At El Emeth’s Nov. 12 Bagels with the Rabbi program the documentary “True Honor” was shown and those veteran members and friends who were present that day were honored. Seated left to right, Howard Sniderman, Dr. Bill Gordon, Sam Fine, and Florence Mirkin.

Standing left to right: Rabbi Schonberger, Alan Sharapan, Dr. Larry Glass, Bill Laslo, Dr. Sheldon Persky, Dr. Harold Chevlen, Norman Simon, and Perry Fos.

Florence Mirkin’s father was Hyman Greenblatt, who was Commander of the Jewish War Veterans in the state of Ohio in the late 1930s. The Hyman Greenblatt Post 59 was named in his memory following his death at the age of 43.

The staff of the Jewish Journal wishes its readers and advertisers much happiness during the holiday season.

One of the area’s oldest Jewish cemeteries had been left in disarray for more than 20 years until Stephen Stoyak decided those buried there deserved a more fitting memorial. (See story on p. 11)

From ancient times until the present day, Jews have lived in Central Asia — from merchants plying trade along the Silk Road from China to those who have ensured opportunities for worship in the present day, such as at the Bukharan synagogue, whose decor is pictured here. See story on pages 20-21.
Federations rally around pluralism — but wish they didn’t have to

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Leaders of North America’s Jewish federation movement kicked off their annual conference here Sunday with a tribute to the 1987 march on Washington that brought out hundreds of thousands of people in support of Soviet Jews.

The film and testimonials by refuseniks were moving, but felt a little like those perennial tributes by the New York Mets to their 1986 championship team: a reminder not only of what was, but what’s gone.

The rescue of Soviet Jews and their resettlement here and in Israel was a high point for the network of Jewish philanthropies and advocacy groups represented by the Jewish Federations of North America, whose annual General Assembly was to conclude Tuesday afternoon.

As Mark Wilf, chair of the JFNA’s National Holocaust Survivor Initiative, said in introducing the 30th anniversary tribute, it represented “what we can accomplish when we unite.”

But its very success posed a dilemma to the Jewish fundraising class: In the three decades since, organized Jewry has looked, often in vain, for a similarly galvanizing cause around which to rally. With the resettlement of the Soviet and Ethiopian Jews, there are almost no imperiled Jewish communities left to rescue. And Israel has been no help: As it has grown more prosperous, and more politically divisive among American Jews, the urgency of uniting around her, outside of wartime, has waned. A system built on fear, rescue and crisis needs a new organizing principle.

Throughout this year’s G.A., there were reminders of what the network of 148 local federations can do when they act in concert. The movement raised and delivered $15 million for victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston in days. Speaker after speaker noted the movement’s support for such high-profile efforts as Birthright Israel (free trips to Israel for young people); Masa (long-term experiences in Israel for the same cohort); Moishe House (group living for you, you guessed it, young people); and PJ Library (free Jewish books for families with young children).

But even as they touted these successes and a string of relatively healthy fundraising years, a note of anxiety crept into the proceedings. There were small-group “breakout” sessions on differentiating the umbrella philanthropies like federation in a crowded Jewish charitable marketplace and turning elusive millennials into philanthropists. And the speakers’ repeated emphasis on “unity” and the “power of the collective” suggested that both were, if not slipping away, then under siege.

JFNA CEO Jerry Silverman was blunt in describing the challenges in his address Sunday.

“You see, it is not that there is no longer the desire and need for community,” he said to the 3,000 delegates gathered at the JW Marriott Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. “It is how people define community — or how people choose to engage — that has changed.”

Mr. Silverman described a number of areas around which a diverse community could rally: lowering the enormous cost of Jewish day school education; helping the less fortunate; engaging young people; and, as he put it, meeting the “unfulfilled promise of Israel being the home for all Jews — regardless of religious affiliation.”

It was this last point — discussed under the rubric of “pluralism in Israel” — that seemed to dominate this G.A., or at least the public discussions. It proved an inspiring rallying cry and sure applause line.

But it is also an issue that the federation movement wishes would go away. In a nutshell, America’s non-Orthodox Jewish majority wants Israel to be a more welcoming place for Reform, Conservative and other non-Orthodox Jewish expressions. On Monday morning, the JFNA board issued an unusual resolution criticizing Israel for freezing a deal on non-Orthodox prayer at the Western Wall and for its support for a bill that would give Orthodox authorities in Israel a monopoly on religious conversions to Judaism.

Both issues demonstrate to the non-Orthodox establishment that their rabbinical religious practices are strongly connected to egalitarian religious roles for women and men — have second-class standing in the Jewish state.

But federations are set up to support Israel and inspire donors with its vision as a home for all Jews, not tussle with its leadership. The official program for the convention described what it called “one of the most vexing issues facing Federations today: How do we balance Federations’ philanthropic mission with our role as the community’s central address when we’re increasingly drawn into controversial political issues?”

Pluralism isn’t the only such issue — a panel discussion Monday sought to heal internal communal wounds over the bruising Iran nuclear deal fight of a few years back. It’s an issue that not

(Continued on page 9)
What’s in this month’s Jewish Journal?

Celebrations ......................................................... 15
Commentary........................................................... 2
Culture ..................................................................... 7
Federation /P2G ...................................................... 10
Hillel ....................................................................... 18
International Jewry ................................................. 19, 20-21
Israel ....................................................................... 14
JCC activities .......................................................... 12-13,
Memorial .................................................................. 20
Shlichim ................................................................... 18
Synagogues and Sisterhoods .................. 4-5, 6, 23
Teen trip .............................................................. 16-17

Hanukkah Candles
Dec. 12 1st candle after sundown
Dec. 13 2nd candle
Dec. 14 3rd candle
Dec. 15 4th candle light before Shabbat
Dec. 16 5th candle light after Havdallah
Dec. 17 6th candle
Dec. 18 7th candle
Dec. 19 8th candle

Candle-Lighting Times
Dec. 1 4:36 p.m.
Dec. 8 4:36 p.m.
Dec. 15 4:37 p.m.
Dec. 22 4:40 p.m.
Dec. 29 4:40 p.m.

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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JJMM Mission Statement

◆ The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —
◆ Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;
◆ Present current local, national and world news of Jewish interest;
◆ Offer timely commentary, interpretation, analysis and authentic background on events of the day for the purpose of encouraging the concern and response vital to our responsibilities as Americans and Jews;
◆ Enrich the cultural interest of individuals and the community through articles, features, reviews and other material of both local and national Jewish content and interest;
◆ Provide a communication tool to enable all members of the Jewish community to express their viewpoints on issues of Jewish importance and interest;
◆ Demonstrate commitment to the progress and continuity of Jewish life in the U.S., especially our local area, Israel and around the world.

The JJMM does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

December 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the January 15 issue.
Eh! What did you say?

By Mary Lou Finesilver

I guess it is about three years since I started wearing hearing aids. A very necessary evil. They are a necessity in trying to improve one’s hearing. But I have a couple complaints and would certainly like to hear from anyone else who has similar problems.

They are extremely expensive, and I am fortunate that I had back-up assisting me in the purchase of my first set. Supposedly, they only last about five years. I hope not because I hope to last longer than that and I don’t really want to buy another pair. The other thing that gets me is the batteries. They last about 4 ½ to 5 days each. Right now the warranty allows me to receive free batteries from the Hearing Center. I think that is up in about two years, maybe.

Every few weeks I go to the office and get another three or four packs of four batteries each. I don’t know how much they cost, and I’m not sure I am ready to hear the answer to that.

For me, I am able to hear fairly well on the telephone. Sometimes at work it’s a problem. Not sure if it’s the caller, the outside noise around me or the phone. That is something I am trying to work out. My other disappointment, with the type of hearing loss I have, is listening to the radio and my music because it is not always clear. According to my doctor it is not the hearing aids, it’s me and too bad, too sad.

Generally speaking, I do hear better with them, as a matter of fact, once you start wearing them, it is difficult to go without. I think my kids think I hear a lot better, maybe. Of course, if they are coming around the corner and I am not alerted to the fact that they are speaking to me, I miss at least the first part.

Same thing happens if they are turned away from me and speaking. I guess I almost have to hear my name to pay attention to what people have to say. I supposed that is my shortcoming. I wish I could read lips because I do miss a lot of conversations with people, at the movies and out in a crowd.

Listen, I will stop my complaining because I am fortunate to have the aids. I can’t imagine what it would be like without. Just another thing in life we have to learn to live with and take the bad with the good. None of us are perfect, well I think I know a couple people, but they are far and few between. I’ll take my “pek!” (bundle) cause as my Mother used to say, “If we all hung our ‘tsuris’ (trouble) out on the line, we would take our own back.” I’ll take what I have, be glad to have it and, run like the devil to keep it all together.

Toletries needed

The Small Toiletry Project has been very successful thanks to all of the donors and their generous responses in bringing home unused hotel toiletries from their travels.

Every month every family at the food pantry has received a bag containing the necessities for everyday living—shampoos, conditioners, lotions, razors, soaps, cleansing gels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and more.

The items can be dropped off at any area synagogue or the JCC. Linda Polumbo, who started the project, will periodically pick them up and arrange for their distribution.

Whay’s happening at El Emeth?

Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle

Temple El Emeth’s annual Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle will take place on Saturday evening, Dec. 2 from 7-10 p.m. at the Synagogue. An hors d’oeuvres extravaganza and dessert buffet will accompany an open bar. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Loboy and $6000 in cash prizes will be raffled off including a grand prize of $5500. Tickets for $150 will admit two to the evening and one chance at the raffle.

Jewish Christian Dialogue

Jewish Christian Dialogue will have its monthly session on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the Temple. Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the study session beginning at 1 p.m. This year’s theme is “Setting the Record Straight—Misconceptions about Judaism and other religions”. Rabbi Schonberger will continue his presentation on the Jewish view of the theme.

Bagels with the Rabbi

“Bagels with the Rabbi” will meet on Sunday morning, Dec. 10. Minyan is at 10 a.m. with bagels and coffee at 10:30 a.m. followed by Rabbi’s presentation. This month’s topic will center on Zionist Heroes.

Hanukkah Happening

Our Kids “Hanukkah Happening” will be held Monday afternoon, Dec. 11 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Synagogue for children up to the age of 12. Tirtza Kohen will lead Chanukah songs followed by a variety of Chanukah crafts for all ages — painting, Chanukah jewelry making, and other crafts followed by latkes and Chanukah cookies for all. R.S.V.P. to the Temple for your child/children by Dec. 7. 330-759-2439

Community Chanukah Party

El Emeth will join with the other congregations at the Community Chanukah Party at Rodef Sholom on Tuesday evening, Dec. 12 beginning at 6 p.m.

Shabbat and Chanukah Luncheon

Our Shabbat morning service and Chanukah luncheon will take place Saturday morning, Dec. 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. A Chanukah luncheon complete with corned beef and turkey sandwiches and latkes will be served. Vegetarian options always available. Reservations are appreciated to the office by Dec. 14, 330-759-1429.

Shmoozing with Shmulik

Shmoozing with Shmulik will meet for some fun in Yiddish on Monday morning, December 18 at 10:30 am in the Chapel. The group is led by Sam Kooperman and all are welcome to attend.

Liberty Community Food Pantry

Anyone interested in helping out with the Liberty Community Food Pantry can volunteer by calling the El Emeth office. We will pass your name on to the Pantry. Thursday evening, January 4, help is needed from 7-8 p.m. and Friday day morning, January 5, volunteers are needed from 9:30 am until 12:30 p.m. Call the El Emeth office at 330-759-1429 to volunteer.

Tzedakah in honor of consecration

Noah Westreich, had been saving Israeli Shekels and wanted to donate them to Tzedakah in Israel in honor of his recent Consecration at Temple El Emeth. However, no one he knew was planning a trip to Israel in the near future. He soon found out that El Emeth member Devra Silverman would be going to Israel just a few days after his Consecration, as part of her Merrin Fellowship Program through the JCCs of America.

The two met up on Simchat Torah recently, and Noah made arrangements with Devra for his Shekels to be donated to Tzedakah in Israel.

While in Israel, Devra’s group visited the Shanti House, a kibbutz for at risk children and teens, most of whom have been emotionally abused or abandoned. There children are given a safe, loving home and schooling, with preparation given to the teens for army service and college. The Shanti House director was thrilled with Noah’s donation and very appreciative.
El Emeth Sisterhood – Dec. 2017

BREAKING NEWS... Sisterhood will have a booth at the December JCC Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. They will have Chanukah decorations, candles and Menorahs and some gift items too.

Come one, come all and support your Sisterhood. Temple will also have Chanukah hours for shopping. Dec. 6 and 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. –noon. Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

There was a Donor committee meeting Nov. 2, to determine the honoree for this year. Letters will be mailed in December with more information.

Holly Small is continuing the year long campaign to raise money for Torah Fund. Fran Hildebrand, the Regional Torah Fund Vice President will be visiting us on May 8 at the installation meeting.

This is a very worthwhile project for Women's League and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Checks should be made out to “Torah Fund” and mailed to Temple El Emeth. You can contact Holly at hicsmall@aol.com for more information.

Women's League is getting ready to publish its Calendar Diary, which is a wonderful tool for all Sisterhood members. They are looking for some artistic contributions for the 2018-2019/5779 edition. The theme is “The Letter Kuf” which means 100 in Hebrew, and they are looking for artwork that would complement this theme.

Send your ideas directly to Erica Slutsky at eslutsky@wlcj.org.

Last but not least, Sisterhood Chanukah Luncheon with Bingo will be Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 12 noon. Honorable Menschen will be Lenore Ackerman, Paula Ferguson, and Ellen Weiss. Members of other Sisterhoods and Temples have been invited to join us at that time. Reservations are a must no later than Thursday Dec. 6; the cost of the lunch will be $12. Board meeting will be at 10:45 a.m.

That's all for now folks.

YWCA Youngstown receives grant from Thomases Endowment

YOUNGSTOWN – YWCA Youngstown received a $3,000 grant from the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

The funds will be used to further YWCA’s mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. YWCA of Youngstown has been part of the community for over 110 years. Programs focus on empowerment, youth development, and housing with supportive services.

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. To learn more, visit ywca.org/youngstown.

Happy Hanukkah from Allen’s PharmaServ

Happy Hanukkah from Allen’s PharmaServ

Happy Hanukkah from the Judaica Shop at Temple El Emeth

Happy Hanukkah from the Judaica Shop at Temple El Emeth
The true meaning of Hanukkah

By Rabbi Frank Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

Concerning the joyous holiday of Purim, the Talmud tells us, “Mishenichnas Adar, marbeh bsimchah”, meaning, “When Adar comes, our happiness increases”.

I suppose we could say the same thing this month: “When December comes, our joy increases,” for we will soon be celebrating Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. Other than being minor holidays on the Jewish calendar, Purim and Hanukkah have something else in common — they both celebrate Jewish survival. Haman wanted to annihilate the Jewish people, while Antiochus wanted to wipe out the Jewish religion and Hellenize the Jews.

Abigail Pogrebin, in her new book, My Jewish Year, points out that Hanukkah may have been a battle between different factions of Jews — those who wanted to remain loyal to tradition and those who wished to assimilate.

She writes, “The more complete story, asserted by rabbi after rabbi, is that the Maccabees (aka Hasmoneans) took on not just Antiochus IV, who in 167 B.C.E. forbade Jewish practice. The Maccabees challenged their fellow Jews for selling out — embracing Greek culture, Hellenization, because they were either seduced by it or afraid to disobey authority.” (Pg 106).

An interesting plot twist, to be sure. If Hanukkah is more about a split in the Jewish soul than a fight for the right to survive, or the struggle against an internal enemy, then this holiday takes on special significance which is as relevant to us as Jews today as it was to the Maccabees more than two millennia ago.

When we light the candles on our Hanukkiyahs (menorahs), we must do more than recall the miracle of the cruze of oil that lasted for eight days instead of only one. We must also ask ourselves, what are we doing to keep the flame of Judaism burning brightly in our own day?

Even more importantly, what are we doing to pass the light on to the next generation who will hopefully carry the torch of Judaism into the future.

This is an awesome responsibility which we dare not take lightly (no pun intended). Ms. Pogrebin frames this challenge beautifully. To quote her once again; “I know it’s too simplistic to say the Maccabees stand for the observant while the rest of us are Hellenized. But implicit in so many of the Hanukkah teachings I’m now reading is that Jews are in danger of losing our direction — our distinctiveness — and abandoning the traditions, language, and texts that make us Jews. Am I Hellenized? Would the Maccabees have viewed me as a threat to Jewish life? Hanukkah makes me question this for the first time.” (Pg 107).

The lesson of Hanukkah for all us is this: Don’t blend in with the majority so that we become virtually indistinguishable from the rest. Practice your Judaism proudly, proclaim it loudly, and believe in it soundly. Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary said it best in his song from the ‘80s, which has become a Hanukkah classic — “Don’t let the light go out, it’s lasted for so many years. Don’t let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.”

Darlene joins me in wishing everyone a very Happy Hanukkah.

Chanukah Musings

Francie Yarwood
Co-President Ohev Tzedek

We have just come out of the time for self-reflection. Take a hard look in the mirror and ask yourself what can you change to make yourself and the world better. We come together to ask for forgiveness for each other. We hope that all will be inscribed in the book for a good, healthy, and happy year.

Believe it or not, Chanukah is almost here. As I was trying to figure out some great words of wisdom to write this article, someone suggested I write about the true meaning of Chanukah. What is the true meaning? What are we celebrating during Chanukah? The first-time guerilla warfare was used? The fact we came together and fought for our rights? The miracle of the oil?

“We were enslaved, we fought back, we won, let’s eat!” I have heard many variations of this over years, implying that every Jewish holiday has the same message. Every holiday has its individual traditions that are supposed to remind us of what our ancestors went through so we can have the lives we have today. However, as I tell my children, everyone interprets things differently. The story of Chanukah means something different to my children, who have never experienced any true hatred of them based only on their religion, than it does to, say, my parents or grandparents, who lived through World War II. Still, our stories do have a common theme: when

Celebrate a typical Jewish Dec. 25

Jewish Dec. 25 celebration

Join us Monday, December 25, at 11 a.m. for the Ohev Tzedek tradition of a typical Jewish December 25: movies and Chinese food!

We will again be showing two movies: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, featuring Jewish comedians in two lead roles (Zero Mostel and Phil Silvers), and The Nutty Professor, to honor the passing of comedy legend Jerry Lewis.

Stick around between showings for a special lunch of house-made Chinese, prepared by our own Chef Art Einzig! Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

Movie admission is free, but a minimal fee will be charged for the meal (menu and price TBD). Please RSVP to the Ohev Tzedek office (330.758.2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com) by Monday, December 18.

Ohev Tzedek Services

Morning Minyan services are held each Thursday at 7:30 a.m.
Shabbat services are held every Saturday at 9:45 a.m. Dario Hunter leads a Torah study session after each service.

(Continued on page 23)
At Magen David Adom, we’re often saving lives before our ambulances even arrive.

At Magen David Adom, Israel’s national EMS service, help begins the moment the phone is answered. Because EMTs handle the calls, they can provide lifesaving instructions while dispatching ambulances and first-responders on Medicycles. And now, with 15,000 CPR-certified civilian Life Guardians joining our team, help can be just seconds away.

As we celebrate Chanukah, please give the gift of life, and make your year-end tax-deductible donation today.

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Portman awarded Genesis Prize

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — The Genesis Prize Foundation has announced that world-renowned actress, director and social activist Natalie Portman has been selected as the 2018 Genesis Prize Laureate. The annual $1 million award honors extraordinary individuals who serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through their outstanding professional achievement, commitment to Jewish values and to the Jewish people.

[Natalie Portman, 2018 Genesis Prize Laureate]

Ms. Portman, a globally-acclaimed actress and director, began her acting career at the age of 12 and has since achieved recognition and praise from audiences around the world. She is a winner of multiple prestigious awards, including an Academy Award, two Golden Globe Awards, the British Academy of Film and Television Award, as well as other industry honors.

Portman was born in Israel and, after moving to the US as a child, retained a close connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots. In 2015, she directed Tale of Love and Darkness, a Hebrew-language film made in Israel and based on the novel by an Israeli writer Amos Oz. Portman also played a leading role in this picture.

Natalie Portman is noted for her social activism in such areas as gender equality, combatting poverty, microfinance, and animal rights. She is a graduate of Harvard University, where she returned to deliver a commencement speech in May 2015.

“We are delighted to celebrate Natalie Portman as the 2018 Genesis Prize Laureate,” said Stan Polovets, co-founder and Chairman of the Genesis Prize Foundation. “Natalie’s charismatic on-screen presence has touched the hearts of millions. Her talent, her commitment to social causes and her deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots are greatly admired. She exemplifies the core traits of the Jewish character and values of the Jewish people – persistence and hard work, pursuit of excellence, intellectual curiosity, and a heartfelt desire to contribute to making the world a better place. Without a doubt, she is a role model for millions of young Jews around the world.”

In keeping with the tradition established by the previous Genesis Prize Laureates, $1 million in award money will be granted to philanthropic programs in honor of Natalie Portman. The programs will focus on advancing women’s equality in all aspects of human endeavor. In particular, funds will be used for grants to organizations involved in promoting women’s educational opportunities, economic advancement, health and safety, and full participation in policy formulation and political activity. A significant portion of the funds will be channeled to programs advancing women’s equality in Israel.

Chairman of the Genesis Prize Selection Committee, Natan Sharansky said: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome Natalie Portman to the distinguished family of Genesis Prize Laureates – outstanding Jews of our time. An example of excellence and dedication to Jewish values, she is an exemplary Genesis Prize Laureate. I express my strong support for her chosen philanthropic cause and wish the new Laureate further success in advancing the mission of the Genesis Prize that is so relevant to all of us today.”

Natalie Portman said: “I am deeply touched and humbled by this honor. I am proud of my Israeli roots and Jewish heritage; they are crucial parts of who I am. It is such a privilege to be counted among the outstanding Laureates whom I admire so much. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Genesis Prize Foundation, and look forward to using the global platform it provides to make a differ-

(Continued on page 8)
Volunteers are needed for the Jewish Community Center’s Annual Gift Wrap Fundraiser at the Southern Park Mall!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

There are four shifts available each day:

- 9:00 a.m. - noon
- Noon - 3:00 p.m.
- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

New volunteers must attend one of the following gift wrap training sessions:

- Dec. 3: 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m or 12:00- 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 4: 4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7: 4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m.

To reserve your volunteer spot visit jccyoungstown.org/volunteer or contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284.

Genesis (cont’d from p. 7)

Natalie Portman becomes the fifth winner of the annual $1 million Genesis Prize. Previous Laureates of the Award, dubbed “the Jewish Nobel” by Time Magazine, are former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (2014), actor and peace activist Michael Douglas (2015), virtuoso violinist and advocate for people with disabilities Itzhak Perlman (2016) and prominent sculptor and activist for the rights of refugees Sir Anish Kapoor (2017).

The Genesis Prize is a global award created to celebrate Jewish achievement and contribution to humanity. Launched in 2013, the Prize is financed through a permanent endowment of $100 million established by the Genesis Prize Foundation. All previous laureates have selected causes about which they are passionate. Award funds in their honor have been donated to these causes, which included support of social entrepreneurship based on Jewish values, inclusiveness of intermarried families in Jewish life, improving the lives of individuals with special needs, and helping to alleviate the global refugee crisis. Laureates have engaged in year-long related initiatives developed jointly with the Genesis Prize Foundation.

Musings (cont’d from p. 6)

we come together as one great things can happen.

Personally, I see it as a happy time. A time to come together and celebrate, have fun. Of course, in my house, any time you get to eat fried foods, donuts, and chocolate is a time to celebrate. I was taught that once you light the candles each night, no work is to be done while they are burning. Dishes, cleaning, homework — it can all wait. Spend time, actual time (put the phones away, turn off the TV) with your family. Pull out the dreidels or a board game and play together. Celebrate your happiness, your health, your life.
only creates antagonism between the Diaspora and Jerusalem, In his address Monday, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin implored the delegates to have patience with Israel’s messy democracy, which gives religious parties an outsized say in religion and state issues) but one that divides Jews here as well: Orthodox Jews are far less likely to care about the issue, and have made that known.

Federations are much more comfortable, and unifying, when they stick to what they do best: Richard Sandler, chair of the JFNA board of trustees, described that threefold mission as relief for the needy, support for Jewish education and identity, and inspiring a connection to Israel.

“If you want to engage millennials,” said Rachel Samekh, founder and CEO of Swipe Away Hunger, “you have to be curious about who we are.”

“You can’t build ... Jewish identity with crisis and fear,” said Rabbi Ed Feinstein of Valley Beth Shalom. “It's the wrong language.”

If nothing else, this year’s G.A. was a search for that new language.
Partnership2GETHER sponsors visit by delegates from Hungary

As part of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation’s Partnership2GETHER programming, the Youngstown community hosted Hedi Pusztaí and Sara Ozorai from Budapest, Hungary.

The two women shared their personal, Jewish journeys. Additionally, they told about their love for Budapest and its growing Jewish community.

While in the Youngstown area, their agenda was full:

**Young Adult Dinner**
Megan and Jeff Vickers hosted 25 young adults at their home for a catered event with babysitting provided by the Federation. The event began at 6 p.m. and guests did not leave until after 9 p.m.

Conversations, which were facilitated by Ms. Pusztaí and Ms. Ozorai, centered on creating a strong Jewish community, what being Jewish meant to the group, and how to strengthen Jewish relationships between young adults in Budapest and Youngstown.

**Akiva Academy**
Three different sessions allowed all 149 Akiva students to interact with the Hungarian visitors. The guests focused on Hungarian culture, food, language, and music with the students.

**Levy Gardens**
Ms. Pusztaí and Ms. Ozorai joined the residents of Levy Gardens during lunch. The guests shared their Jewish stories and provided updates on today’s Budapest. Those attending related stories of Hungarians they knew and their own Hungarian stories.

**Hungarian Culture Night**
Fifty-three people attended the main event — Jewish Budapest. Ms. Pusztaí and Ms. Ozorai told their personal stories, and they shared a brief history of Budapest and how it is evolving today. The audience shared their own stories, asked questions regarding the population and rebuilding after World War II, and Holocaust survivors and their stories.

In addition to the official visits, the two women also visited Soft Touch Furniture and Dinesol Plastics and enjoyed a social evening on Nov. 8.

They said they had a great time and were impressed by the Youngstown community, everything it has to offer, and the engagement of the Jewish Community’s Young Adults.

To learn more about the visit, contact Sarah Wilschek (330) 746-3251 or SWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org

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Forgotten Jewish cemetery being brought back to ‘life’

It’s listed in the records of the Mahoning County Historical Society and in the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry. But until recently, the Jewish Federation Cemetery located at the “dead end” (as described in the records) of Knox Street was all but forgotten.

Established in 1897 by the Youngstown Benevolent Association Cemetery of the Order of Benjamin David Lodge 58, it provided burial space for those who apparently had neither family nor resources.

Stephen Stoyak said, “For quite a while I’d heard about this mysterious Knox Street Jewish cemetery but no one seemed to know much about it, and it was not an easy place to find.”

It turned out to be behind a locked gate, that Mr. Stoyak said you couldn’t get into unless you wanted to climb over a fence.

He found fallen tree branches, a fence that had been knocked down, and tombstones that had been toppled, some more than 100 years old. Mr. Stoyak thought that it hadn’t been touched in more than 20 years and was almost completely overgrown.

He said, “It seemed to be the Federation’s responsibility but nobody had done anything for a very long time. The restoration project began about two years ago. Subsequently, with Federation funding, Mr. Stoyak said they were able to get a surveyor to determine exactly what property was the federation’s. Then, he said, “We hired a tree company to take out dead trees and downed branches, and then were able to have the land regraded, seeded, and fertilized.” Then the burial sites had to be properly placed.

Now the cemetery can be a source of pride for the local Jewish community, and no longer, as Mr. Stoyak described it a “shanda.”

Mr. Stoyak hopes that young people in the community might take on as a project researching the families of those who are buried in the cemetery.


Luigi Agostinelli, a stone mason who had done work for El Emeth, was able to reset some of the stones that had toppled over.

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Happy Hanukkah from

Simon

Rick & Susan Sokolov
**Hanukkah Party**

Come celebrate the Festival of Lights at the JCC! We will learn about Hanukkah, spin the dreidel, light the menorah, and eat some latkes too! Plus you don't want to miss a special concert by American Jewish rock musician, Rick Recht!

**Date:** Tuesday, Dec. 5  
**Time:** 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room  
**Free event and everyone is welcome!**  
**R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org**

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**PERFORMING ARTS**

**Liz Rubino Studios**  
For more information on the studio offerings contact Liz Rubino at 330 509-0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com  

**Private Sessions**  
Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. All sessions are 55 minutes long with the exception of junior lessons which are 30 minutes long.

**JCC School of Dance**  
Erianne Raib-Pitchkin is a well-trained and experienced local dance teacher collaborating with the JCC as the Artistic Director of the new School of Dance. This program teaches children the technique, artistry and discipline of dance in a cheerful and positive learning environment. Children develop a variety of transferable listening and learning skills in a classroom setting, while being physically healthy and having fun! Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more.

**Date:** Dec. 5, 6 & 7  
**Time:** 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC  
**Cost:** $22/Member | $30/Non Member

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**FITNESS**

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

**Personal Training Benefits**

For more information on fitness programs, contact Shelia Cornell at 330 746-3250 Ext. 182 or Scornell@jewishyoungstown.org

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**EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

For more information on the Early Learning Center, contact Jennifer Bracken, Coordinator of Early Learning, 330 746-3250 Ext 125 or jbracken@jewishyoungstown.org  

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.  
Featuring newly renovated Infant, Toddler & Preschool classrooms and Prekindergarten readiness program  

**Our Programs**  
* Ladybugs - Infants : 6 weeks - 12 months  
* Busy Bees - Children 12-20 months  
* Caterpillars - Children 20-26 months  
* Butterflies - Children 26-36 months  
* Fireflies - 3 year olds  
* Starfish - ages 3 & 4  
* Dolphins & Sea Turtles - Prekindergarten  

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**BBYO Open Recruitment**

Attention all 8th graders! Now is your time to get active in Youngstown’s AZA and BBG chapters. To find out more contact any member you know or City Director, Emily Blau 330 746-3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.  

**Local Chapters:**  
* Dodi Li BBG #69 Girls, grades 8 – 12  
* Sigmund Nisenson AZA (Siggy) #169 Boys, grades 8 – 12

**Liz Rubino Studios Presents JUST DANCE!**  
Students will learn choreography to pop music hits while working with various styles of dance such as hip-hop, break dance, and contemporary. Students will be filmed at the end of the three days to receive a digital download of their dance numbers to practice at home!  

**Date:** Dec. 5, 6 & 7  
**Time:** 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC  
**Cost:** $22/Member | $30/Non Member

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**J CAFE: Exploring Art: Industrial Influences**

Join our Art Gallery Curator, Katelynd Gibbons, for a review of some of the notable art of our region from the 18th and 19th centuries through the contemporary era. Engage in discussion about how different artists have been influenced by industrial connections, and explore the range of impacts the industrial past has had on cultural identity and art history. A light lunch will be served.  

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 13  
**Time:** 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room  
**Cost:** $8/Member | $10/Non Member

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**Personal Training Benefits**

For more information, contact:  
Emily Blau 330 746-3250 Ext. 152 or Eblau@jewishyoungstown.org  

**Senior Outreach (67+)**

If you or someone you know is over 67 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact Senior Outreach Coordinator Darlene Muller. For more information contact her at 330 942-6270 or dmuller@jewishyoungstown.org  

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**School of Music**

The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown School of Music. This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more.  

To register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar’s Office: 330 746-3250 Ext. 195.
Wellness Program: Yellow Brick Place
Angela Palumbo, RN, M.S.Ed, and Carol Apinis, MACC/SLP, will educate us on the mission of the Yellow Brick Place which supports and educates cancer patients and those closest to them by providing individual and group services in the tri-county area. Come and learn how this organization helps to nourish and comfort the mind, body and spirit during the fight against cancer. This event is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Friday, Dec. 15
Time: 12:00 -1:00 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi Purpose Room
Free Event
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org

Delay the Disease:
A fitness program designed to empower people with Parkinson’s Disease to take control of the disease with daily exercise. The empowering results of our Delay the Disease exercise program can help participants:
• Move about with ease and confidence in a crowd
• Get out of bed or rise from a chair independently
• Improve handwriting
• Dress independently
• Diminish worry that stiffness, slow steps and other symptoms are obvious
• Regain a sense of moving with normality

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 10:30- 11:30 a.m.

Cardio Kickboxing
This class will get beginners into shape, while challenging advanced athletes. The class integrates combinations of punches and kicks. Additional muscle and motion exercises are incorporated to strengthen and tone. You will have fun, reduce stress and get an awesome workout. Men and women welcome!

Date: Thursdays
Time: 4:30-5:25 p.m.

Aquatic Classes
You & Me Baby
In this monthly class, 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, 9:30-10 a.m.
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

Learn-to-Swim ages 3 & up
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors.
Level 1: Children are taught basic swimming skills such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.
Level 2: Children are taught the arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.
Level 3: Children are taught the basics of breaststroke, butterfly, and diving as well as refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.
Level 4/5: Children will continue to refine the four swim strokes and diving.

Date: Saturdays, 8:50-9:30 a.m. or 10-10:35 a.m.
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

Indoor Private Swim Lessons
Private swim lessons provide the greatest flexibility among lesson options. The one-on-one attention provided through these lessons creates a personalized setting for learning. Private lessons are great for swimmers of any age, from rookie swimmers trying to learn the basics to seasoned swimmers looking to improve their skills. Private lessons are also great for adults who want to learn to swim or even triathletes looking to improve their skills.

1:1 student/teacher ratio
4 lessons @ 30 minutes
Cost: $82/Member | $110/Non Member

Youth Swim Team
Join us in our indoor pool for a non-competitive six week swim program focusing on technique and endurance.

Practices will be held
Monday-Thursday — 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Session: Nov. 27 – Jan. 4
Cost per session: $75/Member | $150/Non Member
Towel service available for $10 per child per session
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250

Rave in the Waves
Join the fun in the pool with a glow stick party! Light refreshments will also be served. Kids of all ages welcome!

AQUATICS
For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrsytal at 330 746-3250 Ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

Water in Motion
This lighter version of water aerobics will condition the cardiovascular system and muscles. The routines are designed to be low impact yet stimulating. No swimming ability required.

Date: Mon. & Wed.
Time: 8:30- 9:30 a.m.

Mobility Plus
This class is approved by the Arthritis Foundation. People who have arthritis, chronic orthopedic conditions or those who are returning to exercise after injury will benefit greatly from this class. The concentration is on stimulating joint movements, improving range of motion and increasing balance. No swimming ability required.

Date: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 8:30-9:15 a.m.

CULTURAL ARTS

Lunch & Learn: The Moral Code of the IDF
Join us for an educational afternoon with our Israeli expert, Gon Erez, who will conduct a historical review of the ethical dilemmas faced by the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces), and how they have shaped the army’s current values and ways of operation. The IDF is one of the most developed military in Western civilization, especially when it comes to the topic of war ethics. Israel’s past and present is filled with challenging urban battles, which has made the IDF the most experienced army in this field, and a beacon to other western armies.

This event is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Friday, Dec. 8
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room

Gift Wrap Volunteers Needed!
Join us for the annual JCC Gift Wrap Fundraiser at the Southern Park Mall. Proceeds benefit the JCC Scholarship Program.

Sunday, Dec. 17 - Sunday, Dec. 24
Four volunteer shifts available daily: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. • 12 - 3 p.m. • 3 - 6 p.m. • 6 - 9 p.m.
Reserve your spot online at jccyoungstown.org/volunteer
45 Holocaust survivors finally celebrate their bnei mitzvah, at the Wall

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 — More than 70 years after World War II ended, 45 Holocaust survivors in Israel finally got a chance to celebrate their bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies for the first time Monday morning, at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site.

The survivors reached bar or bat mitzvah age during the war or immediately afterwards, but because of their circumstances never got to participate in the ceremony marking a Jewish boy's or girl's entrance to adulthood. Alexander Buchnik, one of the participants in today's event, said: "All my life, I felt that I missed it so much. I am so excited and happy."

The Western Wall Heritage Foundation, Israel's Office for Social Equality, and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews sponsored the moving ceremony. Eighteen of the survivors also receive financial assistance throughout the year from The Fellowship.

The survivors and their families joined Monday's event, which included a tour of the tunnels under the Western Wall. The men put on tefillin (the traditional leather straps men wear during prayer) and read from the Torah, while the women participated in another ceremony at the Western Wall Tunnels Hall. The group then dined with the rabbi of the Western Wall, Shmuel Rabinowitz.

All now elderly, many of the survivors said they've long felt that because they'd never had a bar or bat mitzvah, something was missing from their Jewish identities. Aspir Ravicher was 11 when the war began. Her family fled from their homes in Ukraine to Russia.

Throughout the war, they lived on the run, focused solely on the need to survive each day.

"We ran away with nothing but the clothes we had on us. We had nothing, we were hungry all the time, we lived in a crowded place — I remember that it was mostly cold and I was very hungry," Ravicher recalled. A bat mitzvah "was not something we could have done."

Hiding their Jewish identity to survive was necessary not only during the war but also during communist rule in the years that followed. Semyon Lieberman was a young boy in St. Petersburg when the war broke out. Together with his sister and mother, throughout the war years they were forced to leave their homes and wander. After the war, the family returned to live in the St. Petersburg area.

"When we came back, it was forbidden to talk about Judaism or anything about the bar mitzvah, so we did not talk about it at all," he said. "I feel like a child today."

Alexander Buchnik reached bar mitzvah age immediately upon the liberation of Moscow from the Nazis. When the war ended, the family returned to the city. "But we could not celebrate my bar mitzvah," he said. His mother "was busy surviving and keeping us alive — we could not think about it at all." In 1994, Buchnik immigrated to Israel with his family and said that he had long been waiting for the moment when he would celebrate his bar mitzvah. "I thought about it during the course of my life, and all my life I felt that I missed it so much."

The Western Wall Heritage Foundation said that the ceremony was among the high points of the Western Wall's history.

"Light and darkness are mixed here, but hope is absolute, and there is concrete evidence of the eternity of the Jewish people," the foundation said in a statement. "The event leaves its mark on the participants and symbolizes revenge against the Nazi enemy in the form of a return to the Jewish tradition and proof that it is never too late."

The Fellowship's founder and president, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, said: "I find it difficult to think of anything more inspiring than elderly Holocaust survivors who receive a late bar and bat mitzvah celebration in the holiest place for the Jewish people, after surviving the terror of the Nazis and having their childhood stolen from them."

The Fellowship supports 20,000 Holocaust survivors annually throughout Israel, including 18 of those who participated in today's event. The Fellowship provides low-income survivors with food, dental care, emergency medical services, and companionship care for the lonely.

"These survivors are heroes," Rabbi Eckstein said of today's group. "I am so grateful to be part of this momentous experience for them. We help them throughout the year, and I welcome the opportunity to be part of this exciting event."

Aspir Ravicher

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**Welcome to the World!**

**Ezra Mendel Gibbs born Sept. 3, 2017**  
Son of Rachel Fisher Gibbs and Andrew Gibbs. Mrs. Gibbs grew up in Youngstown, and now resides in Scottsdale AZ. Grandparents, also formerly from Youngstown, Dr. Robert and Laurie Fisher residing now in Colorado. Great-Grandparents Ruth-Ann Mendel (formerly of Youngstown, now residing in Boston), and the late Dr. Isadore Mendel and Great-Grandmother Ruth Fisher (formerly of Youngstown).

**Liora Rose Friedman born Oct. 21, 2017**  
In Los Angeles to Matthew and Kathy Friedman. She joins big sister Ziva. Granddaughter of Phyllis and Arthur Friedman.

**Sylvie Jane Miller born Nov. 9, 2017**  
Daughter of Lisa (Sokolov) and Marc Miller of New York City, and baby sister to brother Ezra. Proud grandparents are Richard and Susan Sokolov and Sharon and Alan Miller.

**Stephanie Lea Zimmet and Kenneth Michael Peskin**  
The newlyweds, Stephanie Lea Zimmet of McLean, Va., and Kenneth Michael Peskin of Washington, D.C., were married Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Fairmont Hotel Georgetown in Washington, where a reception followed.

Parents of the bride are Sheila Cohen Zimmet of McLean and Dr. Paul and Marcia Zimmet of Reston, Va. Gerald and Jeannie Peskin of Liberty are the parents of the groom.

The bride graduated from Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and received a master's degree in business administration and health-care management from Boston University. She works as administrative director for MedStar Medical Group Radiology at MedStar Health.

The groom studied government and technology public policy at Cornell University. He is the director of industry programs for the International Sign Association.

**Blue Crinkle Hanukkah Cookies**

**By Rachel Kor**

(The Nosher via JTA) — In many homes, there is a tradition to bake Hanukkah cookies this time of year. Whether it’s the sugar and butter mixing in the mixer, the blue and white sprinkles, or the festive menorah cookie cutters, there is something about cookie baking that propels us into the holiday spirit.

This year, I wanted a new Hanukkah cookie to share with family and friends.

(Continued on page 20)
Teens reflect on their grant-funded BBYO trip to Israel

Thanks to a grant given to Vy Rosenthal and Hannah Braslawsce by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation in partnership with the local temples, B’nai Brith Lodge, and individual donors in the community the teens were able to participate in a BBYO Israel Journey trip together. Emily Blau, BBYO city director, said, “They actually didn’t know each other beforehand and ended up on the same trip together.

Part of the requirement for the trip is to complete a community project upon their return.

Two of them expressed interest in writing an article about their experiences for the Jewish Journal.

What follows are the young travelers’ reports on their journeys.

Hannah Braslawsce

I arrived at the Pittsburgh airport, said goodbye to my family, and was on my way to New York. Two hours later I had found the group of teens that I would spend my next three weeks with. Eleven hours had gone by and we finally landed in Tel Aviv, Israel. I’m 16-years-old, and here’s a little bit about my Israel Journey!

I remember learning about Israel in Sunday school and how Judaism was connected to the country. I’ve always had a connection with Israel even before I had gone. My family and I had planned that I would go to Israel the summer after my sophomore year, the problem, we couldn’t find a group for me to go with.

My mom did tons of research and came across a BBYO program. After doing a little more searching, she came to me and said, “Hannah, how would you like to go to Israel this June?” From that day forward, I counted down each day until I finally arrived in the holy land.

As for my actual time in Israel, I could go on and on about the overall experience. Here are just some of my most favorite and meaningful things about the trip.

First off, the food was out of this world. I couldn’t tell you how many times I had falafel and didn’t get sick of it. Trust me, you haven’t had falafel until you’ve had Israeli falafel.

Another amazing meal was shawarma from the shook. My friends and I were walking around and smelled this amazing food. Of course, we had to try some because, hey, who knows the next time we will be in Israel, right?

Oh, and something you might get sick of, Israeli salad; they eat it for breakfast, lunch, dinner, no joke.

Second, were the actual sights we saw and places we visited. Let me start off by saying that Israel is a beautiful country, absolutely magnificent. Some of the things we did included visiting many beaches (of course, the Dead Sea), cliff rappelling, off-road jeep touring (yes, it’s as cool as it sounds), eating at many, many ice cream stores, sleeping in tents and waking up 4 a.m. to climb Mt. Masada, riding camels, watching many sunsets, rafting down the Jordan River, visiting multiple shooks, going on a party boat, going banana boating, doing lots of community service, and so much more that I could go on and on about.

One thing I didn’t mention though was visiting the Western Wall. This was my absolute favorite part about our trip.

While we went multiple times and every time we went I honestly felt so close to G-d and it showed me how important my religion is to me. When I visited the wall I cried, I laughed, I of course put a note in, I met new people, I prayed, I even danced with random Israeli’s on Shabbat. It’s an experience that you have to live through, it can’t be explained very well. I also forgot one very important part of my trip, my tour guide Nitzan! Without him my trip would not be the same. From teaching us Hebrew to making weird noises on the microphone he was definitely the coolest Israeli!

All in all, if you ever get the chance to go to Israel take it. It truly is a once in a lifetime experience. Don’t be afraid to go out of your comfort zone, I know I wasn’t. I met so many new friends while on the trip, and even got closer to the girls who went from Youngstown. Israel has completely changed the way I feel about Judaism, and myself as a person. Going to Israel isn’t a vacation, it’s an experience.

Vy Rosenthal Hoang

Last summer I was lucky enough to go to Israel on a BBYO Summer Experience trip called Israel Journey. It was an incredible experience. Since my return (Continued on following page)
many people have asked me about my trip. I say “Instead of telling you about my whole journey and three-week trip, I am going to tell you the best part.” When I tell people this, they often look at me bewildered, trying to guess which landmark was the best. Answers often range from Masada to the Old City and then back to the Jerusalem open-air market. I understand that to most people who have not been to Israel, or have just heard stories from people who have been to the Holy Land – these places are probably the best. However, I shake my head and say “no,” because, in my opinion, the best part of this amazing trip were the people I met.

I traveled up and down and all around Israel with a group that consisted of 40 teens and five staff members. I believe that this trip would have been entirely different had it not been for the amazing staff members that taught us, cared for us, and widened our horizons (both literally and figuratively). The staff included three from the United States who traveled with us from our starting points: New York and Florida, and two from Israel. The team consisted of Kim Beame, Zoe Goldberg, and Lucas Aisenberg as well as Nitzan Koren (tour guide) and Gleb (security guard).

Every day on the charter bus that we traveled in, we would all perk up and give our attention to Nitzan when we heard “zhe wurd uf ze daay” (the word of the day). This was one of the first traditions we developed as a family. Of course, the first word that we learnt on the ride to our hotel was “mishpucha,” which means family.

If you have ever traveled, you know that since your tour bus is so long, that the guide will speak into a microphone that will project to hidden speakers throughout the bus so that you can hear better. Throughout our trip we learnt words such as ‘dugrei’ which means “for real?” “yalla’ which means “come on” or “let’s go,” and most importantly “affo sherutim” which means “where is the bathroom?” We used these words often and a lot throughout our conversations and humorous retorts. For example, Nitzan would tell us over the speakers, “three hours and 30 minutes to Masada” letting us know how long we had to nap, eat, chat, and anything else we wanted to do before getting off the bus for the rest of the day, and we would all reply “dugrei?” We all knew that Nitzan commonly overestimated the time as he foresaw 10 times more traffic than there actually was! He would ask our driver and quickly tell us jokingly that it would only take 2 hours and 45 minutes. As we grew closer as a family, we could all tell when Nitzan was overexag-

When we all met Gleb for the first time, he was seemed awkward and shy. However, we later were told that the first few days that he was with us, he wouldn’t talk to us, and only observe from a distance to learn more about us. This may sound weird and creepy, but we later discovered that he had been a spy in the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). The first time that we saw the real Gleb was when he was lying on the railing at the edge of a cliff, where we had celebrated Shabbat. To the many places we traveled, we would always look for Gleb, who was frequently seen doing death-defying stunts. Even after we had invited Gleb into our mishpucha, he still rarely talked or interacted with us since he was protecting our family.

Kim became known as the “mom” in our family. She cared and worried about everyone, wondering where everyone was at all times. She made sure that we all got a good night’s rest and that we had eaten properly. Zoe was like an older sister. She bonded with us girls and was there to tuck us in at night along with Kim. She would also be the one to wake us up in the morning, knocking on our doors making sure we made it to breakfast and the bus on time. Lucas was in his own world, you could say he was that one uncle that tries to relate and connect to you as a teen. I say this because he was so funny and was constantly making modern jokes about current teen social life.

I was very lucky to travel with such an amazing staff. I remember hearing Kim say that she had had worse tour guides on her previous trips to Israel. The staff all made an impact on the way I got to see and experience Israel. If you do go to Israel, I hope that you are fortunate enough to get a tour guide that treats you as family, and exposes you to the authentic Israeli life style and the historical landmarks. I am so thankful to the Youngstown Jewish Federation for offering me the opportunity of a lifetime.
How to remember Hanukkah

By Gon Erez
Community Shlichim

Since I was little, I liked Hanukkah very much. Eight full days off school, lots of chocolate gelt, and the most delicious fried food- Levivot and Sufganiot (latkes and doughnuts).

Honestly, you could think Hanukkah is actually a southern holiday because of all the fried food. But what I love most about Hanukkah is lighting the candles every evening.

I remember how my mother used to call us from the first floor, and we just left everything and gathered around the Menorah, singing “Maoz Tzur” very loudly and off key.

After that, I went outside and walked around my neighborhood enjoying all the Menorahs in the houses windows, shining so bright.

Hanukkah is the holiday of lights, in which we celebrate the miracle of the oil, lasting eight days in the Temple. On our dreidels we have four letters- Nun, Gimel, Hey and Shin, which represent the sentence “Nes Gadol Haya Sham” = A great miracle happened there.

We are celebrating a miracle that happened thousands of years ago, but what about small miracles that we can celebrate every single day?

Instead of waiting for magical things to happen – let us make our own miracles here and now. Let’s make miracles for ourselves, our family, friends, and even for the stranger in the street that we smiled to. Each one of us has such a strong inner-light that we can pass on to our surroundings by doing very small gestures. So why not doing that every day? We can be like the Shamash, the one candle that lights all the others. The best part about it (the Shamash) is that no matter how many candles it will light, its own fire will never be diminished.

Martin Luther King once said: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Especially these days, when so many people around the world are fighting in the name of hatred and darkness, I believe that every day we have the opportunity to fight back with light and love, and to do something amazing for ourselves, and for each other.

I want to invite y’all to my upcoming event: “The Moral Code of the I.D.F.” Dec. 8, noon. R.S.V.P. to gerez@jewishyoungstown.org.
It’s always Hanukkah in this picture-perfect Italian town

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

CASALE MONFERRATO, Italy (JTA) - It’s always Hanukkah in this picturesque town in northern Italy’s Piedmont region.

Jews have lived in Casale Monferrato for more than 500 years, with the community reaching its peak of 850 members at about the time Jews here were granted civil rights in 1848. The town still boasts one of Italy’s most ornate synagogues, a rococo gem that dates to the 16th century.

These days, only two Jewish families live in Casale. The synagogue, which is part of a larger museum complex, is now a major tourist attraction – and not only because of its opulent sanctuary with huge chandeliers, colorful painted walls and lots of gilding.

The former women’s section has been transformed into a Judaica and Jewish history museum. And the synagogue’s basement, formerly a matzah bakery, is now home to the Museum of Lights.

Hanukkah here is commemorated nonstop with a year-round exhibit featuring dozens of menorahs, or hanukkiyot, created by international contemporary artists. The collection has some 185 menorahs, according to Adriana Ottolenghi, whose husband, Giorgio, has been president of Casale’s Jewish community since the 1950s. There is no other museum in the world quite like it.

“We receive more every year, and each year at Hanukkah there is a public ceremony, where we light menorahs and welcome the new pieces,” she said.

Only 30 to 40 can be displayed at a time in the vaulted underground chambers. The only time the collection was shown in its entirety was at Casale’s centuries-old castle, part of an event connected to the 2015 Milan Expo.

The Museum of Lights’ hanukkiyot come in an amazing variety of shapes, sizes, colors and media. Many resemble traditional menorahs: a straight line of candles or a candelabra with eight branches, with a ninth branch for the “shamash” candle used to kindle them. Some of the menorahs can be lighted and used on the holiday.

But other menorahs on display are more fanciful sculptural works created from the likes of metal, ceramic, Plexiglas and wood.

“Artists were given a completely free rein to create a functional object or a purely evocative one,” curator Maria Luisa Caffarelli wrote in the collection’s catalog. Each menorah is what designer Elio Carmi, who cofounded the collection in the mid-1990s with the non-Jewish

(Continued on page 23)
GIRARD – Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. on Nov. 28 at Congregation Rodef Sholom, 1119 Elm St. in Youngstown, for Arnold Lackey, 80, formerly of Mohawk Drive in Girard, who passed away Saturday afternoon with his loving wife and family by his side.

Mr. Lackey was born in Youngstown on May 18, 1937, the son of Jack and Bertha (Smigel) Lackey. He was a lifelong member of the community.

He was employed by Republic Steel and retired from WCI Steel in 2000, serving the company in many capacities.

Mr. Lackey was a member of Congregation Rodef Sholom, and a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School.

He enjoyed daily morning coffee at Plaza Donuts with his many friends.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, the former, Toni Vitale, whom he married Nov. 17, 1984; son Jonathan Adam (Lauren) Lackey of Glencoe, Ill.; stepson Daniel J. Campana Jr. of Girard; sister Ida (Don) Irwin of Wichita Falls, Texas; and grandchildren David Lackey, Samuel Lackey, Emma Lackey, Daniel C. Campana and Giada Rae Campana.

Besides his parents, Mr. Lackey was preceded in death by his sister, Bessie Golden.

The family received relatives and friends before the service at Congregation Rodef Sholom.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions may be made to Hope Center for Cancer Care, 1745 Niles Cortland Road NE, Suite 5, Warren, OH. 44484 and or MVI Hospice Care, 1745 Niles Cortland Road NE, Suite 5, Warren, OH. 44484 and or MVI Hospice Care, 1745 Niles Cortland Road NE, Suite 5, Warren, OH. 44484 and or MVI Hospice Care, 1745 Niles Cortland Road NE, Suite 5, Warren, OH. 44484.

Arrangements by the McCauley Funeral Home.

Long before Marco Polo began his trip from Venice to ancient China, Jewish artisans and merchants had already begun making and trading the goods for which the region would become famous such as silk, paper, and glass. In fact, by the 12th century, a synagogue had been constructed in Kaifeng the capital city of the Song Dynasty.

Marco Polo actually mentions in his memoirs the Jewish traders whom he met during his travels through present day Kyrgyzstan.

Over millenia, the borders of Central Asian countries have been established, changed, and changed again, with conquests as varied as those of Mongol Hordes and other Khanites and the expansion of Soviet

Blue Hanukkah crinkle cookies
(continued from page 15)

Although I love the classic sugar cookie with sprinkles, sometimes it’s nice to have a really easy and delicious cookie with limited frills and fuss. These blue crinkle cookies fit the bill perfectly. They are the delicious, soft and chewy cookies we adore, with blue coloring for Hanukkah.

Ingredients:
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup oil
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste, or pure vanilla extract
Blue food coloring
1 cup powdered sugar, for coating

Directions:
1. Line baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of an electric mixer, mix the sugar and oil together for 2 to 3 minutes, or until light and fluffy. With the mixer on low speed, add the eggs one at a time, and then add the vanilla. Mix until combined. Add the blue food coloring, until the desired color is achieved.
4. Slowly add in the flour mixture, and mix until fully combined.
5. Empty the dough onto a clean and floured surface. Form the dough into a ball and wrap with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least two hours.
6. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
7. Place the powdered sugar into a small bowl. Set aside.
8. Unwrap the chilled dough. Using your hands, roll 1-inch balls. If the dough gets sticky, add powdered sugar to the palm of your hands when rolling. Then, roll the dough balls in the bowl of powdered sugar, making sure they are completely and generously coated.
9. Place them on the prepared baking sheets, two inches apart. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for five minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.

Rachel Kor is the author, recipe developer, designer, and photographer behind her blog at rachelkor.com.

Ed’s note: Usually, your editor tests recipes before printing them. However, being sick precluded my baking. The Journal hopes they turn out as delicious as they sound and as pretty as the photos look.

In October, I had the good fortune to visit five of the countries known as the “Stans” — Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. Given the current political situation, neither Pakistan nor Afghanistan were part of my itinerary.

Today, in addition to their historical connections — most recently as part of the Soviet Union — these five countries are being brought together by a new iteration of the Silk Road, a major construction project undertaken by the Chinese.

Because of the various restrictions placed on travel by each nation, I was unable to visit the more ancient of the Jewish sites nor did time permit traveling further east. Perhaps on another voyage.

Of the five, Turkmenistan remains the most authoritarian. Our guide was only allowed to discuss “approved” topics, and wherever we went the face of the country’s leader beamed down on us from massive billboards.

Uzbekistan remains home to a number of Jewish communities — in Bukhara, Samarkand, and Tashkent — though many Jews from these cities have emigrated to Israel, the United States, Canada, and Australia.

The synagogue and cemetery of Bukhara have been sustained by international contributions — hence the English descriptions as well as those in Cyrillic.

Because of a late itinerary change by the tour company, I was unable to visit the synagogue in Samarkand, though my guide said it was far larger than that of Bukhara.

Tajikistan does have a Jewish community thought I was unable to reach it. Interestingly, the Tajik guide spoke longingly of Soviet times. She said she was a supporter of Vladimir Putin and felt that Tajikistan was better off when the Soviets were in control.

By contrast, our guide in Kyrgyzstan spoke with great pride that his nation was a democracy and not a Muslim theocracy. The cities there seemed to have embraced the political and commercial freedoms.

My final visit was to Kazakhstan, the largest of the five countries to which I traveled. Unfortunately, by the time I got to Kazakhstan, I had to curtail my trip as I had become too ill to continue. What later turned out to be a very severe case of whooping cough (yes, I had had it as a child, and yes I had been vaccinated against it as an adult) meant that I could not visit the new Jewish community center and the extensive Jewish facilities that have been established comparatively recently.

Fortunately, and thanks to my Russian Orthodox guide, I did visit the Chabad Center in Almaty with its synagogue and general store, which sold Jewish goods and kosher products.
Grandparent alert: Seven new children’s books for Hanukkah

By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA) — Move over, potato latkes. Make room for dosas. The savory fried Indian lentil and rice pancakes take center stage in “Queen of the Dosas,” a gem of a new Hanukkah book by the award-winning children’s writer Pamela Ehrenberg.

It’s among eight new Hanukkah books for kids — one for each night of the holiday — sure to kindle the flames of imagination in young readers.

The bounty of this season’s books travel the globe, from city life to wooded forests, with engaging — and many humorous — stories and dazzling illustrations that reflect the diversity in how Jewish families celebrate the popular holiday. Old World traditions mix it up with new rituals taking root in today’s modern American Jewish families.

These new reads showcase the many ways Jewish families from all walks of life celebrate the Festival of Lights, which this year begins on the evening of Dec. 12.

Way Too Many Latkes: A Hanukkah in Chelm

Linda Glaser; illustrated by Aleksandar Zolotic: Kar-Ben; ages 3-8

Oy vey! It’s the first night of Hanukkah and Faigel, the best latke maker in the village of Chelm, forgot the recipe for her mouth-watering, sizzling potato pancakes, the traditional fried food eaten during the holiday’s celebrations. Her husband, Shmuel, races over to the village rabbi for advice. But what does the rabbi know about making latkes?

This ticklishly fun adventure, set in the fictional Old World town of Chelm — the source of enduring Jewish storytelling — will have kids laughing as they wonder how Faigel and Shmuel solve their problem. Aleksandar Zolotic’s large format, animation-style illustrations are perfectly paired for the lively story, which echoes the classic “Strega Nona” stories by Tomie dePaola about magical pots of pasta.

Little Red Ruthie: A Hanukkah Tale

Gloria Koster; illustrated by Sue Eastland: Albert Whitman; ages 4-8

This uplifting spin on “Little Red Riding Hood” features a spirited young girl named Ruthie setting off on the eve of Hanukkah to visit her bubbe, Yiddish for grandmother, so they can cook up potato latkes for the holiday. In the snow-packed forest Ruthie, bundled up in a bright red hooded parka, meets a not overly menacing-looking wolf. Ruthie summons her courage and smarts as she recalls the brave MacCabe heroines of Hanukkah who fought for religious freedom for the Jews in ancient Israel.

But will Ruthie’s clever schemes out-smart the hungry but foolish wolf, who has fun dressing up in bubbe’s colorful clothing? This is a perfect read-aloud for those wintry Hanukkah nights, and Sue Eastland’s bright and humorous illustrations bring the warmhearted story to life.

Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas

Pamela Ehrenberg; illustrated by Anjar Sarkar: Farrar Straus Giroux; ages 4-7

In this humor-filled tale, an endearing school-age boy in a multicultural Indian-Jewish family can hardly contain his enthusiasm for his family’s special Hanukkah celebration of making dosas, Indian fried pancakes made with lentils, called dal, and rice. But his younger sister, Sadie, who can’t resist her urge to climb on everything, may spoil the fun. Anjar Sarkar’s colorful, cartoon-like illustrations add giggles and put readers in on the action. The end pages are embellished with illustrations of Indian groceries, chutneys and spices that will tempt the family foodies. Recipes for Dosas and Sambar, a vegetable-based filling or dip for the dosas, are included.

Hanukkah Harvie vs. Santa Claus: The Christmukkah Kerfuffle

David Michael Slater; illustrated by Michelle Simpson: Library Tales Publishing; ages 5-8

On the first night of Hanukkah, Hanukkah Harvie oils up his steampunk-like machinery to produce all the gifts he needs and climbs aboard his flying Hanukkop to deliver eight nights of presents to children. Placing one family’s presents next to their Hanukkah menorah, Harvey and Santa go on to discover some other homes with both menorahs and Christmas trees and get into a rollicking present-giving competition.

A young girl who spies them in action puts the quarreling pair to shame, and let’s them in on the joy of celebrating the two holidays happening at about the same time each year — thus the Christmukkah mashup. Michelle Simpson’s colorful and playful animation-like illustrations match the story’s spirited humor.

The Itsy Bitsy Dreidel

Jeffrey Burton and Chani Tornow; illustrated by Sanja Rescek: Simon and Schuster; ages 2-4

A delightful read-aloud board book for the youngest kids who will enjoy the playful rhymes as the lively little dreidel celebrates Hanukkah. This is the latest in the upbeat Itsy Bitsy board book series that includes the “Itsy Bitsy Pilgrim,” the “Itsy Bitsy Snowman,” and others.

Grover’s Eight Nights of Light

Jodie Shepherd; illustrated by Joe Mathieu, Random House for Young Readers; ages 2-5

Young fans of Sesame Street enjoy a Hanukkah party at Grover’s house along with their favorite Sesame Street characters. The book features lighting the menorah, eating latkes and playing dreidel. Stickers, Hanukkah cards and a poster with a Hanukkah party game are included.

The Missing Letters: A Dreidel Story

Renee Londner; illustrated by Iryna Bodnaruk: Kar-Ben; ages 4-9

Wooden dreidels come to life in this heartwarming page turner. On the eve of Hanukkah, in a dreidel maker’s shop, there are some bad feelings among the Hebrew letters painted on the four-sided spinning toy. The nun, hey and shin are jealous of the gimel, considered the favorite letter in the game of chance, and decide to hide all of them. But later they overhear the dreidel maker explain that all the letters play a special role in celebrating Hanukkah, a holiday of religious freedom.
interpretation of the Festival of Lights and its symbolism. The Italian artist Stefano Della Porta, for example, used ceramics and steel to create a menorah that appears to be made from giant burnt matches. American-born artist Robert Carroll created his menorah from olive wood, red Verona granite and brass. It has a sinuous, trunk-like base that supports eight branches that open out like a flower, each supporting a candle.

Carmi and his friends provided the first hanukkiyot for the project — Carmi's was a silver-plated metal bar with small cups for the eight candles and the shamash — and then reached out to others for contributions. Other artists — Jews and non-Jews, mainly from Italy but also from other countries — soon began making their own menorahs and presenting them to the growing collection. All of the works are donated, most of them by the artists themselves.

"It was like a chain of artists," Carmi said. "And well-known artists began to be attracted."

Among those is Arnaldo Pomodoro, one of Italy's leading sculptors. His menorah, presented in 2013, is a horizontal metal girder that supports the nine candles and is decorated with abstract symbols.

"I tried to bring out a series of abstract signs to create a story that would connect, on a general level, with the idea of thought, experience and memory; without, however, wanting to enter into the multi-faceted complexities of the symbology of the Jewish world," Pomodoro describes in the catalog.

Ultimately, Carmi said, the Museum of Lights is about "Judaism, art and identity."

**Italian Hanukkah** (continued from page 19)

Ohev Tzedek (continued from page 6)

**Adult Education – Fall 2017**

Some classes may require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee. Unless otherwise noted, all classes will be held at Ohev Tzedek. All of the classes are open to the entire Jewish community.

**Mussar —** The study of Mussar is a Jewish ethical, educational practice that studies personal character traits (*middot*), such as humility, patience, anger, and jealousy, and their relationship to living a meaningful life. Its goal is to align individual actions and intentions with Jewish values. Mussar class is reconvening under the leadership of Rabbi Dario and will continue to meet on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. While this class has been ongoing for some time, our study is at a point where we will revisit each of the *middot*; there is still time to join the class if you have been wondering but worried about joining mid-class.

**Birkhot Hashachar** — Using Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman's excellent volume in the My People's Prayer Book series as a guide, we will explore these traditional morning prayers to discuss *tefilla*, Jewish prayer, as a whole, and how Jews have ever understood our ongoing, evolving relationship with G-d. This class will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. (There are only two more spaces available at this time. Registration fee of $25 includes book.)
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- Sun•Maid Pitted or Chopped Dates
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  $6

- Yellow Onions
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- Empire Kosher Frozen Turkey
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  $3.59 lb.

- Empire Kosher Fresh Whole Frying Chicken
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  $3.29 lb.

- Manischewitz Concord Grape or Blackberry
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- Bartenura Moscato d’Asti
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  Save up to $6.00 ea.

- Lipton Kosher Soup
  1.9 to 4.3 oz., selected varieties
  $1.99 ea.
  Save up to $1.30 ea. with your

- Kedem Sparkling Juice
  25.4 oz., selected varieties
  $4.99 ea.
  Save up to $1.00 ea. with your

- Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix
  6 oz., selected varieties
  2 FOR $5
  Save up to $2.58 on 2 with your

- Sun•Maid Pitted or Chopped Dates
  8 oz.
  2 FOR $6
  Save up to $1.76 on 4 with your

- Empire Kosher Fresh Boneless Chicken Breasts
  3 lb.
  2 FOR $5
  Save up to $1.76 on 4 with your

- Empire Kosher Frozen Turkey
  3 lb.
  4 FOR $3
  Save up to $1.00 on 4 with your

- Rokeach Chanuka Candles
  44 ct.
  4 FOR $5
  Save up to $1.76 on 4 with your

- Kedem Tea Biscuits
  3.8 to 4.5 oz., selected varieties
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  Save up to $1.00 on 4 with your

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