position was created in August 2017 after it was determined that this position, due to the high number of wards under our care, requires our full and ongoing attention,” said Ken Bielecki, JFS director. “Each guardianship case is very unique and some cases can be challenging. A lot of energy and detailed work goes into the guardianship manager position and Jane has been a welcomed addition to JFS. She is dedicated to her role as guardianship manager and has done a great job learning about each of the wards in our care in order to meet their individual needs. We are pleased to have her as part of our team.”

Jane is originally from the south. She studied social welfare policy at Brandeis University in Boston. Her husband, Adam, is an Episcopal priest. They have two daughters, Lillian and Julia, and a rescue schnoodle named Heidi. Lillian is a senior at Case Western Reserve University, and Julia will attend Barnard in the fall. She lives with her husband in Sharon, Pa.

Levy Gardens Enjoys Park Outing

Tenants of Levy Gardens Assisted Living Facility enjoyed a cookout at Birch Hill Cabin in Mill Creek Park this month. Music was provided by Dan Shapiro. Marilyn Williams, a naturalist with Ford Nature Center, shared information about animals in the park.

Outreach Services Offered

Jewish Family Services is offering outreach services for Jewish seniors. Services include information, referrals and a friendly visitor.

For more information, contact Shay Erez at 330-550-5995 or 330-746-7929.
The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation was awarded the 2018 Spirit of the Red Cross Award. This award is given to “individuals who best exemplify leadership in the community, compassion for its people and dedication to the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross” Andi Baroff, Irwin Thomases’ stepdaughter, accepted the award on behalf of Irwin, the Thomases Committee, and the Federation.

Mike Rawl, Jewish Community Center executive director, announced that Ben Katz is taking over as director of the JCC Early Learning Center at the beginning of July.

Ben is “a seasoned educator with a passion for engaging children in experiential learning,” Mike said.

Ben spent the last two years as a middle school science teacher at Akiva Academy. Prior to that, he worked as an educator for Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Environmental Studies. He also worked at the Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development. He holds a master of education degree in environmental education from Florida Atlantic University.

He was recently one of 31 JCC early learning center directors and teachers from the U.S. and Canada accepted to participate in the JCCA Leadership Institute of the Sheva Center Leadership Institute for Early Childhood Professionals.

While participating in the three-year initiative, Ben will take part in six-week-long retreats and two international study tours through Israel and Reggio Emilia, Italy, each of which will incorporate aspects of the Sheva framework—a toolbox for creating excellence in early childhood Jewish education. There will be monthly virtual learning seminars between the retreats.

“I couldn’t be more grateful for this opportunity, which I will be able to share with our school and our community,” Ben said.

In his role as ELC director, Ben will work with educators to develop and provide new and effective learning opportunities to students. He will also work to further connect the JCC program with the greater Youngstown community.

Ben grew up in Boca Raton, Fla., but has family in this area.

“This opportunity is a way to give back to a place I love,” he said. “Though I didn’t grow up here, I spent time here every year of my life, sometimes for a weekend, and sometimes for months. The memories I made here and the life lessons I learned meant I fell in love with this town.”

He enjoys the outdoors and spends a lot of time hiking, camping, and fishing.

Ben is replacing Kathy Mioni. Kathy will continue as principal of Akiva Academy.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank our departing director for her hard work and dedication to our program,” Mike said.

Wish Your Family and Friends a Happy New Year!

September will be the Rosh Hashanah issue of the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine. Take the opportunity to greet members of the community by submitting a greeting. Greetings and payment are due Aug. 15. Email journal@jewishyoungstown.org for a greetings form. Forms are also available on the Federation website – jewishyoungstown.org.

SAVE THE DATES
YOUNGSTOWN AREA
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 16:
The Testament
Location TBD 6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20:
Sammy Davis, Jr. I’ve Gotta Be Me
Encore Cinema, Niles 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 27:
Wrestling Jerusalem
Encore Cinema, Niles 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 4:
Who’s Gonna Love Me Now?
Location TBD 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 14:
Footnote
Encore Cinema, Niles 4:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 20:
The Invisibles
Location TBD 7:00 p.m.

October will be the Rosh Hashanah issue of the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine. Take the opportunity to greet members of the community by submitting a greeting. Greetings and payment are due Aug. 15. Email journal@jewishyoungstown.org for a greetings form. Forms are also available on the Federation website – jewishyoungstown.org.

For more information, contact Sarah Wilschek
330.746.3250 ext. 123 | swilschek@jewishyoungstown.org
Social Venture Fund Wins Prestigious Prize
Thomases Family Endowment is SVF Partner

Jewish Funders Network awarded the 2018 Shapiro Prize for Excellence in Philanthropic Collaboration to the Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society. The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is a partner in SVF.

The honor recognizes the Social Venture Fund as a collaborative and structured partnership of more than twenty funders from the United States and Israel. SVF is a philanthropic collaborative that brings together individuals, foundations, and federations who support an equal and inclusive shared society in Israel for the benefit of all of its citizens. They support Israeli NGOs that promote economic integration and improved educational opportunities for Arab citizens of Israel and that support the institutional foundations of an equal and inclusive shared society.

Working together through SVF allows members to learn from each other and from leading experts in the field, and to have greater impact than they could have by acting individually. SVF was created in 2008 under the auspices of the Jewish Federations of North America, and since then it has made grants totaling more than $7 million to organizations in Israel. In July 2016, SVF became part of Jewish Funders Network.

"With this prize the funder community recognizes that collaboration is an essential feature of an effective Jewish philanthropic field," says JFN President and CEO Andrés Spokoiny. "We all tend to think a lot about what funders’ goals are, but neglect the study of how funders can work together on process and structure success. At JFN, we're committed to calling attention to the most innovative partnerships that are already happening in the Jewish community.


The Shapiro Prize, awarded biennially by Jewish Funders Network, recognizes alliances of forward-thinking Jewish funders who collaborate to have an impact in their chosen fields of interest. It was established in honor of a JFN founding board member, Sidney Shapiro, who died in 2007, and who was regarded as one of the leading lights of American Jewish philanthropy.

Iftar Feast Helps Unite Community Members

In Jaffa, Israel, more than 600 Hand in Hand Jewish and Arab parents, children and teachers joined community members for an Iftar feast to break the Ramadan fast.

Hand in Hand brings together thousands of Jews and Arabs in six schools and communities throughout Israel. The Jaffa School has 233 students in grades pre-kindergarten through second. The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is a supporter of Hand in Hand.

The Iftar feast included food, speeches and musical performances. Members of the community marched with lanterns (a symbol of Ramadan) through the streets of Jaffa, showing that a shared society is not only possible, but has become a reality.

Hand in Hand works to create a strong, inclusive, shared society in Israel through a network of Jewish-Arab integrated bilingual schools and organized communities.

Available for weddings, graduation parties, and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Full service catering for brunches and dinners. Kosher and non-kosher

Authorized caterer for the DD Davis Center, the Jewish Community Center; Stambaugh Auditorium; Tyler Historical Center; Temples El Emeth, Ohev Tzedek, and Rodef Shalom.

3135 Belmont Avenue, Liberty Township • 330-759-7889
Poland Library • 330-757-2330

July 2018 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine 9
YSU Student Enjoys Trip to Israel and Metals Engineering Conference

By Emma Hetson

Throughout the past year, Youngstown State University coordinated the International Technological Innovations in Metals Engineering 2018 conference held in Haifa, Israel on May 30-31.

The Youngstown group of engineering professors, faculty, spouses, and me, the only student on board, enjoyed not only meeting and learning from conference contributors from across the globe, but also traveling throughout almost all of Israel to learn about and experience the culture of the small country full of history and rich traditions.

It was inspiring to see all of the hard work from every contributor finally pay off with a successful conference. It was also amazing to meet and learn from all of the conference contributors, not only about their topics of interest, but also how to organize and plan an event like this, and how to network with others around the world who have similar interests. Also, the entire experience of being in Israel, getting to see and experience the country and the culture, has opened my eyes to a whole new part of the world.

The trip began with a visit to Caesarea, the ancient city built by Herod the Great that served as a harbor for ships entering Haifa. Day two of the trip consisted of a visit to Capernaum, the ancient city where Jesus was believed to have lived, a boat ride on the historic Sea of Galilee, and a visit to the Church of the Multiplication.

The conference started with a reception dinner. The reception was held at the historic Israeli National Museum of Science, Planning, and Technology, also called Madatech. The museum today is housed in the original buildings of the Technion, one of Israel’s most prestigious universities. The dinner was served after a tour of the museum. During the dinner, students and professors from the Technion performed for the conference attendees.

TIME 2018 conference sessions began on Wednesday, May 30. Participants registered and enjoyed coffee while networking. Session topics covered additive manufacturing, metals processing through shaping, forming, and solidification; alloys and critical materials; and applications. The conference logistics were coordinated by Shai Essel from Technion’s Israel Institute of Technology, while Dr. Conner from YSU helped coordinate the technical sessions. During the course of the year, I helped Dr. Conner track presentation abstract reviews and session scheduling.

Day one of the conference began with welcoming addresses from some of the sponsors of the conference, including representatives from the Israeli Innovation Authority, the president of the Technion, Dr. Martin Abraham from Youngstown State University, the head of the Israeli Manufacturers Association, and mayor of the city of Haifa. Also on day one, the conference chair and keynote speaker, Nobel Laureate Professor Dan Schechman, gave a talk about his discovery of quasi-crystals.

The welcoming and plenary presentations were followed by technical sessions with presentations on various advancements in metals and metals engineering. YSU professors Dr. Brett Conner, Dr. Eric MacDonald, and Dr. Virgil Solomon spoke during sessions on both days of the conference. Dr. Conner, director of YSU’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Center, gave a plenary presentation titled “Advanced Manufacturing in the Metals Industry: Societal Impacts on the Path from Blast Furnaces to Powder Bed Fusion” and a technical presentation titled “Multi-Materials and Multi-Functionality Enabled by Hybrid Additive Manufacturing.” Dr. MacDonald gave a presentation titled, “The Internet of Things (IoT) for Casting with 3D Printed Sand Molds.” Lastly, Dr. Solomon led two sessions entitled, “Advanced Manufacturing of Near-Net-Shape Parts from Functional Materials: 3D Printing of Porous Ni-Mn-Ga Magnetic Shape Memory Alloys and 3D Printing of Fe77Ni5.5Co5.5Zr7B4Cu1 High Temperature Magnetic Powders.”; Presenters came from all across
the globe, and an estimated 250 people registered for the event.

After the conference was over, the team moved to Jerusalem for the rest of the trip. While in Jerusalem, the group toured the Mount of Olives then proceeded to the Old City. The group walked the Via Delarosa then visited the Church of All Nations, the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the Tomb of the Virgin Mary. We also walked through the Jewish and Muslim quarters of the Old City and ended the day by welcoming Shabbat at the Western Wall. Day six of the trip, the group visited Qumran, the location of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, then traveled to Masada, and ended the day by floating in the Dead Sea.

While in Israel, the team of professors and I visited several Israeli based additive manufacturing companies, as well as universities and startup companies in Israel. The first stop was Hebrew University, an Israeli University located in Jerusalem. The meeting consisted of the exchange of ideas about current and upcoming projects in 4D printing and 3D printing of multi-functionality that could be completed between YSU and Hebrew University. The next meeting was in Tel Aviv with a 3D printing company called XJET; further talks of current and future collaboration took place with this company. In the afternoon, the group visited NanoFabrica to talk about future collaborations with this growing startup company. Later, there were two additional meetings with Print CB which makes conductive inks for printing and Resight, which is a company focused on making advancements in augmented reality. XJET and PrintCB have close relationships with the Youngstown Business Incubator.

The last day of the trip, the entire group went to see Ein Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. We walked through and experienced the Machane Yehuda Market, then ended the day at the Israel Museum where the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as an entire model of Jerusalem are displayed.

The conference was co-organized by the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) and YSU. It was sponsored by both the Minerals, Metals & Materials Society and the European Union Cooperation in Science and Technology program. Several YSU STEM faculty and staff were involved in the planning of this conference. Conference speakers focused mainly on their recent discoveries in metals and materials engineering.

Overall, the trip and conference were a success. I can’t wait to see and learn from the conference attendees as well as the conference organizers in two years when the TIME 2020 conference is held at Youngstown State University.

Conference attendees included Dr. Brett Conner, Youngstown State University director of advanced manufacturing research center; Dr. Eric MacDonald, Youngstown State University professor of electrical engineering and Friedman chair of manufacturing; Dr. Virgil Solomon, associate professor of mechanical engineering; Dr. Martin Abraham, professor of chemical engineering; Emma Hetson, Youngstown State University chemical engineering student; Emilie Eberth, Youngstown State University College of STEM outreach coordinator; Barb Ewing, CEO of the Youngstown Business Incubator; Rob Gorham, executive director of America Makes, Ms. Rachel Conner, director of Next Education and Juliet MacDonald.
In ‘Catcher Was a Spy,’ Paul Rudd is a Jewish Baseball Player Turned Nazi Hunter

JTA - By Curt Schleier

It’s rare enough for a Jewish baseball player to make it to the major leagues. A New York Jew named Moe Berg took it even a step further -- he added war spy to his extraordinary resume.

Berg pulled off the feat over 60 years ago. As a catcher in the majors for 15 seasons during the 1920s and 30s, he was known more for his intelligence and introverted personality — famed manager Casey Stengel once called him the “strangest man ever to play baseball” — than his athletic skills. He read several newspapers each day, spoke more than 10 languages (seven fluently) and graduated from Princeton at a time when Jews normally weren't admitted.

During World War II, after his baseball career, Berg worked for the U.S. government and eventually rose to a position in the Office of Strategic Services, or OSS — a precursor to the CIA. He went on missions in then-Yugoslavia, where he tracked resistance groups, and Italy, where he interviewed physicists about the German nuclear program.

The story sounds like great fodder for a movie, and that’s what it has become: “The Catcher Was a Spy,” based on a 1994 biography of the same name by Nicholas Dawidoff, opens Friday in theaters. Paul Rudd (who happens to be Jewish) stars as Berg alongside Mark Strong and Sienna Miller.

The film begins in 1939, his last season as a player, with the Boston Red Sox, before picking up several years later when Berg has a boring desk job at the OSS. His boss, Gen. William Donovan (played by Jeff Daniels), eventually assigns him a mission in the field, and with Sam Goudsmit (Paul Giamatti), Berg helps rescue the Italian physicist Eduardo Amaldi from the Nazis.

A more crucial assignment is to kill the famous German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a task with which Berg is not completely comfortable. There is no certainty that Germany has the resources to build a bomb (the Brits don’t believe they do) or even that Heisenberg, despite being a loyal German, will help them build a weapon of mass destruction. But Donovan decides not to take a chance and orders the hit.

Berg was an enigma to most who knew him, and the film, directed by the Australian filmmaker Ben Lewin, paints a nuanced portrait of the complicated character. Though he had a longtime girlfriend, Estella (Sienna Miller), some questioned his sexual orientation. The general asks him point blank at one point if he’s “queer,” but Berg doesn’t answer. (Later in life, Berg became unemployed and subsisted with the help of relatives.)

As a whole, though, the movie falls in a bland area between truth and fiction. While Berg’s missions are fascinating on paper, the content isn’t particularly cinematic, the way a good James Bond film is. So while the end product stays honest to the facts, it sacrifices some enjoyment for the viewer.

The film does address Berg’s Jewish identity, however, and conveys how uncomfortable he was in his Jewish skin. At one point he tells a new acquaintance: “I’m a Jew. Not a practicing Jew. But I was different than the other boys. I never even told them my real name. I wanted to blend in ... I don’t fit in even now.”

(Rudd’s personal story mirrors Berg’s a bit on this front — he explained last year on the genealogy show “Finding Your Roots” that he grew up in places with few Jews and was called “Jew boy” despite his attempts to blend in.

Lewin, 71, the son of Polish Holocaust survivors, migrated with his family at a young age to Australia, where he grew up in an observant Jewish household. He had never heard of Berg before the film opportunity arose and, though now Los Angeles-based, has never been to a baseball game other than his sons’ Little League contests.

But he told JTA his Jewishness informs his “sense of connection with the subject matter.” In 1985, Lewin directed the award-winning “The Dunera Boys” a miniseries about 2,000 English Jews who were somehow suspected of being Nazi spies and deported to Australia.

In one scene late in “The Catcher Was a Spy,” Berg attends a Kol Nidre service at a Zurich synagogue during his mission to kill Heisenberg. While the film is based on true events, the Yom Kippur moment almost certainly never occurred. It was a conceit added by Lewin (even though Robert Rodat wrote the script).

Lewin doesn’t know whether Berg actually attended services, but he finds it a plausible possibility.

“[Berg] was a very modern and secular Jew, but at the same time he couldn’t escape his Jewishness,” the filmmaker said. “Before going out to kill someone, I don’t know that he didn’t go inside a synagogue. I know myself as a secular Jew that I find comfort in that kind of environment. I go to Kol Nidre services every year even though I’m not a believer because I have that one day to reflect on my life.”
The Dead Sea Scrolls: Do They Matter?

"70 Years of the State of Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Do They Matter?" will be presented by Lawrence H. Schiffman at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 12, at Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center, 2067 Evergreen Road, Villa Maria, Pa.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls on the eve of the declaration of the State of Israel served as a harbinger for the new knowledge that would be gathered about Second Temple Judaism and the transition from biblical to rabbinic Judaism and the background of early Christianity. This illustrated lecture will present the scrolls and the basic scholarly conclusions that have been drawn from them, explaining also the modern story of the delays in their publication and the role of Israel in bringing about their complete release, properly conserving the scrolls and making their significance known to the wider public.

A free will offering will be accepted. To register, go to www.vmesc.org or call 724-964-8886.

Lawrence H. Schiffman is the Judge Abraham Lieberman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University and Director of the Global Institute for Advanced Research in Jewish Studies. He has served as the Chair of the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University and Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. Between 2011 and 2014, he served as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Professor of Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He is a specialist in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Judaism in Late Antiquity, the history of Jewish law, and Talmudic literature. Dr. Schiffman was featured in the PBS Nova series documentary, "Secrets of the Dead Sea Scrolls," four BBC documentaries on the scrolls, a Discovery special, the series "Mysteries of the Bible" (A&E) and "Kingdom of David" (PBS) and other documentaries.

This program is sponsored by Rev. George Balasko as part of the Annual Nostra Aetate Lecture Series.

‘Maktub,’ An Israeli Comedy About Low-Level Gangsters, Makes It To Netflix

JTA - By Curt Schleier

A deadly terrorist attack might seem like an unlikely starting point for a light-hearted comedy. But “Maktub,” a charming and intelligent film that just debuted on Netflix, is set in Israel, a country where that happens more than most would like to believe.

The movie was a box office success in Israel but likely would have been relegated to art house theaters in the United States. A Netflix streaming release gives the film a much broader audience.

It stars Guy Amir and Hanan Savyon -- Israeli television stars who co-wrote the screenplay -- as Chuma and Steve, two small-time gangsters who work for an organized crime overlord, Kaslassy (played by Itzik Cohen). They are tasked with collecting protection money from various Jerusalem restaurants.

Their lives change when a terrorist bomb goes off at one of their stops while both are in the bathroom. Everyone else in the building is killed, including the one-eyed Chechen thug who served the pair as lookout.

Chuma and Steve recover a metal briefcase that contains all the shekels collected earlier in the day, which they were supposed to turn in. They tell Kaslassy that the Chechen survived the bombing and made off with the cash. Steve wants to leave quickly, before their boss discovers the truth. He hopes to immigrate to the U.S. and open a fish kebab restaurant.

But a reluctant Chuma demands they first go to the Western Wall to give thanks. There they accidentally pull out a note left by a man who asks for God’s help in rekindling the passion in his marriage — he earns little and must work long hours, leaving no time for romance.

Chuma sees it as a sign and insists they were spared to become the man’s guardian angels. They visit his boss and use a little muscle to convince him that the employee deserves a nice raise.

Chuma also eventually convinces Steve to return to the Kotel and ultimately help a poor Russian emigre pay for her son’s bar mitzvah and a long suffering 40-year-old get pregnant. Acquiring the last two notes requires a little silliness -- they dress in drag to approach the female section — but even this comes off as funny rather than crass or disrespectful.

Amir and Savyon’s success in Israel — the pair have written over 280 episodes for seven different series that have been viewed over 80 million times — could spill over into the U.S. Producer Uri Singer has tapped them to create a drama in English about the Middle East conflict through the eyes of an American father searching for his missing daughter.

The word maktub means fate or destiny in Arabic, so maybe the duo is destined for a hit in the states, too.
For more information contact Emily Blau, Camp Director at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eb@jewishyoungstown.org.

Register Now
June 4 - August 10
Monday – Friday | 10 weeks
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (extended hours available)

NEW THIS SUMMER: Fridays will be spent at the JCC Logan Campus, which includes an outdoor pool with diving boards, tennis courts, basketball courts, and bocce court

Day Camp (Campers entering grades 1-8)

Our traditional day camp is full of fun activities including arts and crafts, baking, kickball, dance, music, soccer, free swim, certified swim lessons, and so much more! We provide a wide variety of daily activities to ensure a well-rounded summer experience for our campers.

Specialty Camps (Campers entering grades 1-8)

These camps are either one or two weeks, and provide campers with experiences focused on specific areas of interest. We are offering several amazing specialty camps this summer including Martial Arts, 3D Printing, Lego Camp, Mad Science, and Horseback Riding.

LEGO® Camp (Ages 6-14)

Date: July 3- July 7 (No camp on July 4th)
Campers will get the chance to build their own world as they construct various large scale LEGO® models. Campers will be divided into small groups and work together as a team to complete their LEGO® sets. They will learn the value of teamwork while having fun at the same time! We welcome campers of all ages and skill levels.

Cost: $190/Member | $255/Non Member

Martial Arts Camp (Ages 6-14)

Date: July 9- July 13
Martial Arts camp strives to develop character, personality, positive attitudes and characteristics in its students that enable them to reach their goals. With Camp JCC’s partnership with GTA Martial Arts in Girard, Ohio, participants will receive hands-on training from Martial Arts masters and learn many life lessons to be heroes at home and in public. All skill levels are welcome.

Cost: $190/Member | $255/Non Member

Mad Science-Chemicals, Cells, and C.S.I. (Ages 6-14)

Date: July 23-July 27
Go inside a scientist’s lab and discover the secrets you’ve always wondered about! Use your skills as a chemist to make your own radical reactions with batteries, nickels, and more! Compare fingerprints and discover the mysteries of DNA as you fine-tune your secret agent skills. Make “brain goo” and check out your bones as you travel the Oregon Trail and uncover the secrets of your own body. Become a Mad Science detective and use your forensic skills to solve the “Great Ice Cream Caper”!

Cost: $190/Member | $225/Non Member

Advanced Specialty Camp - Campers entering grades 5-8

Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino : Peter Pan Jr.
Date: July 8-21 (Special two week camp)
Young artists taking part in this premier program will be exposed to a full circle musical theater experience. Campers will begin with the casting process and auditions and end with a final performance. Camp JCC campers will also perform a hit Broadway musical for the public in the Youngstown area as well as for family and friends at Camp JCC. No previous experience is required; all levels are encouraged to participate.

Cost: $300/Member | $400/Non Member

To register for camp visit jccyoungstown.org/camp

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 330.746.3251

JCC School of Dance

For more information on the studio offerings, contact Eri Raib-Pitchkin at 330.333.2219 or jccschoolofdance@jewishyoungstown.org

This program teaches children the technique, artistry and discipline of dance in a cheerful and positive learning environment. Children develop a variety of transferable listening and learning skills in a classroom setting while being physically healthy and having fun!

Music & Movement (18-36 months)
A 30-minute class that focuses on parent led activities that build coordination, listening skills and social awareness. Learning based play with a variety of props and musical styles keep the tots active.

Summer Session II: Mondays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Creative Movement Program

Creative Movement Tumbling Fun (Ages 4-6)
A 45-minute combined level creative movement class that teaches the beginning principles of jazz dance and tumbling in a safe and controlled environment. The fun includes somersault and backbend variations and stretching.

Summer Session II: Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Dance Curriculum Program

Ballet I & II (Ages 7-12)
A 45-minute class that emphasizes the basic principles of ballet like body positions and movements. This class introduces balance skills and challenges students to remember patterns and choreography.

Summer Session II: Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Jazz I & Jazz II (Ages 7-12)
A 45-minute class that teaches the art of classic jazz dancing focusing on body lines, coordination, proper technique, and flexibility. This class aids in the development of spatial and kinesthetic awareness.

Summer Session II: Tuesdays 4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tap I (Ages 7-10)
A 45-minute class that introduces students to the percussive dance style known as tap. Dancers gain listening skills and develop rhythm while moving to the beat and creating music with their feet.

Summer Session II: Tuesdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m

Tap II (Ages 11-12)
A 45-minute advanced tap class that focuses on the technique of tap dance to improve sound quality and speed. In this class, variations of basic tap steps are learned and practiced.

Summer Session II: Wednesdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Adult Dance Program (Ages 16+)

Ballet
A 45-minute class that introduces adults to the basic principles of ballet, including body positions and movements. This class improves posture and balance, and challenges students to remember patterns. Class is taught at Advanced Beginner to Intermediate level.

*Summer Session II: Mondays 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.*

Tap
A 45-minute class for adults to explore the percussive dance style known as tap. Dancers gain listening skills and develop rhythm while moving to the beat and creating music with their feet. Class is taught at an Intermediate level.

*Summer Session II: Mondays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.*

To register for JCC School of Dance contact the Bursar’s Office 330.746.3250 ext. 195

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

To register for JCC School of Music lessons, call 330.746.3251

Stage Combat Workshop (Ages 10-18)
Participants will learn stage combat techniques and have the opportunity to choreograph their own “fight scene” in small groups!

*Date: Sunday, July 8*  
*Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.*  
*Cost: $49/Member | $65/Non Member*

Triple Threat Action Workshop (Ages 8-18)
Participants will learn professional musical theatre audition skills in voice, acting and dance. A professional headshot will be taken to develop your resume.

*Date: Sunday, July 15*  
*Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.*  
*Cost: $56/Member | $75/Non Member*

Hip-Hop & Hamilton! (Ages 8-18)
Join us to learn awesome hip-hop dance skills to hit Broadway musical, Hamilton! All skill levels welcome!

*Date: Sunday, July 22*  
*Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.*  
*Cost: $34/Member | $45/Non Member*  
Register at jccyoungstown.org

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

For more information on the Early Learning Center, contact Jennifer Bracken, Coordinator of Early Learning, at 330.746.3250 ext. 125 or jbracken@jewishyoungstown.org.

Ages: 6 weeks - Prekindergarten

Hours:
Monday - Friday  
Half day: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Extended day options:
6:45 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Infant
- Individual lesson plans geared to each child’s development  
- Flexible schedules  
- Library visits as part of our curriculum  
- Engaging classroom environments  
- Strong language development  
- Problem solving & self help skills

Toddler
- Individual lesson plans geared to each child’s development  
- Library visits as part of our curriculum  
- Hands-on learning activities  
- Strong literacy and math focus  
- Problem solving & self help skills  
- Preschool readiness program

Preschool
- Thematic learning  
- On-site Library  
- Swim lessons  
- Gym class/fitness program  
- Learning center instruction  
- Kindergarten readiness  
- The Valley’s best outdoor playground

School Age Care
Hours: 3:00-6:00 p.m.
(All day care is available during holiday breaks)

-Focusing on child’s cognitive development  
- Enhancing learning by concentrating on physical, creative & social development  
- Daily activities including swimming, arts & crafts, fitness program, and designated homework time

*Coming Soon: NEW Infant and Toddler Playground*

FITNESS

For more information on fitness programs, contact Shelia Cornell at 330.746.3250 ext. 182 or scornell@jewishyoungstown.org.

**Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!**

Personal Training Benefits:
- personalized safe and effective fitness programs  
- achievement of goals in a short time period  
- improved muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility

To register for personal training, call 330.746.3250 ext. 182

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Non Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 Minute</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>45 Minutes</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>30 Minute</td>
<td>$96.00</td>
<td>$128.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>45 Minutes</td>
<td>$149.00</td>
<td>$199.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>30 Minute</td>
<td>$183.00</td>
<td>$244.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>45 Minutes</td>
<td>$289.00</td>
<td>$385.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.**

(continued on next page)
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:** 5:00–7:00 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.
**Tuesdays:** 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
**Fridays:** 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Wellness Program: Tivity Health/Silver-Sneakers® - Part 2
In the conclusion of this two part series, Sales and Service Representative for Medical Mutual of Ohio, Roy Avery, will explain steps six through ten of the “10 Steps to a Healthy Lifestyle.”
**Date:** Thursday, June 26  
**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Multi-Purpose Room  
Free Event

Total Body Strength and Endurance
Mixture of cardio and strength exercises utilizing your own body weight. Various modes of training will be used for a high calorie burn!
**Date:** Wednesday  
**Time:** 5:30-6:25 p.m.

Yoga
This is a gentle stretching class for beginner and intermediate students. The emphasis will be on body positioning and breathing.
**Date:** Tuesday & Thursday  
**Time:** 8:00 - 8:55 a.m.

Register online at jccyoungstown.org

---

**AQUATICS**

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrystal at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

The JCC Aquatics department offers swim lessons throughout the year in private and small group settings. Classes are taught by trained Learn-to-Swim Instructors.

To enroll in any of our group or private swim lessons call 330.746.3250 ext. 112

P.A.L.S.+ Private Swimming Lessons
The JCC offers free one-on-one swim lessons that are geared towards persons on the autism spectrum and have developmental disabilities. Our instructors will be using advanced techniques to connect with the children and young adults during lessons. This program is funded by the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. To apply for the P.A.L.S.+ program visit jccyoungstown.org/pals.

SwimSafe 500
This program provides free swimming lessons for children in kindergarten through eighth grade who receive free or reduced school meals. Lessons will be taught in a group setting with a low student-to-teacher ratio. This program is supported by The United Way of the Mahoning Valley, The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, and The Redwoods Group. Visit jccyoungstown.org/swimsafe500 to register.

Group Lessons
You & Me Baby
This is a monthly class where parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float and improve their water skills. Recommended ages: 6 - 36 months. Swim pants or swim diapers are required.
**Date:** Saturdays  
**Time:** 8:55-9:25 a.m., 10:05-10:35 a.m or 10:40-11:10 a.m.

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 swim strokes and diving.
**Date:** Wednesdays  
**Time:** 4:30-5:00 p.m.  
**Date:** Saturdays  
**Time:** 8:55-9:25 a.m., 10:05-10:35 a.m or 10:40-11:10 a.m.

Private Swim Lessons
Private lessons are great for swimmers of any age from the beginner trying to learn the basics to the seasoned swimmer looking to improve their skills. Private lessons are also great for adults who want to learn-to-swim or even triathletes looking to improve their skills. Starting in June outdoor private lessons available at our Logan Campus  
1:1 student/teacher ratio  
**Four 30-minute lessons**  
**Cost:** $82/Member | $110/Non Member

Water In Motion
Condition your cardiovascular system in this lighter version of water aerobics. The routines are designed to be low impact yet stimulating. No swimming ability required.
**Date:** Monday & Wednesday  
**Time:** 8:30-9:30 a.m.

For more information on our Logan Campus, contact Shawn Chrystal at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

JCC Logan Campus, 3245 Logan Way, Youngstown, OH 44505
JCC

Hours:
Monday-Saturday
11:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Sunday
12:00-8:00 p.m.

Men’s Open Play Tennis
Begins June 4
Date: Mondays
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free/Member | $10/Non Member

Women’s Open Play Tennis
Begins June 7
Date: Thursdays
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free/Member | $10/Non Member

Footwork Clinic
Begins July 9
Date: Mondays & Wednesdays
Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
$50/Member | $67/Non Member

Register at jccyoungstown.org

Mixed Doubles Night
Begins June 6
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free/Member | $10/Non Member

Swim Lessons
Beginner Group Lessons
Wednesdays | 10:30 -11:30 a.m
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

Swim Team Tutors
1:1 student/coach ratio
Four 30-Minute Lessons
Cost: $82/Member | $110/Non Member

To enroll in private swim team tutoring or beginner group lessons, call 330.746.3250 ext. 112

Saturday Night S’mores
Join us rain or shine every Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. around the fire-pit to make delicious s’mores!

Kristi Blue and the Midnites
Join us for a night of blues and classic rock from a six piece band featuring Jeff Bremer, Donny Yellich, Mindi Einzig, Harmonica Harold, Alisa Drevere and Youngstown’s own Kristi Blue Terlecki. These experienced musicians will be sure to make this a fun night full of high-quality music and great atmosphere.
Date: Friday, June 15
Time: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Mark Sioni Blues Night
Join us for an evening of swimming and listening to local blues musician, Mark Sioni. Food will be available for purchase at the snack shack.
Date: Thursday, August 2
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Family Late Night Movie & Swim- Coco
Date: Saturday, July 21
Time: 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Early Morning Lap Swim
Date: Mondays-Fridays, July & August
Time: 5:30-9:15 a.m.
Free/Member

CULTURAL ARTS

JCC Journeys
Join us on a fun-filled bus trip to Cleveland or Pittsburgh to see a show and have dinner. It’s a wonderful way to meet new friends. Members and Non Members are welcome!
Register online at jccyoungstown.org

Brigadoon
When New Yorkers Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglas lose their way during a vacation to the Scottish Highlands, they stumble into the mythical village of Brigadoon on the one day every hundred years it appears. Tommy, who is engaged back in New York, falls head over heels for villager Fiona. A twist of fate then reveals the complicated truth that if any resident leaves Brigadoon, the town and the people in it will be lost forever. Tommy is forced to choose between returning to the world that he knows or taking a chance on life and love in a mysterious new place. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner will be on your own. Space is limited and seating location is on a first come, first serve basis.
Date: Sunday, July 22
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Leave JCC: 12:00 p.m.
Showtime: 2:00 p.m.
Return to the JCC: 8:30 p.m.
Cost: $65/Member | $85/Non Member

Aladdin
Based on the 1992 animated film, Disney’s Aladdin tells the story of a street-smart commoner whose whole life changes when he meets a magical genie who can grant him three wishes. Aladdin wants the hand of Princess Jasmine, but that means becoming something he’s not and going toe to toe with Jafar who wants the genie for his own evil plans. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner will be on your own. Space is limited and seating location is on a first come, first serve basis.
Date: Sunday, August 26
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Leave JCC: 11:00 a.m.
Showtime: 1:00 p.m.
Return to the JCC: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $71/Member | $95/Non Member

Movie & Lunch Bunch: Going in Style
Lifelong buddies Willie (Morgan Freeman), Joe (Michael Caine) and Albert (Alan Arkin) decide to buck retirement and step off the straight and-narrow when their pension funds become a corporate casualty. Desperate to pay the bills, the three men risk it all by embarking on a daring adventure to knock off the bank that absconded with their money. A light lunch will be served. This film is rated PG-13.
Date: Wednesday, August 15
Time: 12:00-2:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $8/Member | $11/Non Member
Newman Levy Speaker Series
“*The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*” Film Screening and Talk-Back with Producer

Hank Greenberg, also known as the “Hebrew Hammer”, was an American professional baseball player. He left baseball to enlist in the U.S. Army. Greenberg was the first major league player to return to the MLB after the war. Join us for a screening of the movie “*The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*” followed by a discussion with the producer, Ms. Aviva Kempner. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to everyone.

**Date:** Monday, August 27
**Time:** 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
**Location:** Multi-Purpose Room

Register online at [jccyoungstown.org](http://jccyoungstown.org)

---

2018 Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival

Our mission is to take you on a cinematic cultural journey that depicts a broad spectrum of Jewish life. The films shown at the Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival come from all over the world, providing diverse audiences with a glimpse into the Jewish experience.

**September 16, September 20, September 27, October 4, October 11, October 14**

For more information, contact Sarah Wilschek: 330.746.3250 ext. 123 or swilschek@jewishyoungstown.org

---

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

---

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.

**Dates:** July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7
**Time:** 9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
**Location:** 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

---

Diaper Packing with Making Kids Count

The Making Kids Count Diaper Bank Volunteers repack diapers in quantities of 25 diapers per size with saran wrap and labels. This ensures that more people are able to receive a pack of diapers and that the diapers are being distributed as more of an “emergency” supply. Volunteers wrap 10,000 diapers into 400 packs a month!

**Dates:** Aug. 17, Sept. 14
**Times:** 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
**Location:** 7178 West Blvd, Ste E, Youngstown, Ohio 44512

---

Pool Party

Swim in our full-size heated pool and enjoy time at our onsite pavilion. Maximum party size is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

**Party Size up to 25 Guests- Party time:** 12:00-3:00 p.m. or 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** $165/Member | $220/Non Member

Pricing includes: One hour in the pool and one hour in the party room

**Cost:** $225/Members | $281/Non Member

Pricing includes: One hour in the pool and one hour in the party room

*Add a mermaid to your party for $75/hour

---

Pool Bash

Swim in our full-size heated pool and enjoy our onsite pavilion. We will provide pizza, chips and drinks. Maximum party size is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

**Party Size up to 25 Guests- Party time:** 12:00-3:00 p.m. or 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** $300/Member | $400/Non Member

Pricing includes: One hour in the pool and one hour in the party room

*Add a mermaid to your party for $75/hour

---

FEDERATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

---

RENTALS

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

---

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.

---

LOGAN CAMPUS RENTALS

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

---

18 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine July 2018
Pavilion at Logan Campus

A large, covered, outdoor pavilion with round tables you can decorate to suit your theme. Invited guests who are non members must pay price of admission. Maximum capacity is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

Pavilion Time: 12:00-3:00 p.m. or 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Cost: $75/Member | $100/Non Member
$150/Member | $200/Non Member - all day rental

JCC Golf Outing and Impact Dinner

The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown’s 20th Annual Suzi Solomon Golf Classic and Impact Dinner was June 11 at Squaw Creek-Avalon Golf and Country Club in Vienna. About 130 golfers participated in the golf outing and around 220 people attended the impact dinner following the golf event. To see a video showing the impact the JCC made in 2017, go to the JCC website – jccyoungstown.org.

Art Exhibit: Images from Domestic Bliss and Other Selected Works by Susan Copich

Exhibit Dates: May 14 – July 12

The exhibition of photographs from the acclaimed series, Domestic Bliss, explores domesticity, marriage, and motherhood through a uniquely dark and witty lens featuring the artist herself and her family members as subjects. Copich is a Youngstown native.
Jacob Silverman

Jacob Silverman graduated from Ursuline High School May 28. While attending Ursuline, Jacob achieved the Academic Excellence Award for maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher all four years.

He was a member of the National Honor Society. He was selected to serve on the NHS board and to speak at the 2018 induction ceremony. He served on Student Council as treasurer for three years and on the executive board his senior year.

He was awarded Academic Excellence in British Literature and American History. At the Youngstown State University English Festival, he won second place in the cartoon category, and placed second in the YSU Dom Leone Writing Competition. A member of the Art Club, he won second place for his drawing. He was a member of the Spanish Club and served as an officer all four years. He was on the planning committee for “La Fiesta De Las Americas” an annual community event hosted at UHS.

He was awarded the UHS Service Award for Student Ambassador representing UHS at events, and was a member of Students of Stewardship. He annually volunteered for UHS Alumni Auction, The Home and School Reverse Raffle and “All that Glitters Green and Gold Fashion Show,” Ursuline Day of Service, and Youngstown Cityscape.

He served on the committee for the annual Ursuline Mooney Week festivities and was on the executive planning committee for the Senior Rally. As a petition reader of the Liturgy Committee, he was selected to read a petition at Graduation Baccalaureate. He was awarded the A.P. O’Horo scholarship. Jacob was a member of Temple El Emeth, where he volunteered with Youth Services for the holidays and attended “The Partnership Together Teens Mega Mission to Israel.” He also works at Jimmy’s Italian Store.

Jacob will continue his education in the fall at The Ohio State University, where he will study computer science. He is the son of Marc and Janine Silverman and the brother of Shawn, Courtney, Jaclyn and Samuel. He’s the grandson of Estelle Silverman and the late Charles Silverman and John J. Giannini and Carol Giannini.

Shira Solomon

Shira Solomon graduated from Ursuline High School in May. She is the daughter of Stephanie Solomon and Jeffrey Solomon, and the granddaughter of Martin and Sue Solomon, Kathy Renas, and the late Suzi Solomon. At Ursuline, she was a member of Students of Stewardship.

She will attend Duquesne University in the fall to study criminal justice. She received a scholarship to Duquesne.

Welcome Baby Ezra

Ezra Albert Katz was welcomed into this world on May 2. Ezra is the son of Dr. Brian Katz and Dr. Ashley Smith-Katz of Bexley, Ohio, and is the grandson of Catherine and Atty. Louis Katz of Canfield, Ohio and Joan and Dr. Daniel Smith of Stow, Ohio.
In Jerusalem, Backgammon Becomes Peacemaker Between Jews and Arabs

JTA - By Larry Luxner

JERUSALEM — On a balmy evening recently, Arabs and Jews trickled into a leper colony in a leafy neighborhood in Jerusalem, the pulsating rhythms of music by DJ Ramzy echoing off stone walls. The Jews, Muslims and Christians who filled a large room here hadn’t come to seek cures for a biblical disease. (The leper colony long ago was emptied and is now a municipal art and design center called Beit Hansen.)

Rather, the assembled had come for something much more important: backgammon.

They appeared to be from backgrounds as diverse as Jerusalem itself: a Jewish boy sporting a Captain America kippah, a working-class Arab man, an elegant blonde woman in her 60s, a bespectacled Arab boy no older than 10, a yeshiva educator from a Yemenite family.

With music blaring from loudspeakers, the competitors squeezed together at long tables and hunched over backgammon boards, their brows scrunched in concentration.

“This is not a competition between enemies. We just want to come and play,” said Matan Hayat, 28, a religious school teacher in this city’s Katamon neighborhood. “Here we have leftists, right-wingers, Orthodox Jews and Arab Muslims. We have all become friends.”

The backgammon competition, Jerusalem Double, is the brainchild of Kulna Yerushalayim, a group that seeks to bring together Jews and Arabs in Israel in non-political, non-hostile settings.

Zaki Djemal, a London-born Israeli entrepreneur, founded the effort together with a group of friends seven years ago with group singalongs of Arabic and Hebrew songs. Nowadays, Kulna Yerushalayim -- Arabic for “We are all Jerusalem” -- runs everything from backgammon competitions to Arabic-language tours of western Jerusalem landmarks like the Israel Museum and Mahane Yehuda market for Arab Jerusalemites who have never explored many Jewish parts of the city.

“So far, more than 6,000 people have come to our events, and there’s an even broader following online,” said Djemal, a 30-year-old Harvard graduate who studied behavioral economics. Backgammon is an ideal game for bringing Jews and Arabs together, Djemal says. Known in both Arabic and Hebrew as shesh-besh, the game long has been a staple of Middle Eastern culture.

“In Israel, backgammon resonates with a lot of people because it’s so well-known and everyone has a backgammon story,” Djemal said. “Maybe their grandfather taught them, or they learned in military reserves.”

“The mystery -- the mystery of how the game was invented is still unknown,” said John Elkayam, who is of Moroccan origin. “It speaks to people. It’s super accessible, it’s fun, it’s engaging, and it offers a way to bring people from different backgrounds together.

Kamel Jabarin, a 34-year-old youth leader from eastern Jerusalem’s Shuafat neighborhood, is also part of the Kulna team and has been working on Arab-Jewish projects for nearly a decade. When Arab-Jewish tensions increase -- as they have recently -- the need for collaborative activities like these grows, he said.

“Sometimes we do talk about politics; it’s not that nobody talks about it,” Jabarin said. “But this is more for friendship. Djemal grew up in Jerusalem and during his military service was a news editor for Israel’s Army Radio. Following a trip to Nepal after his army service, he became active in humanitarian issues. He is involved with Tevel B’Tzedek, an Israeli nonprofit agency that does community development work in Nepal and African countries.

But with Palestinian-Israeli relations at a low point, putting together events like these can be challenging. The group had a backgammon competition scheduled the day that President Donald Trump announced he was moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and the Arab participants pulled out.

“We canceled it because our Arab partners said it would be inappropriate to celebrate anything on that day,” Djemal said. “For every small step we make, a statement like that can take us millions of steps back.”

Noa Talel, 30, the Jewish chairwoman of Kulna Yerushalayim’s board, says Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem have dwindling patience with each other, making efforts like the backgammon competitions so important.

“Jerusalem is always a sensitive subject and there will always be tensions,” she said. “In fact, this motivates us even more to form stronger bonds between us and the Palestinians.”

This month, as Jerusalem’s Muslims mark Ramadan, Kulna Yerushalayim is passing out dates and water each evening when the fast ends.

In January, the group held a backgammon tournament at the Knesset, organized in cooperation with Arab-Israeli parliamentarian Zouheir Bahloul of the Zionist Union party. Fifteen Knesset members participated; the winner was Likud’s Oren Hazan.

“At the end of the day, people just want to live their lives on both sides,” Djemal said. “But when you focus on small victories that can improve relationships on a grassroots level, you see lots of meaningful results.”
How Geopolitics Keeps Israel Out of World Cup Contention

JTA - New York
By Charles Dunst

Recently, Saudi Arabia and Russia opened the 2018 FIFA World Cup tournament before 81,000 fans at Moscow’s Luzhniki Stadium amid concerns over the host’s human rights record.

While Saudi Arabia and Iran will serve as this year’s Middle Eastern hopefuls, Israel has failed to reach soccer’s quadrennial competitive mountaintop since 1970, in Mexico.

It’s not wholly for want of talent or trying, but perhaps because of a political and geographic decision that keeps Israel from playing its closest neighbors.

In 2018 World Cup qualifying, Israel competed in the Union of European Football Association’s Group G along with 2012 champions Spain and 2006 champion Italy, as well as Albania, Macedonia and Liechtenstein. Israel’s bordering neighbors -- with the exception of Egypt, an African state that is part of the Confederation of African Football -- played in the Asian Football Confederation, or AFC.

That makes for tough sledding for the Israelis, who are forced to face perennial powerhouse like Spain and Italy. (Even still, Israel managed to put up strong performances, losing 1-0 to both of their formidable squads.)

The Israeli Football Association once competed in the Asian confederation, initially joining in 1954. But many AFC members soon initiated a sporting boycott of Israel. The boycott reached a fever pitch in 1958: Israel, in qualifying for the year’s World Cup, won its group in the African and Asian zone without facing a single opponent, due to politically motivated withdrawals by Turkey, Indonesia and Sudan.

Although Israel continued to compete within the AFC, hosting and winning its 1964 Cup, rivals from mostly Muslim countries -- including Afghanistan, Indonesia and Iran -- pulled out of the competition, generating an unprecedented, unnecessarily Lilliputian bracket featuring Israel, India, South Korea and Hong Kong.

In 1974, amid growing pan-Arab nationalism and solidarity with the Palestinian people, the AFC expelled Israel from the confederation in a 17-13 vote organized and led by Kuwait. That forced the Jewish state into 20 years of wandering in the soccer desert. Israel eventually secured full membership in UEFA, the European bloc, in 1994. Israel remains the only state in UEFA not to maintain any territory on the European continent.

Israel says it found an amiable, if not always easy, refuge in Europe.

“We prefer our clubs and national teams playing at the European level,” Shlomi Barzel, a spokesman for the Israeli Football Federation, told JTA. “We find a warm, welcoming and challenging home in Europe.”

Still, European soccer culture can be antagonistic toward Jews, ostensibly “Jewish” teams and visiting Israelis.

When Hapoel Tel Aviv played the Siroki
Brez club in Bosnia in 2007, Brez fans shouted “Sieg Heil” and made Nazi salutes. During a 2013 Budapest-hosted friendly between the Hungarian and Israeli national teams, fans of the former greeted the latter with chants of “stinking Jews” and “Heil Benito Mussolini.”

Despite growing European anti-Semitism, Israel still appears to see its players as goodwill ambassadors of the country’s values. (For example, the team captain, Bibras Nathko, is a Muslim Circassian.) If playing in Europe hurts its World Cup chances, it also gives Israel validation as a Western, tolerant and democratic country.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on its official cultural page dedicated to sports, prominently advertises that “Israel’s athletes such as … soccer player Yossi Benayoun (who played for England’s renowned Chelsea FC), regularly make an impact and a name for themselves,” adding that “Israeli soccer players are having an increasing impact on the world stage, with 20 Israeli soccer players currently playing in top European clubs.”

Anti-Israel bias has “absolutely no effect” on the team’s ability to compete internationally, Barzel told JTA, speaking on behalf of the federation.

“We enjoy good hospitality wherever we visit and [we are] happy to host all visitors,” he said. “We are sure that the feeling is mutual.”

Except, of course, in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Lebanon, among other AFC and Confederation of African Football members, who refuse to allow their respective athletes to compete against Israelis.

The Israeli federation, however, refuses to either entertain or pontificate upon the merits of a potential return to the Asian conference, although the confederation is comprised of states that on the soccer pitch are demonstrably inferior to those in Europe.

Asked if Israel would have a better chance in World Cup qualifying if competing in Asia, Barzel provided a defiant and frank rejoinder: “No.”

Similarly, asked if Israel would be willing to return to the AFC by invitation, Barzel responded similarly.

“No, we are staying in Europe.”
(DASH & SPLASH continued from page 23)