ON THE COVER:
2nd Annual Dash & Splash Draws More than 100 Participants
(Pictured from left to right are Dan Thelan, Elon Parent, and Amanda Millich)
see page 17

INSIDE:
Read about two YSU students’ experiences on a study abroad trip
see page 18
New sculptures by late Rabbi Sidney Rackoff to be installed at ‘Steel Museum’
see page 20
Commentary

Musings with Mary Lou

The Wandering Mind

By Mary Lou Finesilver

I have been sitting here for over an hour thinking about what we should talk about this month. I have thought about several things, but none are connected. For instance: Driving to Temple the other day for minyan, I was concentrating on staying on my side of the road and I remembered the days when we had hood ornaments. We used the hood ornament to gauge where we were on the road. Do you remember? Some larger and picturesque and others just a little silver thing on the end of the hood in the middle. I don't really need it, but it made it easier for a short person to know where they were driving.

Then there was a time in first grade, I think, when I walked to school by myself (imagine doing that today). Anyway, it was raining, and I was bundled in a rain coat and hat when I came to the crosswalk. The crossing guard was across the street. I stood and waited and waited. She wasn't looking, so I put my foot down; and she yelled something at me, but I couldn't hear her. Finally, I crossed the street. Obviously, I was not supposed to do that and the next thing I knew, I was called out of the classroom, into the principal's office. I cried. No one wanted to know I couldn't hear her tell me not to cross the street. That was a memory I never forgot.

Then there was the time I was in kindergarten and loving it, I think. Another little girl said, "Let's get on the seesaw." That was such fun until she decided she had enough and got off. The seesaw hit the ground hard. I flew off and broke my collar bone. That wasn't fun! It was also the beginning of bone problems. When I was 7, which was shortly around the beginning of War World II (now you know how old I am), I was going to the bus stop for school and tripped on a crack in the sidewalk and broke my left elbow. That wasn't much fun either, especially when they had to make me bend my arm after the cast was removed. It took a while with a lot of therapy, but I eventually was able to bend it almost totally. However, I still can't touch my shoulder when I bend that arm.

Then there was my poor sister, who tripped in the gravel so many times growing up that she ended up with gravel permanently embedded in her knee.

When the war broke out we lived in Johnstown, Pa., in the suburb of Westmont. Those were the days. In the summer we would jump out of bed, grab clothes, and run outside, unless my mother or Helen, our live-in housekeeper, could grab us long enough to make us sit down and eat. (No, we weren't rich, but my mother worked and in those days it was almost the norm for women who worked to have live-in helpers). As soon as I had enough to eat, I was back outside. Sometimes we stayed inside, if we decided to play with paper dolls, pick up sticks, or jacks, or even read. That is what our front porches were for.

I also remember our first television.

We had of course one of those huge magnifying screens attached. The only problem was you could only see if you sat right in front. I also remember all we could see then was the KDKA logo because that was the only thing we were able to receive. My dad loved gadgets, even though he was not good with them.

Since we were the only family on the block with a TV, the whole neighborhood would come to watch the ball games when we finally had reception. Of course, that reception depended a lot on where we put the rabbit ears antenna. Some of us were even relegated to the front porch to look through the window to watch. How simple it all was then.

I probably could go on, you know me. Don't get me started or I can outtalk them all.

I Wish I Didn’t Need to Prove Myself as a Patrilineal Jew

By Shoshannah Tikvah

This article originally appeared on the online community Alma.

I almost walked out of my first college Shabbat. Not only did I miss the close Jewish community from high school, but I also remained convinced that my new peers would view me as a “fake” Jew. Why?

Because my mother isn’t Jewish. Only my father is. I feared saying that openly would evoke chuckles from my peers as well as staff and automatically place me into a category of “second-class Jew,” something I’d encountered in the past.

I also remained convinced that my new Jewish community from high school, but also staff and automatically place me into a category of “second-class Jew,” something I’d encountered in the past.

It was only in 1983 that the Reform movement recognized patrilineal descent (Reconstructionist Judaism had gone first, in 1979), and the Conservative and Orthodox movements still do not recognize patrilineal descent as a valid means of passing on Judaism.

So where does that leave people like me?

Born in the mid-’90s, I am not part of the first generation of Jews to be the product of an interfaith union. I am, however, part of the cohort who struggles to find their place in the Jewish world today. I remember driving home from large family holiday parties where we decorated cookies for Santa, only to detour through the Jewish neighborhood to admire the many menorahs and grab some Chinese takeout. I was a mash-up child in an interfaith family, and who I was, and how I celebrated, was normal.

Until it wasn’t. Seventh grade rolled around, and I attended b’nei mitzvah after b’nei mitzvah, waiting in anticipation for mine. It never came. The ritual was too one-sided, my parents told me when I asked why I wasn’t having one. To have a bat mitzvah would be choosing my father’s traditions over my mother’s.

This push and pull over my two identities continued on as a young adult.

Though many Jews from all backgrounds doubt if they’re Jewish “enough” based on practice, for myself, and for my patrilineal peers, it’s an issue of identity as much as belonging. Patrilineal Jews are welcomed in many congregations as long as they are Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal, and/or Humanist. These groups recognize our Jewish identity and welcome us as Jews - not as almost Jews or, even more insultingly, as non-Jews. Remaining in these communities are comfortable and safe.

Yet for those like myself, who have found homes in more observant communities or venture out into the non-American Jewish world, our Jewishness is always in question.

I am an enthusiastic and active Jew. I speak and read decent Hebrew. I attend synagogue for Kabbalat Shabbat almost weekly and am often at Saturday services, too. I study the Torah portion each week. I studied abroad in Jerusalem during college, and I’ve even thought about becoming a rabbi.

Yet I still needed to take an extra step to prove to the wider Jewish community that I’m a Jew.

So after nearly eight years of reflection and unease over being “just” patrilineal, I decided to affirm my Jewish identity according to Jewish law. As college ticked away and the greater Jewish world followed, I wanted all doors to be open.

During my senior year, I affirmed my Jewish identity by going through what was, at its core, a conversion process through the Conservative movement. I had an incredible beit din made up of rabbis sympathetic to my status issue who wanted to support me. They recognized my desire to stop skirting our Jewish status, longing to be recognized as a Jew in more spaces.

On mikvahday,I walked into synagogue outside.
Bar Mitzvah Project Raises Funds for Playground Damaged During Fire

By Elise Skolnick

As Noah Rusnak prepared for his bar mitzvah, he planned for a sports-related mitzvah project. “I was hoping to figure out how to put up a basketball hoop for kids in the Bahamas where my grandparents spend the winter,” he said. “But then I thought about how much Fernway meant to my sister and I when we were growing up.”

Fernway is Fernway Elementary School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. The kindergarten through fourth grade school caught fire last summer. The roof collapsed and playground equipment was damaged by water as firefighters worked to put out the blaze. Rusnak decided to raise money for a new basketball hoop for the playground “so other kids in the neighborhood would have a nice place to play after school and on the weekends.”

Rusnak is the grandson of Florine Rusnak of Poland, Ohio, and the son of Dr. Susan Bichsel and Steve Rusnak of Shaker Heights.

“It’s not surprising,” Bichsel said. “He loves sports and has always talked about making sure all kids have the same opportunities he has. We weren’t exactly sure how that was going to be a mitzvah project. He figured that out all by himself. He went to see the principal and asked, ‘When you rebuild the school grounds is there going to be a basketball hoop? I think I would like to try and raise the funds to pay for it.’”

She added, “I guess tikkun olam takes many shapes.”

Insurance money didn’t cover the total cost of the reconstruction, so the community began raising funds through the Shaker Schools Foundation to help rebuild the school. Noah set up a named-donor fund and included a card in his bar mitzvah invitation describing his project and suggesting his guests consider making a contribution to the fund instead of giving him a gift.

Noah set a goal of raising $1,500. He ended up presenting a check to the Fernway principal, Chris Hayward, for $5,000.

“I guess other people think it’s a good project, too,” Noah said.

To date, 64 contributions totaling $4,964.92 have been made as a result of his efforts.

Noah raised enough money to pay for the basketball hoop as well as other equipment for sports or the playground.

“It was the right cause at the right time,” his dad, Steve, said. “First of all, that school is very special. It’s been a gathering spot for families with young kids in that Shaker neighborhood for generations. Second of all, we are very fortunate to have so many generous friends and family members. Once they read Noah’s request, they jumped on board.”

His grandmother remembers taking Noah to the Fernway playground.

“I know how much the neighborhood enjoyed the playground,” Florine said. “This is something that will be long lasting for everyone.”

She thought Noah’s project was “wonderful.”

“It was an opportunity for him to be able to share his bar mitzvah with kids for years to come,” she added.

His mother added, “Obviously, we are very proud. Many people do wonderful things every day and don’t get recognized. It’s been nice to see the media covering a positive story. Most of all, it’s great for him to see that one person really can make a difference.”


“I want to thank everyone who made a donation to my project and also thought it was important,” Noah said.

Noah Rusnak of Shaker Heights, Ohio, used his Bar Mitzvah to raise money for his elementary school playground after it was damaged. He’s pictured with his grandmother, Florine Rusnak of Poland, Ohio.
Lessons from Numbers 13:1-25:9

By Neil Yutkin
Ohev Tzedek President

The four Parashot beginning June 29 and ending July 20 contain several lessons but seem to have a common thread that is repeated throughout: When God talks, listen and heed what is said.

Many of the Parashot begin, “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying” or “And the Lord said to Moses.” What follows is specific instructions to be relayed to the “Children of Israel” or “Aaron” or deeds that Moses is to perform.

Parashat Shelah deals with the Lord ordering Moses to send spies from each of the tribes to scout the land of Canaan and to report back. Twelve go out and 10 are convinced that they could not defeat the forces of the enemy, even though God will watch over them; once again proving that the Hebrews have yet to learn the meaning of the word dayenu (enough).

In response to their “stiff-necked” attitude, Hashem responds to Moses’ prayers not to destroy the Hebrews, but instead allows only the younger Hebrews to enter the Promised Land after the older generations have died off.

Parashat Korah deals with a Levite who challenges Moses and Aaron, and more importantly God’s decision that they should lead the Hebrews through the desert. Korah chooses to lead a rebellion of some 250 tribal princes. Korah believes that he should be the anointed one to lead the Hebrew people. In response to Moses’ prayers, God opens the earth and swallows all that take part in Korah’s rebellion.

Parashat Hukkat has the Hebrews complaining about the lack of fresh water. Moses is ordered to approach, with his brother Aaron, a rock in the site of the Hebrew Nation, and then speak to the rock and water would appear.

Who is Korah in Numbers?

By Art Einzig
Ohev Tzedek Past President

Korah - who really is this biblical character who suddenly shows up in the sixteenth chapter of Numbers?

Why did the ancient rabbis who selected, organized, and canonized the texts of all the parashot include the tale of Korah as a part of the final canon of the five books of Moses, and then, even as important, name this parashah after the villain, Korah?

Before we attempt to answer these questions, let’s first look at the basic facts of the Korah story.

In midrashim, Korah is regarded as the father of all quarrelers: his very name is synonymous with disharmony and conflict. But, Korah also comes across as a champion of equality, railing against a class system that categorizes levels of holiness within the community. Yet, in the same breath, Korah contends that he is the more worthy candidate for the high priesthood.

Moses is shaken by Korah’s boldness. How dare this Levite challenge Moses’ appointment of Aaron as high priest and then amass 250 chieftains, representatives of the assembly, and men of repute against Moses and Aaron. How dare he question the will of Hashem? Korah’s response:

“You take too much upon yourselves, for the entire congregation are all holy, and the Lord is in their midst. So why do you raise yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?”

Are these the words of a madman or are these the words of a member of the Levite tribe who is speaking his mind? Yes, even speaking from his heart. Maybe even speaking the truth. Keep in mind, Korah is the son of Izhar, who is the son of Kohath, who is the son of Levi, the son of Jacob. A direct descendant of a patriarch.

Moses heard this and fell on his face.

Moses spoke to Korah and to all his company, saying, “In the morning, the Lord will make known who [His Kohane Gadol will be,] and who is holy, and He will draw them near to Him, and the one He chooses, He will draw near to Him.”

“You and your entire company who are assembled are against the Lord, for what is Aaron that you should complain against him?”

Korah replies,

“Is it not enough that you have brought us out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert, that you should also exercise authority over us?”

Moses was exceedingly distressed, and he said to the Lord, “Do not accept their offering, for the entire congregation are all holy, and the Lord is in their midst. So why do you raise yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?”

Spiritual Classes Offered at Area Temples

Every Saturday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Rabbi Joseph Schonberger leads a session at Temple El Emeth about Psalms. The book of Psalms is a collection of poems written by different authors, along a period of time. The psalms express the emotion of the individual poet to God or about God. Different types of psalms were written to communicate different feelings and thoughts regarding a psalmist’s situation.

Rabbi Frank Muller will lead a class titled “1000 Interesting Facts About the Five Books of Moses” at Temple Rodef Sholom. The class will be from noon to 1 p.m. on Nov. 7 and 14, and Dec. 5 and 12. Participants should bring a lunch.

Every Saturday at 12:30 p.m., Barry Davis or Neil Yutkin lead a discussion at Ohev Tzedek about the Torah portion of the week and the Haftarah. Participants delve into the story and the events of the Parashah.

Participants may ask questions and offer interpretations of the events. Lunch is provided. There is no fee for lunch, but reservations are required for nonmembers. Call Ohev Tzedek at 330.758.2321 by the Thursday prior to the class to register.
Temple El Emeth Holds Klezmer Shabbat Service

Temple El Emeth held their Klezmer Shabbat service in July at the home of Terry and Sam Roth. Klezmer musicians Lori Cahan-Simon, Walt Mahovlich, and Steven Greenman accompanied Rabbi Joseph Schonberger with Klezmer music and some Yiddish songs in addition to the traditional Shabbat evening prayers. Following the outdoor service, the Roths hosted a Shabbat dinner catered by Inspired Catering by Kravitz.

Temple El Emeth’s Klezmer Shabbat services were held in July at the home of Terry and Sam Roth. Pictured from left to right are Steven Greenman, Lori Cahan-Simon, Walt Mahovlich, Terry Roth, Sam Roth, Lori Schonberger, and Rabbi Joseph Schonberger.

Temple El Emeth Events

Aug. 6
The Temple El Emeth board of directors monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. The executive committee will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 8
A Minyan and a Meal - Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with dinner following at 6 p.m. After dinner Marcia Levy will speak and give a video presentation on “Historic Homes of Youngstown’s North Side.” Forms have been mailed to members’ homes and are available in the Temple office. Dinner is $10 for members and $15 for non-members and associate members. Reservations are due by Aug. 6.

Aug. 13
Sisterhood will have its monthly get together at 4:30 p.m. Co-president Paula Ferguson will give an update on her recent participation in the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism’s National Convention in Chicago in July. Refreshments will follow and members are invited to stay for the 5:45 p.m. minyan.

Aug. 17
A kiddush luncheon will take place following Shabbat services and August birthdays will be celebrated. Please RSVP to the office for lunch that day.

Aug. 25
Brunch with Dr. Lou Zona, director of the Butler Institute of American Art. Minyan will be held at 9:45 a.m. with brunch and program beginning at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Zona’s topic will be “The Contribution of Jewish American Artists to Art of the Twentieth and Twenty First Centuries.” Brunch is $10 for members and $15 for associate and non-members.

Daily minyan are held at 5:45 p.m. including Saturdays. Friday morning minyan are at 7 a.m. and Shabbat mornings at 9:30 a.m. Rabbi Schonberger holds a study session following Shabbat morning services called “The Prayer Book and Synagogue Skills” and following the evening minyan is “Psalm Day with Rabbi.”

Sam Roth (right) acknowledged Hilda Manello’s 98th birthday the night of Temple El Emeth’s Klezmer Shabbat.

Tawnee Philson, Eleanor Philson, and Marleigh Schonberger (left to right) enjoyed the music at Temple El Emeth’s Klezmer Shabbat services.

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Pristine Dental membership pricing!
It’s hard to believe we’ve come to the end of July. Summer is winding down, whether we like it or not. My article this month recaps many of the programs held Federation-wide over the past month and highlights some upcoming events.

The Jewish Community Center’s Suzi Solomon Golf Classic and Impact Dinner, held in June, and the 2nd Annual Dash and Splash, held July 21, are over for another year. Both were very successful – and fun! We had a beautiful, dry day among many rainy ones for the Golf Classic, and we raised a record amount of money. I also really enjoyed the Dash and Splash. I wasn’t able to participate in the first Dash because I was at a conference in Israel. This year, I walked the distance between the JCC and the Logan Campus with Neil Schor. Both of us are bouncing back from our recent surgeries – we made it to the finish line in an hour and five minutes! This was a great event to bring the community together for a day of fun. I want to thank our staff and volunteers who helped make both of these events happen.

Heritage Manor hosted its 2nd annual car show, also in June, complete with an Elvis impersonator and milkshakes. Heritage Manor also recently held a program about benefits available to wartime veterans. This program brought in about 40 members of the greater community, many of whom have never walked through Heritage Manor’s door. This was a great opportunity for them to see what we offer.

The JCC hosted a mamanet tournament at YSU in late June – the first of its kind in the area. Teams from Youngstown, Israel, Columbus, and Pittsburgh participated in this modified version of volleyball for women. It was fantastic that four people from Israel spent several days in Youngstown prior to the event. If you don’t know what mamanet is, give the JCC a call to learn. But as Federation is winding down some events, we’re gearing up for others. Some big projects are in the works, also.

Levy Gardens is acquiring a new bus – a 2018 Ford E350 Diamond Coach VIP 15 passenger handicap accessible bus. Grant money from the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, the Frances and Lillian Schermer Charitable Trust, the Senator Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Fund, and the J. Ford Crandall Memorial Foundation enabled us to make this necessary purchase. Levy Gardens provides its tenants with free transportation to scheduled outings, physicians’ appointments, and to run errands. They are also responsible for providing transportation for Heritage Manor Adult Day Services clients, many of whom are veterans and low-income Medicaid participants. In 2018, the Levy Gardens transportation department made a total of 2,090 trips for its agencies.

And don’t forget Levy Gardens will hold an open house Aug. 18. It will include tours, door prizes, music, and refreshments – come see why Levy Gardens is the answer!

Renovations at Heritage Manor and Jewish Family Services continue. Heritage Manor’s lobby is being renovated to improve security in the building. JFS is undergoing renovations to its offices. Included are new ceilings, lighting, and flooring, as well as painting and construction of two additional office areas.

Heritage Manor recently hired a therapy manager and a physical therapist. They are replacing two long-time employees. We will miss them but are excited to have the new hires. They will make a wonderful addition to our staff.

Shay Erez, outreach coordinator for JFS, is working on a Life Stories project. We were fortunate to be able to have an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, Elizabeth Lehman, with us for 10 weeks this summer to make this project a reality. On Aug. 12, 11 members of the community will be presented with books that tell their life story as told to Liz. Join us for a reception at 6 p.m. at the JCC.

The annual Film Festival begins Sept. 16. The films shown depict a broad spectrum of Jewish Life. Don’t miss them! More information is available at jccyoungstown.org.

Our Inaugural Event is set for Sept. 19, at the DeYor Performing Arts Center. Our speaker will be Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, an expert on Holocaust deniers. She is probably most widely known for the libel lawsuit brought against her in 1996 by David Irving for having called him a Holocaust denier. Before that event, learn more about the libel case brought against her when we show the film “Denial” at 7 p.m. Aug. 15. Based on the acclaimed book “Denial: Holocaust History on Trial,” Denial recounts Deborah’s legal battle for historical truth against David Irving, who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier.

And don’t forget to visit us at the Canfield Fair. The Jewish Community Relations Council will again host a booth. Included will be information about Israel, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its agencies, and our area synagogues. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Contact Gon Erez at gerez@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3250, ext. 159, if you’d like to help.

Summer’s winding down, but your Federation is not. Be sure to take advantage of all we are able to offer because of your generosity.
Thomases Family Endowment Helps Fund Boys and Girls Club Program

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation recently awarded a $5,000 grant to the Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown to help fund their Building the Optimal Club Experience program. The gift will be used to provide SMARTS programming to Club members as well as offer incentives to motivate the children academically. Thomases has been supporting the organization since 2012. The Boys & Girls Club of Youngstown is dedicated to providing programs and services in a safe, supervised environment and to inspiring and enabling all young people in the community to realize their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens. SMARTS Community Art School helps to bridge the gap during and after school with an arts curriculum.

Volunteers Needed for JCRC Booth at Canfield Fair

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Federation will be at the Canfield Fair this year. The booth will include information about Israel, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its agencies, and area synagogues. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. All volunteers will receive a free entrance ticket into the fair that will be good for the full day of their shift. The tickets allow for in and out privileges that day. Volunteers are needed Wednesday, Aug. 28 through Monday, Sept. 2.

Available time slots are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 to 4 p.m., 4 to 7 p.m., and 7 to 10 p.m. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Gon at gerez@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3250, ext. 159.

Grant Will Help Protect and Preserve Local Jewish Archives

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation gave the Mahoning Valley Historical Society a $5,000 grant to help protect the Jewish archives housed at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center. The funding will be used to protect and preserve precious paper documents and photographs originally compiled with the help of community members Irv Ozer, Lois Davidson and Charlotte Schwartz. The archives include collections from each temple along with materials from B’nai B’rith, Akiva Academy, and Heritage Manor. MVHS’ new compact shelving units are housed in a climate and humidity controlled archives area and are part of their overall Capital Campaign. Pictured from left to right are William Lawson, MVHS executive director; Andi Baroff, Thomases Family Endowment committee member; Lisa Long; Federation financial resource development director; and Linda Kostka, MVHS development director.

Life Stories Participants to Receive Book That Tells Their Story

The 11 participants in the Life Stories Project will be presented with a book that tells their special life story at 6 p.m., Aug. 12 at the Jewish Community Center. Jewish Family Services has been working on the Life Stories Project since June. The project is a creative way to improve health and quality of life for clients and to establish a sense of belonging to the Jewish community through storytelling.

This project has led to the creation of 11 unique books to help share the stories of some members of the community. The clients, all over the age of 70, will receive the books as a personal memory to keep from the project.

The public is welcome to attend the Aug. 12 event. Light refreshments will be served.

Seniors over 70 who are interested in participating in future projects should contact Shay Erez at 330.550.5995 or email serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

Wish Your Friends and Family a Happy New Year!

Wish Your Friends and Family 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 no later than Aug. 19. Email journal@jewishyoungstown.org for a greetings form. Forms are also available on the Federation website, jewishyoungstown.org.

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Federation Financial Resource Development Director Visits Camp Wise

Lisa Long, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation financial resource development director, recently visited campers from the Youngstown area at Camp Wise, a Jewish overnight camp in Chardon. Local families thinking about sending a child to a Jewish overnight camp next summer should consider applying for the Kooperman Endowment. More information can be found at yajfoundation.org/endowmentapps. Long is pictured with Josh Newman, son of David and Karie Newman.

Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation Website Goes Live

The Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation website is now live. This year, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation underwent a structural reorganization. One of the main reasons was to protect the donor and investment assets held by the Federation. This reorganization resulted in the creation of the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation. The Foundation is a separate organization with its own governing board. It now has its own website. To learn more, visit yajfoundation.org.

Scholarship Fund for Young Adults Accepting Applications

Assists Teens in Participating in Jewish Communal Experiences

The Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation is accepting applications for the Sandra Lippy Scholarship Fund for Young Adults. This scholarship fund was created in 1994 through gifts given in commemoration of Sandra Lippy’s Bat Mitzvah. The fund assists teens, age 14 and older, in participating in the March of the Living, summer programs in Israel, and Jewish leadership camps/programs. Jewish continuity and the communal experience is very important to Lippy, who herself studied at an ulpan in Israel. She hopes that this fund will help open the eyes and hearts of young people in the Valley and inspire them to step up to the plate and provide the leadership necessary to maintain a vibrant Jewish community. For an application, visit yajfoundation.org/endowmentapps. The deadline to apply is Oct. 26.
Bowling at Adult Day Services

Heritage Manor Adult Day Services participants enjoyed a game of bowling in July. Here Illana Council, STNA, watches as C.W. Fields takes a turn.

‘Our Gang’ Participants Enjoy Outing

“Our Gang” enjoyed an evening of miniature golf and Handel’s ice cream in July. “Our Gang” is a Jewish Family Services’ social group for developmentally challenged adults. They participate in a variety of activities and outings once or twice a month. Pictured are Larry Bozzo (back) and Joanna Bozzo.

Heritage Manor Program Discusses Benefits Available to Wartime Veterans

Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community hosted a program by the Senior Veterans Administration Services of Ohio (S.V.A.S.O.) that discussed tax-free income available to wartime veterans and their surviving spouses. Over 40 people attended. Pictured is Rich Rompala of S.V.A.S.O. addressing the group.

Second Annual Car Show Held at Heritage Manor

In June, Heritage Manor hosted its 2nd annual car show for residents, Adult Day Services participants, and Levy Gardens tenants. Included were a vintage car contest, milkshakes, and an Elvis impersonator (Ron Navarra). Car show winners were: first place - Marc Rubin with his 1950 Mercury coup; second place - Judd Rubin with his 2012 Corvette convertible; and third place - Jason Rubin with his 1969 Corvette convertible. Here Dorothy Swearinger-White (right) and Heritage Manor staff member Melissa Tate check out the cars.
Grief Support Group Will Begin in September

A grief support group will be offered by Jewish Family Services, beginning in September. This five-session group will be lead by Shay Erez, MSW, LSW, outreach coordinator for JFS. She has over five years’ experience and training.

Space is limited to ten people, to allow each participant an opportunity to share.

This workshop is for anyone who has experienced a death and would like to connect with others who can share their experiences in a group setting. This setting will offer support, friendship, understanding, and acceptance in a safe and confidential place.

The stages of grief, symptoms, and coping skills will be discussed. It is open to anyone who has suffered a loss. The group will meet in the evening from September to January. All meetings will be the last Monday of the month except Sept. That month the group will meet Sept. 23. For more information, contact Shay Erez at serez@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.7929.

Levy Gardens Right Fit for Long-Time Tenant Associate

Not many people have worked at Levy Gardens Assisted Living as long as Tamika Rozier. For 13 years, she has worked the evening shift as a tenant associate.

As a tenant associate, Rozier provides personal care to tenants and is responsible for housekeeping services. All tenant associates are certified in CPR and first aid and is responsible for housekeeping services. All tenant associates are certified in CPR and first aid and receive ongoing training throughout the year.

“I love my job,” Rozier said. “And I love this shift. Everybody says they don’t know how I do it, but I’m not a morning person.”

Prior to coming to Levy Gardens, Rozier worked in home health care. She didn’t like the amount of traveling required, however. She found her niche at Levy Gardens.

“My favorite part is socializing with the tenants during dinner,” she said. “Sometimes they make me laugh.”

She doesn’t bring her problems home to work, but seeing the tenants and having someone to talk with helps. She has gotten to know the tenants well, though some are more social than others.

“I get along with the tenants, the tenants get along with me,” she said. “They love that I keep a smile on my face. I talk to them when they want to talk. I try to comfort the tenants as much as I can. I’m here for the tenants.”

Rozier is a lifelong Youngstown resident. Her two children – Jamell Rozier and Duane Eldridge – also live in the area.

“Tamika is a wonderful employee and person,” said Sara Miller, Levy Gardens director. “I’ve gotten to know her pretty well over the years and I love seeing her smiling face walk through our doors. No matter what is going on in her life, she comes into work with a great attitude and treats the tenants and her coworkers with kindness and respect.”

Heritage Manor Honors Volunteers

Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community honored its volunteers at an event in July. Volunteers are crucial in providing a link between Heritage Manor and the rest of the community. They are a key part of every activity at Heritage Manor. Volunteers lead religious services, help run bingo games, work with beauticians in the beauty shop, lead sing-alongs, teach painting classes, and more. Volunteers recognized at the event were Ted Aron, Les Apple, Dr. Eric Chevlen, Jordan Cohen, Luis Santiago Castro, Frank Cvetkovic, Henry Diamond, Aaron Duval, Art Einzig, Paula Ferguson, Lori Glass, Ben Gomez, Darrell Gordon, Jerry Haber, Sanford “Sandy” Kessler, Jack “Booker” Kessler, Sam Kooperman, Thomas Lareau, Elliot Legow, Doug Lev, Eugene Mallen, Florence Mirkin, Dr. Mark Perlman, Atty. Neil Schor, Allan Sharapan, Manya Tsitlin, and resident volunteer Frances Allen.

Aging Well Programs to be Offered

Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community honored its volunteers at an event in July. Volunteers are crucial in providing a link between Heritage Manor and the rest of the community. They are a key part of every activity at Heritage Manor. Volunteers lead religious services, help run bingo games, work with beauticians in the beauty shop, lead sing-alongs, teach painting classes, and more. Volunteers recognized at the event were Ted Aron, Les Apple, Dr. Eric Chevlen, Jordan Cohen, Luis Santiago Castro, Frank Cvetkovic, Henry Diamond, Aaron Duval, Art Einzig, Paula Ferguson, Lori Glass, Ben Gomez, Darrell Gordon, Jerry Haber, Sanford “Sandy” Kessler, Jack “Booker” Kessler, Sam Kooperman, Thomas Lareau, Elliot Legow, Doug Lev, Eugene Mallen, Florence Mirkin, Dr. Mark Perlman, Atty. Neil Schor, Allan Sharapan, Manya Tsitlin, and resident volunteer Frances Allen.
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
For more information, visit jccyoungstown.org.

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

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.

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To register call: 330.746.3250 ext. 182

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

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.
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Liberty Youth Recreation Center
317 Churchill Hubbard Road
Youngstown, OH 44505

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

Date: Sundays
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: JCC Outdoor Pickleball Complex

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Dental Care
Dr. Richard Ragozine, DDS will discuss maintaining your dental health into your later years, including prevention and maintenance of periodontal disease, replacement of missing teeth, and functional and aesthetic concerns.
Date: Thursday, August 8
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Tuesday, August 6

Featured Group Exercise Class
Cardio Low
This low-impact fitness class will challenge your cardiovascular system and strengthen muscles without putting stress on your joints.
Date: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
Time: 9:00-9:55 a.m.
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.

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: Aqua Cardio Blast
This cardio class will get your heart pumping while strengthening all of your major muscles. Come workout in an inspiring, motivating group environment with fantastic music. This fun-filled class will make you forget you are exercising!

Date: Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays
Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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.
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

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

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.
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!

P.A.L.S.+ Back to School Splash Bash
This event is open to all and is sensory friendly.

Date: Sunday, August 18
Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
$8/Member Family
$10/Non Member Family

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

Family Late Night Movie & Swim: Jaws
Date: Saturday, August 17
Time: 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Free/Member $5/Non Member

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

Parental Discretion is Advised
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.

**Free Family Membership to the JCC!**
Full time students are eligible for a free family membership to the Jewish Community Center beginning in June! Some exclusions apply.

Enrollment now open for summer and fall. Reserve your spot today!

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**FEDERATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council
330.746.3250 ext. 195
bursar@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:** 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:** August 9
- **Times:** 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** 7178 West Blvd, Ste E Youngstown, Ohio 44512

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**RENTALS**

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

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

**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
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.

**CURRENT EXHIBIT:**
**Salt & Sea**
Chauncey 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.

**Exhibit Dates:** July 10 - August 5

**UPCOMING EXHIBIT:**
**Power of the Protest**
This unique exhibit from the National Museum for American Jewish History in Philadelphia will display The Movement to Free Soviet Jews. This is one of the most successful human rights movements in history and shows that voices raised in protest can lead to remarkable achievements.

**Exhibit Dates:** August 19 - September 29

**Opening Reception:**
Thursday, August 22
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
To learn more visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the gallery curator, Heather Seno, at hseno@jewishyoungstown.org

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.

**Showing: The Spy Behind Home Plate**

**Date:** Thursday, September 6
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room

This event is free and open to everyone. Light refreshments will be served.

Register by Tuesday, September 3 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195
JCC Hosts First Local Mamanet Tournament

The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown hosted the area’s first Mamanet tournament June 30. Seven teams participated. Teams were from Youngstown, Israel, Columbus, and Pittsburgh. The Israel team, Isra-Mamas, beat out Game of Throws, a team from Youngstown, to win the trophy. About 60 women participated. Mamanet is a modified version of volleyball that originated in Israel and is played by thousands of women across the globe. The tournament was held at Youngstown State University’s Stambaugh Gymnasium. Pictured from left to right are Diane Aron, Jerilyn Walsh, Colleen Lozano, Joanne Gardner, Jessica Lev, Laura Weymer, and Shannon Arcade.

Disney Day at Camp JCC

Camp JCC of Youngstown had a Disney Day in July. Campers made Monsters, Inc. art and played Disney freeze tag. Pictured is camp counselor Sophie Alper painting Miya Moore’s foot in preparation for creating footprint art.
More than 100 People Take Part in 2nd Annual Dash & Splash

More than 100 people of all ages joined in the Jewish Community Center Dash & Splash to walk or run the 5K from the Main Campus to the Logan Campus. Pre-race activities in the open play space near the new pavilion included an obstacle course, water balloons, and a kids' 50-meter dash. Participants then traveled down Gypsy Lane, turned left at Logan Way, and made a loop around Oriole Drive, then traveled the rest of the way down Logan to the swim club, where cheerleaders from Liberty High School greeted them at the finish line. After the race, a party was held at Logan with a DJ, free food, and kids' activities, as well as information about JCC membership and race sponsors. Major sponsors included the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, Serv Pro, Panera, Minuteman Press, Hollywood Gaming, Walmart, Simon Roofing, Phantom Fireworks, the City of Youngstown, and Liberty Township. For overall results, visit jewishyoungstown.org/dashresults. Pictured are (above) Liberty High School cheerleaders and (right) walk participant Jean Smith.

Commission for Jewish Education Offering Adult Ed Courses

The Commission for Jewish Education will offer a series of adult education classes at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown. Hebrew Primer, an eight-session Hebrew reading course, will be offered on Thursdays in October and November. By the end of the course, participants will be able to read, phonetically, any Hebrew word. Two sessions are being offered from Oct. 3 through Nov. 21: 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. A light meal will be served at each. The cost is $30 for JCC members and $40 for nonmembers.

Cooking and Dining Experiences will offer professionals and novices the opportunity to learn and share recipes with experts. Each session will have a different focus. Session 1 is a complete chicken and couscous meal, session 2 is desserts, session 3 is exotic salads, and session 4 is easy Asian appetizers. Sessions are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 3, 10, and 17, and Oct. 29. Individuals may attend one or all four sessions. The cost for one session is $15 for JCC members and $18 for nonmembers. The fee for four sessions is $50 for JCC members and $60 for nonmembers. The deadline to register is Aug. 26.

To register for Hebrew Primer or Cooking and Dining Experiences, call 330.746.3250, ext. 195.
YSU Students Participate in Study Abroad Trip as part of Holocaust and Human Rights Course
The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Helped Fund Trip

YSU students participated in a study abroad program as part of a YSU Judaic and Holocaust Studies program. Pictured from back to front are Nadine Jones, Matthew Baker, Jason Long, and Alexandra Fryer.

YSU Student Learns About Long-Lasting Impacts of Dehumanization During Study Abroad Trip
By Nadine Jones

This past May, I had the privilege of participating in a study abroad program hosted by YSU’s Judaic and Holocaust Studies Program. The course focused on the Holocaust and Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe and took us through the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany to learn and discuss the importance of education and memory in the prevention of crimes against humanity, as well as its significance in the preservation of human rights.

During the course of our trip, I learned not just the causes of the Shoah, but the long-lasting impacts of dehumanization and how they affect Survivors and communities today. We had the privilege to speak with numerous Jewish-rights activists as well as other rights-based organizations that help rebuild communities torn by histories of discrimination and systematic abuse.

These meetings allowed for us to better understand how communities, both discriminated against and not, are vital for the equal enjoyment of human rights for all. Our ability as a community to speak for those whose voices are lost or impaired is the most powerful tool we have to prevent the deterioration of our basic rights. Even after tragedy, our voices allow for us to remember so we may never forget the pain incurred by human beings. In an effort to achieve rehabilitative and restorative justice for what was lost and for the trauma incurred, victims and their surrounding communities are always finding new ways to memorialize tragedy so we as a community may never forget the brutality that we are capable of in the hopes that we will not repeat such events.

We all share responsibility for mass atrocities, for action and inaction, and for helping torn communities heal, reassuring Survivors that what happened to them was wrong, and rebuilding trust in them for the protection of their rights.
Condolences

Phyllis D. Stinson
25-year Heritage Manor Employee

A home going celebration in honor of Phyllis D. Stinson will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the New Bethel Baptist Church. Phyllis departed this life July 5, 2019, in Poland, surrounded by her loving family.

Phyllis was born on March 1, 1957, the third of eight children born to Joseph and Ann Oliver of Youngstown. She was educated in the Youngstown City School system and was a 1975 graduate of South High School. Phyllis also attended Youngstown State University.

Phyllis stayed to herself, but loved to cook, line dance, go to the casino and travel, but most of all she loved spending time with her family. Phyllis was a dedicated God-fearing woman, who taught her children by example, how to find strength in God. She touched so many people with her caring and giving ways.

She had previously been employed at the Ole Ebony Record Shop, C. Staples BBQ restaurant and Heritage Manor. She was an STNA at Heritage Manor for over 25 years.

It is in her home-going that we celebrate her life and legacy and share the wonderful memories of her spirit and essence. She was a loving wife, devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandparent, servant, leader, and friend.

Phyllis leaves to cherish her legacy her daughter, Devalynn D. Searcy and her son, Alvin C. Stinson Jr., both of Youngstown; three grandchildren, Aj’ah and Ashley Eldridge and Blaine Spires; three great-grand children; one sister, Amanda Rivers; and three brothers, Gary (Glenda), Timothy (Jill) and Dwayne Oliver of Youngstown; and a host of other family and friends.

Beside her parents and husband Alvin Stinson Sr., she was preceded in death by a sister, Francis Oliver and brothers Waverly and Joseph Oliver.

Interment was in Belmont Park Cemetery. Ministry of comfort and transitional care was entrusted to the J.E. Washington Funeral Services Inc.
Outdoor Sculptures to be Installed at Steel Museum

The Artwork is by the Late Rabbi Sidney Rackoff

Three large scrap metal sculptures depicting a steelworker; a coal miner; and a soldier will be installed outside the Youngstown Historical Center for Industry and Labor.

“We are thrilled to have this amazing artwork at the museum,” said Marcelle Wilson, a history instructor at Youngstown State University and the museum’s site manager. “The work is emotional and thought provoking.”

The sculptures, measuring nine-feet high and weighing more than 400 pounds each, are titled “Steel Worker,” “Coal Miner,” and “Wounded Warrior” and will be located on the west side of the museum on Wood Street.

The artwork is by the late Sidney Rackoff, a Youngstown steelworker who earned a Purple Heart during World War II and later attended Yeshiva University and became a rabbi. He later retired, took art classes, and, in the 1980s and 1990s, began creating different types of art, including large metal sculptures. He died in 2014.

Wilson said Rackoff’s family approached the museum with the offer of donating the sculptures. The project was managed by John Liana, public relations/blueprint archivist and liaison between the Rackoff family and the museum for the past two years.

Wilson said Rackoff created a variety of statues with several resonating themes that fit well with the museum’s mission.

“This is important work that needs to be preserved,” she said. “Rabbi Rackoff’s experiences informed his work and his connection with people. We think we are the correct place to collect these sculptures and display them.”

Born in 1919, Rackoff served in the Army during World War II, seeing combat in France, Belgium, and Germany and receiving the Purple Heart. After the war, Rackoff worked at Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company from 1948 to 1967 as a crane-man’s helper in the pipe yard. He also owned a used furniture store in Youngstown.

In 1969, Rackoff graduated from Yeshiva University in New York and became a rabbi, serving in various synagogues including the Elyria, Ohio, congregation; Beth Abraham Synagogue in Zanesville, Ohio; Temple Am Shalom in Mentor, Ohio; and Temple Israel in New Castle, Pa.

He later attended art classes at Lorain County Community College, studying drawing, painting, and three-dimensional art. At Cleveland State University, he took classes in bronze casting and ceramic sculpture.

His work, which numbers more than 70 pieces, has been exhibited in the Colony Square Mall in Zanesville; Muskingum College; the Randall Park Mall in North Randall, Ohio; Richmond Town Square in Richmond Heights, Ohio; Shaker Square in Cleveland; Secrest Auditorium in Zanesville; the Zanesville Art Center; and area churches, schools, and malls in Ohio and West Virginia, as well as the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown.

The museum, opened in 1986 and part of the Ohio History Connection, is managed by YSU’s History department and houses exhibits and records that provide an overview of the impact of the iron and steel industry on Youngstown and other Mahoning Valley communities.

After 50 Years on a Dusty Shelf in Germany, Hebrew Scrolls Return to Israel

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA) — When Leor Jacobi visited a Catholic library in the German city of Mainz to examine its Judaica collection, he was surprised when library officials showed him three centuries-old Hebrew scrolls that had been sitting on a dusty shelf for some 50 years.

Jacobi, a doctoral candidate in Jewish art at Israel’s Bar-Ilan University, visited Mainz in March. He was there as a guest of the Johannes Gutenberg University to study the particular Mainz version of the Yom Kippur prayer book. Mainz is known as Magenta in Yiddish.

During a visit to the Martinus Library, Jacobi was able to view its impressive Judaica collection, including rare books and manuscripts. Library director Helmut Hinkel then brought out three scrolls that were never catalogued and asked Jacobi to tell him what they were.

Jacobi determined that two of the scrolls were Ashkenazi versions of the Book of Esther that were at least 200 years old. The third was the beginning of a Samaritan Torah scroll, including the chapters of Genesis and Noah.

The scrolls, he was told, had been purchased from a souvenir dealer for about $25 by Nikolaus Adler, a Catholic priest in Mainz who died in 1970, while he was on a visit to Israel in the 1960s. Adler said they had been sitting on a shelf in his former library office in the library for 50 years.

Jacobi wrote a one-page summary about each of the scrolls for the library, so that its officials would understand what they had in their possession, never imagining that he would see the scrolls again.

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that one of the Esther scrolls, unique in that it was written in columns of unequal length, must have had sentimental value to its owner since it was housed in a custom brass container. Jacobi wondered aloud, not for the first time, how it ended up in the hands of an Israeli souvenir dealer, sold to a priest, and taken to Germany.

Not long after he returned to Israel, Jacobi got a call from Hinkel asking if he would like to help the Mainz library give the scrolls to a library in Israel. Jacobi said he consulted with his mentors at Bar-Ilan and they all agreed that the scrolls should be deposited with the National Library of Israel.

Jacobi, who has a master’s degree in Talmud, agreed to return to Mainz last month to retrieve the scrolls, and delivered a lecture related to the Book of Esther as part of the handover ceremony.

And when he was handed the scrolls there was a fourth, which had been discovered behind some of the books on that same dusty shelf. And this one was a bit rarer: a Song of Songs scroll. (Song of Songs is read in synagogue on the Shabbat of Passover.)

The Esther scrolls will join the National Library’s collection of approximately 200 partial and complete Esther scrolls from the 15th-20th centuries, which originate from Europe as well as Yemen, Iran, Iraq, and northern Africa. The library also owns eight Samaritan Torah scrolls from the 13th-20th centuries.
Hillel International Welcomes Interim CEO and New Board Chair

WASHINGTON - Adam Lehman will take the helm of the world's largest campus Jewish organization as Interim CEO after serving as the organization's Chief Operating Officer since 2015. Hillel International also announced that Samuel E. “Skip” Vichness, Ph. D. will begin his term as the Chair of the Board of Directors after serving for three years as Vice Chair.

For the past four years, Lehman has managed the day-to-day activities and operations of Hillel International and played a pivotal role in helping the organization meet and exceed the goals set in its Drive to Excellence strategic plan. A successful executive and entrepreneur, Lehman previously served as a senior vice president and group COO at AOL; as president and COO of software company Lotame Solutions; and as a founder, CEO and operating partner in several other entrepreneurial and mission-driven ventures. As he laid out in a recent op-ed in Jewish Philanthropy, Lehman has used his entrepreneurial background to strengthen Hillel's orientation as both a data-driven and customer-centric organization.

"At Hillel International we are blessed with a clear plan for achieving excellence and an incredible team of Hillel professionals serving students on more than 550 campuses in the U.S., Canada and 17 other countries around the world," Lehman said. As I take on this new role, my focus and Hillel's focus will continue to be on providing the most relevant and valuable resources and supports to our campus professionals so that we can achieve our mission of enriching the lives of Jewish students so they enrich the Jewish campus, is helping us to continually innovate in how we create strong, inspired Jewish campus communities we serve."

"Vichness has served as a director, investor, and partner in the summer camp industry for 45 years and is a past chair of the Foundation for Jewish Camp and the National Ramah Commission. He is also a past president of the American Camp Association, New York Section, and a former chair of the TriState Camping Conference, the largest gathering of camping professionals in the world, as well as former president of the Golda Och Academy (then known as the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union Counties).

"I am excited to continue serving the mission of Hillel International as chair of the board," said Vichness. "Sustaining support for the future of Jewish learning and engagement is some of the most important work I can do. As the Jewish community grows, we need to be prepared to grow with it, creating more capacity to inspire a commitment to Jewish life and Israel. I look forward to working with Adam and our board to secure the investment needed to ensure Hillel's success."

"Skip has been a critical part of realizing Hillel's vision and we are grateful and excited to welcome him as the next chair of our board," said Lehman. "His deep background creating engaging and meaningful experiences for Jewish youth, which spans from camp to campus, is helping us to continually innovate in how we create strong, inspired Jewish communities. In his role as vice chair of the board, Skip has already demonstrated his deep commitment to serving students and our Hillel professionals in the field, through his visits to dozens of Hillels around the world. I look forward to partnering him as we usher in the next phase of work in support of Hillel professionals and the students and campus communities we serve."
knowing that the next time I attended 
services, I would be able to do something 
as simple as receive an aliyah, an honor. 
As I immersed, I thought about the many 
gifts and lessons that I've received from 
both of my parents. I thought of the 
numerous Jews who had come before 
me who held complex Jewish identities. 
I thought of how we honor converts such 
as Ruth, but fail to speak about the many 
men married to non-Jewish women who 
chose not to become Jewish but play a 
role in fostering Jewish identity. I thought 
about how I shouldn't really need to dip 
in the mikvah at all, while at the same 
time being grateful for the opportunity to 
push away my past insecurities. 
And I thought about how much further 
we as a community still need to go. 
Patrilineal recognition by certain 
strands of Judaism was the beginning of 
this movement, but cannot be the end. 
There are too many Jews like myself 
who find, and make, our homes in 
congregations that require us to convert 
or affirm our identities to truly belong. 
And there are too many Jews who, facing 
this predication, decide to leave the 
community altogether: 
Jews raised in interfaith homes have proven time and again that we’re not 
discontent with the current leadership, when 
people feel that the current leadership is 
working in their own interest rather than 
that of the general public, when there is a 
widely perceived trust and a breakdown of 
the sense of the common good. 
Korah felt he was equally qualified to 
become the Kohan Gadol. He was a Levite 
and his father; directly descended from Levi, 
thus giving him a leg up in seniority. But he 
was overlooked. 
Like Korah, some people come to feel that 
the distribution of rewards is unfair: a few 
gain disproportionately and the many stay 
static or lose. There is also a feeling that the 
community they once knew has been taken 
away from them, whether because of the 
undermining of traditional values or because of 
large scale change. 
Korah felt Aaron and Moses were above 
the rest of the people. Korah was right: our 
tradition emphasizes involvement with 
the material can be no less G-dly an endeavor 
than the most transcendent flights of 
spirit. Indeed, our sages consider man’s 
sanctification of material life the ultimate 
objective of creation. So where did Korah go 
wrong? He was questioning the actions of the 
leadership and standing up for himself as 
well as all common “Israeli” followers.

But…

Korah had a very bad trait. Reading 
between the lines of Numbers, one sees 
the vanity and unwillingness for him to talk 
and compromise. To work with his fellow 
Israeli leaders. And to lie…the land of Egypt 
was not a land flowing with milk and honey 
for the Israelites. Instead he adopted only one 
side of populism. He had a right to question 
the choice of Aaron as Kohan Gadol and he 
had a right to question why only Moses and 
Aaron ruled with no others having any power 
whatsoever. But he raised these questions 
in a selfish manner…only for his own self-
aggrandizement, his lust for power. Yes, he 
was a populist – a man that questioned how 
the current leaders, Moses and Aaron had 
cured suffering and worry about the future 
of the wandering Hebrew nation. But he fell 
short. 

Populism is the politics of anger. It makes 
sits appearance when there is widespread 
discontent, when people feel that their 
leaders are not working in the people’s 
best interest, when there is a breakdown 
of trust. Isn’t it interesting that this chapter 
in Numbers foretells what would happen 
thousands of years later in the twentieth 
century? Hitler, Mussolini, Franco were all 
populists who did come to power using the 
tactics of Korah. 

Think about this: 
If Korah was chosen over Aaron three-
thousand years ago, how would our history 
have changed? Or is this story just a lesson 
or premonition about what might have 
happened, telling us to beware?

Korah claimed his desire was to be close 
to Hashem and serve Hashem as Kohan 
Gadol, and the rabbis of the Talmud and the 
Mishnah have debated if Korah was right in 
his challenging of Moses and Aaron, or was it 
just a lie? A way to assume power: 
Beware of Korah. Beware of any leader 
who assumes the role of Korah in today’s 
world. 

I close with the last verse of today’s 
Haftorah, Samuel 12, verse 22 that will 
certainly give each of us hope. 
“For the Lord will not forsake His people 
for His great name’s sake; for the Lord has 
sworn to make you a people for Himself.”

Benjamin 
Netanyahu 
New Israel’s 
Longest-Serving 
Prime Minister

By Marcy Oster

(JTA) — Prime Minister Benjamin 
Netanyahu has become Israel’s longest-
serving prime minister. 

Netanyahu, 69, on July 20 surpassed 
the number of days as prime minister held by 
David Ben Gurion, the country’s first prime 
minister.

Ben Gurion served in the office for 4,875 
days, from the establishment of the state in 
May 1948 until early 1954, and again from 

On July 20, Netanyahu served 4,876 days 
from 1996 to 1999, and from March 2009 to 
the present. He faces a new election on Sept. 
17 and possible indictment in three different 
corruption cases the following month.

His election in 1996 made him the 
country’s youngest-ever prime minister. 
Twelve Israelis have served as prime minister 
since the founding of the state.

He is the 16th longest-serving leader of 
a democratic country since World War II, 
according to statistics from the Israel 
Democracy Institute. Among those leaders are 
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who 
as of July 20 served 5,972 days and counting; 
Germany’s Helmut Kohl at 5,870 days, and 
Canada’s Pierre Trudeau at 5,642 days.

News You Can Use

Germany’s Helmut Kohl at 5,870 days, and 
counting; Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who 
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News You Can Use
Synagogues Are Conducting Active Shooter Drills During Services

By Ben Sales

(JTA) — When the ushers locked the door to the sanctuary, and the congregants prepared to flee the synagogue in preparation for a mass shooting, Rabbi Neil Cooper made sure it all happened before they had to take the Torahs out of the ark.

Ten minutes later the worshippers were back in the pews, doors unlocked, and getting ready to hear the weekly Torah portion. The first active shooter drill at this suburban Philadelphia synagogue was over.

“It was not a high-energy, kind of catching people off-guard kind of thing,” Cooper said.

five days after the June 22 drill at his Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood, “We also wanted to let people know, more than anything else, that we’re on top of this. We have a procedure. We have people looking out.”

After a span of eight months that included shootings at two synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway, Calif., congregations across the country are actively drilling their members on how to act if the terror arrives at their doorstep. Some, like Beth Hillel-Beth El, have run active shooter scenarios during services. Others have detailed plans in place should a shooting occur. Others have trained a group of congregants in how to fight gunmen when they come through the door.

The active shooter drills complement a range of other security measures that congregations have adopted since the Pittsburgh massacre, in which a gunman killed 11 worshippers in October. They have ranged from locking doors and reinforcing windows to hiring armed security. Some congregations have encouraged members to carry handguns at services, while others have installed new restrictions on carrying guns in shul.

“People very rarely rise to the occasion” in the event of a mass shooting, said Michael Masters, executive director of the Secure Community Network, an umbrella organization that provides guidance to Jewish institutions on security procedures. “They fall back to their level of training. Our goal is to give people a plan in their minds so that if an event happens, they have a toolbox they can draw from effectively.”

The active shooter trainings often follow the mantra of “run, hide, fight,” which means to choose one of those three options and commit to it - either running to a safe place, hiding somewhere secure, or fighting the gunman. As the congregants at Beth Hillel-Beth El filed through an exit at the front of the sanctuary, opposite the doors, ushers locked the main entrance and triggered a silent alarm to the police.

The trainings complement active shooter drills that have been taking place for years at schools, including Jewish ones. Beth Hillel-Beth El’s preschool has been running active shooter drills since at least 2013. Because the kids range from infants to kindergartners, sometimes keeping them quiet during the drill means hugging them or giving them lollipops.

“It not only makes it less scary to be playing the games, but it keeps their mouths active,” said Judith Scarani, the temple’s early childhood center director. “They’re kind of muted by the lollipops.”

In Salt Lake City, the Utah Highway Patrol gave Congregation Kol Ami, a liberal synagogue, a briefing on security procedures. While the briefing did not include an active drill, Rabbi Samuel Spector said just having a plan in place made people feel more comfortable.

“People were saying, ‘OK, now I’m thinking about what my escape route would be,’” Spector said. “If I’m here, could I throw my siddur at the person? I think that a lot of people, at least that night, started to think about their plan.”

Some synagogues have pursued more aggressive training programs.

Avi Abraham, an Israeli martial arts expert who teaches Krav Maga, the Israeli hand-to-hand combat technique, has taught self-defense courses to groups at more than 20 synagogues in the New York City area. His course consists of six hour-long classes for groups of congregants where they learn how to take down a shooter. He also offers the option of drilling the technique during services. The program costs $1,500 to $2,000.

Abraham teaches the groups how to collectively pounce on a gunman from the side as he’s entering a doorway, then to tackle him and take his weapon. He said the technique depends more on sechel, or good sense, than on physical strength. Those who aren’t fighting, Abraham said, should lie on the ground so as to be out of the line of fire.

“In a few seconds, people find energy and willpower deep down to make sure they can protect their community,” he said. “The whole point is do mesirut nefesh,” Hebrew for fully dedicating oneself to a cause.

If a gunman were to enter a synagogue, would the worshippers have enough mettle to execute their training in the heat of the moment?

Abraham and one of his trainees both say yes, that adrenaline and focus would kick in when it counts.

“We’re not done training,” said Mike Sigal, the volunteer head of security for the Orthodox Congregation Anshei Shalom in West Hempstead, N.Y., who did the training with a group of 20 congregants and is himself a black belt in karate. “We’re going to keep training. We’re going to keep practicing this. It’s got to become muscle memory, so you can alleviate some of that panic.”

Those who have done active shooter drills say that, of course, pretending a mass shooting is happening does upset the intentional tranquility that Shabbat prayers aim to create. But rabbis sigh that at least they want to be prepared.

“This is not business as usual,” Cooper said. “We just cannot do it like that anymore. We live in a world where it no longer can be assumed that things are safe, as unsettling as it might be. We have to run services in the world in which we’re living and praying.”
California Bill Will Ensure the Right to Hang Mezuzas

By Gabe Stutman

SAN FRANCISCO (J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA) — A bill to ensure the right of Californians to hang mezuzahs on their door frames is moving through the state legislature, and is on its way to the desk of Governor Gavin Newsom.

SB 652 bars landlords and condo associations from prohibiting "the display of religious items" of a certain size on doors and door frames. Known to some as the "mezuzah bill" - though it also has the support of secular organizations, as well as Catholic and Hindu groups - the bill follows complaints from Jewish renters and condo owners who were told to remove their mezuzahs because of a building or apartment complex policy.

The bill is sailing through the statehouse in Sacramento, where it passed the Assembly 72-0 on July 8 after being approved by the Senate on May 6.

The bill has the strong backing of the Anti-Defamation League, which in June sent a letter of support to the chair of the Assembly’s Judiciary Committee, Rep. Mark Stone.

“For millennia, Jews have posted mezuzahs on the entry doorframes of their homes in fulfillment of a religious obligation rooted in the Torah,” states the letter, signed by the ADL’s San Francisco-based state legislative director, Nancy Appel.

“Posting a mezuzah is not a decorative choice for Jews,” Appel wrote, “or indeed a choice of any kind.”

Over the years, the ADL’s offices in California have received a number of complaints from Jewish renters and condo owners who were told to remove their mezuzahs because of a building or apartment complex policy.

The bill’s diverse backers include the National Association of Social Workers, the Jewish social justice agency Bend the Arc, the California Catholic Conference, and the Hindu American Foundation.

Appel said someone from the latter organization told her earlier this year that Hindus also traditionally place religious ornaments on their doors.

Allen said he doesn’t think prohibitions on hanging mezuzahs, set by landlords and property managers, are born out of anti-Semitic views. But they do show "incredible insensitivity," he said.

Five other states - Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Rhode Island, and Texas - already have similar laws in place, the ADL said.

“It left him feeling very badly - in tears," Allen said.

“It’s something I found to be pretty outrageous,” Allen said. “I don’t have to explain to you that a mezuzah is an important expression of our faith. We are obligated as Jews to put a mezuzah on our door. It’s part of the v’ahavta," the first full paragraph of the Shema section of Jewish prayer services.

The bill’s diverse backers include the National Association of Social Workers, the Jewish social justice agency Bend the Arc, the California Catholic Conference, and the Hindu American Foundation.

Appel helped him craft an email to his landlord. They never got a response, so Lang and his wife kept their mezuzah affixed.

“They just disappeared,” Lang said. “They didn’t follow up.”

Not everyone is so lucky. State Sen. Ben Allen, a Democrat from Southern California, said he and his Jewish caucus colleagues heard from a man whose homeowners’ association in San Diego insisted he remove his mezuzah from a condominium he had purchased. Rather than deal with the expense of a protracted legal fight, the man complied.

Jewish religious law and customs require that mezuzahs be affixed to doorframes. (Zeevveez/Flickr)