ON THE COVER:
120 Golfers Participate in 2019 JCC Suzi Solomon Golf Classic
(Pictured is Jill Harmon)
see page 18

INSIDE:
Valley Natives Lead Project for Needy in Israel
see page 3

Sheldon Low, Jewish Musician and Educator, Visits Area
see page 19
I have been sitting at the computer for the last half hour doing everything but writing this story. I don’t know how I want to start to talk about two wonderful people, Abe and Ida Finesilver, my in-laws. For many years, they owned a small grocery store in Brier Hill on Delaware Avenue. I’m not sure, but I think the store might be gone.

They opened the store in 1931, and in the beginning, Ida ran the store and Abe had another job. This was a pretty good arrangement until Ida gave birth to their last child, Joy. Then Abe worked in the store and Ida took care of their children, Sylvia, Alvin and Joy, until she was able to go back to working with Abe. They worked well together and raised a beautiful family together.

They also became a very important part of the neighborhood. Abe managed to learn several languages - Greek, Italian, etc., enough to be able to talk to all of his neighbors. During their time in the store, some of the small grocers joined together and formed the United Grocers Association. This gave the small stores the ability to buy in a group and also to advertise in a group. It was very successful for many years until the chain stores managed to ease out the small ones.

During that time they went through The Great Depression with many other people and businesses, at least one fire in the store and one at home. It always amazes me the number of people who will stop me and ask if I was related. It makes me very proud to say yes. It seems that most people remember them from the Depression and how wonderful and generous they were. They wrote down what customers wanted in a little black book, and if they ever had the money, they could pay it back. They never asked for a payment, and that is how so many remember them. Some have even broken down in tears when they told me what they remembered.

Of course, one hand washes the other. When the store burned down, the whole neighborhood pitched in and helped them any way they could. Or what do we say now? “Pay it back.”

Some remember when my husband Alvin, as a teenager, drove the truck to make deliveries. Inevitably, he was invited in for some delicious meals. Now and then he would be known to borrow the truck and drive a friend, who sat on a box because the only seat in the car was the driver’s.

This was definitely a family business, with Abe and Ida in the store. Any time they wanted to get away, someone from the family substituted for them. Sometimes Sylvia, who was the oldest, but usually Joy, who was the youngest. They even asked me once to take over; mostly to work the cash register. How did that go? Well, let’s put it this way, they never asked me again.

If you remember the older stores, they usually had a cat on the premises to take care of mice. Theirs was a pretty little cat. One day I went grocery shopping with my son and saw the cat had kittens. Guess what came home with the groceries? We also had a dachshund at the time, and they had the best time chasing the live mice the cat brought home.

In 1962, they sold the store to Teddy, who had been with them a very long time. I think they thought of him as part of the family. This freed them up to pursue other ventures. Dad started selling insurance with Allen Dreyfus, and I think he really enjoyed the change. Mom was able to spend more time with her friends and various organizations she didn’t have much time for while working. Abe died in 1970 and Ida died in 1974. I miss them almost as much as I miss my mother and father, Esther and Sam Bonow. They left us with a wonderful legacy of kindness and thoughtfulness we will never forget.

This Yiddish Word Kicked off the Scripps National Spelling Bee Finals

By Lior Zaltzman

It’s Yiddish for the win at the Scripps National Spelling Bee! OK, not quite, but when the first rounds of the finals kicked off, the word Yiddishkeit nearly stumped contestant No. 5, Rishik Gandshari from San Jose, California.

The seventh-grader didn’t quite know what to make of the quintessentially Jewish word, which the contest defined as “a Jewish way of life.” After asking what the language of origin of the word was, and receiving the answer “Yiddish,” Rishik chuckled nervously: “I don’t know what I expected.” (He’s smart and funny!)

On Twitter, avid Bee watchers (you know who you are!) were stunned as well by the challenging first word, which, let’s face it, not many 12-year-olds, Jewish or otherwise, are familiar with.

But Rishik is a spelling bee veteran and a total pro - he made it all the way to the sixth round at last year’s competition, and was valiant about being eliminated. What a mensch! (Hey, spelling bee runner-people, maybe that’s a good word for next year?) Despite his initial hesitation, he managed to spell Yiddishkeit and ascend to the next round.

Bizarrely, later in the afternoon, Rishik was dealt another Jewish word, this time a Hebrew one: In round 8, he also spelled the word keriah, the traditional Jewish mourning ritual of tearing one’s clothes.

This is quite an amazing feat because, according to FiveThirtyEight, Hebrew words have been the toughest words to spell at the competition, with more than half of them stumping contestants over the years. Looks like Rishik managed to avoid that fate!

A Yiddish word helped propel a contestant to the next round: Enya Hubers of Ontario, Canada, aced the spelling of lekach, the Ashkenazi honey cake served on Rosh Hashanah. What a sweet victory, and mazel tov to both of these young pros!

Meanwhile, for the first time in the 92-year history of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the competition named eight co-champions, including Rishik. The organizers ran out of words to challenge the finalists!

This story originally appeared on Kveller.
Youngstown Natives Run Israeli Project That Helps Needy

By Elise Skolnick

Some people see those little bottles of shampoo and lotions in a hotel bathroom as a convenience. Others just ignore them. Judy Nisman and Janet Agassi see them as answers.

The twins, who are originally from Youngstown, now live in Israel. It was there they started the Soapbox Project.

About 15 years ago, Agassi was a member of the local Lions Club, an organization dedicated to helping the disadvantaged in cooperation with city welfare departments, when she received a call from the Welfare Department of Herzlia, where she lived at the time.

Almost on a daily basis, a social worker told Agassi, many teenage girls in the lower income part of the city were shly asking the school secretary for sanitary pads and tampons because they could not afford them. These girls, many who also came from homes of abuse and drugs, more often than not arrived at school looking unkempt, only adding to their lack of self-esteem.

“How sad and embarrassing it must be for them to have to ask the school secretary for something as basic as sanitary pads,” Agassi said. “Needless to say, they could hardly afford such basic items as deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.”

Agassi posted the story online, sent it to email lists, and contacted pharmacies and dentists asking for donations of money or toiletries to help.

“Donations and funds started to come in and we were able to provide individual bags of toiletries on a weekly basis to these needy girls and boys,” she said.

But it didn’t stop there. A woman who belonged to an international organization of women in hi-tech called Agassi.

“She had a simple, but brilliant idea that would not cost anyone a dime,” Agassi said.

She suggested asking people who travel a lot for work to collect their unopened, complimentary hotel toiletries and donate them to the needy.

“The Soapbox Project was born,” Agassi said.

Her sister added, “Travelers often leave or take these items home and never use them. One person told us she has been collecting these for years and never knew what to do with them.”

Project Soapbox partners with corporations, schools, synagogues, community organizations, and travel agencies to collect the most basic personal health care products which many cannot afford, Nisman added. Also, several young people have made it their bar or bat mitzvah volunteer project.

“Even my 6-year-old granddaughter, Shai, introduced the project to her classmates by making a presentation that was required of each student,” Nisman said.

They donate the items to families at risk, needy combat soldiers, impoverished Holocaust survivors, women’s shelters, disadvantaged immigrants, and many more.

The Soapbox Project is completely volunteer run. Nisman said they keep going because “the poverty rate in Israel is one of the highest in the Western world. If you can’t afford food, you certainly can’t afford soap and shampoo.”

Agassi and Nisman are the daughters of Abe and Florence Harshman.

“Our parents were amazing mentors and role models for instilling the value and importance of community service, helping the disadvantaged, and doing volunteer work to make the world a better place – even if it sounds like a

Soapbox continued on page 23

Janet Agassi (left) and Judy Nisman started the Soapbox Project to help the needy with basic items such as shampoo and toothpaste.
Temple El Emeth Events

July 9
The Temple El Emeth annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Committee reports will be given, new officers will be elected and installed. Sisterhood will provide refreshments following the meeting.

July 11 and 12
The Liberty Food Pantry will have its distribution of food on Friday, July 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Set up is Thursday evening, July 11, from 7 to 8 p.m. Anyone wishing to volunteer should call the El Emeth office and names will be passed on to the Pantry chairs.

July 12
Klezmer Shabbat will take place at the home of Terry and Sam Roth. The musical service begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature Klezmer musicians Lori Cahan-Simon, Walt Mahovlich, and Steven Greenman. Guests can sit outside or inside on the porch area. The Roths will host a light supper following the service. Please call El Emeth to RSVP by July 8.

July 20
A Shabbat Service and Kiddush Luncheon will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. July birthdays will be celebrated. Please RSVP to the Temple.

July 28
Our Indoor Outdoor Picnic will be held at the Synagogue. Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with the picnic beginning at 6 p.m. Guests can eat indoors in the gallery or outside on the patio. Traditional picnic food such as burgers, hot dogs, and barbequed chicken will be served along with side dishes. Vegetarian options will be available. There is no charge for members, $15 for associate and non-members. Entertainment will be by Daniel Shapira. Reservations are due by July 25.

July 31
El Emeth will volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank along with members of Rodef Sholom and Ohev Tzedek from 5 to 7 p.m. Please call the office if you would like to help. We will carpool from Temple.
Shavuot Reflections

By Sandy Kessler
Ohev Tzedek Religious Leader

We recently celebrated the last of the three pilgrimage festivals of Pesach (Passover), Sukkot (Tabernacles) and Shavuot (Weeks). Of the three, Shavuot is definitely the outlier. Each of the other holidays is clearly connected by time and history. The Torah gives us the exact days Pesach and Sukkot are to be observed and tie the first to the Exodus and the second to the shelters used by the Israelites during the time of their many year journey to the promised land. Shavuot is to be celebrated 50 days after the second day of Passover and is to be an ingathering celebrating the first harvest of the summer after seven times seven days of counting the Omer (sheaf) but with no historical tie. This holiday also differed from Pesach and Sukkot in that there are no particular religious rituals connected to it. This must not have been comfortable for the ancient rabbis who, sometime after the destruction of the second Temple in 70 CE, decided that the holiday should be associated with the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, connecting Shavuot finally to time and history.

It seems like this was a wise decision since the theophany at Sinai was the seminal moment in transforming the people from a tribal group into a society that was to be holy - so why not celebrate it with a holiday. Thus, we celebrate Shavuot as Z’man Matan Torah – the time of the giving (and accepting) of the Torah. But this was not the only profound addition the Rabbis made to our Pilgrimage holidays. They assigned the reading of a megillah (scroll or writing) to each of these three holidays and made the connection between each of these writings quite beautiful. The Song of Songs read on Pesach is a duet that speaks of the love between two people – a young and passionate love. One of the lines in the Sukkot reading of Ecclesiastes is “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou loveth all the days of the life of thy vanity,” clearly speaking of a mature love between a man and a woman. And the book of Ruth speaks not only of the love that a daughter-in-law found for her mother-in-law but also of the love that a wife found for her husband. Shavuot is to be an ingathering celebrating the time of the giving (and accepting) of the Torah.

Shavuot continued on page 23
Liptalk: Changes at JCC Main and Logan Campuses

A Message from Andy Lipkin
Federation Executive Vice-President

If you've been to the JCC Main or Logan Campuses lately, you've likely seen some of the exciting changes happening. If not, you're missing a lot!

Just look behind the JCC for one of the more visible additions - a large pavilion. This space includes bathrooms and a kitchenette and seats 200 to 250 people. A grill will soon be available, and picnic tables are on the way. Our summer campers will use this space extensively during camp. We have record numbers of youngsters this year, and the pavilion is the perfect home for these campers. They have easy access to bathrooms and have been happily enjoying popsicles stored in the kitchen.

But that's not all we envision for the pavilion. We can use it for community programming and include it in our rental options. It will be a great place for someone to host a party! It will be good for our own programming, too, as a recent performance by Jewish musician and educator Sheldon Low for our preschool children and campers showed.

Two important parts of our campus - the pool, which is inside, and Noah's Park, which is outside - are now more smoothly connected through an updated ramp. And the quarter mile walking trail that begins at the JCC parking lot and winds through the campus behind Noah's Park has been freshened up. The path was paved and trees were trimmed. A second entrance to Noah's Park was also added for easy access from the pavilion.

Adjacent to the pavilion is a new open play space. This space was left open intentionally so it can be used for a variety of activities. Possibilities include basketball or a safety town. We needed more multi-use space and this is perfect.

Next to the pavilion, pickleball courts are nearly complete. These four courts will be the Valley's first sanctioned outdoor competitive-grade courts. Included will be seating and shaded areas. The courts will be available daily for open or organized play. In August, the JCC will hold its first outdoor pickleball tournament.

Another project on the campus that isn’t as visible as these but needed to be done is the replacement of the roof over Akiva Academy. This big project is currently underway. Inside the JCC building, work is being done to create two new preschool classrooms. They will be finished in time for the new school year and will enable us to grow our preschool program.

I can't forget to mention the changes on the Logan Campus. We've had problems with umbrellas blowing over, but we want to be able to provide shade. So we added sun shades to cover a large area. They’re attractive and block the sun. Unnecessary fencing around the tennis courts has been removed to make them more accessible. And new furniture will soon be added. The Logan Campus is a wonderful summer spot for members (if it ever stops raining) but also serves other functions. Recently, a community Shabbat with Sheldon Low was held on the Campus. I was pleased to see well over 100 people, young and old, enjoying it.

These two campuses provide us with a wealth of opportunities. There is a lot to be proud of already, and we continue to make improvements regularly. If you haven't visited lately, please stop by. Happy Summer!

New sun shades have been added to the Logan Campus. They cover a large area, helping to block the sun for those who want some shade.
Ohio Jewish Communities Statement on Substitute House Bill 166

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Director of Community Relations/Government Affairs Urges Passage of Bill

The Ohio Senate’s newly released amended version of the state’s operating budget - Sub. HB 166 - includes key funding for nonprofit security needs in the wake of a sharp rise in terror attacks and attempted attacks on houses of worship, faith based institutions, cause-based nonprofits, and individuals identifiable as members of religious, racial, or ethnic minorities.

“This is the type of legislation to help us leverage our philanthropic dollars to keep our community safe,” said Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Federation director of community relations/government affairs. “The needs we see here are in hardening the physical campus and in deploying security personnel. These programs address both directly. And we are especially grateful to our own local Senators Rulli and O’Brien, as well as the Mahoning Valley delegation in the House, for their leadership. We urge immediate passage of the bill.”

The House-passed version of HB 166 included $2.75 million per year of the biennium for target hardening grants to help protect vulnerable nonprofits. The Senate adds an additional $250,000 per year to that appropriation, bringing the target hardening total to $3 million per year.

The Senate also adds a $1.25 million per year appropriation to a matching grant program so that nonprofits such as chartered nonpublic schools and synagogues can hire armed security personnel, including school resource officers and special duty police.

“A terror plot foiled by law enforcement in Toledo just months ago is bookended by the terror attacks at synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway. Not a week - or a day - goes by without a new violent anti-Semitic attack somewhere,” said Howie Beigelman, Ohio Jewish Communities executive director. “The KKK came to Dayton. Christians are killed at Easter services in Sri Lanka. African American churches are firebombed in Louisiana. And Muslims are gunned down at Christchurch mosques. Houses of worship, schools, and community centers should be safe spaces, but instead have become potential targets. We commend the leadership for acting now, before it is too late. We support this budget and recommend its passage by the full Senate as well as urging House and Senate conference to keep these vital, lifesaving appropriations in the final budget.”

As FBI statistics and reporting by the ADL show, incidences of violent attacks on religious minorities in the U.S. are on the rise. News media internationally record a disturbing trend in attacks on Jewish institutions and individuals.

“We express our communities’ deep gratitude to legislative leaders in both chambers who led on this issue,” added Beigelman. “Senate President Larry Obhof has understood this need for years, and made this a priority issue. We are likewise appreciative of the support from other Senate leaders, including Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, President Pro Tem Bob Peterson, Majority Floor Leader Matt Huffman, and Assistant Minority Leader Cecil Thomas. Finance Chairman Matt Dolan took an early interest in working this issue and we appreciate too the bipartisan support of the committee, led by ranking member Vernon Sykes. Senator Kirk Schuring took an untiring role as lead sponsor of the personnel amendment which was also offered and supported by a bipartisan roster of individual senators: Senators Nickie Antonio, Andrew Brenner; Hecarcel Craig, Teresa Fedor; Stephanie Kunze, and Michael Rulli.

“In the House we know that nothing could have happened on this issue without the support of Speaker Larry Householder; and we are grateful as well for the support of Minority Leader Emilia Sykes. We commend Speaker Pro Tem Jim Butler for his support and effort on this and also are thankful for the leadership of Majority Leader Bill Seitz. On the minority side, we couldn’t have asked for stronger advocates than Reps. Boggs and Kent Smith. Our bipartisan trio of lead sponsors in the House were Reps. Dave Greenspan, former Montgomery County sheriff Phil Plummer, and Casey Weinstein. Chairman Scott Oelslager was generous in giving his time because he cared deeply regarding the underlying need, and as in the Senate, the committee led on this issue with true bipartisanship for which we thank Ranking Member Jack Cera. Other members of the House who submitted and supported these amendments were Reps. Antani, Carfagna, Carruthers, Crawley, Ginter, Green, Keller; Kelly, McClain, Miranda, Patton, Rogers, and Romanchuk.”

The Senate version also funds another key priority; the Ohio-Israel Agricultural & Cleantech Initiative maintains its current funding level of $250,000 per year over the biennium. This is a unique, and now oft-imitated but never quite replicated initiative that connects Ohio and Israel in business partnerships, commercial opportunities, technology transfer arrangements, and research and development collaborations across two critical industries.

“I’ve seen firsthand the work of OIACI,” said Beigelman, who sits on the Initiative’s Advisory Board, “And, I know the return on that modest state investment is manifold in the benefits it brings to both states and to the startups, small and medium sized businesses, universities, and research institutions looking to innovate and to solve real-world problems, including some of Ohio’s most pressing environmental challenges.”

Ohio Jewish Communities is the statewide government advocacy, public affairs, and community relations voice of Ohio’s eight Jewish federations and their agencies.

Federation Selected As Host Employer for Internship Program

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation was selected for the sixth year as a host employer for the Youngstown State University Nonprofit Leadership Summer Honors Internship Program funded by the the Raymond John Wean Foundation. Jason McQuown, a graduating senior, is working with the accounting department through August. McQuown is receiving his degree in accounting and financial management. The Federation hosted the professional development student seminar in May. Ten YSU interns visited the campus for a learning session and tour. Pictured from left to right are Pam Stoklosa, human resources director; McQuown; and Dave Stauffer, CFO.
Keynote Speaker Discusses Hate Crimes at Annual Meeting

Hate crimes and anti-Semitism expert Cynthia M. Deitle was the keynote speaker at the 2019 Federation Annual Meeting in May.

Deitle, programs and operations director for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, oversees that organization’s hate crimes work, community outreach, and events.

Hate crimes are on the rise, Deitle said, sharing a few statistics. In 2015, the number was 5,000, 2016 had 6,000, and 2018 7,000. She noted the most victimized religious community from hate crimes are Jews, the most victimized racial community are African Americans, and the most victimized LGBT community are gay men.

A photo of Mary Ann Vecchio screaming as she knelt over the body of Jeffrey Miller after he was killed by the Ohio National Guard at Kent State University May 4, 1970 motivated Deitle to pursue a career with the FBI. She wanted to help make sure something similar didn’t happen again. She mentioned the Sandy’s Scrapbook exhibit in the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery during her talk. The exhibit features ephemera from scrapbooks and other objects Sandy Scheuer kept over the course of her life. Scheuer was killed at Kent State on May 4.

Prior to joining the Matthew Shepard Foundation in 2017, Deitle spent ten years in the New York division of the FBI. While there, she served as the lead investigative agent for many high-profile police brutality investigations and investigated a significant number of sensitive hate crimes cases. Later she was promoted to Civil Rights Unit Chief in 2008, where she devoted considerable resources to address the FBI’s Cold Case Initiative which seeks to reexamine unsolved racially-motivated homicides from the Civil Rights Era.

During her time in the FBI, Deitle provided assistance to the victims of the 9/11 tragedy and the Boston Marathon bombing to ensure that they were offered the services to which they were entitled.

Awards were also presented at the meeting. This year’s recipient of the Abe Harshman Leadership Award was Wendy Weiss. Jeannie and Gerry Peskin were the recipients of the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award. Alan Kretzer, immediate past Federation president, and Harold Davis, immediate past Jewish Community Center advisory board president, were also recognized for their work.
Heritage Manor Program Will Discuss Benefits Available to Wartime Veterans

Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community will host a program by the Senior Veterans Administration Services of Ohio (S.V.A.S.O.) to discuss tax-free income available to wartime veterans and their surviving spouses at 2 p.m., Friday, July 12 at Heritage Manor, 517 Gypsy Lane.

They will mainly discuss the Aid & Attendance Improved Pension Benefit, which is available to veterans who were in active service during a time of war, and to their surviving spouses and dependent children.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bobbie at 330-746-1076, ext. 207.

S.V.A.S.O. is a nonprofit organization that provides information to qualifying veterans and surviving spouses who wish to understand more about VA-sponsored benefits, specifically the Aid & Attendance Improved Pension Benefit.

The Life Stories of Jewish Elders Project

By Elizabeth Lehman

As a graduate assistant in the American Studies master’s program at Youngstown State University, I was looking for something to do over summer break that would complement my studies.

I reached out to my AmeriCorps VISTA representative to see what options were available. She told me about a few assignments that were possibilities, but one stood out to me immediately. Jewish Family Services is piloting a new program starting this summer, the Life Stories project. The goal of the project is to spend time with approximately ten members of the community, discussing their life stories. The conversations will be turned into a short book that will be presented to the individual at the end of the summer.

I am extremely excited to work on this amazing project.

JFS Outreach Coordinator, Shay Kahani, LSW, is supervising the Life Stories project. She has researched narrative therapy as used as a technique in counseling and the research shows that this project can have positive effects. Research shows talking about one’s life story can help to improve health and quality of life, dispel feelings of loneliness, and establish a sense of belonging to the Jewish community. The project will not only create a personal memory for the seniors and their families, but also provide the seniors the opportunity to see themselves as part of a historical landscape that spans the entire community.

During my ten weeks of service this summer, my plan is to write five to ten books. The books will be presented to the seniors with the objective of creating a personal memory and keepsake for them and their families. The long-term goal of this project is to reach out to many more seniors in the community and write their stories, too.

The books will be presented to the seniors at 6 p.m., Monday, August 12 at the Jewish Community Center.

Painting at Heritage Manor

Susan Jacobs, a local artist, meets with Heritage Manor residents and Adult Day Services participants twice a month to give them an opportunity to paint. Residents choose their own subject matter, and Jacobs works with them on color selection and technique. Pictured is Edith Jackson.
New Artwork at Levy Gardens

Levy Gardens tenants worked with Kathryn Infante to create pieces of art. Pictured from left to right are (front row) Kathryn Infante, Lela Hough, (back row) Caroline Charles, Joe Levy, Manya Tsitrin, Rosemary Billock, and Helen Leebaw.

By Kathryn Infante

Art class at Levy Gardens is always lively! Once a month we meet to work on various types of art. Everyone is welcome to attend the two-hour class. No experience is necessary and all supplies are provided. Recently, after a weaving class, we decided to combine all of the work into a collaborative piece to display at Levy Gardens. We are all born artists. Come join us and see how much fun it is.

Kathryn Infante is an award-winning artist and art and creativity instructor.

2019: The Year of Two Israeli Elections

For the first time in its history, Israel will hold a second national election in one year, five months after the election in April. Adam L. Fuller, associate professor at Youngstown State University, explained what caused it and what it means for the future of Israel’s Jewish and democratic character at an event June 20.

“Obviously, we’re all very concerned about what’s going on,” he said. “Two elections in just one year, and there is, in fact, no guarantee the second election will even conclude this ongoing crisis of Israeli democratic selection. They may go into the September election and still not be able to form a government.”

But why is this happening? Unlike the U.S., where mostly there is a choice between two parties, Israel has many parties and they have wide differences on issues, he explained.

The Israeli government operates under a proportional representation system. Elections are held every four years, unless they are called earlier. There are 120 seats in the parliament, or Knnesset. To gain a seat, a party needs to win at least 3.25 percent of the vote. Whoever wins at least 61 seats controls the government. But no party has ever won the necessary 61 seats. That means the party with the most votes has to form coalitions with other smaller parties to reach the threshold.

The system is likely a large part of the problem, he said, and it all just came crashing down this year. Sooner or later, Israel was going to become so fragmented politically, socially, economically, and religiously along every line that there was going to be a kind of institutional stalemate after an election.

“It’s actually quite surprising that it didn’t happen sooner,” Fuller said.

Fuller is associate professor of politics and international relations at YSU and a Schusterman Fellow with Brandeis University’s Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. He is the author of “Taking the Fight to the Enemy” and the forthcoming “Israel and the Neoconservatives: Zionism and American Interests.”
**Jean Freeman**

Jean Fish Freeman passed away peacefully on May 31, 2019, in Sarasota, Fla. She was the daughter of Theresa Broida Fish and David Fish of Youngstown.

Jean was married for 55 years to Paul Ralph Freeman, who died in 1998. Later, Jean moved from Youngstown with her high school sweetheart, Calvin Routh, where they spent the next 18 years enjoying the Florida sun and the next visit from her daughters and grandchildren.

Always fit and athletic, Jean was an avid golfer who took up walking in her later years. She continued to work daily crossword puzzles and watch tennis and golf to the very end.

She is survived by her three daughters, Barbara Palmer (Terry) of Glenview, Ill.; Nancy Schwachter of Arlington, Va.; and Lynn Skolnick of Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. She had four grandchildren: Stacey Pristas, Jared Palmer (Lisa), Jeffrey Schwachter (Vicki), and Dan Schwachter (Heather). She also had five great grandchildren: Ryan and Jack Pristas, Johanna and Nina Schwachter, and Madelyn Palmer. She is survived by many nieces and nephews who all gathered last year in Sarasota to celebrate her 95th birthday.

Graveside services were held at El Emeth Granada cemetery in Youngstown. Donations in Jean’s memory can be made to Aviva, 1955 N Honore Ave, Suite B1, Sarasota, Fla. 34235.

Arrangements were handled by the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral home.

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**Lillian Katzman**

Lillian Katzman was born on Oct. 17, 1934, in Youngstown to the late Abraham and Sophie Laskovich Katzman. Lillian was the youngest of three. Her sisters were Dorothy Katzman Feuer and Gertrude Katzman Gordon.

Lillian attended The Rayen School, where her lifelong passion for art was nurtured. She graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and was President of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. Upon graduation, Lillian returned to Youngstown to teach art in the Niles Public Schools and was a passionate teacher for 27 years before her retirement.

She was a lifelong painter and art collector.

Lillian was an active member of the arts community in Youngstown and Cleveland, frequently attending lectures and exhibits. She was an active member of Temple El Emeth her entire adult life.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Brian and Betsy Feuer of Columbus, Dr. Joel Feuer of Youngstown, Randy Feuer of Florida, and Daryl Gordon of Niles, and Stacy Gordon of Tennessee.

Donations in Lillian’s memory can be made to The Butler Institute of American Art.

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**Peggy Lou Laskey**

Peggy Lou Laskey, formerly of Hermitage, Pa. passed away May 27, 2019, in Clepper Manor, Sharon, Pa. She was 95.

Peggy was born March 21, 1924, in Sharon, a daughter of the late Henry and Gussie (Herskowitz) Wayne. A lifelong area resident, she was a 1941 alumna of Sharon High School where her class yearbook stated she was “a black-haired beauty destined to go places.”

Her husband, Hersh Laskey, whom she married October 24, 1942, passed away April 3, 1986. They owned Laskey’s Furniture for many years and following their retirement, enjoyed spending the winter months in Florida.

Peggy was preceded in death by three sisters, Matilda Bellman, Natalie Adler, and Eileen Gilbert; and a brother, Albert Wayne.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Buhl Park pickleball courts campaign, 715 Hazen Rd., Hermitage, Pa. 16148.

The funeral service was at Temple Beth Israel Cemetery in Hermitage. A dinner was held at Yankee Lake Ballroom following the service.

Peggy was a member of the former Temple Beth Israel, Sharon, and its Hadassah and Sisterhood. She was an exceptional homemaker and known for her delicious apple pies.

Peggy’s family was the most important aspect of her life. She was a great mother to her three sons and enjoyed attending her grandchildren’s activities until the age of 90. Loved by everyone, she will be fondly remembered as a loving lady who never said a bad word about anyone.

She is survived by her three sons, Gary Laskey (Mary), Steve Laskey (Carol), and Jay Laskey (Carol), all of Hermitage; twelve grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, a great great grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and husband, Peggy was preceded in death by three sisters, Matilda Bellman, Natalie Adler, and Eileen Gilbert; and a brother, Albert Wayne.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Buhl Park pickleball courts campaign, 715 Hazen Rd., Hermitage, Pa. 16148.

The funeral service was at Temple Beth Israel Cemetery in Hermitage. A dinner was held at Yankee Lake Ballroom following the service.
Condolences

William “Bill” Manevich

Services were at the Rodef Sholom Cemetery Chapel in Tod Cemetery on Belmont Avenue for William “Bill” Manevich, 86, who passed away Wednesday, June 5, at Heritage Manor.

Bill was born July 14, 1932, in Tientsin, China, the son of Mark and Rose Baef Manevich. The Manevich family relocated to the United States in 1938 and lived in New York City and then moved to Freehold, N.J., where they purchased and ran a chicken farm. Bill attended Stuyvesant High School in New York City and graduated from Rutgers University, majoring in agriculture.

On April 18, 1959, Bill married Donna F. Mintz and they enjoyed 46 wonderful years together, prior to her death in October of 2005. Bill began a career with New York Life Insurance Company in 1960. He was promoted to general manager, and through the years relocated several times to different offices to rebuild and restore their financial operations.

He was well respected throughout the insurance industry and received many honors and awards for his dedicated service.

He was a member of Congregation Rodef Sholom and was active in the brotherhood, in B’nai Brith Men, and Squaw Creek Country Club.

Bill had a passion for woodworking and over the years, designed and created many works of functionally and aesthetic art. He handcrafted many beautiful pieces of furniture for the Temple, including all the pulpits lecterns and stands in the Tamarkin Chapel in memory of his beloved wife, podiums for the social hall and sanctuary, and a clock in the Rabbi’s study.

After his wife’s death, Bill found love and companionship with Ellen Deutsch, with whom he spent many happy years before she passed away in 2016.

He is sadly missed by his son, David of Austintown; daughter Linda Hughes of Boardman; two grandchildren, Christopher Hughes and Deanna Manevich; many nephews; a niece; and extended family and friends.

Besides his parents and wife, Bill was preceded in death by his sister, Lucy Karadibil; a daughter, Sheri; and a grandson, Steven.

Contributions in Bill’s name may be made to Congregation Rodef Sholom or Heritage Manor.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Heritage Manor and Levy Gardens for their love, support and excellent care.

Arrangements were handled by the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home in Youngstown.

Clare Pincus

Service were at Ohev Tzedek Shaarei Torah Synagogue for Claire Pincus, 94, who passed away Sunday, June 2, 2019, at her residence with her loving family by her side.

Clare was born in Youngstown on Aug. 26, 1924 and was a daughter of Harry and Rose Neiman Schwartz and was a lifelong member of the community.

Clare was a homemaker. She also worked for General Electric and retired in 1993 as the assistant manager from Petrie’s Dress Shop, which was located in the Southern Park Mall.

She was a member of the Synagogue, Hadassah, Pioneer Women, and a graduate of East High School. She enjoyed bowling, Mah-Jongg, and Bingo along with spending time with her family. Everyone enjoyed her charm and witty sense of humor.

Clare leaves to cherish her memory a daughter, Ronda Pincus with whom she made her home; Gary (Laurel) Pincus of Bettendorf, Iowa; grandchildren Ryan (Calynn) Flynn, Scott Flynn, Ashley Pincus, Rochelle (Dave) Toth, and Becky (Rob) Ellis; and great grandchildren Aiden Ellis, Isabella Ellis, and Eliotte Flynn.

Besides her parents, Clare was preceded in death by her husband, Irvin Pincus, whom she married Oct. 26, 1947 and who passed away July 31, 1999; a daughter, Barbara Perez; brothers, Jack, Dave, Abraham, Benjamin, and William Schwartz.

The family request all contributions be made to the Edith Pincus Mitzvah Fund at Ohev Tzedek Shaarei Torah Synagogue or Hospice of the Valley, 5190 Market Street, Youngstown, OH 44512.
**PERFORMING ARTS**

**JCC School of Music**
This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! To register call the Bursar's office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**JCC School of Dance**
*Five Week Session II: Tuesday, June 25 - Monday, July 29*
*Adult Drop-In Classes: May 11, 18, June 8, July 13, & 27*

**JCC School of Dance Fall Registration**
August 8: 5:30-7:00 p.m.
August 24: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Pricing**
30 Min Class: $34/Member; $45/Non Member per session for 1st class, 30/Member; $40/Non Member per session for 2nd class
45 Min Class: $42/Member; $55/Non Member per session for 1st class, $38/Member; $50/Non Member per session for 2nd class, $34/Member; $45/Non Member per session for 3rd class
90 Min Class: $75/Member; $100/Non Member per session
Adult Drop-Ins: $15 per person

**Private Dance Lessons**
Lessons can be scheduled with any JCC School of Dance educators in half hour increments at a rate of $20/half hour. Privates can be recurring in any of the available time slots, or on an as needed basis.
*Summer Session II: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.*

**Adult Drop-In Class**
Various guest teachers lead a 90 minute Intermediate to Advanced level dance class the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, focusing on a different genre of dance ranging from hip-hop, contemporary, tap, modern, lyrical, and more.
*Session II: Saturdays 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.*
*July 13 & 27*

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**FITNESS**

**For more information on fitness programs, contact Laura Weymer at 330.746.3250 ext. 299 or lweymer@jewishyoungstown.org.**

**Personal Training**
Our nationally certified trainers will develop an individualized plan geared toward your personal goals. You’ll receive support, motivation and direction that will help you get fit fast. We also offer youth personal training for children under thirteen.
To register call: 330.746.3250 ext. 182

**Table:**

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**Health Club Services**
Take advantage of our new lower priced locker and towel rentals plus new massage offer!
*Long Locker: $10/month*
*Towel Service $10/month*
*Locker & Towel Service: $15/month*
*1 - 30 Minute Massage: $15/month*
To add on any monthly service contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**Reach Your Goals With InBody**
Are you at a standstill with your workouts, or looking for some help creating a fitness plan that achieves your personal goals? Then a personal trainer is right for you! No matter where you are in your fitness journey, our certified trainers will work with you one-on-one to build a program designed just for you! Each program uses our new InBody S70, a full body composition analysis to breakdown your body’s fat & lean mass composition, water retention, & more!
First scan is FREE to all members!
*Monthly Unlimited Scans: $15/mo (Also includes 15 minutes with Personal Trainer 1x/mo)*
*Member: $25/test*
*Non Member: $35/test*

**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.
*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.

**Mamanet**
Join other women in a modified version of volleyball. Mamanet promotes exercise, and is a great way to build community with other women.
Free and open to all.

**Open Gym:**
*Date: Wednesdays*
*Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.*
**Location:** Liberty Youth Recreation Center (The Old Liberty High School Gymnasium)
Pickleball
Join us in our brand new outdoor pickleball complex for a fun-filled game of pickleball. A cross between tennis, badminton and ping-pong, this fast-paced game is fun for players of all skill levels. Equipment is provided. During inclement weather, games will be moved to the JCC gymnasium.
**Date:** Tuesdays & Thursdays
**Time:** 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
**Location:** JCC Outdoor Pickleball Complex

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Navigating Food
Bridget Lackey, Registered dietitian nutritionist, from Mercy Health Youngstown will discuss the revised nutrition labels. We’ll also learn more about food choices and portion sizes. How much is too much?
**Date:** Thursday, July 25
**Time:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
**Location:** Adult Lounge
Register by Tuesday, July 23

NEW! JCC Summer Outdoor Pickleball Tournament
Join us as we host the JCC’s first outdoor Pickleball tournament held at our brand new competitive grade pickleball courts.
**Men’s & Women’s Doubles**
**Date:** Saturday, August 3
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.
**Location:** JCC Outdoor Pickleball Complex

Men’s, Women’s and Mixed Doubles events include 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 skill levels. The tournament coordinator may limit or combine levels based upon registration numbers. Early registration is suggested due to limited entries.
**Register by Friday, July 26**
First Event $40/person | Second Event $20/person

Featured Group Exercise Class
Boot Camp Blitz
Join us for an intense circuit class that will work every muscle in your body. We’ll move through a variety of body weight exercises designed to build strength and endurance while raising.

### AQUATICS

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

Learn to Swim and You & Me Baby lessons run as sessions on a monthly basis. The last day to register for the current month is the Friday before the second week. It will not be prorated. After that date, all registrations will be for the following month. This is to ensure the safety of all participants.

To enroll in private or group swim lessons visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

**Group Lessons**
Registration is now required for Learn to Swim lessons prior to each monthly session.

**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:** 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
**Date:** Saturdays
**Time:** 12:00 - 12:30 p.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
**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

Featured Group Aquatic Class: Water in Motion
Condition your cardiovascular system in this lighter version of water aerobics. The routines are designed to be low impact yet stimulating. This is a SilverSneakers® approved class.
Dates: Mon/Wed
Times: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

PALS+ Private Swimming Lessons
The JCC offers free one-on-one swim lessons for persons who are on the autism spectrum or who have developmental disabilities. This program is funded by Autism Speaks and the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.
To apply visit jccyoungstown.org/pals.

SwimSafe 500
This program provides free swim safety lessons for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Scholarships are provided by The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and The Redwoods Group.
To apply visit jccyoungstown.org/swimsafe500.

CAMP JCC
For more information on Camp, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

Registration Now Open!
Camp JCC provides a safe, fun environment for campers to build lifelong friendships through unforgettable adventures and quality care. 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!
Specialty camps are either one or two weeks, and provide campers with experiences focused on specific areas of interest. These camps include: 3D Printing, YSU Playmakers, Mad Science, and new Snapology Lego camp and Crayola Imagine Arts Academy World of Design.
Our Advanced Specialty Camps are also either one or two weeks, and are specifically designed to inspire our middle school age campers with more diverse and challenging experiences. These camps include: Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino and Backpacking Wilderness Camp.
Our Camp JCC team is committed to giving your child an unforgettable summer and we look forward to making your family part of the Camp JCC family!
Register online at jccyoungstown.org
An initial deposit of $75 is required at registration and will go towards the cost of your camp fees.

3D Printing Camp
July 8 - July 12
Ages 8 - 14
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Mad Science - Eureka!
July 15 - July 19
Ages 7 - 14
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Crayola® Imagine Arts Academy World of Design
July 15 - July 19
Ages 7 - 14
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Backpacking Wilderness Camp
July 15 - July 19
Ages 10 - 14
$220/Member | $295/Non Member
**LOGAN CAMPUS**

For more information about our Logan Campus contact Laura Weymer at 330.746.3250 ext. 299 or lweymer@jewishyoungstown.org

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

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

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

Register for tennis online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**Swim Lessons**
**Beginner Group Lessons**
Date: Tuesdays or Thursdays
Time: 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
$30/ Member | $40 Non Member

**S’more Saturday Nights**
Join us rain or shine every Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. around the firepit to make delicious s’mores!

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**EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

For more information on the Early Learning Center, contact Ben Katz, Director of Early Learning at 330.746.3250 ext. 119 or bkatz@jewishyoungstown.org.

**Ages 6 weeks - Pre-Kindergarten**

**Infant & Toddler Private Swim Lessons**
The ELC offers one-on-one swim lessons for children ages six months and up. These lessons will encourage younger children to become comfortable in the water while teaching older children swimming techniques.

**Enrichment Programming with Community Partners**

Students will engage in a wide variety of enrichment offerings in art, music, and science programs brought to us by SMARTS, YSU Dana School of Music, and OH WOW! Science Center.

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**Jewish Community Center of Youngstown Dash and Splash 5k and Family Fun Run/Walk**
**Sunday, July 21 | 9:00 a.m.**

You don’t have to take part in the 5k to join us for the after bash! We’ll have free food and drinks at our Logan Campus beginning at 10:30 a.m. Kids can enjoy a bounce house and games. There will also be entertainment for the entire family including a DJ.

Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

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**Family Late Night Movie & Swim: Jaws (Rated PG)**

Parental Discretion is Advised

Date: Saturday, August 17
Time: 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Free/Member
$5/Non Member

Registration required online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195
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.

Meeting Rooms
Our small conference room seats up to eight 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.

Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. Great for parties, meetings, retreats or educational seminars. The open room feel offers multiple room configurations. In-house catering is available

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

Specialty Parties
Pool Party
Enjoy swim time in our full-size indoor heated pool.

All Star Celebration
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium then enjoy time in our party room.

Glow & Dance Hip-Hop Party
Enjoy your next celebration with glow accessories and a mini hip-hop lesson.

Ninja Games Celebration
Tackle our ninja obstacle course and participate in coordination activities.

Noah’s Park Party
Play the day away at Noah’s Park or our new Infant and Toddler playground.

Prince & Princess Royal Bash
Don your crowns and tiaras and take a mini ballet lesson.

Superhero Celebration
Dress up and participate in superhero activities in our secret lair.

Under the Sea Splish Splash Mermaid Bash
Experience swimming and storytelling in our pool with the JCC mermaid.

All parties include time in our party room. Custom invitations are available!

Logan Campus Rentals

Pool Bash
You and your party guests can swim in our full-size heated pool and enjoy time celebrating at our on-site pavilion. Guests can also play basketball, volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard or bocce on our spacious grounds. Maximum party size is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

Pavilion
The JCC Logan Pavilion is a large, covered, outdoor pavilion a short walk from our pool. Round tables outfit the pavilion and you can decorate to suit your theme. Swim in our heated pool or play basketball, volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard, or bocce on our spacious grounds. Invited guests who are non members must pay the price of admission. Maximum capacity is 50.

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 15 & August 2
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 re-pack 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!

Date: July 12 & August 9
Times: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 7178 West Blvd, Ste E
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council
330.746.3250 ext. 195
bursar@jewishyoungstown.org

JCC Journeys: Explore Cleveland
We will venture into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and take a boat tour on Lake Erie.

Date: Sunday, August 18
Depart JCC: 9:30 a.m
Return: 6:30 p.m. (approximately)
$55/Member | $70/Non Member
Register by Thursday, July 19

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.
Annual Jewish Community Center Golf Outing Successful

About 120 golfers took part in the 2019 Jewish Community Center of Youngstown Suzi Solomon Golf Classic, and nearly 160 attended the Impact Dinner.

The event, which was June 12 at the Squaw Creek – Avalon Golf and Country Club, is the JCC’s largest annual fundraiser.

Also included were a silent auction and basket raffle. Tickets for the raffle were sold prior to the event, and many JCC members won baskets.

Gon Erez, program director, said the event was successful.

“People had a good time,” he said. “The auction raffle baskets brought in a lot of revenue.”

A dedicated staff and volunteers helped make it possible, he added.

“We’re very lucky to have everyone who has contributed to the success of this event, especially the Solomon family,” he said. “They’re not just our largest supporter of the event, they are highly engaged every year.”

The money raised at the event enables the JCC to increase its impact in the community by helping fund a variety of programs.

Top Left
About 120 golfers participated in the 2019 Jewish Community Center of Youngstown Suzi Solomon Golf Classic. Pictured from left to right are Marty Solomon, Judd Knox, Dick Shapiro, and Jeff Solomon.

Top Right
A wide variety of raffle items were offered at the 2019 Jewish Community Center Impact Dinner. Here Michael Cunningham decides which he wants to take a chance on.

Bottom
Staff and volunteers helped make the Golf Classic possible. Pictured are Andrew Lipkin, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Executive Vice-President, and Lisa Long, Federation Financial Resource Development Director.
Chauncey Hay’s Multimedia Artwork to be Displayed in Thomases Family Endowment Gallery

Chauncey Hay will be heading to Bowling Green University for graduate school in the fall, but first he’ll be sharing his multimedia artwork in the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery.

“Salt and Sea: From the Travels of Chauncey Hay” will include between 14 and 17 of his primary works and about 30 of his small sketchbook portraits.

“It’s going to be a collection of pieces I made while traveling,” he said. “So it’s going to kind of be a collection of things that I can show and demonstrate where I’ve been and kind of what I can, I guess, call experiences between the places.”

Hay is a multimedia printmaker and painter whose work explores the loose relationship between momentary happenings and the visual interpretation of collective memories over time; the work often displays the unreliable nature of recall through abstraction and audio interference. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art, Painting, and Printmaking from Youngstown State University. He is from Struthers, Ohio.

“I’m primarily a printmaker,” he said.

But he didn’t always know that’s what he wanted to do. He attended YSU with a plan to study art but didn’t have a focus.

“But then, once I took printmaking I knew that it felt right,” he said.

He wants visitors to the show to experience something different, something they haven’t seen before.

“The Dunes/Lakeshore” is one of the multimedia pieces that will be on display in the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery from July 10 to August 5.

Camp JCC Field Trip

Camp JCC took a trip to Skate Zone in June. Pictured from left to right are Hayden Forestal, Emily Vitullo, Nicole Seawood, and Blythe Hively.

Jewish Musician and Educator Visits Area for Second Time

Sheldon Low, Jewish musician and educator, visited with Jewish Community Center Early Learning Center students and summer campers for Shabbat in the new pavilion behind the JCC. He also led a community-wide Shabbat service at the JCC’s Logan Campus.

“Bringing Shabbat outdoors always makes you feel so much more connected,” he said. This isn’t Low’s first visit to the area: He performed at the community-wide Hanukkah celebration held at Congregation Rodef Sholom in December 2018.

"The Dunes/Lakeshore" is one of the multimedia pieces that will be on display in the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery from July 10 to August 5.
When Young Israelis Move to Germany or Austria, It's a Hard Pill for Their Families to Swallow

By Curt Schleier

(JTA) — On the surface, Gil Levanon and Kat Rohrer seem unlikely friends.

Levanon is an Israeli, the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor. Rohrer, an Austrian, is the granddaughter of an avowed Nazi officer. If their friendship seems a little odd, their collaboration on the documentary “Back to the Fatherland” makes perfect sense.

The film is about the exodus of many young Israelis spurred to emigrate mostly by economic issues or politics. But it focuses on two specific destinations that are of particular interest to the Israeli families whose offspring are leaving: Germany and Austria.

For some Israeli Holocaust survivors, it’s hard to see their grandchildren return to the countries that, under the Nazis, sought to exterminate them.

Levanon and Rohrer’s collaboration goes back a decade, when they were students at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Rohrer’s thesis project was called “The Search,” for which she researched her family’s history and discovered a great-aunt who was banished when she married a Jewish man.

Levanon helped with the project, and they stayed in touch after graduation. Rohrer visited Levanon in Israel in 2013, and inspiration struck as they were walking on the Tel Aviv beach.

“We saw an Israeli Jew walking a German shepherd,” Levanon said in a phone interview. “She [Rohrer] couldn’t understand that. To her, the dog reminded her of the concentration camps.”

At the time, as Rohrer recalled, also on the phone, a social media protest had erupted about the cost of living in Israel. It was nicknamed the “Milky Protest” because Israelis were abuzz about the price of a pudding dessert known as Milky, which was made in Israel but cheaper to buy in Germany.

Even so, Rohrer still could not comprehend how Jews might move to Germany, as the Milky Protest’s Facebook campaign urged. And thus the idea for the film was born: to discover why the grandchildren of survivors were abandoning Israel for the homeland of the perpetrators.

When Levanon and Rohrer’s initial search for likely subjects proved fruitless — most volunteers’ grandparents were deceased — they requested help from social workers at retirement homes and eventually landed a dozen or so subjects. The film concentrates mainly on two of them. One is Guy Shahar, who leaves Israel in search of economic opportunity.

His grandfather, Uri Ben Rehav, is resigned to the idea “you can’t pay the grocer with sentiment.” At the same time, he remembers when “Jews weren’t allowed to sit on benches. Jews weren’t allowed in parks. Nothing was allowed except to die.”

Shahar is not fully committed to Austria.

“If I feel uncomfortable with the political situation, I’ll get on the plane. Hit me once, shame on you. Hit me twice, shame on me. I learned that from my grandpa,” he said.

Dan Peled, an artist, says he’s unlikely to return to Israel. He went to Germany for a political reason: He feels “in parts of Israel there is apartheid.”

“When I’m there, I become a part of those perpetrators,” he said.

But there were family issues at home as well. His parents divorced when he was 4.

“I never felt at home in Israel,” he said, “but I also never felt I belonged to my family. I only go back to visit my grandma.”

In a telephone interview from Berlin, Peled told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that distance has softened him somewhat.

“With more time, my relationship with my family is easier and I get to see also the good side of Israel,” he said.

His grandmother, Lea, was not happy about his leaving — especially about his choice of destination.

“It was a small shadow on her heart,” he said. “But my choice was very practical. I knew people in Germany and studying here is free.”

Peled has not experienced any anti-Semitism in Germany, instead attributing any prejudice he’s felt to the fact that he’s a foreigner.

Rohrer, who along with her grandfather is one of the film’s main subjects, offers another reason Germany and Austria are favored destinations for Israelis: They are familiar.

Levanon told JTA she walked into a coffee shop in Austria during the research phase and saw dishes her grandmother cooked and served in exactly the same way.

“It’s a very strange feeling of familiarity,” she said. “Also, in a way I get an opportunity to live a life my grandfather never got to live. This was his language, and in a way it’s about refining my roots.”

Unfortunately, the film doesn’t have any great length.

“The film doesn’t have any quotes like this, about how going abroad is also for some Israeli Jews a homecoming.

It also leaves most of the burning questions unanswered: How big a problem for Israel is this kind of emigration? Is it growing? How many Israelis are moving specifically to Germany and Austria?

There are a couple of brief scenes filmed around a table in which a group of unidentified people talk about this subject. They are never identified, and most repeat the same lines about economic opportunity and leaving behind the politics. One seems to suggest that it’s time for Jews to get over the Holocaust, get over victimization, but it’s not discussed at any great length.

Rohrer thinks Israelis are going to continue to emigrate around the world.

“No one says that Israelis will stay here forever,” she said. “We’re a generation that lives in a globalized world, we move a lot.”

“Back to the Fatherland” opened in New York and Los Angeles in June, with a national rollout to follow.

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**Image:** Gil Levanon, left, and Kat Rohrer, are the minds behind a film that explores the exodus of young Israelis and the reaction of their families. (First Run Features)
Congress Wants to Protect US Forces Using Israeli Defense System

By Marcy Oster

(JTA) — The Congress wants to use Israeli technology to protect American forces overseas.

The House of Representatives introduced a bill June 10 that would have the Army purchase two Iron Dome missile defense batteries from Israel. The measure has bipartisan support.

Four months prior, Israel’s Defense Ministry announced that the U.S. military would purchase the system from its developer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., under an agreement between the ministry and the U.S. Department of Defense “for immediate needs of the U.S. Army.”

The U.S.-Israel Indirect Fire Protection Act of 2019 was sponsored by Rep. Mikie Sherrill, a Jewish New Jersey Democrat, and co-sponsored by Joe Wilson, a South Carolina Republican.

“Iron Dome is a proven defense system that will provide increased protection for our troops in the field,” Sherrill said in a statement. “Access to this technology addresses critical gaps in our current capabilities.”

Last Living Survivor of Nazi Death Camp Sobibor Dies

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The last living survivor of the Nazi death camp Sobibor has died.

Semion Rosenfeld died in June at a hospital in central Israel at the age of 96. He moved to Israel from the Ukraine in 1990, according to the Jerusalem Post.

Sobibor was built and operated by the SS during World War II near the railway station of Sobibor in Poland. At least 200,000 Jews were murdered in the gas chambers at Sobibor, though some have put the number as high as 350,000. The camp was destroyed by the Germans at the end of 1943.

Rosenfeld, who was born in Ukraine, was drafted into the Red Army in 1940 to fight the Nazis. He was captured and taken as a prisoner of war in 1941.

He was transferred to Sobibor in 1943, and participated in the Sobibor uprising in September of that year. He was one of the 300 prisoners that managed to escape the camp, and one of only 47 who survived in the days after the uprising. He hid in the woods with a small group of prisoners until spring 1944, when they were liberated by the Red Army, which he rejoined and participated in the capture of Berlin by the Soviet forces, according to Ynet. He was demobilized in October 1945.

He is survived by two sons and five grandchildren in Israel and the United States.

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Who's Running the Show in Israel Between Elections? An Explainer

By Marcy Oster

Jerusalem (JTA) — With Israel coming up on its second election in five months with no ruling coalition in power, some may be asking who is actually running the government. They needn't worry - at least not very much.

Israelis went to the polls in April expecting to elect a new government. The incumbent prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, seemed to be in position to form a majority coalition out of the 120 seats handed out by voters. The 21st Knesset was sworn in on April 30.

However, he failed to attract enough coalition partners on the right. In order to prevent the possibility of the center-left Blue and White party headed by former military chief of staff Benny Gantz from being tasked with forming a government, Netanyahu moved to dissolve the newly elected parliament.

On May 30, just minutes after midnight, the Knesset voted to dissolve itself and opt for another election. That Knesset had lasted for only 51 days and managed to pass one piece of legislation: the bill that ended its record-short tenure.

So with the parliament dissolved, who's running the show?

Transitional Knessets

In Israel's parliamentary democracy, Knesset elections are held every four years - unless the body votes to dissolve itself and move to new balloting. That happened in late December, several months early. Between then and the April elections, Israel was led by a "transitional" government.

And here we are again. With a new vote now scheduled for Sept. 17, and the likelihood that it will take another six weeks to form a majority coalition, Israel will have been led by a "transitional" government for nearly one year, making it possibly the longest transitional government in the country's history.

But that doesn't mean there is a vacuum.

That's because Israel has its Basic Laws, which together form a de facto constitution. The Basic Laws deal with issues including the government, the presidency, the military, the judiciary, "human dignity and liberty" and Jerusalem.

The Basic Law on the Government accounts for dissolving and reforming parliaments due to, for example, a no-confidence vote, dissolution, the conviction of a prime minister for an unnamed offense or the death of a prime minister. A transitional government has the same authority as a regular government.

"There is a government and she has all the authority to function," according to Amir Fuchs, the head of the Defending Democratic Values Program of the Israel Democracy Institute. However, he cautions, there are limits.

The current Knesset, Fuchs said, "is essentially one of a 'double' transitional government - it is both a 'post-election' government prior to the formation of a new government, and also a 'pre-election' government" heading into the September elections.

Over the years, the Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that while a transitional government should continue to run the country on a day-to-day basis, it should only announce new initiatives that are "important or necessary," Fuchs told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Netanyahu is still in charge

Since the dissolution of the 21st Knesset, Netanyahu has fired two government ministers - Ayelet Shaked (Justice) and Naftali Bennett (Education) - and appointed several new ministers, which he still has the authority to do under the Basic Law.

Shaked and Bennett had remained in their ministerial positions even though they were not re-elected in April. They could have stayed in the posts until the September vote had Netanyahu not fired them, saying they clearly had lost the confidence of the people who did not re-elect them. Pundits, however, say Netanyahu wanted to lower the profile of his two right-wing rivals in a new election campaign.

Netanyahu in early June replaced Shaked with loyalist Amir Ohana. He gave the Foreign Ministry portfolio, which he had been holding himself since the formation of the government in May 2015, to Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz. On Monday he named Union of Right-Wing Parties head Rafi Peretz to fill Bennett's education slot and the same union's Bezalel Smotrich as transportation minister. He also reportedly will add members to the high-level Security Cabinet.

Only Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel of the Jewish Home party remains in the Cabinet as a hold-over from the 20th Knesset. He was not re-elected in April.

Jonathan Rynhold, a political studies professor at Bar-Ilan University, said that while firing a government minister between elections is "legitimate, it just doesn't smell quite right."

Rynhold noted that each ministry is staffed with career civil servants and that during an interim period such as the current one, they may operate with "some more leeway than normal."

The prime ministership has its advantages

Netanyahu’s firing and appointing of new ministers does not look like a leader who is trying not to rock the boat, said Gayil Talshir of the Department of Political Science at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"It’s a wasted year."

The moves are “making a lot of noise in the system,” she told JTA.

Talshir suggested that Netanyahu might have held on to the justice minister's portfolio had he not been reprimanded for keeping it while under the threat of indictment in three corruption cases against him. He continues to hold the title of defense minister, but could potentially give it up if he thinks the move could help him form a coalition government following the September election - one “he is sure he is actually going to win,” she said.

Netanyahu is using his time at the head of the transitional government to attempt to delegitimize his opponents, Talshir said, in particular the Yisrael Beiteinu party headed by Avigdor Liberman, who Netanyahu blames for the failure to form a government after the April elections.

Talshir said Netanyahu is working “to make sure that come the new election he is actually going to win,” she said.

Meanwhile, Talshir said, the announcement of across-the-board budget cuts to government ministries in a bid to halt the growing state deficit is an example of a major policy decision that should not be implemented during a transitional government.

It’s not exactly business as usual.

So how does the interim status of the government affect Israel right now?

Some examples:

The authority of the new government ministers will be limited by their inexperience and by the high court’s previous rulings about not making drastic changes.

The country’s chief of police stepped down in December, less than a month before the 20th Knesset dissolved. The spot will continue to remain unfilled – actually filled by an interim chief - until well after the September elections.

The government will not be able to start negotiating a new budget for 2020, nor will it be able to make any decisions about economic reform.

The government cannot even make a final decision on establishing the new Golan Heights community of Ramat Trump, which it dedicated on Sunday, until a permanent government is in place.

"We are kind of stuck,” Fuchs said. "It’s a wasted year."

This, he said, is the "real cost of the new election."

Bar-Ilan’s Rynhold agrees.

The current Knesset lawmakers “continue to run the country,” he said. "What they can’t do is pass laws.”

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

July 2019
Nechama Rivlin, Wife of Israel’s President, Dies at 73

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Nechama Rivlin, the wife of President Reuven Rivlin, has died at the age of 73.

She died a day before her 74th birthday, at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikvah, where she underwent a lung transplant three months before her death.

Rivlin, who had in recent years rarely been seen in public without being attached to a portable oxygen tank, suffered from pulmonary fibrosis. The condition causes scar tissue to fill the lungs and makes it difficult to breathe. The transplant surgery was described as “complicated” by doctors and she required a second surgery several days later.

“Nechama was a woman of strength, who today is more than just Mrs. President,” said Reuven Rivlin, in a statement. “She was a woman of great compassion for the less fortunate, and for that, she will always be remembered as one of the great heroes of Israel.”

The medical efforts to stabilize her over time during the complicated rehabilitation period after the transplant did not succeed,” the hospital said in a statement.

In a statement, the Rivlin family thanked “citizens of Israel... who have continued to ask after Nechama’s health, to send letters and wonderful children’s drawings to the hospital and to Beit HaNasi (the president’s residence), and to pray for her every day, every hour. Their love and concern gave the president and all members of the family strength and support that cannot be described in words.

The Rivlins also thanked the Halabli family who donated their late son Yair’s lung for the transplant.

Rivlin was born in Moshav Herut in the Sharon region to parents who immigrated from the Ukraine and were founders of the moshav. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Hebrew University in botany and zoology and also studied the history of art.

She set up a community garden in the garden of the president’s residence, where children from all over the country came to tend plants, spices and flowers.

Condolences poured in from all corners including politicians, religious leaders, and Israeli citizens.

She was buried at the national cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Reuven Rivlin, 79, was elected president of Israel in 2014 after a long career as a Likud Party politician who twice served as Speaker of the Knesset.
Israel Will Hold New Elections After Netanyahu Fails to Form Coalition

By Ben Sales and Marcy Oster

(JTA) — For the first time in its history, Israel will hold a second national election in one year; five months after the last election in April.

The Israeli Knesset voted in May to dissolve itself, triggering elections on Sept. 17. The unprecedented vote happened after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to assemble a governing coalition by his final deadline.

Netanyahu was seen as the winner of the April 9 election because right-wing parties, which all supported Netanyahu for prime minister, garnered a majority in Knesset. But Netanyahu was unable to get those parties to join a governing coalition with one another.

The sticking point was a draft law obligating haredi Orthodox men to participate in Israel’s mandatory military draft. Haredi Orthodox parties wanted to soften the text of the law. Avigdor Liberman, head of the secular, right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu party, insisted he would not join the government unless the law was passed in its current form. In the end, Liberman did not join the coalition, dooming Netanyahu’s efforts.

Netanyahu called the course of events “kafkaesque,” and said the elections, which he voted for, are “unnecessary, wasteful elections that no one needs and no one wants.”

“The nation spoke,” he said to members of the press following the vote. “Liberman wanted more seats and because he wants seats, he’s taking everyone along. Instead of giving the state direction, we’re taking it backward. It’s unbelievable.”

Just minutes before the vote, Liberman told reporters, “To my sorrow, the state of Israel is going to elections,” blaming it on the “complete surrender of the Likud to the haredim.”

“We are natural partners in a right-wing government; we won’t be partners in a government of Jewish [religious] law,” he added.

Rather than give his rivals a chance at forming a government, Netanyahu and his allies voted to trigger another round of elections. Arab Israeli lawmakers, hoping for more seats in a new election, also voted to hold new elections.

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