A Message from Andy Lipkin
Federation Executive Vice-President

It seems hard to believe it’s been a year since 11 innocent people lost their lives in the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life building in Pittsburgh. It’s even harder to believe we’re still facing threats of violence against Jews.

Following the tragedy in Pittsburgh, I wrote in Liptalk, “I hope that I am wrong, but I fear that one day something like this could happen in the Mahoning and Shenago Valleys. It is not a question of if but when.”

Less than a year later, we were threatened when a New Middletown man posted a video on Instagram of a man shooting what appeared to be a firearm with the capability of discharging multiple rounds in a short time span and tagged the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown.

I am grateful it didn’t become a tragedy, but with anti-Semitism on the rise, we need to be vigilant. The U.S. Jewish community experienced near-historic levels of anti-Semitism in 2018, according to the Anti-Defamation League, including a doubling of anti-Semitic assaults. ADL’s annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents recorded a total of 1,879 attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions across the country in 2018, the third-highest year on record since ADL started tracking such data in the 1970s. ADL’s audit identified 59 people who were victims of anti-Semitic assaults in 2018, up from 21 in 2017.

So security continues to be a priority for us. The Federation board and I take very seriously the need to ensure the safety of all members of the local Jewish community, participants in any of our programs, and visitors to our agencies.

We need to be deliberate and intentional as far as our security needs today and in the future. We need to continue to seek partners in our community who share our need to live in a civil society where differences are embraced and respected as opposed to dividing us.

Rob Elston, our security coordinator, is leading the security efforts. We’ve held trainings for staff and community members, as well as at the local synagogues. We’re also applying for grants that will hopefully help fund our efforts to be secure, both on our campus and at area synagogues.

This violence has to stop. We all have a responsibility to educate our neighbors, our family, and our elected officials that this is not acceptable. We need to do everything we can to prevent this from happening again and to prosecute those people who are responsible for these acts. Otherwise, it’s going to continue.

Anyone with questions or suggestions about security, please feel free to contact me.

May the memory of the 11 people who lost their lives in Pittsburgh be for a blessing.
Jewish World War II Bombardier Finally Gets Star of David Grave Marker

By Elise Skolnick

Kenny Robinson died before Mariellen Miller, Catherine Phillips Chelin, and Claudia Moss were even born. But they knew about him. What they didn't know until 2015 was that he was buried under a cross rather than a Star of David, even though he was Jewish.

Robinson, Miller’s stepbrother, died Aug. 17, 1943, in a bombing raid over Germany during World War II. When his plane was hit, his chute deployed early and became tangled. Though fellow crew members tried to free him, they were unable to, and he went down with the plane. He was 22 years old. The Germans buried him in a nearby cemetery. Later, he was reinterred in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Nuepre, Belgium.

Robinson’s father, Edward I. Robinson, married Miller’s mother, Belle. Edward adopted Miller and her brother Eric. They, and their cousins Phillips Chelin and Moss, grew up seeing a picture of Kenny.

“My dad didn’t really want to talk too much about him,” Miller, of Phoenix, said.

After seeing the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” Miller and her brother decided to learn more about Kenny. When Miller discovered Phillips Chelin and her husband were taking a cruise that would bring them to Belgium, she asked them to visit Kenny’s grave.

It was there Phillips Chelin learned Kenny was buried under a cross, even though he was Jewish.

“When I saw that cross, I thought, ‘How am I going to tell Mariellen this,’ but I decided I had to tell her. She had to know.”

- Catherine Phillips Chelin

She started a time-consuming and frustrating quest to have Kenny’s marker changed to a Star of David. Though she gathered a lot of information, including proof that he was bar mitzvahed and that he visited his rabbi for a blessing before shipping out, the government refused to change the marker.

Though she never knew Kenny, Miller felt she needed to do this for her dad.

“He was so good to us,” she said. “On my 16th birthday he bought me a yellow convertible. There wasn’t anything he wouldn’t do for me. He was just the sweetest, dearest man and it’s for him I went on this quest.”

Eventually, Miller learned about Project Benjamin, an organization that works to correct such mistakes.

“There are many, many Jewish boys who are buried under crosses throughout the world, and this is what they do,” Miller said.

Recently, the American Battle Monuments Commission notified her that they will change the stone on Kenny’s grave. Project Benjamin is flying Miller to Belgium in April for the dedication.

Miller said it’s hard to put into words what the trip will mean to her.

Kenny continued on page 24

Catherine Phillips Chelin stands by Kenny Robinson’s grave in Ardennes American Cemetery.
Temple El Emeth held a sukkah decorating party on Sunday, Oct. 13. Forty members and friends of all ages helped make decorations for the sukkah while enjoying pizza and salad for lunch.

Cantor Gavriel Nachum Oren was the guest cantor at Temple El Emeth for the High Holidays. He was born in Budapest, Hungary, the son of Holocaust survivors. He founded and established the first mobile Synagogue in Israel and has performed in concerts around the world.

Sukkah Decorating Party

Rochelle Miller helped her granddaughter, Mara, make festive decorations.

Cantor Visits for High Holidays

Cantor Gavriel Nachum Oren was the guest cantor at Temple El Emeth for the High Holidays. He was born in Budapest, Hungary, the son of Holocaust survivors. He founded and established the first mobile Synagogue in Israel and has performed in concerts around the world.

Temple El Emeth

Fiesta Cocktail Party & Raffle

$3000 Grand Prize!!!

Hors d’oeuvres ~ Open Bar ~ Dessert

Entertainment provided by Steve Fazzini

$150 admits TWO to the Party And ONE entry for the raffle

December 7, 2019 7-10 pm

3970 Logan Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44505

330.759.1429

Temple El Emeth Events

Oct. 31–Nov. 1

Volunteers are needed to help with the November food distribution for the Liberty Food Pantry. Set up will take place on Thursday, Oct. 31, from 7 to 8 p.m., and distribution will be Friday morning, Nov. 1, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The pantry is located at the Churchill United Methodist Church in Liberty.

Nov. 5

The Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon will begin with an open board meeting at 10:30 a.m. with the luncheon at noon. The guest speaker will be Lynda Abrams-Braff, who is the creative arts co-chair for the Central Great Lakes Regional Board. She will lead the group in an interactive activity titled Mindful Journaling.

Nov. 6

Jewish Christian Dialogue will have its monthly session at the Synagogue. Refreshments are at 12:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 1 p.m. This month’s session, based on the Abba Eben PBS Documentary about the Roots of Monotheistic Religion, is “Power of the Word—Shaping of Traditions.” All are welcome to attend.

Daily Minyans are at 5:45 p.m., including Shabbat afternoon. Shabbat morning services are at 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 12

Minyan and a Meal: Minyan begins at 5:45 p.m. with the dinner at 6 p.m. James Pasch, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, will be the guest speaker and will discuss the increase in hate crimes in our country. Reservation forms are in the monthly bulletin or the Temple office and are due in by Friday, Nov. 8.

Nov. 17

Minyan for Bagels with the Rabbi will take place at 9:45 a.m., and the program will begin at 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Schonberger’s presentation is titled “How Yo! Yo! Yo! became Oy! Oy! Oy!” (the story of Jewish Pirates). Please RSVP to the Temple office by Nov. 14.

Nov. 23

During the course of the morning service, we will celebrate the consecration of our youngest students, Bella and Blake Vickers, children of Megan and Jeff Vickers, and Marleigh Schonberger, daughter of Eliana and Zack Schonberger. Following the service will be a Kiddush luncheon, and November birthdays will also be observed. Please RSVP by Nov. 21.
Anti-Semitism Mini-Course Offered at Rodef Sholom

Rabbi Frank Muller will present a four session mini-course, “Anti-Semitism: Past, Present and Future,” from noon to 1 p.m., Nov. 7 and 14 and Dec. 5 and 12 at Rodef Sholom.

“Anti-Semitism: Past, Present and Future” is an explanation of the world’s most insidious prejudice in centuries past, the forms it has taken in the modern world today, and what must be done to prevent it in the future.

Drinks will be provided. Participants may bring a brown bag lunch. The program is open to the entire Jewish community. To register, call 330.744.5001.

It is co-sponsored by the Commission for Jewish Education Adult Education Initiative.

Sukkot

By Neil Yutkin
Ohev Tzedek Co-President

As I have mentioned previously, Sukkot is one of the most joyful holidays. This year was no exception.

For the second year in a row, Sukkot was kicked off at Ohev Tzedek. The event began early in the day with a sukkah decorating get-together. Twenty-three people from Rodef Sholom, organized by Sarah Wilschek and Hunter Thomas, spent a couple of hours taking a bare sukkah and creating it into a warm and welcoming place.

Activity picked up again at 4 p.m. when the final film of the Jewish Film Festival, “Women’s Balcony,” was shown. It was an interesting Israeli film, subtitled, that portrayed some of the problems that orthodox women face when seeking the desire to take part in their religion.

The film was immediately followed by candle lighting performed by Beth Holloway and then a short service led by Rabbi Joseph Schonberger and Sandy Kessler. At the sukkah, Rabbi Frank Muller appeared as Rabbi Abraham Heschel to discuss one of his works and to perform a kiddush to fulfill the mitzvah and take part in the sukkah.

The evening concluded with a festive holiday meal, with people having the option of either eating in the brisk weather of the sukkah or in the comfort of our social hall. The meal, prepared by Art Einzig and a crew of volunteers from Ohev Tzedek, consisted of minestrone soup, garlic bread, eggplant parmesan with pasta, balsamic glazed portabellas, salad, and warm apple crisp with vanilla ice cream.

This event was the next to last joint programs of the combined synagogues functions for this cycle with Simcha Torah, which took place at El Emeth on Oct. 21.

Once again, the joining of the congregations for shared events is proving that there is still life in our Jewish community.

Ohev Tzedek Synagogue’s Community sukkah was decorated by members of Rodef Sholom (listed by family): Jacob and Shayna Wilschek; Josh and Arthur Greenbaum; Magda, Ethan, and Ilana Cohen; Kim, Dan, Caleb, Rhett, and Madelina Gear; Violet, Thomas, Juniper, Lawren, and Kandy Rawl; Emily, Conner, and Michael Fitzpatrick; and Matan Norani.
Federation

Federation Participates in Nonviolence Parade

The Jewish Community Relations Council led the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation’s participation in the 9th annual nonviolence parade and rally. The first full week in October is officially Nonviolence Week in the state of Ohio.

Thomases Family Endowment Awards Opera Grant

Opera Western Reserve received a $500 grant from the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. This grant is in support of Opera Western Reserve’s 2019 season and the fall production of Verdi’s opera Macbeth.

Opera Western Reserve continues its 15th anniversary season with a regional premiere of Verdi’s opera Macbeth at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15, at Stambaugh Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased in person, by calling 330.259.0555, or at operawesternreserve.org. Tickets range from $25 to $75.

Opera Western Reserve is a professional opera company in its 15th year of residence at Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown, Ohio. They seek to feature singers from the Western Reserve region and Ohio. For more information, visit operawesternreserve.org or call 330.480.0693.

Aging Well provides older adults, family members, and friends with resources and guidance on topics related to aging in the Jewish community.

For more information contact Shay Kahani-Erez at 330.746.7929 ext. 199 or serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

Aging Well is a collaboration between Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Community Center, and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

Re-elect Jodi K. Stoyak
Liberty Township Trustee

MOTIVATED • EXPERIENCED
ENERGETIC • RESPONSIVE

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT JODI K. STOYAK, STEPHAN J. STOYAK, TREASURER

Pristine Dental

"General Dentistry"
"Cosmetic Dentistry"
"Cosmetic Fillers"

Ask about our exclusive
Pristine Dental membership pricing!

127 Churchill Hubbard Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44505
330-759-4550 • PristineDentalPros.com
Federation Looking to Fill Newly Created Position

Development and Community Relations Manager Will Support Financial Resource Development Director and Director of JCRC

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is seeking an enthusiastic and passionate leader with experience in community relations and fundraising to fill the newly created role of development and community relations manager.

“This is a job with a lot of high-level responsibilities in a great community,” said Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, JCRC director. “And it's in a city with a very affordable cost of living.”

This position will assist the financial resource development director and the director of the Jewish Community Relations Council with various fundraising, community relations, and engagement initiatives and projects. The ideal candidate will have excellent interpersonal, nonprofit management, strategic planning, fundraising, and event/project management skills as well as a demonstrated ability to build and sustain relationships. This position will play a major role in engaging current and future lay leaders in the Federation’s work, as guided by its mission.

“This is a job for which someone can come home,” Burdman said. “For example, a younger, Jewish professional who grew up in the Valley, moved away, but wants to come back to be with family, or someone originally from the region who is working somewhere else but wants to be closer to family.”

The position is full time with benefits. For a complete job description, visit jewishyoungstown.org. To apply, send resume and cover letter to Youngstown Area Jewish Federation c/o Human Resources, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio 44504 or Humanresources@jewishyoungstown.org.

NEWMAN LEVY SPEAKER SERIES
THE JEWS OF THE TITANIC

1,500 passengers died during the tragic sinking of the Titanic after hitting an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean on its maiden voyage from Southampton to NYC. Over 100 of those passengers were Jewish. In this lecture, Marcia Levy will discuss the Jewish passengers on board: who they were, what happened to those that survived, and how their lives unfolded after this tragedy.

Lunch will be served.

Date: Friday, November 8 | Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Wednesday, November 6 online at jcyyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

Sam Kooperman Endowment

Applications for camp scholarships and study in Israel are being accepted.

The deadline to apply for camp scholarships is December 31.

The deadlines to apply for study in Israel scholarships are December 31 and June 30.

For more information contact Lisa Long at 330.746.3250 ext. 175 or llong@jewishyoungstown.org.

Excellence, Experience & Integrity

Paid for by Committee to Elect Marty Hume
**Human Services**

**Sukkah Hop**

Tenants of Levy Gardens Assisted Living visited with Akiva Academy students at their sukkah in October. The children sang songs and danced in this program that brought together young people and older adults to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot.

**Getting Ready for Halloween**

Participants in Heritage Manor’s Adult Day Services program decorated pumpkins in October. Pictured is Helen Elder.

**October Birthdays Celebrated at Heritage Manor**

Every month, a birthday party is held for Heritage Manor residents and Adult Day Care participants celebrating a birthday in that month. In October, six people had birthdays. Pictured is Matt Martin.
JFS Offers Depression Screenings

Jewish Family Services partnered with students from the counseling department at Youngstown State University to offer free depression screenings at the Jewish Community Center on National Depression Screening Day, Oct. 10. Representatives from Help Network of Youngstown were on hand to discuss local resource options. Pictured from left to right are Melinda Toth, Christy McAllister, Olivia Smith, Kelsey DeMart, and Taylor Barton.

Jewish Family Services Impact Story Shared

Liz Lehman, an intern for Jewish Community Center of Youngstown, gave a presentation about Jewish Family Services at the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Annual Meeting on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Drake’s Landing Banquet Center. At the event, eight grassroots organizations shared their “Story of Impact” with an audience who voted to select the winner of an AFP membership and AFP programs for a year. The audience chose Dionne Dowdy of United Returning Citizens to receive the prize.

Veterans to Be Recognized

Residents of Heritage Manor, participants in the Adult Day Services program, and tenants of Levy Gardens who are veterans will be honored in a ceremony co-sponsored by Hospice of the Valley at 2 p.m. Nov. 11. Each veteran will be individually recognized, given a certificate and a pin, and saluted.

OPERA WESTERN RESERVE PRESENTS VERDI’S
MACBETH
STAMBAUGH AUDITORIUM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 7:30 P.M.
FOR TICKETS CALL 330.259.0555 | OPERAWESTERNRESERVE.ORG
Jewish-Muslim Forum to Be Held at YSU

The Youngstown State University Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies will hold its Jewish-Muslim Forum for fall 2019 at 7 p.m., Nov. 14 in the Gallery Room of Kilcawley Center.

The program, “Jesus in Jewish and Muslim Perspectives,” is a discussion with Drs. Mustansir Mir and Jacob Ari Labendz.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the M-70 lot at YSU (at the corner of 5th Avenue and Grant Street). Use the Grant Street entrance and tell the attendant you are attending the Jewish-Muslim Forum.

Event sponsors are the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies and the Center for Islamic Studies at Youngstown State University.

For more information, contact Dr. Jacob Labendz at jlabendz@ysu.edu or 330.941.1603.

Ark Dedicated at Akiva

The new Holy Ark at Akiva Academy was dedicated Oct. 17. The Holy Ark and the Eternal Light were recently replaced. Renovations were also made to the lunchroom, where the Ark is located. The cupboard doors were refaced, and walls and benches were painted. These changes were completed by Soft Touch Furniture, which is owned by the Chudakoff family. The family donated the material and the labor. Pictured from left are Gabby Johnson and Doron Sigler.

Pictured from left are Megan Vickers and Terrie Chudakoff of Soft Touch Furniture.
Reliving the Massacre Every Minute: How Pittsburgh Survivors Are Struggling a Year Later

By Ben Sales

PITTSBURGH (JTA) — As this city’s Jewish community celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Tree of Life synagogue stood closed, its doors blocked by a chain-link fence.

A brown, wilted wreath hung on a tree near the synagogue, where a gunman killed 11 worshippers last year in the worst anti-Semitic attack in American history. Jewish stars bearing the names of the victims are taped to a glass door at the front entrance, behind a fence and under an Israeli flag and a sign thanking first responders. A makeshift wooden sign on a barricade next to the building reads, “No day shall erase you from the memory of time.”

The synagogue is built to welcome hundreds of Jews. But the only person to enter regularly now is a custodian who maintains the building while the three congregations that met there decide what to do. Tree of Life has been shuttered since the attack.

“I hope it’s torn down,” said Ellen Surloff, who was president of one of the congregations, the Reconstructionist Dor Hadash, at the time of the shooting. “I don’t think that I could ever go back in that building and not be continually reminded of what took place there.”

Signs of the attack remain everywhere in Squirrel Hill, the quiet, warm, tree-lined community that has been the home to Pittsburgh’s Jews for more than a century, and which otherwise feels idyllic as summer turns into fall.

Local businesses display a sign created shortly after the attack that reads, “Stronger than Hate” alongside a yellow Star of David and blue and red diamonds — the city’s traditional colors. The kosher supermarket hangs a banner with the names of the 11 victims. The local Starbucks has three large hearts painted on its windows with the words “love,” “kindness,” and “hope” painted in Hebrew and English on each one.

As the first anniversary of the Oct. 27 attack grew near, bearing up became especially difficult. The shooting’s survivors and the rest of the community are just trying to get through the High Holidays — the busiest time of the Jewish calendar, when Jews are traditionally called to account for their souls.

“We’re figuring it out an hour at a time, a day at a time, what to do,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of Tree Of Life* Or L’Simcha Congregation at a recent news conference organized by the community.

As the shooting began, Myers dialed 911 from his cellphone and then rushed to protect his congregants.

“I live with Oct. 27 every minute of every hour of every day, and I will for the rest of my life,” he said. “Each of us finds the strength and courage to integrate what happened into our beings, to move forward.”

Every month, survivors of the Tree of Life shooting get together in a room to process their feelings. Many of them live next to each other in Squirrel Hill, and they can relax and schmooze about everyday life.

At a recent meeting, however, the conversation turned to the mechanics of getting past October. Some survivors attended Rosh Hashanah services in the neighborhood and attended memorial events. Others did not, concerned that the communal prayers would be too painful. One person decided to leave home and rent an Airbnb for the weekend of Oct. 27 to avoid reporters who might come knocking.

There have been signs of progress, too. One survivor realized that, 11 months after the attack, they could finally relax — a little. For the first time that year, the survivor didn’t feel the need to constantly monitor those who were entering and exiting the room.

“One of the people there had this aha moment and said, ‘I need to tell you all something: I am sitting with my back to the door,’” said Lulu Orr, the clinical specialist and care navigator from the Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh, who did not discuss the survivors’ personal details in order to respect their privacy. “They’re the only ones who experienced what they experienced. They support each other. They laugh with each other.”

Beyond the circle of survivors, the congregations that lived through the shooting are also figuring out how to move forward.

As needed, they are training people for the ritual chanting and prayers that used to be led by those who were killed. Rabbi Jonathan Perlman, who leads the Conservative New Light Congregation and survived the attack, composed a prayer in remembrance of the victims to be read during a section of the Yom Kippur service that commemorates Jewish martyrs throughout history.

“Like all the others, he did not deserve to die,” Perlman said at the news conference speaking of Melvin Wax, a congregant who was killed and remembered as a devoted grandfather, passionate baseball fan, and energetic community volunteer. “That’s survivor’s guilt. I go through these scenarios in my mind, and I think a lot

Survivors continued on page 12
We Remember Pittsburgh

A Year After Disaster, Pittsburgh Is So Much More Than a Site of Tragedy

By Jeffrey Finkelstein

PITTSBURGH (JTA) — As we approach one year since the worst anti-Semitic attack in American history, I am grateful for the outpouring of support for the Pittsburgh Jewish community.

Over the last year, people across the world have stood shoulder to shoulder with all of us in the 412. We have been showered with love in the weeks and months since the attack. We will never forget the generosity, care, and support.

But there is still a way that concerned citizens can help: Make sure that when you speak about the anti-Semitic attack in Pittsburgh, you use language that reflects well on the city I love.

I receive Google Alerts every day that tell me when articles appear in the media using the words “Jewish” and “Pittsburgh.” Since last Oct. 27, in these daily multiple alerts, I read how the media, elected officials, and the general public portray and reference the attack. I see many references to the “anniversary” of “Pittsburgh.”

I never refer to the one-year marker as an “anniversary,” to avoid the idea that this commemoration of the 11 people killed is happy or positive in any way. More important, I never refer to this attack as simply “Pittsburgh” or “Tree of Life,” and I hope everyone will stop doing so.

This attack was not representative of Pittsburgh. It was an anomaly. Pittsburgh, a city I have called home for the past 21 years, means more than one act of hate.

Pittsburgh is a city rich with history. The city literally built the world through its steel production. For a period of time, Pittsburgh was the third-largest home to Fortune 500 companies behind New York and Chicago. Pittsburgh boasts diverse neighborhoods with many faiths and ethnicities.

The city is growing and becoming younger each year. We are home to strong educational and medical organizations — the so-called “eds” and “meds” — as well as a strong technology sector. I see the physical manifestation of innovation on our streets, as Uber and Argo AI both have brought fleets of self-driving cars here.

Although our Pittsburgh Jewish community is spread throughout the Greater Pittsburgh region, the Squirrel Hill neighborhood that is home to the Tree of Life synagogue continues to serve as the heart of Jewish Pittsburgh, as it has for nearly a century. We live and work together and celebrate our diversity of Jewish experiences — rich and poor, Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, “just Jewish,” and nondenominational. According to our most recent Jewish Community Study commissioned by the Jewish Federation, we have grown to nearly 50,000 people, with major expansion in our millennial age group.

If you refer to the shooting simply as “Pittsburgh,” you denigrate what this city is all about. You take a single, horrible anti-Semitic action and define this region and our Jewish community by that incident.

If you refer to the attack as “Tree of Life,” you both minimize the rich history of a congregation that dates back to 1864 and unnecessarily downplay the experience of the other two congregations that shared the Tree of Life building. New Light Congregation, a Conservative congregation, had sold its building and was renting space there at the time of the attack. Congregation Dor Hadash (Or L’Simcha Congregation last year), a Reconstructionist congregation, also was renting space from the Tree of Life. Each of these three congregations lost members on Oct. 27. While the Tree of Life-Or L’Simcha Congregation was and is the owner of the property, all three congregations shared in the trauma.

So what is the right way to refer to what happened? I suggest that everyone refer to this attack as “the anti-Semitic attack at the Tree of Life building.” An alternative would be to say “the attack on Jewish congregations in Pittsburgh” or “the Oct. 27 anti-Semitic shooting.”

Jewish Pittsburgh has continued to grow and thrive in the year since the anti-Semitic attack here. Across Pittsburgh, faith groups have formed new bonds and started new projects together. We have united as a city to support the victims’ families and the many people still healing from physical and emotional wounds.

In short, we are more than one act of hate. I hope we will stop calling a horrifying, anti-Semitic attack “Pittsburgh” or “Tree of Life” alone. Words matter. They truly matter to all of us in Pittsburgh.

Jeffrey Finkelstein is the president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Survivors from page 11

Jerry Rabinowitz, was killed in the attack. Daniel Leger, who was injured, will be speaking to the congregation on Yom Kippur.

Surloff, the Dor Hadash president, was not at the synagogue when the gunman entered: She was feeling sick and came late. She recalls seeing a row of police cars surrounding the building.

When Surloff told a policewoman, “I have to go, that’s my synagogue,” the officer gave her a hug and did not let her pass. The synagogue leader later found out that Rabinowitz, a mainstay of the congregation, had been killed.

“Not only was he such an integral part and member of the congregation, but he was also a really important part of the congregation at the time of the High Holidays,” Surloff said. “Jerry was in charge of the greeting and ushering. You walk in the door and there was Jerry with his smiling face.”

Some community members and survivors said that amid the stream of commemorative events, logistical decisions, and media interviews, they have not had time to even begin processing the shooting. A few refer to the day as “10/27,” giving it a name similar to 9/11.

Surloff said that the four months after that day were consumed with meetings on everything from insurance claims to finding a new prayer space to writing thank-you notes to those who had reached out after the shooting.

“They’re all feeling anxious about the upcoming High Holidays as well as the commemoration,” Orr of Jewish Family and Community Services said about the attack survivors. “This past year has been very public, and they really believe that Oct. 28 of this year will be the first day of their grief journey.”

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine November 2019
We Remember Pittsburgh

One Year Later: Local Jewish Community Remembers Tragedy at Tree of Life Building

By Elise Skolnick

Oct. 27 marked one year since a gunman murdered 11 people at the Tree of Life building in Pittsburgh in the most brutal anti-Semitic attack in the history of the United States. The local Jewish community came together to remember and honor those lost.

Members of the community gathered at Temple Emeth at 5 p.m. to Pause With Pittsburgh. This was part of a larger, nationwide effort. At that time, people throughout the United States stopped what they were doing to pledge to maintain an abiding sense of unity and responsibility for one another, and to stand up against hatred, no matter the type or source. They also viewed a livestream of a public memorial service.

Congregation Rodef Sholom joined the Unitarian Universalist Church to hold an interfaith joint service that day. Rodef Sholom also kept their lights on from Saturday evening to Monday morning in memory of the victims.

“Nothing can change what happened that day, but we can choose to stand even stronger and work harder to show our resilience and strength as a People,” said Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation director of community relations and government affairs. “In the aftermath of this tragedy, we have seen an outpouring of support and are grateful for the renewed sense of unity.”

Jewish Community Center of Youngstown staff were in Pittsburgh that day. Board President Alan Mirkin and Executive Director Mike Rawl attended a dinner at the Pittsburgh JCC with JCCA’s intercontinental board, Pittsburgh’s board, and Pittsburgh staff members, following the commemoration ceremony. They were thanked for the JCC’s immediate response, as JResponders, following last year’s tragedy.

JResponse was established to enable skilled professionals from one JCC to lend a hand at another in the aftermath of a crisis. Though originally planned as a response to natural disasters, JResponse’s inaugural deployment followed the Tree of Life massacre in Pittsburgh. Staff members from JCC of Youngstown were the first JResponders in Pittsburgh.

Rebecca Soldan, JCC of Youngstown’s operations manager, volunteered again this year. She was part of a cohort of JResponders who helped in order to relieve some of the burden on the JCC staff who hosted a number of events that day. They provided information to community members, directed people to gatherings and resources, and assisted those who were donating blood at one of the two blood drives that day.

“It was an honor to return to Pittsburgh as a JResponder to support my JCC colleagues and the Pittsburgh community,” Soldan said. “It is important for all of us to take whatever action we can to stand up against hate and bring healing to those who have experienced its consequences. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help, even in a small way.”

An interfaith service was held at Congregation Rodef Sholom to commemorate the tragedy at the Tree of Life building in 2018.

Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life Synagogue Building Will Reopen as a ‘Center for Jewish Life in the United States’

By Marcy Oster

(JTA) — The Tree of Life synagogue building, the site of an attack a year ago that left 11 worshippers dead, will reopen as a “center for Jewish life in the United States.”

The Tree of Life Congregation issued a statement to announce its new vision for the building on Friday.

The home of three different congregations has not reopened since the attack on Oct. 27, 2018. The shooting left the building “unsuitable for worship,” according to the statement. It was in need of serious repair and renovation before the attack took place, the statement mentioned.

Tree of Life’s vision for the future of the property calls for the space to be a “cooperative and collaborative space that brings together stakeholders in a shared environment that includes places for a Jewish worship memorial, education and social engagement, exhibit space for archival historical artistic expression, as well as classrooms and training spaces.”

The idea was announced to the congregation during Yom Kippur services.

“We are poised to become an incredible center for Jewish life in the United States,” Tree of Life’s Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said in a statement. “When we reopen, and we most certainly will, I want the entire world to say, ‘Wow, look at what they have done.’ To do anything less disrespects the memory of our 11 martyrs.”
Poppy Collins Blau

Dr. Lance and Emily Blau welcomed Poppy Collins Blau at 11:03 p.m. Aug. 13. She weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces at birth. Emily is the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown’s program manager and camp director.

Hilda Manello

Hilda Manello, 98, passed away Oct. 4 in Levy Gardens Assisted Living.

Hilda was born July 7, 1921, in Youngstown, to the late Ephriam and Hattie Berman. She was the oldest of five children.

She graduated from The Rayen School in 1938 and from Ohio University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She taught junior and senior high schools in the Conneaut, Ohio, school system.

Hilda married Irving Manello on Aug. 6, 1944; he passed away in April 1989.

They operated the S&M grocery market until 1972.

Hilda attended university classes in Youngstown State University's Over-60 Program for many years. She frequently attended performances at the Youngstown Symphony and Playhouse. She was in the Pioneer Women's Bowling league for 50 years, enjoyed playing bridge, Mahjongg, watching “Jeopardy,” reading, and crossword puzzles.

She was a long-time member of Temple Emanuel and El Emeth.

Hilda loved life and lived it to the fullest. She was very proud of living to age 98 and was still independent and quick thinking. Besides her husband, Hilda was preceded in death by one brother, Hyman Berman; two sisters, Deborah Schwartz and Bertha Froomkin; and her stepbrothers, Irwin and Gerald Marks.

She is survived by her sister; Ruth Briefman of Florida; two children, Dr. Steven (Bonnie) A. Manello and Jeannette (Dr. Richard Mueller) Manello; two granddaughters, Alexis (Matt Fischer) Gruber and Jessica (Ari) Wise; and five great-grandchildren, Sophie, Isaac, Lilly, Marley and Ava.

Burial was at El Emeth Coitsville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Levy Gardens or Temple El Emeth. Arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.

WELLNESS LUNCH & LEARN
MINDFUL HOLIDAY EATING

Join Bridget Lackey, RDN, LD, and Community Health Educator from Mercy Health, as we examine ways to de-stress holiday eating, beginning by identifying individual holiday eating triggers and understanding past responses.

Date: Tuesday, November 12  | Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Register by Monday, November 4 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.
Most Israelis Support a Government With 2 Large Political Parties, Survey Finds

By Marcy Oster

Editor’s Note: See page 22 for an article about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s announcement that he is unable to form a government.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A majority of Israelis support a new government based on two large political parties and rotating the post of prime minister between their leaders, a new survey found.

Fifty-six percent of some 600 respondents, Jews and Arabs, backed the alternating plan between longtime incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the Likud party, and Benny Gantz, his counterpart from the Blue and White party.

Twenty percent said they would support the idea only if Gantz is first, and 14 percent responded similarly about Netanyahu. An additional 22 percent didn’t care who served first, and 32 percent oppose any rotation.

They were responding to a special survey conducted by the Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute.

Sixty-five percent surveyed believe that Netanyahu should resign as head of Likud if he is indicted in any of the three corruption investigations against him. Another 53.5 percent believe he should resign now.

In the event of a resignation, lawmaker Gideon Saar was the choice of successor by 41 percent of respondents.

Meanwhile, a majority of voters in every party or faction that has entered the Knesset following the September elections said they would vote the same way again, including 88.5 percent from Likud and 84 percent from Blue and White.

The survey was conducted Oct. 3–6 with 501 respondents interviewed in Hebrew and 100 in Arabic. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.1 percent.
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.

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Mindful Holiday Eating
Join Bridget Lackey, RDN, LD, and Community Health Educator from Mercy Health, as we examine ways to de-stress holiday eating, beginning by identifying individual holiday eating triggers and understanding past responses.
- Date: Tuesday, November 12
- Time: 12:00–1:00 p.m.
- Location: Multi-Purpose Room
- Register by Monday, November 4 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

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. Outdoor play will be available through October 6. In the case of inclement weather, outdoor open play will be cancelled. Indoor pickleball open play begins October 8.
- Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Time: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Gymnasium

2019 JCC Fall Pickleball Shootout
Any doubles combination (Men’s, Women’s, Mixed Combined) with skill levels of 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0+. Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The tournament coordinator may limit or combine skill levels based upon registration numbers. Maximum six teams per skill level. Early registration is suggested due to limited entries.
- Date: Saturday, November 16
- Time: 9:00 a.m.
- Location: JCC Gymnasium
- Cost: $15/person | $30/team
- Register by Friday, November 9

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
- 317 Churchill Hubbard Road
- Youngstown, Ohio 44505

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Let’s Talk about Alzheimer’s
We will talk about how to differentiate between the various forms of dementia and identify the common symptoms of Alzheimer’s as well as where to find community services to support caregivers.
- Date: Wednesday, November 20
- Time: 1:00–2:00 p.m.
- Location: Multi-Purpose Room
- Register by Tuesday, November 12 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

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.
- Date: Fridays
- Time: 5:30–7:00 p.m.

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.

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
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
Fall Session: September 3 - December 5
For more information on pricing or to register, visit jccyoungstown.org or contact Eri Raib-Ptichkin at 330.746.3250 ext. 106 or eptichkin@jewishyoungstown.org.

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

Lifeguarding Classes
Participants who successfully complete the lifeguarding course receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for 2 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.

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
Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 16
Time 5:30–7:00 p.m.

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

Ages 6 weeks–Pre-Kindergarten

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

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

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

YOUTH & FAMILY

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 1–8 and 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

Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree
*Two Events!
Join the JCC and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation as we collaborate to bring home Canfield native Erica Steiskal, illustrator of the book “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree.”
Date: Monday, November 11
Time: 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge and Library
In honor of Jewish Book Month, please join us for a special event as PJ Library and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation bring home Canfield native Erica Steiskal, illustrator of the book “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree.” Erica will discuss her experience as an illustrator of this meaningful story with our community. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.
Date: Monday, November 11
Time: 12:00–1:30 p.m.
Location: Austintown Branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

FEDERATION

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

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

CULTURAL ARTS

To register for any JCC Journeys or any other cultural programs visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195. For more information contact Gon Erez, Program Director, at 330.746.3250 ext. 159.

Youngstown Symphony Orchestra Stained Glass Concert Series
Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra. Each season, the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra visits various religious organizations around the Mahoning Valley. This event is free and open to everyone. Light refreshments will be served.
Date: Sunday, November 24
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Register by Friday, November 15 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

Newman Levy Speaker Series:
The Jews of the Titanic
1,500 passengers died during the tragic sinking of the Titanic after hitting an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean on its maiden voyage from Southampton to NYC. Over 100 of those passengers were Jewish. In this lecture, Marcia Levy will discuss the Jewish passengers on board; who they were, what happened to those that survived, and how their lives unfolded after this tragedy. This event is free and open to everyone. Lunch will be served.
Date: Friday, November 8
Time: 12:00–1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Monday, November 4 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

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

Holiday Bazaar Vendor and Craft Event
Dozens of vendors will offer crafts, jewelry, cosmetics, soaps, and more! Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a basket raffle and 50/50.
Date: Sunday, December 1
Time: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium and Multi-Purpose Room
To register as a vendor, visit jccyoungstown.org/vendor2019.

18 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine November 2019
AGING WELL

Aging Well is a collaboration between Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Community Center, and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. For more information contact Shay Kahani-Erez, Outreach Coordinator, at 330.746.7929 ext. 199.

Grandfriends
Do you have free time? Come volunteer at the JCC! We are looking for older adults to visit to play, sing songs, read stories, and have fun with the students in our Early Learning Center. Volunteering is a great way to improve your quality of life and connect with the community! No experience needed; a background check is required. To volunteer contact Shay Kahani-Erez, Outreach Coordinator, at 330.746.7929 ext. 199.

Games, Cards, and Puzzles
Enjoy some friendly competition or casual gameplay with friends. This event is free to all older adults. Light refreshments will be served.
Dates: Wednesdays, November 20 & December 18
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Happiness and Humor Group
This ongoing monthly group will help you find the positive side of life. This event is free and open to all older adults. Light refreshments will be served.
Dates: Fridays, November 15 & December 20
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

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: Mondays, November 18 & December 16
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Grief Support Group at the JCC
This group is for anyone who is grieving a death and would like to connect with others who share their experiences in a group setting. Light refreshments will be served.
Dates: Mondays, November 25, December 30, & January 27, 2020
Time: 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

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.

Thursday at the Cinema: The Intouchables
Adapted from his autobiographical tale “Le Second Souffle,” this movie tells the story of Philippe Pozzo do Borgo. Parisian millionaire Philippe becomes a quadriplegic after a paragliding accident. Along with his secretary, Magalie, he hires a young man named Driss from the projects to be his live-in caregiver.

Date: Thursday, November 7
Time: 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Cost: Free/Members | $5/Non Members

Art Classes at the JCC: Mandala Workshop
The very act of creating Mandala (sanskrit for circle) can lead us to many blessings. With the guidance of artist Liz Lehman, you will have a spiritual piece of art to display. All materials will be provided.
Date: Wednesday, November 13
Time: 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Date: Wednesday, November 20
Time: 5:30–7:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Cost: $15/Member | $20/Non Member

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.

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.
Family Pumpkin Dive

Hayden Forestal (left) and Josie Diroll participated in the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown’s After School Family Fun in the Pool Pumpkin Dive on Friday, Oct. 18. Families watched Tim Burton’s “Corpse Bride,” had donuts and cider, and dove in the pool to grab a real pumpkin to take home.

JCC

ANNE FRANK AND THE REMEMBERING TREE

In honor of Jewish Book Month, please join us for a special event as PJ Library and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation bring home Canfield native, Erika Steiskal, illustrator of the book “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree.” Erika will discuss her experience as an illustrator of this meaningful story with our community. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend.

TWO EVENTS!

Date: Monday, November 11
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Austintown Branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County
Refreshments will be served.

Date: Monday, November 11
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge & Library

Youngstown Symphony Orchestra Will Be at JCC

The Youngstown Symphony Orchestra will perform at 3 p.m., Nov. 24, at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown.

The Stained Glass Concert Series is part of the Youngstown Symphony Society’s community outreach program. During each season, the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra and music director Randall Craig Fleischer visit Mahoning Valley houses of worship, community centers, and hospitals.

The Stained Glass Concerts series seeks to strengthen ties between the community and the orchestra through the performance of informal concerts that introduce the orchestra and the art form and provide opportunities for local artists from neighborhood churches to perform with the orchestra because music has the power to bring people together. It is underwritten in part by the Charles W. and Sarah J. Syak Foundation and the Howard and Jeanne Karr Charitable Foundation.

The Youngstown Symphony Orchestra began in 1926 as “The Little Symphony Orchestra,” composed of twelve members all under the age of sixteen, directed by brothers Carmine and Michael Ficocelli. Recognizing the need for a permanent administrative body, the Youngstown Symphony Society was formed in 1935. The Society acquired the Warner Bros. Theatre in downtown Youngstown in 1968. Today, the DeYor Performing Arts Center houses the 2,300-seat Edward W. Powers Auditorium, 600-seat Ford Family Recital Hall and the over-9,000-square-foot Adler Art Academy.

The JCC event is free. Light refreshments will be served. Visit jccyoungstown.org to register by Nov. 15.
How Germany Is Rethinking Security for Its Jewish Community Following the Yom Kippur Synagogue Attack

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) — In the aftermath of the shooting outside a synagogue in the German city of Halle, local authorities are rethinking their approach to securing the country’s Jewish communities.

Only the building’s heavy fortified doors prevented the gunman from entering the synagogue on Yom Kippur. Josef Schuster, the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said it was “scandalous” that there were no police outside the Halle synagogue on Judaism’s holiest day, when attendance by worshippers is at its highest.

Some German states are now moving to ensure that situation isn’t repeated.

In the eastern state of Thuringia, authorities have agreed to post armed officers outside synagogues during services, Der Speigel reported. In Hesse, security will be provided at every synagogue and Jewish institution during Jewish holidays, a police spokesman said. And in Bavaria, synagogues were added as stops to routine police patrols following the attack.

At the federal level, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said that police will “have to take a closer look at the gamers’ scene,” a reference to the shooter’s frequent use of online gaming platforms. That comment sparked protests by German gamers, who fear an invasion of their privacy based on what they call a false generalization.

German Jewry’s Values Initiative, a nonprofit that has positioned itself as a mainstream think tank for German Jewish communities, has proposed a seven-point plan for improving security for German Jews, including better real-time monitoring of video streaming platforms like the ones that the Halle gunman used to broadcast his assault for about 30 minutes.

After the synagogue attack, the group called for police protection of “all synagogues, Jewish, and Israeli institutions in Germany,” charging that police had “misjudged” the threat facing smaller communities like Halle. It also recommended improving police response time, noting that it took 16 minutes for officers to confront the shooter.

“It is time that Germany decides how it deals with hatred of Jews and other inhuman hatred forms,” Elio Adler, the group’s chairman, wrote. “The previous methods are clearly not enough.”

German officials seem to agree. They were quick to condemn the Oct. 9 attack and reassure the Jewish community of their support. Chancellor Angela Merkel attended a vigil in Berlin that day and told Jews in Halle that her government was committed “to do everything possible so that you can live safely.”

Merkel said the attack “shows us that this is not so simple and that we must do even more,” though she did not specify what further action she envisaged.

Police protection is absent currently from many German synagogues and Jewish institutions, said Ophir Revach, director of the European Jewish Congress’ Security and Crisis Center.

“In Germany’s larger cities, Jewish communities get police protection and hire security firms additionally. But small communities like Halle have neither, leaving them exposed,” he said.

In Frankfurt, the Jewish community of 6,600 members pays about $1.2 million a year for private security to supplement the protection provided by police, Leo Latasch, the head of security for the community, told Der Spiegel last week.

In Berlin, the Jewish community and the government split the cost of private security firms, according to Sergey Lagodinsky, a European Parliament lawmaker and a former Jewish community leader in the city.

The situation is radically different in neighboring France.

After the 2015 slaying of cartoonists at the Charlie Hebdo magazine and four Jews at a kosher store, the government launched Operation Sentinel, which deployed thousands of troops around Jewish community buildings and other potential targets. The French state bears nearly all the security costs for Jewish institutions, about $1.2 million per day.

But the effort has its drawbacks. Synagogues across France now resemble fortresses, and the heavy police presence has undermined a sense of normalcy among many French Jews, about 30,000 of whom have moved to Israel since 2013.

Sandra Sebbah, a Jewish mother of four from Pavillons-sous-Bois, a northeastern suburb of Paris, said the soldiers outside her children’s Jewish school only amplify her anxiety about their safety. She encourages her children to “live somewhere else, like normal people and not like this, where I am afraid every minute they’re not home — especially when they’re at school,” she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Revach said the French model can be tweaked to be made less restrictive.

“There’s actually no need for soldiers with guns and police cars in front of synagogues,” the European Jewish Congress’s security expert said. “Technology, including surveillance cameras and good doors like the one in Halle, can be used smartly to reduce that sort of presence.”

As in other European synagogues, the doors at the Halle synagogue were reinforced in recent years as part of a security initiative funded by the United Israel Appeal with support from donors including Mikhail Fridman, German Khan, and Peter Aven. The attacker, identified as a far-right extremist named Stephan Balliet, shot at the doors and tried to use explosives to blow them up. When he failed, he shot dead a woman who passed...
Netanyahu Announces He Is Unable to Form a Government

By Marcy Oster

Editor's Note: On Oct. 23, Benny Gantz said that he will aim to form a unity government with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's party to "repair the divisions in our society." He added, "I promised I would form a liberal unity government and that is what I intend to do." Gantz said. The Blue and White party leader made the remarks after being officially tasked by President Reuven Rivlin with forming a government. In remarks directed at Netanyahu, Gantz said: "We've known each other for many years and I see you as an Israeli patriot. Together with you and the good people in Likud, we have the responsibility to conduct a respectful, ethical conversation for the sake of all those who wish to form a government in Israel."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Oct. 21 that he is unable to form a government coalition after trying for nearly four weeks.

The announcement came on Netanyahu's 70th birthday.

It is the first time in more than a decade that someone other than Netanyahu will attempt to form a government.

Following the announcement, the director-general of the president's office, Harel Tubi, was tasked with contacting the heads of all the factions in Knesset and informing them that Rivlin will transfer the mandate to form the government to Benny Gantz, head of the Blue and White faction, the president's office said in a statement.

Gantz will have 28 days to try to form a government coalition. If he fails to form a government, Knesset members have 21 days to advise Rivlin of their support for another lawmaker to form a government, and Rivlin could task a third person with the mandate.

If that fails, Israel will go to a third national election, which would occur in March 2020.

In a video message posted on social media, Netanyahu said that he put "all efforts" into bringing Gantz to the negotiation table and forming a "broad national unity government." He said that Gantz refused to meet with him or to send his negotiating team "time and time again."

"The time of spin is over, and it is now time for action," the Blue and White party said in a statement. "Blue and White is determined to form the liberal unity government, led by Benny Gantz, that the people of Israel voted for a month ago."

"The time has come for Blue and White," Gantz tweeted.

Rivlin had attempted to help Netanyahu and Gantz arrive at a national unity government, with a formula that included a rotating premiership, which would have seen Netanyahu take a leave of absence from the office if he is indicted in one of the three corruption cases against him. The leaders could not agree, however, on who would serve first in such a rotation.

Netanyahu also insisted on bringing his right-wing coalition in to the government with him, which was not acceptable either to members of Gantz's faction or to Avigdor Liberman, head of the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, which has been holding out for a liberal unity government.

Blue and White is expected to require preconditions for joining its government, including support for public transportation on Shabbat and support for revoking legislation that forces businesses to close on Shabbat, Haaretz reported.

The Arab Joint List's four parties could help Gantz hit the coalition threshold, but they have not pledged to join any ruling majority. Netanyahu called the possibility of a so-called minority government led by Gantz with the Arab parties' support from outside the coalition "an anti-Zionist act that endangers our security."

Blue and White earned 33 seats in the September elections to the Netanyahu-led Likud Party's 32. However, parties representing 55 seats in the Knesset recommended to Rivlin that Netanyahu be tasked to form a government to 53 for Gantz, leading to Netanyahu receiving the mandate. Liberman did not commit his party's eight seats to either candidate.

Sixty-one seats are required to form a majority ruling government coalition.
Donations Being Accepted for Hurricane Dorian Relief Effort

When Hurricane Dorian tore through the Bahamas, it left massive damage in its wake.

It was the strongest storm in the history of the Bahamas, producing storm surges of over 18 feet above normal water levels, flooding drinking water sources with saltwater. Food, water, medicine, electricity, and the infrastructure to place those resources where they can do the most good were needed.

JDC stepped in to help, providing medical supplies, telecommunications equipment to reestablish connections across the archipelago, and fuel to run generators and refrigerate medication. They also brought local and international partners together to build a reliable supply chain to provide additional aid moving forward.

JDC’s disaster response team is committed to providing aid not just in the initial aftermath of the hurricane, but through the long rebuilding process that follows.

JDC is a Jewish humanitarian organization, working in 70 countries to lift lives and strengthen communities. They rescue Jews in danger, provide aid to vulnerable Jews, develop innovative solutions to Israel’s most complex social challenges, cultivate a Jewish future, and lead the Jewish community’s response to crises.

To donate, visit https://bit.ly/2qD6VGi

Golda Meir’s Yom Kippur Letter to Bereaved Families has Been Discovered

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A letter of condolence to bereaved Israeli families written by then-Prime Minister Golda Meir on the eve of the Yom Kippur War has been discovered.

In the years following the establishment of the Jewish state, it was customary for the prime minister to have contact with the families of killed soldiers, including sending letters for holidays and official occasions. Meir was scrupulous about the custom and frequently corresponded with bereaved families both privately and officially.

On the eve of the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Meir sent a letter, dated Oct. 5, to bereaved families in which she wrote: “Your pain is the pain of the entire nation … Our main concern is achieving peace for Israel. The memory of our loved ones motivates us to do anything in our power so that there be no more casualties, and we know no more bereavement.”

A day later saw the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, which claimed the lives of 2,500 Israeli soldiers.

Meir resigned in April 1974 amid public criticism and a loss of confidence in the government.

The letter will be offered for sale at the Kedem auction house in Jerusalem in December.

Maron Aran, an owner of Kedem, said in a statement that the letter “unexpectedly” came to the auction house in the run-up to Yom Kippur this year.

“It evokes, more than anything else could, the tragedy that the State of Israel suffered 46 years ago,” Aran said. “A few hours after the Prime Minister shared in Israel’s national mourning for the victims of previous wars, a new war broke out,” adding thousands of families to the rolls of the bereaved.

Security from page 21

by on the street and then killed another man at a nearby kebab shop.

“This was an effective passive security measure that saved lives,” Revach said, “but it needs to be coupled with fast response and surveillance.”

Revach said new technologies, like facial recognition software that can provide early warning when a known threat is spotted near a Jewish institution, can give law enforcement an edge. He said that the deployment of these technologies has been hampered by European Union privacy laws.

“The solution is smarter use of the resources at hand, not throwing more soldiers and guns at Jewish institutions,” Revach said. “It costs too much money to be sustainable and frankly only refers perpetrators to the more vulnerable targets.”

Some German Jews wonder whether anything their government does at this point is sufficient to allow Jews to live in the country safely. Henryk Broder, a Jewish author and one of Germany’s best-known celebrities, takes a pessimistic view.

“It’s time to face the truth: There is no place for Jews in Europe, or at least no safe place for them,” he told JTA. Jews can either leave or “spend the rest of their lives in a gated community, being protected by the state.”

“I don’t consider this Jewish community life,” Broder said, “I consider it Jewish community survival.”

Lagodinsky, the European Parliament lawmaker, agrees that the Halle killings are a “wake-up call” from a security perspective, but insists that German Jewry will prevail despite the security challenges.

“We must become more visible, not less,” Lagodinsky said. “We must not close inwards, but open up and build bridges to allies who understand that it’s not Jews who need to fight anti-Semites but the entire society.”
Kenny from page 3

“It’s so meaningful, and I’m so excited and happy that this came to fruition, and I know my dad’s looking down and going, ‘Yay! Good job.’”

Phillips Chelin, of Houston, said the trip to the cemetery was one of the highlights of her life.

“I know that sounds probably very strange to say, but I went on a mission that was close to my heart and I accomplished it. And I feel really good,” she said.

To find Kenny’s grave, Phillips Chelin and her husband Hartley Chelin needed to leave the cruise ship in Belgium, rather than continuing on with it to London. They took a three hour train ride, then a bus, and finally walked a long time before coming to the cemetery.

Phillips Chelin remembers seeing Kenny’s picture sitting on a table in her aunt and uncle’s home.

“I would look at it and wonder about him and ask Uncle Ed about him and he would say, ‘Oh, that’s my son, he was killed in the war.’ And it stuck with me,” she said. “Anyway, I had this burning desire, really, to go and do this for Mariellen, do it for Uncle Ed, and to do it for that picture that was sitting on the table that I would see every week.”

Chelin wasn’t convinced the detour was a good idea, but was touched by the experience. The pair has traveled extensively but agree it one of their best trips.

The family was very close growing up in Cleveland, Moss, who now lives in Youngstown, said, getting together at least twice a week.

She always wondered about this one cousin they never met who died in World War II.

“So here was this person way back when who we never met, and now his life is being exposed, and what happened to him, and I feel like it’s an honor to him to bring this out so people know he existed, he was there, he fought for our country,” she said. “It gets to my heart that even though a death happened the connection is still there.”

Kenny Robinson died before his stepsister, Mariellen Miller, was born. But she made it her mission to change the cross on his grave to a Star of David.

Churchill Commons

Make every day taste better

Locally owned and operated

Great Food

Fruit Trays
Rolls, Cakes & Pastries
Meat, Vegetable & Relish Trays.
Wing-Dings
Fried Chicken
Beverages

Tableware
Cards
Decorations
Thank Yous
Manischewitz & Mogen David
Kosher Wines

Manischewitz, Mother’s, Streitz, Rokeach, Joyva Kosher Products

See our expanded Kosher section

4700 BELMONT AVENUE
(330) 759-9502

HOLIDAY BAZAAR
VENDOR AND CRAFT EVENT

Dozens of vendors will offer crafts, jewelry, cosmetics, soaps, and more! Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a basket raffle and 50/50. This event is free and open to everyone.

Date: Sunday, December 1
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium and Multi-Purpose Room

To register as a vendor, visit jccyoungstown.org/vendor2019 or contact Hunter Thomas, Program Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext.123 by Sunday, November 24.