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Musings with Mary Lou: How I Got to Where I Am

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Have you ever thought about how you got to this place in your life? Well I have, and I want to tell you it has been a very interesting journey. A lot can happen to a person in 85 years.

I guess starting when I was born in Somerset, Pa., would be a great place to start. When I was 1, we moved to Johnstown, Pa., and that is where we stayed until about 1949. I was a sophomore, and my dad took a job with a furniture store in Weirton, W.Va., as manager. I attended Weir High School for a year and half then transferred to Follansbee when my folks moved three blocks away and moved into another county. Then at 18, after graduation, I entered a secretarial school in New York City.

After 1 graduated, I stayed in the city, had a couple jobs, and then found a good one at a public relations firm as a secretary. I hate to admit it, but my shorthand was only so-so. I stayed at that job for a couple of years, and, just about the time I had decided I'd had enough of the big city, my father, who had moved back to Johnstown, was offered a job at Haber’s Furniture in Youngstown. I told you this was very convoluted. Of course, I had to join them in their newest venture. That was about 1955. So you see, I am still a newcomer to Youngstown.

It was the smartest move of my life. I got a job at B&I Realtors, working in the accounting department. Three weeks on the job and this really good looking young man walked by. That was it: love at first sight. Turns out he was entering the construction business and was going to build houses in Poland. Just to cut this story short, we were married a year and a half later. He built houses in Poland and then Hermitage. That lasted for a couple of years. Then, unfortunately, some internal conflicts put them in jeopardy and they closed the business.

Happily for Al, a couple months later, he joined Saramar Aluminum—first Austintown, and then they moved to Warren. He was there 23 years and ended up as Vice President of Manufacturing. During those 23 years, we had three wonderful kids; Al had a stroke that he was able to come out of almost perfectly; and about the same time, the company decided to build an extrusion plant in North Carolina, which Al designed and supervised construction.

We stayed in North Carolina for about nine months, and we loved it. Anyway, we returned in 1985, just in time to find that the company was in serious trouble and was closing. Then Al started the job hunt. At 54, he was too old and overqualified for any jobs available. So, I jumped in and did something Al never wanted me to do: I got a job with the Arthritis Foundation. I worked there for about four or five months, until the two women I worked for decided they didn’t really want to continue. There was no one to replace them, so it was bye-bye for me too.

Then a friend from Temple heard I was looking for work, and I was hired as a secretary at Tamco Distributors, the distributor for Phar-Mor. You remember Phar-Mor, don’t you? So you can guess what I have to say next. After 15 years, in October 2001, out of a job. It was a Wednesday, if I remember, and even though I was pretty shaken up, I went to Temple for afternoon services. A friend there signaled to me to see him afterwards. So I did, and he proceeded to explain that there was a new part-time job being created at the JCC to help collect outstanding monies, and he wondered whether my husband, who was still out of job, would be interested. I said that no, I would be, but I would discuss it with him first. Al agreed I should be the one interviewed, I was, and now 18 years later, I am still here at the JCC.

And that, folks, is how I got to where I am today. What is your story?

Another Take on Israel’s Decision to Bar U.S. Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib

By Adam L. Fuller

Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, Youngstown State University

Editor’s Note: This column was written in response to Art Einzig’s open letter to Ambassador Ron Dermer, Israel’s Ambassador to the United States, published in the September 2019 Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine. The letter was regarding Israel’s decision to bar Representatives Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, members of the U.S. Congress, from entering Israel for an official visit.

In the September issue of this journal, Art Einzig authored a piece admonishing Benjamin Netanyahu’s government for barring entry to U.S. Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. He said that the Israeli government’s decision embarrassed him as an American Jew and gave him doubts about Israel’s commitment to democracy and free speech. He also suggested that Omar and Tlaib were banned entry simply because they criticize Israel’s policies. I must respectfully disagree with Mr. Einzig.

Omar and Tlaib were not barred entry because they oppose Israel’s policies. If that was the reason, I could get behind Einzig’s censure. They were barred entry because they had sponsored legislation in Congress to loosen restrictions on the “Boycott, Divest, and Sanction” movement.

This movement, known as “BDS,” is a global effort led by foreign governments to directly harm Israel. Their resolution was not simply critical of the Jewish state. It would have encouraged American participation in an economic war against Israel.

Under such circumstances, the Israelis have little choice but to regard these two congresswomen as enemies of their state. It is certainly neither unprecedented nor unjustified for liberal, democratic countries to deny entry to certain foreign individuals who want to cause them harm. Additionally, Omar and Tlaib were planning to meet with people in the Palestinian territories who do not seek diplomatic solutions to the conflict. Such meetings are incompatible with their roles as members of Congress. Congressional representatives are certainly permitted to go on international fact-finding missions, but they should not be getting personally entangled in regional conflicts.

To be clear, though, I do not think it is the prudent choice for Israel to always ban BDS supporters. When Lara Alqasem was detained at Ben-Gurion Airport last year because of her involvement in the BDS movement, I did not believe her detention was warranted. I supported the High Court’s ruling that she be allowed through the port of entry. The difference was that, in that situation, Alqasem was only a private citizen. She was a young American woman seeking to continue her university education in Israel. Whereas Alqasem was...
Canfield Native Comes Home to Share Her Creative Process

Erika Steiskal is the Illustrator of ‘Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree’

By Elise Skolnick

Erika Steiskal, a Canfield native, says she is excited to come back to the area to share one of her latest projects.

Steiskal, an illustrator and graphic designer, is 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 and the tree who promised never to forget her.

Steiskal will discuss her creative process at two events Nov. 11.

She will be at the Austintown branch of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County from noon to 1:30 p.m. and Jewish Community Center of Youngstown from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

“I hope my talks inspire the attendees -- especially the children who come -- and also help raise awareness of the Holocaust and its important place in history,” said Steiskal, who now lives in Seattle.

She got involved in the project when the Children's Museum of Indianapolis saw her work on a portfolio website and reached out to her.

“They liked my historical illustrations for several children’s publications and thought my style would be a good fit,” she said.

Creating the illustrations for the book was a special experience for her, she noted. She enjoyed the creative process, but it was more than that.

“As I created the illustrations for 'Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree,' I knew I was working on something that would have a positive impact on the world,” she said.

Steiskal earned a bachelor of fine arts in illustration from the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus and studied at the Illustration Academy at Ringling College of Art and Design.

Her book and editorial illustrations have appeared in Luerzer's Top 200 Illustrators, Spectrum, 3x3, and Communication Arts, and her paintings have hung at the Society of Illustrators in New York and the Society of Illustrators Los Angeles, which awarded her a gold medal.

She is currently a graphic designer/illustrator at Lantern Press, which designs souvenirs for a wide range of clients and markets. At Lantern Press, Erika has created art for Ellis Island, the Grand Canyon, and other historic sites around the country.

As a freelancer, Erika’s clients include Penguin Books for Young Readers, Arkansas Art Books for Young Readers, Arkansas Art.

She lives in Seattle with her husband and dog.

The programs are sponsored by the JCC and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

The illustrator of “Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree” will share her creative process at two events in November.

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine is now accepting opinion columns. Send submissions to journal@jewishyoungstown.org as a word document. Include name and contact information. Acceptance is at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for clarity.

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With the High Holidays underway, I wanted to write a more positive article to start off the New Year. So I decided to explain why I have found this period of time to be not just one of great contemplation, remembrance, and (hopefully) change, but also one of great personal peace and joy.

More than the secular New Year, I have found that our holidays are not just a time for resolutions that are kept until they drift off like old emails but have the weight of spirituality behind them. Thus, I tend to make them with more contemplation, so they last longer.

But also during this time of the year comes my favorite holiday: Sukkot. This was not always my favorite holiday— it came about in recent years, when I began to understand how to celebrate it. I had always known that we would make kiddush in the sukkah and hold services in it but had never before treated it a more than an occasional location to be during the holiday, just like the lulav and etrog. They were something to hold, shake, and give a quick schmeck before passing it along to give someone else the opportunity.

This gradually began to change for me about a decade or two ago. The first change began when Rabbi Shuman was the rabbi at Children of Israel and he invited me to join him for the first night of Sukkot in his sukkah. It was later that year and bitter cold. The snow was drifting down between the gaps to allow the sight of the stars in the sky. Most people were wearing winter coats and gloves.

Yet, at the same time, it was pleasantly warm. This was not because of heaters or the like, but because of the atmosphere generated by the holiday, the people, and the feeling generated by the sense of connection with the ancient Hebrews. It made me appreciate being Jewish more.

The next year, for the first time, I bought my own lulav and etrog. But rather than just toss it away after the service, I decided to take it into my office with me, mainly because of the wonderful fresh clean smell of the etrog and the scent of lulav which was totally different. I placed them on my desk and ended keeping the etrog until the next year—even though it dried—because somehow that smell remained in it. The lulav began shedding its leaves, so eventually I tossed it after a few months.

This was my habit for the next few years. Then an interesting thing occurred. I was working for the employment service for the State of Ohio, and we were going through a series of layoffs, necessitating that a number of our workers who were Catholic could not get away for the ceremony of Ash Wednesday. One of my coworkers noticed that I had palm leaves as part of the lulav and commented on the irony of the fact that they could not get away to have the palm ashes spread on their foreheads.

I suggested that since my palm leaves were dried out, she could burn them and use them for her ritual. That year, about five of our employees burned the palm leaves of my lulav for their ashes. That gave me a feeling of being able to share my traditions with those not of my faith and at the same time allowed them to appreciate more the closeness of our traditions—that we would use some of the same objects in our ceremonies.

My final step toward making Sukkot my favorite holiday came when I began to spend more time in the sukkah, eating, visiting with friends, studying our prophets, and just relaxing. There is a certain aura that comes over you when you appreciate the peaceful feeling that the sukkah projects when you spend the time not just as an obligation, but as a retreat from the everyday humbugs of the secular world.
El Emeth

YBI’s Jim Cossler Speaks at Temple El Emeth

Jim Cossler, Huntington Bank Entrepreneur in Residence and former CEO of the Youngstown Business Incubator, spoke at Temple El Emeth on Sept. 11, on how the YBI began and grew through the years. He also spoke about some internationally known companies that began as start-ups at the Incubator. Pictured from left to right are Rabbi Joseph Schonberger; Art Friedman, El Emeth president; Jim Cossler; and Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation director of community relations and government affairs. Photo courtesy of Dr. Bill Gordon.

Temple El Emeth Events

Rosh Hashanah services will be held both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur and will include programming for children. Detailed information of all High Holiday events has been sent to members’ homes or can be obtained by calling the Synagogue office. Jewish Christian Dialogue will not be held in October and will resume in November.

Oct. 13
Sukkah decorating will take place Sunday morning at the Synagogue. There will be decorations to make and hang in the sukkah. A pizza lunch will be served, and all ages are welcome to attend. Children are invited to bring their grandparents too! Please call the office to RSVP.

Oct. 19
Rabbi and Lori Schonberger will hold their annual Sukkot luncheon following Shabbat services. Please call the office to RSVP for lunch.

Oct. 21
Simchat Torah is planned for Monday evening at 6:15 p.m. at El Emeth and will be held together with Ohev Tzedeck. Our Klezmer musicians will be here that evening, and we will be honoring Florence Mirkin as Chatan Tonah and Edith Peskin as Chatan Bereisheit. Please call the office to RSVP.

Oct. 28
Shmoozing with Shmulik will meet for some fun in Yiddish with Sam Kooperman 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 12
Coming in November: Minyan and a Meal on Tuesday, November 12. James Pasch, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, will be our guest speaker. Information will be mailed to members’ homes.

Butler Director Recognizes Work of Jewish American Artists

Temple El Emeth hosted a brunch for around 60 people on Sunday, Aug. 25. Dr. Louis Zona, executive director and chief curator of the Butler Institute of American Art, spoke about the contributions that Jewish American artists have made to the art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Pictured from left to right are Rabbi Joseph Schonberger, Lori Schonberger, Dr. Louis Zona, Suzyn Schwebel Epstein, and El Emeth presidents Phyllis and Art Friedman. Photo courtesy of Dr. Bill Gordon.

Former Newspaper Editor Discusses Industry’s Future

Temple El Emeth Sisterhood held their opening meeting on Sept. 10, where they hosted former Vindicator editor Todd Franko. (The Vindicator, established in 1869, announced its closing and ran its final publication at the end of August. As of Sept. 1, former competitor The Tribune Chronicle now produces the paper under the name of The Vindicator with its own staff.) Franko spoke about the closing of The Vindicator as well as the future of the newspaper industry in general.
By Rabbi David Merkin

It was Friday afternoon, Sept. 30, 2005, several days before Rosh HaShannah.

Recalling the moment that I heard the news still causes a rush of adrenaline. I pulled into my driveway, got out of my car, and saw two of my children running toward me. “Sabba (Hebrew for grandfather) has been in an accident.” I remember hitting myself on the forehead, probably from a recognition that any accident that my children had become aware of and were hurrying to tell me about, was—in all likelihood—quite serious. I’m not sure when the poignancy of young children being the bearers of such news hit me. My spirited and feisty father-in-law; an orphan from infancy, a soldier in the British army some time before age 18, a gunrunner in England for the Jewish resistance in pre-state Israel, and an immigrant to these shores as a young penniless adult; would last a week in a coma before succumbing on the following Friday. The accident shortly preceded Rosh HaShannah. His death came days before Yom Kippur.

These are the days of repentance on which we stand in judgement before G-d and, on Yom Kippur, seek forgiveness and ask “Who shall live and who shall die? Who in his time and who before his time?”

My father-in-law left us with one last gift, which still makes me smile, as it so epitomizes his scrappy and indomitable spirit. My mother-in-law, now also departed, met with the officer who interacted with my father-in-law at the scene of the accident. The officer described approaching my father-in-law, trapped in a car that was crushed against a utility pole, and asking him, “How are you doing?” Without missing a beat, my father-in-law responded “How do you THINK I’m doing?” Those words were his last gift; a memento by which to remember his spirit, unextinguished by his horrific circumstances.

So what I propose to the reader who may be wondering how best to approach Rosh HaShannah is that those final words might be useful. Rosh HaShannah is the Day of Judgement. The shofar, the sound of the ram’s horn, summons us before the Sovereign. That is one of the messages of the shofar. Judaism honors us with the concept that we are important enough to be accountable to the Creator. It can, nonetheless, be quite daunting to spend the time of Rosh HaShannah responding to that summons in a way that is adequate spiritually: a way which both honors our accountability but does not distance us from G-d.

What I am suggesting is that we take a collaborative approach. Our Creator is One to whom we refer as Avinu Malkeinu, our parent and our sovereign. Bearing in mind this double title, let us come before G-d and ask (of both G-d and ourselves) sincerely and without irony, even quietly, “How do you think I’m doing?” On Yom Kippur, let us approach G-d not as a prosecutor but as a powerful ally. If we approach G-d with fear alone, relating to G-d as a prosecutor, then our confession and admission of our failings will either be partial or just to gain forgiveness.

If, however, we approach G-d as we might approach a world renowned physician who also happens to be an old friend, then we will be able to respond meaningfully to the question “How am I doing?” We might succeed in entrusting our acknowledgement of our failings to G-d on Yom Kippur in the same spirit that we might share our failure to adhere to a prescribed medical regimen with a beloved and trusted physician. We will be enabled to do this in a trusting and fully open manner, one that will build a relationship of trust with our Creator and perhaps even inspire us to find new paths to improve. In this manner, perhaps, we may be able to summon both the spiritual self-esteem and the regard for our Creator that will allow us to use this sacred period of the year to help us fulfill our purpose and our potential.

May these words be a merit for Reuven Shmuel Mordechai ben Chaim Yitzchak a’h, Reuben Silver, of blessed memory, the grandfather of my children, whose yahrzeit (anniversary of passing) falls on the fifth of Tishrei, this coming Oct. 4.

On behalf of Children of Israel Congregation and Rabbi Mordechai and Mindy Rindenow, best wishes for a healthy and happy new Jewish year of 5780, both spiritually and physically, to the entire Youngstown area Jewish community and all of its friends and supporters.
**Liptalk: Time for Reflection and Renewal**

**A Message from Andy Lipkin**

Federation Executive Vice-President

This month brings a new year and, with it, a time of reflection and renewal for each of us.

Personally, I’m reflecting on the major challenge in my life over the past year. I would never have guessed 2019 would bring heart surgery for me. But it did. That was a scary and emotional time. But the past year also brought my daughter Rachel’s wedding, a wonderful celebration of her and my new son-in-law, Scott. And, last month, my son Sean relocated to Columbus from Chicago.

I’m also reflecting on the past year at the Federation and its agencies. We know we’re doing great work with, and for, the Jewish and general communities. However, we must evaluate our weaknesses as well as our strengths. Each year we must take stock of where we’ve been and where we’re going and determine if we need to make changes. Sometimes priorities need to be adjusted to address the changing needs of our community. Over the past year, we’ve seen the closing of the General Motors plant, Northside Hospital, and the Vindicator. Those losses impact the community and, by extension, the Federation. We are in the midst of changing our structure to better deliver the wonderful programs and services we offer.

As part of being the convener for the regional Jewish community, a role we take seriously, the Federation is in the final stages of establishing the Youngstown Area Jewish Cemeteries Association to help preserve the Jewish cemeteries in and around Youngstown. We’re also working with the area Temples to share services. We are strongest when we work together. Our community is reinventing itself, as it must. But what never changes is our commitment to the Jewish and general communities in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys.

Our Annual Campaign continues to be critical to what we do locally, in Israel, and in 70 countries throughout the world. Your generosity means we can do what we do. The Campaign kicked off Sept. 19 this year with our Inaugural Event. I hope you were able to attend. We were fortunate to have Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, a world-renowned Holocaust and anti-Semitism expert, speak at the event. She is probably most widely known for the libel lawsuit brought against her in 1996 by David Irving for having called him a Holocaust denier. She was surprised he sued her because she assumed he was proud to be a denier. She fought the lawsuit by proving what she wrote was the truth. "Many of us are gobsmacked that a couple decades after the Holocaust this is happening again," she said. Dr. Lipstadt noted that the rise in anti-Semitism is coming from many directions. "Haters feel freer to express their hate in a way they haven’t before," she added.

And that’s why it’s important the Federation and its agencies continue to do the work they do, with your help. You power caring. You power Jewish identity. You power refuge. Thank you.

I hope the coming year is a wonderful one for you!

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**Inaugural Event Keynote Speaker Tells Audience to be ‘the Unwelcome Guests at the Dinner Party’**

By Elise Skolnick

Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, professor of religion and history at Emory University, shared her thoughts on something less related to history than that of a contemporary situation at the 2019 Inaugural Event held in September:

"And that is the rise in anti-Semitism," she said. "The rise of hatred, the rise in prejudice, in our country and in other countries."

She discussed where it’s coming from and what possibly could be done about it.

"Hate, though bad, is not prejudice," she said.

"Hating you because of what you are, that’s prejudice," she added.

"There are different types of anti-Semites, she noted, including extremists, the dinner party anti-Semite (those who would never think of doing anything extreme but say something such as "We just hired a new associate – he’s Jewish but very honest."). anti-Semitic enablers, Islamic extremists, and anti-Semitism associated with the state of Israel.

To combat this, people can’t be selectively against one “-ism,” she said.

"We can’t say I’m going to only worry about this hatred," she said. "Because what starts with one group goes to another group. We know that particularly from anti-Semitism. It starts with the Jews, never ends with the Jews, or starts with another group, it’s going to come back to the Jews."

Also, people need to be “the unwelcome guests at the dinner party” and speak out in an instructive method.

"You won’t change the mind of the person who’s saying these things, but to telegraph a message to the people at the table or gathering, particularly the young people, that we don’t abide that kind of talk, that that’s not acceptable," she said.

Lipstadt has published and taught about the Holocaust for close to 40 years. She is probably most widely known for the libel lawsuit brought against her in 1996 by David Irving for having called him a Holocaust denier. The Daily Telegraph (London) described the trial as having "done for the new century what the Nuremberg tribunals or the Eichmann trial did for earlier generations." Her TED talk about the trial has received close to 1.2 million views. The movie “Denial,” starring Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkinson, tells the story of this legal battle.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation participated in National Voter Registration Day Sept. 24. Members of the community were able to register to vote, update their registration, or check their voter registration status. Founded in 2012, National Voter Registration Day is designed to create an annual moment when the entire nation focuses on registering Americans to exercise their most basic right – the right to vote. More than two million Americans have registered to vote on this day since the inaugural National Voter Registration Day. Pictured from left to right are Samie Winick, Nancy Burnett, Jeannie Peskin, and Gerry Peskin.

The Jewish Film Festival kicked off Monday, Sept. 23, with “Who Will Write Our History,” a film about the Warsaw Ghetto and a unique part of the uprising.

This film, a documentary, traces the history of the largest Jewish uprising during the Holocaust through the eyes of the 60-some journalists who kept diaries of the life of the Jews who were forced to live in the Warsaw Ghetto, and the daily deprivations that they endured.

The diaries were then buried so that whoever survived the Ghetto could recover them, and the people of future generations would know what actually occurred.

This powerful documentary, while disturbing to watch, provided the viewer with history that has been recreated in fiction many times, but in a more personal manner that fiction can. Two of the more popular examples of fictional works are Leon Uris’s “Mila 18” and John Hershey’s “The Wall,” both of which I read in high school.

However, this film, while covering much of what was said in those well written fictions, did something that they could not accomplish: It provided the stark reality of what occurred.

Using actual footage, some made by the Germans for propaganda purposes, the audience was able to experience some of the bleak despair the people were forced to endure.

While not a pleasant experience, it does accomplish what the film was made to do: turn the viewers from observers watching from afar to witnesses of the events, thus creating empathy rather than sympathy.

With more and more of the actual witnesses passing, it is films like this one that will help future generations to remember and be able to respond to the increasing numbers of Holocaust deniers and anti-Semites.

This production is so well made that it accomplishes these goals. The one fault that I found with the evening was something that has been increasingly a problem: There were very few (if any) attendees, of what was an incredible turn-out, under the age of 30.

Which brings us a new meaning to the phrase, “Lest we forget.” I am reminded of a scene in “Mila 18,” where the German propagandist is discussing his problem with the Jews. He states that to the Jews the phrase, “I think means I remember,” and that the Jews have a long memory. It seems that we as Jews may be losing that ability by not passing it along to the next generations.

Join us on a trip to the Maltz Museum to view their newest exhibition, “Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music.”

Price includes all fees. Time is allotted for dinner.
Some light walking will be required.

Date: Sunday, November 10
Location: Beachwood, Ohio
Leave JCC: 11:00 a.m.
Return to the JCC: 7:30 p.m. (approximately)
Cost: $26/Member | $35/Non Member
Register by Monday, October 14 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact Hunter Thomas, Program Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 123.
ELC Students Celebrate Rosh Hashanah with Levy Tenants

Students in the Early Learning Center at the Jewish Community Center visited Levy Gardens Assisted Living tenants for a Rosh Hashanah program. They sang songs, listened to a story, and enjoyed a snack of apples and honey. Pictured is Hunter Thomas, JCC program coordinator, reading “Sammy Spider’s First Rosh Hashanah.”

Bulgaria Opens 1st Jewish School in Over 20 Years

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) — Bulgaria’s Jewish community opened its first Jewish school in over 20 years.

The opening of the Ronald S. Lauder Day School in Sofia is a significant development for the some 6,000 members of the Jewish minority in Bulgaria.

Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress and a major donor to Jewish communities and organizations, attended the school’s opening in Sofia, the capital, on Sept. 15, WJC said in a statement.

Prior to the opening of the school, whose 88 students are all under 12, Bulgarian Jewry had a Jewish school in the Lauder-ORT No. 134 “Dimcho Debelianov” Jewish School in Sofia. However, No. 134 is a public school that in 1998 received, with support from the Lauder Foundation, some Jewish-oriented content, including Hebrew language classes, in addition to its regular curriculum.

“During the past 20 years, we achieved many targets, but this is not the ‘Jewish school’ that can lead the Jewish community of Bulgaria to further development and enhancement,” Becca Lazarova, director for Bulgaria of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, told the Sofia Globe about No. 134. “What do we want from the school? We want the children to be proud of being Jewish. In order to be proud, they have to know what they’re proud of, and why,” Lauder said at the Sept. 15 inauguration of the new school.

In 2010, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, or JDC, opened with the Shalom Bulgarian Jewish community a Jewish kindergarten. Dozens of children attend the kindergarten.

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, 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.

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

Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, Youngstown State University

Events and Information

Oct. 7
Film Screening for National Coming Out Day
“Dear Freddy” (Israel, 2017)
4 p.m. in Williamson Hall 2212
Contact Jacob Labendz at jlabendz@ysu.edu or 330.941.1603 if you are interested in attending.

In association with the Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival, the YSU Program in Women’s and Gender Studies, and YSU Unity

Oct. 11
"Pizza in the Hut" Sukkah Building Party
They will be building and decorating a sukkah at noon on DeBartolo Plaza (facing campus) with guests from the Jewish community.
Contact Jacob Labendz at jlabendz@ysu.edu or 330.941.1603 if your organization wants to send a representative.

Scholarships Available
Jewish students and students interested in pursuing Jewish studies at YSU should contact the Office of Financial Aid. There are a number of scholarships for which they may qualify.
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.

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: JCC Outdoor Pickleball Complex (before October 8) & Gymnasium (after October 8)
Date: Sundays
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: JCC Outdoor Pickleball Complex (before October 8) & Gymnasium (after October 8)

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 17
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: JCC Gymnasium
Cost: $15/person | $30/team
Register by Friday, November 9

Flu Shot Clinic
Protect yourself against the flu this season by receiving the flu vaccine at the JCC. The cost is $25 without insurance coverage. Please bring your insurance card.
Date: Wednesday, October 16
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: JCC Adult Lounge
Register by Wednesday, October 9.

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Sleep Apnea Risks and Treatment
Dr. Charles Verbanic and Scott Landy of Pristine Dental will discuss the most common symptoms and risk factors of obstructive sleep apnea. They will also share information about a dental device treatment.
Date: Friday, October 25
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Personal Training
Our nationally certified trainers will develop an individualized plan geared toward your personal goals. You’ll receive support, motivation and direction that will help you get fit fast. We also offer youth personal training for children under thirteen.
For more information or to register contact Jaron Howell, Wellness Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 153.

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

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.

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Getting Started With Medicare
If you are approaching 65, or enrolling in Medicare for the first time, this is your opportunity to gain a basic understanding of how Medicare works and how it affects you. Hosted by Brain S. Gladysz from SummaCare.
Date: Monday, October 7
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Thursday, October 3.

Register for Wellness Lunch & Learns online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.
AQUATICS

For more information on Aquatics, contact 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

Learn to Swim and You & Me Baby lessons run as sessions on a monthly basis. The last day to register for the current month is the Friday before the second week. It will not be prorated. After that date, all registrations will be for the following month. This is to ensure the safety of all participants.

To enroll in private or group swim lessons visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the Registration Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

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

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

Date: Saturdays | 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
or 10:10 - 10:40 a.m.
Wednesdays | 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!

NEW PRICING!

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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.

Date: Saturdays
September 7 - October 12, October 19 - November 23, or November 30 - January 4
Time: 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Lifeguarding Classes & Recertifications
This class will provide entry-level participants the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies until EMS personnel take over.
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.

Dates: Saturday & Sunday
December 14 & 15 or December 28 & 29
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Cost: $187/Member | $250/Non Member

First Aid/CPR/AED Class
Date: Sunday, September 15
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Cost: $75/Member | $100/Non Member

After School Family Fun in the Pool
Pumpkin Dive
Date: Friday, October 18
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Cost: Free/Member | $5/Non Member

Featured Aquatic Group Exercise Class: Step It Up
You will walk the length of the pool while incorporating exercises to build muscle, improve balance, and enhance flexibility. This class will also focus on improving strength, range of motion, balance, and endurance.

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
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
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.

Newman Levy Speaker Series
The Changing Face of Jewish Philanthropy
Join us to hear Dr. Hanna Shaul Bar Nissim, a leading expert on American Jewish philanthropy, discuss new data from her ongoing research about American Jewish philanthropic patterns towards Israel. She offers a broad understanding of the implications of changing Jewish communal institutions, new philanthropic practices and the changing organizations of Jewish philanthropy.
Date: Wednesday, October 23
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Monday, October 21.

JCC Journeys
Summer: The Donna Summer Musical
She was a girl from Boston with a voice from heaven, who shot through the stars from gospel choir to dance floor diva.
Price includes admission, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Time is allotted for lunch. Some light walking may be required.
Date: Sunday, October 27
Location: Cleveland, Ohio
Leave JCC: 1:45 p.m.
Arrive for Lunch: 3:00 p.m. (approximately)
Showtime: 6:30 p.m.
Return to the JCC: 9:30 p.m. (approximately)
Cost: $71/Member | $95/Non Member
Register by Tuesday, October 1.

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

FEDERATION

Volunteer Opportunities

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: Fridays, October 4, November 1, & December 6
Time: 9:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

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

Diaper Packing with Making Kids Count
The Making Kids Count Diaper Bank Volunteers repack diapers to be distributed to local families in need.
Date: Friday, October 11
Times: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 6961 Southern Blvd, Ste A
Youngstown, OH 44512

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

Upcoming 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.
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

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.

AGING WELL

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

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, October 16, 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, October 18, 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, October 21, November 18, & December 16
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Grief Support Group at the JCC
This group dis for anyone who is grieving a death and would like to connect with other to share their experiences in a group setting. Light refreshments will be served.
Dates: Mondays, October 28, November 25, December 30, & January 27, 2020
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

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 you 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.

RENTALS

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

Specialty Parties

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.

Norah’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.

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.
JFS to Partner with YSU Counseling Students to Offer Free Depression Screening

By Ken Beilecki
Director of Jewish Family Services

National Depression Screening Day is Thursday, Oct. 10. Jewish Family Services is partnering with students from the counseling department at Youngstown State University to offer free depression screenings at the Jewish Community Center from 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 10. These screenings will be private and confidential. Also, representatives from Help Network of Youngstown will be present to discuss local resource options.

Depression affects individuals from all walks of life. It has no boundaries in regards to financial status, ethnicity, gender, age, race, or religious beliefs. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the annual prevalence of a major depressive episode is 7.2 percent among U.S. adults. That is over 17.7 million individuals who experience symptoms related to major depressive episodes. Individuals experiencing severe depression have a 40 percent higher risk of physical ailments including cardiovascular and metabolic disease. Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide.

Some of the symptoms of depression include changes in sleep habits (over or under sleeping), change in appetite, low self-esteem, hopelessness, and lack of interest, to name a few. These symptoms can easily interfere with day to day tasks at work, home, and with our relationships, especially if symptoms last longer than two weeks (major depressive episode). A person experiencing severe depression may forget to pay their bills, isolate themselves from loved ones, and even contemplate suicide.

Causes of depression vary but can include experiencing a trauma or multiple traumas, genetics, and life circumstances. Also, severe medical conditions and drug and alcohol abuse can contribute to symptoms of depression. Changes in seasons, and shorter days in winter, can be a contributing factor.

Prior to treatment the symptoms and diagnosis of depression must be identified. Just as it is important to identify any physical ailments with your primary care physician (PCP) it is also important to identify any mental health issues that may be debilitating. For most individuals this conversation can be initiated with your PCP to screen for mental health issues including depression. Once depression is identified it is important to take the next step in seeking treatment. Treatment can include, but is not limited to, counseling, medications, and utilizing healthy coping skills. Thankfully, there are many local treatment resources for depression, including counseling services at Jewish Family Services.

If you or someone you know is experiencing severe depression, or other severe mental health symptoms, please call 211 in the Mahoning Valley. Also, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Remember, help is always available. Identifying the root of the problem, through screening, can lead to a fulfilling and meaningful life. Be well.

Coming Soon: ‘Testament’ by Debra DeGregorio

The next exhibition at the Thomases Art Gallery will be “Testament” by Debra DeGregorio. The exhibit will run from Oct. 11 through Jan. 15, and the opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16.

On display will be 15 to 20 pieces from a collection of DeGregorio’s current work. They are all mixed media on paper, unframed, and hung directly on the wall with pins. She explained that this is intentionally to give the pieces an air of being “light, approachable, and fragile, much like the imagery.”

DeGregorio said that some of her inspiration comes from creation mythology, with biblical symbols of floods and fires making appearances in her work, and tarot cards, bringing towers into the scenes in various states of wholeness and decay.

The work of mixed media artist Debra DeGregorio has ranged 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 a landscapes of the interior, described using a personal symbology found in the world of the exterior.

Born in Pittsburgh, Debra DeGregorio received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking and drawing from Kent State University, studied ceramics and printmaking at the University of Akron, and received a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from SUNY, New Paltz, N.Y. She currently resides in Akron, Ohio, gardens professionally, and teaches drawing at Youngstown State University.

“Tower” (detail shown here) by Debra DeGregorio will be in her upcoming exhibit.
Myrna Diamond Lemberger

Myrna Diamond Lemberger, 79, beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and force of nature, slipped away into eternity on Sept. 12, 2019.

Born in the Bronx on March 29, 1940, to Abe and Sylvia Diamond, Myrna's quick wit and sparkling smile made her the centerpiece of every room she entered.

She graduated from the Bronx High School of Science at age 16 and three years later married the love of her life, Louis.

As the story goes, she was coming out of a movie theatre in the Catskills covered from head-to-toe in calamine lotion. Louis spotted her from across the street, pointed and said to his friends, "That's the girl I'm going to marry." He was true to his word and their union would last for nearly six decades.

Myrna would go on to earn an associate’s degree from Hunter College while putting Louis through pharmacy and medical school. Later on, she would hostess international events for the pharmaceutical societies Louis helmed, and was an active volunteer in the Indianapolis community, serving as everything from Brownie and Girl Scout Troup leader, to the president of B'nai B'rith, to setting up art shows and acting as regional manager for artists who would go on to acclaim.

She and the family were also 35-year members of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and they bled IU Crimson on Saturdays and Colts Blue on Sundays.

A talented artist in her own right, Myrna enjoyed painting watercolors and sculpting, and her love of music inspired her to start a residents’ choir at Park Vista in Youngstown, where she lived for the last three years of her life.

From childhood, she struggled with a variety of serious illnesses but weathered 79 years and made the world a much brighter place for having been in it. Her sage advice never failed to hit the mark, and she really was almost always right, much to the gratitude and sometime annoyance of those who knew her.

Myrna's love and support and fierce loyalty were the foundation on which the Lemberger family thrived, and that extended to everyone she knew and loved.

She made an indelible and lasting impression on everyone she met.

She is survived by her daughters, Harriet Schor and Margo Lemberger; son-in-law Neil Schor; granddaughters Alyssa and Meryl Schor; and her dear friend, Bob Shaffer.

Myrna was preceded in death by her husband, Louis; her sister, Helen; and her parents.

Services were Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, at Garlick Funeral Home in Monticello, N.Y., followed by interment in the Workmen's Circle Cemetery Branch 281 in Glen Wild, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Lung Association, the American Diabetes Association, or the American Macular Degeneration Foundation.

Local arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.

David B. Penner

In 1963, he married Benita Browarsky and continued to work at the family furniture store. Then in 1971, he left the store to begin a career in the insurance business, which he excelled at for over four decades. Over his career, he won numerous salesmen awards and credentials that allowed him to further his career.

David was a longstanding member of Rodef Sholom Temple and served on the Temple’s Board and its Brotherhood.

He was also a member of SCORE and served on the board of JCC and was a member of the Youngstown Country Club.

Besides his wife, Benita, he is survived by his daughter, Harriet (Erik) Osbeck of Columbus, and one grandson, Holden, who was a source of great pride for David. He also is survived by one brother, Stephen Penner, of Tuscon, Ariz.

Services were Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, at Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home, Youngstown.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Valley or Rodef Sholom Temple.

Arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.
Heritage Manor Resident and Holocaust Survivor Turns 108

By Jamie Durisko

Holocaust survivor Johanna “Hanna” Katz is a new resident at Heritage Manor Rehabilitation and Retirement Community. A longtime New York resident, she recently suffered a gallbladder infection that left her hospitalized for more than a week; and her daughter, Youngstown resident Barbara Ostrolenk, wanted to move her close by for care.

Born Johanna Bauer on Sept. 22, 1911, in Giessen, Germany, she was an only child who lost both of her parents in the Holocaust. She met her husband, Alfred, at age 23, and they were married in August 1938. That same year, they escaped Germany with what few belongings they could and immigrated to Washington Heights, N.Y., on the SS Manhattan. In 1951, they moved to Rego Park in Queens, where Katz remained until her move to Heritage Manor this year.

Other than the gallbladder issues this year, Ostrolenk said that Katz’s life has been a surprisingly healthy one with few hospitalizations. And she just celebrated a major birthday — she turned 108 in September.

Though Katz would rather be back in her New York home, living independently and cooking in her kitchen, she reluctantly agrees that Heritage Manor is the best place to be — where she can receive quality care and be close to her family.

Even though her early life was traumatic, she was very lucky to survive and live such a full life, said Ostrolenk.

After all these years, Katz has some “sage advice to live your life.” Her daughter and granddaughter made a book about it for her 100th birthday, which has been kept in her bedroom ever since. Categories of life advice include exercise, outdoors, nutrition, health and beauty, family and friendship, financial, love and marriage, words of wisdom, and “Oma-isms” because her grandchildren call her Oma.

She is grateful for her family of two children, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.
The 8 Must-Read Jewish News Stories of 5779

By JTA Staff

(JTA) — The Jewish calendar year 5779 was a turbulent and often painful one for Jews around the world. Mounting global anti-Semitism, two deadly American synagogue shootings and two (as yet) inconclusive Israeli elections in the space of just a few months were among the stories that defined and helped frame the communal discussion as the new year approaches.

These are the Jewish stories that most captured our attention in the year that was and whose ramifications are likely to continue to play out in 5780.

12 Jews Killed in Synagogues

Mass shootings have become a sad fact of American life, but two this year took deadly aim at this country’s Jews. On Oct. 27, a lone gunman committed the single worst attack on Jews in U.S. history when he opened fire on Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue on a Shabbat morning, killing 11 worshippers and injuring six. Prior to the attack, that gunman, Robert Bowers, had posted screeds against the Jewish refugee agency HIAS, writing that it liked to “bring invaders in that kill our people.”

Six months later, on April 27, the last day of Passover, a gunman opened fire at a Chabad synagogue in the San Diego suburb of Poway, killing one person and injuring three. The accused gunman, John Earnest, told a 911 dispatcher that he did it because “Jewish people are destroying the white race.”

The attacks deeply shook the American Jewish community, though many took heart from the widespread condemnations emanating from the highest political offices and the expressions of solidarity from the wider community. In the wake of the Pittsburgh shooting, the city’s main daily newspaper, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, printed the Jewish mourner’s prayer in Hebrew on its front page.

Jewish Democrats Ride the Blue Wave

More than three-quarters of American Jews cast their ballots for Democratic candidates as the party swept to power in the House in midterm congressional elections. Only 19 percent supported the Republicans. Jewish Democrats also figured disproportionately in the party’s upsets: Eight entered the House, two won governorships (Illinois and Colorado) and Jacky Rosen won a Senate seat in Nevada. They also assumed control of powerful House committees that remain at the

Fuller from page 2

a powerless college student who intended to enjoy the benefits of Israeli society, Omar and Tlaib are legislators in the U.S. government who sought to interfere in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As such, they have the power to influence a shift in U.S. policy and to actually make matters worse for both the Israelis and Palestinians. Omar in particular carries weight in Congress because she sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Moreover, as the editor’s note indicated, Tlaib was eventually granted permission by the Interior Minister to visit Israel so that she could visit her grandmother. In her emotional letter to Minister Aryeh Deri, she practically begged him to let her see her grandmother. After she was granted this right, she announced that she would not be going after all. That suggested to me that she never actually expected her request to be granted and that her letter was only a stunt to set Israel up to look like a heartless nation.
forefront of major ongoing investigations of the Trump administration: Jerrold Nadler, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, and Adam Schiff, who heads the Intelligence Committee.

Meanwhile, billionaire gaming mogul Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam, became the biggest spenders in American politics, having donated $55 million in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to help Republicans hold the House. The sum represented a substantial increase from the $46.5 million they had donated at the same point in the 2016 election cycle.

Hate Crimes Against Jews Are Spiking

In November, the FBI released its tally of hate crimes statistics for the previous year, and the number was not good: The number of hate crimes targeting Jews in the U.S. soared to 938 in 2017, up from 684 the year before. In April, the Anti-Defamation League released its data on anti-Semitic incidents and found the tally for 2018 — 1,879 incidents — was the third highest in the four decades the ADL has been conducting annual audits. Of those, the number of assaults had doubled over the previous year, to 39 from 17.

And it’s not just American Jews. In July, Statistics Canada reported that Jews were the most targeted minority group for hate crimes for the third straight year, though the overall number of attacks declined slightly, to 345 from 360. In France, the volume of anti-Semitic incidents increased by 69 percent in 2018. Over the summer, the British Jewish community’s anti-Semitism watchdog, the Community Security Trust, reported the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents ever for the first six months of 2018. The 892 incidents represented a 10 percent jump over the same period the previous year. In December, a poll of 16,000 Jews in 12 countries conducted by the European Union reported that one in three said they had experienced anti-Semitic incidents. The sum represented a substantial increase from the $46.5 million they had donated at the same point in the 2016 election cycle.

The Women’s March Remains a Lightning Rod

In November, Teresa Shook, one of the founders of the Women’s March, called on the movement’s organizers to step down, alleging that they had “allowed anti-Semitism” by refusing to distance themselves “from groups that espouse ... racist, hateful beliefs.” One of the founders, Tamika Mallory, has longstanding ties to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has a history of making incendiary comments about Jews.

Under fire, Palestinian-American activist Linda Sarsour, a member of the march Steering Committee, apologized.

“We should have been faster and clearer in helping people understand our values and our commitment to fighting anti-Semitism,” she said. “We regret that.” Then in December, Tablet magazine published a piece alleging that Mallory and another organizer, Carmen Perez, had made anti-Semitic statements at two march planning meetings. By the time the march’s third installment rolled around in January, the movement was in disarray, with various Jewish groups cutting ties to the national group and a number of local chapters across the country doing the same.

Sarsour, Mallory and Bob Bland, another movement co-founder, have since left the Women’s March board.

Israelis Vote Twice and Still Don’t Have a Prime Minister

Israel held a national election in April in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, facing multiple possible indictments for corruption, wound up in a tie with his principal challenger, Benny Gantz and the new Blue and White party, with 35 seats apiece. But Netanyahu was unable to form a governing coalition, so in September, Israelis voted again. (See page ___ for updates on the election.)

Serious Cracks Appeared in What Has Long Been a Cherished Feature of the U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bipartisanship.

In February, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., came under fire for a series of controversial tweets, including one charging — falsely — that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee pays politicians to be pro-Israel. Omar drew quick rebukes from leading Democrats and subsequently apologized. The following month, President Trump piled on, calling the Democrats the “anti-Jewish” party. In August, he upped the ante, saying that anyone who voted for a Democrat was guilty of “disloyalty,” a comment that drew condemnation from critics who said it evoked classic anti-Semitic tropes.

Meanwhile, Israel denied entry to Omar and another freshman Muslim congresswoman, Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich. Both lawmakers are supporters of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. Israel’s move drew an unusually broad array of criticism from American Jewish groups. The Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Federations of North America and AIPAC — in a rare statement of criticism aimed at Israel — decried Israel’s action.

The #MeToo Movement Hits the Jewish Community

Michael Steinhardt, the Jewish megadonor who helped found Birthright Israel and supports a wide range of Jewish institutions, was accused of a pattern of propositioning and sexually inappropriate remarks to women. According to an investigation by The New York Times and ProPublica, the journalism nonprofit, seven women alleged that Steinhardt made sexual requests of them while they were seeking his financial support. Steinhardt denied the accusations, but acknowledged a pattern of comments “that were boorish, disrespectful, and just plain dumb.”

In the wake of the accusations, the organized Jewish community’s longtime focus on encouraging endogamy and child rearing — long among Steinhardt’s favored philanthropic objectives — drew increasing scrutiny.

A Measles Outbreak Hits the Orthodox Community

In November, the New York City Health Department said 17 cases of measles had been reported in Brooklyn’s Orthodox Jewish community. The problem was just beginning: By April, there were 285 reported cases, including 246 children. Other measles outbreaks were reported in nearby Orthodox communities, where vaccination rates against the disease are often low. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio responded by declaring a public health emergency and ordering unvaccinated people living in four heavily Orthodox Zip codes in Brooklyn to be vaccinated or pay fines up to $1,000. The city also closed a yeshiva preschool in the Williamsburg neighborhood for defying a Health Department order to provide medical and attendance records regarding measles vaccinations. But hostility to vaccination still remained high in some Orthodox circles. In June, 200 people attended an anti-vaccination event in a Brooklyn basement and heard a speaker claim that vaccinations were part of a government conspiracy.
Community Members Volunteer at Food Pantry

Food insecurity affects many Americans, including households in the Mahoning Valley. Churchill United Methodist Church addresses those families’ needs with a food pantry serving Liberty residents the first Friday of every month. Members of the Jewish community join church volunteers to support the project. An average of 80 families are provided with fruits, vegetables, meats, canned goods, and pantry staples each month. Pictured in the front row from left to right are Marilyn Sniderman, Nancy Burnett, Jeannie Peskin, and Linda Sniderman. In the back row are, from left to right, Stan Palumbo, Arnie Clebone, Jerry Peskin, Yetta Gluck, Neil Yutkin, Lisa Levy, and Lenore Ackerman. Missing from the photo is Paula Ferguson.

Cooking Classes at JCC

Several professionals shared their expertise at cooking classes in September. Art Einzig worked with participants to make a complete chicken and couscous meal while Maayan Sigler helped them create desserts. Jack Kravitz shared recipes for exotic salads. The last session, Laid Back Easy Asian Appetizers with Jack Kravitz, will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29. The cost is $15 for JCC Members and $18 for Non Members. Register at jccyoungstown.org or by calling 330.746.3250 ext. 195. The classes are sponsored by the Commission for Jewish Education. Pictured is Jack Kravitz.

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What Working as a Prosecutor has Taught Me About Yom Kippur

Editor’s note: The author is an active prosecutor in a major U.S. city. Due to the nature of their work, they must write anonymously.

(JTA) — The court officer calls out the calendar number and reads the docket into the record. The defendant, accompanied by his attorney, enter the well. The judge and the prosecutor are there already, waiting. The defense attorney states his name for the record, as does the prosecutor. Then the judge asks, “Where do we stand?”

The defense attorney answers. He tells the judge that his client has completed the court-ordered program and hands up the documents as proof. The judge reviews them and concurs. He congratulates the defendant on his completion of the program. Then, something unexpected occurs. The judge stands and applauds. The court officers and the prosecutor join him, with joy. The defendant looks down sheepishly, then approaches the bench as the judge waves him over to hand him a certificate of completion. When he returns to his spot, the judge asks if he has anything he’d like to say. He does. He smiles and tells the court that this is the first time he has ever graduated from anything. Then, in the mixed up emotions of pride and shame, he begins to cry.

The criminal justice system, and the modern shift toward rehabilitative justice (focused on reforming an offender) described in the story above has a lot to teach us about how we approach Yom Kippur.

I often end Yom Kippur feeling like I’ve just gotten away with something. The weight of our sins is too great a burden to bear. We know that we are guilty, but we pray that God’s mercy outweighs what justice demands, that despite our sins we should be found worthy of another year, and a good year at that. The facts are not on our side, and neither is the law. For how can we dispute what the Omnipotent One already knows? So we pray for mercy, that God wipes away our sins, and He in His infinite mercy cannot help but do so.

But what have we really accomplished? We are still the same people we were before, just with a clean slate for the new year. We are not, in any way, reformed. So we walk away from Yom Kippur with the certainty that we have been forgiven, but with the nagging feeling that we didn’t really deserve it. In a sense, it is far easier for God to forgive us than it is to forgive ourselves.

That is the power in rehabilitative justice. It reminds the offender that it is not solely by the grace of the court that he goes free. Rather it affords him the autonomy to earn his forgiveness. Through this lens, Yom Kippur evolves from the constricting binary of Justice

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Gives Its $15,000 Pulitzer Prize Money to Tree of Life Synagogue

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) — Employees of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette donated to the Tree of Life synagogue the $15,000 they won for their Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the deadly anti-Semitic shooting there.

The newspaper won the prize in April for its “immersive, compassionate coverage” of the attack, the judges said, according to the paper. A gunman killed 11 people and wounded seven at the Tree of Life on Oct. 27.

Splitting the monetary award among those who had participated in the news coverage “just didn’t seem right,” the report said.

Publisher John Robinson Block suggested to donate the prize money to the Tree of Life to help repair its bullet-riddled temple in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

On Aug. 29, in the Post-Gazette newsroom, Executive Editor Keith Burris presented a $15,000 check to Rabbi Jeffrey Myers and Samuel Schachner, president of the congregation.

“We feel bound to you and your congregations — by memory and duty,” Burris said in a speech. “And we offer you, in humility, our service — as scribes and witnesses.”

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against Mercy, Guilty against Not Guilty, and instead can be viewed as an empowering opportunity for each of us to reform ourselves and earn our forgiveness. To make amends. In doing so, we become worthy of forgiveness. We can proudly walk away knowing that we have earned the right to utter the word “salachti” — forgive me.

In the context of Yom Kippur, true forgiveness combines God’s two attributes of Justice and Mercy into a rehabilitative program. As the liturgy tells us — through repentance, through prayer and through our charitable deeds — we can tear up an unfavorable sentence from the heavenly court. That is the rehabilitative program that God prescribes for us — a carrot-and-stick approach to forgiveness.

Perhaps this is why we end Yom Kippur by reciting “Hashem hu ha-Elokim,” God is the Divine Judge, seven times. For it is only through the combination of God’s attribute of mercy (associated with the name YHVH) and God’s attribute of Justice (associated with Elokim) that we can achieve “teshuvah,” true repentance and forgiveness. The stick of justice, demanding that we follow God’s rehabilitative plan, coupled with the grace of God’s mercy to give us that chance to earn it, affords us the opportunity to clean the slate, expunge our record and find forgiveness from the heavenly court.

But one more opportunity remains. As the final cry of “Hashem hu ha-Elokim” fades away, and the tension of the day breaks, there is a moment of perfect silence. Listen for it. Feel it. A moment of reconciliation with God, when Yom Kippur has ended but the new day has not yet begun. A moment when the world is pure and cleansed.

And in that moment, you will find what you have been searching for all along. A chance to forgive yourself.

WELLNESS LUNCH & LEARN
SLEEP APNEA RISKS AND TREATMENT

Dr. Charles Verbanic and Scott Landy of Pristine Dental will discuss the most common symptoms and risk factors of obstructive sleep apnea as well as possible treatments.

Date: Friday, October 25
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Molly Yeh’s Apple Cider Brisket: A Treat for Brunch

By Molly Yeh

This slow-cooked brisket is featured on season 4 of Molly Yeh’s Food Network show “Girl Meets Farm,” which captures her life on a sugar beet farm. Flavored with apple cider and maple syrup, it embraces Rosh Hashanah food traditions and, best of all, can be enjoyed at any time of day.

Serve with carrot hash with eggs and pesto for a decadent brunch, as seen on “Girl Meets Farm,” or alongside all the holiday classics at a festive dinner.

Ingredients:

- 1 brisket (3 pounds)
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- black pepper
- 2 tablespoons flavorless oil
- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons fennel seeds
- 1 tablespoon dried sage
- pinch crushed red pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- one 12-ounce bottle hard apple cider
- 1 large apple, cut into thin wedges
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 cup dry white wine
- chopped chives, for garnish

Directions:

1. Season both sides of the brisket with the salt and a few turns of pepper.
2. In a large skillet or pot, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Sear both sides of the brisket until browned, 4-6 minutes. Transfer it to a slow cooker.
3. Add the onion to the skillet and cook, stirring, until soft, 5-7 minutes. Add the fennel seeds, sage, crushed red pepper, cayenne, thyme, rosemary, and garlic and cook, stirring, for 2 more minutes. Pour 1/2 cup hard cider into the pan and allow it to loosen any browned bits stuck to the bottom of the pan (use a spatula to help scrape them up).
4. Pour the whole mixture into the slow cooker. Add the apple, maple syrup, wine and remaining 1 cup cider to the slow cooker.
5. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours, or overnight. Remove the brisket to a cutting board and let it sit for 15 minutes. Trim off any excess fat, slice against the grain and then transfer it to a serving dish. Carefully pour the mixture from the slow cooker on top of the brisket, sprinkle with the chopped chives and serve. Serves 6.

Note: As an alternative to the slow cooker, cook everything in a covered baking dish or Dutch oven in a 325 F. oven until very tender, 3-4 hours.

This recipe originally appeared on The Nosher.
Trump Submits 1st Report Mandated Under Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act

By Marcy Oster

(JTA) — President Donald Trump submitted the first congressional report mandated under the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

The report was submitted to Congress Sept. 12.

The report provides an overview of the United States government's current and planned efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to mass atrocities globally, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. "Specifically, the report highlights how the Department of State uses foreign assistance, diplomatic advocacy, and multilateral engagement, as well as training for our diplomats," the statement said.

The report marks the launch of the Atrocity Early Warning Task Force, an interagency mechanism led by the White House. The task force will meet regularly, according to a senior Trump administration official, and not just be activated during times of emergency.

The Wiesel Act was signed into law in January 2019, after receiving bipartisan support in both houses of Congress.

It requires the executive branch to report annually to Congress on identifying early warnings of genocide, training U.S. officials in identifying potential areas where genocide may occur and how any administration is mitigating genocide through U.S. mediation, among other means.

A Hero’s Best Friend

Eli Yablonek, who was severely injured in the Yom Kippur War, brought his guide dog, Glen, to the Jewish Community Center in September. Yablonek lost his arm and his sight during battle. He received the Medal of Distinguished Service for his bravery. With the help of Glen and the Israeli Guide Dog Center, Yablonek never stopped fighting. He trained himself to be an excellent hiker, tandem biker, swimmer, and skier.

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Netanyahu Nominated to Form Israel’s Government

By Sam Sokol

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will get his second try this year to form Israel’s government after talks aimed at creating a unity government broke down.

President Reuven Rivlin tasked Netanyahu with forming a government on Sept. 25 evening though his Likud party did not finish first in the latest Knesset elections.

The centrist Blue and White, led by former military chief Benny Gantz, won 33 seats to 32 for Likud in the Sept. 17 balloting for the parliament.

However, 55 lawmakers recommended to Rivlin that Netanyahu try to form a government, one more than Gantz. Still, the incumbent is short of the 61 seats needed to form a viable coalition. He was unable to assemble a government following national elections in April.

Netanyahu has one month to cobbled together a government. While he has the support of the nationalist and religious parties to the right of Likud, he still needs the backing of the secular-nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party led by ally turned rival Avigdor Liberman in order to return to the Prime Minister’s Office.

September’s repeat vote was triggered by Liberman, who would only join a Netanyahu coalition if the country’s military draft was expanded to include more haredi Orthodox men — they can use a religious exemption to avoid being conscripted in the army. The haredi parties balked, however, and the Knesset was disbanded, leading to the second election.

Liberman unsuccessfully attempted to use his leverage to force a national unity government. According to The Times of Israel, negotiations between Netanyahu and Gantz brokered by Rivlin could not resolve the issues of who would serve first as prime minister under a rotation or if Netanyahu’s far-right allies would be invited to be part of the government.

If Netanyahu fails to form a government within a month, Rivlin can tap Gantz or another Likud politician, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Despite failing to come to an agreement regarding a coalition with Blue and White, Netanyahu said that Israel needed a “broad national unity government” in order to deal with the challenges facing the country and to “achieve national reconciliation” following what he described as a “tough election campaign on all sides.”

Netanyahu said he would “make every effort” to establish such a government “as soon as possible.”

In response, Gantz stated that “Blue and White is committed to the idea of unity, but from our perspective, the appropriate order would see negotiations between the two largest parties — and them alone — in order to reach agreements on the substantive issues and the character of the next government,” The Times of Israel reported.

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Register by Sunday, November 24 online at jccyoungstown.org/vendor2019 or contact Hunter Thomas, Program Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 123.