(Above, left) Ashley Orr, Youngstown State University’s first Rhodes Scholar will speak on Feb. 4, from noon–1:30 p.m. at a J Cafe presentation at the Jewish Community Center. The cost, which includes lunch, is $8 for members and $10 for non-members. After Feb. 2, $12 will be charged.

(Above, right) Former senior Israeli official on Arab affairs Avi Melamed, fellow of intelligence and Middle East affairs at Gettysburg College’s Eisenhower Institute, will discuss current Mideast tensions Feb. 16 at the Jewish Community Center. See story, page 2.

(Below left) On a recent trip to Israel, Dr. Bruce Willner gets to sit in the driver’s seat of the Magen David Adom ambulance paid for by donations from the Youngstown Area Friends of Magen David Adom. The gift, in honor of the Federation’s partnership with the Western Galilee, is acknowledged on the door of the ambulance.
Arab-Israeli affairs expert to speak

Former senior Israeli official on Arab affairs Avi Melamed, fellow of intelligence and Middle East affairs at Gettysburg College’s Eisenhower Institute, will discuss current Mideast tensions Feb. 16 at the Jewish Community Center, in an event hosted by the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) Ohio Chapter, B’nai Brith Aaron Grossman Lodge, the Zionist Organization of America Youngstown District, and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Community Relations Council.

“As a former senior Israeli official on Arab affairs, I spent most of my intelligence career in Arab-speaking areas,” said Melamed, who helped develop Jerusalem’s policy on Israeli-Arab relations during the First Intifada and has served in numerous counterterrorism roles in the Israeli government.

“I am looking forward to helping the Youngstown community understand the story behind the story.”

Fluent in Arabic and with a unique understanding of Arab society and culture, Melamed spent almost thirty years living in Arab cities and communities throughout the region, often in high-risk positions at sensitive times. Melamed’s extensive experience, outstanding analytical abilities, and profound understanding of Arab affairs and the Arabic language – coupled with his direct access to resources and networks throughout the Arab world and intimate connections with local and regional intelligence assets – has allowed him to keep his finger on the pulse of the Arab world and has led to his proven ability to accurately predict the evolution of local and regional events.

In his work as an analyst and lecturer, Melamed provides intelligence analysis, briefings, and tours to diplomats, Israeli and foreign policymakers, international media outlets, and numerous organizations and private clients. His knowledge and background – including decades of field experience, policy design and intimate connections throughout the Arab world – allows him to offer an insider’s understanding of the constantly-changing Middle East and insight into future regional developments and implications.

Melamed is also the author of “Inside the Middle East: Making Sense of the Most Dangerous and Complicated Place on Earth” (http://amzn.to/1KtdUjj), which examines the dramatic changes that have occurred in the Middle East after the Arab Spring.

The program is free and open to the public. It will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a dessert reception.

ZOA assails end of Iran sanctions

By Morton A. Klein
President of the Zionist Organization of America

The Obama administration’s unlawful lifting of critical banking, shipping, oil, steel, and other sanctions on Iran this past weekend – despite the radical terrorist Islamic regime of Iran’s string of violations and continuing genocidal ambitions since the Iran deal’s inception – is the biggest nightmarish policy mistake since Chamberlain’s Munich deal with Adolph Hitler. This travesty severely endangers the U.S., Israel, and world. The administration’s ending of sanctions was compounded by the administration’s announcement this weekend that the U.S. will also pay Iran an additional $1.7 billion settlement (including $1.3 billion interest) – thereby further enriching the terrorist Islamic Republic and enhancing its ability to further enrich Islamic terror. The U.S.’s leading role in vastly enriching the world’s leading financier of terror this past weekend was the culmination of the Obama administration’s long line of actions empowering the radical terrorist Iranian regime – including leaking and thwarting multiple Israeli plans to remove the Iranian nuclear threat, delaying and opposing Congressional efforts to impose sanctions on Iran, and engaging in secret negotiations to allow Iran to enrich uranium while falsely telling the American public that the U.S. would not enter into a deal that permitted Iran to enrich uranium.

President Obama also announced this weekend that the U.S. is releasing and granting clemency to six convicted Iranian-Americans and one convicted Iranian in what the President termed “a reciprocal humanitarian gesture” – in exchange for Iran’s release of four Americans unjustly held hostage by Iran who are innocent of any wrongdoing. Moreover, in this lopsided exchange, Iran failed to release or reveal the location of ex-CIA worker Robert Levinson – now missing for 8 years. Levinson served the U.S. military for decades, and is the only Jewish American being held by Iran.

In his statement (Sunday January 17), President Obama portrayed these developments as a “good day” and omitted mentioning the extent to which Iran will benefit from lifting sanctions (and also never mentioned the amount of the U.S.’s settlement payment to Iran). Iran will receive an estimated $150 billion windfall Iran in unfrozen funds plus

Conservative Judaism’s rebranding effort could signal major change

By Eitan Arom/JNS.org

Conservative Judaism has always had something akin to middle-child syndrome: squeezed on both sides by the Orthodox and Reform movements. But lately, its identity crisis has become acute.

This week, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism — an umbrella body that represents Conservative congregations across North America — is set to receive the results of an audit it commissioned that reached more than 1,000 Jews, most of them Conservative, in an effort to better understand and meet their spiritual needs. The results will not immediately be made public.

The audit is part of a rebranding that USCJ’s leadership describes as no less than a sea change in how Conservative Judaism operates.

“The current synagogue model up until this time was a 2,000-year-old experiment,” Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of USCJ, told JNS.org. “And it just no longer has the capacity to meet the challenges, and so it has to be reinvented.”

USCJ recently hired the Good Omen brand consultancy firm as part of a multi-year organizational facelift that had started back in 2011. The reasons for the ongoing branding effort are obvious, Wernick said: technological and social trends have fundamentally changed human interaction, and religion has no choice but to try to keep up.

“You can’t have Shabbat dinner on Facebook,” he said. “But anyone under 40 today figures out where they’re going for Shabbat on Facebook.”

According to the LinkedIn page for one of the consultancy’s principals, Scott Osman, “Good Omen works with companies to set, articulate, and visualize their intention and then identifies the actions that bring that intention to life.”

Although USCJ is a religious nonprofit organization rather than a private company, it is nonetheless responsible for maintaining and promoting a particular brand, Wernick said; in that sense, it is not too dissimilar from a business.

USCJ kicked off its relationship with Good Omen at its November 2015 convention in Chicago, said Alissa Pinck, USCJ’s director of marketing and communications. The consulting firm will privately present its findings to USCJ this week, and USCJ leaders will begin to form recommendations based on the data before they consider publicizing the results, she said.

The New York Post first reported Good Omen’s efforts on Jan. 3, linking the decision to retain the company to the declining number of Conservative Jews. Wernick said the thinning of the Conservative Jewish ranks is “well-documented,” but he rejects the notion that demographics alone are behind what the newspaper called a “new look” for Conservative Judaism.

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February 19 5:43 p.m.
February 26 5:52 p.m.
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About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine is a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and has received major grants from the Schermer Trust, The Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Trust and ZOA.

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine is sent monthly to members of the Jewish communities in Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio, and Mercer County in Pennsylvania, and all Jewish Community Center members at no charge.

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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.

February 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the March 2015 issue.
PALERMO, Italy, Jan. 16 – For the first time since the expulsion of the Jews from Sicily 523 years ago, on Jan. 12, 1493, the Palermo community gathered Tuesday to hold a daylong series of public events to commemorate the anniversary of this dark chapter in the island’s history.

The events were organized by the Jerusalem-based nonprofit Shavei Israel, the largest and oldest organization in the world working with the Bnei Anousim in Italy and elsewhere, in partnership with Istituto Siciliano di Studi Ebraici (ISSE, or Sicilian Institute of Jewish Studies).

More than 1,000 Palermo natives from all walks of life participated in various activities throughout the day, which were coordinated by Rabbi Pinhas Punturello, Shavei Israel’s emissary to the Bnei Anousim (whom historians refer to by the derogatory term “Marranos”) of southern Italy and Sicily.

The Bnei Anousim are descendants of Iberian Jews who were compelled to convert to Catholicism in the 14th and 15th centuries, but many continued to preserve their Jewish identity in secret despite the oppression and persecution of the Inquisition. While a small ceremony marking the expulsion was held last year in Palermo, this year marks the first time that an array of public events is being held.

“In recent years, a growing number of Bnei Anousim in southern Italy and Sicily have begun to re-embrace their roots,” said Shavei Israel Founder and Chairman Michael Freund. “Today’s commemoration in the heart of Palermo underlines the fact that neither the expulsion nor the Inquisition could extinguish the immortal Jewish spark,” he noted, adding: “We must intensify our efforts to reach out to the Anousim in Italy and elsewhere. Their return to the Jewish people is an extraordinary testimony both to the power of Jewish memory and the pull of Jewish destiny, and we owe it to them and to their ancestors to welcome them back.”

The day’s schedule in Palermo opened with the screening of the film, “La passione di Giosuè l’Ebreo” (The Passion of Joshua the Jew), which explores Catholic persecution of the Jews in the years leading up to the expulsion. The screening, which was held at the palace of Zisa in western Palermo, was followed by a discussion with the film’s director, Pasquale Scimica, who is a descendant of Sicilian Anousim. Later, the community gathered at the Palermo municipal historical archives – built on the ruins of the Great Synagogue of Palermo, the greatest synagogue in the world according to 15th-century Italian Rabbi Obadiah De Bertinoro – for a panel on the expulsion of Sicily’s Jews featuring Palermo Municipal Historical Archive Director Elina Calandra, University of Palermo Professor Giovanna Fiume, and Shavei Israel’s Rabbi Pinhas Punturello.

In addition, moving testimonies from the archives of the Inquisition were read aloud, telling the stories of various Sicilian Bnei Anousim who were imprisoned for continuing to practice Judaism in secret even after they had been forced to convert. Afterwards, a selection of Sephardic songs was played by the Sicilian-Spanish musician Aleandra Bertolino García.

About Sicilian Jews and Bnei Anousim

The history of Jews in Sicily dates back more than two millennia, to the Second Temple period. According to some scholars, the first Jews in Sicily were slaves brought to the island by the Roman legion after the capture of Jerusalem. Despite enduring various periods of legal restrictions and persecutions over the ensuing centuries, the Jews of Sicily flourished and produced many great scholars and rabbis.

In the late 14th century, Sicily’s Jews were confined to ghettos and faced increasingly harsh decrees as well as massacres and forced conversions to Catholicism. These measures culminated in 1492 with the Edict of Expulsion, which ordered the remaining Jews to leave. At the time, Sicily was under the control of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain.

There were at least 52 Jewish communities spread out across Sicily, numbering more than 37,000 people. After a series of delays, the deadline for their expulsion was set at January 12, 1493. But large numbers of forcibly converted Jews were compelled to remain behind, where they suffered under the heavy hand of the Inquisition.

About Shavei Israel

Shavei Israel is a non-profit organization founded by Michael Freund, who immigrated to Israel from the United States with the aim of strengthening the ties between the Jewish people, the State of Israel and the descendants of Jews around the world. The organization is currently active in more than a dozen countries and provides assistance to a variety of communities such as the Bnei Menashe of India, the Bnei Anousim in Spain, Portugal and South America, the Subbotnik Jews of Russia, the Jewish community of Kaifeng in China, descendants of Jews living in Poland, and others. For more information visit: www.shavei.org.
Conservative Judaism (cont’d from p.2.)

”Most press [reports] that I see on this, they concentrate on the decline of numbers because that’s the story,” he said. ”But I think that story is a house of cards. I think it’s disingenuous.”

Indeed, the demographics seem grim for those who hope to see a flourishing community of Conservative Jews well into the 21st Century.

A Pew Research Center study found in 2013 that 36 percent of those born into Conservative Judaism still associate with the movement, compared with 48 percent of Orthodox Jews and 55 percent of Reform Jews.

Wernick said, ”When it comes to notions of spirituality and religion, there’s been a crumbling of centralized authority,” he said.

In 2011, USCJ adopted a strategic plan to reinvigorate itself and its member organizations. At the heart of the plan was a shift away from the idea of a ”synagogue” to the more inclusive concept of a ”kehilla,” or holy community.

The latter designation is meant to resonate with those ”who do not necessarily belong to official Conservative congregations or feel comfortable with the ’Conservative movement’ label,” according to a 2014 updated plan.

Conservative Jews make up 18 percent of the American Jewish population, the Pew study found. By comparison, Reform Jews make up 35 percent and Jews of no denomination make up 30 percent.

As a sign of the times, the Jewish dating app JSwipe offers users the option to identify as ”Just Jewish.” And it’s this category that’s largely at the bottom of USCJ’s current efforts.

”We’re living in a world in which people don’t self-identity in particular boxes, they live in more of a Venn diagram,” Wernick said.

Dr. Steven Windmueller, a professor of Jewish communal studies at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, has closely watched the modern forces buffeting the Jewish world, and said ”there’s a lot of basis to sort of applaud” USCJ’s efforts to rebrand.

”It’s a repositioning that needs to happen in light of all the factors: demographics, competition, and the changing sort of behaviors of millennials,” he said.

Windmueller, who has worked with a number of Jewish organizations, including the American Jewish Committee and multiple Jewish federations, said the Conservative movement is hobbled by some historical factors.

In the first place, the ”core institutions of the movement” never saw much need to form close bonds, he said. As a result, the synagogues, summer camps, leadership organizations, and institutions of higher learning that together form Conservative Judaism lack ”a natural infrastructure of communication,” he said. That scarcity of cohesion deepens the need to hedge against modern challenges.

Windmueller likened today’s rebranding to a similarly momentous change in the 1950s: the ruling by the Rabbinical Assembly, Conservative Judaism’s clergy arm, that Conservative Jews could drive on Shabbat.

Just as that decision allowed Jews to participate in the prevailing social movement of the day—the race to the suburbs—so too might changes today create a Conservative Judaism more fitting to the modern world, he said.

In particular, Conservative Judaism might benefit from broadening its tent to include liberal Jews of all sizes and stripes, Windmueller said. In that way, he said, USCJ could ”allow multiple flowers to bloom, but under a new canopy.”

Jewish Family Services is a non profit social service agency which is now in its second century of service to the community.

• An agency of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.
• JFS programs are provided to strengthen the individual and family.
• Our offices are both easily and handicapped accessible.

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JFS Youngstown 517 Gypsy Lane Youngstown, OH 44504 (330) 746-7929 jfs@jfsyoungstown.org

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Fees for uninsured services provided on a sliding scale
Welcome to the World —
Mazel Tov to Natalie Greenblatt on the birth of her great-grandson Mason Holloway on Dec. 28, 2015.
Mason is the grandson of Beth and Charlie Holloway and the son of Collin and Crystal Holloway of Dover, NH.

If many American Jews were asked, “What is Magen David Adom,” their responses would most likely be the same: “Isn’t that the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross?”

To the extent that both have red symbols with religious connotations and authority that derives from their governing bodies, the mission of Magen David Adom is far, far greater.

Magen David Adom provides emergency response throughout Israel, comprises the national ambulance fleet, takes the lead in disaster training — first aid, preparation and relief response to 80,000 civilians, and IDF soldiers, serves as the auxiliary medical corps to the Israeli Defense Forces, and also manages the nation’s blood supply.

And all this is accomplished by 14,000 first responders, 12,000 of whom are volunteers, who answer more than 650,000 calls each year, including medical emergencies, car accidents, terror attacks, and births. They work from 120 emergency medical stations using more than 1,050 ambulances 180 medicycles, and hundreds of other rescue vehicles.

And it’s thousands of donors around the world who provide most of the funding for Magen David Adom.

One of those 1000+ ambulances has a special connection to the Mahoning Valley, because it was the Youngstown Area Friends of MDA who in five months raised the more than $100,000 to purchase and equip it. But the local Friends group went even further, asking if the ambulance could be placed in the Youngstown Area Federation’s partnership area, Nahariyyah in the Western Galilee.

That ambulance, one of the most modern of its kind with many advanced technological systems went into service in July 2013. Since that time, it has responded to nearly 4,000 emergency calls. (See chart below)

In a recent Journal interview, Cari Margulis Immerman, the Midwest regional director of the American Friends of Magen David Adom, explained the significance of the Youngstown Area’s donation. “What Youngstown accomplished has become a beacon to other American cities,” she said. “They say, ‘If a small Jewish community like Youngstown’s can do it, then why not us?’”

Ms. Immerman also explained that funding an MDA ambulance is a double mitzvah. Not only does the vehicle meet...
Nominations invited for Esther Marks Volunteer Service Award

Outstanding volunteers may be nominated for the Esther Marks Volunteer Service Award that will be awarded at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation annual meeting in May.

The Federation and the Marks/Davis Families created the award in recognition of Mrs. Marks’ life-long service to the Jewish and greater Youngstown communities. As most in the community know, Esther was a prodigious volunteer within the Federation and all of its agencies, at her synagogue, and throughout the general community.

She served as chairman of United Way from 1995 to 1998, working inside the organization to ensure projects were completed and commitments were fulfilled.

The award is used to encourage volunteerism at all levels and to honor Esther’s memory by acknowledging an individual who emulates her pattern of service.

The guidelines and criteria for selection for nominations to the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Award follow:

Each nomination shall be submitted in writing — one page, double-spaced — describing why the nominee deserves this award. If no nomination is made in any year, the award will not be given.

An individual may be nominated by any individual or organization of the Jewish Community.

Nominee Qualifications
Organization involvement
• A nominee should be involved in Federation and/or any of its agencies or affiliated organizations. The committee encourages and gives priority to a volunteer with direct service to people or organizations.

Volunteer Service defined
• The nominee need not be a volunteer in a purely leadership role. Rather this award will give priority to those who volunteer for direct services to people or agencies.

A description of activities includes:
• Quality of volunteerism
• Membership on boards or committees
• Leadership positions
• Length of time of service
• Quality of volunteerism

The nomination deadline is April 5, 2016

Direct questions and submission of applications to the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. Deborah Grinstein, Endowment Director, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio 44504 or (330) 746-3250, Ext. 175.

Friends of Magen David Adom (continued from p. 6)

a critical need in the Western Galilee, but “since the ambulance is built on an American Chevy chassis in Elkhart, IN, American workers are also supported,” she said.

Because of the many responsibilities he MDA ambulances and their crews fulfill, the vehicles are equipped according to specifications drawn up by the Transportation, Health, and Finance cabinets. For example, Ms. Immelman said, “the ambulances have to be built narrower — on a separate line at the manufacturing plant — because Israeli streets are narrower than those in the United States.” In addition, every ambulance must carry three military grade helmets and three military grade flak jackets because of the wide range of situations the crew might find itself in.

During the 2010 deadly Carmel forest fire, 167 ambulances and their crews established “M.A.S.H.-style” tents. MDA evacuated 10,000 people, because public transit was inadequate during the catastrophe. Older ambulance units are maintained to serve as mass casualty response units, providing cots, water, blankets, and other supplies to areas of need.

Aside from the knowledge that American donors to Magen David Adom are supporting a worthy cause, supports can also be assured of the organization’s management.

Charity Navigator, America’s guide to intelligent giving, which provides free online ratings of more than 8,000 of America’s charities, objectively examining each organization’s financial health, accountability and transparency practices, issues a zero to four star rating so donors can quickly identify great charities. American Friends of Magen David Olam has earned Charity Navigator’s highest rating.

Donors can be assured that they are helping to secure the lives of the more than 8 million Israelis.

For more information about Magen David Adom, see the group’s website, www.afmda.org.

The Lions return to the Capital for what promises to be the most exciting conference yet. The most dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women in the world will open up our circle to share our passion and welcome a new generation of women.

Together, we’ll hear from world-class speakers on local and global Jewish issues. We’ll experience three incredible days of inspiration and empowerment. So mark your calendar. Share in strength and sisterhood, learning and laughter. Engage in tzedakah. Grow the pride.

For further information, contact Deborah Grinstein, Endowment Director, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio 44504 or (330) 746-3250, Ext. 175.
man rights, and Tikkun Olam, among other topics.

Rabbi Hunter is not “just” a school board member. The son of a Muslim father and African American mother, he converted to Judaism as a young man, first in a Reform congregation and later under Orthodox auspices. He said he was impressed with the “dynamism of the Reform movement and the way it was modeling his own values.” But while in Windsor, Canada, he found “a personal pull to traditional Judaism.”

Yet his Orthodox conversion was not without significant challenge.

When he appeared before the Beth Din, a rabbi asked him if he was gay, because “if you are,” he said, “We’ll have to revoke your conversion.

Rabbi Hunter, who is openly gay, said his feeling at that moment, was a sense that “My God, now, no one else can ever be made to feel that small or to be so excluded.

The multi-degreed Rabbi Hunter — Princeton University A.B.; University of Windsor, LL.B.; University of Detroit Mercy, J.D.; and Wayne State University LL.M. — was an environmental attorney in Israel before returning to the United States.

But his motivation, inspiration and devotion to learning drew him to the rabbinate. “I wanted to give back, to share that spark, that calling.”

On August 25, 2012, Rabbi Hunter was ordained a rabbi by the Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute in New York City. He is thought to be the only person born a Muslim to become a rabbi.

Yet, he doesn’t necessarily look toward a pulpit of his own. He says the work he does now — as a Jewish prison chaplain and educator — as well as his public service within the community is very rewarding and fulfilling.

At Rodef Sholom, he said he came to Youngstown because he was house-hunting. “I found a fixer-upper on the South Side, and learned that so much is wonderful about this place.” He first ran for Youngstown City Council which allowed him to get to know the issues confronting the community. He decided that “Education strikes the note for the future.”

Today, he serves on the boards of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Congregation Ohev Tzedek, and is a member of the Action Clergy Caucus.

Two years ago, he founded the non-profit Sixth Ward Citizens Coalition to build a sense of community and connectivity.

Recalling Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel’s words in the early days of the Civil Rights Movement, that the first discussion of religion and race was between Pharaoh and Moses, Rabbi Hunter believes that it make still take generations to break through the racial discord that marks American society. “In the United States in 2015, the people within the various power structures continue to marginalize too much of the population,” he said. “We cannot and should not tolerate this.

“Addressing the fact of inequality is a place to start,” Rabbi Hunter said. “There’s institutional racism built into government, banking, real estate, our schools,” he said. “So we need to become politically and socially engaged.”

Among his recommendations are growing minority-owned businesses, planting the seeds that raise up development.

The Reform Movement is focusing on race and racism in the coming year. “We need to look within ourselves to determine how we can become a more welcoming family.”

When asked about the Youngstown City Schools, which are awaiting a judicial decision on the composition of a special committee that will be taking over the schools as part of a legislative mandate, he said, “I think a take-over is terrible. They tried it for 26 years in Jersey City, NJ, and that was a failure.”

“Children deserve to get the respect needed to prepare them for their futures. Trying to fix an educational system from the top down, disenfranchising the community cannot work out well.
13-year-old Israeli girl develops idea for oxygen-creating satellite

(JNS.org) A 13-year-old Israeli girl has invented a system to produce oxygen in outer space, the Israeli youth magazine Ma'ariv L'Noar reported.

The magazine interviewed Roni Oron, who recently won a “Satellite Is Born” award from the Israel Space Agency in a competition for teenagers ages 12-15. The contest required the teens to build a model for a satellite that could change the face of today’s research and humanity.

Oron developed a prototype of a satellite called “BioSat” in order to “solve a problem for astronauts trying to prove that life on Mars is possible.” She explained that her satellite is “built like a large bubble on one side of which there is a mirror and the other is transparent, enabling the penetration of sunlight.

In the middle there is a capsule, which will be made of a membrane through which air can pass but water cannot. Inside of it there will be water and algae, and outside there will be carbon dioxide. Through a process of photosynthesis, the satellite will produce oxygen. There will be additional mirrors inside the satellite that will enable sunlight to reach the capsule, but not by direct radiation, which would harm the algae.”

The teenager also reflected on the support her parents have given her in the endeavor. “My father, an orthopedist, was very happy when I began my research. From my mother I learned the wisdom of looking at life creatively,” she said.

Now that she has won the competition, Oron will travel to a NASA summer camp in Florida later this year. “This will be sort of a beginning for the development of this idea, a kind of camp in which you meet with many astronauts and [other] teens. We will arrive there as guests of honor, stay there until very late hours to develop the satellite, and then we’ll see where it goes,” she said.

Students who visit Israel can extend their stay more easily

Students from the Diaspora who participate in Jewish identify programs such as Birthright and Masa can now extend their stay in Israel by up to six months.

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri on Monday approved the new regulations, allowing the students to gain a residence and work visa without having to prove that they are Jewish.

Prior to the signing of the regulations, students who wanted to extend their stays were required to provide documentary proof of their Jewishness, such as a letter from a community rabbi or their parents’ Jewish marriage contract, which sometimes is difficult for the participants. The identity programs do not require such documentation.

Birthright is a free, 10-day introductory visit to Israel for college students and young people up to age 26.

Masa offers over 200 study, internship, and volunteer opportunities throughout Israel lasting between five and twelve months.

Calling all teens and young adults

Cleveland’s Mandel JCC needs counselors, other specialists for summer programs and camp

Interested in a summer job working in the Cleveland area. The Mandel JCC is recruiting the following: senior counselors (18-23 years old), Anisfield Day Camp songleader (age 18); Specialists in the following areas: (age 18+) nature, music, sports, drama, arts and crafts, archery, lakefront.

Also needed are a transportation coordinator (college age +) a J-Sports camp director (college graduate preferred), camp photographer (age 18+) Anisfield Day Camp Village Supervisor (college graduate preferred) among others.

Anyone interested can apply online at http://www.mandeljcc.org/join-our-staff/summer-camp/
KREPLACH & DIM SUM

Yes, There Are Jews in China!

In this lively multimedia presentation, Robyn Helzner shares stories, photos, video, and music to explore the extraordinary history of the Jewish communities in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Kaifeng and traces their emergence as the fastest-growing Jewish region in the world today.

Robyn Helzner radiates a passion for Jewish music that captivates listeners. A stunning vocalist and vivid storyteller, she brings a life-long appreciation of the power of folk music to resonate across cultural boundaries. Robyn officiated at the first bar mitzvah celebrated in Beijing, China and serves as a cantor for congregations in Washington, DC.

Sunday, March 13, 5-8 pm • Ohev Tzedek
$15 – includes dinner and presentation

Please RSVP to Ohev Tzedek office by Friday, March 4.

Dinner Will Include:

- Egg Drop Vegetable Soup
- Mini Egg Rolls
- General Tso’s Tofu
- Hoisin-Glazed Salmon
- Vegetarian Fried Rice
- Asian Green Beans
- Fortune Cookies
- Ice Cream and Lychee Nuts

(Please detach and return to Ohev Tzedek office)

Name: ___________________________________________
Number of Reservations: ______ x $15 = ______ total (encl.)
Special Requests: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Sip and paint
Thursday, Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m.

Ohev Tzedek is hosting a Sip and Paint event in the social hall. The $25 cost includes snacks and wine, along with everything you need to create a beautiful painting — including step-by-step instructions. Anyone can do it! RSVP to the Ohev Tzedek office (office@ohevtzedek.org or 330 758-2321) by Wednesday, Feb. 10 as there is a 40-participant limit.

Shabbat Across America
Friday, March 4, 5:30-8 p.m.

Boardman Park Georgeanna Parker Center

Ohev Tzedek will be having a service and vegetarian potluck in honor of Shabbat Across America. Bring a favorite vegetarian dish to share.

Adult Education Classes

Rabbi Oresky is interested in teaching the following adult education classes. Each is designed to be approximately 10 sessions. Some classes will require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee. All of the classes are open to the entire Jewish community.

Selected Books of the Prophets: Joshua and Judges: Read beyond the haftarot! By delving deeper into some of the prophetic writings, we’ll begin to access the wisdom of this crucial middle third of the Tanakh. We’ll start with the first two books that follow the Five. What happened once our ancestors entered the Land?

News, Booze, Chews, and Shmooze: Weekly discussion of Jewishly relevant current events followed by a l’chaim to our continued existence and dinner and socializing! Members of the class will be assigned a session to introduce the topic and provide printed articles for discussion.

Kashrut: The Hows and Whys: How would I keep kosher? Why would I keep kosher? Is there more to kashrut than knowing which animals are eaten and how they are killed? What do the kashrut symbols mean? How is kashrut related to the rest of Jewish identity and observance?

(Continued on p. 11)
Lishmoa v’Lilmod: To Listen and To Learn

Carole Weimer to speak at Rodef

Carole Weimer, Chairperson, of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees will discuss “YSU — The Jewel of Youngstown,” at the next presentation of the Rodef Sholom Shabbat Speaker Series on Saturday, March 5 at 10 a.m.

An abbreviated Shabbat service will precede the lecture.

Carole Safier Weimer of Youngstown is a retired special education teacher having taught most of her career at Liberty Local Schools. Mrs. Weimer earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Ohio State University and a master’s degree in education from YSU, both with a major in education of students with special needs.

Carole is a current Youngstown State University Trustee, having been appointed by Gov. Ted Strickland in 2008 and Gov. John Kasich in 2012. She has been serving as the Chairperson of the Board since June 2014. During her tenure on the Board of Trustees, she has served during four different presidents of the University and has been a part of three presidential search committees.

She currently serves as a board member of the Paula & Anthony Rich Center for Autism, a board member of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, an advisory board member of Yellow Brick Place, and serves as chair of the Greater Youngstown Area Board of the American Cancer Society. She also serves as Co-Chair of the American Cancer Society’s Cattle Baron’s Ball.

Carole served as a member of the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities for more than 25 years, many of those years as board chair.

She also has served as an ACS Ambassador for the Celebration on the Hill (Ohio 17th Congressional District), and on the boards of Ballet Western Reserve (Board Chair), the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family and Children’s Services, Leadership Mahoning Valley, Mahoning County Children’s Trust Fund, Mahoning Valley Camp Fire Council and Northeast Ohio Adoption Services.

All are cordially invited to attend. A luncheon will follow sponsored by The Berkowitz Lecture Series Fund.

There is no cost, but a reservation is required. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office by Tuesday, March 1 by 4 p.m.

Social Action Committee

Mari Alschuler and Nancy Burnett will share leadership and planning as the new co-chairs for the Social Action Committee.

An SAC planning meeting and potluck dinner on will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m. at Rodef Sholom. Please contact the Temple office if you can attend the meeting and what you’ll be bringing for the potluck. At the February meeting, the committee will be seeking a secretary.

Purim

Coming Soon to a Synaplex Near You: Buckle Your Intergalactic Seat Belts for:

“A Star Wars Purim”

Friday, March 25, 6 p.m.

Look for more information in the March Jewish Journal

Temple needs piano

Congregation Rodef Sholom is looking for a baby grand piano for its sanctuary to enhance musical offerings during worship services. If you or someone you know has a baby grand that could be donated, Rodef Sholom could be the perfect place to bring it back to life. The donation is tax-deductible according to the present market value of the instrument. Please notify the Temple office if you could make such a donation. We would be extremely grateful.

Volunteer choir sought

Do you like to sing? Years ago, Rodef Sholom had a volunteer choir of Temple members, and now we would like to start a new choir. Home grown choirs are quite popular in Reform congregations these days, and at the recent URJ Biennial convention in Orlando the Shabbat services were greatly enhanced by a choir of over 150 voices comprised of Reform Temple members from all over North America! These were not professional singers, but lay people just like you. If you are interested in singing and would like to be a part of our new volunteer choir or possibly even direct the choir, please call Rabbi Muller.

Ohev Tzedek (continued from p. 10)

Star Shlep: Jews and Judaism through the Lens of Short Science Fiction:

Using Jewish science fiction short stories as the starship, we will explore the farthest reaches of the galaxy of issues of Jewish identity, survival, and development. Texts: Wandering Stars and More Wandering Stars (both edited by Jack Dann); People of the Book: A Decade of Jewish Science Fiction & Fantasy (edited by Rachel Swirsky & Sean Wallace); and other sources.

An Introduction to Jewish Process Theology: Using Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson's God of Becoming and Relationship - The Dynamic Nature of Process Theology, we will explore a unique approach to theology. All our lives, we are involved in a relationship with G-d that grows and changes. Process Theology attempts to explain that dynamic. Our world is ever-changing. Process Theology gives us a way to cope with that change. People say that G-d no longer communicates with us. But he does, in many ways. Process Theology shows us how.
The unforgettable story of two people caught between decision and desire, as a chance encounter becomes a second chance at so much more. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

**Date:** Sunday, March 13  
**Location:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Leave JCC:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Return:** 7:30 p.m.  
**$75/Member $90/Non Member**

**Beautiful – The Carole King Musical**

It tells the inspiring true story of King’s remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, Carole King made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation. Beautiful features a stunning array of beloved songs including “I Feel the Earth Move,” “One Fine Day,” “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” and “You’ve Got A Friend” The price includes orchestra seat and transportation. Dinner is on your own.

**Date:** Sunday, April 10  
**Leave JCC:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Return JCC:** 8:00 p.m.  
**Cost: $97/Member $107/Non Member**

**Dancing in the Streets**

Join the original celebration of Motown’s Greatest Hits with the spectacular, critically acclaimed “Dancing in the Streets.” Experience the energy and electricity of the motor city in a stunning production packed with hit after hit. Expect your favorite songs made famous by The Four Tops, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder and many more. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

**Date:** Sunday, April 17  
**Location:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Leave JCC:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Return:** 8:00 p.m.  
**$60/Member $70/Non Member**

**Mah Jong**

The game of Mah Jong has been experiencing a resurgence in popularity. Don’t miss the opportunity to learn this great game for all generations. We are so fortunate to have Shirley Arnold, who has been playing and teaching for numerous years to be your instructor. Each participant must have a current 2016 Mah Jong card that may be purchased at the JCC Bursar office for $9.00.

**Date:** Tuesdays: May 3, 10, 17, 24,  
**Time:** 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Adult Lounge  
**$45/Member $55/Non-Member**  
**For more on Youth Programming contact: Emily Collins 330-746-3250 Ext. 152 or Ecollins@jccyoungstown.org**

**PJ Library**

PJ Library is a Jewish family engagement program implemented on a local level throughout North America. Through the program, we mail free, high-quality Jewish children’s literature and music to families across the greater Youngstown area on a monthly basis. All families raising Jewish children from age six months through eight years are welcome to enroll. The books are also available at the JCC Library for checkout. All PJ Library programming and events are open to members of the greater Youngstown community, and are not limited to the Jewish community.

**Purim Fun with PJ Library**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 16  
**Time:** 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** El Emeth, 3970 Logan Way  
**Youngstown, OH 44505**

**Camp JCC registration now open**

Camp JCC provides quality care and experiences to the greater Youngstown community and 2016 is set to be another stellar summer. Housed at the JCC of Youngstown, we provide our campers with a safe, fun environment to build lifelong friendships through unforgettable adventures. Camp JCC is designed for campers of all ages and interests, regardless of ethnic and religious background.

**Purim Carnival at the JCC**

A fun, family event for all ages. Enjoy hot dogs, carnival treats, games, a bounce house, face painting, and more!

**Date:** Sunday, March 20  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**Free Admission — Everyone Welcome**

**March Madness Basketball Program**

Learn basketball basics in this three day program with coach Jeff Rasile. Jeff has been a Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for the last 15 years (4 at Champion High School and the last 11 at McDonald). Over the last several years, he has also been training young players in individual and small group sessions.
Chopped! The Art of Israeli Salad Making
Distinguished by the tiny diced tomatoes and cucumbers, Israeli salad is described as the “most well-known national dish of Israel”. We’ll learn how to make 3 traditional Israeli salads while enjoying time with new and old friends.
Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $10/Member $12/Non Member

Peruvian Art & Culture Night
Goldie Monson is an Israeli-American Jewish Artist who was born in Peru and made Aliyah (immigrated) to Israel. She’ll share her life story and display her beautiful artwork and handmade jewelry. Enjoy wine and cheese and bring your wallet, her artwork and jewelry will be for sale and will remain on display for 3 days.
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
This event is free and open to the public.

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

Small Group Lessons
All Small Group Learn-to-Swim classes start on the first Saturday of each month. Classes run monthly. The deadline to register is the 25th of the previous month. (Dec 25 for Jan classes)
You & Me Baby
This is a monthly class where parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float on their backs and stomachs and will improve their motor skills.
Swim Team
The recreational swim team will have two 7-week sessions for the first part of the year!
Winter 2: Jan. 11 – Feb. 26
Spring: March 28 – May 20
Register online. The deadline to register is the Sunday before practice starts for the session.

Group Exercise Certification
Potential and current fitness instructors will learn basic academic and practical application of teaching group exercise. Workshop includes a full-day review, written exam and 2-year certification.
Saturday, April 16
8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Reflection proves meaningful for members of L’shon Hara class

Words Wisely and Well, and from that study, augmented with personal observations drawn from the class’s life experience, we concluded that L’shon hara, often equated with gossiping, is difficult to avoid completely, but to do so is to help repair all of our relationships.

The following is a sampling and summary of the comments from some of the members of the class. They wish to remain anonymous, but I can say, as their teacher, that I learned as much from them as they did in the class.

One member of the class, which concluded at the end of December, pondered on what it would be like to go 24 hours without speaking any kind of L’shon hara, which is defined as “negative truth.” (It is interesting to note that it is the negative but true things that we say about others that can cause far more damage than outright lies.) Any time we get together with friends, he says, we tend to discuss other people, their lives, and too often, their shortcomings. “It is human nature to speak of others,” he says, “and as we learned in class, even good speech can end up hurting others. So the issue becomes guarding your speech so that you can carry on a conversation without hurting (intentionally or not) someone else. ‘Try it some time and see if you can accomplish it. Believe me, it is not as easy as it sounds.”

Another member wrote about how the class changed her awareness of the constant presence of L’shon hara in our communication and of how that awareness has begun to change her thinking and speech patterns. She learned that through observing the three rules of speech Telushkin outlined in his book — “Speak fairly of others, honestly about ourselves, and carefully to everyone” — she has been able to work to eliminate unfair speech and to strengthen the emotional bonds with others.

She noted that L’shon hara is intended to embarrass others and lower their self-esteem. She also highlighted the importance of fighting fairly, of not going for the throat when we argue with others. Harsh words that use “inside information” in arguments with loved ones, in particular, can be intensely, sometimes permanently damaging of our closest relationships. The test to apply, even at those times, is before saying something to ask, “Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it fair?” Falsehoods and outright lies that are slanderous (called motzi shem ra – literally, bringing out an evil name) are the most grievous violation of ethical speech.

She also learned that there are times when we must tell a negative truth about someone, such as when we know another person will be harmed without knowing what we can tell them about someone whom they are going to marry or with whom they are about to enter a business relationship.

This is derived from the injunction in Leviticus to “not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.” We also discussed how to criticize and rebuke in such a way as to not denigrate the other person (do so in private, offer specific suggestions for change, and use as kind and gentle a tone as is possible). The intent of the rebuke must always be considered first. If we are enjoying it, we shouldn’t be doing it.

To receive criticism in an open, non-defensive manner, we should always consider that we might have been wrong and still have a lot to learn. Rabbi Nahman of Bratzlav famously said, “If you are not going to be any better tomorrow than you were today, what need have you for you for tomorrow?”

Finally, the class participant learned that healing, loving words can be as necessary as the actions that we take to show our love; by being sure to say those words, in addition to our actions, we can know that those whom we love truly understand our love.

One member of the class, commenting on the power of words, said, “Previously, I’d pass along information without too much forethought. Now I try to stop and think first and not be so casual. Words not only affect the persons talking and listening but it multiplies from there. I’m trying to be more responsible in the words I use.”

Yet another member of the class related how much she had been hurt as a child by cruel taunts, so she knows and has felt the shattering impact of L’shon hara. She says, “This book has opened my eyes, changed the way I think, changed the way I speak to and about others. In my opinion, this book should be given as a must-read to all junior high students around the world. Wouldn’t it be a wonderful world to live in if everyone respected each other?” A Jew by choice, she said that the Jewish teachings about ethical speech were a significant factor in her choosing to be Jewish. She says, “I choose to only speak well of others. I choose to heal. I choose no more hurt.”

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The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
February 2016
Rodef Sholom Sisterhood

The New Year has come and gone. It is time to meet members of our Sisterhood who make a difference. This month we would like to recognize Kandy Rawl as one of our outstanding sisters.

Kandy wears many hats in our kitchen. Her heart is so large — it helps hold our Temple together. Kandy is an amazing chef and organizer. Her hats include chef, decorator, and manager. Somehow she manages to complete these three jobs with a flare and love.

Every Oneg is prepared with care and love. Every table is set with care and love. Every event is planned with care and love. Through Kandy’s work at Temple, she is able to do something more remarkable than cooking.

She shares a remarkable tribute to the service not only in our kitchen but with the wider scene that the women of our congregation make possible. She provides us the opportunity to sit and talk, to reflect on Rabbi’s sermon, and to just chat and get to know each other. She provides a Hamish setting in which we can connect as Temple members, sisters, and family. When a sister hears the call, the reward of her mitzvah is the recognition of the great deed by G-d.

“Happy is she who performs a good deed for she may tip the scales for herself and the world.” (Talmud: Kiddush: 40a) Who better demonstrates this than our Vice President of catering -Kandy Rawl.

Social, economic, and environmental justice are three themes within our global WRJ goals. At a recent United Nations assembly, WRJ board members and United Nations world leaders came together and signed SDGs — sustainable development goals. Together these global goals were agreed on to make our world a better place, and isn’t that why we are here?

Please remember to sign up for an Oneg. The process is easy and we still have Shabbats open.

Also, we need your family histories for our 150th historical book. Please send them in.

With everything that is happening in our world today, we need to remind ourselves that we can make a difference. We can show each other more support — show a little more kindness. Just for today, we can help make the world a nicer place by being kinder and more thoughtful. Please take the time and help make a difference today and every day!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center.

And save March 13, as “Cooking with Kandy” will be our Sisterhood program. Join us in making Hamantashen.

R.S.V.P. your attendance to the Temple office
Yours in Sisterhood,
Sally Blau

Bar Mitzvah Jordan Owen Sperling

Jordan Owen Sperling, son of Ashley and Adam Sperling, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, on Saturday, March 12, at Rodef Sholom Synagogue.

Jordan is in the seventh grade at Howland Middle School. He has been on the honor roll since the fifth grade with straight A’s and has earned a Good Character Award, Student of the Month Award, Outstanding Science Award and the Principal’s List at Akiva in the past few years. Jordan is on the school basketball team, and belongs to the TCSC Soccer Club and the Howland Athletic Soccer Club. He is also part of the student senate.

In addition to playing competitive soccer and basketball, Jordan is a huge Duke Blue Devils basketball fan and has not yet given up on the Cleveland Browns. He has two older brothers, Cameron and Zack, three dogs and a cat and enjoys spending time with friends and family.

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Mothers/daughters poetry and journal therapy group to start

Mari Alschuler, LISW-S, Registered Poetry Therapy Practitioner is offering a new therapy group on Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m. starting for eight weeks from March 16 to May 4.

For more information and fees, call (330) 921-8308

According to Prof. Alschuler, “All women are daughters; some are mothers.” Participants will explore themes related to the bond — positive, negative, neutral, or ambivalent — between mothers and daughters as written about in fairy tales, poems, stories, and journals.

Writing experience is not required.

Group members will be asked to write during and in between group sessions. A brief, free screening interview is required either via phone or in person at the office. The group is limited to eight women.

Ruth was known for her talents a poet and as the writer, producer, and director of musical plays and skits for Beth Israel special events. She was the co-editor and historian for the temple yearbooks beginning in 1953.

As an avid reader, Ruth’s greatest accomplishment at the synagogue was establishing the Sorly Helen Klivans Memorial Library in memory of her mother. The ground-breaking addition to the Beth Israel Temple Center was in November, 1961.

The library was funded by Mark Rosenbaum and his sisters Freda and Yetta-bel, siblings of Ruth’s mother. The library was not only used by the teachers and students of the religious school and congregation, but also by the community and scholars for research. The library was staffed by a professional librarian and a volunteer sisterhood committee headed by Ruth.

Ruth Schwartz was the beloved wife of the late Albert Schwartz, devoted mother of Louis (Tonia) Schwartz, of Arizona; Phyllis (Paul) Maron of Beachwood; and Roselyn (Bob) Hazzard of Indiana; loving grandmother of Alan Hazzard; step great grandmother of three, dear sister of the late Judy Weiss, dearly loved aunt and great aunt.

Graveside services were held on Dec. 28 at the Beth Israel Cemetery, Warren. Contributions are suggested to the Maltz Hospice House Vinney Hospice and Palliative Care at Montefiore Home, www.Montefiorecare.org.
YOUNGSTOWN – Lawrence J. Haims, 80, Youngstown State University professor emeritus, died of natural causes Monday morning at Heritage Manor in Youngstown.

Born in New Castle, Pa., Jan. 6, 1935, he was the son of the late Edward and Evelyn M. Haims.

A graduate of New Castle High School, he held degrees from the University of Michigan (B.A. in Economics in 1956) and the University of Pittsburgh (M.Ed. in 1970, and Ph.D. in 1972). He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1963. He taught 12th grade Social Studies from 1962 to 1969, and served as the president of the Churchill (Pennsylvania) Area Education Association from 1968 to 1969. From 1971 to 1972, he was a teaching fellow at the University of Pittsburgh and part-time instructor at Carnegie Mellon University.

He joined the faculty of Youngstown State University in 1972 and retired in 1996, having served terms as chair of the Department of Foundations of Education and assistant to the dean of the College of Education. In 1973, D. C. Heath published his book Sex Education and the Public Schools. A lifelong emeritus member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, he was also a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, and served as advisor to the Eta Xi chapter at Y.S.U.

A talented pianist, he began study at age 14 with the late Mary E. Fankhauser of the Dana School of Music. That same year, he placed first in the district and semifinals of a state-wide piano competition in Ohio and was runner-up to a 35-year-old pianist in the finals. Later, at age 17, he placed second in the 1952 Pennsylvania Music League State Contest. His love and knowledge of music was evident throughout his life. He served on the board of the Youngstown Symphony Society, including a term as president. For several years he provided program notes for Youngstown Symphony Orchestra concerts. He and his wife, Barbara Brothers, were patrons of the Cleveland Orchestra, as well and attended musical performances throughout the United States and Europe, including a symphony concert in Cairo.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Brothers, whom he married in 1980; his daughters, Marla Haims (husband Raviv Cohen) and Emily Haims (husband Eric) Ludwig; his two stepchildren, Jill Brothers and Mark Brothers; and nine grandchildren, Evan, Corinne, Claire and Laurel Brothers, Caitlin, Ian and Evelyn Ludwig, and Eitan and Noga Cohen. He is also survived by his brother, Jack (wife Elaine) Haims and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, who will miss him dearly.

Because of his love for and belief in the importance of the arts and education, the family asks that he be remembered by contributions to SMARTS (Students Motivated by the Arts), 100 E. Federal Plaza, City Centre One, Suite 415, Youngstown, OH 44503, or online at smartsartschool.org.

A memorial service was held at Temple Tefereth Israel, 26000 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood.

Arrangements for Lawrence were entrusted to the Borowski Funeral Service and Oak Meadow Cremation Services in Warren.

Marc “Howdy” Prizant

GREENVILLE, PA. - Marc “Howdy” Prizant, of Pymatuning Township, passed away peacefully in his residence at 1:37 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015. He was 88.

Marc was born in Lackawannock Township, Pa. on Jan. 17, 1927, the son of the late Izrael and Margaret “Molly” (Berkowitz) Prizant.

He was a 1944 graduate of Farrell High School, where he was the 1944 state wrestling champion. He went on to graduate from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., where he was an All-American wrestler.

He was a member of Congregation Rodef Sholom of Youngstown, and had been an active member of the former Temple Beth Israel in Sharon, Pa. before it merged with the Congregation Rodef Sholom. He was the owner of General Builders in Sharon since 1961.

Marc was an active member of B’Nai Brith and was a lifelong member of the F.H. Buhl Club, now known as the Buhl Recreation Center in Sharon where he loved to play handball. He was an avid bowler, played chess, and enjoyed boxing. He had helped coached wrestling at area schools over the years. Marc was a licensed pilot and truly enjoyed flying planes. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by his daughter, Jakey Prizant of Hermitage, PA.; his son, Justin Prizant, of Reynolds, PA.; his grandchildren, Zachary Schlage, Morgon Schlage, and Vance Prizant; along with his former wife, Beth Prizant, of Hermitage.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Esther Prizant, Pearl Ostroff, Toby Zoldan, and Goldie Prizant; along with his brothers, Louis, Morris, Benjamin, Frank, and Herman Prizant.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Buhl Recreation Center, 28 N. Pine St., Sharon, PA 16146.

A gathering time and memorial service were held on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, at the Harold W. Stevenson Funeral Home, 264 E. State St., Sharon.

Cremation services were provided by the funeral home.

Please visit stevensonfuneralhome.net to express condolences to the family.
Jewish Christian Dialogue
Wednesday, Feb. 2.
Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m.; session begin at 1 p.m.
This year’s theme is “Religious Insights into Mysticism” and the guest presenter will be Fr. Gregory Long, of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church in New Castle, Pa. Fr. Gregory will present the Orthodox Christian tradition of mysticism. All are welcome to attend.

Shabbat morning service and Kiddush luncheon
Saturday, Feb. 6.
The luncheon will be sponsored by Jerry and Laureen Kinast in honor of their special birthdays. During the course of the service, Jacob Silverman and Cameron Sperling will share impressions of their recent trip to Israel. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office for the luncheon.

Brunch with the Rabbi
Sunday, Feb. 7.
Minyan at 10 a.m.; brunch and the presentation starting at 10:30 a.m.
Rabbi Schonberger will speak on “The New Colossus: The Rest of the Story” at the behind the scenes story of Emma Lazarus’s famous poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty. There is no charge for brunch but reservations are appreciated by Feb. 4.

Women’s Rosh Chodesh
Thursday, Feb. 11; 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Brunch is included.
Carol Gottesman will lead the discussion on the month of Adar. R.S.V.P. to the Temple by Feb. 10.

Jewelry Making with Lori Szoke
Sunday, Feb 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Synagogue.
Lori will guide us through the process of making a beautiful hand-beaded necklace. Three sample necklaces to select from are available to see in the office. There is a charge of $25 per person for supplies. Paid reservations are due into the office by Feb. 8.

Shmoozing with Smulik
Monday, Feb. 29 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel.
Sam Kooperman leads the group with stories, jokes and fun in Yiddish. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. Coffee and bagels are provided.

Services
Daily Minyanas are held at 5:45 p.m. each day including Saturday, as well as Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Shabbat morning services begin each Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Children’s Hanukkah Party
El Emeth children’s “Hanukkah Happening” was held at the Synagogue in December. Thirteen children, from two weeks to 11 years old, enjoyed the program which featured Shlichim Gon and Shai Erez showing a video of how the holiday is celebrated around the world.
Children also frosted and decorated Hanukkah cookies, colored wooden Hanukkah plaques, made placemats for Hanukkah, and doing velvet art.
See the photos adjacent to this story.

Above, photo shows Doron Sigler and Bryce Allison busy seeing who can put more frosting on their cookies!
Below, from left: Terri Anderson holds newborn Shayna Wilschek; the baby’s Sarah Wilschek, and Rachel Kay holding her son Ethan.

Purim is March 12, look for intriguing recipes in next month’s Jewish Journal.
Thoughts of love, gratitude, obligation, and Sisterhood

I just typed in the date of this column and realized it is actually the second month of 2016. Oh, how and when did we get here? I don’t know about you, but when I think of February, I think of Valentine’s Day and love and romance. I remember all the valentines we passed out at school and the little boxes with decorations to hold the valentines and, of course, we had to count them to see who got the most.

You also looked for the special ones from that someone special, and how crushed you would feel when that didn’t happen. I remember helping my kids with their cards, some happy about it and some not so. But I had fun. I still love the idea of the valentines and the love that is supposed to go with it.

I make sure my kids get cards, not sure how much that is appreciated, either, but I guess it’s not so much for them as it is for me. Selfish woman! I have to admit that I find it a little sad that Al isn’t here to bring me his cards, but life goes on, and we still have living who we got the most. For me there has always been a soft spot in my heart (haha) for Valentine’s day, and I even had Alvin joining me.

He always sent me at least one card, and once in a great, great, great while, I would get flowers or a gift. Didn’t matter, the cards mattered. He never forgot, and a couple of times I sent him flowers. Don’t know how much he appreciated that, but I had fun. I still love the idea of the valentines and the love that is supposed to go with it.

I just reread the column I wrote for Sisterhood in February of 2010. The subject then was the ongoing situation that needs to be addressed again now — and that is Minyan attendance. The women still outnumber the majority of the time, which is a little sad, truthfully. When did our men start saying, “They don’t need me anymore. I don’t have time for this sort of thing.” Do you gentlemen mean praying or coming to the Synagogue to pray. Either answer is sad. Of course, you could leave it all to women. I don’t know how long that will last because so many of us are up there in age and won’t be around forever.

We hope to teach by example, but the message doesn’t seem to be penetrating. I would hope that our feeling of continuation of prayer and minyanim are important and will filter down to our children so that our Synagogue and our traditions will continue.

It is much more important than you think. I know what you are thinking now; there she goes again on her high horse preaching. I don’t mean to do that, but I see a need in our Shul and somehow people need to help fulfill that need.

OK, big bucks time, next Sisterhood meeting will be Feb. 9 at the Temple, and it will be an open board meeting at 11 a.m. in the Chapel. If you are interested in how Sisterhood works, please come and join us, even if you are not on the Board. You could be missing a lot of fun by not being there. No lunch, but maybe we could scare up some coffee and maybe a cookie or two.

Thoughts of love, gratitude, obligation, and Sisterhood

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February 2016
The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
hundreds of billions of dollars more in business deals. Iran is already the biggest funder of Islamic terrorism around the globe, and will surely use the newly released funds to greatly intensify worldwide Islamic terror attacks, and to exponentially increase the missiles and hundreds of millions of dollars per year that Iran already provides to Islamic terrorist groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Houthis in Yemen, and Iranian proxy terrorist cells in South America and in the U.S.

Iran will also surely use its windfall to modernize its huge conventional armed forces, continue to test and enhance its missile capabilities (including long- and medium-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads), and destabilize the Middle East – including by increasing Iran's aggression towards the Gulf states and continuing to prop up the brutal Assad regime in Syria, leading more Syrians to flee, and adding to the refugee crises.

Neither the Iran deal nor the release of hundreds of billions of dollars to Iran has or will change Iran's genocidal policies or meaningfully slow down their ability to develop nukes one iota.

The CRS report also cited worsening relations with Iran on certain regional issues since the Iran deal was finalized. In addition to Iran's illegitimate missile tests, the CRS report explained that: “Iran has also increased its involvement in the Syria conflict in support of President Bashar Al Assad of Syria, whose brutal tactics against domestic armed opponents is, according to U.S. officials, fueling support for the Islamic State organization with brutal tactics. Iran's actions have strengthened the assertions of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman) and other U.S. allies such as Israel that the JCPOA will furnish Iran with additional political and financial resources to expand its regional influence.”

The CRS report also discussed Iran's serious abuses of human rights, “including unjust executions, politically motivated abductions by security forces, torture, and arbitrary arrest and detention” and Iran's refusal to permit the UN to conduct human rights fact-finding missions in Iran. And the CRS report was issued prior to Iran's most recent outrageous provocations occurred or were publicly reported — including seizing and humiliating 110 American sailors on Jan. 12, and firing rockets in December that passed within 1,500 yards of two U.S. and one French naval ship in the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. warships were assisting airstrikes against ISIS.

The Iran deal implementation and sanctions relief will not prevent Iran from realizing its nuclear ambitions. Moreover, Iran has never even signed the Iran deal — and Iran's parliament “approved” a completely different version of the deal that Iran re-wrote — not the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Iran's "deal" calls for an end to Israel's nuclear program (not Iran's nuclear program), forbids inspections of Iranian military sites, calls on Iran to strengthen its military and missile arsenal, and makes conversion of enriched uranium conditional. As Amir Taheri aptly predicted, “Obama Will Be the Only Person Sticking to the Iran Deal.”

Moreover, both the lifting of sanctions and the U.S. settlement payment to Iran ignore - and make it more difficult for American victims of Iranian terror to collect the huge unpaid judgments that Iran owes to them. While the U.S. is settling and paying Iran's claims against the U.S. and authorizing the release of billions of frozen funds to Iran, Iran is still opposing paying the billions of dollars of valid judgments obtained by American victims of Iranian terror. A Congressional Research Report in November 2015 also explained that after over three decades, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days in 1979-1981 have “never received any compensation from Iran through court actions.”

Editor's note: For the complete text of Morton Klein's commentary, see the organization's website www.zoa.org.

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Free, family-friendly Presidents’ Day celebration at Maltz Museum

(CLEVELAND, OHIO) Did you know that Woodrow Wilson was the first president to nominate a Jew for the U.S. Supreme Court? Or that Abraham Lincoln had a hand in ensuring rabbis could serve as military chaplains? Or that Theodore Roosevelt was the first to appoint a Jew to a presidential cabinet? Dedicated Maltz Museum volunteers are brushing up on facts like these in preparation for their annual Presidents’ Day Celebration on Feb. 15.

“Every year we put on short POTUS performances to illustrate the important but often complicated relationships that have existed between our country’s leaders and the Jewish community,” says Friends of the Maltz Museum’s Victor Goodman, who’ll be portraying Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd president of the United States, during the Maltz Museum’s Presidents’ Day Celebration on Feb. 15.

Visitors can hear and meet past presidents (and, in some cases, their wives) only during special tours scheduled between 1-2 p.m. Performances will take place in 10-minute intervals, and visitors will be encouraged to sign up for a time slot upon arrival.

“Immediately following the tours we will have a short, kosher cookie reception in the lobby so kids can ask questions or even snap a selfie with a past president,” says Goodman. Friends of the Maltz Museum not only organize and staff the day, it underwrites the celebration. “All of this — Museum admission, crafts, treats and the opportunity to meet a former chief executive — is open and free to everyone, and it doesn’t cost visitors a Lincoln penny.”

Additional activities throughout the day include the following:

Experience An American Story, the Museum’s core gallery exploring immigration and the historic struggle to hold on to tradition while embracing new opportunities.

Participate in a president-inspired hands-on activity:

“I Like Ike,” “Tippecanoe & Tyler Too,” “Happy Days Are Here Again” and “Who But Hoover?” were the rallying cries of presidential campaigns past. Youngsters come up with their own snappy slogans to adorn campaign posters and buttons.

Pay homage to an iconic American leader by creating a Washington or Lincoln construction paper mask.

The museum is located at 2929 Richmond Rd, Beachwood, OH 44122; For more information and directions, call 216.593.0575 or visit maltzmuseum.org. For information call WYSU at 330.941.1777 or http://www.wysu.org/madaboutthearts.

New exhibit in Thomases Gallery

The works of Charlene Galose will be on display at the Thomases Family Art Gallery of the Jewish Community Center from Feb. 8 to March 18.

A reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 5:30-7 p.m.

Charlene Galose spent much of her career teaching art in the Boardman School District, where she received the Youngstown Arts Council Outstanding Art Teacher Award. She earned both her Bachelors ad Masters degrees from Youngstown State University.

Charlene shows her work throughout the state of Ohio and has garnered a number of awards including the Eileen Scrugg Memorial Award at the YWCA Women Artists Annual, and a Jury Award at the statewide All Ohio Juried Exhibition. She has also had exhibitions at the Butler Institute of American Art and Trumbull Art Gallery.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Youngstown will also be hosting Lit Youngstown, a community of writers from the greater Youngstown area, for a literary reading corresponding with the exhibition in the Thomases Family Gallery. Three or four writers from the region will be invited to engage with pieces on exhibit or read from previous work.

Lit Youngstown poets Paula Clarke, Bill Koch, Jordan McNeil and Lindsay Sinkovich will read their work in the JCC Thomases Family Gallery on Sunday Feb. 21 from 3-4 p.m.

MAD About the Arts

Enjoy the cultural event of the season, an evening of contemporary art, music, wine tasting and food sampling, at the John J McDonough Museum of Art.

MAD benefits the McDonough Museum of Art and 88.5 WYSU

Friday | February 19
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TICKETS $80 or $65 for WYSU & McDonough Members | YSU/Faculty/Staff/Students | Fine Arts Alumni
World-renowned Cleveland chamber orchestra Apollo’s Fire is presenting “Sephardic Journey,” a program that follows the musical journey of the Sephardic Jews, who flourished in Spain during the 14th century and were then exiled and dispersed across the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Sacred Hebrew chant and highlights from the choral work, *Songs of Solomon*, by Jewish baroque composer Salamone Rossi are interwoven with the Sephardic folk songs sung by Rossi’s people during times of celebration, mourning, feasting and romance.

Living in Mantua, Italy, in the early 17th century, Salamone Rossi worked at the duke’s palace alongside Monteverdi. But at night, at his home in the Jewish ghetto, he composed the *Songs of Solomon* — a large choral work in baroque style with Hebrew text.

*Sephardic Journey* unfolds from an opening sequence called “Oh Jerusalem!” in which a traditional Sephardic chant of nostalgia for the homeland received dramatic treatment. Other sets are called “The Temple” (featuring Ladino songs); “Love and Romance” (including the prayer “Tzur Mishelo”); and “Feasting and Celebration” (including delightful songs about food, with driving percussion in Middle-eastern rhythms).

The program is led by Jeannette Sorrell and features vocal soloists Nell Snai das (soprano), Jeffrey Strauss (baritone) and Karim Sulayman (tenor). Snaidas is a Sephardic specialist and Strauss grew up in the Hebrew cantorial tradition. The colorful ensemble includes lutes, oud, shawm, wooden flute, harp, strings, Rex Benincasa on exotic percussion, Tina Bergmann on hammered dulcimer, and the acclaimed Apollo’s Singers.

The Saturday, Feb. 6 performance will mark Apollo’s Fire’s debut at Case Western Reserve University’s Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center at The Temple Tifereth Israel. Lovingly restored by Case Western Reserve over the past two years, the concert hall, named in honor of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, seats approximately 1,000 and features a mix of old and new, restoration and imagination, evoking the building’s heritage as a synagogue. Located in University Circle off East 105th Street, the Maltz Performing Arts Center features ample parking.

Tickets range from $20 – $68. Student, senior, young adult, and group discounts are available in select seating sections, and may only be obtained by calling the box office. Student tickets are free in Fairlawn, made possible by the GAR Foundation. Tickets are available through the Apollo’s Fire box office at (216) 320-0012 or online at www.apollofire.org.

AF presents an *Afterglow* post-concert party following the Friday, Feb. 5 performance at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Cleveland Hts. and the Sunday, Feb. 7 performance at Baldwin Wallace University, Berea.

**Area Concerts**

**Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.**
Fairlawn Lutheran Church
3415 West Market Street
Fairlawn, OH 44333

**Friday, February 5, 8 p.m.*
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Blvd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

**Saturday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m.**
Maltz Performing Arts Center
Case Western Reserve University (University Circle)
1855 Ansel Road (at E. 105th St.)
Cleveland, OH 44106

**Sunday, Feb. 7, 4 p.m.*
Gamble Auditorium, Baldwin Wallace University
96 Front Street
Berea, OH 44017

Denotes an Afterglow Party following the concert

**New Books at the JCC Library**

New books and media at the library have been either donated or purchased to inspire you during the winter months.

*The Muralist* by B.A. Shapiro (Fiction) Recommended by the JCC Library Book Club

*Saving Sophie* by Ronald Balson (Fiction) Recommended by the JCC Library Book Club

*Gratitude* by Oliver Sacks (Short Autobiographical Essays) Recommended by Fran Dreyfus

*Within the Eye of the Storm* (DVD)
*An American Tail* (DVD)
*Gratitude* (DVD)
*School Ties* (DVD)

The next meeting of the JCC Library Book Club will be on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in our library. We will discuss *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs. We have one copy available at the JCC library and other copies can be obtained through the public libraries, Search Ohio, and also on Kindle. Call Mary Lou Henneman at 330-746-3251 if you have questions or wish to join.

**JCC Library Hours**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9 a.m.–noon
California Assembly bill seeks to drown out anti-Israel BDS movement

By Paul Miller/JNS.org

With an eye on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, California State Assemblyman Travis Allen (R) on Jan. 4 introduced Assembly Bill 1552, which would ensure that California doesn’t contract with businesses that engage in boycotts based on race, color, religion, gender, or nationality.

“California strongly opposes discrimination. Of particular concern lately is the fact that boycotts of entities and individuals affiliated with specific countries can amount to ethnic, religious, racial and/or national origin discrimination. No group better demonstrates this fact than the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS), whose use of false, demonizing and delegitimizing propaganda against the State of Israel has become a pretext for the expression of anti-Jewish bigotry,” said Allen.

Since 2005, the BDS movement has targeted the Jewish state for economic and political sanctions. In California, BDS efforts have been widespread within the 10-campus University of California (UC) system. Spurred by the efforts of Students for Justice in Palestine, various student governments and organizations have authorized non-binding resolutions endorsing anti-Israel boycott efforts. During this same time, incidents of anti-Semitism on California campuses have dramatically increased, leading the UC Board of Regents to consider adopting the U.S. State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism.

Allen’s concerns over BDS efforts go beyond “ethnic, religious, racial, or nationality discrimination.” Targeting Israel for boycotts can have a negative economic impact on the Golden State itself, he argued.

According to Allen, “In 2014, California exported over $2.3 billion in goods to Israel, making it the state’s 18th largest export destination. Manufactured commodities are the largest export category for California, with over $1.6 billion, representing nearly 70 percent of all exports to Israel.”

In addition, Israeli technology may also be a source of life—literally—for California. With a disastrous drought threatening the entire state, California political and business leaders have turned to the Jewish state for an innovative solution in the form of desalination water treatment plants.

Allen offered another piece of legislation earlier on Monday with Assembly Bill 1551, the California-Israel Commerce Protection Act, which would require the state of California to divest from companies that boycott Israel.

The legislative initiative taken by the California Republican has been well received by pro-Israel organizations and groups that monitor anti-Semitism.

“We are proud that the state of California is taking up legislation to stop commercial discrimination and boycotts against Israel,” said Roz Rothstein, CEO of the Israel education and advocacy group StandWithUs. “Such boycott efforts are part of the BDS movement’s virulent propaganda campaign against Israel.”

Rothstein added, “The goal of BDS, as admitted by its own founders, is to isolate Israel among nations and convince the world that the Jewish state has no right to exist. This new bill makes it clear that California, a state whose citizens cherish the values of freedom, fairness, democracy, and peace, will make business decisions which uphold its public policy and values.”

EJ Kimball, director of U.S. Operations for the Israel Allies Foundation, told to the Haym Salomon Center, “The South Carolina bill that AB 1552 is modeled after was the product of more than two years of legal research, policy development and public educational resourcing by the Israel Allies Foundation. We’re pleased to see this effective approach taken up in California and elsewhere. Legislation such as this will play a significant role in defeating the BDS movement’s effort to promote commercial discrimination and boycotts against Israel.”

Students for Justice in Palestine, Coalition of West Coast Chapters did not answer a request for comment from the Haym Salomon Center.

The U.S. states of South Carolina and Illinois have passed similar legislation to the California proposal, aiming to take concrete action against BDS supporters, while state legislatures in Tennessee, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Florida have passed resolutions condemning the BDS movement.

Jonathan Pollard to speak at meeting of major Jewish organizations

JNS.org) Jonathan Pollard, who was released from a U.S. prison last November after being incarcerated for 30 years over spying on America for Israel, will reportedly speak at a meeting of major Jewish groups next week.

Pollard will speak to members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York City, on the topic of his legal battle to ease the conditions of his parole, the Forward reported. The meeting will also include U.S. Reps. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), who had been active in the effort to secure Pollard’s release. Nadler and Engel also wrote a letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch requesting better parole conditions for Pollard.

According to a story in The New York Times, Pollard cannot leave the country for at least five years without permission, and he must wear an electronic bracelet on his ankle. Further, federal authorities stipulated that any computer he uses, including those of an employer, be subject to inspection. His lawyers want a federal judge...
Michael Douglas to advocate for Israel on U.S. college campus tour

American actor Michael Douglas and Jewish Agency for Israel Chairman Natan Sharansky are set to visit three college campuses in the U.S. to speak to students about Israel and modern anti-Semitism.

Douglas and Sharansky will visit Brown University on Jan. 28, Stanford University on Feb. 2, and the University of California, Santa Barbara, on Feb. 3. The program, titled “Jewish Journeys: A Conversation with Michael Douglas and Natan Sharansky,” is being co-hosted by the Genesis Prize Foundation, Hillel International, and the Jewish Agency, in addition to the local Hillel chapters on each campus.

“This is the first time, in this current period of heightened anti-Israel activity on campus, that a Hollywood celebrity has offered to join with a world Jewish leader to visit U.S. college campuses and speak with students about Israel and the Jewish people,” said Stan Polovets, the Genesis Prize Foundation’s co-founder and chairman. “At a time when certain individuals and groups in the academic community as well as other forces are making sustained efforts to delegitimize Israel, these visits are particularly important and timely.”

Douglas said, “I was honored to receive the Genesis Prize last year, and it has encouraged me to deepen my commitment and belief that we must all be more inclusive in order that the Jewish faith and culture thrive. These visits provide an opportunity for Natan and me to speak directly with young people about the challenges they encounter, and share insight about how we have dealt with these situations throughout our life.”

Hebrew University ranked one of top 50 in the world

Hebrew University of Jerusalem has placed first in Israel and 47th in the world in the Wikipedia Ranking of World Universities.

The ranking rates the influence of academic institutions based on a computerized analysis of the number of times their names appear in the online encyclopedia, as well as the appearances of each school’s name and articles in Google search engine results, according to their PageRank score. PageRank is an algorithm that determines how important a website is based in part on how many other pages link to it. It is used by Google to order search results.

The researchers from France who put together the universities ranking analyzed all 24 different language editions of Wikipedia, including a total of about 17 million articles. British institutions led the ranking, with Cambridge and Oxford universities placing first and second, respectively, followed by American universities Harvard, Columbia, and Princeton.

New Israeli fighter plane from Lockheed Martin

The body of Israel’s first F-35 joint strike fighter plane was unveiled at a festive ceremony in Fort Worth, Texas, recently. The plane, named Adir, will now enter the advanced production stage, which is set to last until June.

The ceremony was attended by officials from U.S. aerospace company Lockheed Martin, which produces the F-35, and Israel’s Defense Ministry.

Israel has ordered 33 F-35s at the average cost of $110 million per plane. The first two F-35s are scheduled to arrive in Israel in December. The rest of the planes will be delivered to Israel by 2021.

At the ceremony, the head of the Israeli delegation, Aharon Marmarosh, signed the frame of the first Israeli F-35, writing, “Onward and upward. May you succeed in your mission.”

Marmarosh said, “This is a historic day...The F-35 will improve Israel’s ability to defend itself from a variety of threats.”

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