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Trip to Israel is Learning Experience for BBYO Passport Participant see page 12
Musings with Mary Lou: Nostalgic Songs Still Relevant

By Mary Lou Finesilver

I think I have written about music before and how much I really love it—all kinds, well, most kinds. This was really brought home to me when we went to a big band concert featuring the Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller orchestras. It was fantastic. There is nothing like seeing these bands with the marvelous brass group, woodwinds, bass fiddle, and piano. It had us glued to our seats and shedding a few tears at the beginning; it was so powerful.

My love for music started when I was very young. I vaguely remember when I was about 4 or 5 and I sang “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” for the rabbi at a Sunday school program. I have loved that song ever since. I know that song was made for “The Wizard of Oz.” The lyrics were written by Yip Harburg and the musical score by Harold Arlen, both Jewish writers who had family in Europe and in the Holocaust and who wrote the song as a symbol of hope.

Think about some of the lyrics: “blue birds fly,” but the Jews in the camps were unable to fly, so many of them were feeling isolated and trapped, and therefore unable to fly. And when you think of the “chimney tops,” it brings to mind the Auschwitz chimney tops of the ovens. But then “Birds fly over the rainbow; Why, then, oh why can’t I?” That was the feeling of hope, of someday soon freedom. I never knew any of this until recently, and it makes the song that much more meaningful. I even use the song on my cell phone.

I love many songs, but some are more special than others. The two others I am thinking of are beautiful but carry great meaning if we would only listen. The first one has been hanging around since the 1930s, I think: “The House I Live in.” This was sung by Frank Sinatra in a movie, and another wonderful singer who also recorded it was Paul Robeson. If you listen carefully, you will realize that the lyrics are very relevant to today. One stanza says, “The children in the playground, the faces that I see, all races and religions, that’s America to me.” And another, “The howdy and the handshake, the air a feeling free, and the right to speak your mind out, that’s America to me.” There is much more, but hopefully, you understand what it means.

The other song is much newer and was introduced with the musical play South Pacific, titled “You’ve Got to be Carefully Taught.” I’m sure you have heard it, but have you really listened? “You’ve got to be taught to hate and fear, you’ve got to be taught from year to year... It’s got to be drummed in your dear little ear. You’ve got to be carefully taught. You’ve got to be taught to be afraid of people whose eyes are oddly made and people whose skin is a different shade, you’ve got to be carefully taught before it’s too late, before you are six or seven or eight... to hate all the people your relatives hate, you’ve got to be carefully taught.” I think we all are walking around with the fear that nowhere is safe. What can we do to change things? It will take all of us together to help correct what has been happening for so many years to bring us back to “One nation, under G-d, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.”

Well, I will now get off my soap box and go back to just being sweet little me. Who am I kidding? If you need more words for these wonderful songs, you can Google them. You know you can always send me a message through the Journal in case you have something you want to discuss. Take care, and until next month (I hope) be safe, be well.

Third Time’s a Charm?

By Gon Erez
JCC Program Director

Last April, Israel went to elections after the security minister, Avigdor Liberman, resigned from office and by doing so broke the government apart. After elections in Israel, the President gives the mandate to form a government to the candidate who has the highest number of recommendations from other members of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament). If that candidate fails to form a government by the time given to him or her, the next candidate in line should be given the chance.

In April, after failing to form a government for the first time in Israel’s history, Benjamin Netanyahu was to return the mandate to the president. Instead of letting the president give that mandate to the next person in line, Benjamin (Benny) Gantz, Netanyahu pulled yet another political trick and had the Knesset vote to dissolve itself. For the first time in history, Israel held two elections back to back.

In September, after the elections were over, Netanyahu was granted a second chance to form the government and failed for the second time. Second in line was Gantz, who got the mandate from the President this time. Unfortunately, Gantz was also unable to form a coalition, and the mandate was returned to the president again.

Both of the big party leaders called for a united government, but each had different demands and they couldn’t find a resolution. In this situation, the Knesset receives an extra 21 days to form a government. A majority of 61 members of the Knesset appoints one of the MK (Member of the Knesset) to be the Prime Minister. This is the final step before a third election.

A day after Gantz returned the mandate to the president (Nov. 20), Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit indicted Netanyahu on three different counts of criminal charges: bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

This is a complicated moment in Israeli history. The opening of a trial could be delayed for months by both a new election next year and the Netanyahu’s right to ask the Knesset for immunity from prosecution. The Knesset House Committee must decide whether or not to grant Netanyahu immunity. However, due to the fact that Israel has been run by two transitional governments for most of this year, the House Committee has not been appointed since April. Netanyahu is not legally required to step down.

Elections continued on page 8
Help Your Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine With a Voluntary Subscription

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine is sent monthly by mail to all members of the Jewish community in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys free of charge. Your support allows us to enrich individuals and the community through articles, features, and other information of local and national Jewish interest; and demonstrate commitment to the progress and continuity of Jewish life in the U.S., especially our local area, and in Israel and around the world.

Please consider a donation at this time. No donation is too small, whether it be $18, $36, $100, $200 or $500. Send checks to the JJMM, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio, 44504.

Sam Kooperman Endowment Allows Girard Native to Pursue Studies in Israel

By Jamie Durisko

James Golden, Girard native and current yeshiva student in Israel, was the recipient of the Sam Kooperman Endowment in summer 2019. The endowment was created to provide scholarships for Jewish overnight camping experience for Jewish youth and for Jewish young adults to study in Israel.

The funding from the endowment is helping Golden to pursue his studies at Shapell’s Darché Noam, a baal teshuva yeshiva in Jerusalem. The term baal teshuva is Hebrew to describe someone who has “returned,” meaning one who has taken upon himself full observance of Judaism. Today, the phrase is generally used to refer to someone from a secular background who decides to take on a fully observant Jewish lifestyle. Attending a baal teshuva yeshiva allows for the people who didn’t grow up with an Orthodox Jewish background to become fully immersed in the lifestyle and practice with the original Hebrew and Aramaic.

Endowment continued on page 9

James Golden, a Girard native, was the recipient of the Sam Kooperman Endowment. He’s using the funds to study in Israel.

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The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
Temple El Emeth

**El Emeth Consecration Held**

Consecration was held at Temple El Emeth on Saturday morning, Nov. 23. Tirtza Kohan led the children in a presentation, and Rabbi Joseph Schonberger blessed the children and their families. A Kiddush luncheon was held following the service. Pictured from left are Marleigh Schonberger, daughter of Eliana and Zack Schonberger, and Blake and Bella Vickers, children of Megan and Jeffrey Vickers.

**Simchat Torah Celebration**

Temple El Emeth and Congregation Ohev Tzedek held a Simchat Torah celebration Oct. 21. Florence Mirkin (left) was honored as Chatan Torah, and Edith Peskin as Chatan Bereisheit. The celebration featured music by Klezmer musicians Steven Greenman and Walt Mahovlich, refreshments by Sisterhood, and treats for the children during the Seven Hakafot. Photo courtesy of Elyse Silverman.

**Temple El Emeth Events**

Dec. 3
Temple El Emeth Board of Directors will have its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. The Executive Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 4
Jewish Christian Dialogue will have its monthly session. Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 1 p.m. This year's theme is “Civilization and the Jews: The Roots of Monotheistic Religion” and is based on the PBS documentary with Abba Eben. December's topic will be “Crucible of Europe—Search for Deliverance.” All are welcome to attend.

Dec. 5–6
Liberty Food Pantry will be setting up on Dec. 5 from 7 to 8 p.m., and food distribution will take place Friday morning, Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The Pantry is located at the Churchill United Methodist Church. Please call the Temple office if you want to volunteer and your name will be passed on to the Pantry chairs.

Dec. 7
Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle will take place at the synagogue 7 to 10 p.m. An hors d’oeuvres and dessert extravaganza with an open bar will be featured, and entertainment will be provided by Steve Fazzini. The grand prize is $3,000, and the cost for two people is $150 (includes one entry into raffle). Reservations are requested by Nov. 25. Checks can be made payable to Temple El Emeth.

Dec. 10
Sisterhood's Hanukkah Luncheon will begin at noon after the 10:45 a.m. board meeting. Jesse McClain, holocaust education specialist, will speak about "Religion Through the Holocaust." Lunch is $12. The Judaica Shop will be open and is well stocked for Hanukkah needs. Please call reservations in to the office by Dec. 5.

Dec. 17
"Hanukkah Happening for Kids" is planned for 4 to 5:15 p.m. There will be Hanukkah crafts for all ages, including painting Hanukkah panels, jewelry making, making decorations, and decorating Hanukkah cookies to take home, plus more. There will be latkes and cookies to eat. Please call the Temple to RSVP by Dec. 16.

Dec. 21
Hanukkah Kiddush Luncheon will follow Shabbat morning services. Please call the office to RSVP for lunch.

Daily minyans are at 5:45 p.m. Sunday through Friday. Saturday evening minyans in December are at 5 p.m. Saturday morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.
No, Virginia, There Is No Such Thing as a Holiday Tree

By Neil Yutkin
Co-President Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah

Recently I became aware of a policy change in one of the places I usually frequent regarding the holiday season. For a number of years, there were displays during the upcoming joyous period of a Christmas tree, a menorah, and a Kwanzaa candelabra. But for the last two years, the organization has dropped the last two displays in favor of a “holiday tree.”

Holiday tree? Does changing the name of a Christmas tree to holiday tree change the pine tree from a Christian symbol of the season to a symbol for all people in this season? Originally adapted from Germany (many say it was originally a pagan custom), it was widely not accepted until Queen Victoria was pictured with one during her reign.

Now, I admire the beauty of Christmas decorations as do most people, and I am certainly not anti-tree. When working for the state of Ohio before I retired, I even provided our office with a tree and lights one year. However, I also decorated my office cubicle with a menorah, Stars of David, dreidels, and other Hanukkah decorations. I even volunteered to act as Santa for the city of Youngstown’s Downtown Christmas Celebration for three years, and when I left turned the position over to another Jewish person.

When I approached the branch manager of the facility about the change in policy, I was told that a menorah was a religious symbol and was therefore not allowed. Therefore, their compromise was the holiday tree.

The tree has come to be known as the symbol of Christmas. It has never been thought of as anything else since Queen Victoria’s reign, and to expect people of other beliefs to adapt to this tradition is a throwback to a different era, a time when minorities were expected to accept the majority view.

When we were younger, in middle school through high school, we were expected to join in with Christmas carols. One teacher even told me that, since I was going to take off for Rosh Hashanah on a day when he had scheduled a test, I would be given an F on the test. This was when I approached him to take it before or after that day. My parents had to appeal to the school to keep that from happening. My co-president has had similar problems with the schools in her kids’ school district.

Times have changed since then. But in the last few years, it has become more popular to be less tolerant to those who are different. We have seen an increase in hate crimes also, to the point that it seems something appears in the news almost every day. As I write this, what comes to mind is a recent interview with a native born American of Hispanic descent who had a person throw acid in his face and tell him that he did not belong here.

In a two week period in Boardman this year, two people were arrested: one threatened to shoot up the Jewish Community Center, and the other was going to shoot up a Planned Parenthood building and a gay bar. Also recently, a man was trying to blow up a temple in Pueblo, Colorado.

Diversity is good. When get to know each other, it is much harder to classify others as a “they” instead of as a person. And when we force people to adapt their beliefs based on their own set of beliefs or traditions, it encourages those who choose to hate.

For emergency medical care, who do Israelis depend on?

They depend on you.

Magen David Adom (MDA) is Israel’s official ambulance, blood-services, and disaster-relief agency, serving the nation’s 9 million people. But like every other Red Cross agency around the world, MDA doesn’t receive regular government support. That’s why it relies on people like you.

Since the 1930s, generous Americans like you have provided the vehicles, training, and equipment that’s kept Israelis healthy and strong.

There are many ways to support Israel, but none that has a greater effect on its people and its future than a gift to Magen David Adom. Your support isn’t just changing lives — it’s literally saving them.

Make an end-of-year donation to Magen David Adom at afmda.org/chanukah
And our best wishes for a joyous Chanukah and New Year.
Human Services

Ceremony at Heritage Manor Honors Veterans

Veterans were honored at a ceremony at Heritage Manor Rehabilitation and Retirement Community on Veteran’s Day. Pictured is Ronald White, a Levy Gardens Assisted Living tenant, being honored by representatives from Hospice of the Valley and Disabled Americans Veterans.

Art Show & Tea Held at Heritage Manor

Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community held an Art Show & Tea Nov. 6. The artwork of eight residents was on display.

Susan Jacobs, a local artist, meets with residents twice a month to give them an opportunity to paint. Residents choose their own subject matter, and Susan works with them on color selection and technique. She has been leading the sessions since 2008. The Art Show & Tea is held twice a year.

Family members of the artists frequently attend the art show, as do residents who don’t participate in the art classes. Tea and cookies are served. Bobbie Berkowitz, activities director, organizes the event.

Richard Yarmy stands by art he created at Heritage Manor while Activities Director Bobbie Berkowitz looks on. Yarmy and seven others were recognized for their paintings at an art show in November.

JFS Outreach Coordinator Attends Senior Event

Shay Erez, Jewish Family Services outreach coordinator, attended the November “Friendsgiving” event at the Austintown Senior Center. She promoted the Aging Well programs, JFS, and Jewish Community Center of Youngstown.
Halloween Party for ‘Our Gang’ Participants

“Our Gang” held its Halloween party at Jewish Community Center of Youngstown in October. Participants enjoyed pumpkin carving, trick or treating, crafts, and a parade through the building. Pictured from left are Joanna Bozzo, Jenny Chaney, and Larry Bozzo.

Jews of the Titanic Presentation at Levy Gardens

Marcia Levy presented “Jews of the Titanic” at Levy Gardens Assisted Living in November. Levy first discovered that some of the passengers on the ship were Jewish while researching a different topic. Intrigued, she set out to learn more. During her presentation, she shared photos and information about each of the Jewish passengers, totaling more than 100. The ship, sunk by an iceberg, included a kosher kitchen and cook.

Jewish Family Services Receives Greenwood Donation

Greenwood Chevrolet, in partnership with the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, recently donated $200 to Jewish Family Services. The donation will help support individuals and families in the community. Pictured from left are Shawn Sweitzer of Greenwood; Ken Bielecki, director of JFS; Jessica Darby, and Anthony Fusillo, both of Greenwood.

Cookie Decorating at Adult Day Services

Participants in Heritage Manor’s Adult Day Services program decorated cookies in November. Pictured is Ethel Rivers.
Elections from page 2

Current Israeli law allows a prime minister to remain in office until a final court verdict, after appeals have been exhausted. Hence, Benjamin Netanyahu’s indictment plummets Israel into political turmoil.

It is sad that a prime minister would be accused of such offenses. What’s even sadder is that Netanyahu knows very well that the only thing keeping Israel from forming a unity government is his insistence of holding on to his seat. And the Israeli society, which has so many economic and security challenges, is being held hostage.

On the bright side, we’re witnessing here the stability of the Israeli judicial system, which (unfortunately) has been proven to stand strong after indictments of a (second) prime minister, a president and a few other ministers. This is a clear sign of a strong and balanced democratic governmental system. We all need to remember that as well.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivers a statement to the press after a security cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv, Nov. 12, 2019. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)
**Liptalk: 34 Years at Federation**

**A Message from Andy Lipkin**

Federation Executive Vice-President

On Nov. 18, I celebrated my 34th anniversary with the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. When we arrived in the Valley in 1985, my wife Hilari and I, along with our one-year-old son Sean, found a Jewish community and Federation that has become an important part of our lives.

Reflecting back on these past 34 years, I think about the people who helped me grow professionally along the way. First, Sam Kooperman, who took a chance on a young man from Long Island with a master’s degree and three years’ experience in fundraising for UJA Federation of New York. I’d also like to give a shout out to the senior management team back in 1985 who are no longer working here in Youngstown or have recently retired: Eric Geboff, Alan Goldberg, Sandra Chiles, Gary Weiss, and Alvin Weisberg. And, of course, the many lay leaders I have worked with over the years, too numerous to mention for fear I will leave some out. People ask me what is one of the best parts of my job and I say meeting some incredible volunteers over the years.

The worst part of the job is attending far too many of their funerals. The lay leadership and volunteers who I have met over the years have helped me professionally grow in my various roles with the Federation, and some I call my very good friends.

Back in 1985, this Jewish community looked very different than it does today. Certainly some of the services and programs we offered 34 years ago have changed or been eliminated, while new programs and services have emerged. When we arrived, Akiva Academy had just opened for grades kindergarten through first. Hilari started teaching third grade in 1986. The school grew to approximately 130 children in grades kindergarten through sixth in the mid-1990s, mostly Jewish students. Today, Akiva is for students in kindergarten through eighth grades and has 154 students, of which 20 are Jewish. We are doing something right, seeing that the parents of 134 children who are not Jewish choose to send their kids to our school. It most definitely has a lot do with with the Jewish values, tradition, and Hebrew/Judaic customs we teach at Akiva, and, of course, the teachers and administrators.

What else has changed in all of these years? Our Jewish Community Center is so different. The Federation and JCC offices are now on the second floor, where once preschool and Jewish Family Services were located. We have an Early Learning Center for children ages six weeks to five years old located on the lower level of the JCC building.

The fitness center, non-existent for the most part in 1985, is now equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Back then there was one health club with sauna and steam, open on different days for men’s and women’s hours.

Across the parking lot to the west (by the way, there was a house between the JCC and Heritage Manor in 1985) renovations at Heritage Manor in the early 1980s increased bed capacity to 72. The Home has had numerous renovations, including work happening now to renovate the Heritage Manor lobby and offices at both Heritage Manor and Jewish Family Services. As I mentioned earlier, JFS was located on the second floor of the JCC, but was moved to the northwest corner of Heritage Manor, in part to maintain confidentiality for the clients.

Behind Heritage Manor sits Levy Gardens, completed in 1997 and offering 24 units of assisted living space (18 one bedroom and 6 two bedroom apartments). Adjacent to Levy Gardens is a group home for adults, also new to our campus.

I could go on and list the many other changes that have transpired from 1985 to 2019 (including the loss of much of my hair,) such as the drop in our population from 3,800 to 1,200 (or as I affectionately say, 1,200 Jewish men/women/children and cats/dogs). But one thing that has not changed is our dedication to serving the needs of our Jewish community. Some needs have stayed the same over the years and some have changed. New programs and services are being explored all the time with our dedicated volunteers and hardworking staff of the Federation and its agencies. Change is not easy, and is not always fast enough for everybody. But remember we strive to be the best, and we can unequivocally state we are the best Jewish community in North America. No community offers as much as we do for a Jewish population this size.

I cannot end this column without mentioning that security is of utmost importance to the Federation. We have strong security measures in place throughout our campus with security guards and cameras. Security is expensive, and is something, unfortunately, we will need to fund going forward. We will continue to consult with the area synagogues to help assist in any way possible regarding their respective security needs. We will also advocate for additional security dollars through the state and federal governments.

As we approach the end of the year, I wish you a happy Hanukkah and a happy and healthy New Year!

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**Endowment from page 3**

Golden was raised with no real Jewish presence in his youth and took the first serious steps in his journey around the age of 18. He said that he was naturally drawn to this way of life and felt driven to devote himself to learning about his roots and growing as a person as much as possible.

The first *yeshiva* he attended was Sh’or Yoshiv in New York, where he studied for about four months before moving to Israel. There, Golden attended a few different *yeshivos* in Jerusalem until he decided to stay at Shapell’s Darché Noam.

He’s put his life on hold to focus on his learning, he said, which includes leaving his job and moving to Israel indefinitely.

“First and foremost, I am a Jew,” said Golden. “Therefore, at the end of the day, it doesn’t matter how big my house is or what kind of car I drive. If I’m not connecting every day to Judaism, while trying to grow and be the best Jew possible, then all these other things are meaningless. My academic pursuits and goal of being self-sufficient in understanding of Jewish texts were my biggest reasons for going to *yeshiva*. *Yeshiva* forces you to be better at all the different roles you take on in your life.”

Golden said he would like to thank the Youngstown community as a whole for being there at the very beginning of his journey as a young adult. Returning to Youngstown now helps to remind him never to forget where he came from and what has led him on this path. He is very grateful for the opportunities G-d has given him to be able to embark on this journey, he added, now that he is not only learning for himself, but also to honor his father Ronald Golden, who recently passed and was extremely proud of his son learning full time in *yeshiva*.
Illustrator and Graphic Designer Shares Her Experiences

In honor of Jewish book month, Erika Steiskal, a Canfield native, came back to the area to share her experiences as an illustrator and graphic designer at two events in November.

At the Austintown branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, she told the audience, including a group of students from Austintown Middle School, about her education and how important it was in getting her to the place where she is today. It prepared her for the work she did as the illustrator of “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree.”

The children’s book, by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, tells the story of Anne Frank, who loved a tree who promised never to forget her.

The same day, she spoke at a PJ Library event at Jewish Community Center of Youngstown. She shared illustrations from other books she worked on and discussed what it’s like being an illustrator and graphic designer. She read “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree” to those present and led a drawing demonstration of a chestnut tree leaf. Participants were able to follow along and draw their own.

Before heading home to Seattle, Steiskal donated a painting to the Schwartz Judaic and Holocaust Resource Center in the JCC. She made the painting of an artisan in high school.

Her presentations were made possible by the Elder Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

Jewish Book Month is Nov. 22 through Dec. 22.

Thomases Family Endowment Awards $10K Grant to The English Center

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation awarded a $10,000 grant to the English Center. The funds will be used for materials and resources including books and building rental fees to allow The English Center to continue to provide their services to the community. The Thomases Family Endowment began supporting the organization in 2012.

For more than 30 years, the English Center has helped non-native adults from around the world to learn and improve their English and to become integrated into our local community. These important lessons in reading, writing, speaking, culture, and job readiness are an invaluable resource for many immigrants who are striving for self-sufficiency and a sense of belonging.

As a nonprofit, charitable community organization, The English Center relies on donations to continue its operations. Local partners and sponsors like the Thomases Family Endowment are vital to its success in supporting hundreds of students in the area.

Take Out Service on Entire Menu

Two Great Locations
Dine in / Carry Out

• LIBERTY
2940 Belmont
330-759-6907

• BOARDMAN
6041 Market
330-788-5666

Erika Steiskal, a Canfield native, talked about her experience illustrating “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree” at two events in November. Pictured from left are Mary Rose Steiskal, Erika Steiskal, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Holocaust Educational Specialist Jesse McClain, and the Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County Development Director.
Endowment Grants $50,000 to Stambaugh Auditorium

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation granted $50,000 to Stambaugh Auditorium to support the Monumental Staircase and Facade Restoration Project.

The goal of the staircase and facade restoration project is to return the monumental staircase, grand entrance, and promenade to its original splendor. The cost of the project is estimated at $5 million and will include razing and replacing the Fifth Avenue monumental staircase and promenade, reconstructing retaining walls, cleaning the exterior façade of the building, adding dimensional exterior lighting to the entrances and facades, and restoring all decorative metalwork at the grand entrance.

"The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation has been supporting Stambaugh Auditorium since 2013, granting the organization $65,000 to date," said Lisa Long, Federation financial resource director. "We are honored to support this ambitious endeavor that will reinvigorate a Youngstown landmark. Irwin Thomases loved his adopted community of Youngstown and wanted to ensure the community did not merely survive, but rather, thrive. He envisioned that supporting economic development, social, health, education, and arts-related programs would provide the necessary impetus to propel progress within the community. It is our hope that through our giving to this project and other organizations in the Valley and across the globe, we've made and will continue to make this world a better place to live."

One of the monumental pillars will be named for the Thomases Family Endowment in recognition for their support of the project.

"Stambaugh Auditorium is one of the true gems of the Mahoning Valley," said Martha Thomases, daughter of Irwin Thomases. "It serves music that soothes, property sale will benefit Federation

A generous donor gifted a piece of property to Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. It is for sale for $72,000. Proceeds from the sale will support the Federation. The property is located on SR 193 (Belmont Avenue) in Liberty Township north of the I-80 Interchange. For more information, contact Scott Lewis at 330.746.6581.

Leave a Jewish Legacy

By Lisa Long
Federation Financial Resource Development Director

You've done so much to create a vibrant Jewish community, but what happens when you're no longer here? Including Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation in your estate plans is a meaningful way to ensure your tzedakah serves as a gift to generations to come. We know your family is top of mind when creating your estate plan. That's why many donors choose to leave a certain percentage to charity instead of committing to a specific dollar amount. This way, you're ensuring your children's and grandchildren's financial security while safeguarding your philanthropic passions at the same time. This transformational gift can be done simply by adding the following sentence to your will:

"I give to the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation, a nonprofit organization currently located at 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504, [percentage of the estate] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

This verbiage applies to bequests of specific amounts and/or property.

This is just one of many ways you can make a lasting impact here at home. Contact me at llong@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3250 ext. 175 to learn more.

Stambaugh continued on page 23

The sale of a property on Belmont Avenue will benefit Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.
Trip to Israel Offers Learning Opportunity

By Van Rosenthal Hoang

My name is Van Rosenthal Hoang. This summer, I went on a BBYO Israel Journey trip for three weeks, where I learned about Israel’s history, went out of my comfort zone, and met an amazing group of people. I can’t even begin to find the words to describe how life-changing this trip was for me.

We traveled all over Israel, but the one place that I really remembered and loved was Masada. We saw the ruins of the city, and I could feel the history of it. The only thing that I did not like was waking up really early and hiking up the steep trail to get to the top—an advantageous location in battle, I realized. I will always remember the sunrise when we got up to the top. It was so colorful—one of the best sunrises I have ever seen.

After that, we went to the Dead Sea. Before I went to the beach, I bought some Dead Sea mud from a cosmetic shop that we passed through. It’s a special treatment to rejuvenate your skin, so I rubbed the mud all over my arms and face before I went into the water. The water was so salty that I floated when I sat down, and we were told not to touch our faces because the salt would burn. These were my two favorite places during the whole trip. I will always remember them and the experiences I had there.

Visiting the Western Wall was very intense for me. We had to go through a security line, and then we had to go to our separate sides for men and women. As I walked into the women’s section, I realized that it was smaller than the men’s. While I was touching the Western Wall, a woman handed me a prayer book, and I was then able to pray for a bit. As I left the wall, I walked backward in a sign of respect. The whole experience was very overwhelming for me.

In truth, this whole trip was out of my comfort zone, from trying new foods to ziplining. Getting used to the food was a big step for me, even though I have eaten a lot of different foods from around the world. I tried chicken and beef shawarma, and I ate potato knishes for breakfast. I also ate Israeli salad everywhere I went, which I loved and had learned to eat at Akiva Academy. In Tel Aviv, I had the best falafel I have ever tasted.

Some of the hikes and “trust” activities were also out of my comfort zone. The one time that I remember feeling very uncomfortable was when I went ziplining. When I was getting strapped up into the harness, my friend reassured me that it would be fun and that I would love it. And by the end, I was so happy that I did it. My parents had taught me a valuable lesson that was reinforced for me on this trip: I should try new things, even if they are different from what I like, because I might like them and learn something new.

There were so many different people on the trip. I was one of the youngest, but everyone included me in things. Even though I was shy at the beginning, I made a group of amazing friends. Most of my new friends are from Ohio, but a few are from Florida and California. I think they also helped me step out of my comfort zone as a person. A few of the older kids on the trip also taught me some teen life lessons that I will always follow, and they were just fun to be around. I’m grateful that I made such a wonderful group of friends on this trip.

In the end, I wish I could have stayed longer and traveled more in Israel. I also wish that I had found that group of friends sooner. I learned so much about Israel and about myself. I’m so glad that my mom made me go on this trip because if I had not gone, I would have regretted it. As I said, “Try something even if you don’t like it because, in the end, you might.”

Van Rosenthal Hoang’s trip was primarily funded by Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, the Sandra Lippy Scholarship Fund for Young Adults, and the William and Dorothy Lackey Scholarship Fund.

Van Rosenthal Hoang participated in a BBYO trip to Israel over the summer. She’s pictured on the far left with her friends in Israel.
10th Grade Student Shares
Israel Trip Experience

Hannah Kunkel, a 10th grade student in Greenville, Pa., participated in a BBYO Passport trip to Israel earlier this year. In November, she shared her experiences with MSJS students. Her trip was funded by Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, the Sandra Lippy Scholarship Fund for Young Adults, and the William and Dorothy Lackey Scholarship Fund.

Available for weddings, graduation parties, and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Full service catering for brunches and dinners. Kosher and non-kosher
Authorized caterer for the DD Davis Center, the Jewish Community Center; Stambaugh Auditorium; Tyler Historical Center; Temples El Emeth, Ohev Tzedek, and Rodef Sholom.

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Community
Hanukkah Celebration
Unleash the magic of the Festival of Lights.
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019
Minyan | 5:00p
Program begins | 5:30p
Congregation Rodef Sholom
Dinner * Entertainment * Celebration
Featuring the holiday magic of Magician and Illusionist: David Anthony

Special Opening Warm-Up Act: World Famous Jewish Magician Mordechai the Magnificent
RSVP to the Rodef Sholom office no later than Dec. 10 | (330) 744-5001; office@congregationrodefsholom.org

More information coming soon!

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December 2019

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
Akiva Robotics Team Meets with Mayor Melfi

Girard Mayor James Melfi met with the Akiva Academy robotics team to discuss their current project. Their mission this year is to learn more about what it takes to improve a city, to accomplish set missions with their robot, and to try to solve a problem cities may currently have in providing good communities for citizens. The team will be competing Nov. 23 in Austintown. The students are in grades 6 through 8.

“We wrote the mayor with several questions about Girard, and he offered to answer the questions in person,” said Beth Maurice, team advisor. “It was helpful to have him share his city that he governs and receive some answers towards our own project.”

The team is sponsored by Girard City Schools.

Akiva Academy Students Honor Veterans

On Veteran’s day, Akiva Academy students honored veterans who are family members. Students shared poetry, sang songs, and danced.

“It’s always a very, very important thing for students to feel responsible to honor servicemen,” said Kathy Mioni, principal. “We are so happy that our veterans associated with our children came to spend the morning with us.”

MSJS Students Finding Peace Through Yoga Combined with Torah Learning

MSJS students in grades nine and 10 are participating in “Yoga Poses for the Five Books of Moses,” led by Barry Davis. Yoga activity helps in reducing stress, lowering anxiety, improving heart rate, and improving life quality overall. Combined with spiritual content, such as prayers or Torah learning, the benefits are even greater. In these lessons the students focus on certain prayer or Torah verses to gain inner peace through yoga movements. Pictured from left are Davis, Aleksander Walton, Josh Greenbaum, Sofia Farhan, and Hannah Kankel.
Ronald Golden


He was born in Youngstown on Sept. 25, 1954, to Nathan “Red” and Bessie Lackey Golden.

Following graduation from high school, Ron enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and proudly served for several years as a lance corporal before receiving his honorable discharge.

He returned home to attend the police academy and begin his career in law enforcement, which would go on to last for more than 30 years. During his career he served with the Youngstown Police Department, Mahoning County Sheriff’s Department, and lastly, with the St. Elizabeth Police Department from where he retired in 2016.

He was the proud and devoted father to his children James Golden, Lucy Golden, and Robert Golden, all of Girard; beloved brother to Jacalyn Golden of Solon and Hope (Joseph) Golubich of New Middletown; and by his former spouse and best friend, Phyllis DeFiore-Golden.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services were at Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home, followed by interment in Ohev Tzedek Cemetery.

Friends may view this obituary and send condolences to Ron’s family at www.shriverallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com.

Contributions may be made in Ronald’s memory to Toys for Tots or Congregation Children of Israel.

Margery Merklin Kornswiet

Margery Merklin Kornswiet, 91, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019, in the Cohen Home, Johns Creek, Ga.

She was the oldest daughter of the late Max and Gussie Merklin, of Akron, Ohio. She graduated from Buchtel High School in 1945 and traveled to California to help care for her aging grandfather, the late Louis Stein.

She was married to the late Leonard F. Kornswiet for 49 years residing in Youngstown, Ohio, where she worked alongside her husband at their business, Modern Litho Inc.

Margery was an active member of Ohev Tzedek Synagogue and Sisterhood, B’nai B’rith Women’s Bowling League, and often volunteered in the community. They relocated to Venice, Fla. in 1990 where they enjoyed their last five years together. In 1995 she moved to Sarasota, Fla., where she resided for the last 24 years. There she was an active member of Congregation Beth Shalom and its sisterhood and later became affiliated with Temple Sinai. She enjoyed friends, Mahjong, and travel. She recently moved to Atlanta, Ga., until her passing.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda J. Kornswiet and husband, Stanford Kauffman; daughter, Sheryl L. Zelonka and husband, John Zelonka; grandchildren, Jason R. Zelonka, Kami Zelonka Brown and husband, Russell Brown; and great-grandsons, Joshua Zelonka, Zachary Brown and Cooper Brown.

Contributions in Margery’s memory may be made to Ohev Tzedek Synagogue, 5245 Glenwood Ave. Boardman, Ohio or the American Cancer Society. Graveside services were at Ohev Tzedek-Shaari Torah Cemetery on Tippecanoe Road.
Corporations Can Rent InBody 570

In 2018, InBody 570 was introduced into Jewish Community Center of Youngstown’s fitness program. In less than 60 seconds, the InBody not only examines the compositions of an individual’s body, but also reveals percentage of body fat, muscle distribution, and body weight balance.

Corporations can now take advantage of this technology for employee wellness programs by renting the InBody 570. It is administered by a JCC specialist. “The InBody is perfect for fitness challenges and encourages employee wellness,” said Laura Weymer, JCC health and wellness director. “It’s quick and noninvasive, and provides easy-to-understand results.”

For more information or to rent the InBody, contact Jaron Howell, JCC wellness coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 153.

JCC Operations Manager Helps Out in Pittsburgh

Rebecca Soldan, Jewish Community Center of Youngstown’s operations manager, was part of a cohort of JResponders who volunteered at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh Oct. 27 in order to relieve some of the burden on the JCC staff who hosted a number of events during the commemoration of the tragedy at the Tree of Life Building in Pittsburgh one year earlier. JResponders are skilled professionals from one JCC who lend a hand at another JCC in the aftermath of a crisis. Pictured from left are Soldan; Peggy Newsome, membership specialist at Weinstein JCC of Richmond, Va.; Cheri Szerezewski, early childhood director at Prosserman JCC, Toronto; and Steven Wendell, executive director of United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula, Newport News, Va.
**FITNESS**

*For more information on fitness programs contact Jaron Howell, Wellness Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 153 or jhowell@jewishyoungstown.org.*

**Monthly Health Club Services**
Take advantage of our new lower priced locker and towel rentals plus new massage offer!

- **Long Locker:** $10/month
- **Towel Service:** $10/month
- **Locker & Towel Service:** $15/month
- **1 30-Minute Massage:** $15/month

To add on any monthly service contact the Membership Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 283.

**Massage Therapy**
Studies have shown that massage is an effective treatment for reducing stress, pain, and muscle tension. Our Massage Therapists are licensed by the State Medical Board of Ohio and offer Swedish Massage, Deep Massage, Sports Massage, and Trigger Point Massage.

- **One Time 30-Minute Massage:**
  - $33/Member | $43/Non Member
- **Monthly 30-Minute Massage** (paid with membership dues): $15/month.
- **60-Minute Massage:**
  - $58/Member | $78/Non Member
- **90-Minute Massage:**
  - $81/Member | $108/Non Member

**Reach Your Goals With InBody**
The InBody 570 is one of the most advanced body composition analyzers on the market. In less than one minute, you will see a total analysis of your muscle, fat, and body water! The first scan is FREE to all members!

- **Monthly Unlimited Scans:** $10/mo
  (Also includes 15 minutes with Personal Trainer)
- **Member:** $15/test
  **Non Member:** $25/test

To register contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

**Personal Training**
Our nationally certified trainers will develop an individualized plan geared toward your personal goals. You'll receive support, motivation, and direction that will help you get fit fast. We also offer youth personal training for children under 13.

For more information or to register contact Jaron Howell, Wellness Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 153.

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**Wellness Lunch & Learn: Pneumonia & Shingles**
Dr. Olaoluwa Fayanju, Senior Medical Director at Oak Street Health, will share tips on preventing pneumonia and shingles. He will also discuss the signs and symptoms of these illnesses, as well as the most common treatments. This event is free and open to everyone. A light lunch will be served.

- **Date:** Friday, December 13
- **Time:** 12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Adult Lounge
- **Register by Monday, December 9 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.**

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**Pickleball**
Join us in our brand-new outdoor complex for a fun-filled game of Pickleball. A cross between tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, this fast-paced game is fun for players of all skill levels. Equipment is provided.

- **Date:** Tuesdays & Thursdays
- **Time:** 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Gymnasium

**Catchball (Formerly Mamanet)**
Join other women in a modified version of volleyball. Open gyms are free and open to all.

- **Date:** Mondays
- **Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** LYRIC

**Open Play Basketball**
This time is reserved for basketball only. Shoot hoops with friends or join a pick-up game in our gym.

- **Date:** Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Gymnasium

**Youth Basketball**
Children ages 5+ can join us for basketball time in our gym. Bring your own ball or borrow one of ours.

- **Date:** Fridays
- **Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

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**AQUATICS**

*For more information on Aquatics programs contact the Aquatics Coordinator at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org.*

**Group Lessons: You & Me Baby**
This is a monthly class where parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float and improve their water skills. Swim pants or swim diapers are required. Recommended ages: 6 – 36 months.

- **Date:** Saturdays
- **Time:** 9:35 – 10:05 a.m.
- **Cost:** $30/Member | $40/Non Member

**Group Lessons: Learn to Swim: Ages 3+**
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by certified water safety instructors.

- **Date:** Saturdays
- **Time:** 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. or 10:10 – 10:40 a.m.
- **Date:** Wednesdays
- **Time:** 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- **Cost:** $30/Member | $40/Non Member

**Private Swim Lessons**
Swimmers of any age or level can benefit from private swim lessons. Learn to swim or improve your skills with one of our certified swim instructors. Private lessons are also great for triathletes!

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**After School Family Fun in the Pool: Rave in the Waves**
Join us for a glow stick party in our indoor heated pool! Refreshments will be served.

- **Date:** Friday, December 20
- **Time:** 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free/Member | $5/Non Member
Lifeguarding Classes
Participants who successfully complete the lifeguarding course receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for two years. Online portion must be completed before classroom dates. A link will be provided after registration.

Date: Saturday & Sunday, December 14 & 15
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Date: December 28 & 29
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Cost: $187/Member | $250/Non Member
Lifeguard recertifications and CPR classes are also available upon request.
Cost: $75/Member | $100/Non Member

Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

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

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

Water Women
This free class is designed for women with little or no swimming ability. Participants will learn the skills needed to feel safe in the water. This program is funded by Chemical Bank. Lessons will be limited to 12 women per session. To register for the Water Women program visit jccyoungstown.org/waterwomen.

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

Ages 6 weeks – pre-kindergarten
Enrichment Programming with Community Partners
Students will engage in a wide variety of enrichment offerings in art, music, and science programs brought to us by SMARTS, YSU Dana School of Music, and OH WOW! Science Center.

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

Infant & Toddler Private Swim Lessons
The ELC offers one-on-one swim lessons for children ages 6 months and up. These lessons will encourage younger children to become comfortable in the water while teaching older children swimming techniques.

THE THOMASES FAMILY ENDOWMENT OF THE YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION ART GALLERY
For more information on the art gallery visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the gallery curator, Heather Seno, at hseno@jewishyoungstown.org.

Current Exhibit:
Testament by Debra DeGregorio
The work of mixed media artist Debra DeGregorio ranges from large, drawn and printed natural forms, to bright ‘micro-installations,’ using collage, string and sequins on pins. Her imagery arises and disintegrates across the page like symbols from the unconscious mind. These symbols may include biomorphic, plant-like shapes or tiny man-made structures collapsing into fire or bodies of water; mysterious snapshots from a larger story. With an interest in psychology, mythology and humor, these works are landscapes of the interior, described using a personal symbology found in the world of the exterior. Exhibit Dates: October 11 – January 5

PERFORMING ARTS
For more information on the JCC School of Music or the JCC School of Dance contact Eri Raib-Ptichkin, Program Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 106.

JCC School of Music
This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, and percussion housed at the JCC! To register call the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

JCC School of Dance
Private Lesson Availability
Lessons can be scheduled with any JCC School of Dance educator in half-hour increments. Private lessons can be recurring in any of the available time slots or on an as-needed basis. Genres vary according to instructor availability.
Cost: $20/30 Minutes
For more information on Youth & Family Programs contact Hunter Thomas, Program Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 123.

JCC Before and After School Care
Before School Care | 6:00 – 8:00 a.m.
After School Care | 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Daily before school and after school care is available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Our program offers unique experiences through daily activities including swimming, arts and crafts, sports, and designated homework time.
All-day care is available during breaks and school closures. For a full-day calendar of when all-day care is offered, visit jccyoungstown.org/aftercare.

Save the Date!
Camp JCC Open House & Pool Party
Summer may have just ended, but we're ready for Camp JCC 2020! Camp JCC is designed for campers entering grades 1 through 8 and is open to everyone. Come join us at our Open House Pool Party to find out what Camp JCC is all about. Everyone who registers at the Open House will receive $20 off each registered camper in addition to a $50 Early Bird Discount. All families will also be entered into a raffle to win $150 off their Camp fees. The first 50 campers registered at the Open House will also receive a free gift.

Date: Sunday, January 26
Camp JCC 2020 begins June 1
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Indoor Pool
Parent Information Session: 1:30 p.m. | Adult Lounge

HOLIDAY EVENTS
For more information on Holiday Events contact Hunter Thomas, Program Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 123.

Holiday Gift Wrapping
Why worry about wrapping gifts? Let JCC volunteers take care of wrapping for you. Proceeds benefit scholarships for membership and Camp JCC.
Dates: Tuesday, December 17 – Tuesday, December 24
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: JCC and Concourse C of the Southern Park Mall near Zale’s and Finish Line

Mindful Monday
Free your mind, body, and spirit! This mindfulness group will practice relaxing and recharging your mind. This event is free to all older adults. Light refreshments will be served.
Dates: Monday, December 16
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry
The CHUM Food Pantry aims to feed families in Liberty Township that are in need of extra assistance. Volunteers will help distribute food and make guests feel welcome during their visit.
Dates: Friday, December 6
Time: 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

For more information contact the Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council at 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry
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Dates: Friday, December 6
Time: 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

For more information contact the Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council at 330.746.3250 ext. 195
RENTALS

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

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

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

**All Star Celebration**
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium.

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

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

**Noah's Park Party**
Play the day away at Noah's Park or our new Infant and Toddler Playground.

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

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

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

**Campus Rentals**

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

**Meeting Rooms**
Our small conference room seats up to eight guests, while our boardroom seats 35 and is equipped with a built-in projector and screen.

**Gymnasium**
Our full-size gymnasium is equipped with six regulation height basketball hoops, bleacher seating, and a dividing curtain.

**Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room**
This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. In-house catering is available.

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

**NEW! Outdoor Pavilion**
Our brand-new, outdoor pavilion is centrally located between Noah’s Park and the new outdoor Pickleball complex. The pavilion has picnic table seating for 200+, along with bathrooms and a kitchenette.

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AFP Recognizes Kravitz Owner for Charitable Efforts

Jack Kravitz Honored as Outstanding Small Business Philanthropist

“Working 60 plus hours a week in an industry with low profit margins leaves little time—or energy—for many restaurants to serve on volunteer boards or to make large donations. However, some find other ways to give.

“We have the ability to help organizations through reduced prices or outright food and venue donations,” explains Jack Kravitz, president of Kravitz Deli and Inspired Catering. His company regularly provides this type of gift to Oh Wow’s Science of Brewing, YSU’s Mad About the Arts, and the Girard-Liberty-McDonald Relay for Life. Just last week, the deli hosted National Sandwich Day with funds directed to the Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley. “This often isn’t as recognized as charity, but it’s what we can do.”

That creative approach to giving was recognized when the Association of Fundraising Professionals Mahoning-Shenango Chapter presented Kravitz with the 2019 Outstanding Small Business Philanthropist award at its 29th National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon on Nov. 15 at the Avalon Inn Resort in Warren.

The first family-owned restaurant to receive the prestigious recognition, the organizers describe the 80-year-old business as “a true Youngstown landmark.” They write that Kravitz “continually strives to give back to the community and make a difference, and that was especially evident during the last year when the deli helped ease the negative impact of some of the region’s most recent economic challenges.”

During the 2019 government shutdown, Kravitz Deli was one of the first to step up and support those in need by hosting a free dinner for the federal government employees. The deli also offered half-price deals for the employees of General Motors on their last day of work.

“I am very honored to be recognized, but as Jews we have tzedekah, a requirement that calls us to charity,” Kravitz explained. “It’s a real obligation to help your community.”

Although modest about the motivation, Kravitz has invested in the Valley. He has been president of the Second Harvest Food Bank, Akiva Academy, and Grow Youngstown and founder and first president of the Poland Village Business Association. He is also a five-year SCORE business mentor and has given the use of Kravitz Deli this year to the program to host the Bagels-to-Business program.

The Association of Fundraising Professional’s Mahoning-Shenango Chapter (AFP) presented Jack Kravitz, owner of Kravitz Deli and Inspiring Catering, with their 2019 Outstanding Small Business Philanthropist Award. Pictured from left are Sue Berny, AFP National Philanthropy Day chair; Kravitz; Lisa Long, AFP president; and Luke Politsky, AFP National Philanthropy Day co-chair.
Have a very Happy Chanukah!

Ottavio Musumeci
Chef

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3 Congregations Exhibit Open at Heinz History Center

In commemoration of the attack at the Tree of Life building on Oct. 27, 2018, the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives created an exhibit of archival materials chronicling the three congregations that were worshipping inside the building that morning: Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Congregation, New Light Congregation, and Congregation Dor Hadash.

In the months since the attack, many public accounts have used the shorthand “three congregations” to explain the shared living arrangements within one large Squirrel Hill synagogue. Grouping these congregations together based solely on their mutual suffering ignores each congregation’s individual characteristics. Each was created to fill specific religious and spiritual needs. Each developed along a particular path, reflecting different eras, ethnicities, practices, and ideas within American Judaism. Through their histories, each congregation illuminates a different corner of the larger Jewish history of our region.

Using rarely seen materials from the archive, the exhibit focuses on the essential qualities of each of these three congregations, celebrating the individuality and identity of each.

The exhibit is located in the lobby of the Detre Library & Archives, on the sixth floor of the Heinz History Center, and can be viewed daily through Dec. 27.

Admission to see this exhibit is free but does not include admission to the rest of the History Center. This exhibit was made possible through generous contributions from Carolyn Slayton and Seth Glick, and an anonymous donor.

For more information, contact Eric Lidji at eslidji@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412.454.6406.

Stambaugh from page 11

entertainment, and education of the people of Youngstown and surrounding communities.

“We are extremely grateful for the support of the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation in helping to support this vital project,” said JoAnn Stock, Stambaugh chief development officer.

For more information about the campaign, contact Stock at 330.747.5175 or jstock@stambaughauditorium.com.

Churchill Commons

Great Food

Fruit Trays
Rolls, Cakes & Pastries
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Manischewitz & Mogen David
Kosher Wines

Giant Eagle
Locally owned and operated

Great Food

Tableware
Cards
Decorations
Thank Yous
Manischewitz & Mogen David
Kosher Wines

See our expanded Kosher section

4700 BELMONT AVENUE
(330) 759-9502

December 2019 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
A JOY TO YOU THIS HANUKKAH!

Empire Kosher Frozen Hen Turkeys
3.99 lb.

Empire Kosher Fresh Whole Frying Chicken
3.49 lb.

Empire Kosher Fresh Boneless Chicken Breasts
6.99 lb.

Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix
6 oz., selected varieties
2/$5

Lipton Kosher Soup Mix
2 to 4 oz., selected varieties
1.99 ea.

Manischewitz Chanukah Candles
44 ct.
1.79 ea.

Manischewitz Concord Grape
750 mL
4.99 ea. Save $1.00 ea.

Manischewitz Moscato d’Asti
750 mL
14.99 ea. Save $2.00 ea.

Kedem Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz., selected varieties
4.49 ea. Save up to $2.00 ea.

Manischewitz Concord Grape
750 mL
14.99 ea. Save $2.00 ea.

Manischewitz Moscato d’Asti
750 mL
4.99 ea. Save $1.00 ea.

KOSHER WINE
10% discount available when you Mix & Match 6 or more bottles (750mL or larger). Plus all state and local taxes. Not all items and retail available in all areas.

Please visit our stores for additional selections of fine kosher wines.

Prices effective through December 25, 2019

Red Delicious or McIntosh Apples
3 lb. bag
2/$7

dietitian pick

Small Red Potatoes
3 lb. bag
2/$6

dietitian pick

Sun Maid Pitted or Chopped Dates
8 oz.
2/$6

dietitian pick

Spanish Onions
1.49 lb.

Kedem Tea Biscuits
4.5 oz., selected varieties
79¢ ea. Save up to 20¢ ea.

dietitian pick

Elite Chocolate Coins
.53 oz., selected varieties
2/$1

Shop Smart!
Buy with Gift Cards & Earn Perks

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